



The Harvest Times

A Publication of World Missions

Love Your (Political) Enemies

Over the last three years, the government of Myanmar has made democratic reforms, even allowing an election of officials in 2010.

Yet, the country still ranks 23rd out of 50 countries where Christian persecution is the highest, according to Open Doors' 2014 World Watch List. In describing the country, this list states, "Being Burmese is synonymous with being Buddhist, and anyone who deviates from this heritage is viewed as a potential threat. Christians face pressure from extremist Buddhist movements and from the government, which tacitly supports them." It goes on to say, "Churches are monitored, and sometimes closed. Christians are often caught in the crossfire between different ethnic groups and the army – dozens of Christians have been killed, and church buildings and homes destroyed."

Against this backdrop of government control and military aggression, Pastor Andrew and two church planters are intentionally reaching out to the police and military.

John graduated from Shiloh Bible College in 2004, and for over seven years he has been ministering at a civil workers' institute. Government officials such as policemen, firemen, and doctors come here to be trained, and John is working to see that many are having an opportunity to learn about the living God, as well.

Last December, Pastor Andrew helped Tial Cung start a new church in a village created for injured military personnel. Andrew was able to speak to over 60 non-Christians about being born again, and new believers were baptized. Out of 22 houses in the village, 11 were represented at the church dedication.

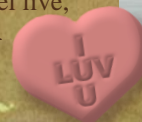
Andrew and his team are sharing the love of Jesus to those from all walks of life, and they are seeing "political enemies" become brothers and sisters in Christ.



Pastor Andrew spoke at the civil workers' institute in 2009.



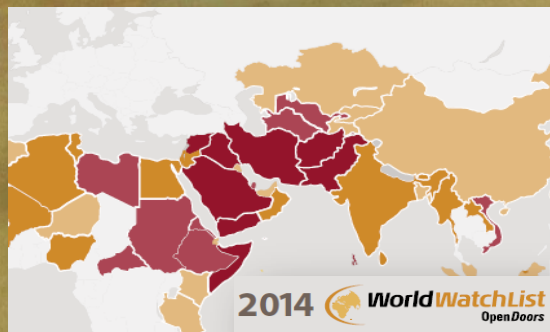
A new church was started in a village where injured military personnel live, Dec. 2013.



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Pastor Roland (right) helps with the construction work at Dos Palais.



AROUND THE WORLD

HAITI

Our school at Dos Palais, Haiti, served close to 400 students last school year, with all classes meeting in two rooms—the old church sanctuary and the new.

However, the Haitian government began warning last year that they could no longer use their current church building for classrooms during the week. If they did not move the classes out of the church, the school would be closed.

World Missions has partnered with our brothers and sisters at Dos Palais to see a new classroom building built. The work is underway, with church people volunteering to work for only half wages and everyone pitching in to carry rocks from the river for the foundation. Pastor Samson, the National Director, asks for prayer, as they must have the work completed by the end of February. Please also remember to pray for Pastor Roland, the leader of the congregation at Dos Palais.

2014 WORLD WATCH LIST

Open Doors recently released the 2014 World Watch List, detailing the countries around the world where the persecution of Christians is the worst. The top three countries are North Korea, Somalia, and Syria; countries where we have contacts also made the list, including India, Colombia, and Myanmar.

The sober truth is that almost twice as many Christians were martyred in 2013 as in the year prior. In fact, Syria alone saw more deaths last year than all documented cases in 2012.

For more information, go to www.worldwatchlist.us. As you read these results and as you hear news of international turmoil throughout the year, take a few moments to pray for our brothers and sisters suffering for their faith.



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