

# Status of Global Christianity, 2018, in the Context of 1900–2050

Year:	1900	1970	2000	Trend % p.a.	mid-2018	2025	2050
<b>GLOBAL POPULATION</b>							
1. Total population	1,619,625,000	3,682,488,000	6,126,622,000	1.20	7,597,176,000	8,141,661,000	9,725,148,000
2. Adult population (over 15)	1,073,646,000	2,297,647,000	4,279,131,000	1.56	5,657,529,000	6,134,853,000	7,652,243,000
3. Adults, % literate	27.6	63.8	76.7	0.47	83.4	84.3	88.0
<b>GLOBAL CITIES AND URBAN MISSION</b>							
4. Urban population (%)	14.4	36.6	46.6	0.98	55.5	58.0	66.1
5. Urban poor	100 million	650 million	1,400 million	3.09	2,420 million	3,000 million	4,100 million
6. Slum dwellers	20 million	260 million	700 million	3.36	1,270 million	1,600 million	1,900 million
7. Global urban population	232,695,000	1,348,387,000	2,855,035,000	2.19	4,217,542,000	4,723,656,000	6,424,456,000
8. Christian urban population	159,600,000	660,800,000	1,218,702,000	1.56	1,610,331,000	1,779,033,000	2,399,847,000
9. Cities over 1 million	20	144	361	2.19	533	616	880
10. Under 50% Christian	5	65	226	1.72	307	361	450
11. New non-Christians per day	5,200	51,100	132,000	0.37	141,000	144,000	118,000
<b>GLOBAL RELIGION</b>							
12. Religious diversity	0.27	0.43	0.45	-0.06	0.45	0.44	0.43
13. Religionists	1,616,370,000	2,973,041,000	5,334,780,000	1.32	6,758,722,000	7,302,011,000	8,897,313,000
14. Christians	557,755,000	1,229,021,000	1,986,537,000	1.30	2,506,835,000	2,728,435,000	3,437,695,000
15. Muslims	200,318,000	570,024,000	1,288,083,000	1.94	1,820,926,000	2,049,031,000	2,772,270,000
16. Hindus	202,973,000	463,334,000	822,690,000	1.33	1,043,980,000	1,109,602,000	1,268,620,000
17. Buddhists	126,956,000	234,544,000	450,148,000	0.94	532,805,000	566,329,000	586,760,000
18. Chinese folk-religionists	379,974,000	221,706,000	427,836,000	0.04	431,145,000	418,869,000	372,805,000
19. Ethnoreligionists	117,313,000	168,897,000	223,247,000	1.00	267,027,000	267,396,000	280,609,000
20. New Religionists	5,986,000	39,382,000	61,949,000	0.27	64,976,000	64,168,000	60,568,000
21. Sikhs	2,962,000	10,668,000	19,980,000	1.65	26,807,000	29,484,000	34,705,000
22. Jews	12,292,000	13,500,000	13,745,000	0.33	14,576,000	15,000,000	16,729,000
23. Nonreligionists	3,255,000	709,447,000	791,842,000	0.32	838,454,000	839,650,000	827,835,000
24. Agnostics	3,029,000	544,290,000	655,867,000	0.37	701,060,000	707,416,000	698,119,000
25. Atheists	226,000	165,156,000	135,975,000	0.06	137,393,000	132,234,000	129,716,000
<b>GLOBAL CHRISTIANITY BY TRADITION</b>							
26. Total Christians, % of world	34.4	33.4	32.4	0.10	33.0	33.5	35.3
27. Affiliated Christians	521,307,000	1,118,809,000	1,888,394,000	1.34	2,398,810,000	2,616,760,000	3,326,201,000
28. Roman Catholics	266,263,000	658,552,000	1,025,991,000	1.06	1,239,950,000	1,316,943,000	1,607,620,000
29. Protestants	133,274,000	251,988,000	424,268,000	1.63	567,185,000	625,902,000	871,395,000
30. Independents	8,859,000	96,342,000	301,532,000	2.20	446,434,000	513,322,000	699,086,000
31. African	40,000	17,565,000	76,307,000	2.38	116,558,000	135,840,000	192,044,000
32. Asian	1,906,000	16,467,000	94,257,000	2.92	158,283,000	188,508,000	287,950,000
33. European	185,000	8,299,000	17,371,000	1.87	24,227,000	27,165,000	33,461,000
34. Latin American	33,000	9,452,000	32,865,000	1.97	46,704,000	52,905,000	67,574,000
35. Northern American	6,673,000	44,022,000	79,779,000	1.23	99,389,000	107,497,000	116,409,000
36. Oceanian	22,000	537,000	953,000	1.62	1,273,000	1,407,000	1,647,000
37. Orthodox	115,481,000	142,324,000	256,810,000	0.57	284,499,000	289,726,000	297,854,000
38. Unaffiliated Christians	36,448,000	110,212,000	98,144,000	0.53	108,025,000	111,675,000	111,494,000
39. Evangelicals	80,912,000	105,953,000	241,049,000	2.09	349,499,000	400,107,000	581,188,000
40. Pentecostals/Charismatics	981,000	62,683,000	460,980,000	2.21	682,731,000	795,684,000	1,091,210,000
<b>CHURCH ORGANIZATION</b>							
41. Denominations	1,600	18,800	34,200	1.90	48,000	55,000	70,000
42. Congregations	400,000	1,408,000	3,400,000	2.97	5,758,000	7,500,000	9,000,000
<b>CHRISTIAN AFFILIATION BY CONTINENT</b>							
43. Africa (5 regions)	8,458,000	113,519,000	359,640,000	2.87	598,996,000	721,431,000	1,252,614,000
44. Asia (5 regions)	20,816,000	91,667,000	272,033,000	2.13	397,252,000	461,619,000	588,093,000
45. Europe (including Russia; 4 regions)	368,114,000	467,114,000	545,433,000	0.04	549,516,000	538,317,000	489,585,000
46. Latin America (3 regions)	60,027,000	263,589,000	481,879,000	1.20	596,936,000	633,162,000	704,585,000
47. Northern America (1 region)	59,570,000	168,477,000	208,422,000	0.58	231,112,000	235,777,000	258,540,000
48. Oceania (4 regions)	4,323,000	14,442,000	20,986,000	0.98	24,999,000	26,456,000	32,785,000
<b>CHRISTIAN MISSION AND EVANGELIZATION</b>							
49. National workers (citizens)	2,100,000	4,600,000	10,900,000	0.98	13,000,000	14,000,000	17,000,000
50. Foreign missionaries	62,000	240,000	420,000	0.26	440,000	550,000	700,000
51. Foreign mission sending agencies	600	2,200	4,000	1.68	5,400	6,000	7,500
52. Christian martyrs per 10-years	344,000	3,770,000	1,600,000	-3.15	900,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
53. % in Christian countries	95.0	76.0	59.2	-0.60	53.0	53.0	48.9
54. Non-Christians who know a Christian (%)	5.5	13.5	17.6	0.25	18.4	19.1	19.8
<b>CHRISTIAN MEDIA</b>							
55. Books (titles) about Christianity	300,000	1,800,000	4,800,000	3.68	9,200,000	11,800,000	14,500,000
56. Christian periodicals (titles)	3,500	23,000	35,000	4.33	75,000	100,000	120,000
57. Bibles printed per year	5 million	25 million	54 million	2.91	90 million	110 million	135 million
58. Scriptures (including selections) printed per year	20 million	281 million	4,600 million	1.07	5,150 million	6,000 million	9,200 million
59. Bible density (copies in place)	108 million	443 million	1,400 million	1.97	1,990 million	2,280 million	2,800 million
60. Users of radio/TV/Internet	0	750 million	1,830 million	1.18	2,260 million	2,440 million	2,920 million
<b>CHRISTIAN FINANCE (IN US\$, PER YEAR)</b>							
61. Personal income of Christians	270 billion	4,100 billion	18,000 billion	6.61	57,000 billion	71,000 billion	200,000 billion
62. Giving to Christian causes	8 billion	70 billion	320 billion	6.29	960 billion	1,200 billion	3,300 billion
63. Churches' income	7 billion	50 billion	130 billion	6.14	380 billion	480 billion	1,300 billion
64. Parachurch and institutional income	1 billion	20 billion	190 billion	6.40	580 billion	720 billion	2,000 billion
65. Ecclesiastical crime	300,000	5,000,000	19 billion	6.91	63 billion	80 billion	250 billion
66. Income of global foreign missions	200 million	3 billion	18 billion	6.60	56 billion	70 billion	180 billion
<b>WORLD EVANGELIZATION</b>							
67. Unevangelized population	880,122,000	1,650,954,000	1,840,175,000	0.88	2,152,804,000	2,318,317,000	2,742,657,000
68. Unevangelized as % of world population	54.3	44.8	30.0	-0.32	28.3	28.5	28.2
69. World evangelization plans since 30 CE	250	510	1,500	2.88	2,500	3,000	4,000

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**Methodological notes for the Status of Global Christianity, 2018**  
(referring to numbered lines)

This table is derived from Todd M. Johnson, Gina A. Zurlo, Albert W. Hickman, and Peter F. Crossing, “Christianity 2018: More African Christians and Counting Martyrs,” *International Bulletin of Mission Research* (January 2018). 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.

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

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

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

41. 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.

42. Church members involved in the Pentecostal/Charismatic/Independent Charismatic renewal in the Holy Spirit, known collectively as “Renewalists.” Totals on lines 41–42 overlap with those on lines 30–40.

61–66. Defined in *WCT*, part 20, “Finance.”

65. 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 30 CE. See *WCT*, part 27, “GeoStrategies.”

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



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