And The Church Grows and Grows Against the Odds

Description

Easter, a day of resurrection and renewal. The Church has grown when threatened with persecution thousands of years ago, and, as it turns out, it is still. From the Joshua Fund Blog:

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> THE BIG (UNTOLD) STORY IN THE MIDDLE EAST: Muslims converting to faith in Jesus Christ in record numbers â€" 2008 Update
> â€œI will build my church,â€• Jesus said, â€œand the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.â€• (Matthew 16:18)
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> Despite unprecedented press coverage of Afghanistan, Iraq, and the Middle East since September 11, 2001, one big story is not being told by the mainstream media. Hundreds of thousands of Muslims are converting to evangelical Christianity and will be celebrating their first Easter this year, even amidst widespread persecution and the very real threat of death.
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> I first began reporting this story in 2005 after interviewing some three dozen Arab and Iranian pastors and evangelical Christian leaders in the U.S. and the Middle East. Over the last three years, however, I have had the privilege of traveling to Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, the West Bank, Turkey, and Morocco. Whatâ€™s more, I have had the honor of meeting with and interviewing more than 200 Arab, Iranian, Kurdish, Sudanese and other pastors and Christian leaders. With more data, the trend lines are becoming even more clear and the story is even more exciting.
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> The God of the Bible is moving powerfully in the Middle East to draw men, women and children to His heart and adopt them into His family in record numbers. More Muslims have come to faith in Jesus Christ over the last thirty years â€" and specifically over the last seven to ten years â€" than at any other time in human history. There is a revival going on among the ancient Catholic, Coptic, and Chaldean churches. Today, the Church is being truly resurrected in the lands of its birth.
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> Consider the latest evidence:
> [â€¦]

And then the article goes on to list specifics from Afghanisatn to Iraq, to Sudan and other countries in the Islamic sphere.

And then the leading Saudi cleric had this to say:

> [â€¦]
> In December 2001, Sheikh Ahmad al Qataani, a leading Saudi cleric, appeared on a live

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interview on Aljazeera satellite television to confirm that, sure enough, Muslims were turning to Jesus in alarming numbers. â€œIn every hour, 667 Muslims convert to Christianity,â€• Al Qataani warned. â€œEvery day, 16,000 Muslims convert to Christianity. Every year, 6 million Muslims convert to Christianity.â€• Stunned, the interviewer interrupted the cleric. â€œHold on! Let me clarify. Do we have six million converting from Islam to Christianity?â€• Al Qataani repeated his assertion. â€œEvery year,â€• the cleric confirmed, adding, â€œa tragedy has happened.â€•
[â€¦]

Analysis: That means 1.3B minus 36Mâ€¦and counting.

Pray for the converts they will need all the support they can get.

Category

1. Public Service

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