

December 2004

Here in the United States we have Christmas traditions that are as old as the country. Everyone has at least a little understanding of the meaning of Christmas even they are from another faith or no faith at all. Last year at this time we were in China and saw what it was like to be in a country where very few people seemed to have even a remote concept of the season. There is a growing push by retailers to promote buying, so we saw the occasional symbols; a decorated tree, or a santa hat. But even the commercial side of Christmas is new to most. It's not surprising when you realize that 317 of the 495 people groups in China do not have even Bible portions available in their primary language.



#### **For China Please Pray :**

- For [Central Tibetans of China](#) : the worlds least reached people group. Over 730,000 people with less than 0.01% Christian.
- For the [Hui](#) people : Over 10 million people with not one known indigenous believer. This group is Islamic and they can be found living in almost every city, province, and region of northwestern China.
- That the doors of China will soon open to missionaries.

Japan remains one of the least evangelized countries in the world, in spite of a government that allows freedom of religion. In fact, the [Joshua Project](#) identifies them as the largest least-reached people group. When Mel Gibson's "The Passion of The Christ" was shown in Japan last spring, the theaters sold out and attendance in churches increased dramatically.

Even though Christians compose only one percent of Japan's population, Christmas is a big holiday for the Japanese. This December, Japanese churches will be involved in a project distributing a special Japanese Christmas CD-ROM.

#### **For Japan Please pray:**



- For Japan, a country of 127 million who desperately need the Savior.
- That those who accept this CD will take the time to view the "JESUS" film on it and that this Christmas season, many Japanese will find new life and hope in Christ.
- That many Japanese Christians will grow in their faith.
- For those who are laboring in Japan, that they will not grow weary in doing good, but in due time that they may reap a harvest.

Dan 12:3 ...those who lead many to righteousness, [will be] like the stars for ever and ever. NIV