The Status of Christianity in 2018

For more, see our “Global Christianity in 2018” infographic at www.globalchristianity.org.

Source: Todd M. Johnson & Gina A. Zurlo, eds., World Christian Database. Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed April 2018. Not equal to total Christians because unaffiliated and double-counted are excluded.
LATEST FROM THE CENTER

The World Christian Database gets long-awaited upgrade, with new features

As of April 3rd, 2018, the World Christian Database (WCD) was completely renewed with a contemporary interface, complete with improved style and new features for collaborative work! The new WCD represents enhanced user experience in terms of both functionality and visuals. Query design is straightforward and user-friendly, which allows for complete customization of datasets. Queries, records, and bookmarks can also be saved in custom-made folders and workspaces for collaboration between users. Users can attach notes to queries and use the WCD as a functional workspace for research projects. Users can also save frequently-used queries and export accessible datasets to Excel. See worldchristiandatabase.org for more.

The core of the World Christian Database remains the same: comprehensive quantitative information on world religions and global Christianity in every country, down to the denominational level. These data are updated quarterly by a team of researchers in the greater Boston area, with collaborators worldwide. It includes detailed information on 9,000 Christian denominations and on religions in every country of the world. Extensive data are available on 234 countries and thousands of ethnolinguistic peoples, cities, and provinces.

For technical questions, please contact a researcher at info@globalchristianity.org.

Questions about sales? Contact sales-us@brill.com (the Americas) or sales-nl@brill.com (rest of the world).
Dr. Zurlo speaks at World Christianity conference at Princeton Theological Seminary

From January 18–20, scholars from around the world gathered at Princeton Theological Seminary for their first annual conference on world Christianity titled, “Currents, Perspectives, and Methodologies in World Christianity.” Headed by Afe Adogame, Richard Young, and Raimundo Barreto, the conference highlighted different ways in which Christianity is conceptualized and studied around the world, with a particular emphasis on anthropological and interdisciplinary methods. Over half of participants were from the global South. Dr. Zurlo gave a paper on CSGC founder David B. Barrett’s methodology in the World Christian Encyclopedia and how his interdisciplinary perspective allowed him to make new discoveries about the status of world Christianity. She encouraged scholars today to be trained in interdisciplinary ways and embrace scholarship that cuts across academic boundaries.

New research on global Pentecostalism with ORU

The Center for the Study of Global Christianity (CSGC) is partnering with Oral Roberts University (ORU) and Empowered 21 to provide a comprehensive assessment of the global Pentecostal movement in the year 2020. ORU will focus on networking with key Pentecostal leaders and will present an analysis of the state of the global movement. ORU will also perform a global survey of Pentecostal leaders to produce the most comprehensive assessment of Pentecostals to date. ORU’s media expertise will be harnessed to put these findings in front of Christian leaders around the world. The CSGC will be responsible for the demographic assessment of global Pentecostalism that will focus on producing estimates for Pentecostals, Charismatics, and Independent Charismatics for every country in the world for 1970, 2000, 2015, and 2020. The CSGC will also provide a detailed country-by-country list of Pentecostal and Charismatic denominations and networks. The findings of this study will be widely disseminated across church and secular audiences. It has often been heard that Pentecostalism is the fastest-growing tradition in the world, but few have data and information to back up those claims. This study will help inform and empower Christians in both academic and church settings. Findings of the survey will be disseminated through numerous websites and publications, along with the demographic infographics.

Collaboration with Pew Research Center on global Orthodox Christianity worldwide

In November, the Pew Research Center released a report focused on the Orthodox church worldwide. The report utilized estimates from the Center for the Study of Global Christianity for 1910 to give perspective on the growth of the community, which has doubled over the past 100 years. Of particular interest are countries in the ex-Soviet Union where religion was repressed after 1917. In Russia, for example, the Orthodox church has been revived since the fall of Communism and now represents over 100 million people.
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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DATABASES

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

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