



TRACKING GLOBAL CHRISTIANITY

Recent citations that highlight our research in global Christianity



AT THE CENTER

Ongoing progress with the Encyclopedia, our work with Perspectives



CONTACT US

consultations, media inquiries, upcoming events



THE INQUIRY

NEWS FROM THE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF GLOBAL CHRISTIANITY

Global Christianity in the Headlines

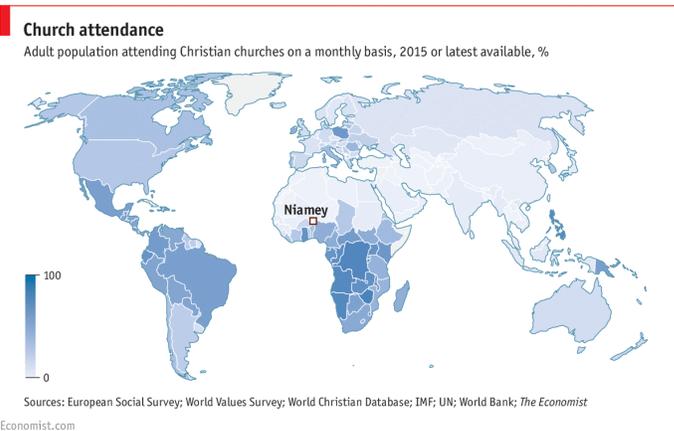
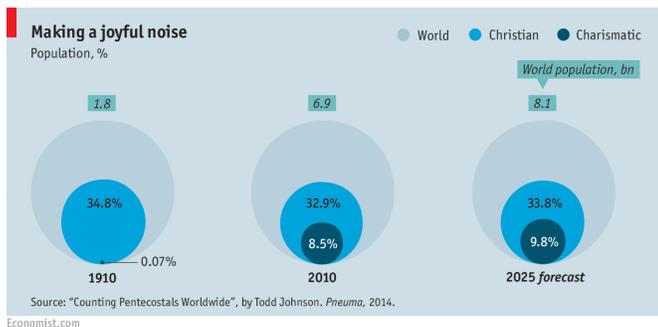
The 21st century is witnessing the continuation of a dramatic development: the exponential growth of the Christian church in the global South and the emergence of multiple new centers of Christian vitality and multidirectional mission. The Center’s mission is to track changes in religious diversity and religious adherence and to ensure that our data are available to a wide variety of people. We also believe in the importance of staying on top of world events, which is why we make a concerted effort to partner with various media outlets. When religion makes the headlines—like the travels of the Pope or the persecution of Christians in the Middle East—we want to be at the forefront making sure the wider public knows what’s happening from a demographic perspective and what it could mean for our world today. Below are recent citations from various news outlets that highlight the impact of research in global Christianity.

The Economist: “Ecstasy and Exodus”

The rise of Pentecostalism around the world has taken Christianity by storm, as *The Economist* noted in late January. As of 2010, charismatic Christians represented a quarter of the world’s 2.3 billion Christians. By 2025 there likely will be 800 million charismatic Christians worldwide, particularly in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Pentecostal Christianity is attractive to many because it is flexible; it adapts to local cultures and customs and engages people old and young, rich and poor.

The Economist: “The Centre of Christianity”

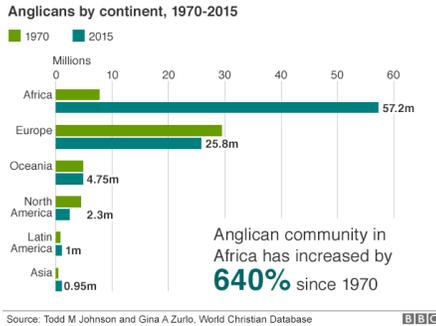
The CSGC developed the concept of the statistical center of gravity of Christianity in 2004, but on Christmas Day 2015 *The Economist* highlighted it in their daily chart, pictured here. Today there are an equal number of Christians to the north, south, east, and west of Niamey, the capital of Niger, in Africa.



(Continued on the next page. For a fuller list of recent citations and publications, see pg.3)

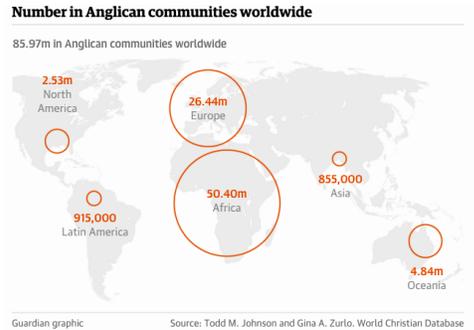
Global Christianity in the Headlines (cont.)

BBC News: “Anglican Communion to Restrict US Church over Gay Marriage”



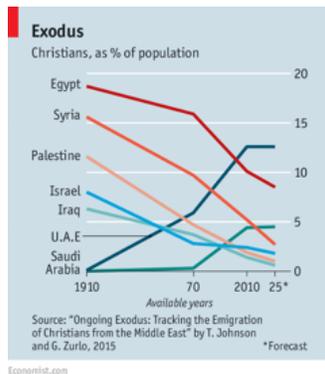
In January of this year the Anglican Primates (leaders of provinces) held a week-long meeting in Canterbury, England. The CSGC has been tracking Anglican statistics for more than 50 years—our founder, David Barrett, was the official Anglican demographer for many years. The Primates’ meeting was picked up by many global news agencies because of tension within the Anglican Communion over homosexuality and same-sex marriage. We estimate that in 2015 there were 92 million Anglicans in the world, mostly found in Africa, especially in Nigeria, Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania.

The Guardian: “Anglican Church Risks Global Schism over Homosexuality”

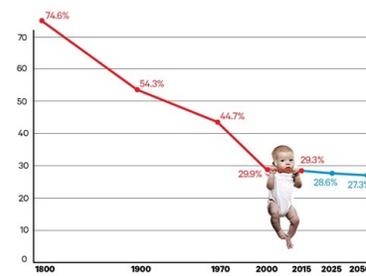


The Economist: “And Then There were None”

Christians in the Middle East continue to face great persecution, and—along with other religious minorities—are being driven out of the region in droves. In 2014 Todd Johnson and Gina Zurlo published an article highlighting the emigration of Christians from the Middle East, which was highlighted by many news agencies in 2015, including this graph by *The Economist*. In 1910 the Middle East was 14% Christian, but by 2015, this had dropped to 4%. By 2025 we anticipate this number to keep declining into the future, given current trends.



Christianity Today: “Babies Halt the Great Commission: Christian Researchers Think that Population Growth will Stall the Gospel’s Spread”

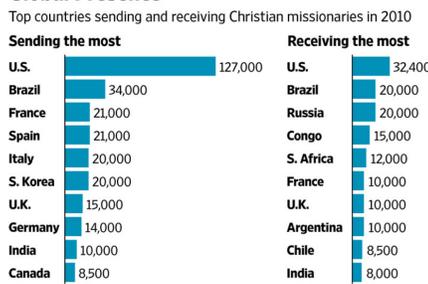


Christianity Today used our data to highlight an important component of global religious demography: babies. Evangelization rates are not keeping up with global population growth. Whereas more than 70% of the world has received

evangelization efforts, billions of people remain unevangelized. Most people today who have not heard the Christian gospel already belong to a major religion, whose ranks are also growing.

Wall Street Journal: “Cash-Strapped Missionaries Get a New Calling: Home”

Global Presence

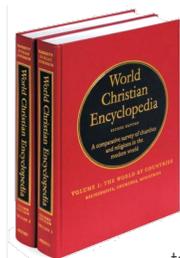


In 2015 the Southern Baptist Convention decided to call home many of its overseas missionaries—a big decision for a denomination founded on the premise of preaching the gospel across cultural divides. The United States is currently the country that both sends and receives the most overseas missionaries, followed by Brazil.

Source: Center for the Study of Global Christianity, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

To find out more about our media citations or to make an inquiry, visit our website at www.globalchristianity.org or email us at info@globalchristianity.org

LATEST FROM THE CENTER



Gaining momentum on the *World Christian Encyclopedia*, 3rd ed.

Work on the third edition of the *World Christian Encyclopedia* (WCE-3) continues into the second year of its five-year cycle. Our team extends literally around the world, with personnel in Australia and Greece, plus volunteers in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, all leading the way in

- Researching every country;
- Collecting new data on churches directly from denominations;
- Procuring new photos of Christians' activities worldwide;
- Adding new data on other religions and the non-religious;
- Editing the history and current status of Christianity in every country; and
- Producing articles for recently-formed countries (e.g., South Sudan, Kosovo).

The next two years will be critical as we gain momentum in gathering and interpreting key data. Our greatest need at this junction is growing our funding base in order to support additional researchers—please contact us or visit www.worldchristianresearch.org if you are interested in helping meet this need.

Todd at Perspectives Global Huddle

In early December 2015, Todd Johnson spoke to the Perspectives Global Huddle in Nairobi, Kenya. About 70 leaders and course developers from over 20 countries attended the meeting. The Perspectives on the World Christian Movement course started in 1974 and is now taught in hundreds of gatherings around the world. Johnson spoke on how changes in global Christianity and religion might impact the future of Perspectives.



CITATIONS & LINKS

January 2016:

- *The Economist*: [800 million Pentecostals/charismatics by 2025](#)
- BBC News video: [92 million Anglicans in the world](#)
- *The Guardian*: [Changes in the global Anglican Communion](#)
- *The Economist*: [Emigration of Christians from the Middle East](#)

December 2015:

- *Christianity Today*: [Top missionary-sending countries](#)
- *The Boston Globe*: [100,000 martyrs per year over the last decade](#)

November 2015:

- *The Wall Street Journal*: [Faster Catholic growth in Africa than Muslim growth](#)
- *Newsweek*: [The Africanization of the Catholic Church](#)
- Religion News Service: [Decreased sending of Southern Baptist missionaries](#)

October 2015:

- *Wall Street Journal*: [The shape of global Catholicism by birth rates](#)
- *Wall Street Journal*: [Decreased sending of Southern Baptist missionaries](#)

September 2015:

- *Christian Science Monitor*: [Missionary-sending from the global South](#)

August 2015:

- *Daily Press*: [400,000 missionaries sent abroad each year](#)

June 2015

- *Christianity Today*: [Evangelization rates lag behind global population growth](#)

PUBLICATIONS

Todd Johnson, "Koreans in the Context of Global Christianity," in Kirsteen Kim, ed., *Edinburgh 2010: Witnessing to Christ Today*. Regnum Press.

Todd Johnson, "Chinese Christianity in the Context of Global Christianity," in *China Source Quarterly* 17, no. 3 (September 2015).

FORTHCOMING

Gina Zurlo and Todd Johnson, "Unaffiliated, Yet Religious: A Methodological and Demographic Analysis." *Annual Review of the Sociology of Religion*.

Todd Johnson and Gina Zurlo, "The Changing Demographics of Global Anglicanism, 1970–2010," in David J. Goodhew, ed., *Growth and Decline in the Anglican Communion*. Ashgate.

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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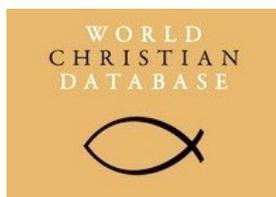


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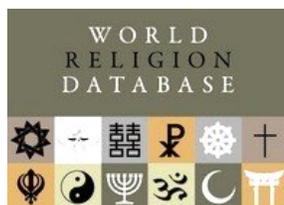


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UPCOMING



LUNCH FORUM — 2/24

"Humanity's Goodness: A Buddhist Perspective in a Time of Great Challenges"

Join us to hear from a Buddhist Shastri about how he sees basic goodness, the enlightened community, and the way of Shambhala as important in addressing the issues of today's world. This is part of our series on understanding religious diversity.



SUMMER 2017 STUDY ABROAD IN THAILAND

WM662: "NGOs and Development in Mission"

Experience the rich and varied models of international development first-hand. This course seeks to augment biblical, theological, and historical foundations with real-world immersion in a variety of international development settings. It also reflects on the role of globalization in the spread of the gospel.

Dates for the course are May 24—June 15, 2017. Those interested should submit their applications no later than April 15, 2016.

The first info session will be held on March 1, 2016. For more information, please visit the website: <http://www.gordonconwell.edu/thailand> or contact tjohnson@gordonconwell.edu



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