CHRISTIANITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST

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Category: Church: World

There is an excellent article in today's Independant on the future of Christianity in the Middle East:

> *Across the Middle East, it is the same story of despairing â€“ sometimes frightened â€“ Christian minorities, and of an exodus that reaches almost Biblical proportions. Almost half of Iraq's Christians have fled their country since the first Gulf War in 1991, most of them after the 2004 invasion â€“ a weird tribute to the self-proclaimed Christian faith of the two Bush presidents who went to war with Iraq â€“ and stand now at 550,000, scarcely 3 per cent of the population. More than half of Lebanon's Christians now live outside their country. Once a majority, the nation's one and a half million Christians, most of them Maronite Catholics, comprise perhaps 35 per cent of the Lebanese. Egypt's Coptic Christians â€“ there are at most around eight million â€“ now represent less than 10 per cent of the population...*
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> *...Americans, so obsessed by the myths of East-West "clashes of civilisation" since 11 September 2001, often seem to regard Christianity as a "Western" rather than an Eastern religion, neatly separating the Middle East roots of their own religion from the lands of Islam. That in itself is a loss of faith.*