

Global Diagram 16. Evangelization through martyrdom: 70 million Christians killed for their faith in 220 countries across 20 centuries.

At the heart of the Great Commission, the 3rd of the 7 Mandates is the command 'Witness!' Because living as a witness to Christ (NT Greek *martyrs*) often resulted in persecution and death, by the end of the 1st century AD, *martyrs* had taken on today's connotations of the 'martyr' who witnesses to Christ by his death.

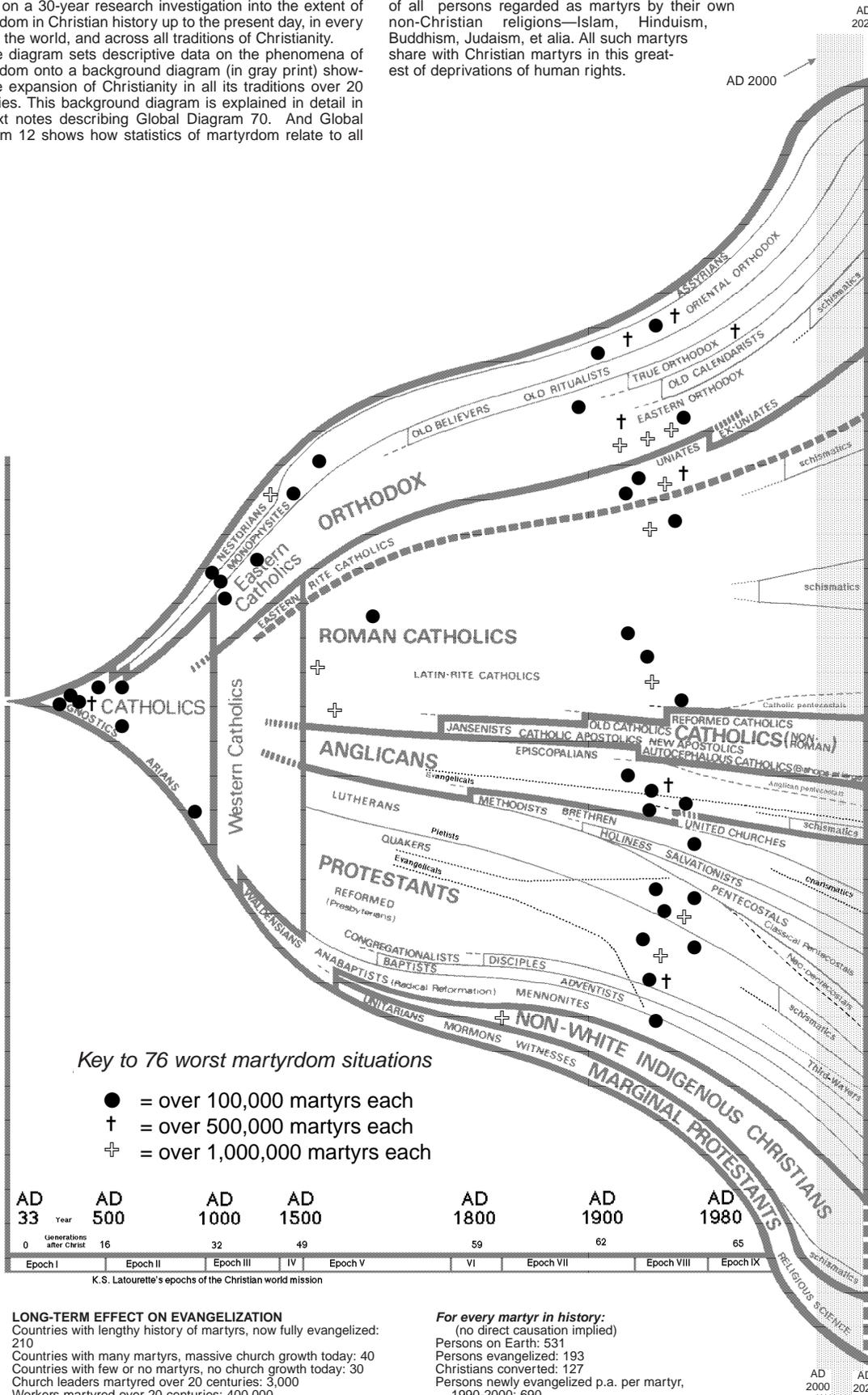
Table 2-1 ('A statistical overview of world evangelization') includes 3 columns that describe the whole extent of Christian martyrdom and its martyrs—defined by 5 criteria: believers in Christ, who have lost their lives, prematurely, in situations of witness, as a result of human hostility. These results are based on a 30-year research investigation into the extent of martyrdom in Christian history up to the present day, in every part of the world, and across all traditions of Christianity.

The diagram sets descriptive data on the phenomena of martyrdom onto a background diagram (in gray print) showing the expansion of Christianity in all its traditions over 20 centuries. This background diagram is explained in detail in the text notes describing Global Diagram 70. And Global Diagram 12 shows how statistics of martyrdom relate to all

other causes of Christian deaths. History's 76 worst situations of mass martyrdom (over 100,000 each) are then shown as black crosses or dots, the latest being Amin's Uganda massacres in 1971, the Sudan holocaust of 1963-1999, and the Rwanda genocide of 1994. Numerous other equally dangerous situations have been averted because the persecutors have been alarmed by the prospect of international opprobrium.

Although 'martyr' on this page always means exclusively a witness to Christ, the one exception is a single table below (bottom right) which puts Christian martyrs in the context of all persons regarded as martyrs by their own non-Christian religions—Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, et alia. All such martyrs share with Christian martyrs in this great-est of deprivations of human rights.

The effect of Christian martyrdom on evangelization over the centuries has been profound. Naturally, Christians have almost always insisted that martyrdom should not be deliberately sought for; but when it happens, the news spreads widely, and unbelievers including persecutors are converted. Martyrdom can be termed the final witness, the complete personal statement of faith in Christ, the ultimate proclamation of the gospel.



TOTAL PERSONS, AD 33-2000
 All persons born since AD 33: 36,673 million
 All persons evangelized since AD 33: 12,105 million (33% of human race)
 All Christians since AD 33: 8,344 million (23% of human race)
 All martyrs killed since AD 33: 69,420,000
 Martyrs as % all Christians ever: 0.8%
 Martyrs among all Christian leaders ever: 2.0%

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW, AD 33-2000
 600 major martyrdom situations over 20 centuries
 76 with over 100,000 martyrs each
 27 with over 500,000 martyrs each
 15 with over 1 million martyrs each
 Average martyrs per martyrdom situation: 115,000
 Martyrdom loci: in 220 countries
 Ecclesiastical traditions involved: all 300
 Denominations with own martyrs: 4,000

CONFESSION OF VICTIMS, AD 33-2000
 (total martyrs of each tradition)

Orthodox	42,798,000
Russian Orthodox	21,626,400
East Syrians (Nestorians)	12,379,000
Ukrainian Orthodox	3,500,000
Gregorians (Armenian Apostolic)	1,215,100
Roman Catholic	12,210,000
Catholics (before AD 1000)	855,000
Independents	3,512,000
Protestants	3,172,000
Anglicans	1,046,000
Marginal Christians	6,700
other and background martyrs	6,675,700
Total all martyrs	69,420,000

PERSECUTORS AND THEIR VICTIMS, AD 33-2000

Persecutors responsible	Martyrs
State ruling power	55,871,000
Atheists (overlap with above)	31,689,000
Muslims	9,121,000
Ethnoreligionists (animists)	7,469,000
Roman Catholics	5,171,000
Quasi-religionists	2,712,000
Buddhists (Mahayana)	1,651,000
Hindus	676,000
Zoroastrians (Parsis)	384,000
Eastern Orthodox	222,000
Other non-Christians	115,000
Other Christians	146,000
SUBTOTALS:	63,882,000
Non-Christian persecutors	5,538,000
Christian persecutors	69,420,000
Total all martyrs	69,420,000

SITUATION BY AD 2000 (p.a. = per year)
 Martyrs in 20th century (1900-2000): 45,400,000
 Martyrs since 1950: 13,300,000
 Average annual martyrs since 1950: 278,000 p.a.
 Recent annual martyrs: 171,000 p.a.
 Current annual martyrs: 160,000 p.a.
 Countries heavily involved in AD 2000: 50

CONFESSION OF VICTIMS, AD 2000
 (average annual martyrdom rates)

Roman Catholics	93,000
Protestants	30,000
Orthodox	14,000
Non-White indigenous Christians	10,000
Anglicans and Old Catholics	7,000
Marginal Protestants	5,000
Total martyrs p.a	160,000

LIKELIHOOD (L%) OF BEING MARTYRED
 (at current rates)

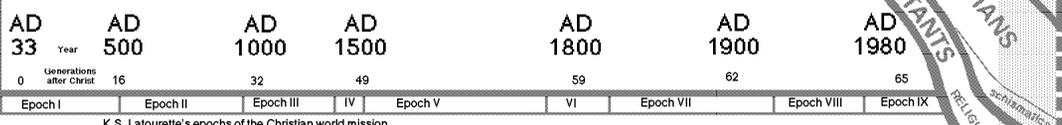
Full-time workers	L%	Per year
Bishops	5.0	15
Evangelists	4.0	133
Catechists	3.5	175
Foreign missionaries	3.0	131
Clergy	2.0	303
All Christian workers	2.0	1,700
Monks, brothers	1.9	63
Sisters, nuns	1.8	300
Other Christians		
Great Commission Christians	1.6	80,000
Christians (all kinds)	1.0	160,000

MARTYRDOM IN WORLD RELIGIONS SINCE ORIGIN
 (persons regarded as martyrs by their own religions)

Islam:	Muslim martyrs	80 million
Christianity:	Christian martyrs	70 million
Hinduism:	Hindu martyrs	20 million
Buddhism:	Buddhist martyrs	10 million
Judaism:	Jewish martyrs	9 million
Ethnoreligions	Ethnic martyrs	6 million
Others:	Other religious martyrs	5 million
Sikhism:	Sikh martyrs	2 million
Baha'i:	Baha'i martyrs	1 million

Key to 76 worst martyrdom situations

- = over 100,000 martyrs each
- † = over 500,000 martyrs each
- ⊕ = over 1,000,000 martyrs each



K.S. Latourette's epochs of the Christian world mission

LONG-TERM EFFECT ON EVANGELIZATION
 Countries with lengthy history of martyrs, now fully evangelized: 210
 Countries with many martyrs, massive church growth today: 40
 Countries with few or no martyrs, no church growth today: 30
 Church leaders martyred over 20 centuries: 3,000
 Workers martyred over 20 centuries: 400,000

For every martyr in history:
 (no direct causation implied)
 Persons on Earth: 531
 Persons evangelized: 193
 Christians converted: 127
 Persons newly evangelized p.a. per martyr, 1990-2000: 690