

Status of Global Christianity, 2017, in the Context of 1900–2050

	1900	1970	2000	Annual trend (%)	mid-2017	2025	2050
GLOBAL POPULATION							
1. Total population	1,619,625,000	3,682,488,000	6,126,622,000	1.21	7,515,284,000	8,141,661,000	9,725,148,000
2. Adult population (over 15)	1,073,646,000	2,297,647,000	4,279,131,000	1.58	5,581,897,000	6,134,853,000	7,652,243,000
3. Adults, % literate	27.6	63.8	76.7	0.50	83.4	84.3	88.0
GLOBAL CITIES							
4. Cities over 1 million (megacities)	20	144	361	2.19	522	616	880
5. Urban population (%)	14.4	36.6	46.6	0.98	55.0	58.0	66.1
6. Urban poor	100 million	650 million	1,400 million	3.09	2,350 million	3,000 million	4,100 million
7. Slum dwellers	20 million	260 million	700 million	3.37	1,230 million	1,600 million	1,900 million
8. Global urban population	232,695,000	1,348,387,000	2,855,035,000	2.20	4,131,023,000	4,723,656,000	6,424,456,000
9. Christian urban population	159,600,000	660,800,000	1,218,397,000	1.60	1,595,879,000	1,781,875,000	1,998,008,000
10. Megacities under 50% Christian	5	65	226	1.62	297	357	450
11. New non-Christian urban dwellers per day	5,200	51,100	132,000	0.39	141,000	145,000	163,000
GLOBAL RELIGION							
12. Religious diversity (0-1, 1=most diverse)	0.27	0.43	0.45	-0.07	0.44	0.44	0.43
13. Religionists	1,616,370,000	2,973,311,000	5,334,853,000	1.33	6,681,390,000	7,301,565,000	8,897,179,000
14. Christians (total, all kinds)	558,131,000	1,230,688,000	1,986,007,000	1.31	2,479,563,000	2,732,240,000	3,443,696,000
15. Muslims	199,818,000	568,628,000	1,288,715,000	1.93	1,784,443,000	2,044,778,000	2,766,130,000
16. Hindus	202,973,000	463,334,000	822,690,000	1.34	1,031,722,000	1,109,602,000	1,268,620,000
17. Buddhists	126,956,000	234,544,000	450,094,000	0.93	527,183,000	566,326,000	586,752,000
18. Chinese folk-religionists	379,974,000	221,706,000	427,894,000	0.11	436,273,000	418,869,000	372,805,000
19. Ethnoreligionists	117,437,000	168,897,000	223,191,000	1.06	267,079,000	267,396,000	280,609,000
20. New Religionists	5,986,000	39,382,000	61,960,000	0.28	65,020,000	64,168,000	60,568,000
21. Sikhs	2,962,000	10,668,000	19,980,000	1.62	26,258,000	29,484,000	34,706,000
22. Jews	12,292,000	13,500,000	13,745,000	0.33	14,533,000	15,000,000	16,728,000
23. Non-religionists	3,255,000	709,177,000	791,769,000	0.31	833,894,000	840,096,000	827,969,000
24. Agnostics	3,029,000	544,020,000	655,788,000	0.36	696,854,000	707,857,000	698,244,000
25. Atheists	226,000	165,156,000	135,981,000	0.05	137,041,000	132,239,000	129,724,000
GLOBAL CHRISTIANITY							
26. Total Christians, % of world	34.5	33.4	32.4	0.10	33.0	33.6	35.4
27. Affiliated Christians (church members)	521,683,000	1,120,475,000	1,887,867,000	1.35	2,371,416,000	2,620,530,000	3,332,193,000
28. Christian martyrs per year (10-year average)	34,400	377,000	160,000	-3.33	90,000	100,000	100,000
29. Christians, % living in countries ≥80% Christian	95.0	76.0	59.2	-0.65	53.0	52.9	52.0
30. Roman Catholics	266,263,000	658,537,000	1,025,928,000	1.08	1,231,050,000	1,317,841,000	1,609,011,000
31. Protestants (including Anglicans)	133,276,000	251,987,000	424,256,000	1.64	559,258,000	625,974,000	871,630,000
32. Independents	8,859,000	96,373,000	301,634,000	2.21	437,418,000	513,397,000	699,234,000
33. African Independents	40,000	17,569,000	76,318,000	2.39	113,940,000	135,800,000	191,921,000
34. Asian Independents	1,906,000	16,494,000	94,395,000	2.94	154,380,000	188,668,000	288,362,000
35. European Independents	185,000	8,299,000	17,371,000	1.88	23,824,000	27,178,000	33,499,000
36. Latin American Independents	33,000	9,452,000	32,743,000	1.95	45,474,000	52,364,000	66,455,000
37. Northern American Independents	6,673,000	44,022,000	79,854,000	1.24	98,543,000	107,976,000	117,338,000
38. Oceanian Independents	22,000	537,000	953,000	1.64	1,257,000	1,411,000	1,659,000
39. Orthodox	115,855,000	143,967,000	256,808,000	0.61	284,704,000	291,868,000	301,332,000
40. Unaffiliated Christians	36,448,000	110,212,000	98,140,000	0.57	108,146,000	111,710,000	111,504,000
41. Evangelicals	80,912,000	105,864,000	239,460,000	2.12	341,904,000	400,076,000	581,134,000
42. Pentecostals/Charismatics	981,000	62,689,000	460,698,000	2.22	669,177,000	795,734,000	1,091,314,000
CHURCH ORGANIZATION							
43. Denominations	1,600	18,800	34,200	1.89	47,000	55,000	70,000
44. Congregations	400,000	1,408,000	3,400,000	2.90	5,527,000	7,500,000	9,000,000
GLOBAL CHRISTIAN DISTRIBUTION							
45. Africa (5 regions)	8,736,000	114,723,000	359,637,000	2.88	582,372,000	721,645,000	1,253,035,000
46. Asia (5 regions)	20,774,000	91,604,000	271,445,000	2.14	388,777,000	461,788,000	588,290,000
47. Europe (including Russia; 4 regions)	368,254,000	467,640,000	545,620,000	0.09	554,198,000	541,703,000	494,958,000
48. Latin America (3 regions)	60,027,000	263,589,000	481,879,000	1.21	591,094,000	633,162,000	704,585,000
49. Northern America (1 region)	59,570,000	168,477,000	208,302,000	0.59	230,277,000	235,777,000	258,540,000
50. Oceania (4 regions)	4,323,000	14,442,000	20,984,000	0.96	24,698,000	26,456,000	32,785,000
CHRISTIAN MISSION							
51. National workers (citizens)	2,100,000	4,600,000	10,900,000	1.00	12,900,000	14,000,000	17,000,000
52. Foreign missionaries	62,000	240,000	420,000	0.54	430,000	550,000	700,000
53. Foreign mission sending agencies	600	2,200	4,000	1.67	5,300	6,000	7,500
54. Non-Christians who know a Christian (%)	5.6	13.6	17.7	0.23	18.4	19.2	19.9
CHRISTIAN MEDIA							
55. Books (titles) about Christianity	300,000	1,800,000	4,800,000	3.63	8,800,000	11,800,000	14,500,000
56. Christian periodicals (titles)	3,500	23,000	35,000	4.25	71,000	100,000	120,000
57. Bibles printed per year	5,452,600	25,000,000	53,700,000	2.91	87,400,000	110,000,000	135,000,000
58. Scriptures (incl. selections) printed per yr	20 million	281 million	4,600 million	1.07	5,120 million	6,000 million	9,800 million
59. Bible density (copies in place)	108 million	443 million	1,400 million	1.97	1,950 million	2,280 million	3,700 million
60. Users of radio/TV/Internet	0	750 million	1,830 million	1.17	2,230 million	2,440 million	2,920 million
CHRISTIAN FINANCE (in US\$, per year)							
61. Personal income of Christians	270 billion	4,100 billion	18,000 billion	6.56	53,000 billion	71,000 billion	200,000 billion
62. Giving to Christian causes	8 billion	70 billion	320 billion	6.27	900 billion	1,200 billion	3,300 billion
63. Churches' income	7 billion	50 billion	130 billion	6.17	360 billion	480 billion	1,300 billion
64. Parachurch and institutional income	1 billion	20 billion	190 billion	6.34	540 billion	720 billion	2,000 billion
65. Ecclesiastical crime	300,000	5,000,000	19 billion	6.92	59 billion	80 billion	250 billion
66. Income of global foreign missions	200 million	3 billion	18 billion	6.65	53 billion	70 billion	180 billion
WORLD EVANGELIZATION							
67. Unevangelized population	880,122,000	1,650,954,000	1,840,175,000	0.88	2,136,536,000	2,318,317,000	2,742,657,000
68. Unevangelized as % of world population	54.3	44.8	30.0	-0.32	28.4	28.5	28.2
69. World evangelization plans since 30 CE	250	510	1,500	2.80	2,400	3,000	4,000

Methodological notes for the Status of Global Christianity, 2017
(referring to numbered lines)

This table is derived from Todd M. Johnson, Gina A. Zurlo, Albert W. Hickman, and Peter F. Crossing, “Christianity 2017: Five Hundred Years of Protestant Christianity,” *International Bulletin of Mission Research* (January 2017). 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 more recently in Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, *The World’s Religions in Figures* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2013), with additional data and explanations below.

Lines 1–2. Demographic totals as shown in *World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision* (New York: United Nations, 2015).

3. 2015 data from UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2013) (in *Human Development Report*, 2014). Other years from *WCT*, table 10-12.

4–5. *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2014 Revision* (New York: United Nations, 2014). Also line 51.

12. The Herfindahl index methodology is described in *The World’s Religions in Figures*, chapter 3.

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

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

41. 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.

42. Church members involved in the Pentecostal/Charismatic/Independent Charismatic renewal in the Holy Spirit, known collectively as “Renewalists.” Totals on lines 41–42 overlap with those on lines 30–40.

61–66. Defined in *WCT*, part 20, “Finance.”

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

67–68. Defined in *WCT*, part 25, “Macroevangelistics.”

69. Grand total of all distinct plans and proposals for accomplishing world evangelization made by Christians since 30 CE. See *WCT*, part 27, “GeoStrategies.”

Annual trend (%). Average annual rate of change, 2000–2016, as a % per year.



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