

Hard Mission Facts

Will "business as usual" finish the Great Commission?

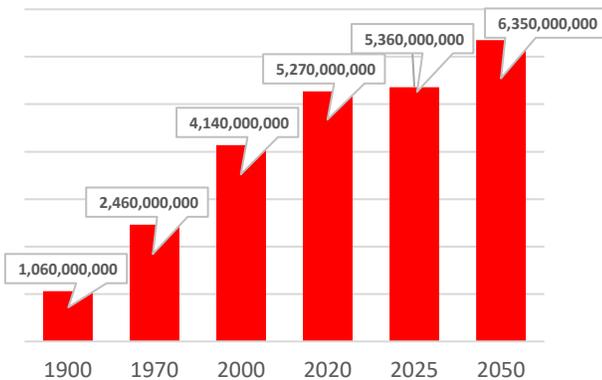
1. Little Change in Christian Adherents

The global percentage of Christian Adherents (broadest possible definition of "Christian") has changed **very little** since 1900 and not much change is expected in the future.

1900	1970	2000	2020	2025	2050
34.5%	33.4%	32.4%	32.3%	33.6%	35.4%

2. Absolute Number of Non-Christians is Growing

While Christians of all types make up about one-third of the world, the number of **non-Christians** is increasing. The remaining task is growing!

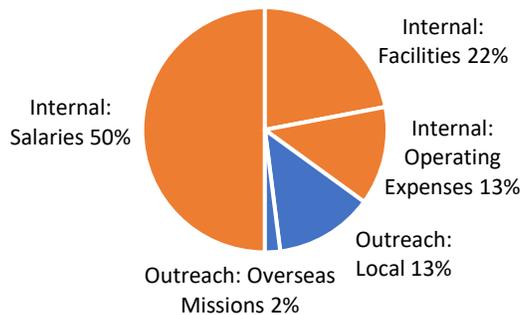


3. Small Percentage of Evangelicals

Evangelicals (an approximation of Christ-followers) are only about 8-9% of the world's population. While evangelicals are growing more rapidly than the general population and other segments of Christianity, the growth rate has been **slowing** since 1990. For example, after remarkable growth for much of the 20th century, evangelical growth in South Korea has **plateaued** since 1990.

4. Church Spending Imbalance

About 85% of North American church financial resources are used for **internal purposes**. 15% is used for **outreach**.



Most of the 2% of overseas missions resources go toward ministry among already Christianized people groups. Only a small portion of the 2% goes toward unreached peoples.

5. Ecclesiastical Crime

In 2019 over \$50 billion (yes billion!) dollars was **embezzled** by custodians of Christian churches, organizations and ministries worldwide. That is more than the amount that annually goes to global foreign missions.



6. Sustaining but not Expanding

Most mission effort is directed at places where the church is, rather than places where it is not. Effort is focused on sustaining and building existing work rather than expanding new work. Most of the non-Christian world is **isolated** from the Christian world: Globally, 87% of Buddhists, Hindus and Muslims have little, if any, contact with Christians.

87%

7. Engaging but not Reaching People Groups

There has been great success engaging new people groups, but **limited results** in developing indigenous, self-sustaining movements to Christ so that these people groups can be considered reached.

People Group	Description	Trend
Unengaged (UUPG)	No known long-term, onsite missionaries, few if any, believers or ministry resources.	Dramatic decline 9% in 2005 3% in 2015
Unreached (UPG)	Onsite missionaries and possibly some believers, but no indigenous kingdom movement underway.	Little change 43% in 2005 42% in 2015
Reached (PG)	An indigenous, active movement to Christ underway capable of reaching the rest of the people group without outside assistance.	Little change 57% in 2005 58% in 2015

8. Bible Translation Need

Globally, over 2,000 languages still have **no Scripture** at all. Over 1,600 people groups in the 10/40 Window do not have any Scripture in their primary language.



In China, for example, while there has been amazing progress of the Gospel, over 100 languages have no Scriptures translated. About 240 people groups in China speak these languages and represent over 80 million individuals **without access** to the Bible in their primary language.