

My dear Friends,

Warm greetings once more in the Name which is above all names - the Name of Y'shua the Messiah.

You have heard about the growth of Islam; you've heard of the explosion of wickedness, and the increase of drug addiction, violence, and apostasy. And at times you might have been tempted to think that Satan is winning. Well, that's not the whole story! Here's a recent account of the ...

THE INCREDIBLE GROWTH OF CHRISTIANITY IN AFRICA AND ASIA

Today more Presbyterians worship in the African nation of Ghana than in Scotland. And more Anglicans worship in Nigeria than in Britain.

While the "Christian West" likes to think of itself as the centre of Christianity, there is growing evidence that the center of Christendom has moved.

Africans are running to accept Jesus Christ. And there are great things happening all across the developing world. It may sound like an exaggeration, but it's not! Christianity is sweeping across the southern hemisphere and Asia like a tidal wave.

"The scale of Christian growth is almost unimaginable," says Dr. Philip Jenkins, professor of History and Religious Studies at Penn State University. In his book, *The Coming of Global Christianity*, Jenkins says within 20 years, two-thirds of all Christians will live in Africa, Latin America or Asia."

In the year 1900, there were about 10 million Christians in Africa - about 10% of the population. Today there are 360 million - almost 50% of the population.

"The Bible is alive in Africa, and Asia, and Latin America," Jenkins says. "And overwhelmingly, it's the kind of Christianity that is very Bible-centered, that takes the Bible and authority very seriously."

In China, there are between 80 and 100 million Christians. And a former *Time Magazine* correspondent, David Aikman, predicts China will be a Christianized nation within 20 or 30 years. He does not predict a Christian majority, but a China that is 25 to 30% Christian; enough, he says, to change society and government. And, says Aikman, the Chinese church leaders have a burden to take the gospel to the rest of the globe, including to the Muslim nations.

"It's part of a burden that they call 'back to Jerusalem,'" Aikman said. "They believe that just as the gospel originally came out of Jerusalem and went to the West and to N. America and Europe and came to China, now the Chinese need to bring it back to Jerusalem, not in the sense of evangelizing the Jewish, but in the sense of completing the circle so that the gospel message is available to everybody in the world."

Imagine Chinese reaching the Muslims, Koreans evangelizing Indians, Africans taking the gospel back to a largely godless Europe.

Matthew Ashimolowo, is an African pastor of the fastest growing church in England. "God is sending people who used to receive missionaries to now be missionaries around the world," he said.

Kenyan Bishop Gilbert Dya has one of the largest churches in London. "I am in this country, believing that God sent me here in Great Britain to make a voice on His behalf to let them know that they need to repent and come back to God," he said.

- source: www.cbn.com/CBNNews/News/030819a.asp

That's good news. But as the growth of Christianity increases, and other religions feel threatened by the Gospel, persecution erupts. And so today we see increasing attacks on Christians in many nations.

Y'shua, said: "Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when men revile, *insult and slander* you, *and when they* persecute you, telling all kinds of vicious lies about you because of Me. Rejoice, and be glad for your reward in heaven is great, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you." (Matthew 5:12-13)

Let us rejoice with the many thousands of souls coming to the Saviour every day. And let us rejoice with those who are persecuted, and uphold them in our prayers. And, dear believer, keep looking up as you see signs of the times coming thick and fast.

"For yet in a very little while, He who is coming, will come, and will not delay!" (Hebrews 10:37)

May the peace of God fill your hearts and minds.

Your brother in the Messiah, *Don Stanton*