CHRISTIANITY IN ITS GLOBAL CONTEXT

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Category: Observations

The internet is a wonderful thing; there is a lot of rubbish out there, but there are also lots of videos of puppies and kittens and there are also some really useful books and bits of information.

One wonderful resource that many people don't seem to be aware of is the excellent June 2013 report on Christianity in its Global Context 1970-2020 from the Centre for the Study of Global Christianity at Gordon Conwell Seminary.

Available as a free pdf download, the report stretches to almost 100 A4 pages, packed with statistics, graphs, charts and a fair bit of prose. If you are interested in world mission, the Global church of the history and future of Christianity, you should own a copy of this report. Whether youÂ load it onto your tablet or generic e-reader device, view it on the screen of your laptop, or go old-school and print it off on actual paper (which is what I did), you need to have a copy of this report available to you.

Take my word for it; go and get a copy now.

> *Christians around the world today find themselves in contexts that are very different from those of 40 yearsÂ ago. Since 1970, many societies have experienced dramatic social upheavals and severe environmentalÂ catastrophes, yet the period from 1970 to 2010 was also a time of great technological advancement andÂ increased connections between people around the world. Such changes challenge Â Christians to think differentlyÂ about the people among whom they live and work, the ways in which they Â interact with them, andÂ the potential for future cooperation.*
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> *Christianity in its Global Context, 1970â€“2020: Society, Religion, and Mission, a report produced in 2013 byÂ researchers at the Center for the Study of Global Christianity, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, SouthÂ Hamilton, Massachusetts, offers a timely overview of the changing demographics of Christianity and Christiansâ€™Â activities over the past 40 years while looking forward to the next ten. If current trends continue, whatÂ will be the state of the world in 2020? Who will be the neighbors of Christians, and what issues will they beÂ facing together? Here we summarize the key findings from the full report, which is available for PDF downloadÂ at www.globalchristianity.org/globalcontext.*
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> *Christianity in its Global Context presents global data on the demographics of world religions, providingÂ evidence for the continued resurgence of religion into the twenty-first century. It covers global Â Christianity,Â including Evangelicalism and Pentecostalism, and offers projections for where growth of all major ChristianÂ traditions is most likely to occur in the future. The bulk of the report details the Christian, religious, and social contexts of each of the 21 United Nations (UN) regions and what changes have occurred or willÂ likely occur from 1970 to 2020, with discussions of key social issues that are putting pressure on residentsÂ in each region, particularly those currently being addressed by*

> *the UN Millennium Development Goals.Â The sections on social issues do not include every issue facing a particular region, but instead choose oneÂ of particular importance to highlight. The â€œMission and Societyâ€ section of the report details the status ofÂ the worldwide missionary movement, including personal contact between Christians and other religionistsÂ around the globe, the status of unreached people groups,Â and the religious demographics of international migrants.*

Now stop reading this and go and download it.