

us as we march on the strongholds of Islam, Buddhism, and Hinduism."

Let's take a moment and allow God to search our heart. Do we still have a growing passion for the Great Commission? Are we talking and strategizing and breathing world missions? Are we ready to partner with the Chinese church in the global harvest, even if it means giving our lives?

I pray that we will all be challenged by the stories coming out of the house church movement in China. May God prepare our hearts for the persecution – and at times humiliation – that awaits us as Christ-followers!

Conrad Esh is the SEND Department's short-term missions director and the pastor of Crossway Community Church. He and his wife, Vicki, have two daughters.

The following websites have more information about China's house church movement: www.backtojerusalem.org, www.chinasoul.org, www.cclife.org.

REACH Update

By Michael Weaver

Our house is above average by Ugandan standards, but it sits on the edge of a slum area. There are over 20 people lodging within the walls, now that the Discipleship Training School is in session. There are students from Uganda, Kenya, Sudan, and Congo, and even one brave Canadian, besides our team and the staff. Just outside of the gate is a maze of dirt alleys and rustic looking brick or concrete houses, with an occasional tavern, a shoeshine booth, or a hole-in-the-wall general store. We can get some cold passion fruit juice at somebody's hole in the wall for about 6 cents. Or we can walk a few minutes further to the highway, where we can check our email, shop at an impressive supermarket, or browse through the "real" market for fruit, fish, or secondhand clothes

It was here that the local church people took us on door-to-door evangelism. They marched us through the neighborhood and proselytized in a way that would have yielded nothing but door slams, were this America. But in Uganda, people actually listen. Sometimes you don't even have to go to them; they come to you.

I was going around with this African guy, who talking in his tribal language with someone that didn't understand English. I was wondering why I even bothered getting out of bed that morning. All of a sudden this guy came up, handed me a stool, and motioned for me to come over and sit down with him. He introduced himself as Waswa. He asked me where I was from and if I had come to Uganda to preach. I told I was not much of a preacher, but had I come to help the churches here. It turns out this guy was a Muslim. Before I could think of what to say next, he asked his next question. "I'm not saved, but I'd like to be. Could you tell me how?"

Yikes...okay, umm...I gave him a rundown of the basic differences between Christianity and Islam. I don't know how much sense I made, but I got a break. He said he had to go back to work, but he wanted to talk with me the next day. I spent a lot of time that evening planning what I was going to say to him. The next day, I went back to the same place, and there he was again, ready to listen. I said what I planned to say, and right then and there I prayed with him to accept Christ. I don't want to say that I led him to Christ. I think God led him there before we even met. He said that he had been raised as a Muslim, but he didn't think Muslims would ever see the prophet Muhammed again. He felt that Islam wasn't the way to God. Christians, on the other hand, believe that they will see Jesus again. I still don't know exactly what his reasoning was for his conversion, but I know he understands it now.