



**AMP 1-17-16 | 9:00 - 9:30am**

**Geography:** Area: 30,244,000 sq km

20.3% of the world's surface area. Of this, 20.6 million sq km are in countries south of the Sahara, and 9.68 million in the nations of North Africa.

**Population:** 1,033,042,510 **Annual Growth:** 2.30%

**Urbanites:** 40%

**Peoples:** 2,500

**Languages:** 2,110

**Religion**

**Largest Religion:** Christian

Religion	Pop %	Ann Gr
Christians	503,742,508	48.77 2.6
Evangelicals	182,442,247	17.7 3.6

**Answer to Prayer**

Christianity has grown to become the religion of almost half of Africa's population, and nearly two-thirds of sub-Saharan Africa. From 1900 to 2010, Christian numbers grew from 9.1% of the population to 48.8%, and from 7.5 million to 504 million.

**Prayer Points:**

- Discipleship is rightly being addressed as Africa's greatest challenge. The growth of Christianity has been sensational, but the follow-up has traditionally been lacking. Non-Christian customs and worldviews permeate the Church. Syncretism is a major problem in many areas. Thorough repentance and renunciation of sin and the works of darkness are often lacking, and many Christians are not free from the influence of witchcraft and evil spirits. Churches and ministries throughout Africa now place a high priority on discipleship. This will shape more Christ-like character and promote a biblical worldview among church-goers. (The Church in Africa 1)
- Leadership training is recognized as the critical bottleneck. Leaders are in short supply at every level – for village congregations, for the urban educated, for theological training, for missionary endeavour and for national-level leadership. (The Church in Africa 4)
- Africa has 13 of the world's 20 least-evangelized countries by percentage. There are many clusters of unreached peoples in Africa. The vast majority are Muslim of varying degrees of commitment and orthodoxy. Reaching them will be a great challenge in terms of spiritual opposition, cultural learning and effective mission strategies. (The Unreached in Africa Introduction)
- Islam is the major challenge for Christianity today – both the 182 million Muslims north of the Sahara and the 246 million in sub-Saharan Africa. The "race" to win peoples to Christ from the traditional religions in West Africa and across the Sahel has largely been lost; most have been Islamized, even if only superficially. More recently, Muslim missionary efforts have extended to nearly every country in Africa, and in many places, especially in Central Africa, they are very successful. The use of oil-funded education, aid projects and grants, and a well orchestrated drive to give Islam a role in Africa's political life, have had some success. African Christians as well as mission agencies need to make Muslims a priority for demonstrations of the love of Christ, and culturally sensitive approaches must be developed for planting churches among them. (Major Great Commission Challenges 1)
- Nations with the smallest number of evangelicals. These are priority countries with less than 1% evangelicals: Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Mauritania, Senegal, Gambia, Mali, Guinea, Niger, Djibouti, Somalia, Mayotte and Comoros. They fall into four main groups – North Africa, West Africa, Horn of Africa and the Indian Ocean Islands. (Major Great Commission Challenges 2)
- Cities. Africa's urban population has rapidly risen from 130 million in 1990 up to 390 million in 2010. It is the world's most rapidly urbanizing continent. Lack of economic development and poor infrastructure mean that it is the slums, shantytowns and informal settlements that have mushroomed. These cities have become focal points for dire poverty, squalor, crime, prostitution, disease and misery. New ways must be found to impact these cities for God and plant churches that will transform urban areas. (Major Great Commission Challenges 3)