



# FRIDAYFAX 2.0

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Kingdom-focussed E-Mail news-bulletin with inspiring reports of God at work around the world, with special emphasis on the current global revolutionary reformation of Church and Missions. **Editor:** Wolfgang Simson. Subscription: €30/ US-\$ 40 per year. Freitagsfax, PO Box 1248, D-79397 Kandern, Germany. Email [info@ffax2.com](mailto:info@ffax2.com); website: [www.ffax2.com](http://www.ffax2.com). © Dawn Europa e.V.; 22 issues per year, available in English and German.



## Status Report Global Christianity 2006

Here the Status report on Global Christianity 2006 – through incorporating secular as well as church-based sources probably one of the

most comprehensive databases in the world. It is being published every year by Prof. David B. Barrett (Professor for Missiometrics, World Evangelization Research Center, Richmond, editor of the *World Christian Encyclopaedia*) and Todd M. Johnson (Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, South Hamilton, USA).

Comparing the Status reports of consecutive years, we can observe some major shifts in the making. Here a number of our own observations as well as additional background information to help you interpret some of the facts:

- **The growth of both Islam and Hinduism is slowing down.** Officially, in the current number of Hindus (877 million) many are counted in who would not consider themselves Hindus any more. Amongst them are many dozens, if not hundreds of millions of Dalits (Low Cast or Outcast people groups) in India that are getting ready to leave organized Hinduism forever. Some of their own political leaders are rallying a massive religious change, which will lead to a seismic landslide in the set-up of India. In this case, India will cease to be a majority-Hindu nation, and in all probability become a majority-Christian nation, the largest Christian democracy in the world. Watch this space as we continue to report on this monumental development.
- During the last few years, the **greatest number of converts from Islam to Christianity** has been reported since history. This steady and even growing stream of converts from Islam to Christianity seems to spread across most Muslim nations in the world today, starting amongst those that are considered Soft-Islam (where the Islamic Sharia law is not implemented) to those that are considered Hard-Islam. Underground/Housechurch-based Christianity is the main ecclesiastical vessel that carries this development.
- **In terms of volume, ecclesiastical crime is still ahead of global missions.** Currently, 22 billion \$ are embezzled every year and stolen out of the pocket of the church by its own staff. This is one full billion \$ more than the entire world's giving for global Mission (21 billion \$). If this process goes ahead unchecked, ecclesiastical crime, theft within the church by the church, will reach 65 billion \$ by AD 2025.
- **Cost effectiveness is still decreasing:** does a single baptism soon cost \$650,000? At the moment, the baptism of a new convert to Christianity costs the church a steep bill of \$ 349,000, roughly the cost of a home. Predictions are that within the next 20 years this price tag goes up to \$ 650,00 per baptism. However, this does not yet account for the massive growth of house-church related baptisms both in the West as well as in the non-western nations. In Housechurch-setups, costs-per-baptism are radically down, basically to the price of throwing a good party.
- **The growth of “unaffiliated Christians”** in terms of its rate per year jumps from 0,81% in 2005 to 1,34% in 2006. This is a huge development and means that many more Christians tend to not get enrolled in traditional, denominational Christianity any more and remain outside of “the system”. What has not yet been duly researched globally is the massive amount of Gen-X, “Emergent Christians” and “emerging churches” that have embraced Postmodernism as their worldview and are currently on a journey to redefine themselves.
- **The growth of Pentecostals, Charismatics and Neocharismatics slows down** from 2,24% in 2005 to 2,08% in 2006. Rather than having a core message of its own left, the issue of “lifestyle churches” (does Hillsong, Vineyard, a more independent or a more rigid, denominational set-up, suite you life best?) seems to dominate much of the discussion.

- **Denominationalism is on the rise:** in the year 1900, only 1,900 denominations were counted worldwide. By 1970 their number has risen to 18,800, by 2000 to 33,800, and in mid-2006 there were 38,000 denominations. This number is expected to rise to 55,000 denominations by AD 2025.

Source: David B. Barrett & Todd M. Johnson. Web page: [www.globalchristianity.org](http://www.globalchristianity.org)

<i>Year</i>	<i>1970</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>Growth in % per year</i>	<i>Mid-2006</i>	<i>Prognosis 2025</i>
Global population	3,692,495,000	6,070,581,000	1,22	<b>6,529,426,000</b>	7,851,455,000
Urban dwellers	1,362,294,000	2,878,859,000	2,05	<b>3,252,255,000</b>	4,572,884,000
Population under 15	1,379,442,000	1,828,710,000	1,66	<b>1,846,452,000</b>	1,900,868,000
Nonliterate	836,256,000	990,317,000	1,70	<b>1,095,879,000</b>	934,703,000
Metropolises (over 100,000 population)	2,400	4,050	1,77	<b>4,500</b>	6,500
Megacities (over 1 Million Population)	161	402	1,90	<b>450</b>	650
Urban slumdwellers	260 million	700 million	3,29	<b>850</b>	1,600 million
Christians (all kinds)	1,234,339,000	2,000,836,000	1,25	<b>2,156,350,000</b>	2,630,559,000
Muslims	549,226,000	1,194,396,000	1,90	<b>1,339,392,000</b>	1,861,360,000
Nonreligious	532,338,000	762,028,000	0,23	<b>772,497,000</b>	817,091,000
Hindus	462,379,000	808,104,000	1,38	<b>877,552,000</b>	1,031,168,000
Buddhists	232,667,000	362,374,000	0,90	<b>382,482,000</b>	459,448,000
Atheists	165,391,000	147,212,000	0,49	<b>151,628,000</b>	151,742,000
New-Religionists	78,324,000	103,846,000	0,78	<b>108,794,000</b>	122,188,000
Ethno-Religionists	163,477,000	239,103,000	1,21	<b>257,009,000</b>	270,210,000
Sikhs	10,618,000	23,509,000	1,48	<b>25,673,000</b>	31,985,000
Jews	15,097,000	14,528,000	0,92	<b>15,351,000</b>	16,895,000
Non-Christians	2,458,156,000	4,069,745,000	1,21	<b>4,373,076,000</b>	5,220,896,000
Unaffiliated Christians	105,626,000	105,387,000	1,35	<b>114,200,000</b>	122,673,000
Great Commission Christians	277,153,000	650,094,000	1,13	<b>695,229,000</b>	853,179,000
Church attenders	885,777,000	1,359,420,000	1,04	<b>1,446,457,000</b>	1,760,568,000
Evangelicals	93,358,000	224,790,000	2,11	<b>254,797,000</b>	348,648,000
Pentecostals, Charismatics/Neocharismatics	72,223,000	526,916,000	2,08	<b>596,096,000</b>	798,320,000
Martyrs per year	377,000	160,000	1,11	<b>171,000</b>	210,000
<i>Membership by ecclesiastc. megablocs</i>					
Anglicans	47,409,000	75,164,000	1,24	<b>80,922,000</b>	107,557,000
Independents	96,926,000	379,085,000	2,23	<b>432,832,000</b>	607,670,000
Orthodox	139,646,000	214,436,000	0,45	<b>220,290,000</b>	235,834,000
Protestants	211,052,000	347,764,000	1,52	<b>380,799,000</b>	489,084,000
Roman Catholics	665,475,000	1,055,651,000	1,12	<b>1,128,883,000</b>	1,334,338,000
Christian workers	2,350,000	5,104,000	0,97	<b>5,409,000</b>	6,500,000
Foreign missionaries	240,000	420,000	1,08	<b>448,000</b>	550,000
Personal income of church members, \$	4,100 billion	15,230 billion	0,44	<b>15,930 billion</b>	26,000 billion
Cost effectiveness (cost per baptism in \$)	128,000	330,000	2,80	<b>349,000</b>	650,000
Ecclesiastical crime	5,000,000	16 billion	5,77	<b>22 billion</b>	65 billion
Income of global foreign missions in \$	3 billion	15 billion	5,70	<b>21 billion</b>	60 billion
World evangelization plans since AD 30	510	1,500	2,80	<b>1,770</b>	3,000