

# WORLD CHRISTIAN ENCYCLOPEDIA

A comparative survey of churches and  
religions in the modern world

SECOND EDITION

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George T. Kurian  
Todd M. Johnson

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

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# ANTARCTICA



## SECULAR DATA, AD 2000

### STATE

**Official name:** Antarctica.  
**Short name:** Antarctica. **Adjective of nationality:** Antarctic.  
**Area:** 15,500,000 sq. km. (5,980,000 sq. mi.).  
**Government:** 1961 treaty signed by 39 countries.  
**Legislature:** Treaty signers, 39 members.  
**Official language:** English.  
**Monetary unit:** 1 US dollar = 100 cents. **US\$1= \$1.00.**  
**Political divisions:** 1 province.

### DEMOGRAPHY

**Population:** 5,000.  
**Population density:** 0.0/sq. km. (0.0/sq. mi.).  
**Under 15 years:** 1,000.

**Growth rate p.a.:** 1.19% (births 19.05, deaths 7.78).  
**Mortality: Infant, per 1,000:** 20.0; **Maternal per 100,000:** 10.0.  
**Life expectancy:** 74 (male 71, female 78).  
**Household size:** 2.0. **Floor area per person, sq.m:** 15.0.  
**Major languages:** English, Russian, Spanish, Chinese.  
**Urban dwellers:** 0.00%. **Urban growth rate p.a.:** 0.00%.  
**Labor force:** 100%.

### ECONOMY

**National income p.a. per person:** US\$80,000; **per family:** US\$160,000.

### EDUCATION

**Adult literacy:** 100% (male 100%, female 100%). **Schools:** 0.  
**Universities:** 0. **School enrolment:** female/male: 100%/100%.

### HEALTH

**Access to health services:** 80%. **Access to safe water:** 100%.  
**Hospitals:** 1 (20 beds per 10,000). **Doctors:** 20.  
**Blind:** 10. **Deaf:** 300. **Murder rate:** 1. **Lepers:** 0.

### LITERATURE

**New book titles p.a.:** 5 (1,000 p.a. per million). **Periodicals:** 0.  
**Newspapers:** 0 dailies.

### COMMUNICATION (per 1,000 people)

**Phones:** 200 (50% mobile). **Radios:** 2,000. **TV sets:** 200.  
**Daily newspaper circulation:** <1. **Computers:** 2,000.

### HUMAN LIFE AND LIBERTY (optimum condition=100.0%)

**HDI:** 80.0. **HSI:** 70.0. **HFI:** 80.0. **EFL:** 50.0.

Country Table 1. Population and religious adherents in Antarctica, 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	%
Christians	0	0.0	370	74.0	2,300	76.7	110	0	110	3.99	2,900	74.4	3,400	68.0	8,000	80.0	
PROFESSION																	
AFFILIATION																	
affiliated Christians	0	0.0	370	74.0	2,300	76.7	110	0	110	3.99	2,900	74.4	3,400	68.0	8,000	80.0	
Roman Catholics	0	0.0	200	40.0	950	31.7	45	0	45	3.95	1,250	32.1	1,400	28.0	3,000	30.0	
Protestants	0	0.0	100	20.0	630	21.0	34	0	34	4.41	780	20.0	970	19.4	3,000	30.0	
Independents	0	0.0	40	8.0	500	16.7	20	0	20	3.42	600	15.4	700	14.0	1,500	15.0	
Anglicans	0	0.0	30	6.0	200	6.7	10	0	10	4.14	250	6.4	300	6.0	400	4.0	
Orthodox	0	0.0	0	0.0	20	0.7	1	0	1	4.14	20	0.5	30	0.6	100	1.0	
Trans-megabloc groupings																	
Nonreligious	0	0.0	100	20.0	910	30.3	75	0	75	1.05	890	22.8	1,410	28.2	1,500	15.0	
Muslims	0	0.0	10	2.0	40	1.3	8	0	8	11.61	60	1.5	120	2.4	200	2.0	
Hindus	0	0.0	10	2.0	30	1.0	1	0	1	2.92	30	0.8	40	0.8	200	2.0	
Buddhists	0	0.0	10	2.0	20	0.7	1	0	1	4.14	20	0.5	30	0.6	100	1.0	
World A (unevangelized persons)	0	0.0	50	10.0	183	6.1	4	0	4	1.97	218	5.6	270	5.4	350	3.5	
World B (evangelized non-Christians)	0	100.0	80	16.0	517	24.2	81	0	81	9.91	781	20.0	1,330	19.0	1,650	16.5	
World C (Christians)	0	0.0	370	74.0	2,300	69.7	110	0	110	3.99	2,900	74.4	3,400	75.6	8,000	80.0	
Country's population	0	100.0	500	100.0	3,000	100.0	195	0	195	5.24	3,900	100.0	5,000	100.0	10,000	100.0	

**Country status.** Antarctica is an island continent with 39 nations having stakes on it of varying size, but all accepting internationally agreed limitations for the present and future (the Antarctic Treaty of 1959). There is no military or economic exploitation, leaving scientific research as the only viable activity.

## HUMAN LIFE AND LIBERTY

**Human rights and freedoms.** Personnel of the different nations have achieved a high level of cooperation and respect for each other and assist each other at every turn. Determination to preserve the continent from political quarrels kept relations between the USA and USSR cordial and mutually assisting throughout the Cold War, 1945-1991. This camaraderie continues throughout the 1990s.



**Protestants.** Chapel of the Snows, used by all groups since 1958.

**Human environment.** The world's fifth largest continent, Antarctica has unique mineral and other resources, most notably its 14,700-foot thick ice cap which contains 75% of the Earth's water and 90% of its ice. Its greatest economic potential lies in carefully managed exploitation of the harvesting of krill in circumpolar waters.

## NON-CHRISTIAN RELIGIONS

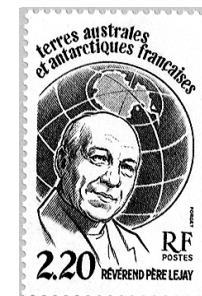
Religion has little role in activities or relations. The table above gives the de facto religious affiliation of scientists and support personnel resident there. Many express awe at the beauty and immensity of the Antarctic world and relate it to God's creative activity.

## CHRISTIANITY

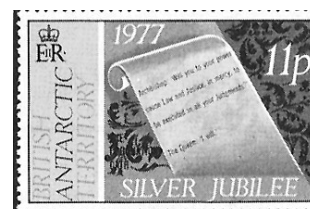
Most personnel are Christians and many have personal Christian convictions and practice. There are several informal discussion groups. Only one permanent church building exists, the Chapel of the Snows, served usually by one Protestant pastor and one Catholic chaplain.

## BROADCASTING AND MEDIA

Many religious radio and TV programs are regularly accessed from the world's stations to the north.



**Roman Catholic.** Left. Church on Kerguelen, Notre-Dame des Vents (Church of the Winds). Right. Pioneer worker, fr LeJay.



**Left. Christians.** Postage stamp showing 1953 Coronation oath administered by Archbishop of Canterbury.

### FUTURE TRENDS AND PROSPECTS

With the vast biological, mineral, and other resources of Antarctica, and the unique political agreement about its development, the future of Antarctica is full of promise. At one time there was a proposal to build a semi-subterranean city there as the headquarters of the United Nations, and a name had even been proposed for it – Amundsen City.

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Country Table 2. Stations, populations, and Christians from 40 countries in Antarctica, AD 1995.

Claimants, territories, stations	Status of claim	Begun	Area sq. km	sq. mi.	Population	Christians	Megablocs
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Argentinian Antarctic Sector	Sovereignty claimed. Station in IGY 1957.	1903			50	40	Mainly Roman Catholics.
Australian Antarctic Territory	Sovereignty claimed. Station in IGY 1957.	1933	6,119,818	2,362,875	40	30	Anglicans and Roman Catholics.
Austria	Signatory only after 1965.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Belgium	Station in IGY 1957. Signatory 1959.	1957	—	—	—	—	—
Brazil	Signatory only, after 1965.	1983	—	—	—	—	—
British Antarctic Territory	Sovereign Crown Colony. Stations.	1908	—	475,025	350	250	Anglicans, some Protestants.
Bulgaria	Signatory only, after 1965.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Canada	Signatory only, after 1960.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chilean Antarctic Territory	Sovereignty claimed. Big investments.	1940	1,269,723	—	1,550	1,320	Roman Catholics, also Independent pentecostals.
Chinese station (King George Is)	Signatory only, after 1965..	1984	—	—	60	10	Non-Christians.
Colombia	Signatory only, after 1965.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cuba	Signatory only, after 1965.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Czech Republic	Signatory only, after 1965.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Denmark	Signatory only, after 1965.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ecuador	Signatory only, after 1965.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Finland	Signatory only, after 1965.	—	—	—	—	—	—
French Southern & Antarctic Terrs	Sovereignty, as TAAF.	1938	7,557	2,918	330	100	Roman Catholics, several atheists.
German station	Signatory after 1965..	1981	—	—	40	30	Protestants and Catholics.
Greece	Signatory only, after 1965.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hungary	Signatory only, after 1965.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Indian station	Signatory only, after 1965.	1983	—	—	60	10	Hindus, secularists.
Italian expedition	Signatory only, after 1965.	1975	—	—	—	—	—
Japanese stations	Station in IGY 1957. Signatory 1959.	1957	—	—	70	10	Buddhists, a few Catholics.
Netherlands	Signatory only, after 1965.	—	—	—	—	—	—
North Korea	Signatory only, after 1965.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Papua New Guinea	Signatory only, after 1965.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Peru	Signatory only, after 1965.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Polish station	Signatory only, after 1965.	1976	—	—	20	20	Roman Catholics.
Queen Maud Land (Norway)	Sovereignty claimed. A dependency.	1910	—	—	40	30	Protestants.
Romania	Signatory only, after 1965	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ross Dependency (NZ)	Sovereignty claimed. IGY. Signatory 1959.	1923	450,000	—	20	10	Protestants, Anglicans, nonreligious.
Russian station	No formal claim. Stations in IGY 1957-8	1950	—	—	10	5	Orthodox, secularists, atheists.
South African station	Station in IGY 1957. Signatory 1959	1950	—	—	10	5	Protestants, Independents.
South Georgia (Britain)	Annexed by captain James Cook.	1775	—	1,450	50	30	Anglicans, Protestants.
South Korea	Signatory only, after 1965.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Spain	Signatory only, after 1965.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Switzerland	Signatory only, after 1965.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Swedish exploration	Signatory only, after 1965.	1949	—	—	—	—	—
United States Antarctic Stations	No formal claim. Big base at McMurdo.	1928	—	—	1,200	1,000	Protestants, Catholics, Orthodox, Independents.
Uruguay	Signatory only, after 1965.	1975	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Totals</i>					<i>3,900</i>	<i>2,900</i>	