



### TRACKING GLOBAL CHRISTIANITY

Highlights from the *World Christian Encyclopedia* 3rd edition



### AT THE CENTER

Our new home at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary



### CONTACT US

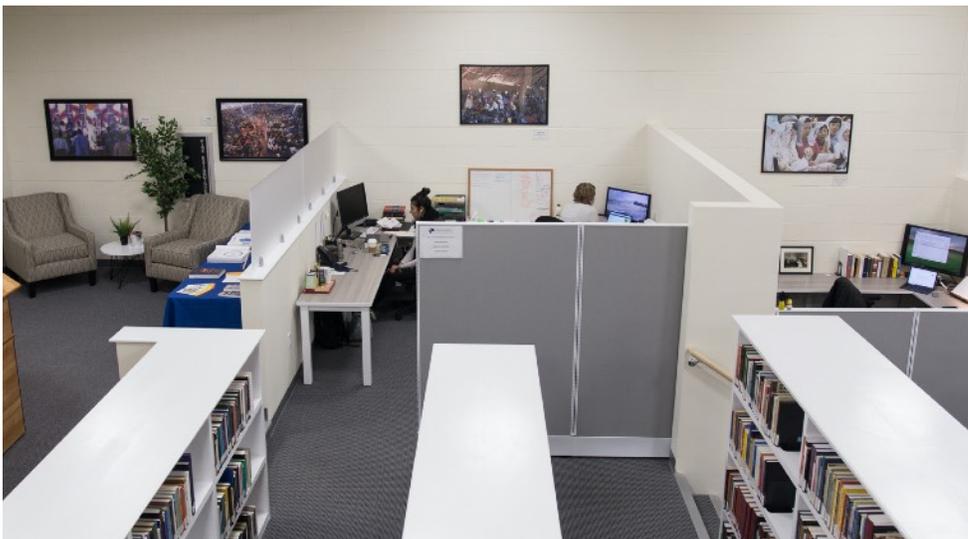
Consultations, media inquiries, upcoming events, and speaking engagements



# THE INQUIRY

NEWS FROM THE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF GLOBAL CHRISTIANITY

## We've moved to our new home!

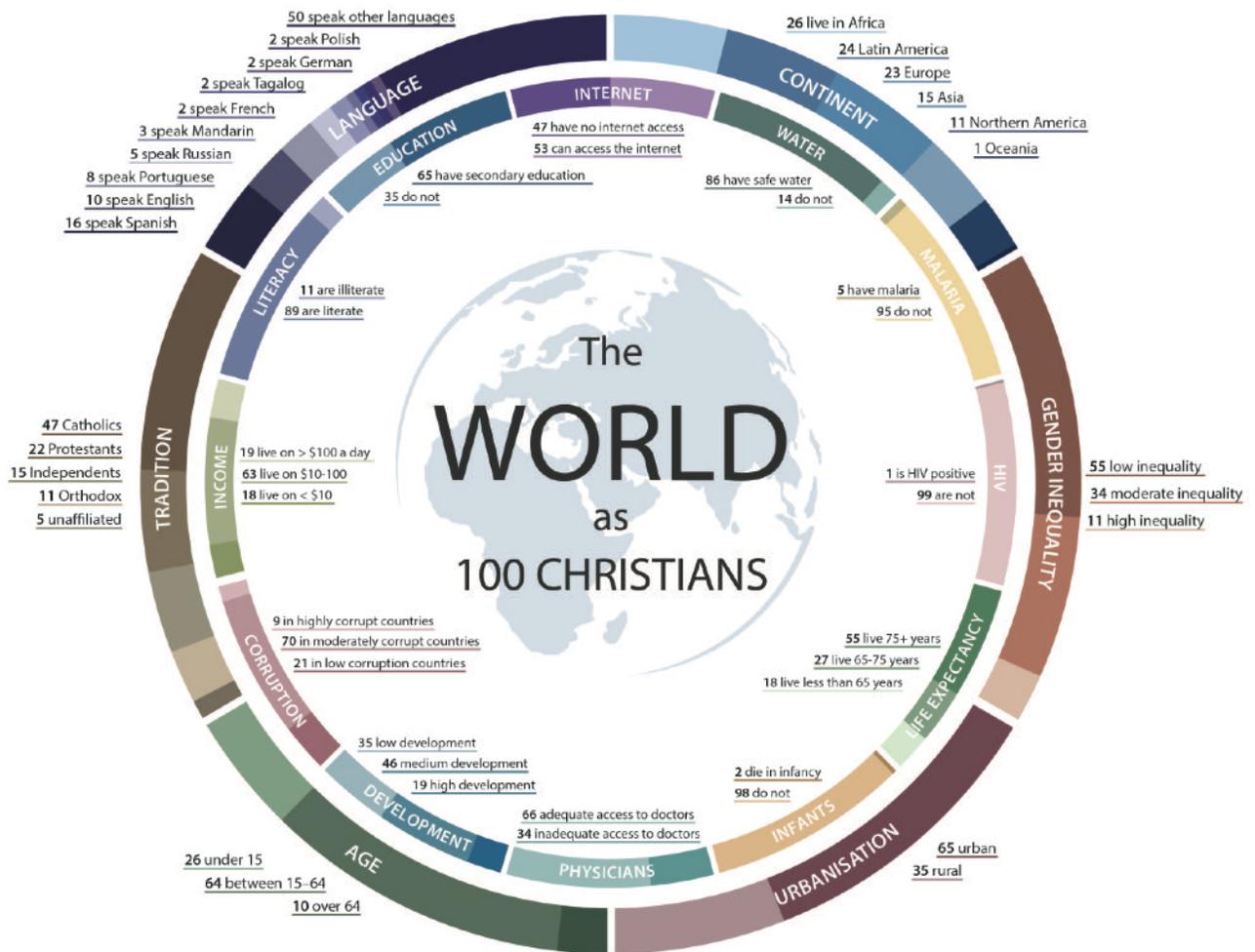


Through the generous donation of a Gordon-Conwell trustee, construction began on the renovation of lecture hall 1 at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary beginning in February 2020. Slowed down slightly by the global coronavirus pandemic, but not deterred, the Center for the Study of Global Christianity moved into our new space in early September. The freshly renovated space offers tremendous ease of browsing and using our library, which holds over 10,000 books on World Christianity, mission studies, history, and global studies. Center research assistants have plenty of space to work, study, and meet on projects in their offices and our conference room. The Center is open to the public from 9am to 4pm daily. We are grateful to Gordon-Conwell president Scott Sunquist for initiating this move, and for Gordon-Conwell Chief of Staff Mia Ertel for organizing the renovation effort.

## Highlights from the *World Christian Encyclopedia*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition

Dozens of events on the Encyclopedia in 2020 were canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic. As a result, Todd Johnson and Gina Zurlo have been writing a series of blogs on our website featuring facts, figures, graphs, and maps from the book. By far the most popular graph in the Encyclopedia is the World as 100 people, representing all the beauty and diversity of World Christianity.

If 100 Christians represented all of global Christianity, 67 would live in Asia, Africa, Latin America or Oceania, while 33 would live in Europe or Northern America. Most would be found in urban areas (65) as opposed to rural (35). Linguistically, 16 would speak Spanish as their mother tongue, 10 English, 8 Portuguese, 5 Russian and 3 Mandarin Chinese. Most (64) would be between the ages of 15–64, while 26 would be under 15. Eleven Christians would be illiterate, and 35 would have little to no access to secondary education. Roughly half of Christians would have access to the internet. Fourteen would have no access to safe water, and five would have malaria. Most Christians (79) would live in countries with moderate to high corruption; 35 would live in countries with low development. A typical Christian today is a non-white woman living in the global South, with lower-than-average levels of societal safety and proper health care. This represents a vastly different typical Christian than that of 100 years ago, who was likely a white, affluent European.



## Teaching Highlight

Spring 2021: Dr. Johnson is teaching History of Christian-Muslim relations at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

Spring 2021: Dr. Zurlo is teaching History of Christianity in America at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

For information about registered for either of these courses, both of which can be taken online, please email [info@globalchristianity.org](mailto:info@globalchristianity.org).

## Research Update

In July 2020 we finished a one-year project on mission strategy. The Center performed detailed research and analysis of particular provinces and people groups worldwide. The results from this study have been used to discern the opportunities and challenge for mission in these areas and inform missionary sending with solid, reliable research. The end product of the project is a series of research dossiers, which are available for free download on our [website](#).

The *Women in World Christianity Project* is now in its second year. The first year consisted of locating gender-specific information in governmental censuses that ask a question on religion. Doing so represented the first round in quantifying the gender makeup of every denomination in every country of the world. The second year of the project consists of writing and administering the Gender in Congregational Life Survey, which asks about attitudes toward gender roles in churches worldwide. The survey will be available by the end of 2020 and be administered in several languages.

## Celebrating the *World Christian Encyclopedia* September 2021!

The conference planned for this past September at the South Hamilton Campus was postponed due to the pandemic. But we're still planning on hosting the event in September 2021, pandemic permitting! More details closer to the date.

## NOTABLE CITATIONS

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<https://www.businessinsider.com/nigerian-startup-helps-local-churches-digitize-operations-2020-8>

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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.

## LEADERSHIP TEAM



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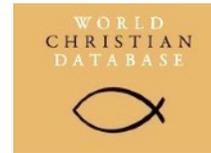


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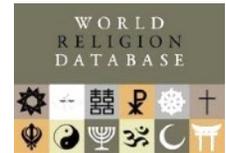


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## DATABASES



[worldchristiandatabase.org](http://worldchristiandatabase.org)



[worldreligiondatabase.org](http://worldreligiondatabase.org)

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

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