



Revival

E V A N G E L I S M • M E D I A • P R A Y E R

298

February 2010 - March 2010

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**Worship of Jesus
Spreading in Israel**

Day 17

International Daily Prayer Bulletin

Dearly Beloved Prayer Partners,

“On that day living water will flow out from Jerusalem, half to the eastern sea and half to the western sea, in summer and in winter.

The Lord will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one Lord and his name shall be the only name.”

(Zechariah 14:8-9)

Can we understand the signs of the times?

What is happening in the “divine history” around the world today; how should we look upon events as they unfold around us? Of course we must humbly admit that we “see only in part,” but surely the above Scripture should be our marker. There is no power in heaven or on earth that can put God off course. And the stories in this Bulletin give us cause for great confidence in what God is doing if we will only lift our eyes and see the marvels of His hand.

First of all, we must look to Asia, the continent that for centuries seemed to be almost impenetrable to the Gospel. Consider China - not only is it becoming the economic powerhouse of the planet but, more importantly, the explosive growth of the Gospel is reaching many of those who will be the Chinese leaders of the future: university students, businessmen, professionals, even politicians. Within a relatively short space of time China could simultaneously become the most powerful nation on earth and one that is run according to Christian principles and standards.

But China is not alone in waking up to the Gospel in Asia: former closed nations of North Korea, Vietnam, and Nepal are just 3 featured in this Bulletin that are beginning to see explosive Church growth from almost impossible beginnings.

So, watch this space, as they say!

Then we need to consider what is happening in the Muslim world. For years the Middle East and North Africa were areas where the Gospel of Christ had little or nothing to celebrate. Today, we are beginning to see a turning of the tide: satellite TV and radio are powerful means that are saturating the whole area. People, who have known nothing but the controlling hand of the Imams and the guns of the West, are waking up to the new reality of the love of Jesus. Remember how fearful we were of Communism 30 years ago, and how fearful we are of Islam today? Well, the Muslim World could soon experience its own ‘Berlin Wall’. Keep an eye on Iran in particular!

Then look to the Latin American Church. When I grew up in South America 50 years ago, Chile and Brazil were the only nations with any meaningful Evangelical presence. Today there is a continent-wide Gospel explosion. Central America is leading the way -

some nations there have become 40% Bible believing! Our prayer should be that, in strength, they may be faithful to God and to the need of their fellow citizens.

Then there is Africa - particularly sub-Saharan Africa - where 60% of the population is "Christian", and some nations are declaring themselves to be Christian Nations, dedicated to God. We can rejoice at the huge inroads made by the Gospel, but we must remain prayerfully vigilant. As someone who visits Africa regularly, I am concerned at the spread of a harmful "Prosperity gospel" that is leading many away from the Cross of Christ. I also ask the question: "If Africa is now so Christian, why is it still so enslaved to poverty, corruption and sickness?"

There is potential, there are many goodly and Godly African Christians, totally dedicated to Christ. We must pray for the African Moses', the Wesley's, the Shaftesbury's, to lead the Continent in the ways of God.

And, what about Europe, the UK, the USA, Australasia and the other former champions of the Gospel who have fallen prey to secular humanism and today's curse of Political Correctness? True Christians are now a minority in these nations - often a confused, frustrated and beleaguered minority, frightened into inertia, not only by a hostile world around, but often by the enemy within!

Because we no longer set the national agenda and the Christian worldview is no longer the accepted standard, we concentrate our efforts on preserving our remaining flock and protesting - usually with no ultimate chance of success - at policies and legislation that undermine what little is left of our Christian heritage!

Thus sadly many Western Christians take the view that we are in a losing battle, and there is little we can do to stop the rot from spreading! What we fail to realize is that the Christian Church is in a unique historical position: we are now a minority group in Western society. We are in a position where we can (and must) cast off the cultural and historical shackles that are holding the Church back, and return again to our true roots based on Scripture, prayer, evangelism and the power of God!

We have a unique opportunity, to begin again from humble beginnings; to return to our roots in Christ and in service and mission to the lost. There is a growing hunger and dissatisfaction with the secular mindset among the people (Days 14, 15 & 16). We must seize the opportunity; face the opposition that will come, and boldly proclaim Christ!

Let us remember: The Lord will be king over the whole earth!

With loving greetings from all the Revival team,


Ian Milmine

Church Growing Fast in Nepal

BIBLE STUDY: Joshua 1:8-9

Day 1

Until 1951 Nepal was closed to the outside world. Nepali Christians were few and mainly lived in north India on the border with Nepal. When, in 1951, there was some opening up, missionaries started a hospital in Pokhara called *Shining Hospital*. Still, until 1990, it was officially prohibited to have any religion other than Hinduism and it was hard for Christians to fellowship and many were imprisoned. The Census of 1971 counted just 2,541 Christians in Nepal.

However, in 1990, a revolution broke out followed by a new Constitution that granted freedom of religion. Since then many new churches were planted, and the Census of 1991 recorded 31,289 Christians, 0.17 % of the total population of Nepal. But, by 2001, official Census figures put the number of Christians at 101,976. However, Christians argued that the Census underestimated the number of Christians. So the Nepal Research and Resource Network carried out a survey in 2007. According to their work there were 2,799 churches throughout Nepal and 379,042 Christians, 1.46% of the total population of Nepal.

Since the establishment of democratic government in 2008, conditions for the Christian community have further improved, and reports indicate Church growth is spiralling. There remain cases of isolated violence against Christians, and there is concern that the proposed new Constitution prohibits conversion from one religion to another.

Revival Media; Wikipedia

PRAISE: God for faithful witness over years of oppression, leading to a vibrant Church today. Pray that the new law may not obstruct evangelism.

Vietnam Allows Christmas Rallies

BIBLE STUDY: Exodus 3:1-10

Day 2

On Sunday 20th December 12,000 people gathered in Hanoi for a Christmas rally. A programme of outstanding music and dance was followed by a Gospel message and an invitation to which, organisers said, 2000 people responded. This followed an even larger rally in Ho Chi Minh city on December 11th when up to 40,000 people gathered to hear the Gospel, and some 8,000 people came forward to "accept Christ". This was held, "after a long period of intense prayer" and despite opposition from local authorities, said the Vietnamese *Global Christian Network*. "None of these groups is registered or recognized by the government," a source said of the crowd at the event. "What you see is Christians standing up!" Recent freedom for Christians tolerated in large cities has not reached remote parts of this Communist-led country, where ethnic minority Christians live.

Worthy News; Revival Media

PRAISE: God that a nation once torn apart by war is now seeing steady openings for the Gospel. Pray that Christians will proclaim Christ boldly.

Thailand Hears the Gospel of Jesus

BIBLE STUDY: Acts 8:4-8

Day 3

At least 20 percent of Thailand's 60 million population has heard the Good News of Jesus Christ, with several thousand people praying to receive Jesus Christ as Saviour during a massive T.V. outreach by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association which kicked off on Thursday December 17th all over the predominantly Buddhist country.

More than 40,000 Christians representing 1,700 churches participated in the three-day outreach. Entitled the *My Hope* project, organisers distributed more than 30,000 DVDs of sermons by Billy and Franklin Graham to these Christians across the country. They showed the video to family and friends in their homes on December 17th and 18th. Then on December 19th, the programme was broadcast on nationwide television and radio.

"In a country where only one-half of one percent of the population belongs to an evangelical church, the need for the Gospel is tremendous," said Bill Conard, vice president of international ministries at BGEA. Participating Christians are referred to as "Matthews" like the disciple who invited friends to his home to meet Jesus (Matthew 9). This ministry will continue into the weeks ahead as Thai Christians continue to use the programmes to reach out to friends and family.

Christian Post; Billy Graham Evangelistic Assn.

PRAISE: God for an outreach that has exposed millions to the Gospel. Pray that the fruit may increase and Christians be inspired to evangelise.

Building Up the Kazakhstan Church

BIBLE STUDY: Revelation 3:7-8

Day 4

Kazakhstan is the ninth largest country in the world with a population of just over 15 million; 47% of these are Muslims, 44% Russian Orthodox and 2% Protestant. Converts to Christ endure discrimination for taking up their cross to follow Him, yet there is considerable cause for hope. Kazakhstan used to be relatively free compared with most other Central Asian countries, but the Government is now increasingly restrictive in the way that it treats the Christian population. Officials encourage intolerance towards non-Muslim minorities and towards the free expression of thought and conscience.

Protestant Christians are especially targeted with fines increasing for unregistered worship and the issuing of Government guidelines on how to avoid the influence of non-traditional groups. Amidst the oppression, there is sustained church growth and growing church planting amongst the ethnic Kazakh people, despite frequent pressure from the Muslim communities.

Barnabas Fund has been helping to train and equip Christians, support Christian workers and provide resources to strengthen the Church, including the translation and printing of literature.

Barnabas Fund; CIA Factbook

PRAISE: God for sustained Church growth among all ethnic groups. Pray for funds for Christian resources.

Huge Natural Gas Find off Israel Coast

BIBLE STUDY: Zechariah 13:1-6

Day 5

Israel's discovery of the *Tamar* natural gas field in the Mediterranean is now valued at US \$8 billion, nearly double previous estimates of local analysts. "The state of Israel will make over \$5 billion in royalties and corporate taxes from the production of the gas at *Tamar* field alone," said Gal Reiter, an energy industry analyst at *Clal Finance & Brokerage*.

Natural gas will be flowing into Israel by 2012, officials said. Analysts say the natural gas field will have a huge impact on the economy of Israel and is expected to make the Jewish state more energy independent. Israel's National Infrastructure Ministry (NIM) announced it is considering adapting the country's bus fleet as well as cars to run on natural gas.

As infrastructure is built for bringing natural gas onshore, local economies are also expected to benefit from the billions that will be spent on a 311-mile distribution network, officials said. In December, *Noble Energy Inc.*, the company that discovered the field, announced that it had signed a Letter of Intent to sell natural gas from the *Tamar* field to *Dalia Power Energies*. *Dalia*, a private electricity company, has a license to build a natural gas fired power plant in Israel with operations planned to commence in 2013.

Worthy News; Yalibnan.com; Revival Media

PRAISE: God that the people of Israel will be less dependent on erratic oil prices and supplies. Pray for seeds of peace in the area.

New Discovery Proves Bible True

BIBLE STUDY: Numbers 24:3-5

Day 6

On December 21st, 2009, the *Israel Antiquities Authority* announced an archaeological discovery that may cause red faces for those who have doubted the New Testament's historical accuracy, after a 1st century house was discovered in the area where the Nazareth of Christ's time was located. Although Nazareth exists today as a thriving Arab city of 65,000 in northern Israel, many scholars have insisted it didn't exist during Jesus' lifetime. For example, in 2006, *American Atheist Press* published a book by Rene Salm entitled, *The Myth of Nazareth*. The author summarises his findings: "What must matter to all Christians, however, is the inescapable fact that the evangelists invented this basic element in the story of cosmic redemption. The proof is now at hand that 'Jesus of Nazareth,' a long-standing icon of Western civilization, is bogus." Archaeologist Stephen Pfann, president of the *University of The Holy Land*, states: "It's the only witness that we have from that area that shows us what the walls and floors were like inside Nazareth in the first century."

Y-Jesus.com

PRAISE: God that His Word is proved reliable and sceptics are again shown to be wrong. Pray that the reliability of Scripture may lead many to God.

Satellite Brings Gospel to Middle East

BIBLE STUDY: Deuteronomy 5:23-25

Day 7 & 8

For centuries, in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), Christians have been isolated, the image of Christianity distorted and the Gospel silenced. Over the course of the 20th century, the Middle Eastern church shrank from 20% of the population to less than 5%. Many Christians throughout this region suffer daily for their faith, from low level harassment and abuse, job discrimination and ostracism, to rejection by family and friends, deliberate violence and even death.

For believers and seekers, access to Christian teaching and resources is limited in many parts of the Arab world. But the exponential growth of satellite television over the last decade or more has presented Christians with a highly strategic way of encouraging the church, giving Christianity a voice, and making the Gospel available to millions. SAT-7 is a Middle Eastern satellite TV network that has been broadcasting locally made Christian programming across this region for 13 years. Recent surveys estimate audience figures of over ten million

Abdul (not his real name) is a young man from Morocco who wrote to tell SAT-7 his story. He began watching SAT-7 when he was 12 years old, until his mother found out and forbade him. Undeterred, he watched secretly and entered a competition for which the prize was a Gospel of John. He won and in due course the prize arrived, only to be confiscated by his furious mother. One day he found it and eagerly read it. The first thing he read was, "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God..." Suddenly all was clear to me, it needed no more explanation. He who appeared to me when I was praying at a younger age is Jesus Christ and he is the Way'. Despite continued opposition, Abdul grew in his faith and today is involved in Christian media himself.

In October last year, SAT-7 seized the opportunity of broadcasting its two Arabic language channels on a new satellite, Atlantic Bird 4. The new broadcasts on the AB4 satellite have enabled SAT-7 to reach millions of new viewers overnight! The Rev. Dr. Samah Maurice, senior pastor of the Kasr El Dohara Church in Cairo, the largest Protestant church in the Middle East, commented: "Most of the cities in the Arab world now, even homes in the poorest areas, have satellite dishes and they are even more common than refrigerators or ovens! Satellite TV is everywhere. SAT-7, from the beginning, has done its best to be a partner to the local church, not to be separate from the local church."

"The local church cannot do what satellite can do these days," he continued, "so I praise God and I think this is the door God has given us to reach the multitudes. We see its effectiveness, and so do the millions of viewers who are tuning in.

SAT-7 Trust

Day 7 – PRAISE: God for the huge opportunity to proclaim Jesus through satellite TV and radio.

Day 8 – PRAY: For wise, Holy Spirit-anointed programmes, so that hearts may break open to Jesus.

Honduras: Church Strong in Crisis

BIBLE STUDY: Acts 2:46-47

Day 9

For five months two competing presidents created conflict and divisions in the Central American nation of Honduras. But the country's voters, encouraged by church leaders, helped bring an end to the crisis. On Sunday, November 29 Honduran voters turned out in record numbers to elect a new president.

Their choice, Porfirio Lobo, has promised to bring the country together after a leadership crisis that has deepened social and political divisions in one of Latin America's poorest nations.

Ousted former President Zelaya had called on Hondurans to stay away from the polls. Instead, voters turned out in record numbers, largely because Christian leaders encouraged them to do so. Church leaders say more than a third of Honduras' population is evangelical. They waged a strong get-out-and-vote campaign.

According to Evelio Reyes, pastor of *Vida Abundante Church*, the result is a sign that democracy is working. "We've dealt a blow to voter abstention; we've dealt a hard blow to indifference," Pastor Reyes said. "And I like that because it shows we're changing our society to one that's alert, a society that participates, that wants to make its opinions known."

Now most Hondurans hope they have seen the worst of the crisis that isolated them from the international community.

CBN News

PRAISE: God that the churches were prepared to be a voice of reason in the midst of political turmoil. Pray that Christians may help affirm a peaceful transition for the new government, and this may lead to great opportunities for the Gospel.

El Salvador: People Trust Evangelicals

BIBLE STUDY: Philippians 4:8-9

Day 10

Two recent university surveys, carried out between June and October 2009, show that the Evangelical Church in the Central American Republic of El Salvador has almost doubled its membership in the last 11 years - 38% of the population now consider themselves to be Evangelical Christians.

The proportion of those professing no faith has actually fallen by 13% in the same period. One of the surveys indicated that the Evangelical Church was the most trusted institution in the Country, and that it has a positive influence not only on the religious life of the nation but also in society, politics and the economy.

This is an extraordinary witness to the grace of God among His people, and gives the growing Evangelical Church enormous opportunities and responsibilities.

Protestante Digita; Revival Media

PRAISE: God for the respect enjoyed by Evangelical Christians. Pray that growth may go hand in hand with faithfulness to Christ's call to discipleship.

Bible Translators Make It Possible

BIBLE STUDY: Psalm 42:1-2

Day 11

Almost 40 years ago, a British missionary canoed into a remote area of Panama with a proposal for the local chief. Could he and his family live among the tribe to learn their language and tell them about someone called Jesus?

The answer, however, was "No!" "I just sat in our canoe that was tied up at the river bank and wept before the Lord," recalled *Wycliffe* translator Keith Forster. "I mean, I bawled my heart out. Imagine that I'd given up my home, my country, my career, everything."

After years of training, and obstacles, Forster's mission had abruptly ended - or had it? As a parting gift, Forster offered a picture of his family and told the chief they were on a mission with a purpose. "We were sent by God to take His letter and translate it for you so you, too, could understand," Forster said. "So in the future, when your children ask, 'What is God like?' You will have to say to them, 'I don't know.'" This made the chief change his mind, and Forster and his wife settled among the Kunas, learned the language, and more than twenty years later, gave the tribe their own New Testament.

As the Word of God was translated into their own language, many Kunas decided to follow Jesus. And although, as Panamanians, most of them also speak Spanish, it's the Kuna Bible that speaks to their hearts. Kuna missionary John Kennedy Morales says, "I use the Kuna Bible, because that's the way they understand better." Today, the translation team is revising the Old Testament translation, completing one more project in the task of giving every tribe and nation, God's word in their own language.

CBN News

PRAISE: God for the extraordinary work of Wycliffe and other Bible translators

Cuba Allows Prison Chaplains

BIBLE STUDY: Zephaniah 3:19-20

Day 12

In an unprecedented change of policy, Cuban authorities have granted permission for Roman Catholic and Protestant chaplains to hold services in prisons throughout the Country. José Aurelio Paz, spokesperson for the Cuban Council of Churches said that they had held meetings with Communist Party officials responsible for religion. He explained that pastors would now be allowed to lead services, and use Bibles and hymn books in the prisons.

Cuban Evangelicals are now organizing a prison chaplaincy, under the supervision of Rev. Francisco Rodés. Estimates put the Evangelical population of Cuba at 600,000 members. The Council of Churches comprises 47 denominations.

Agenciaalvoz.com

PRAISE: God for the steady growth of the Cuban Evangelical Church, and for new openings like this one. Pray that the Church may be ready for the day when democracy is established in Cuba.

Can the Apostasy Laws be Abolished?

BIBLE STUDY: Matthew 22:21

Day 13

Islam is a one-way street. You can convert TO Islam, but you are not allowed to convert FROM Islam. Apostasy is seen as a “crime” against the rest of the Muslim community – often it is the family of the convert – not the State - that imposes the death penalty. This can happen even in non-Muslim nations where sizeable Muslim communities live.

“Hannah”, in Britain, has been forced to move house 45 times since she was converted to Christ at the age of 16. The reason? Her Muslim family has vowed to kill her unless she “returns to the fold.”

But things can change. On 22 August 2007 Christian and Muslim groups in Norway signed a joint declaration affirming the right to convert from one faith to another without fear of harassment or violence. *Barnabas Fund* has been campaigning hard to see an end to these attitudes the world over. It won't be easy – old attitudes die hard! But, since the Norway declaration, others have begun to follow suite:

In 2008 a group of British Muslim academics and religious leaders began meeting in Cambridge to consider traditional views of Islam and certain aspects of Sharia. In October 2009 they published a report, *Contextualising Islam in Britain*. It reflects a strong and very encouraging commitment on the part of mainstream Muslim leaders in Britain to an adapted and modern Islam.

Islam does not normally distinguish between religious sins and crimes against the State. But the report argues that this distinction must be drawn and even apostates must not suffer discrimination. These are positive beginnings; it remains to be seen whether they will gradually take hold, particularly as more Muslims are absorbed into Western societies.

Barnabas Trust; Revival Media

PRAISE: God for small signs of change. Pray that these may snowball, and that Christians may know how to reach out to Muslims with the love of Christ.

UK: Churchgoing is On the Rise

BIBLE STUDY: Isaiah 56:6-8

Day 14

It appears the long-term decline in UK churchgoing is levelling off and there are signs of a new interest in going to church.

A *Tear Fund* study showed that more than a quarter of adults in the UK attend church at least once a year while 15% went at least once a month in 2008, up from 13% in 2007. This trend appears to have continued into 2009. The study also showed that almost 3 million people would consider going to church given the right invitation.

However, the gender and age gaps are widening: only 35% of churchgoers are men and, among the critical under 16's, attendance has continued to fall over the period.

Tear Fund; Virgin Media

PRAISE: God for this change of momentum. Pray that churches may be ready to receive these people.

Biblical Pattern of Revival: Jonah and the Revival at Nineveh

Reading: Jonah 1-4

This was not "revival" in the sense that it was a return of God's people to the enjoyment of His blessings; rather it was the wholesale conversion of a pagan city. As such it is probably the greatest "evangelistic" event ever recorded: for every man, woman, child and beast in the city fasted and sought God.

A City Under God's Judgement – 1:2; 3:4

The opening words of this prophetic Book are clear: God had determined judgement on the wicked Ninevites, and called Jonah to proclaim its destruction. All human societies that persist in doing evil, and have no regard for God, no matter how great and powerful at a given time, have all ultimately ended in destruction.

A Prophet Who Would Not Proclaim God's Truth – 1:3

How often God has used reluctant ministers! Jonah explains why he didn't want to go (4:1-2). He hated the people of Nineveh because of the death and destruction they had wrought upon Israel. Before revival could start God had a major lesson to teach His messenger. Isn't it amazing that God graciously uses human agents despite our unworthiness?

A Humbled Messenger Cries Out in Distress – 2:1-9

Jonah shows that we cannot serve God in revival until He has first dealt with us. In Jonah's case, God appeared to be unduly harsh so that He could be exceptionally gracious. Jonah admits his sin, believing he had "been banished from God's sight" (2:4). But the Lord's great salvation, from the depths of the sea, leads Jonah to a new dimension of worship and commitment to obedience (2:9). The servant is now ready!

4. The Whole City Turns to God and is Spared – 3:6-10

Jonah - now obedient - although still disgruntled (4:1-3), preaches God's message of destruction to the city. Notice, a) the people believed God (3:5); b) they began to fast; c) the king decreed fasting, humbling, prayer, and repentance from evil ways and violence (3:7-9). All they could do was throw themselves at the mercy-seat of God. And this is one of those occasions in the Bible when God changes what He has determined - the history of revival is one of God's compassion towards an undeserving people. But, be warned, Nineveh's repentance did not last, and the city was ultimately destroyed!

Examples from History:

The Early 20th Century Korean Revivals

Korea had proved to be an easier mission field than China when Western missionaries came in force at the close of the 19th century. But, it was the shockwaves from the Welsh revival that really caused the Korean Church to gather an unstoppable momentum. In the city of Pyongyang, North Korea, in January 1907, an annual gathering took place. It was customary for representatives of area churches to come from far and wide at the New Year for Bible study. In spite of tensions, a strange new spirit entered the meeting of fifteen hundred men.

The revival begins with prayer in unison.

All of a sudden so many men wanted to pray at that gathering that the leader told the audience: "if you want to pray like that, all pray." The effect was beyond description – no confusion, but a vast harmony of sound and spirit, like the noise of the surf in an ocean of prayer, as all prayed aloud simultaneously, a pattern that would be repeated many times in future revivals.

Prayer leads to deep and often terrifying repentance

As the prayer continued, an intense conviction of sin settled on the meeting, giving way to bitter weeping over misdeeds... an elder arose and confessed a grudge against a missionary colleague and asked for forgiveness. The missionary stood to pray but reached only to address God: "Aboji! "Father!" when, with a rush, a power from without seemed to take hold of the meeting. The Europeans described its manifestations as "terrifying" - nearly everyone present was seized with the most poignant sense of mental anguish; before each one his sins seemed to be rising in condemnation of his life.

Repentance, the mark of genuine conversion

Prior to 1907, the Canadian missionary doctor R A Hardie was concerned to see genuine, deep conversion to Christ among the Koreans with whom he was working, not just the nominal acceptance of a creed which was common. Dr Hardie confessed his faults before the Korean church, leading to confessions of failure by other Christians. Confession of sins became established as a feature of Korean church life.

So the "terrifying scenes" of repentance witnessed in Pyongyang were not new, but they took the missionaries by surprise because of their intensity. Some were springing to their feet and pleading for an opportunity to relieve their consciences by making their abasement public; others were silent, but clenching their fists and striking their heads against the ground, painfully and agonizingly confessing their misdeeds to God.

Revival fires take hold among the Korean Leaders

This went on from eight in the evening until two in the morning, until the missionaries, horror-struck at some of the sins confessed, frightened by the manifestation of God's power which could work such changes, and reduced to tears of sympathy with the mental anguish of their Korean disciples, sought to stop the meeting. Some went home to sleep, but many of the Koreans spent the night in prayer, some in terrible spiritual conflict – this went on for days. Not only was there deep confession but much restitution.

The lives of many in Pyongyang are touched

The heathen Koreans were astounded at these events, and a powerful impulse of evangelism was felt. A large number of new converts became evangelists with a zeal for the Cross of Christ, carrying the fires of revival to the surrounding countryside and to other cities. One example of the new life that this revival brought was seen in the *Union Christian College*, where 9 out of 10 students professed conversion in February 1907.

The Revival spreads and achieves lasting results

Pyongyang became the most important Christian centre in Korea, often referred to as "the Jerusalem of the East." One sixth of its population of about 300,000 were converted to Christ. Waves of revival continued on and off and 20 years later in Seoul, similar events took place which began to extend to all Korea. Sadly the advent of Communism to the North of Korea in 1948 forced many Christians to flee to the South. The ensuing war with the South, involving the world Super Powers, and the hostility of the regime, all but snuffed out the light of the Gospel in North Korea. But today there are signs that the Christian Church in North Korea is again gathering strength, with estimates of between 200,000 and 400,000 Christians, many suffering grave persecution.

However, in the South, with its ranks swelled by Christians from the North, the Church has experienced one of the most significant advances of Christendom in the whole of Asia. Today there are more Christians in South Korea than Buddhists, and Christians occupy important positions in business, finance, education and politics. On a per capita basis, South Korea is the greatest missionary-sending nation on the earth. The seeds sown in Pyongyang in 1907 continue to bare fruit.

(Acknowledgement: H. H. Osborne - "Revival, God's Spotlight" published by Highland Books)

Prayers Concerning Revival

A Hymn of Andrew Reed (1787-1862)

Spirit divine, attend our prayers,
And make this house Thy home;
Descend with all Thy gracious powers,
O come, great Spirit, come!

Come as the light; to us reveal
Our emptiness and woe;
And lead us in those paths of life
Where all the righteous go.

Come as the fire; and purge our hearts
Like sacrificial flame;
Let our whole soul an offering be
To our Redeemer's name.

Come as the Dove; and spread Thy wings,
The wings of perfect love;
And let Thy Church on earth become
Blest as the Church above.

Spirit divine, attend our prayers,
Make a lost world Thy home;
Descend with all Thy gracious powers,
O come, great Spirit, come!

*"Lest I forget Gethsemane,
Lest I forget Thine agony,
Lest I forget Thy love for me,
Lead me to Calvary."*

J.E.Mussey

Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to it, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe into these slain, that they may live.'" So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet - a vast army.

Ezekieil 37:9-10

Christianity More Vital in UK Today

BIBLE STUDY: Jeremiah 24:7

Day 15 & 16

George Pitcher, Vicar of St Bride's, Fleet Street, and Religion Editor of *Telegraph Media*, was invited to Vanessa Feltz's BBC radio show a few weeks ago to comment on the news that the number of Briton's calling themselves Christians has dropped markedly. Responding to Ms Feltz's suggestion that he should be downcast about the news, George Pitcher claimed he was actually quite cheerful about it.

"Leaving aside the fact that Christianity is, globally speaking, in the middle of a boom, it's encouraging that so many people in Britain are still actually signing up to the faith. Remember, after all, that ours is the first generation for hundreds of years that isn't Christian by default," he said.

"Even in the middle of the last century," he continued, "our parents would automatically tell census-takers that they were "Church of England", without any real sense of conviction. It was just what you were. This applied less to other denominations, because the C of E was a default position - just part of the background; ambient noise. **By contrast, people these days are actually thinking about what they believe, and why. That must be a good thing. And it's rather good, too, that half of them sign up, voluntarily and thoughtfully, to Christianity. The result isn't the passive congregations of old, but communities of active, engaged worshippers. Yesterday, on a visit to one of the country's leading Christian publishing houses, I was told that sales are well up on last year, and that superstores such as Sainsbury's are inquiring about stocking Bible stories for children – something unthinkable even a decade ago."**

"Secondly," he says, "36 per cent of those surveyed were part of the 'fuzzy faithful'... They've drifted from organised religion because of the fashion in recent decades for the materialistic lifestyle... Why is this encouraging? Well, Miss Feltz made a very good point: churches and synagogues and temples have historically provided networks of support, nourishment and education that we're now lacking. The term that often crops up is 'social cohesion'. Spirituality performed in private at home hardly has the same beneficial effects on society. **But I think people are becoming increasingly fed-up with the me-me-me consumerist lifestyle. A spiritual hunger will bring them back together in groups again, helping them to rediscover their common – and very often Christian – heritage. The resulting bodies may not call themselves churches, but that's what they'll be."**

George Pitcher ends with a remarkable statement: "All in all, Britain is going through one of those periods of religious refreshment that crop up every few decades..."

The Daily Telegraph

Day 15 – PRAISE: God that fewer can mean better.

Day 16 – PRAY: That Christians may indeed practice a vital, living faith that puts Jesus at the centre.

Worship of Jesus Spreading in Israel

BIBLE STUDY: Acts 1:7-8

Day 17

Although the traditional Christian population of Palestine has dwindled for decades, in recent years Messianic Judaism has seen explosive growth. The number of Messianic Jews living in Israel is believed to now be close to 15,000; that may not sound like many given Israel's nearly six million Jews, but it's a far cry from 10 years ago when there were only about 3,500 Jewish believers in Yeshua, the Messiah.

But being a Jewish believer in Israel isn't easy. Recent waves of persecution have put Messianic Jews on the front page. However, this has had a beneficial effect as, for the first time, the secular media are saying something, even mentioning Messianic Jews in a more favourable light. "At least we see that believers are being asked to explain who they are, what they believe in, why they are here... how they can be Israeli and believe in Jesus and be given an opportunity to tell their story and share their testimony," Knut Hoyland of the Caspari Center said.

"I believe with all my heart, after we have come back to the land, we are seeing the Lord, the Holy Spirit, is removing the veil from the eyes of the Jews and more and more Jews are realizing," Tel Aviv pastor Avi Mizrahi said. So what does this movement mean for the wider Body of Christ? Worship leader Karen Davis believes, "Jesus will not return until the Jewish people say Baruch h'abba B'shem Adonai - Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord."

CBN News

PRAISE: God, for the growing number of Jewish believers in Jesus. Pray for the day when the veil will be removed and all Israel shall believe.

Bibles Not enough for Iran's Church

BIBLE STUDY: Psalm 119:161-168

Day 18

According to International *Antioch Ministries* (IAM), the non-profit outreach foundation of *The Iranian Christian Church*, requests for Bibles and New Testaments for Christians in Iran is at an all-time high.

Requests for Iranian-language Bibles, particularly by new believers, are being received by IAM every day, and the requests are more than the ministry can fulfil.

This growing demand for Persian Bibles is being fuelled by a number of factors. One is the rising number of Christian converts in Iran. According to IAM, the number of Christians in Iran is growing fast. Current estimates vary from 500,000 to as high as one million.

Another factor comes from the difficulties of obtaining and keeping Bibles caused by confiscations by Iranian officials and the Muslim "religious police." In addition, it is not legal in Iran to print Bibles, let alone distribute them widely, yet demand for the Gospel is increasing exponentially.

International Antioch Ministries; prweb.com

PRAISE: God that He is causing His Church to come alive and blossom in the most difficult of places! Pray that Bible resources may reach the people.

Sri Lankan Christians Need Prayer

BIBLE STUDY: Psalm 140:1-13

Day 19

Sri Lanka is a multi ethnic and multi religious country. However, 70% of the population are Buddhists and the Sri Lankan Constitution gives Buddhism “the foremost place”. 8 % of the population of the country follows Islam, while some 7 % of the population are Hindus.

Roman Catholicism was introduced by the Portuguese in the 15th century and later the Dutch brought Protestant missionaries with them. This work increased during British rule and, at the turn of the 20th century, about 12% of the population were “Christian.” However, the Christian population has since dropped back to around 8% or some 1.5 million people, of which over 70% are Roman Catholics.

Despite this relative decline of “traditional” Christian churches, in recent years there has been rapid growth of independent Evangelical groups – up to 20% per annum in some rural areas. It is estimated that there are now between 120,000 and 150,000 independent Evangelicals in Sri Lanka.

This growth is what seems to have sparked hostility and intimidation of Christians, mainly by the Buddhist majority, leading to the proposal of an anti-conversion Bill put forward to Parliament in 2004. Thankfully the Bill has come up against many hurdles and not yet been passed.

Nevertheless, theological education for the Christian Church in general, and especially among the new Evangelical groups, has been developing well, giving them a sound foundation for future growth and maturity. Many of the Christian workers being trained are recent converts from Buddhism or Hinduism, whose new Christian faith is seen as a serious provocation by their former communities.

Barnabas Fund; Operation World; revival Media

PRAISE: God that Sri Lankan Christians are willing to suffer hostility as they proclaim Christ. Pray that the Anti-conversion Bill will never prosper.

Church Bomber in Nepal Repents

BIBLE STUDY: 1 Timothy 1:12-17

Day 20

Ram Prasad Mainali, a 37-year-old militant Hindu extremist was arrested on Sept. 5, 2008 for exploding a bomb in a Roman Catholic church in the Lalitpur area of Kathmandu on May 23. The explosion killed a teenager and a newly-married woman from India’s Bihar state and injured more than a dozen others. In Kathmandu’s jail Mainali told *Compass*, “I bombed the church so that I could help re-establish Nepal as a Hindu nation. But I was wrong. Creating a religious war will only harm people.” Asked how the change in him came about, he said he had been attending a prison fellowship in Nakkhu Jail. Mainali said he began reading the Bible after experiencing the graciousness of prison Christians. “Although I bombed the church, Christians come to meet me everyday,” he said. “No right wing Hindu has come to meet me even once.”

Compass Direct News

PRAISE: God, He changes even the hardest heart

Zambia Christian Nationhood Upheld

BIBLE STUDY: Psalm 33:12-22

Day 21

At the end of December Zambian President Rupiah Banda publicly stated that the declaration of Zambia as a Christian nation should be retained in the Republican Constitution.

“I am very positive that you, my fellow Zambians, share this belief with me that in this covenant lies the wisdom of God. We must all be practically responsible citizens who are watchful enough and guarding the only one land that God has graciously given us,” he said.

Heritage Party president Godfrey Miyanda, agreed, saying, “Being a Christian nation does not mean we are perfect but that we need to work hard to live up to the declaration. In other words, we should be followers of Christ.” The *World Factbook* says of Zambia, “its economy has strengthened, featuring single-digit inflation, a relatively stable currency, decreasing interest rates, and increasing levels of trade.”

Christian Post; CIA World Factbook

PRAISE: God for rulers who wish to identify their nation with Christian belief. Pray that they may love those of other faiths and experience blessing.

Protests in Algeria as Church Grows

BIBLE STUDY: Psalm 2:1-12

Day 22

Nearly 50 Muslim members of a community in northern Algeria blocked Christians from holding a Christmas service on December 26th to protest a new church building in their neighbourhood. Tafat Church is located in Tizi-Ouzou, a city 100 kilometres (62 miles) east of the Algerian capital.

Established five years ago, the church belongs to the Protestant Church of Algeria (EPA). Until recently it met in a small rented building. In November it opened its doors in a new location to accommodate the growing needs of its nearly 350 congregants. The local protestors were reportedly irritated at finding that a large church building had opened near their homes.

A local Muslim from the neighbourhood said, “What’s happening over there is a shame and an offense to Muslims. We won’t let them exercise their faith even if they have authorization. This is the land of Islam.” One of Algeria’s Christian leaders, Youssef Ourahmane said, “Having hundreds of Christians coming to meet and especially having all these Muslim converts. This is the problem.”

The reason for the protests seems to be recent growth of the church in Algeria. Increasing numbers of people who come from Islam are like a stab for Muslims, he said.

“It’s hard for them to accept that hundreds of Christians gather to worship every week. They see the church as a danger to Algerian culture,” Ourahmane added.

Compass Direct

PRAISE: God that the small Algerian Church is fast growing. Pray that Christians may be mature in their dealings with the protesters, showing Christ’s love.

Muslim Sheikh Supports Jews

BIBLE STUDY: Ezekiel 36:33-38

Day 23

Making the trip from Italy to the Jewish community of Hevron, the head of the *Italian Muslim Assembly*, Sheikh Abdul Hadi Palazzi, met with local Jewish leaders in a show of solidarity.

The sheikh, an Italian national who received his Islamic education from leading mainstream Saudi and Egyptian Sunni institutions, believes that his religion obligates its followers to support Jewish sovereignty in the Land of Israel. In support of his position, Sheikh Palazzi quotes Qu'ranic passages and traditions that affirm God's assignment of this land for the Jews. During Palazzi's visit to Hevron, community leaders discussed with him ways in which Islamist fundamentalism might be curbed. He singled out Saudi Arabia as promoter of extremism.

"It funds mosques in Europe and the United States and then determines who will be allowed to speak in them. In this way, Islam becomes more and more extreme, which is a dangerous trend," he claimed. In his activities in Italy Palazzi teaches what he calls "the real Islam". He believes this includes tolerance, Jewish-Muslim fellowship and Zionism. He even organized a protest outside the Iranian embassy in Rome when Ahmadinejad proposed destroying Israel. He is co-founder of the *Islam-Israel Fellowship of the Root & Branch Association*. In an extensive article posted on the Internet Sheikh Palazzi gives quotes from the Qu'ran showing how he believes, "Allah gave the Land of Israel to the Jews and will restore them to it at the end of days."

Israel National News;

PRAISE: God for a man willing to seek peace and righteousness. Pray that many other Muslims will understand God's promises for the land of Israel.

KKK is Now African-American Pastor

BIBLE STUDY: Luke 9:1-10

Day 24

Johnny Lee Clary, once an imperial wizard of the Ku Klux Klan, was recently ordained a minister of Church of God in Christ, the largest black denomination in America. Bishop George D. McKinney, who ordained him, was quoted as saying Clary has been authorized to conduct evangelism campaigns and to engage in the ministry of racial reconciliation. Clary said, "I've learned that good friends come in all colours. I believe I have something to contribute in the area of racial reconciliation. I'm going to spend the rest of my life building bridges and bringing people together." Unable to keep a job because of his Klan history, depressed and broke, he decided to commit suicide. Clary put one bullet in his gun. "I saw a Bible sitting there," he said, "and thought maybe I could get forgiveness before I killed myself." But, by the time the night was over and he had read a part of the Bible, he made a decision to follow Christ. Bishop McKinney said "the colour line was washed away in the Blood of Jesus."

Breaking Christian News

PRAISE: God, only Christ can do such a thing!

Christian Car dealer Closes Sundays

BIBLE STUDY: Psalm 112:1

Day 25

While shopping centre bosses in the UK are calling for Sunday trading rules to be relaxed so that they do not have to turn away custom in a difficult economic climate, the boss of a major Scottish car dealer has announced that his showrooms will no longer be open on Sundays.

Peter Vardy, a devout Christian, explained that he is making the move so employees can spend more time with their families. Mr. Vardy defended his decision by stating that he does not expect it to adversely affect business. And he observed: "The UK is one of the few countries in Europe where Sunday openings have become the norm."

Convener of the Church of Scotland's Church and Society council, Rev Ian Galloway, said "Mr Vardy is putting a value on Sunday that is above money". The announcement comes after Scottish rugby player Euan Murray revealed that he has stopped playing on Sunday because of his faith. The Scottish Rugby Union director of communications, Dominic McKay, said: " We very much respect Euan's wishes and support Euan. Euan continues to be a valuable member of the squad."

Christian-views.co.uk; The Way; The Guardian

PRAISE: God for these brave decisions. Pray that these two men will be blessed for their stand. Thank God that the SRU have shown support for Euan.

Urbana 2009: Incarnational Mission

BIBLE STUDY: Mark 3:13-15

Day 26

Worldwide Evangelical student movement *InterVarsity's* 22nd missions' conference - *Urbana 09* - finished on the last day of December 2009 in St Louis, USA. Over the final five days of December, 17,000 students, staff, supporters and missions agencies gathered there to worship, pray, and consider the theme '*He dwells among us*'.

One of the organisers stated, "A few weeks ago we asked you to pray for Urbana – that delegates would be challenged by the spiritual and physical needs of the world. Thank you for your prayers – God has been mightily at work here. We have been challenged to see mission as incarnational, following the model Jesus set before us. Thousands of students have committed or re-committed their lives to Christ; thousands more have declared their intention to serve in cross-cultural mission."

Over the years *Urbana* has proved to be an event where many young university students from all over the world are given a vision for missionary service. In these days it is particularly students from the Third World who are responding to the challenge of Christ.

IFES: Revival Media

PRAISE: God for this gathering of students, many of whom will be future church leaders. Pray that deep-rooted seeds may have been sown in their hearts.

UK: Christian Radio Goes National

BIBLE STUDY: Hebrews 10:35-37

Day 27

For years, Christian radio stations in the United Kingdom were prevented from airing nationally, but now two Christian broadcasting groups are doing just that. *United Christian Broadcasters* operates on nearly every continent to make Christian radio and television available even in closed countries. At the end of last year the group finally realized a 23-year vision to bring national Christian radio across the UK.

Almost simultaneously *Premier Radio* - that had been operating as a local station in London since 1990 - was granted a national digital license to broadcast throughout Britain. This has been an historic victory after facing major challenges since the long journey first began. UCB's Ian Mackie said there were many times when he was ready to give up on the vision, but a significant word from the Lord kept him going.

After 23 years, Mackie's persistence has finally paid off when he was told by Ofcom, the British radio authority, that he'd finally been granted a national digital radio license to begin Dec. 1. His story acts as an inspiration to many of what one man's perseverance to fulfill God's vision for his life can achieve.

United Christian Broadcaster; Revival Media

PRAISE: God that these two Christian groups have the privilege of broadcasting the Gospel message throughout Britain. Pray that they may exercise great wisdom so as to speak to the whole nation.

Christian Bookshops' Future Secured

BIBLE STUDY: Hebrews 10:22-24

Day 28

For months it seemed likely that one of the major distributors/retailers of Christian books, music and resources in the UK would fall foul of the recession.

Keith Danby, IBS-STL Chief Executive said, "I am delighted with the developments. I could not have imagined five weeks ago such a positive outcome. All along we have had three goals in mind: the continuity of the distribution of Christian resources, safeguarding jobs, and finding purchasers who would invest in the businesses and take them to a new level."

Authentic Media has been bought out by the Eastbourne-based media group *Kingsway*, while Australian Christian company *Koorong* has taken over *Authentic Book Publishing* and eight *Wesley Owen* branches. Scottish book distributor *John Ritchie Ltd*, a subsidiary of *The Lord's Work Trust*, has purchased *STL Distribution* and its Carlisle properties. A further six *Wesley Owen* stores are being acquired by *Christian Literature Crusade*, while discussions are ongoing to save the remaining 26 branches through local groups.

Christian Today

Praise: God for this outcome. Pray that the new owners will have God's vision for the future.

God's Love Touches Lives in Kenya

BIBLE STUDY: Psalm 32:7-9

Day 29

Moyale, in Northern Kenya, is an area where Islam is strong and where a long drought has seriously affected people's livelihood. So there was great excitement when *Missionary Aviation Fellowship* aircraft transported evangelist Peter Franz and his team there for Gospel outreach to the Borana and Rendille people. "It was a major breakthrough," he said. "The Lord was so good to us and many got saved, healed and delivered. The Lord even confirmed his Word by sending rain immediately the following day when we prayed for it. It was a big sign to the people. The country has been so dry and the livestock of the people are dying." Peter Franz added that many of the new converts are already suffering persecution for answering Christ's call. "But from what I saw, they will not want to trade that what they have received for anything in the world," he added.

Missionary Aviation Fellowship; Revival Media

PRAISE: God for MAF's aviation ministry to distant peoples, and for the response seen in Moyale. Pray that the new converts may remain strong in Christ.

Replacement for Doulos Ship Needed

BIBLE STUDY: John 21:5-13

Day 30

Operation Mobilisation announced the decommissioning of its ministry ship *Doulos* December 31st 2009. The news was "unexpected" but followed surveys by the ship's classification society RINA which found the structure in need of around £10 million additional work before its certificates could be renewed. *Doulos* has been in key missionary service at ports in over a hundred countries since it was purchased by OM in 1977. OM's other ministry ship *Logos Hope*, which was launched earlier this year, continues to draw huge crowds at present in the Caribbean. OM said it "remained committed to operating a two-ship ministry" and is looking into the short-term hire of another vessel while a replacement for *Doulos* is sought.

Christian Today

PRAISE: God for this vital ministry. Pray that a replacement will soon be forthcoming, and for the 300 Doulos crew who are suddenly left stranded.

10 Million Internet Converts

BIBLE STUDY: Psalm 19:1-3

Day 31

On December 7 *Global Media Outreach* announced that it saw the ten millionth person in 2009 indicate a decision for Christ through one of their more than 90 websites. Over 1.8 million people initiated follow-up for more information, guidance and discipleship since the beginning of last year. The websites are manned by volunteers, recommended by their pastors, who typically spend only a few minutes a day responding to emails.

Campus Crusade for Christ; Christian Today

PRAISE: God that technology points people to Christ.

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