



STATE OF THE CHURCH

February 2021



GLOBAL STATE OF THE CHURCH

Increased Persecution

- 340 million Christians suffer high levels of persecution and discrimination for their faith.
- COVID-19 acted as a catalyst for religious persecution through relief discrimination, forced conversion, and as justification for increasing surveillance and censorship.
- 4,761 Christians killed for their faith
- 4,277 Christians unjustly arrested, detained or imprisoned
- There was a 60% increase in the violent killing of Christians for faith-related reasons.

Source: *Open Doors USA 2021 World Watch List Fact Sheet*



GLOBAL STATE OF THE CHURCH

Church Growth

- Christianity is the world's largest religion (2.5-2.7 billion)
- Christianity is growing at a rate of 1.27% (faster than the 1.2% population growth), but slower than Islam (1.95%), Sikhs (1.66%) and Hindus (1.30%).
- Christianity is barely growing in Europe (0.04% rate) and only slightly better in North America (0.56%). Oceania (0.89) and Latin America (1.18%) have slightly better rates, but Christianity is growing fast in Asia (1.89%) and Africa (2.89%) where persecution is most severe.
- The Gospel is spreading. Only 28.4% (2.2 billion) of the global population is unevangelized (down from 54% in 1900).

Source: <https://lifewayresearch.com/2019/06/11/7-surprising-trends-in-global-christianity-in-2019/>

*And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed
throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations,
and then the end will come.*

-Matthew 24:14

The background of the slide features a close-up of an American flag on the left side, with its stars and stripes partially visible. To the right of the flag is a vertical wooden plank with a natural grain and texture. The text is overlaid on a dark, semi-transparent rectangular area on the right side of the image.

STATE OF THE CHURCH IN THE USA

- 29% of Americans Attended church in the last seven days, down from 48% in 2009
- Of those who do attend, 76% cite biblical teaching as a significant reason for attending a church
- Only 5% of churchgoers gave 10% or more of their income
- 30% of "evangelicals" do not believe Jesus is God.
- 46% of "evangelicals" do not believe man is sinful by nature.
- 42% of "evangelicals" think God accepts other religions
- Multiple limitations on free assembly and free speech. Notably, one of our own House Churches is not free to meet legally.

Sources: <https://reachrightstudios.com/podcast/incredible-church-statistics-of-2021/> and <https://thestateoftheology.com/>

A close-up photograph of a person's hands reading an open Bible on a dark wooden table. The Bible is open to a page with text, and the person's fingers are resting on the pages. The background is softly blurred, showing another open book and a pair of glasses on the table.

MISSION

To Glorify God
by making disciples
of Jesus Christ.

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

-Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV)

ARE WE FULFILLING THE GREAT COMMISSION?

MATTHEW 28:19-20



GO TO ALL PEOPLES

Take the gospel to every people group, including your own



BAPTIZE THEM

in the name of The Father,
The Son, and The Holy Spirit



MAKE DISCIPLES

Proclaim the Gospel of salvation in Christ alone



TEACH THEM TO OBEY GOD'S COMMANDS

Teach them God's Word with clarity and lead them to obey

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MISSIONS

Virus Restrictions Severely Limited Travel
We continued to train via internet
We increased giving.

15 Housed at Diaspora House

15 Discipled

4 New Believers

4 Baptisms

300+ Served After Storms

10 Graduated House Church Training

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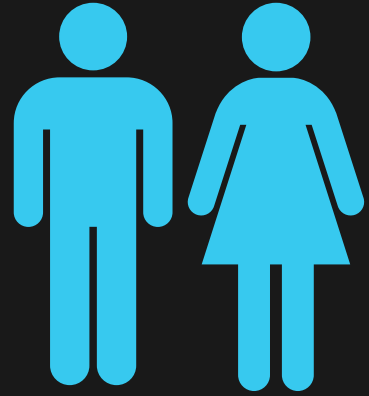
Proclaim the Gospel of salvation in Christ alone



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THE GRAND NARRATIVE OF THE BIBLE



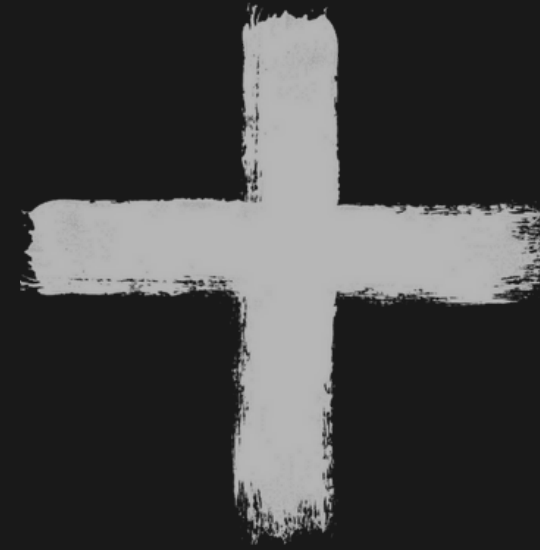
CREATION

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.
-Genesis 1:27



FALL

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God
-Romans 3:23



REDEMPTION

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
-Romans 6:23

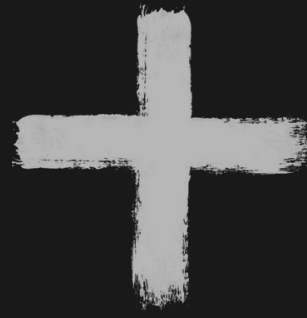
THE GOSPEL



RESTORATION

And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."
-Revelation 21:5

THE GOSPEL (GOOD NEWS)



JESUS' DEATH PAYS YOUR SIN DEBT FULLY

*He himself bore our sins
in his body on the tree,
that we might die to sin
and live to righteousness.
By his wounds you have
been healed.*

-1 Peter 2:24

GOD SAVES BY HIS GRACE NOT YOUR WORKS

*For by grace you have been
saved through faith. And
this is not your own doing; it
is the gift of God, not a
result of works, so that no
one may boast.”*

-Ephesians 2:8-9

CONVERSION: REPENTANCE AND FAITH

*because, if you confess
with your mouth that
Jesus is Lord and believe
in your heart that God
raised him from the dead,
you will be saved.*

-Romans 10:9

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BAPTISMS

Hungry Church 4
Kent/Hudson 5
Spokane 1



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TEACHING TO OBEY (DISCIPLESHIP)

Individual Discipleship

Family Worship

Lord's Day (Sunday) Gathering

Underground Seminary



MISSION

To Glorify God
by making disciples
of Jesus Christ.

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. 17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. 19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

-Colossians 1:15-20(ESV)

And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

-Matthew 24:14 (ESV)

VALUES

Gather Together
to edify, equip, and
hold fast to the
Gospel.

*Let us hold fast the **confession of our hope** without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to **stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.***

-Hebrews 10:23-25 (ESV)

ARE WE FULFILLING THE "ONE ANOTHERS"?



DISCIPLESHIP

Are we each faithfully investing in 1-2 other people for the sake of evangelism and spiritual growth?



HOUSE CHURCH

Are we prioritizing the weekly gathering with my church family, contributing with my gifts?



FAMILY WORSHIP

Are we each worshipping God and equipping our family with the truth of God's Word regularly?



FIRST SUNDAY

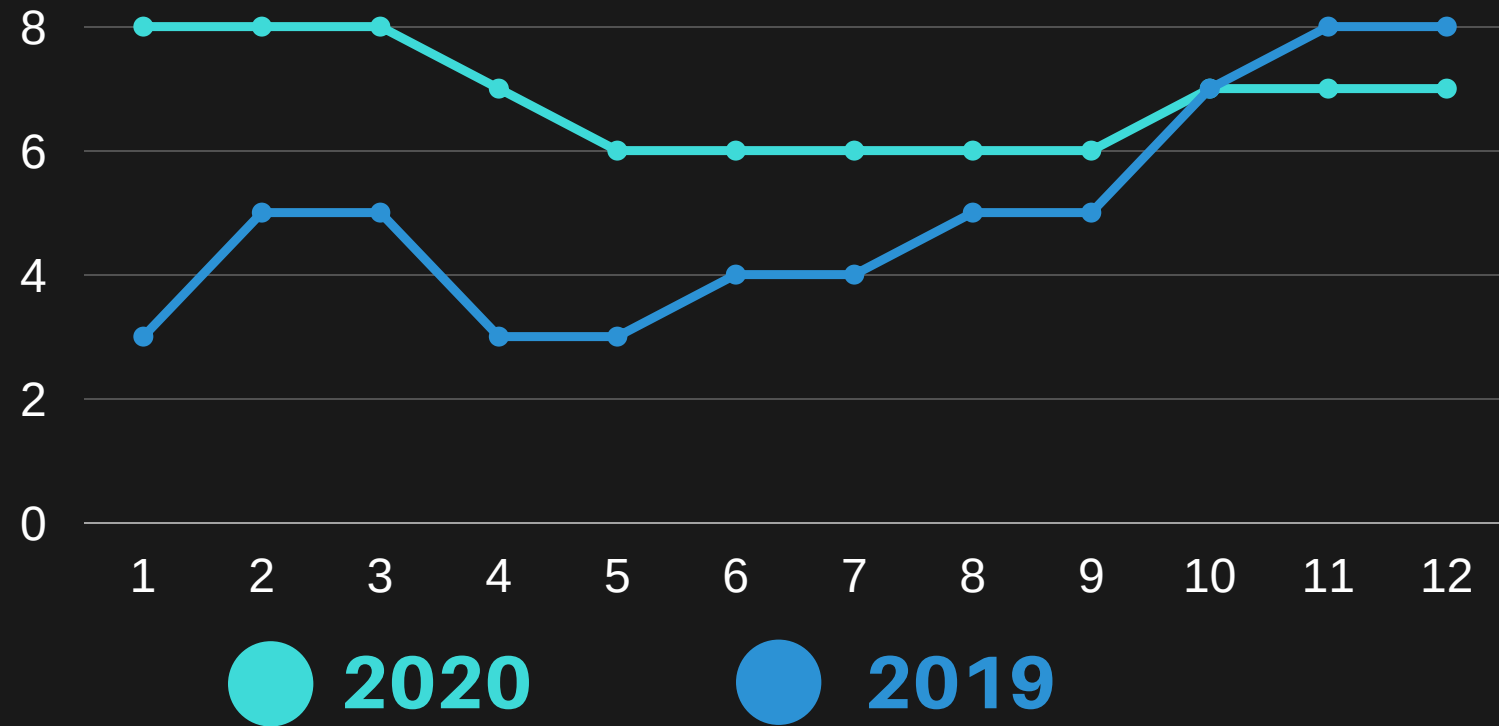
Are we celebrating what God has done, fellowshiping with the larger body of believers?





	2018	2019	2020	2021
House Churches	4	8	7	9
Other Churches Coached	2	2	2	2
Underground Seminary	15	61	84	100
New Families	6	8	8	10
Missionary Trips	3	5	0	0
New Believers	3	4	4	?
New Elders	2	2	0	0
Baptisms	2	1	10	5

HOUSE CHURCH MULTIPLICATION BY MONTH



HOUSE CHURCHES

GROWTH THROUGH:
NEW FAMILIES
HUNGRY CHURCH MISSIONS
GRAFTING IN ESTABLISHED GROUP

- LORAIN COUNTY, OH
- ONLINE (OH)
- HUDSON, OH
- KENT, OH
- SPOKANE, WA
- EL SALVADOR
- NICARAGUA

GIVING

2020 GIVING PLAN

MONTHLY EXPENSES: \$3,128

MISSIONS GIVING GOAL: \$3,128

TOTAL: \$6,256

EMAIL SUBSCRIBERS: 117

NEEDED MONTHLY GIVING: \$55/PERSON



50%

Missions Support,
Training, and Oversight

2020 ACTUALS

TOTAL OPERATIONS: \$45,262.25*

MISSIONS GIVING GOAL: \$50,132.49

END OF YEAR CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE: \$17,086.56

*INCLUDES FUNDS MISAPPROPRIATED BY FORMER TREASURER



HEALTHY AREAS

By God's Grace We....

love one another,
make disciples,
support missions
giving

and are seeing growth to match loss

+ RESTORATION
MAKE DISCIPLES | GATHER TOGETHER | GET EQUIPPED

22 Questo dissero i suoi genitori perché avevano paura dei Giudei: infatti i Giudei avevano già stabilito che se uno riconoscesse Gesù come Cristo, fosse espulso dalla sinagoga^a.

23 Per questo i suoi genitori dissero: «Egli è adulto, domandatelo a lui».

24 Essi dunque chiamarono per la seconda volta l'uomo che era stato cieco, e gli dissero: «Da' gloria a Dio! Noi sappiamo che quest'uomo è un peccatore».

25 Egli rispose: «Se egli sia un peccatore, non so; una cosa so, che ero cieco e ora ci vedo».

26 Essi allora gli dissero: «Che cosa ti ha fatto? Come ti aprì gli occhi?»

27 Egli rispose loro: «Ve l'ho già detto e voi non avete ascoltato; perché volete udirlo di nuovo? Volete forse diventari suoi discepoli anche voi?»

28 Essi lo insultarono e dissero: «Sei tu discepolo di costui! Noi siamo discepoli di Mosè».

29 Noi sappiamo che a Mosè Dio ha parlato; ma in quanto a costui, non sappiamo di dove sia».

30 L'uomo rispose loro: «Questo poi è strano: che voi non sappiate di dove sia; eppure mi ha aperto gli occhi!»

31 Si sa che Dio non esaudisce i peccatori; ma se uno è pio e fa la volontà di Dio, egli lo esaudisce.

32 Da che mondo è mondo non si è mai udito che uno abbia aperto gli occhi a uno nato cieco.

33 Se quest'uomo non fosse da Dio, non potrebbe far nulla».

34 Essi gli risposero: «Tu sei tutto quanto nato nel peccato e insegni a noi?» E lo cacciarono fuori.

Lu 10:21; Gv 10:2-5; 1 P 2:6-8; Is 42:16; 2 Co 4:3-6

35 Gesù udì che lo avevano cacciato fuori; e, trovatolo, gli disse: «Credi nel Figlio dell'uomo?»

36 Quegli rispose: «Chi è, Signore, perché io creda in lui?»

37 Gesù gli disse: «Tu l'hai già visto: è colui che parla con te, è lui».

38 Egli disse: «Signore, io credo». E l'adorò.

39 Gesù disse: «Io sono venuto in questo mondo per fare un giudizio, affinché quelli che non vedono vedano, e quelli che vedono diventino ciechi».

40 Alcuni farisei, che erano con lui, udirono queste cose e gli dissero: «Siamo ciechi anche noi?»

41 Gesù rispose loro: «Se foste ciechi, non avreste alcun peccato; ma siccome dite: "Noi vediamo", il vostro peccato rimane».

Gesù, il buon pastore
Gv 9:24-38; Ez 34:1-19; 1 P 5:1-4; Eb 13:20

10 «In verità, in verità vi dico che chi non entra per la porta nell'ovile delle pecore, ma vi sale da un'altra parte, è un ladro e un brigante.

2 Ma colui che entra per la porta è il pastore delle pecore;

3 A lui apre il portinaio, e le pecore ascoltano la sua voce, ed egli chiama le proprie pecore per nome e le conduce fuori.

4 Quando ha messo fuori tutte le sue pecore, va davanti a loro, e le pecore lo seguono, perché conoscono la sua voce.

5 Ma un estraneo non lo seguiranno; anzi, fuggiranno via da lui perché non conoscono la voce degli estranei».

6 Questa similitudine disse loro Gesù; ma essi non capirono quali fossero le cose che diceva loro.

Gv 14:6 (Is 40:11; Sl 23) 1 P 2:24, 25; Ef 5:2, 25-27; 2:11-19

7 Perciò Gesù di nuovo disse loro: «In verità, in verità vi dico: io sono la porta^b delle pecore.

8 Tutti quelli che sono venuti prima di me, sono stati ladri e briganti; ma le pecore non li hanno ascoltati:

9 Io sono la porta; se uno entra per me, sarà salvato, entrerà e uscirà, e

^a (9:22) Per un Giudeo, essere espulso dalla sinagoga voleva dire essere messo al bando dalla società.
^b (10:7) Il ministero di pastore del Signore consta di tre aspetti:

GROWTH AREAS

By God's Grace We Could Grow In...

Evangelism
Prayer



+ RESTORATION
MAKE DISCIPLES | GATHER TOGETHER | GET EQUIPPED

MEMBERSHIP

Committing Together