

WORLD CHRISTIAN ENCYCLOPEDIA

A comparative survey of churches and
religions in the modern world

SECOND EDITION

David B. Barrett
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Volume 1:
The world by countries:
religionists, churches, ministries

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CHRISTMAS ISLAND



SECULAR DATA, AD 2000

STATE
Official name: The Territory of Christmas Island.
Short name: Christmas Island. **Adjective of nationality:** Christmas Islanders.
Flag: Similar to that of Papua New Guinea, though with a different bird and a map of Christmas Island in the center.

Area: 135 sq. km. (52 sq. mi.).
Government: External territory (dependency) of Australia, since 1958 (1888 British territory).
Legislature: Shire Council.
Official language: English.
Chief cities: FLYING FISH COVE 1,540.
Political divisions: 1 province.

DEMOGRAPHY
Population: 3,000.
Population density: 25.3/sq. km. (65.8/sq. mi.).
Under 15 years: 1,000.
Growth rate p.a.: 0.91% (births 12.57, deaths 7.65).
Mortality: Infant, per 1,000 5.5; **Maternal per 100,000:** 15.0.
Life expectancy: 79 (male 76, female 82).
Household size: 4.0. **Floor area per person, sq.m:** 20.0.

Major languages: English, Chinese, Malay, Javanese.
Urban dwellers: 75.00%. **Urban growth rate p.a.:** 0.00%.
Labor force: 60%.

ETHNOLINGUISTIC PEOPLES
 67.5% Han Chinese (Mandarin); 16.0% Malay (Cocos Islander); 9.9% Anglo-Australian; 2.0% Eurasian; 1.9% Indo-Pakistani.

ECONOMY
National income p.a. per person: US\$876; **per family:** US\$3,504.

EDUCATION
Adult literacy: 72% **Schools:** 1.
Universities: 0. **School enrolment:** female/male: 75%/75%.

HEALTH
Access to health services: 80%. **Access to safe water:** 90%.
Hospitals: 1 (20 beds per 10,000). **Doctors:** 5.
Blind: 20. **Deaf:** 200. **Murder rate:** 4.
Lepers: 0.

LITERATURE
New book titles p.a.: 1 (250 p.a. per million). **Periodicals:** 0.
Newspapers: 0 dailies.

COMMUNICATION (per 1,000 people)
Phones: 200 (99% mobile). **Radios:** 700. **TV sets:** 200.
Daily newspaper circulation: <1. **Computers:** 500.

HUMAN LIFE AND LIBERTY (optimum condition=100.0%)
HDI: 80.0. **HSI:** 85.0. **HFI:** 80.0. **EFL:** 55.0.

Country Table 1. Religious adherents in Christmas Island, AD 1900-2025.																
Year	1900		1970		mid-1990		Annual change, 1990-2000			mid-1995		mid-2000		mid-2025		
	Name	Adherents	%	Adherents	%	Adherents	%	Natural	Conversion	Total	Rate	Adherents	%	Adherents	%	Adherents
Chinese folk-religionists	460	65.7	600	40.0	780	26.0	23	1	24	2.73	980	29.7	1,021	30.0	1,200	30.0
Buddhists	0	0.0	0	0.0	560	18.7	12	1	13	2.15	660	20.0	693	20.4	820	20.5
Nonreligious	0	0.0	250	16.6	470	15.7	10	1	11	2.04	555	16.8	575	16.9	740	18.5
Muslims	210	30.0	250	16.6	450	15.0	9	1	10	1.99	530	16.1	548	16.1	650	16.3
Christians	30	4.3	400	26.6	500	16.7	4	-1	3	0.53	520	15.8	527	15.4	600	15.0
PROFESSION																
professing Christians	30	4.3	400	26.6	500	16.7	4	-1	3	0.53	520	15.8	527	15.4	600	15.0
AFFILIATION																
unaffiliated Christians	0	0.0	70	4.7	110	3.7	-3	0	-3	-2.55	87	2.6	85	2.5	120	3.0
affiliated Christians	30	4.3	330	22.0	390	13.0	5	0	5	1.26	433	13.1	442	13.0	480	12.0
Roman Catholics	20	2.9	150	10.0	210	7.0	4	0	4	1.76	240	7.3	250	7.4	260	6.5
Protestants	0	0.0	100	6.7	110	3.7	1	0	1	0.87	120	3.6	120	3.5	130	3.3
Anglicans	10	1.4	80	5.3	70	2.3	0	0	0	0.28	73	2.2	72	2.1	90	2.3
<i>Trans-megabloc groupings</i>																
Evangelicals	0	0.0	40	2.7	60	2.0	1	0	1	0.80	63	1.9	65	1.9	80	2.0
Pentecostals/Charismatics	0	0.0	30	2.0	75	2.5	3	0	3	2.92	91	2.8	100	2.9	140	3.5
Great Commission Christians	20	2.9	200	13.3	250	8.3	0	0	0	-0.12	250	7.6	247	7.3	250	6.3
Hindus	0	0.0	0	0.0	20	0.7	1	0	1	5.14	30	0.9	33	1.0	40	1.0
New-Religionists	0	0.0	0	0.0	20	0.7	1	0	1	2.66	25	0.8	26	0.8	50	1.3
World A (unevangelized persons)	650	92.9	751	50.0	1,329	44.3	-3	-1	-4	-0.30	1,250	37.9	1,053	35.1	1,192	29.8
World B (evangelized non-Christians)	19	2.8	351	23.3	1,171	37.8	63	1	64	1.95	1,529	46.3	1,420	49.5	2,208	55.6
World C (Christians)	30	4.3	400	26.7	500	17.9	3	0	3	0.53	520	15.8	527	15.4	600	14.6
Country's population	700	100.0	1,502	100.0	3,000	100.0	63	0	63	1.26	3,300	100.0	3,400	100.0	4,000	100.0

COLUMNS, ROWS.
 For meanings and definitions, see Codebook (Part 3). Note that, by definition, total 'Christians' = professing + crypto-Christians, which also = affiliated + unaffiliated Christians, and also = Great Commission Christians + latent Christians. Percentages may not always total exactly, due to rounding.

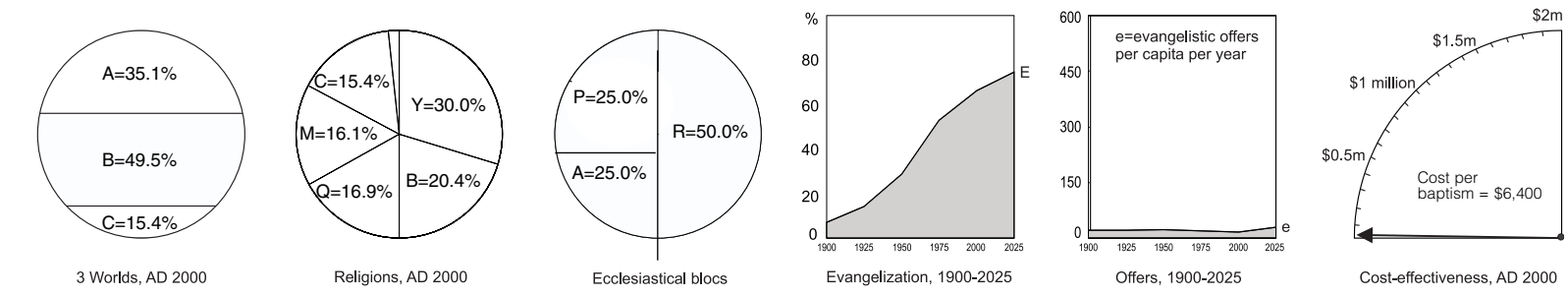
CENSUSES.
30.VI.1961: 84.6% Chinese folk-religionists and Muslims, 5.9%

Roman Catholics, 4.8% Anglicans, 4.3% Protestants, 0.5% non-religious, 0.4% Orthodox (7 persons only). **30.VI.1966:** 58.1% Chinese folk-religionists and Muslims, 14.0% nonreligious, 12.3% Roman Catholics, 8.2% Anglicans, 7.3% Protestants. **30.VI.1971:** 44.4% Chinese folk-religionists, 21.1% Muslims, 18.9% nonreligious, 6.9% Roman Catholics, 5.4% Protestants, 3.3% Anglicans. **1981:** 40.7% Chinese folk-religionists, 25.4% Muslims, 15.9% non-religious, 8.2% Roman Catholics, 6.6% Protestants, 3.2% Anglicans. **1986:** 53.9% Chinese folk-religionists, 19.5% nonrel-

gious, 8.4% Protestants, 7.8% Muslims, 6.3% Roman Catholics, 3.2% Anglicans, 0.9% Hindus.

NOTES ON RELIGIONS
MUSLIMS. 91% Malays, 9% Javanese and other Indonesians.
NONRELIGIOUS. Mainly former Buddhist Chinese, mostly young persons who have abandoned family religion.

Great Commission Instrument Panel: status of Christmas Island (for explanation see start of Part 4)



Country summary. Worlds A, B, C by ethnolinguistic peoples, cities, and major civil divisions in Christmas Island.																								
World	Num	Pop 2000	C%	PEOPLES				Num	Pop 2000	C%	CITIES				Num	Pop 2000	C%	CIVIL DIVISIONS						
				Christians	E%	U%	Unevangelized				Christians	E%	U%	Unevangelized				Christians	E%	U%	Unevangelized			
A	3	623	0.32	2	35	65	405	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
B	3	2,393	6.94	166	67	33	797	1	1,540	12.99	200	66	34	524	1	3,424	12.91	442	65	35	1,203			
C	2	407	67.32	274	100	0	1	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total	8	3,423	12.91	442	65	35	1,203	1	1,540	12.99	200	66	34	524	1	3,424	12.91	442	65	35	1,203			

Country status. Christmas Island is a territory of Australia in the Indian Ocean south of Java, Indonesia. It contains large deposits of phosphate of lime.

HUMAN LIFE AND LIBERTY
Human rights and freedoms. Australian laws fully protect all human rights.

NON-CHRISTIAN RELIGIONS
Chinese folk religion is predominant in Christmas Island whose population was 50% Chinese in 1970. This is a mixture of Buddhist, Taoist, and Confucian ideas and practices, together with ancestor veneration.
Islam is second in importance, among the Malay population, and those professing to be without religion (mainly Chinese) have increased substantially in the last decade or two.

CHRISTIANITY
 Christians form 15.4% of the population in AD 2000 and are divided into Catholic, Protestant, and Anglican congregations. Catholic work is part of the diocese of Singapore, while Anglicans belong to the Church of England in Australia, diocese of Perth.

CATHOLIC CHURCH. The Holy See has no diplomatic relations with Christmas Island in AD 2000.
Indigenous missions. There is virtually no missionary outreach from the Christmas Islands.



Over half of the Island's postage stamps have celebrated the birth of Christ, including The Flight into Egypt (1975).

CHURCH AND STATE
 Christmas Island is administered by an official representative appointed by the Ministry of Territories of the Australian government. Freedom of religion is guaranteed under the Australian constitution.

FUTURE TRENDS AND PROSPECTS
 The religious situation on Christmas Island is not likely to change much in the next 30 years.
 Unless evangelistic effort becomes a priority among Christians it is likely that Christianity will decline slowly throughout the 21st century, perhaps falling as low as 10% by AD 2050.

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The MacKenzies' history of Christmas Island parish. A. J. MacKenzie. Ed., A. A. MacKenzie. 2d ed. Sudbury, Ontario: MacKenzie Rothe, 1984. 285p.

Country Table 2. **Organized churches and denominations in Christmas Island.**

<i>Official name (bold type = church with over 10% of all affiliated)</i> 1	<i>Begun</i> 2	<i>Type</i> 3	<i>Counc</i> 4	<i>Congs</i> 5	<i>Adults</i> 6	<i>Affiliated 1970</i> 7	<i>Affiliated 1995</i> 8	<i>G%</i> 9	<i>Names, notes, and other statistics (see Codebook, Part 3)</i> 10					
Catholic Church (AD Singapore)	1888	R-Lat	p.F..	1	110	150	240	0.05	Part of AD Singapore. Australians; including many Chinese, some Eurasians. Included in Diocese of Perth. Australians, a few Eurasians and Chinese. Informal groups serving Congregationalists, Methodists, Presbyterians.					
Ch of England in Australia (D Perth)		A-Cen	awe..	1	45	80	73	-0.37						
Other Protestant denominations		P-	5	45	100	120	0.05						
Totals				7	200	330	433							
<i>Churches, members, growth, 1900-2025</i>				<i>Congs</i>	<i>Adults</i>	<i>Affiliated</i>	<i>G%</i>	<i>Total denominations</i>	<i>6 Megablocs: O R A P I m</i>					
Total churches, members, and denominations (mid-1900)				1	18	30	3.48	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Total churches, members, and denominations (mid-1970)				5	200	330	3.48	3	0	1	1	1	0	0
Total churches, members, and denominations (mid-1990)				6	180	390	0.84	3	0	1	1	1	0	0
Total churches, members, and denominations (mid-1995)				7	200	433	2.11	3	0	1	1	1	0	0
Total churches, members, and denominations (mid-2000)				7	200	442	0.41	4	0	1	1	2	0	0
Total churches, members, and denominations (mid-2025)				10	220	480	0.33	7	0	1	1	5	0	0