



## Focus on Religious Freedom

[www.cffor.org](http://www.cffor.org)

### Where in the World is Christianity Growing and Why?

Pope Francis, in 2014, spoke in his homily about Christianity experiencing the largest numbers of martyrs today than ever before in its 2,000 year history.<sup>(1)</sup>

"The world hates Christians for the same reason it hated Jesus: because He brought the light of God and the world prefers the darkness to hide its wicked works....The martyrs of today are greater in number than those of the first centuries," said Pope Francis again in 2016.<sup>(2)</sup> In 2021, the number of martyrs is even greater.

Yet - despite this persecution on a massive scale, Christianity is growing faster than any time in history. Where is this happening and why?

***"The more you mow us down, the more numerous we grow;  
the blood of Christians is seed."*** - Tertullian, early Church theologian (155 - 220AD)

In the last 100 years, the number of Christians in the world has quadrupled from about 600 million in 1910 to well past 2 billion in 2020. Christianity remains the world's largest religious group.<sup>(3)</sup>

Africa and Asia, with believers in the most persecuted countries, are seeing incredible expansion of Churches while the Church in Europe and America is declining. Millions of people across Africa and Asia in historically unengaged people groups are now in rapidly growing Disciple Making Movements. In 2000, there were 6 such movements and today there are now 1,035.<sup>(4)</sup>

*The Status of Global Christianity* data reports that between 2000-2020:

- \* Africa had 37,825 new Christ followers **each day over the last 20 years.**
- \* Latin America had 16,988 each day.
- \* Asia had 13, 443 each day.
- \* North America had 1,999 each day.
- \* Oceania had 473 each day.
- \* Europe had 8 each day.<sup>(5)</sup>

(lifesitenews.com, 7/3/14(1); christianpost.com, 12/27/16(2); learnreligions.com, 4/6/20(3); christianpost.com, 3/15/20(4)(5); getreligion.org, 5/15/21; catholicworldreport.com, 6/5/17)

***"The living Jesus will give you joy amid tribulation."***

Richard Wurmbrand, Romanian Evangelist Minister and professor (1909-2001)

**Shortened Version:**

## **Focus on Religious Freedom**

[www.cffor.org](http://www.cffor.org)

### **Where in the World is Christianity Growing and Why?**

Pope Francis, in 2014, spoke in his homily about Christianity experiencing the largest numbers of martyrs today than ever before in its 2,000 year history.<sup>(1)</sup> In 2021, the number of martyrs is even greater.

Yet - despite this persecution on a massive scale, Christianity is growing faster than any time in history. Where is this happening and why?

***"The more you mow us down, the more numerous we grow;  
the blood of Christians is seed."*** - Tertullian, early Church theologian (155 - 220AD)

In the last 100 years, the number of Christians has quadrupled from about 600 million in 1910 to well past 2 billion in 2020. Christianity remains the world's largest religious group.<sup>(2)</sup> Africa and Asia, with believers in the most persecuted countries, are seeing incredible expansion of Churches while the Church in Europe and America is declining.<sup>(3)</sup>

(lifesitenews.com, 7/3/14(1); Christianpost.com, 12/27/16(2); learn religions.com, 4/6/20(3); christianpost.com, 3/15/20; get religion.org, 5/15/21)

***"The living Jesus will give you joy amid tribulation."*** Richard Wurmbrand, Romanian Evangelist Minister and professor (1909-2001)