New book on Christianity in the Middle East

The second volume of the Edinburgh Companions to Global Christianity series was published in May 2018. *Christianity in North Africa and West Asia*, edited by Ken Ross, Mariz Tadros, and Todd Johnson, brought together 35 essays on various aspects of Christianity by scholars from the troubled region. The demographic profile shows that the percentage of Christians in the region declined from 6.8% in 1970 to 5.2% in 2015. Many countries have seen deep losses in the Christian community, primarily through emigration caused by conflict and persecution. The volume brings together a variety of perspectives on countries, Christian traditions, and important issues such as religious freedom.

OTHER RECENT PUBLICATIONS FROM THE CENTER


Update on the *World Christian Encyclopedia*, 3rd edition

September was a busy month for the CSGC as we entered the last 10 months of the World Christian Encyclopedia project. Team members from around the world joined us in our office in South Hamilton for several weeks of meetings, editing, and designing. Many of our personnel worked on the second edition of the WCE, including Peter Crossing (data analyst), Michael Jaffarian (editor), Justin Long (design), and Chris Guidry (design).

**IMPROVEMENTS OF THE THIRD EDITION:**

- Builds off continuously updated information in the World Christian Database
- The assistance of dozens of graduate students from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
- A full-color section covering Christianity by continent, Christian traditions, religions, women in world Christianity, socioeconomic and health indicators, mission, and the future
- More history and current developments in Pentecostal/Charismatic Christianity
- Highlights uniqueness of Christianity by country, including information on Christian engagement with refugees, climate change, gender, violence, politics, healthcare, and education.

New maps of Christianity in every continent

Updated graphics in the third edition to visually portray new trends in global Christianity
Dr. Johnson delivers 9th annual Mark Noll lecture on history of Christianity at Wheaton College

On October 8, 2018, Dr. Todd Johnson delivered the 9th annual Mark Noll lecture on the history of Christianity at Wheaton College in Chicago, Illinois. Dr. Johnson’s talk was titled “Recovering a Global History of Christianity”. His talk was based on quantitative research on the history of Christianity that shows that African and Asian Christians outnumbered European Christians for most of the first millennium (and, again, in the late 20th century). Based on this, Johnson suggested that two aspects of Christian history require a global treatment. First, the earliest centuries represent a global history (with Africans and Asians in the majority until 923 CE) that is normally portrayed as a European one. Second, today, Christians in the Global South once again outnumber those in the North. Nonetheless, this shift is often portrayed as the global expansion of a Western faith. These two fallacies frame the core remedial tasks of historians of the Christian tradition: to recover its ancient global history and to reconceptualize its current global reality. Assisting in both of these tasks is the growing field of global history, defined both as the scope of inquiry (worldwide) and perspective (global) on local, national, or regional histories.

Global education course to Uzbekistan and Turkey

In late May and early June, Dr. Johnson and his wife Tricia took a group of 10 students on a three-week global education course to Uzbekistan and Turkey. The course, “Religions on the Silk Road,” covered religions such as Zoroastrianism, Manichaeism, Islam and Christianity. Students visited museums, mosques, madrassahs, and a host of other sites across Uzbekistan to better understand the history of religion in the region. The course ended in Istanbul, another famous Silk Road city, where students visited the Hagia Sophia and the Blue Mosque, among other sites.

NOTABLE CITATIONS

Associated Press: Evangelical rift over Trump’s immigration remarks; 4/5 of Evangelicals globally are not White.

Fox News: Iran regime ramps up crackdown on persecuted Christians after US sanctions

Crux: LatAm debunks persistent myth about anti-Christian persecution

Uganda Christian News: More Christians now live in Africa than any other continent in the world

The Wall Street Journal: Have the Culture Wars Killed Christian Unity

Sojourners: An Open Window On a Mutilated Body

The Economist: The Non-Trump evangelicals
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. Your support makes this research possible. Will you consider supporting quality research on global Christianity?

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