

# Middle East Call to Prayer

Consider praying when the Muslim call to prayer goes out each day at dawn, mid-day, afternoon, sunset and night. Put a reminder on your phone or computer for one day a week at the five times of the Muslim call to prayer or every day at one of the five times.

Pray that even in the midst of terrible persecution, the Gospel will be made known with boldness.

This symbol is the Arabic letter N for Nasrani (Nazarene) used by some groups to denote Christians.



Pray for Christian leaders, that they may faithfully shepherd their flock during this season, with particular wisdom in how they gather together to worship.

## Historic Center of Christianity

Israel and Palestine are not the only parts of the region that are important in Christian history.

For over 1,000 years, Egypt was a majority-Christian country, even after the Arab Muslim conquest in AD 640. It still has a Christian minority (mostly Coptic) of nearly 13%.

Turkey's transformation from guardian of Christendom to unevangelized nation has been total. Now a secular state, it was the leader of the Christian world for centuries and then of the Muslim world for centuries more.

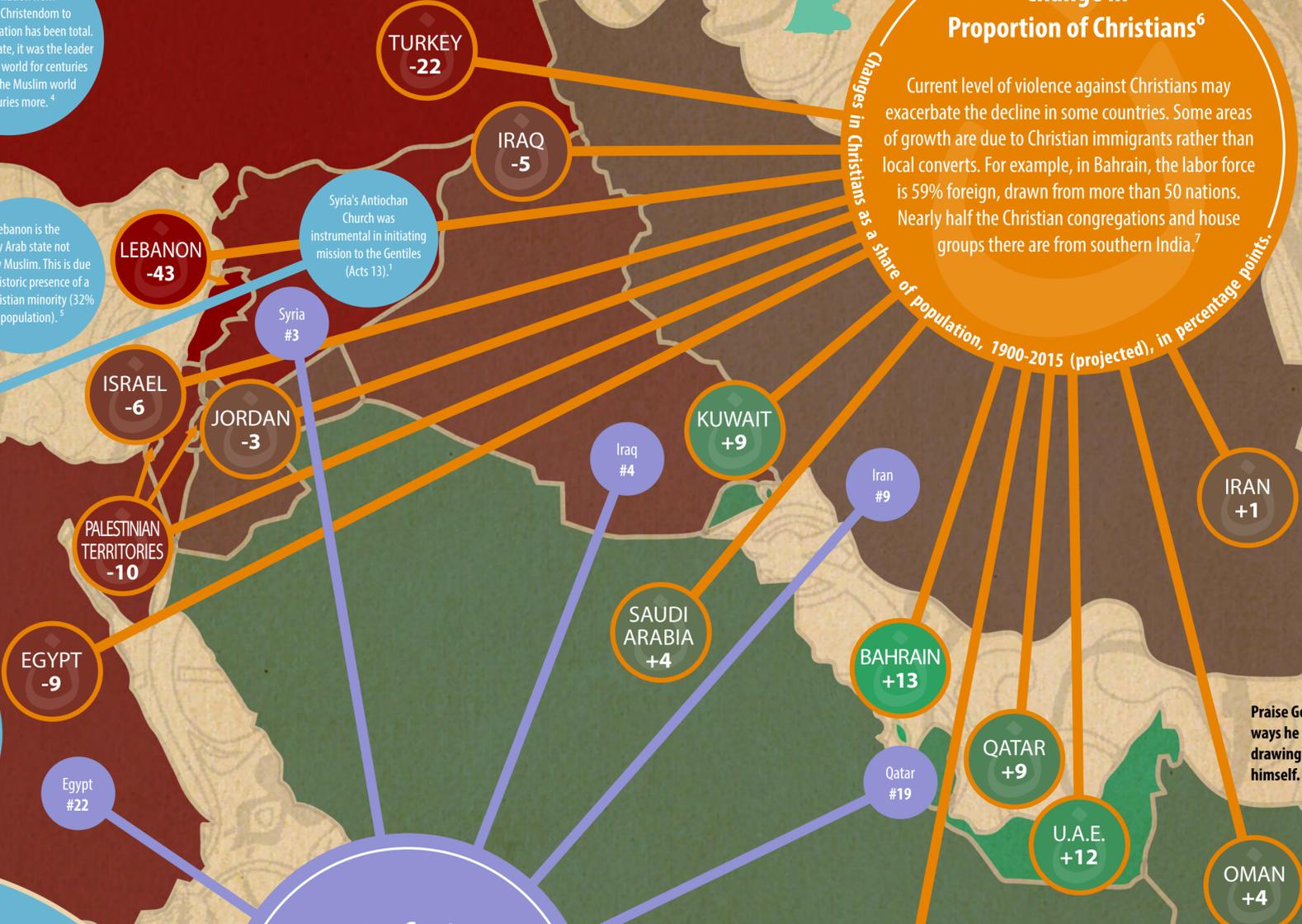
Lebanon is the only Arab state not officially Muslim. This is due to the historic presence of a large Christian minority (32% of population).

Syria's Antiochian Church was instrumental in initiating mission to the Gentiles (Acts 13).

## Change in Proportion of Christians<sup>6</sup>

Current level of violence against Christians may exacerbate the decline in some countries. Some areas of growth are due to Christian immigrants rather than local converts. For example, in Bahrain, the labor force is 59% foreign, drawn from more than 50 nations. Nearly half the Christian congregations and house groups there are from southern India.

Changes in Christians as a share of population, 1900-2015 (projected), in percentage points.



Praise God for the ways he is at work, drawing people to himself.

## 5 of 10

5 countries in the Middle East are among top 10 countries for religious persecution.<sup>10</sup> The top 25 countries for religious persecution include:

Pray for Christians in the Middle East who hear the Muslim call to prayer every day and who are facing difficult decisions about staying in their homes or fleeing persecution.

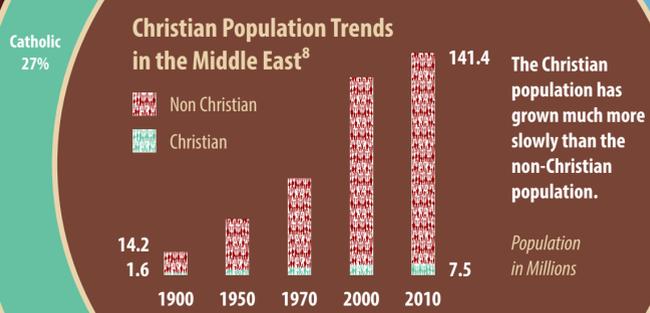
## God is at Work

Kasr El-Dobara, said to be the largest Protestant church in the Middle East, is strategically located near Tahrir Square in Cairo, Egypt.

69 movements to Christ in the Islamic World have emerged since 2000, each with at least 100 fellowships or 1,000 baptized believers.

Internet outreach provides evangelism and discipleship in areas where Christian activity is restricted. 5.8 million people accessed a gospel website from Egypt in 2013. Watch people accessing gospel information real-time on the map at [www.greatcommission2020.com](http://www.greatcommission2020.com).

## Christians Living In Middle East



The Christian population has grown much more slowly than the non-Christian population.

Catholic 27%

Protestant 7%

Orthodox 66%

Christians in the Middle East include all strands of Christian expression.

Sources are available at [www.missiographics.com/middleeastcalltoprayer](http://www.missiographics.com/middleeastcalltoprayer)

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