


Discipleship: Deepening the roots of our faith




Go and make disciples is Christ's final command to the Church.


Christians face the twin challenges of making disciples of ourselves and making disciples of others. Discipleship with its twin priorities is perhaps the most pressing challenge that faces the Church.


- Discipleship is vital for new Christians, turning an encounter with Christ into a walk with Christ, learning to walk alongside others in Christian communities.
- Discipleship is equally important among people with a long Christian heritage or who grew up in Christian homes. Much is lost unless each new generation meets and follows Christ for itself.

 Pray for all disciple-makers around the world – all those who explain and apply the Bible week by week; those

who teach the children; the youth workers who lead and mentor young people.

 Pray for all those who train the disciple-makers of the future. Some of this is done formally in thousands of training institutes. Some is done informally through mentoring. Pray for a training ethos to spread through the Church.

 Pray for the songwriters, musicians and worship leaders who set truth to music, and who can give voice to our voiceless prayers, enabling the word to 'dwell richly among us' (See Colossians 3:16).

 Pray the great prayers of the Bible for ourselves and the whole Church – that we would grow in our understanding of God, our grasp of his love, our unity, our perceptiveness and fruitfulness in his service.

ASIA

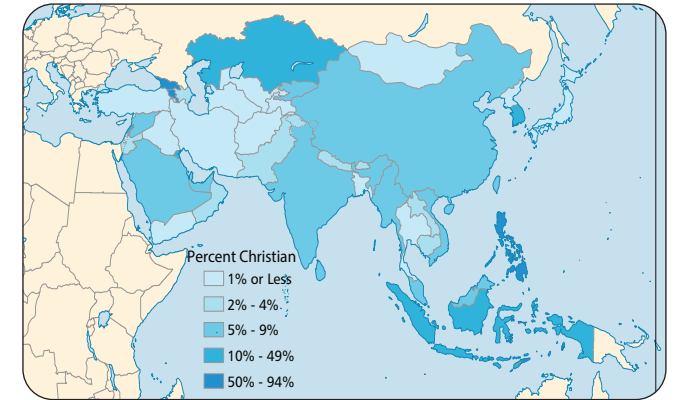
Asia is home to 60% of the world population across 48 countries. It is also a mosaic of 5000 ethnolinguistic peoples.

• **South Asian peoples** (37% of Asia's population): mostly in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. The Church is growing among the poor, less so among the rest.

• **East Asian** (36%): In South Korea the Church is a large part of society; in North Korea, a hunted minority; in Japan a respected few; in China a fast-growing new reality.

• **Malay** (8%): These well-travelled peoples have welcomed the gospel in the Philippines and in some parts of Indonesia. Christians are much fewer in Malaysia, and many parts of Indonesia still have few Christians.

• **SE Asian** (5.4%): In Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, Myanmar and Laos. Only a few of these Buddhist peoples have enjoyed significant movements to Christ, though Vietnam has a rapidly growing Church.




• **Turkic** (3.7%): These Muslim peoples of Central Asia enjoyed a burst of church growth after the fall of Communism. Now it is harder.

• **Iranian-Median** (3.6%): Very few of these people in Iran, Pakistan, Azerbaijan, Syria and Turkey are Christians, though the Church is growing fast in Iran. Satellite TV and the internet are helping take the gospel beyond closed borders.

• **Arab World** (2.8%): The ancient churches are declining, often through emigration. But a new (and still much smaller) Church is emerging as people turn to Christ from a Muslim background.

• **Tibetan/Himalayan** (2.3%): Some people in NE India, W China and Nepal have turned to Christ. Most have not, including Burmese and Tibetan peoples.

Asia's Christians were 1.8% of the world population in 1900 and 5.2% in 2018.

 Pray that there will be many more turnings to Christ in Asia - on a scale and depth that will amaze us!

