



TRACKING GLOBAL CHRISTIANITY

Measuring personal contact with a Christian as a means of evangelism



AT THE CENTER

New reference volume on Christianity in Sub-Saharan Africa



CONTACT US

Consultations, media inquiries, upcoming events and speaking engagements



THE INQUIRY

NEWS FROM THE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF GLOBAL CHRISTIANITY

Measuring Global Evangelism

Christians around the world share the good news of the gospel with others. This term “evangelism” encompasses a wide variety of activities. Below are just a few ways that the Center has studied how Christianity spreads around the world. For more, see our “Global Evangelism” infographic at www.globalchristianity.org.



Foreign Missions



Christian Books



Christian Radio



Bibles



Intercession



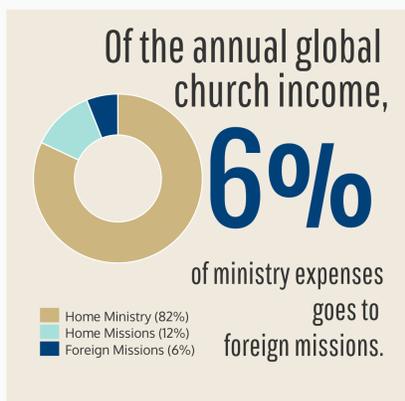
Christian Lifestyle



Personal Sharing



Internet and Email



27 ONLY in 100 PEOPLE OWN A FULL BIBLE

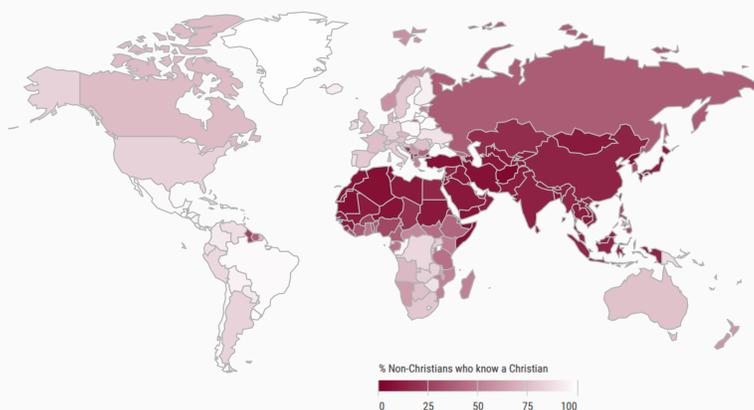


Although the full translated scriptures have only been distributed to about 27% of the global population, two-thirds of the world could access a full translation of the Bible in their language online.

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Personal CONTACT »

86% don't know a **CHRISTIAN** personally
of Buddhists, Hindus, and Muslims



This data on personal contact have their origins in a simple concept: proximity. The countries in which there is least personal contact between religionists are overwhelmingly Muslim-majority countries. On a regional basis, only 10% of individuals in Western Asia and 11% in Northern Africa are thought to have personal contact with a Christian. Globally, Muslims have less contact with Christians than do Jews; in some individual regions, Muslim contact is much higher than average, while for Jews this is not the case.

LATEST FROM THE CENTER



Todd and Tricia Johnson, pictured in Seoul, Korea

Todd Johnson returns from sabbatical

On August 1, Todd and Tricia Johnson finished their year-long sabbatical in Asia and returned to the Center. The Johnsons had spent 4 weeks between March and April 2017 traveling in Asia, where Todd spoke over 30 times at seminaries, churches, and other venues. In his talks, Todd highlighted the incongruity in that, while there has been a significant demographic shift in Christianity to the Global South, the West is still assumed as the standard in all aspects of Christian theology, ethics, and worship. This can be seen in that many of the resources for Christian education and theological formation are produced and distributed by the West. However, Todd noted that the world is becoming more religious and that it is, in fact, the Christians in the global South that have more experience in relating to their neighbors of different faiths than do Western Christians. Todd encouraged his Asian audiences to be leaders in the production of materials on interfaith relations and dialogue.

Todd also encouraged his listeners to embrace a global Christianity that reflects not only Western cultural influences, but one that makes space for indigenous cultures to authentically express themselves in Christian worship and in church leadership. In a blog post for *Christianity Today* reflecting on the future of Protestantism, Todd writes,

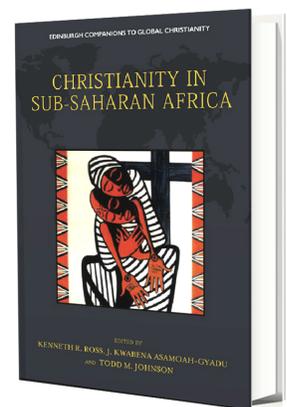
"In Thailand, less than 1% of the population is Christian, and Protestants alone number about 450,000. Half of all Christians in Thailand are from hill tribes like the Lahu. [When we were] invited to a Lahu Baptist Church in Chiang Mai, we enjoyed the service but were puzzled that after 100 years of Christianity, the hymns were all translations of European and American songs—Martin Luther would frown on that. Nonetheless, these [Thai] Protestants easily out-sang and out-prayed us. That same Sunday, a Swedish delegation was also visiting the Lahu church, and I was surprised to find myself sitting next to the former head of the World Evangelical Alliance Mission Commission, Bertil Ekstrom, a Swede who lives in Brazil. It began to dawn on us that we, the supposedly "core" Protestants, were experiencing the future of their tradition. Neither the American nor the European, represented a typical Protestant today—more likely Tricia's Lahu students in Thailand or Bertil's Pentecostal friends from Brazil. Protestantism has come a long way from 16th-century German Lutherans or 19th-century American Baptists; surely, the next 500 years clearly belongs to Africans, Asians, Latin Americans, and Pacific Islanders."

The Johnsons also spent the month of June in Europe where they attended several conferences. Todd gave a paper on Pentecostals in Europe to the International Society for the Sociology of Religion which met July 3-8 in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Newly Released: *Christianity in Sub-Saharan Africa*

In May 2017, the first of our new 10-volume series on global Christianity was published by Edinburgh University Press. It is fitting that the Edinburgh Companions to Global Christianity, which aim to offer a reliable account of Christianity in every part of the world, should begin with Sub-Saharan Africa. This subcontinent is a new heartland of the Christian faith, having experienced the fastest growth rate for Christian faith in any part of the globe during the past century.

This volume offers four angles of analysis. The first is demographic. Maps and charts depict the status of Christianity continentally, regionally and in terms of the principal church traditions. The second angle of analysis is at the country level where indigenous scholars have contributed interpretative essays that offer a 'critical insider' perspective on the way in which Christianity is finding expression in their context. Thirdly, Christianity in Sub-Saharan Africa is considered in terms of its principal ecclesial forms or traditions—Orthodox, Catholic, Protestant, Anglican and Independent. In addition, the Evangelical and Pentecostal/Charismatic movements, which cut across ecclesial affiliation, are examined. Fourthly, selected themes are considered. These include: faith and culture, worship and spirituality, theology, social and political context, mission and evangelism, gender, religious freedom, and inter-religious relations. A further three were selected specifically for this volume on account of their salience in the African context: the Bible in African Christianity, the anthropology of evil, and migration.



Christianity in Sub-Saharan Africa, edited by Kenneth R. Ross, J. Kwabena Asamoah-Gyadu, & Todd M. Johnson.

Find out more at <https://edinburghuniversitypress.com/series-edinburgh-companions-to-global-christianity.html>

Bert Hickman accepts new position with RUN Ministries in Virginia Beach



Bert (center), pictured with Todd and Gina at his farewell party.

After working at the Center for more than 10 years, Bert Hickman, our senior research associate, accepted the position of research director for RUN Ministries (based in Virginia) and began work there in September. Bert was an invaluable member of our team and trained dozens of students on the fine art of country-by-country research. Bert had a major editing role in our *Atlas of Global Christianity* and will continue to assist us in copy-editing our new

10-volume *Edinburgh Companions to Global Christianity* series (both published by Edinburgh University Press)

Gina Zurlo presents in Washington, D.C.

In October, Gina Zurlo traveled to three conferences in Washington, D.C. The first was at the Pew Research Center, titled, "Survey Research and the Study of Religion in East Asia." With dozens of researchers from China, Japan, Korea, and Taiwan, Gina explored the challenges that arise in studying religion in Asia from quantitative perspectives. Her paper, titled, "Who Are the "Unaffiliated" in East Asia? A Presentation of Exploratory Data," discussed the particular challenge that arises from survey measures: that too many people are labeled religiously "unaffiliated" or "nones" in East Asia. For example, many scholars report that Christianity is growing in China, but this growth is not picked up many sociological surveys on religion in the country. Gina also attended the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion and the Religious Research Association, where she gave a paper on the critical role conversion played in Africa in the 20th century. The final conference was at the world headquarters of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Silver Spring, Maryland, for the annual meeting of the Association of Statisticians of American Religious Bodies.



Gina presenting at the Pew Research Center

NOTABLE CITATIONS

- Wall Street Journal: [Christians, in an epochal shift, leaving the Middle East](#)
- Christianity Today: [United States has 10% of all Christians worldwide](#)
- South China Morning Post: [Chinese missionaries in northern Iraq](#)
- Washington Times: [Thousands of Christian martyrs in the last decade](#)
- World Religion News: [Discrimination a powerful motivation for conversion](#)

PUBLICATIONS

Johnson, Todd M., and Gina A. Zurlo. "The Changing Demographics of Global Anglicanism, 1970–2010." In *Growth and Decline in the Anglican Communion*, edited by David J. Goodhew, 37–54. London: Routledge, 2017.

Our research is used worldwide by churches, mission agencies, NGOs, and international media outlets.

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EQUIPS, &
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ABOUT US

The Center for the Study of Global Christianity is an academic research center that monitors worldwide demographic trends in Christianity, including outreach and mission. We provide a comprehensive collection of information on the past, present, and future of Christianity in every country of the world. Our data and publications help churches, mission agencies, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to be more strategic, thoughtful, and sensitive to local contexts.



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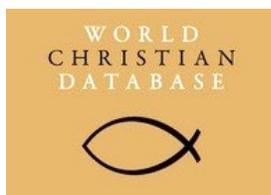


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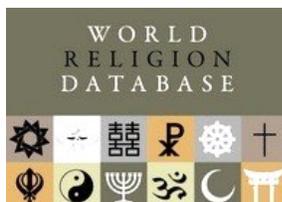


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UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER 27

“The Changing Demographics of Global Protestantism”

as part of the Reformation Celebration Conference,
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

NOVEMBER 2

Lunch Forum: “Understanding the Bahá’í Faith: A New Religion or Religion Renewed?”

as part of a series on global religious diversity,
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary,
Alumni Hall, 12:15 PM

with guest Al Lincoln,
Former Secretary-General,
Bahá’í International Community

TEACHING HIGHLIGHTS

FALL 2017

“Rise of Global Christianity, 1910-2010”

Boston University School of Theology
(Todd Johnson and Gina Zurlo)

“Foundations of Global Christianity”

Gordon College
(Gina Zurlo)

SPRING 2018

“Contemporary Developments in World Mission”

Gordon College
(Gina Zurlo)

“Survey of World Religions”

Gordon College
(Gina Zurlo)

“Religions on the Silk Road: From Antiquity to the Present”

Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
Global Education Course
(Todd Johnson)