

Status of Global Christianity, 2016, in the Context of 1900-2050

| | 1900 | 1970 | 2000 | Annual trend (%) | mid-2016 | 2025 | 2050 |
|--|---------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| GLOBAL POPULATION | | | | | | | |
| 1. Total population | 1,619,625,000 | 3,691,173,000 | 6,127,700,000 | 1.19 | 7,404,977,000 | 8,083,413,000 | 9,550,945,000 |
| 2. Adult population (over 15) | 1,073,646,000 | 2,304,100,000 | 4,280,900,000 | 1.57 | 5,492,823,000 | 6,101,720,000 | 7,516,484,000 |
| 3. Adults, % literate | 27.6 | 63.8 | 76.7 | 0.53 | 83.4 | 84.3 | 88.0 |
| GLOBAL CITIES | | | | | | | |
| 4. Cities over 1 million (megacities) | 20 | 144 | 361 | 2.20 | 511 | 616 | 880 |
| 5. Urban population (%) | 14.4 | 36.7 | 46.7 | 0.97 | 54.5 | 58.2 | 67.3 |
| 6. Urban poor | 100 million | 650 million | 1,400 million | 3.10 | 2,280 million | 3,000 million | 6,400 million |
| 7. Slum dwellers | 20 million | 260 million | 700 million | 3.37 | 1,190 million | 1,600 million | 3,600 million |
| GLOBAL RELIGION | | | | | | | |
| 8. Religious diversity (0-1, 1=most diverse) | 0.27 | 0.43 | 0.45 | -0.05 | 0.45 | 0.45 | 0.44 |
| 9. Religionists | 1,616,370,000 | 2,982,571,000 | 5,331,039,000 | 1.31 | 6,568,343,000 | 7,245,230,000 | 8,729,568,000 |
| 10. Christians (total, all kinds) | 558,131,000 | 1,230,576,000 | 1,986,173,000 | 1.30 | 2,443,679,000 | 2,722,446,000 | 3,427,494,000 |
| 11. Muslims | 199,818,000 | 571,190,000 | 1,288,662,000 | 1.87 | 1,732,208,000 | 2,010,462,000 | 2,678,309,000 |
| 12. Hindus | 202,973,000 | 464,184,000 | 814,397,000 | 1.26 | 994,657,000 | 1,066,463,000 | 1,183,629,000 |
| 13. Buddhists | 126,956,000 | 234,909,000 | 452,458,000 | 0.94 | 525,260,000 | 564,760,000 | 575,769,000 |
| 14. Chinese folk-religionists | 379,974,000 | 227,573,000 | 431,221,000 | 0.32 | 453,525,000 | 453,344,000 | 410,517,000 |
| 15. Ethnoreligionists | 117,437,000 | 168,625,000 | 222,069,000 | 1.12 | 265,440,000 | 265,284,000 | 274,922,000 |
| 16. New Religionists | 5,986,000 | 39,382,000 | 62,020,000 | 0.30 | 65,057,000 | 64,168,000 | 60,368,000 |
| 17. Sikhs | 2,962,000 | 10,668,000 | 19,788,000 | 1.55 | 25,314,000 | 29,484,000 | 34,706,000 |
| 18. Jews | 12,292,000 | 13,500,000 | 13,745,000 | 0.27 | 14,351,000 | 15,000,000 | 17,146,000 |
| 19. Non-religionists | 3,255,000 | 708,602,000 | 796,661,000 | 0.31 | 836,634,000 | 838,182,000 | 821,376,000 |
| 20. Agnostics | 3,029,000 | 543,445,000 | 659,760,000 | 0.36 | 698,532,000 | 705,943,000 | 691,653,000 |
| 21. Atheists | 226,000 | 165,156,000 | 136,901,000 | 0.05 | 138,101,000 | 132,239,000 | 129,723,000 |
| GLOBAL CHRISTIANITY | | | | | | | |
| 22. Total Christians, % of world | 34.5 | 33.3 | 32.4 | 0.11 | 33.0 | 33.7 | 35.9 |
| 23. Affiliated Christians (church members) | 521,683,000 | 1,119,394,000 | 1,887,011,000 | 1.33 | 2,333,010,000 | 2,606,434,000 | 3,304,256,000 |
| 24. Christian martyrs per year (10-year average) | 34,400 | 377,000 | 160,000 | -3.53 | 90,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 |
| 25. Christians, % living in countries ≥80% Christian | 95.0 | 76.0 | 59.1 | -0.90 | 51.1 | 52.5 | 48.1 |
| MAJOR CHRISTIAN TRADITIONS | | | | | | | |
| 26. Roman Catholics | 266,566,000 | 664,938,000 | 1,047,244,000 | 1.12 | 1,250,719,000 | 1,342,824,000 | 1,630,840,000 |
| 27. Protestants (including Anglicans) | 133,606,000 | 254,878,000 | 427,166,000 | 1.59 | 549,611,000 | 623,589,000 | 875,615,000 |
| 28. Independents | 8,859,000 | 96,373,000 | 301,495,000 | 2.20 | 427,096,000 | 509,691,000 | 691,472,000 |
| 29. African Independents | 40,000 | 17,569,000 | 76,305,000 | 2.23 | 108,636,000 | 134,474,000 | 188,754,000 |
| 30. Asian Independents | 1,906,000 | 16,494,000 | 94,269,000 | 2.82 | 147,144,000 | 187,698,000 | 286,396,000 |
| 31. European Independents | 185,000 | 8,299,000 | 17,370,000 | 1.73 | 22,867,000 | 26,960,000 | 33,054,000 |
| 32. Latin American Independents | 33,000 | 9,452,000 | 32,744,000 | 1.81 | 43,650,000 | 52,057,000 | 65,887,000 |
| 33. Northern American Independents | 6,672,000 | 44,022,000 | 79,854,000 | 1.10 | 95,061,000 | 107,101,000 | 115,745,000 |
| 34. Oceanian Independents | 22,000 | 537,000 | 953,000 | 1.49 | 1,208,000 | 1,400,000 | 1,637,000 |
| 35. Orthodox | 115,855,000 | 144,067,000 | 256,670,000 | 0.63 | 283,747,000 | 288,888,000 | 293,967,000 |
| 36. Unaffiliated Christians | 36,448,000 | 111,182,000 | 99,162,000 | 0.69 | 110,669,000 | 116,012,000 | 123,238,000 |
| MOVEMENTS WITHIN GLOBAL CHRISTIANITY | | | | | | | |
| 37. Evangelicals | 80,912,000 | 105,939,000 | 239,476,000 | 2.12 | 335,189,000 | 400,076,000 | 581,134,000 |
| 38. Pentecostals/Charismatics | 981,000 | 62,673,000 | 460,425,000 | 2.24 | 656,606,000 | 795,734,000 | 1,091,314,000 |
| GLOBAL CHRISTIAN DISTRIBUTION | | | | | | | |
| 39. Africa (5 regions) | 8,736,000 | 114,729,000 | 357,426,000 | 2.79 | 555,181,000 | 704,003,000 | 1,207,833,000 |
| 40. Asia (5 regions) | 20,774,000 | 91,606,000 | 271,083,000 | 2.19 | 383,119,000 | 464,810,000 | 598,619,000 |
| 41. Europe (including Russia; 4 regions) | 368,254,000 | 467,241,000 | 546,288,000 | 0.14 | 559,037,000 | 546,046,000 | 501,449,000 |
| 42. Latin America (3 regions) | 60,027,000 | 262,904,000 | 481,345,000 | 1.19 | 581,323,000 | 628,376,000 | 702,966,000 |
| 43. Northern America (1 region) | 59,570,000 | 168,472,000 | 209,692,000 | 0.56 | 229,239,000 | 235,801,000 | 259,838,000 |
| 44. Oceania (4 regions) | 4,323,000 | 14,442,000 | 21,178,000 | 1.07 | 25,111,000 | 27,399,000 | 33,551,000 |
| CHURCH ORGANIZATION | | | | | | | |
| 45. Denominations | 1,600 | 18,800 | 34,200 | 1.87 | 46,000 | 55,000 | 70,000 |
| 46. Congregations | 400,000 | 1,415,000 | 3,400,000 | 1.92 | 4,609,000 | 7,500,000 | 9,000,000 |
| CHRISTIAN MISSION | | | | | | | |
| 47. National workers (citizens) | 2,100,000 | 4,600,000 | 10,900,000 | 0.71 | 12,200,000 | 14,000,000 | 17,000,000 |
| 48. Foreign missionaries | 62,000 | 240,000 | 420,000 | -0.15 | 410,000 | 550,000 | 700,000 |
| 49. Foreign mission sending agencies | 600 | 2,200 | 4,000 | 1.65 | 5,200 | 6,000 | 7,500 |
| 50. Non-Christians who know a Christian (%) | 5.6 | 13.6 | 17.8 | 0.26 | 18.5 | 19.3 | 20.1 |
| URBAN MISSION | | | | | | | |
| 51. Global urban population | 232,695,000 | 1,353,274,000 | 2,864,278,000 | 2.17 | 4,039,043,000 | 4,702,865,000 | 6,432,512,000 |
| 52. Christian urban population | 159,600,000 | 660,800,000 | 1,222,933,000 | 1.64 | 1,585,632,000 | 1,796,152,000 | 2,024,713,000 |
| 53. Megacities under 50% Christian | 5 | 65 | 226 | 1.59 | 291 | 357 | 450 |
| 54. New non-Christian urban dwellers per day | 5,200 | 51,100 | 129,000 | 0.24 | 134,000 | 137,000 | 165,000 |
| CHRISTIAN FINANCE (in US\$, per year) | | | | | | | |
| 55. Personal income of Christians | 270 billion | 4,100 billion | 18,000 billion | 6.32 | 48,000 billion | 67,000 billion | 180,000 billion |
| 56. Giving to Christian causes | 8 billion | 70 billion | 320 billion | 6.06 | 820 billion | 1,100 billion | 2,700 billion |
| 57. Churches' income | 7 billion | 50 billion | 130 billion | 6.00 | 330 billion | 440 billion | 1,100 billion |
| 58. Parachurch and institutional income | 1 billion | 20 billion | 190 billion | 6.10 | 490 billion | 660 billion | 1,600 billion |
| 59. Ecclesiastical crime | 300,000 | 5,000,000 | 19 billion | 6.65 | 53 billion | 80 billion | 200 billion |
| 60. Income of global foreign missions | 200 million | 3 billion | 18 billion | 6.42 | 48 billion | 60 billion | 150 billion |
| CHRISTIAN MEDIA | | | | | | | |
| 61. Books (titles) about Christianity | 300,000 | 1,800,000 | 4,800,000 | 3.64 | 8,500,000 | 11,800,000 | 14,500,000 |
| 62. Christian periodicals (titles) | 3,500 | 23,000 | 35,000 | 4.33 | 69,000 | 100,000 | 120,000 |
| 63. Bibles printed per year | 5,452,600 | 25,000,000 | 53,700,000 | 2.91 | 85,000,000 | 110,000,000 | 135,000,000 |
| 64. Scriptures (including selections) printed per year | 20 million | 281 million | 4,600 million | 1.07 | 5,090 million | 6,000 million | 9,500 million |
| 65. Bible density (copies in place) | 108 million | 443 million | 1,400 million | 1.96 | 1,910 million | 2,280 million | 3,700 million |
| 66. Users of radio/TV/Internet | 0 | 750 million | 1,830 million | 1.16 | 2,200 million | 2,430 million | 2,870 million |
| WORLD EVANGELIZATION | | | | | | | |
| 67. Unevangelized population | 880,122,000 | 1,650,559,000 | 1,833,442,000 | 1.05 | 2,165,832,000 | 2,314,510,000 | 2,608,900,000 |
| 68. Unevangelized as % of world population | 54.3 | 44.7 | 29.9 | -0.14 | 29.2 | 28.6 | 27.3 |
| 69. World evangelization plans since 30 C.E. | 250 | 510 | 1,500 | 2.71 | 2,300 | 3,000 | 4,000 |

Methodological notes for the Status of Global Christianity, 2016
(referring to numbered lines)

Indented categories form part of, and are included in, un-indented categories above them. Definitions of categories are as given and explained in David B. Barrett, *World Christian Encyclopedia*, 1st ed. (Oxford University Press, 1982); David B. Barrett, George T. Kurian, and Todd M. Johnson, *World Christian Encyclopedia*, 2nd ed. (Oxford University Press, 2001); David B. Barrett and Todd M. Johnson, *World Christian Trends (WCT)*; William Carey Library, 2001), and more recently in Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, *The World's Religions in Figures* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2013), with additional data and explanations below.

Lines 1–2. Demographic totals as shown in *World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision* (New York: United Nations, 2015).

3. 2015 data from UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2013) (in *Human Development Report*, 2014). Other years from *WCT*, table 10-12.

4-5. *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2014 Revision* (New York: United Nations, 2014). Also line 51.

8. The Herfindahl index methodology is described in *The World's Religions in Figures*, chapter 3.

10. Widest definition: professing Christians plus crypto-Christians (secret believers), which equals affiliated (church members) plus unaffiliated Christians.

24. World totals of current long-term trend for all confessions (see *WCT*, part 4, “Martyrology”).

37. Churches, denominations, and individuals who identify themselves as evangelicals by membership in denominations linked to evangelical alliances (e.g., World Evangelical Alliance) or by self-identification in polls.

38. Church members involved in the Pentecostal/Charismatic/Independent Charismatic renewal in the Holy Spirit, known collectively as “Renewalists.” Totals on lines 37–38 overlap with those on lines 26–36.

55–60. Defined in *WCT*, part 20, “Finance.”

59. Amounts embezzled by top custodians of Christian monies (U.S. dollar equivalents, per year).

67–68. Defined in *WCT*, part 25, “Macroevangelistics.”

69. Grand total of all distinct plans and proposals for accomplishing world evangelization made by Christians since CE 30. See *WCT*, part 27, “GeoStrategies.”

Annual trend (%). Average annual rate of change, 2000–2016, as a % per year.



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