

Status of Global Christianity, 2023, in the Context of 1900–2050

	1900	1970	2000	Trend % p.a.	mid-2023	2025	2050
GLOBAL POPULATION							
1. Total population	1,619,625,000	3,695,390,000	6,148,899,000	1.18	8,045,311,000	8,191,988,000	9,709,492,000
2. Adult population (over 15)	1,073,646,000	2,302,129,000	4,290,579,000	1.50	6,041,672,000	6,189,012,000	7,699,095,000
3. Adults, % literate	27.6	63.8	76.7	0.41	84.1	84.3	88.0
GLOBAL CITIES AND URBAN MISSION							
4. Urban population (%)	14.4	36.5	46.7	0.90	57.4	58.2	68.0
5. Urban poor	100 million	650 million	1,400 million	3.09	2,820 million	3,000 million	4,100 million
6. Slum dwellers	200 million	260 million	700 million	2.22	1,160 million	1,220 million	1,520 million
7. Global urban population	232,695,000	1,347,106,000	2,869,247,000	2.09	4,615,446,000	4,766,367,000	6,604,546,000
8. Christian urban population	159,600,000	660,800,000	1,220,985,000	1.49	1,714,359,000	1,749,585,000	2,408,909,000
9. Cities over 1 million	20	145	371	2.27	622	653	950
10. Under 50% Christian	5	65	226	2.23	375	396	500
11. New non-Christians per day	5,200	51,100	140,000	0.39	153,000	154,000	129,000
GLOBAL RELIGION							
12. Religious diversity	2.7	4.3	4.5	-0.06	4.4	4.4	4.4
13. Religionists	1,616,370,000	2,986,913,000	5,358,897,000	1.26	7,147,900,000	7,291,508,000	8,846,157,000
14. Christians	558,346,000	1,216,131,000	1,988,770,000	1.18	2,604,381,000	2,662,979,000	3,342,878,000
15. Muslims	200,301,000	574,379,000	1,309,479,000	1.87	2,007,352,000	2,070,970,000	2,817,253,000
16. Hindus	202,976,000	467,434,000	828,498,000	1.20	1,090,304,000	1,105,393,000	1,228,708,000
17. Buddhists	126,946,000	233,383,000	448,897,000	0.77	535,545,000	538,380,000	548,803,000
18. Chinese folk-religionists	379,974,000	238,188,000	424,208,000	0.34	458,580,000	456,032,000	397,718,000
19. Ethnoreligionists	117,313,000	171,476,000	221,773,000	1.16	288,866,000	291,909,000	319,713,000
20. New Religionists	5,986,000	39,557,000	62,675,000	0.26	66,488,000	66,566,000	64,489,000
21. Sikhs	2,962,000	10,668,000	20,156,000	1.56	28,756,000	30,079,000	42,180,000
22. Jews	11,725,000	13,959,000	12,948,000	0.70	15,210,000	15,389,000	17,412,000
23. Nonreligionists	3,255,000	708,478,000	790,002,000	0.56	897,412,000	900,481,000	863,335,000
24. Agnostics	3,028,000	543,321,000	650,408,000	0.61	748,054,000	750,408,000	711,566,000
25. Atheists	226,000	165,156,000	139,594,000	0.29	149,358,000	150,073,000	151,770,000
GLOBAL CHRISTIANITY BY TRADITION							
26. Total Christians, % of world	34.5	32.9	32.3	0.00	32.4	32.5	34.4
27. Affiliated Christians	522,440,000	1,112,204,000	1,888,245,000	1.20	2,482,982,000	2,540,904,000	3,210,963,000
28. Roman Catholics	265,756,000	656,431,000	1,024,925,000	0.93	1,268,858,000	1,286,547,000	1,514,411,000
29. Protestants	134,196,000	251,902,000	429,290,000	1.58	615,676,000	636,516,000	881,256,000
30. Independents	8,859,000	89,480,000	284,423,000	1.65	414,526,000	431,364,000	616,022,000
31. Orthodox	116,199,000	139,037,000	257,470,000	0.53	290,594,000	293,148,000	307,239,000
32. Unaffiliated Christians	35,906,000	103,927,000	100,524,000	0.82	121,400,000	122,074,000	131,915,000
33. Evangelicals	80,912,000	108,841,000	270,702,000	1.79	406,886,000	420,870,000	620,963,000
34. Pentecostals/Charismatics	981,000	57,630,000	442,641,000	1.88	679,085,000	703,639,000	1,031,500,000
CHURCH ORGANIZATION							
35. Denominations / Rites	2,000	13,100	31,100	1.84	47,300	49,000	64,000
36. Congregations	400,000	1,329,000	3,000,000	1.47	4,200,000	4,300,000	5,400,000
CHRISTIANS BY CONTINENT							
37. Global North	459,901,000	692,870,000	816,065,000	0.12	838,293,000	832,919,000	751,039,000
38. Europe (including Russia; 4 regions)	380,647,000	490,507,000	561,881,000	0.04	566,423,000	561,811,000	494,477,000
39. Northern America (1 region)	79,254,000	202,363,000	254,184,000	0.29	271,870,000	271,108,000	256,563,000
40. Global South	98,445,000	523,261,000	1,172,704,000	1.80	1,766,089,000	1,830,060,000	2,591,838,000
41. Africa (5 regions)	9,640,000	137,866,000	384,290,000	2.76	718,096,000	756,035,000	1,286,083,000
42. Asia (5 regions)	21,966,000	97,390,000	281,121,000	1.62	406,555,000	424,376,000	595,070,000
43. Latin America (3 regions)	62,002,000	269,960,000	482,926,000	1.03	611,370,000	619,341,000	678,828,000
44. Oceania (4 regions)	4,837,000	18,045,000	24,367,000	0.92	30,068,000	30,307,000	31,857,000
CHRISTIAN MISSION AND EVANGELIZATION							
45. National workers (citizens)	2,100,000	4,600,000	10,900,000	0.97	13,600,000	14,000,000	17,000,000
46. Foreign missionaries	62,000	240,000	420,000	0.20	440,000	450,000	600,000
47. Christian martyrs per 10-years	344,000	3,770,000	1,600,000	-2.47	900,000	900,000	1,000,000
48. % in Christian countries	95.0	75.8	59.0	-0.42	53.6	53.0	50.0
49. Non-Christians who know a Christian (%)	5.4	13.4	17.4	0.22	18.3	18.8	20.2
BIBLES							
50. Bibles printed per year	5 million	25 million	54 million	2.52	95 million	100 million	120 million
51. Bible density (copies in place)	108 million	443 million	1,400 million	1.05	1,780 million	1,800 million	2,300 million
CHRISTIAN FINANCE (IN US\$, PER YEAR)							
52. Personal income of Christians	270 billion	4,100 billion	18,000 billion	5.06	56,000 billion	57,000 billion	102,000 billion
53. Giving to Christian causes	8 billion	70 billion	320 billion	4.82	945 billion	1,000 billion	2,200 billion
54. Churches' income	7 billion	50 billion	130 billion	4.77	380 billion	400 billion	900 billion
55. Parachurch and institutional income	1 billion	20 billion	190 billion	4.89	570 billion	600 billion	1,300 billion
56. Ecclesiastical crime	300,000	5,000,000	19 billion	5.30	62 billion	70 billion	170 billion
57. Income of global foreign missions	200 million	3 billion	18 billion	5.05	55 billion	60 billion	120 billion
WORLD EVANGELIZATION							
58. Unevangelized population	879,998,000	1,653,520,000	1,845,839,000	0.87	2,250,856,000	2,295,444,000	2,756,377,000
59. Unevangelized as % of world population	54.3	44.7	30.0	-0.31	28.0	28.0	28.4

Methodological notes for the Status of Global Christianity, 2023
(referring to numbered lines)

This table is derived from Gina A. Zurlo, Todd M. Johnson, and Peter F. Crossing, “World Christianity 2023: A Gendered Approach,” *International Bulletin of Mission Research*, Vol. 47 (1), January 2023, pp 71-80. Indented categories form part of, and are included in, un-indented categories above them. Definitions of categories are as given and explained in David B. Barrett, *World Christian Encyclopedia*, 1st ed. (Oxford University Press, 1982); David B. Barrett, George T. Kurian, and Todd M. Johnson, *World Christian Encyclopedia*, 2nd ed. (Oxford University Press, 2001); David B. Barrett and Todd M. Johnson, *World Christian Trends (WCT)*; William Carey Library, 2001), and Todd M. Johnson and Gina A. Zurlo, *World Christian Encyclopedia*, 3rd edition (Edinburgh University Press, 2019), with additional data and explanations below.

Lines 1–2. Demographic totals as shown in *World Population Prospects: The 2022 Revision* (New York: United Nations, 2022).

3. UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2005–2013) and Todd M. Johnson and Gina A. Zurlo, eds., *World Christian Database* (Leiden: Brill, accessed August 2022).

4, 7, 9. *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2018 Revision* (New York: United Nations, 2018).

12. The Herfindahl index methodology is described in Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, *The World’s Religions in Figures* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2013), chapter 3.

13. Religionists include smaller religions not shown in the indented lines (Spiritists, Daoists, Confucianists, Baha’is, Jains, Shintoists, Zoroastrians).

14. Widest definition: professing Christians plus secret believers, which equals affiliated (church members) plus unaffiliated Christians.

33. Churches, denominations, and individuals who identify themselves as evangelicals by membership in denominations linked to evangelical alliances (e.g., World Evangelical Alliance) or by self-identification in polls. Included in traditions above.

34. Church members involved in the Pentecostal/Charismatic/Independent Charismatic renewal in the Holy Spirit, known collectively as “Pentecostals/Charismatics.” Included in traditions above.

48. World totals of current long-term trend for all confessions (see *WCT*, part 4, “Martyrology”).

57-62. Defined in *WCT*, part 20, “Finance.”

61. Amounts embezzled by top custodians of Christian monies (U.S. dollar equivalents, per year).

63-64. Defined in *WCT*, part 25, “Macroevangelistics.”

Annual trend (%). Average annual rate of change, 2000–2022, as a % per year.



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