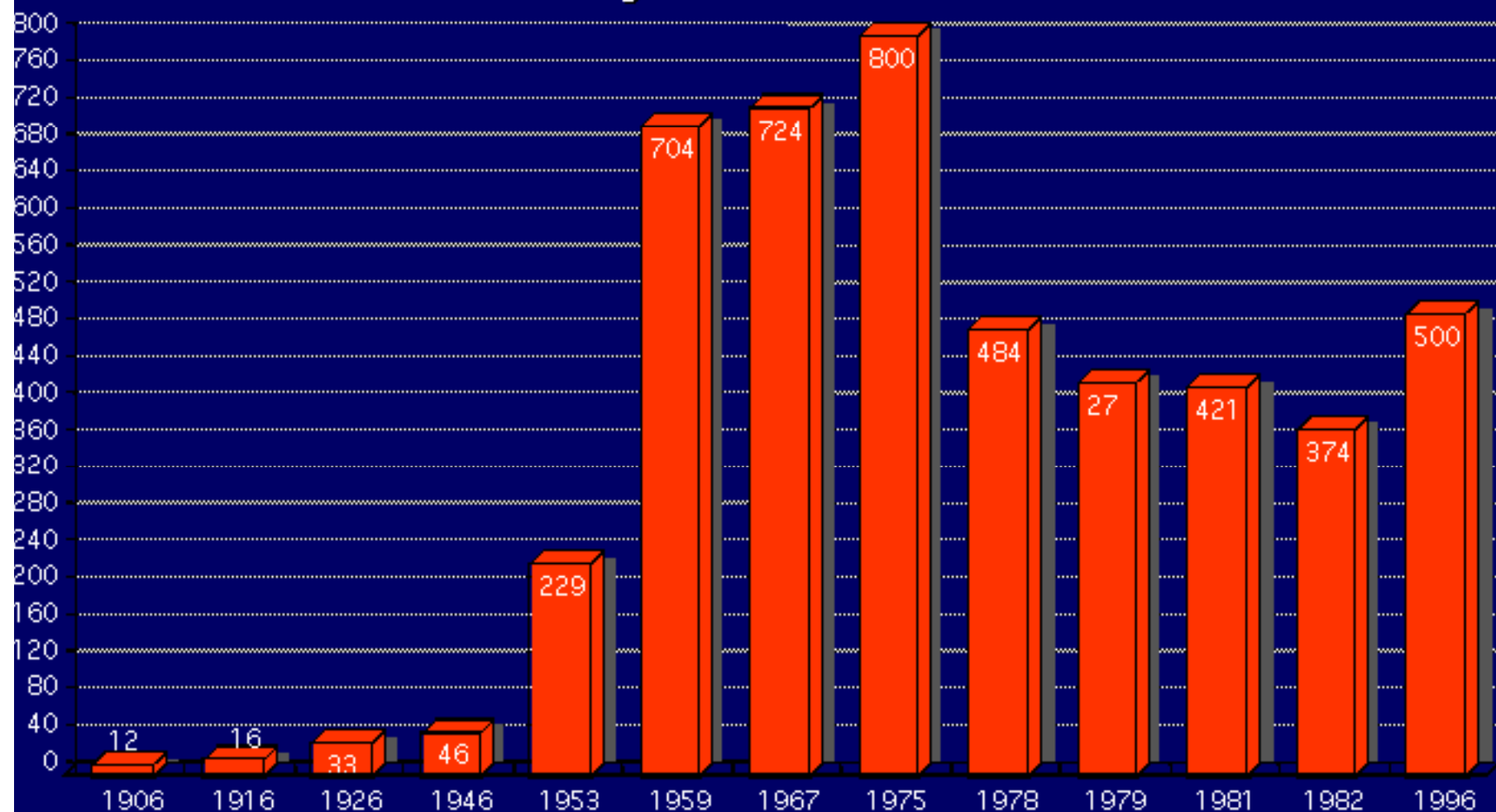




**AROUND THE WORLD  
IN SIXTY MINUTES**

**The State of Missions**

# Missionary Families 1906–1996



# Current Missionaries

Full-time, long-term

U.S. missionaries:

Africa = 183

Asia = 260

L. America = 238

Europe = 265

Oceania = 63

Total = 1009



# Latin America

- **Population: 561 million**
- **Churches: 1800**
- **Members: 90,000-100,000**
- **Missionaries: 238**



# Encouraging Trends

- **Spiritual openness due to shift away from traditional Catholicism**
- **More national evangelists and Latin American mission teams**
- **Better prepared national leaders**
- **Hispanics in the USA**

# Challenges

- **Population explosion**
- **Demographic shift to urban sites**
- **Resurgence of socialism**
- **Rise of Pentecostalism**
- **Contextualizing the Gospel and Church**

# Challenges

- **Balancing evangelism and relief/development ministries**
- **Partnering with nationals and developing leaders**

# Europe

- **Population: 710-810 million**
- **Churches: 400-500**
- **Members: 12,000-13,000**
- **Missionaries: 265**





# Encouraging Trends

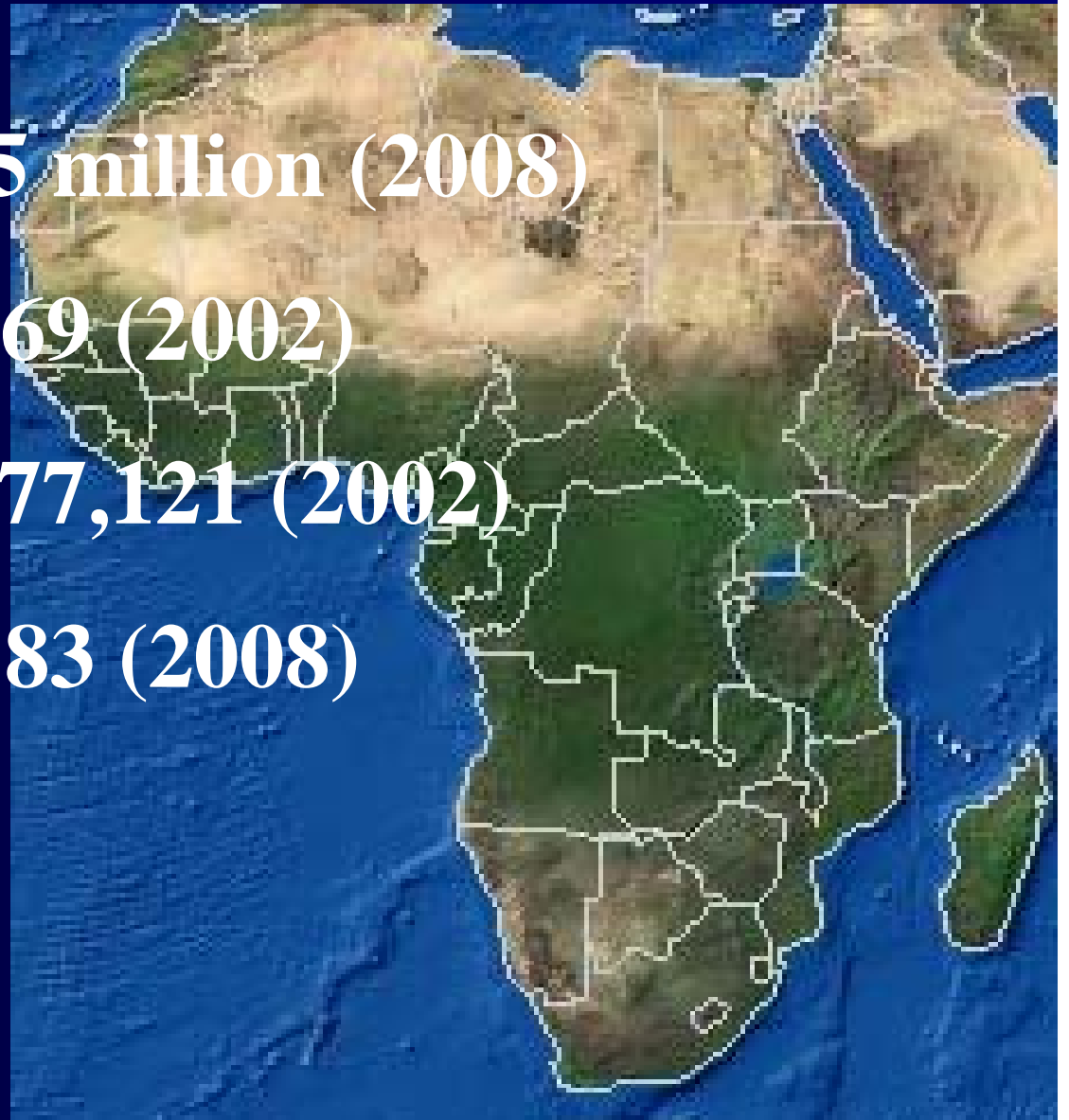
- Evidence of new spiritual hunger
- Fear of Islam causing some people to reconsider Christianity
- Growth of churches comprised of non-European immigrants
- Many new churches planted since fall of communism
- European church leaders taking more initiative

# Challenges

- **Post-Christian mindset**
- **Rising costs and weak dollar**
- **Low level of trust**
- **Need for long-term mentality among workers**

# Africa

- **Population: 955 million (2008)**
- **Churches: 14,669 (2002)**
- **Members: 1,1077,121 (2002)**
- **Missionaries: 183 (2008)**



# Africa

## Sub-Saharan Churches of Christ: Members per Congregation

1989—6,222 (67 per congregation)

1992—6,959 (59 per congregation)

1993—7,008 (58 per congregation)

1997—9,401 (73 per congregation)

2000—12,365 (65 per congregation)

2002—14,669 (73 per congregation)

# Africa

## Sub-Saharan Churches of Christ: Members Who Attend Regularly

1989—419,207

1992—409,924

1993—408,682

1997—685,532

2000—799,870

2002—1,077,121

# Encouraging Trends

- **Continued growth**
- **New missionaries among unreached peoples, especially in French-speaking West Africa & Portuguese-speaking Mozambique**
- **Emphasis on partnership between Africans and Americans**

# Challenges

- **French and Portuguese-speaking nations**
- **Spread of Islam**
- **Chronic poverty, need for sustainable, holistic development**
- **2000+ languages**

# Asia

- Population: 3.7 billion (60% of earth's population)
- 2000 languages
- 89 world class cities
- only 8% claim allegiance to Christ
- 260 missionaries





# Encouraging Trends

- **Estimated 1,000+ congregations**
- **Globalization brings new exposure to gospel**
- **Bright spots:**
  - **100+ vocational missionaries teaching English in China**
  - **24 missionaries, 900 congregations in Philippines**
  - **10 missionaries, 4 congregations in Cambodia**

# Challenges

- **The odds: Estimated 260 missionaries working to reach 3.7 billion**
- **Government restrictions limit access**
- **Christianity equated with Western culture**
- **Pervasive influence of ancient religions**

# Oceania

- **Total of 25,000 islands covering 1.6 million square kilometers**
- **The largest spread of territory on the planet, includes Australia, New Zealand, Micronesia, Melanesia, and Polynesia**
- **Population: 34 million people**
- **63 missionaries**

# Oceania

- **Australia: 20.4 million people, 90 congregations, 2000 members, 3 American missionaries**
- **New Zealand: 4.1 million people, 24 congregations, 1100 members, 7 American missionaries**
- **Papua New Guinea: 5.7 million people, 160 congregations, 5 American missionaries**

# United States

- **Population: 300 million**
- **Churches: 12,963**
- **Members: 1,265,844**
- **Missionaries: ???**

# United States

## Overall Growth in U.S. Churches of Christ (1980-2007)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Churches</u>	<u>Members</u>	<u>Adherents</u>
<b>1980</b>	12,719	1,239,612	1,600,177
<b>2006</b>	12,963	1,265,844	1,639,495
<b>Net</b>	<b>+ 244</b> 1.9%	<b>+26,232</b> 2.1%	<b>+39,318</b> 2.5%

**Flavil R. Yeakley, Jr., Ph.D.**  
**Harding Center for Church Growth Studies**  
**(2007)**

# Encouraging Trends

- **Evidence of new spiritual hunger**
- **Religion and Christianity openly discussed**
- **Spiritual restlessness due to cultural, economic, and other changes**
- **Search for significance, reality, values**
- **Rising interest in simple, reproducible, non-denominational churches**
- **Increasing interest in evangelism**

# Challenges

- **Post-Christian mindset**
- **Decreasing popularity of “Christianity”**
- **Urbanization**
- **Losses in “Bible Belt”**
- **Leaders walking by faith**
- **Viewing U.S. as mission field**



# United States

## U.S. States With a High Concentration of Adherents, Members, and Congregations in Churches of Christ

<u>States</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Cumulative % of total U.S. membership</u>
<b>Texas</b>	<b>22.4</b>	<b>22.4</b>
<b>Tennessee</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>35.6</b>
<b>Alabama</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>42.8</b>
<b>Arkansas</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>48.1</b>
<b>Oklahoma</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>53.0</b>

# United States

## U.S. States With a High Concentration of Adherents, Members, and Congregations in Churches of Christ

<u>States</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Cumulative % of total U.S. membership</u>
<b>Kentucky</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>56.6</b>
<b>Georgia</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>59.8</b>
<b>Missouri</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>62.5</b>
<b>Mississippi</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>65.1</b>
<b>Indiana</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>67.2</b>

# United States

## States With Greatest Loss of Congregations (1980 – 2007)

<b>Missouri</b>	<b>- 98</b>	<b>Kansas</b>	<b>- 17</b>
<b>Texas</b>	<b>- 85</b>	<b>Michigan</b>	<b>- 16</b>
<b>Oklahoma</b>	<b>- 45</b>	<b>Arkansas</b>	<b>- 15</b>
<b>Illinois</b>	<b>- 18</b>	<b>Ohio</b>	<b>- 5</b>

# United States

## States With Greatest Loss of Members (1980 – 2007)

Oklahoma	– 9.4*	Indiana	– 2.5
California	– 6	Illinois	– 2.1
Tennessee	– 5.5	Arkansas	– 1.5
W Virginia	– 4.9	Michigan	– 1
Missouri	– 3.7	Kentucky	– 600
Ohio	– 3.2	Oregon	– 479

\*In thousands

# United States

## U.S. Distribution of Adherents, Members, and Congregations

*10 states have about 50%  
of the total population of the USA.*

# United States

## U.S. Distribution of Adherents, Members, and Congregations

*37 states have 75% of USA population,*

*but*

*less than 30% of adherents, members, and  
congregations.*

## **Overall Positives**

- 1. Growing number of young people interested in missions.**
- 2. Mission teams are common.**
- 3. More missionaries are being trained in holistic ministry, the “both/and” of benevolence and development.**

## **Overall Positives**

- 4. Increasing number of missionaries from countries other than the U.S.**
- 5. Shift away from bringing nationals to America for training to training them at home.**



## **Overall Positives**

- 6. Increasing number of short-term efforts is raising missions awareness in sending churches.**
- 7. Sending churches are coordinating their efforts in certain fields.**

## **Overall Positives**

- 8. Wealth, mobility and technology are enhancing the role of sending churches in the efforts they support.**
- 9. Increasing number of churches that are recruiting missionaries.**

## **Overall Positives**

**10. U.S. churches reaching out to internationals in their own communities.**

# Overall Challenges

- 1. Missionaries committing to shorter terms of service.**
- 2. Danger that short-term campaigns replace more effective, long-term missions.**
- 3. Number of countries closing doors to American missionaries.**

# Overall Challenges

- 4. The impact of philosophical pluralism, relativism and terrorism on prospective missionaries and their parents.**
- 5. Declining evangelism in U.S. Churches and “plateaued” growth.**

# Overall Challenges

- 6. Economic priorities in American churches and increased competition for missions dollars.**
- 7. Worldwide urbanization**
- 8. Finding ways to bridge the widening gap between rich and poor**

# Overall Challenges

9. Globalization that is “flattening” the world
10. Forming partnerships with nationals that help and don’t hurt