

BE A BRINGER

“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....”
John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a



Handout: 07/21/24

Study Date: 07/28/24

Go With Hope

These eight trends from the [Center for the Study of Global Christianity](#) at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary’s [2024 report](#) may give you a better picture of global Christianity and help you see the expansiveness of God’s work.

1. Christianity is growing: This may surprise many, but Christianity is growing around the world and is growing faster than the rate of population. From 2020 to the mid-point of 2024, the world’s population is expected to grow from more than 7.84 billion people to more than 8.11 billion, a 0.87% growth trend. The number of Christians worldwide is expected to climb from more than 2.52 billion to 2.63 billion, a 1.08% growth. The Christian population is projected to top 3 billion before 2050.

2. Some groups are growing even faster: While Christianity is growing as a whole, certain branches are experiencing even more growth. Protestants (1.63%), independents (1.96%), evangelicals (1.66%), and Pentecostal/charismatics (1.48%) are the fastest-growing groups.

3. Africa and Asia are experiencing rapid growth: The fastest-growing areas for Christianity are in the global south, particularly Asia and Africa. Asia is home to more than 415 million Christians and growing at a rate of 2.11%. Meanwhile, 734 million Christians live in Africa, where the faith is growing at a 2.64% rate.

At the turn of the 20th century, Africa was home to less than 10 million Christians, fewer than any other region except Oceania. By 2000, the Christian population in Africa had exploded to more than 383 million. In 2020, more Christians lived in Africa than any other region of the world. By 2050, with a Christian population of more than 1.28 billion, more Christians will call Africa home than the next two most populous regions—Asia and Latin America—combined.

4. Christianity is spreading globally: Not only is the faith growing around the world, but it’s also expanding to new places. In 1900, 95% of the world’s Christians lived in predominantly Christian countries. The overall trend is more Christians living in diverse places, with the percentage living in Christian countries declining by 0.17% between 2020 and this year. Currently, 51.6% of Christians live in Christian nations. By 2050, that is projected to be the case for less than half of Christians (49.4%).


5. Atheism is shrinking: While Christianity and other religions are growing around the world, the global atheist population is falling. The current growth trend for atheism is -0.12%, with their number falling from 147 million in 2020 to 146 million in 2024. Atheism peaked around 1970 with 165 million people.

6. More churches are being planted and missionaries sent out: Over the past 120 years, the number of churches increased tenfold, growing from 400,000 in 1900 to more than 4 million in 2020. This year that number is expected to reach 4.2 million. By 2050, the number of congregations worldwide will top 5.4 million.

7. Fewer people are without access to the gospel: In 1900, more than half of the world (54.3%) didn’t have access to the gospel. That percentage fell throughout the 20th century, reaching 30.1% in 2000. This year, the percentage is expected to remain steady at 27.8%.


8. More money is being given to Christian causes: In the United States, giving to Christian causes is expected to top \$1.3 trillion in 2024. In 1900, \$8 billion was given, \$70 billion in 1970, \$320 billion in 2000, and \$1 trillion in 2020. Projections set the giving in 2050 at \$5.2 trillion.

Resource: Lifewise research



MISSIONARY OF THE WEEK

Tony and Marcia Haug | Japan



PRAISE

- Thank the Lord for all of the opportunities to evangelize during the Christmas season.

PRAY

- Pray that God will send us a full time English teacher for an after school program.
 - Pray for the 40+ people studying "Experiencing God".
 - Pray for Tony's torn meniscus surgery recovery.
- Pray for wisdom as we plan to integrate Baiko University students in our church in 2025.
 - Pray for Taiga Takeyasu, a pastor-in-training at SCBC.
- Pray for Mrs Tsuwazaki's husband, Mrs. Kihara and her husband to be drawn to Christ.
- Pray for the staff of New Beginning International Pre-School as they share the gospel.

KEY VERSE

Matthew 24:14 (NKJV)

“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all nations, and then the end will come.”

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Matthew 24:14

Introduction

1. Of the several encouraging findings on page 1 of this guide, which of them inspires you the most to “Go With Hope”?
2. What inspiration and instruction should we be taking from Matthew 24:14? How should this verse impact our walk in terms of sharing the gospel?

Tuesday: Matthew 24:9; II Timothy 3:12

Go With Hope Knowing It Will Not Be Easy

3. Matthew 24:9 says “*you will be hated by all nations*” for sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ. What do YOU practice to stay encouraged in spite of this?
4. What guarantee does II Timothy 3:12 give those of us who “*desire to live godly in Christ Jesus*”? What will we surely “*suffer*”?

Wednesday: Matthew 16:18

Go With Hope Believing That Jesus Will Build His Church

5. God’s PLAN A is to bring the Gospel to all languages! Is there a PLAN B?
6. What promise is being made to us in Matthew 16:18 with the statement: “*on this rock, I will build My church*”?

Thursday: Acts 1:8

Go With The Hope Of Celebrating The Expansion Of The Gospel And The Church

7. Acts 1:8 begins with “*But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you.*” So as believers are we fully equipped for our mission?
8. Acts 1:8 tells us we “*shall be witnesses unto the uttermost part of the earth.*” What does this speak to us in terms of “how far” our mission could be?
9. What mission will you be embarking on to bring the Gospel to others?

Friday: Isaiah 6:8-9a; Matthew 28:20

Go With Hope Knowing God Is With You And Will Help You To Fulfill Your Role In The Great Commission

10. What “questions” do we need to ask of ourselves and God to fully understand our role in the Great Commission?
11. “*I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?”* (Isaiah 6:8). How will YOU answer this call?
12. Jesus assures that He will be with us on our mission. In Matthew 28:20 He says: “*I am with you always.*” How should these words encourage us?