WORLD CHRISTIAN ENCYCLOPEDIA

A comparative survey of churches and religions in the modern world

SECOND EDITION

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The world by countries:
religionists, churches, ministries

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Country status. The British Indian Ocean Territory is a group of islands with strategic importance in the middle of the Indian Ocean, mainly the Chagos Archipelago. There are no permanent residents but British and American naval personnel are stationed on Diego Garcia.

HUMAN LIFE AND LIBERTY

Human rights and freedoms. The situation of the original indigenous inhabitants was controversial for some years until its satisfactory resolution. Human rights are similar to those in Britain.

NON-CHRISTIAN RELIGIONS

The inhabitants of this territory are indigenous Indian Ocean peoples. Transient workers, they are mostly Hindu with a minority of Muslims. Neither group has any permanent facilities or organized events for worship.
Christianity

There are no resident clergy in the territory. The Anglican and Catholic communities are served by visiting priests. Most Christians are among the British and American military personnel, and none have this territory as their permanent home. The territory is administered under the Catholic diocese of Port Louis (Mauritius) and the Anglican diocese of Mauritius.

Indigenous missions. No indigenous mission has been undertaken by Christians in British Indian Ocean Territory.

Future trends and prospects

There is little religious change expected in the next 30 years in British Indian Ocean Territory. Beyond 2025, nonreligious persons are expected to increase and exceed 10% of the population by AD 2050.

Bibliography


Country summary. Worlds A, B, C by ethnolinguistic peoples, cities, and major civil divisions in the British Indian Ocean Territory.

| Official name (bold type = church with over 10% of all affiliated) | Begin | Type | Coun | Congs | Adults | Affiliated 1970 | Affiliated 1995 | G% | Total denominations 8 Megablocs: O | R | A | P | I | m |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Anglican Church (D Mauritius) | A-Hig | 2 | 3 | 2 | 100 | 100 | 200 | 0.05 | Under Diocese of Mauritius, in CPIO. No resident clergy; periodic visits. | | | | | |
| Catholic Church | R-Lat | 2 | 3 | 10 | 500 | 500 | 700 | 0.05 | In D Port Louis (Mauritius), D Port Victoria (Seychelles). Annual visit by priest. | | | | | |
| Totals | | | | 12 | 600 | 600 | 900 | | | | | | | | |