

GACX FORUM 2022
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The State of the Global Church



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Taking the Church to Where It's Not

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The State of the Global Church On Mission

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Through the Church

“This grace was given...to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, so that **through the church** the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places, according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in Him.”

Ephesians 3:7-12 (ESV)



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Global Population is growing at 1.18% per annum

In 1900 global population was 1.62 billion, in 2000 it was 6.14 billion, and in 2022 total population is 7.953 billion

By 2050 the population is projected to be 9.735 billion.

2.0 billion (25%) people are 15 years of age or under

Urban is 4.533 billion (57%) and projected to be 6.6 billion (68.4%) by 2050

Adult literacy is 84.2% and expected to be 88% by 2050

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The Growth of Global Christianity

An annual overall growth rate of 1.17%, almost 2.56 billion people identify as Christians in 2022. By 2050, total is expected to top 3.33 billion.

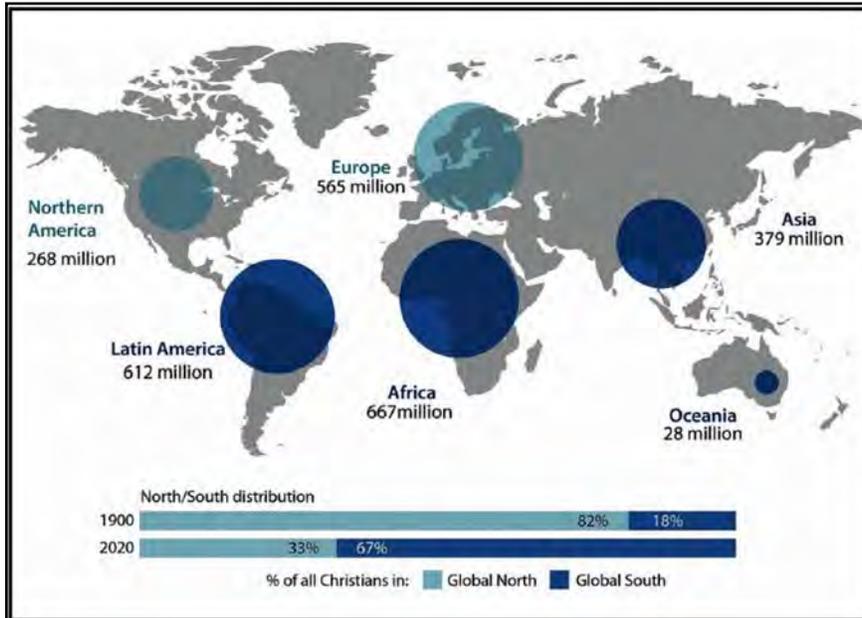
91% of growth is in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Africa has a 2.77% annual growth rate and Asia a 1.50% growth

In 2022, there are 838 million in the Global North and 1.1 billion live in Africa and Asia

By 2050, projected Africa (1.3 billion), Latin America (686 million), and Asia (560 million).

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The Shift of the Church from the Global North to Global South

"In 1900 the average Christian was a 40-year-old white male in the North. Today the average Christian is a 28-year-old black female in Africa."

"The Global South is increasingly leading and pioneering what the Church and the future of missions look like."

(2020 International Bulletin of Mission Research.)

Map 1. Christians by continent, 2020.

Source: Todd M. Johnson and Gina A. Zurlo, *World Christian Encyclopedia*, 3rd ed. (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2019), 4.

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Four Significant Statistics

Evangelicals at 1.80% and Charismatics/Pentecostals at 1.88% are fastest growing Christian groups

Christian urban population is currently 1.68 billion and projected to be 2.4 billion 2050

Muslims are growing at 1.93% per annum and by 2050 are projected to have 2.84 billion adherents

In 1800 Christians and Muslims were 33% of the world's population. In 2020 they were 57% In 2050 projection is 66%

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The Church in the West and North

Particularly in the West, it can seem like secularism is growing and people are leaving the church and the faith. Globally, that is not the case.

- Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Christianity are all growing by 2050.
- Atheism and Agnosticism are projected to slightly decline numerically.

There are however, significant factors that need to be considered.

- Moral Therapeutic Deism is a deistic view of God by youth (2003 study)
- Deconstruction of Biblical and Cultural Beliefs is widely occurring

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Missionaries Serving in Foreign Countries



Total Foreign Missionaries

- 435,000 missionaries from all countries
 - 230,000 missionaries from the Global North (53%)
 - 205,000 missionaries from Global South and East
- (Note: this has grown from 31,000 GS workers in 1970)

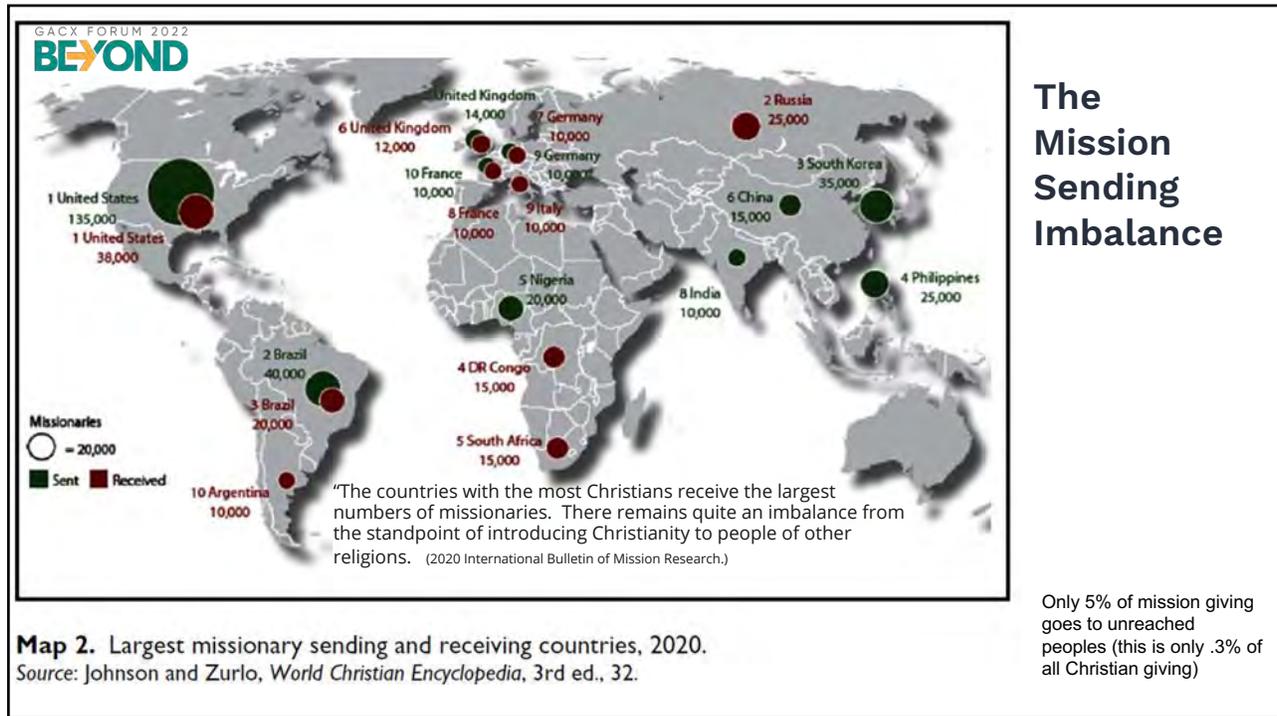
North American Missionaries

- 130,000 total North American
 - 70,000 Catholics and Non-protestant missionaries.
 - 60,000 estimated Protestant missionaries
 - Independent Charismatics are the most active growing group

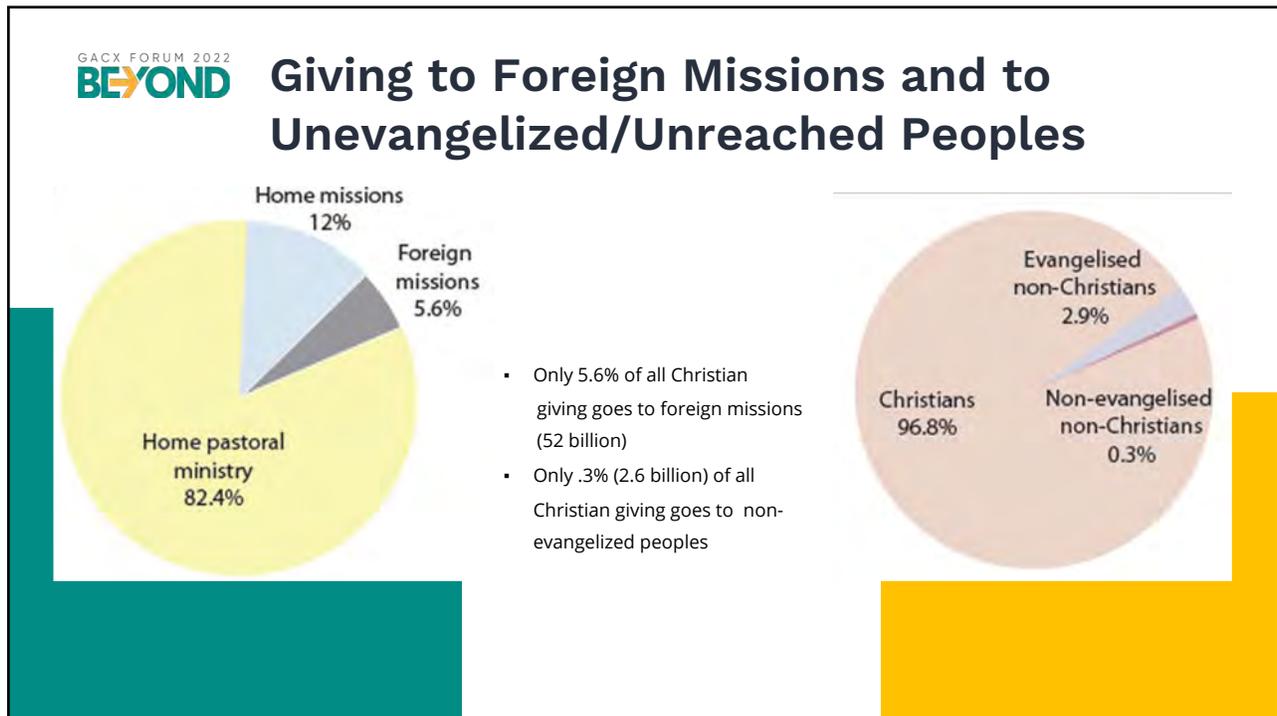
Access to the Christian Gospel

- 13.2 million national workers serve in their own countries
- 2.36 billion users w/ access to Christian radio, TV, and Internet
- Countries with the most Christians receive the largest numbers of missionaries

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Translation and Distribution of Scriptures

Illuminations envisions that with collaboration by Bible translators and societies all people will have access to God's Word in their heart language by 2033.

- 93 million Bibles will be printed in 2022 and there are 1.8 billion Bibles in circulation worldwide.
- 5.29 billion selections of Scriptures were printed last year.
- You Version now has 500 million users with 1,700 languages available in electronic and audio formats.
- This year 535.2 million verses shared, 2.4 billion highlights, bookmarks and notes, and 8.2 billion chapters played.
- There are 3,627 heart language translations to begin.



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Global Church Presence Major Traditions

Major Christian traditions by denominations have an estimated 4,200,000 church congregations with an average of 580 people each.

Major traditions by denominations, 2010

	Denominations		Congregations	
	Total	Average size	Total	Average size
Anglican	169	514,000	103,200	840
Independent	27,010	14,000	2,496,100	150
Marginal	1,800	19,000	157,800	220
Orthodox	1,030	268,000	120,320	2,280
Protestant	10,840	39,000	1,404,900	300
Roman Catholic	239	409,000	568,200	2,030

▲ Major traditions by denominations, 2010

The average size of Roman Catholic denominations is an average size of dioceses. Denominations and congregations are calculated by country, and a detailed methodology is found in the Appendices.

Center for Global Christianity, 2010

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Global Church Presence Through Movements

House church or non-traditional church expressions are growing. In part because religious liberty is on the decline worldwide.
(International Bulletin of Mission Research)

Perhaps even more influencing this trend is the accelerating growth of Church Planting Movements.

In 2022, there are 1855 active church planting movements
4+ generation churches in multiple streams

5160 active UPG movement engagements are being tracked.
Not yet to 4th generation

There are 6.8 million movement churches with an average of 14 believers each.

(24:14 Coalition, March 2022)

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What are the implications for mission-minded leaders within the Church?



We must stay focused on unreached peoples and places.



We must mobilize more cross-cultural workers worldwide including from US.



Multiply disciple-making and church planting based on obedience to God's Word



We must work together and partner as never before.

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Working Together



“So that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.” John 17:21-23