

inside africa:
paradigm shift
p. 2

ccv youth: mission
to the homeless
p. 7

sects or, the
city?
p. 16

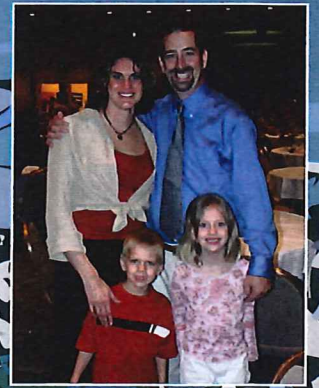
GO Magazine

A ministry of Christ's Church of the Valley

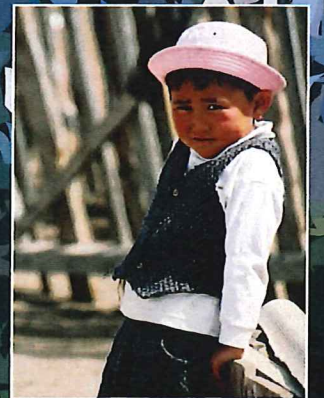
Vol. 6



Stunning photo
gallery from
Brazil - p.10-11



The Heydorns:
Experiencing the
ends of the earth
p.6



Things you never
knew about one of
the world's most
exotic countries
p.12-13



INSIDE AFRICA: "THE PARADIGM SHIFT"

by Mike Bazzo

The headline reads: "Attendance at Kenya's Protestant churches is plummeting as Kenyans flock toward exciting new cults or back to traditional religions."

The study, carried out by evangelical church groups, warns that while Protestantism normally accounts for 65 per cent of Kenyan Christians, only seven per cent of the population attends a Protestant or evangelical church on a typical Sunday.

The study identified rural communities, long assumed to be the bastion of Protestant worship, as those where the established church was losing most ground. In contrast, Nairobi - long regarded as sin city - was the center of religion and worship. Among Protestants, Nairobi boasts the highest level of church attendance - 16 per cent on any given Sunday, a spectacular number considering that the population of Nairobi is over 3 million.

Researchers also found that more than 100 years after the first missionaries arrived in Kenya, at least 20 rural ethnic communities had never known Christianity at all.

The survey was commissioned by the Africa Centre For Missions-Finish The Task (ACM-FTT Afriserve) and funded by a Christian NGO, Dawn Ministries.

The survey found most new churches were started in areas and among communities and classes already well served by Protestantism. Indeed, when one visits Nairobi, the first impression is that there is a Christian church on every corner. "We (Evangelical churches) tend to target people like us, who live in similar environments as ourselves and those we are accustomed to," observed analyst Dr. Stephen Kabachia.

The new study blamed a high level of nominalism (those sliding away from Christian values), the rise of cultic sects and people's attachment to cultural practices as posing the greatest threat to Protestantism.

A country needs a foundation. Jehosephat wanted

people to know that there is no separation of church and state. Fear of the Lord fell on the people so the enemies didn't make war on them. Proverbs tells us that fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and knowledge. In our own lives we've watched the beating down of the church so that we will eventually become a secular society. Outside of the Christian community, the fear of God isn't there.

In Uganda, the paradigm shift has become increasingly evident. Uganda's roots were Christian. In the early 1970s, Idi Amin spent millions of dollars and killed millions of people in an effort to eradicate Uganda of Christianity. By the late 1970s the first Christian missionaries came to Uganda in the face of overwhelming persecution and converted whole villages to Jesus. The roots of the Gospel went deeply into the hearts of the Ugandan people, so deeply that they were able to overcome oppression and cling to their faith. God's work moved forward as the people kept their eyes on Him.



Orphans busily engrossed in making Christmas cards for their extended relatives. The range in age from 8 to 18, and live mostly with extended family, but almost always get the short end of that stick.

The mighty revival that began in Uganda 25 years ago has now spread throughout Africa.

25 years from now, sub Saharan Africa will displace

community

Europe as the chief Christian heartland. In 1950 5.5 million people lived in Uganda, where the population doubles every 25 years. In 1975, there were 11 million people in Uganda. In 2000, there were 23 million. In 2025, estimates predict 33 million. In 2050 a conservative projection puts the population figure at 60 million. The birth rate of Uganda is 4 times that of Europe. Today 40% of Uganda is Protestant Christian, 35% is Catholic and 10% is Muslim, and the rest follow tribal customs. Today, 17 million people in Uganda are born again Christians. By 2025 there will be 24 million and by 2050 there will be 43 million born again Christians in Uganda at the present revival rate. In 2050 there will be more Christians in Uganda alone than in Germany or Great Britain combined.

Unfortunately, the Church and the birth rate are going backwards in the U.S. If the body of Christ is not

respected in this land, God will remove his hand just as we have seen Him do time and again throughout Scripture. Of course, He can and will do His work, no matter the situation. In Africa since the late 1970s 17 million have died of AIDS; over 3 million in Kenya alone. Some 2 million carry the virus right now. The Lord is using the negative of AIDS to bring His people to Jesus. In this time when forces are coming against God, don't disguise yourself. Cry out to the Lord no matter the forces against you. He will be with you and will divert the enemy. We are the hope for this country and the world when we immerse ourselves in God's word, do His will, and go spread His word to others at home and abroad.

I learned that God provides all of our needs and is worthy of praise. God's word is powerful.

- Danny Rainbow
Peru Experience 2003

SUMARIA OUTREACH

By Tracy Castorena

Where did you spend your Spring Break? For two junior high girls they chose to work with the homeless of San Francisco. That's where it all started for Diana Gastelum and Erika Hankard. Following their experience in San Francisco, these two 14 year olds really felt the Lord calling them to help the homeless in our area. With guidance and encouragement from their pastor, they started a ministry that would serve the homeless in Los Angeles. It's incredible what these two girls have been able to put together on their own.

On Sunday night at 4:30 a group of 10 meet at the church and drive down to the Union Rescue Mission. There they serve dinner to program members, women and children, and the men's group. In the time that

they have been there, they have built relationships with the workers and the homeless. This ministry has been running strong for about 8 months, and sometimes there is even a waiting list for the next trip. Diana and Erika really desire to see this ministry grow. Their hope is that there would be all ages joining them on Sunday nights. Their love for the Lord is displayed in their obedience to serve the forgotten and undesirable, just as Jesus did during his ministry.

There is no generation gap when it comes to poverty or the homeless. There is a place for all who want to serve. NO experience required, just a willing heart. So please, if you would like to be a part of this growing ministry contact Jill at the CCV office. 909-592-4414.