

## Status of Global Mission, 2002, in context of 20th and 21st centuries

†

Year:	1900	1970	mid-2000	Trend	mid-2002	2025
				%		
				p.a.		
<b>GLOBAL POPULATION</b>						
1. Total population	1,619,626,000	3,696,148,000	6,055,049,000	1.22	<b>6,203,789,000</b>	7,823,703,000
2. Urban dwellers (urbanites)	232,695,000	1,353,370,000	2,881,079,000	1.90	<b>2,991,572,000</b>	4,611,677,000
3. Rural dwellers	1,386,931,000	2,342,778,000	3,173,970,000	0.60	<b>3,212,217,000</b>	3,212,026,000
4. Adult population (over 15s)	1,074,058,000	2,310,543,000	4,254,647,000	1.76	<b>4,405,603,000</b>	5,987,079,000
5. Literates	296,258,000	1,475,194,000	3,261,345,000	1.76	<b>3,377,265,000</b>	5,046,637,000
6. Nonliterates	777,800,000	835,349,000	993,302,000	1.75	<b>1,028,338,000</b>	940,442,000
<b>WORLDWIDE EXPANSION OF CITIES</b>						
7. Metropolises (over 100,000 population)	300	2,400	4,050	1.84	<b>4,200</b>	6,500
8. Megacities (over 1 million population)	20	161	402	2.21	<b>420</b>	650
9. Urban poor	100 million	650 million	1,400 million	3.16	<b>1,490 million</b>	3,000 million
10. Urban slumdwellers	20 million	260 million	700 million	2.82	<b>740 million</b>	1,500 million
<b>GLOBAL POPULATION BY RELIGION</b>						
11. Total all distinct religions	1,000	6,000	9,900	1.70	<b>10,200</b>	15,000
12. Christians (total all kinds) (=World C)	558,132,000	1,236,374,000	1,999,564,000	1.27	<b>2,050,616,000</b>	2,616,670,000
13. Muslims	199,941,000	553,528,000	1,188,243,000	2.11	<b>1,239,029,000</b>	1,784,876,000
14. Nonreligious	3,024,000	532,096,000	768,159,000	0.80	<b>780,557,000</b>	875,121,000
15. Hindus	203,003,000	462,598,000	811,336,000	1.54	<b>836,543,000</b>	1,049,231,000
16. Buddhists	127,077,000	233,424,000	359,982,000	1.04	<b>367,538,000</b>	418,345,000
17. Atheists	226,000	165,400,000	150,090,000	0.24	<b>150,804,000</b>	159,544,000
18. New-Religionists	5,910,000	77,762,000	102,356,000	0.94	<b>104,280,000</b>	114,720,000
19. Ethnoreligionists	117,558,000	160,278,000	228,367,000	1.30	<b>234,341,000</b>	277,247,000
20. Sikhs	2,962,000	10,618,000	23,258,000	1.84	<b>24,124,000</b>	31,378,000
21. Jews	12,292,000	14,763,000	14,434,000	0.81	<b>14,670,000</b>	16,053,000
22. Non-Christians (=Worlds A and B)	1,061,494,000	2,459,774,000	4,055,485,000	1.20	<b>4,153,173,000</b>	5,207,033,000
<b>GLOBAL CHRISTIANITY</b>						
23. Total Christians as % of world (=World C)	34.5	33.5	33.0	0.05	<b>33.1</b>	33.4
24. Unaffiliated Christians	36,489,000	106,268,000	111,125,000	0.65	<b>112,575,000</b>	125,712,000
25. Affiliated Christians (church members)	521,643,000	1,130,106,000	1,888,439,000	1.30	<b>1,938,041,000</b>	2,490,958,000
26. Crypto-Christians	3,571,000	59,195,000	123,727,000	2.18	<b>129,173,000</b>	190,490,000
27. Church attenders	469,303,000	885,777,000	1,359,420,000	1.04	<b>1,387,834,000</b>	1,760,568,000
28. Evangelicals	71,726,000	93,449,000	210,603,000	1.72	<b>217,896,000</b>	327,835,000
29. Great Commission Christians (evangelicals)	77,931,000	277,152,000	647,821,000	1.44	<b>666,640,000</b>	887,579,000
30.	981,000	72,223,000	523,767,000	1.87	<b>543,578,000</b>	811,552,000

Pentecostals/Charismatics/Neocharismatics

31. Average Christian martyrs per year	34,400	377,000	160,000	1.24	<b>164,000</b>	210,000
--	--------	---------	---------	------	----------------	---------

MEMBERSHIP BY 6  
ECCLESIASTICAL MEGABLOCS

32. Anglicans	30,571,000	47,501,000	79,650,000	1.34	<b>81,799,000</b>	113,746,000
33. Independents	7,931,000	95,605,000	385,745,000	2.17	<b>402,641,000</b>	581,642,000
34. Marginal Christians	928,000	11,100,000	26,060,000	1.79	<b>27,000,000</b>	45,555,000
35. Orthodox	115,844,000	139,662,000	215,129,000	0.52	<b>217,371,000</b>	252,716,000
36. Protestants	103,024,000	210,759,000	342,002,000	1.36	<b>351,362,000</b>	468,633,000
37. Roman Catholics	266,548,000	665,954,000	1,057,328,000	1.24	<b>1,083,708,000</b>	1,361,965,000

MEMBERSHIP BY 6 CONTINENTS, 21  
UN REGIONS

38. Africa (5 regions)	8,756,000	117,069,000	335,116,000	2.62	<b>352,886,000</b>	600,526,000
39. Asia (4 regions)	20,759,000	97,329,000	307,288,000	2.12	<b>320,439,000</b>	459,029,000
40. Europe (including Russia; 4 regions)	368,210,000	468,480,000	536,832,000	0.08	<b>537,656,000</b>	532,861,000
41. Latin America (3 regions)	60,027,000	263,597,000	475,659,000	1.57	<b>490,701,000</b>	635,271,000
42. Northern America (1 region)	59,570,000	168,932,000	212,167,000	0.81	<b>215,633,000</b>	235,112,000
43. Oceania (4 regions)	4,322,000	14,699,000	21,375,000	1.22	<b>21,898,000</b>	28,152,000

CHRISTIAN ORGANIZATIONS

44. Denominations	1,900	18,600	33,800	2.48	<b>35,500</b>	63,000
45. Congregations (worship centers)	400,000	1,450,000	3,448,000	1.53	<b>3,554,000</b>	5,035,000
46. Service agencies	1,500	14,100	23,000	2.15	<b>24,000</b>	40,000
47. Foreign-mission sending agencies	600	2,200	4,000	1.24	<b>4,100</b>	6,000

CHRISTIAN WORKERS (clergy,  
laypersons)

48. Nationals (citizens; all denominations)	1,050,000	2,350,000	5,104,000	0.97	<b>5,204,000</b>	6,500,000
49. Aliens (foreign missionaries)	62,000	240,000	420,000	1.07	<b>429,000</b>	550,000

CHRISTIAN FINANCE (in US\$, per  
year)

50. Personal income of church members, \$	270 billion	4,100 billion	15,198 billion	2.28	<b>15,900 billion</b>	26,000 billion
51. Personal income of Renewalists, \$	250,000,000	157 billion	3,508 billion	4.08	<b>3,800 billion</b>	9,500 billion
52. Giving to Christian causes, \$	8 billion	70 billion	270 billion	5.41	<b>300 billion</b>	870 billion
53. Churches' income, \$	7 billion	50 billion	108 billion	4.53	<b>118 billion</b>	300 billion
54. Parachurch and institutional income, \$	1 billion	20 billion	162 billion	5.99	<b>182 billion</b>	570 billion
55. Cost-effectiveness (cost per baptism, \$)	17,500	128,000	330,000	2.80	<b>349,000</b>	650,000
56. Ecclesiastical crime, \$	300,000	5,000,000	16 billion	6.07	<b>18 billion</b>	65 billion
57. Income of global foreign missions, \$	200,000,000	3.0 billion	15 billion	6.46	<b>17 billion</b>	60 billion
58. Computers in Christian use (numbers)	0	1,000	332 million	6.40	<b>370 million</b>	1.5 billion

CHRISTIAN LITERATURE (titles)

59. Books about Christianity	300,000	1.8 million	4.8 million	3.08	<b>5.1 million</b>	11.8 million
60. Books on Christian mission	15,000	65,000	111,000	4.00	<b>120,000</b>	195,000

61. Christian periodicals	3,500	23,000	35,000	4.20	<b>38,000</b>	100,000
62. New books/articles on evangelization p.a.	500	3,100	16,000	6.07	<b>18,000</b>	80,000
SCRIPTURE DISTRIBUTION (all sources, per year/p.a.)						
63. Bibles, p.a.	5,452,600	25,000,000	53,700,000	4.96	<b>59,156,000</b>	180,000,000
64. New Testaments, p.a.	7,300,000	45,000,000	120,700,000	2.96	<b>127,940,000</b>	250,000,000
65. Scriptures including gospels, selections, p.a.	20 million	281 million	4,600 million	1.08	<b>4,700 million</b>	8,000 million
66. Bible density (copies in place)	108 million	443 million	1,400 million	2.12	<b>1,460 million</b>	2,280 million
CHRISTIAN BROADCASTING						
67. Christian radio/TV stations	0	1,230	4,000	0.62	<b>4,050</b>	5,400
68. Total monthly listeners/viewers	0	750,000,000	2,150,000,000	2.30	<b>2,250,226,000</b>	3,800,000,000
69. over Christian stations	0	150,000,000	600,000,000	3.14	<b>638,285,000</b>	1,300,000,000
70. over secular stations	0	650,000,000	1,810,000,000	1.76	<b>1,874,291,000</b>	2,800,000,000
CHRISTIAN URBAN MISSION						
71. Non-Christian megacities	5	65	226	1.10	<b>231</b>	300
72. New non-Christian urban dwellers per day	5,200	51,100	129,000	1.77	<b>133,600</b>	200,000
73. Urban Christians	159,600,000	660,800,000	1,160,000,000	1.58	<b>1,197,000,000</b>	1,720,000,000
CHRISTIAN EVANGELISM						
74. Evangelism-hours per year	5 billion	25 billion	165 billion	4.45	<b>180 billion</b>	425 billion
75. Hearer-hours (offers) per year	10 billion	99 billion	938 billion	6.30	<b>1,060 billion</b>	4,250 billion
76. Disciple-opportunities (offers) per capita per year	6	27	155	5.03	<b>171</b>	529
WORLD EVANGELIZATION						
77. Unevangelized population (=World A)	879,672,000	1,641,245,000	1,629,375,000	0.50	<b>1,645,685,000</b>	1,845,406,000
78. Unevangelized as % of world	54.3	44.4	26.9	-0.71	<b>26.5</b>	23.6
79. World evangelization plans since AD 30	250	510	1,500	2.96	<b>1,590</b>	3,000

---

*David B. Barrett, a contributing editor, is Hon. Research Advisor, United Bible Societies, and Research Professor of Missiometrics at Regent University, Virginia Beach. Todd M. Johnson, a YWAM missionary, is director of the World Evangelization Research Center in Richmond, Virginia, and an adjunct professor at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School for the Perspectives on the World Christian Movement course.*

---

Source: International Bulletin of Missionary Research, January 2002. David B. Barrett & Todd M. Johnson.

**TESTIMONY**--2002-04-16 (Statistics)

This post pulls together statistics on the state of world missions from four different sources, the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, the 2000 Mission Handbook, the recent World Christian Encyclopedia 2nd Edition, and the World Evangelization Research Center.

This is not intended to be comprehensive, but just to provide some recent statistics from reliable sources pertinent to mission mobilization. May I encourage you to be careful in how you pass these statistics on - that you state them exactly as they are written, Because statistics taken out of context can be misleading. ~Nate Wilson, Editor

The global gospel 'gap': What will it take to bridge it? (IMB) Source: By Erich Bridges, as published by Headline News [HeadlineNews@list.imb.org], September 05, 2001 (V1 #166), excerpt follows:

"Closing the Gap," a report prepared by strategists at the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, takes a big-picture snapshot of the secular and spiritual state of the world. It also examines the "scope and range of God's resources" among His followers -- and asks some hard questions about how to bring evangelistic vision and reality closer together. IMB trustees used the report as the basis for their detailed review of overseas strategy during their July 31 - Aug. 2 meeting. Its findings include:

**CLUSTERS OF LOSTNESS:** About 600 million people claim a personal, saving relationship with Jesus Christ, leaving about 1.4 billion "cultural Christians" who associate in some way with the Christian religion but don't necessarily follow Jesus as Savior and Lord. Another 2.5 billion people are non-Christian but have some access to the gospel message by various means. More than 1.6 billion people, meanwhile, have virtually no access to the gospel, a church, Scripture or followers of Christ. More than 2,100 of the world's nearly 13,000 distinct people groups fall into the last category.

Forty-one countries have populations that are more than 99 percent non-Christian; 45 more are close behind. The highest concentrations of lostness span the so-called "10-40 Window" from North Africa to Southeast Asia. Not surprisingly, most of the countries with fewer than 10 missionaries per 1 million lost people are in this region.

"If we are to reach the world's more than 5 billion lost persons, how many missionaries and resources can we afford to deploy to countries, cities and people groups that already have thriving evangelical populations?" the report asks. "Can we afford not to partner with like-minded evangelical brothers and sisters wherever we find them? How can we mobilize these Great Commission co-laborers to take the gospel to a lost and needy world?"

**BIG RELIGION, NO RELIGION:** Nearly a third of the world's people identify themselves - or are identified by others - as "Christian." Islam claims more than 1 billion adherents. Hinduism has 800 million followers. Buddhism, with 350 million adherents, is experiencing a surge of growth. The third-largest bloc behind Christianity and Islam, however, is the 900 million people who profess no faith at all – including "post-Christian secularists in Europe, post-communist atheists in Asia, materialists, humanists and hedonists scattered around the world," the report notes.

**A WORLD OF CITIES:** More and more people are jamming into cities, a trend that will accelerate as global economics and communications drive mass migrations to urban centers. This year alone more than 10 million people will leave poverty-stricken rural areas of China in search of work. In India, rural flooding, drought and poverty may push 300 million people - more than the entire population of the United States - into already-packed cities over the next 20 years, according to the Asian Development Bank. Cities present plenty of challenges, but "we can find most of the world's people groups living in some urban enclave" – even members of the hardest-to-reach groups as they flood cities looking for jobs and education. "How can we turn these opportunities for access into gateways for people group evangelism?"

**ILLITERACY AND POST-LITERACY:** Two-thirds of the world's population is functionally illiterate (including millions of adult Americans). That's more than 4 billion people who wouldn't understand the Bible in their own language if they had it. Of more than 6,000 world languages, fewer than 1,000 have a New Testament translation. Most of the globe's languages are purely oral, with no written forms. "With today's technology, many non-literate peoples are moving straight to visual and oral means of learning and communication without ever learning to read and write their own heart language. How might the Internet, compact disks and video disks allow us to communicate the gospel to non-literate and post-literate peoples?"

**PULLED APART, PULLED TOGETHER:** The centrifugal wave of ethnic conflict is tearing whole nations apart. Yet renewed ethnic identity and awareness worldwide has focused modern missions on identifying and reaching all of the world's ethnolinguistic people groups, which are often "hidden" within larger countries or majority peoples. Meanwhile, the centripetal waves of global integration in communication, economics, and politics are washing over barriers to evangelism in many once-closed places - both for mission agencies and for individual churches and Christians, who increasingly seek to design their own customized mission strategies.

**POPULATION GROWS EAST AND SOUTH:** The world's 6.1 billion people likely will increase to nearly 9 billion by 2050, with nearly 95 percent of the growth projected to come in the developing world. Nearly a third of the world's current population is under age 15. More than 3.5 billion people live in Asia - greater than the rest of the globe combined - and 60 percent of expected population growth will come there. Yet it's the region farthest away from the Christian centers of the West, making it more difficult and expensive to reach. The population of the Middle East and North Africa will double; sub-

Saharan Africa's population will triple. Meanwhile, the aging populations of Western Europe, Japan and the former Soviet bloc will decline.

**FOOD AND WATER:** Malnutrition kills 17,000 people a day, mostly in sub-Saharan Africa and south Asia. Nearly half the global population lives in "water-stressed" nations where wars may be fought in years to come over access to limited water. The average life span in some African countries may fall by 30 to 40 years because of the AIDS pandemic.

**MISSION PERSONNEL CHANGES:** If trends hold, the International Mission Board's long-term missionary force, now at about 5,000, will climb above 8,000 by 2010. Career missionaries account for 66 percent of the total missionary force and this year the agency will appoint more career missionaries than ever before. Rapid growth in the numbers of two- and three-year workers, however, means they could account for two-thirds of the total force by decade's end. "Are we prepared for this development? Many of the International Mission Board's programs of personnel selection, support, training and supervision were shaped with long-term missionaries in mind. Are we adapting these programs to match a changing personnel force? Is this a desirable future?"

The report identifies eight key bridges crossing the world's gospel "gap" -- and seven major barriers. The bridges include: increased prayer among Christians for the world's lost; the growing phenomenon of rapid church-planting movements; the emergence of large numbers of non-Western missionaries; more partnership among Baptists and evangelicals worldwide; expanding global communications; the increasing use of creative strategies to reach unreached peoples; and the mobilization of Southern Baptists and other Christians in local churches to join God on mission "as never before."

The barriers: lack of prayer; unbalanced deployment of mission resources; runaway global urbanization; lack of communication among mission agencies, partners and churches; the non-growth of long-term missionary numbers; the sheer volume of unreached people groups; and the stubborn persistence of a "vast sector of the world's population that has never heard the good news of Jesus Christ." The barriers are issues that should shape [our] prayer lives ... as well as provide study topics for missions strategists, said Avery Willis, IMB senior vice president for overseas operations. The bridges provide strategies missions leaders can use as they focus on closing the gap and obeying Jesus' command to preach the good news everywhere. [Editor's Note: My son and I have pulled this article together into a PowerPoint format. If you want a copy, please email me at <NWilson@CProject.com>.]



\* \* \* \* \*

**STATISTICS: 2000 (World Christian Encyclopedia)**

196,000 new people in the world per day (net of births and deaths)  
122,000 new baptized church members per day (1/3 Roman Catholic)  
69,000 new Christians per day (from birth or conversion – includes all followers of Jesus Christ as Lord - all kinds, traditions, and confessions, and all degrees of commitment - how that is reconciled with the above statistic, I don't know!)  
68,000 new Muslims per day and 37,000 new Hindus per day (all other religions much less)  
470 Christian martyrs per day  
SOURCE: World Christian Encyclopedia Second Edition, Vol.1, pg.5

\* \* \* \* \*

**AD 2001 Reality Check (WERC)**

Source: World Evangelization Research Center [www.gem-werc.org](http://www.gem-werc.org)  
(excerpted from Table 1-1 in World Christian Trends, William Carey Library, David Barrett & Todd Johnson.)

- At a steady rate over the last 20 centuries, and in all 238 countries, 70 million Christians have been martyred - killed, executed, murdered - for Christ.
- Emboldened by lax procedures, trusted church treasurers are embezzling each year \$16 billion out of church funds, but only 5% ever get found out. Annual church embezzlements by top custodians exceed the entire cost of all foreign missions worldwide.
- Christians spend more on the annual audits of their churches and agencies (\$810 million) than on all their workers in the non-Christian world.
- The total cost of Christian outreach averages \$330,000 for each and every newly-baptized person.
- Despite Christ's command to evangelize, 67% of all humans from AD 30 to the present day have never even heard of his name.
- 648 million Christians today (called Great Commission Christians) are active in Christ's world mission; 1,352 million Christians ignore this mission.
- Organized Christianity has total contact with 3,590 religions but no contact at all with 353 other religions and their over 500 million adherents.
- 14 million converted Hindus, Buddhists, and Muslims have opted to remain within those religions in order to witness for Christ as active believers in Jesus as Lord.
- A huge new Christian non-confessional megabloc, the Independents/Post-denominationalists, is growing rapidly and numbers 19% of all Christians.
- From only 3 million in AD 1500, evangelicals have grown to 648 million worldwide, 54% being Non-Whites.
- The country with the fastest Christian expansion ever is China, now at 10,000 new converts every day.
- Non-Christian countries have been found to have 227 million Bibles in place in their midst, more than needed to serve all Christians but poorly distributed.
- 124 million new souls begin life on Earth each year, but Christianity's 4,000 foreign mission agencies baptize only 4 million New persons a year.
- 91% of all Christian outreach/evangelism does not target non-Christians but targets other Christians in World C countries, cities, peoples, populations, or situations.

- 818 unevangelized ethnolinguistic peoples have never been targeted by any Christian agencies ever.
- 40% of the church's entire global foreign mission resources are being deployed to just 10 oversaturated countries already possessing strong citizen-run home ministries.
- The 3 least cost-effective countries over 1 million in population for Christian outreach are: Japan, Switzerland, Denmark. The 3 most cost-effective countries over 1 million in population for Christian outreach are: Mozambique, Ethiopia, Tanzania.
- Per hour of ministry, the 5 megapeoples most responsive to Christianity, Christ, and the gospel are: Khandeshi, Awadhi, Magadhi, Bai, Berar Marathi. Per hour of ministry, the 5 megapeoples least responsive are: Swedish, Russian, Lithuanian, Polish, Georgian .
- Regular listeners to Christian programs over secular or religious radio/TV stations rose from 22% of the world in 1980 to 30% in 2000.
- 98.7% of people have access to scripture in 6,700 languages leaving 78 million in 6,800 languages with no access at all.
- Each year,180 million Bibles and New Testaments are wasted - lost, destroyed, or disintegrated - due to incompetence, hostility, bad planning, or inadequate manufacture.
- Out of 648 million Great Commission Christians, 70% have never been told about World A's 1.6 billion unevangelized individuals.

