



BOOK RELEASE

Johnson & Wu's *Our Global Families* (Baker, 2015) was released in March.



CENTER ACTIVITIES

See our involvement with *Finishing the Task*, plus the beginning of the 3rd edition of the *World Christian Encyclopedia*.



TEACHING CHRISTIANITY

Our staff has been involved in teaching masters- and doctoral-level courses, as well as Perspectives courses.



CONTACT US

We are available for consultations, media inquiries, and data requests.

The Inquiry

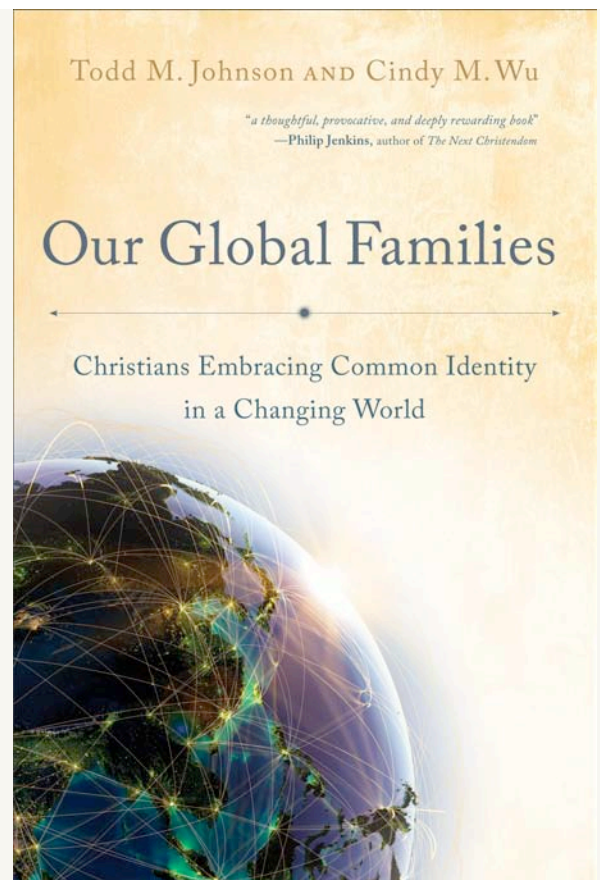
Issue 2
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News from the Center for the Study of Global Christianity www.globalchristianity.org

New book!

*Published by Baker Academic and co-authored by
Todd M. Johnson and Cindy M. Wu*

Our Global Families: Christians Embracing Common Identity in a Changing World



Born into the global human race and baptized into the global Church. What does it mean for Christians not just to be part of, but also to embrace, two global families at once?

Johnson and Wu set out the case (biblical, theological, and historical) for a common Christian identity and explore practical ways in which it impacts the global human and global Christian families. In doing so they use four lenses: how the world's social and religious

dimensions are changing; how those changes are affecting Christian identity globally; how Christians can apply these new realities to interpersonal relationships; and how a global Christian identity impacts the Christian's role in human flourishing. As a result, the authors offer—and embrace—a vision of a united global Christian family that both finds solidarity with the global human family in working for good and sees the world transformed by obedience to the Gospel.

Finishing the **Task**



Finishing the Task, a network of leaders from denominations, mission agencies, resource providers, and churches, promotes awareness of and outreach to Unengaged Unreached People Groups—peoples among whom there is no known church planting work.

The Center for the Study of Global Christianity provides people group data from its *World Christian Database* to Finishing the Task, and a Center staff member attends the annual meeting of the FTT Task Force. Senior Research Associate Bert Hickman is the Center's current FTT liaison.

In addition to the general Task Force sessions, recent FTT gatherings have included a smaller consultation with data providers and analysts. Researchers—including representatives from the Southern Baptist International Mission Board and the Joshua Project, the other two major sources of global people group data—meet to discuss the latest information and to help FTT leaders determine future actions the network should take.

Collaboration among the participants is enhanced by a monthly (non-FTT) conference call, in which several of these researchers join with colleagues from other agencies to discuss global data and issues of significance.



World Christian Encyclopedia team, from left to right: Gina Zurlo, Chris Guidry, Brad Coon, Bert Hickman, Peter Crossing, Michael Jaffarian, Todd Johnson

World Christian **Encyclopedia**



The first edition of the groundbreaking *World Christian Encyclopedia* appeared in 1982, with 2001 marking the publication of the second edition. In September of 2014, veterans of WCE-2 and the *Atlas of Global Christianity* assembled at the Center for the Study of Global Christianity to plan production of the *Encyclopedia's* third edition.

The meeting saw the reunion—for perhaps the first time since its publication—of WCE-2 team member Michael Jaffarian (Oregon) with Chris Guidry (Virginia), Data Analyst Peter Crossing (Australia), and Todd Johnson—all of whom worked on both WCE-2 and the *Atlas*. They were joined by *Atlas* team members Brad Coon (Massachusetts), Gina Zurlo, and Bert Hickman.

Each of the world's countries will have a chapter highlighting the history of Christianity and the state of religious freedom there, as well as statistics on the religions and the major Christian denominations present. To be published by Edinburgh University Press, WCE-3 is scheduled to appear in 2020.

Teaching global Christianity

Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
Boston University School of Theology
Local churches in New England



Doctor of Ministry faculty Todd Johnson (l) and Doug Birdsall (r) congratulate Benjamin Thomas (c) on the approval of his thesis-project at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.



January of 2015 saw nine students assemble at Gordon-Conwell for their third and final residency in the Global Christian Leadership track of the seminary's Doctor of Ministry program. Led by Todd Johnson and Doug Birdsall, CEO and President of Civilitas and Honorary Chairman of the Lausanne Movement, the cohort met for two weeks of classes, mentoring, and field visits.

Johnson and Gina Zurlo taught a masters-level class on Trends in Global Christianity at Gordon-Conwell during the Fall 2014

semester. The Spring 2015 semester finds them at Boston University, teaching a course entitled The Rise of Global Christianity that has attracted students from several Boston Theological Institute member schools.

Spring has brought teaching farther afield as well, as Johnson journeyed to Connecticut and Bert Hickman traveled to Haverhill, MA, to teach lessons in the Perspectives on the World Christian Movement course.

Citations

March 2015: *Christian Post* on \$50 billion stolen from churches every year

March 2015: *A Separate State of Mind* (blog) on the decline of Christians in Lebanon

March 2015: Catholic News Agency on the status of global Christianity

February 2015: CNN.com on the decline of Christians in the Middle East

February 2015: *Global Times* on the number of missionaries in the world

January 2015: *The Washington Times* on the number of Christian martyrs every year

January 2015: *The Tennessean* on ecclesiastical crime

Publications

Todd M. Johnson, Gina A. Zurlo, Albert W. Hickman, and Peter F. Crossing. "Christianity 2015: Religious Diversity and Personal Contact." *International Bulletin of Missionary Research* 39:1 (January 2015): 28–29.

Todd M. Johnson and Gina A. Zurlo. "Christian Martyrdom as a Pervasive Phenomenon." *Society* 51:6 (2014): 679–685.

Todd M. Johnson and Gina A. Zurlo. "Ongoing Exodus: Tracking the Emigration of Christians from the Middle East." *Harvard Journal of Middle Eastern Politics and Policy* III (2013–14): 39–49.

Todd M. Johnson and Gina A. Zurlo. "The Holy Spirit and Global Christianity." In *Holy Spirit: Unfinished Agenda*, ed. Johnson T.K. Lim. Armour Publishing, 2014.

Forthcoming

Brian C. Stiller, Todd M. Johnson, Karen Stiller, and Mark Hutchinson, eds. *Evangelicals Around the World: A Global Handbook for the 21st Century*. Thomas Nelson.

Todd M. Johnson, Brian J. Grim, and Peter F. Crossing. "Religion: Analyzing Global Data on Religious Adherents, 1900–2014." *Britannica Book of the Year*. Encyclopedia Britannica.

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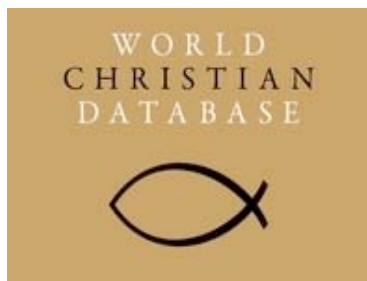
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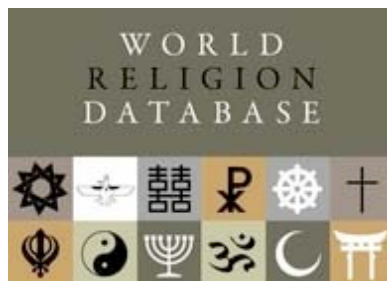
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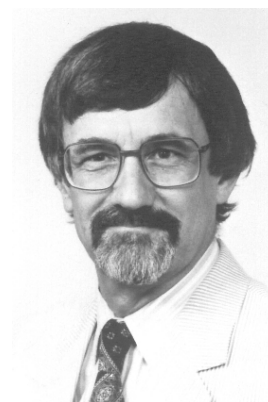
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www.worldchristiandatabase.org



www.worldreligiondatabase.org



Rev. Dr. David B. Barrett

Celebrating 50 years

The year 2015 marks the 50-year anniversary of the pioneering work of David B. Barrett, Anglican missionary to Nairobi, Kenya, and founder of the field of religious demography. From Barrett's efforts would come numerous publications (including the *World Christian Encyclopedia*) as well as the World Evangelization Research Center and its successor, the Center for the Study of Global Christianity.

Friends, family, and former colleagues of Barrett will join current researchers and Center staff on March 26 in South Hamilton, MA, to celebrate Barrett's legacy and hear about the Center's future work. A report on the gathering will appear in the September 2015 issue of *The Inquiry*.



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