

News Briefly Glimpsed

A new law in Laos restricts front-line gospel workers. Under the law, all religious activity must be approved by multiple government offices. Approval is rarely given and work not approved would be considered illegal. The new law is supposed to apply to people of all faiths, but many observers expect it to be enforced only against those outside of Buddhism or other traditional religions.

Many Christian workers will be affected by the law.

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During a recent Sunday service at a church in India, about 25 police officers and Hindu nationalists burst through the door and arrested eight Christians. The worshippers were charged with trying to get Hindus to convert to Christianity. The accused people were granted bail and released. The case is still pending.

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Throughout the world, about 85% of churches are led by pastors with no formal biblical training. A ministry known as World Mission is working to provide the needed training. The group is providing biblical leadership teaching to pastors and other church leaders in about 30 countries.

The most recently completed courses drew 81 pastors in Kenya. Those in attendance were from unreached tribes. Violence is extreme in some areas and missionaries are risking their lives to share the gospel.

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