WORLD CHRISTIAN ENCYCLOPEDIA

A comparative survey of churches and religions in the modern world

SECOND EDITION

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Volume 1:
The world by countries:
religionists, churches, ministries

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2001
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: 22.3/sq. km. (58.8/sq. mi.).
Under 15 years: 1,000.
Growth rate p.a.: 0.91% (births 12.8, deaths 7.89).
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.

CHRISTMAS ISLAND
CHRISTMAS ISLAND

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; 2.6% Eurasian; 1.2% Indo-Pakistani.

NATIONAL POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS


MONETARY UNIT

1 Christmas Dollar = 100 Cents.

Access to basic services


Adult literacy: 65.0%.

EDUCATION

Enrolment in primary school: 85.0%. Secondary school enrolment: 90.0%.

CITY

Population: 3,500. Urban population: 75.0%.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Australian laws fully protect all human rights.

NON-CHRISTIAN RELIGIONS

Chinese folk religion

NOTES ON RELIGIONS

HUMAN LIFE AND LIBERTY

HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS.

CATHOLIC CHURCH. The Holy See has no diplomatic relations with Christmas Island in 2000.

Indigenous missions. There is virtually no missionary outreach from the Christmas Islands.

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.

BIBLIOGRAPHY


2000: 1,500. Christian 8.4% Protestants, 7.8% Muslims, 6.3% Roman Catholics, 3.2% Angelenos, 0.9% Hindus.

NOTES ON RELIGIONS

30.VI.1961: 84.6% Chinese folk-religiousists and Muslims, 5.9% Roman Catholics 4.8% Anglicans, 4.3% Protestants, 0.9% Hindus.

COLUMNS, ROWS

Definitions are explained at start of Part 4.

CENSUSES.

30.VI.1961: 75.00%.

Urban growth rate p.a.: 20.

NUMERICAL DATA

COUNTRY AND STATE

Numbers are estimates unless otherwise indicated.

DATA SOURCES

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.

CHRISTIANITY

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

CATHOLIC CHURCH. The Holy See has no diplomatic relations with Christmas Island in 2000.

Indigenous missions. There is virtually no missionary outreach from the Christmas Islands.


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 St George, while Anglicans belong to the Church of England in Australia, diocese of Perth.

At the beginning of the 21st century, the population of Christmas Island was 92% Chinese (mainly Cantonese), 7% Malay, and 1% Javanese.

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 St George, while Anglicans belong to the Church of England in Australia, diocese of Perth.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Official name (bold type = church with over 10% of all affiliated)</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Congs</th>
<th>Adults</th>
<th>Affiliated 1970</th>
<th>Affiliated 1995</th>
<th>G% Names, notes, and other statistics (see Codebook, Part 3)</th>
<th>Total denominations</th>
<th>Megablocs: O R A P I m</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Catholic Church (AD Singapore)</td>
<td>R-Lat</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>Part of AD Singapore. Australians; including many Chinese, some Eurasians.</td>
<td>7 200 330 433</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ch of England in Australia (D Perth)</td>
<td>A-Cen</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>0.37</td>
<td>Included in Diocese of Perth. Australians, a few Eurasians and Chinese.</td>
<td>45 80 73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Protestant denominations</td>
<td>P-</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>Informal groups serving Congregationalists, Methodists, Presbyterians.</td>
<td>5 45 100 120</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Total churches, members, and denominations (mid-1900):
- Congs: 1
- Adults: 18
- Affiliated: 30
- G%: 3.48

### Churches, members, growth, 1900-2025:
- Total churches, members, and denominations (mid-1900):
  - Congs: 1
  - Adults: 18
  - Affiliated: 30
  - G%: 3.48

- Total churches, members, and denominations (mid-1970):
  - Congs: 5
  - Adults: 200
  - Affiliated: 330
  - G%: 3.48

- Total churches, members, and denominations (mid-1995):
  - Congs: 7
  - Adults: 200
  - Affiliated: 433
  - G%: 2.11

- Total churches, members, and denominations (mid-2005):
  - Congs: 7
  - Adults: 200
  - Affiliated: 442
  - G%: 2.11

- Total churches, members, and denominations (mid-2025):
  - Congs: 10
  - Adults: 220
  - Affiliated: 480
  - G%: 0.33