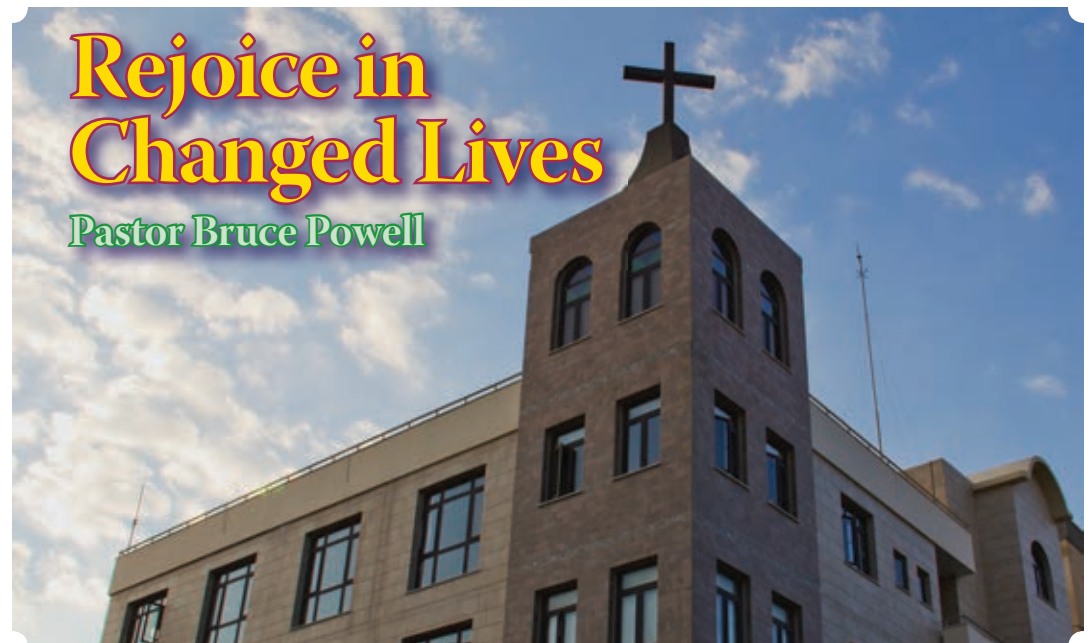




MERF’s International Council met in November for praise and prayer—a highlight of the year. Lebanese Pastor Samuel Kharrat’s opening devotions stated that MERF is an agent of change—changed lives. It brought to mind the moving Sunday evening service when several Iranians were baptized before returning to Iran, declaring that they were willing to die for the Lord Jesus Christ.

We thank God for the creative, prayerful, and sacrificial service of MERF support volunteers in many countries, which enable gifts to go directly into ministry with very little administrative expense. The following Field Reports tell of “changed lives”:

In **Sudan** and **South Sudan**, MERF supports about 900 pastors and evangelists and carries out broadcasting, prison ministries, literature distribution, and biblical training.



New churches are planted as lives are changed. Just over the border from South Sudan in Lokichoggio, **Kenya**, the MERF Center has trained over 700 pastors, evangelists, and elders since its opening in 2003.

A new MERF Center in Addis Ababa, **Ethiopia**, is almost finished. It will house gospel radio work,

a medical clinic, one of the congregations of the Reformed Church of Ethiopia, and biblical training for many from various denominations. The radio ministry serves Amharic, Oromo, and Somali speakers. Special radio programs encourage the reformation movement growing in the Ethiopian Orthodox Church.

In **Pakistan**, MERF serves in partnership with Westminster Biblical Missions, helping the Bible-Believing Lahore Church Council, founded in slum areas. The Lahore seminary trains men as church planters, and two medical clinics serve the needy in their neighborhoods. Sermon and Bible study DVDs are aired on cable TV in Lahore,

Faisalabad, Islamabad, and Gojra. About 4,300 families tune in regularly to the messages.

Over 2,000 attend Bible conferences every fall, and five Calvin Academies serve a total of 2,400 students. In each of 31 Adult Literacy Centers, from 15 to 25 people are learning to read the Word of God. Girls in the Sewing Class Project receive a sewing machine to teach their mothers and sisters at home and to generate income.



*Top to bottom: MERF’s headquarters John Calvin Center, Larnaca, Cyprus; Pastor Bruce Powell, Chairman of MERF England/Wales (left) with Pastor George Awad of Bethlehem*

*“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”*

*—2 Corinthians 5:17*



In **Indonesia**, the Allamahabab (“God is love”) Foundation serves on the islands of Java and Sulawesi. Gospel radio is broadcast in five local languages, and projects are carried out in evangelism, biblical training, children’s ministry, and diaconal agricultural aid.

The Makassar Training Center is newly built, and land was acquired to build a training center in Java as well. Officially, the 240 million Indonesians are 86 percent Muslim and 11 percent Christian, but some estimate that over 25 percent profess Christ.

In the midst of insecurity and serious difficulties, the work of the Gospel continues to prosper. Conversions to Christ abound in **Algeria** and **Chad**. In **Eritrea**, the tiny Reformed church is growing. In Aleppo, **Syria**, political events kept summer camps closed, but special youth activities resulted in an increase in Sunday School attendance. In **Egypt**, churches are being planted in four new areas, and the recent unrest there has caused churches to be more united and more actively prayerful and the

youth to be more involved in service.

Sadly, **Iraq’s** Baghdad congregation had to close its medical clinic, but services and activities continue there and in Kirkuk and Basra. In **Iran**, 4,000 Gospels were distributed in the past few months, leading to growing fellowship groups. Baraka Church in Bethlehem, **Palestine** celebrated its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and three families joined last year; more workers are needed.

Christians still enjoy free-

dom in **Lebanon**; churches are planted and there are regular conversions. The Lebanon Reformed Fellowship focuses on gospel broadcasting and counseling.

MERF’s **Arabic Gospel Broadcasts** are prepared in Beirut and Cairo with a special emphasis on appealing to Muslim young people. These daily half-hour radio programs extend to the whole of the Middle East and North Africa. The engaging, youth-centered **Arabic website** receives

almost 5,000 visits per month, and workers follow up all enquirers.

The International Council closed with a bold reminder from the general director that Islam serves the Kingdom of God. God is sovereign, and all over the world He is changing lives and building His Church. To Him be all the glory and the praise!

*Top to bottom: Public profession of faith before baptism; Elder Poniman of Jakarta and Pastor Arimn of Makassar singing in Indonesian; Pastor David Wat manages MERF’s Loki compound and broadcasts to his Nuer people in South Sudan.*

