

Christ is All and in All



Lighting Your Fire: One Person at a Time



ABOUT US

Candlelighters International is a non-denominational Christian ministry having as its main function to equip people with a true understanding of the Christian faith and practice. Candlelighters International operates as a Christian Resource Centre, which pays particular attention in the development of local Christian community ministries outside the four walls of a church.

Candlelighters International is neither a church nor a denomination, but a fellowship of believers whom in the power of the Holy Spirit are committed to promoting and sharing the truth revealed and demonstrated by the life of Jesus the Christ. At Candlelighters International, we strive towards manifesting the fruits of the Holy Spirit, and radiating forth the glory of God Almighty to a lost world; beginning from our lives, to our local communities, and internationally. We think globally and act locally. We are a network of believers, pulling together our resources (talents, skills, callings, ministries, etc.) for the general service of the Body of Christ and our local communities.



OUR MISSION

To better equip, encourage, and strengthen Christians with the truth proper to the Word of God, for them to live-out its precepts and manifest the fruits of the Spirit, while fruitfully representing the Christian faith to a spiritually hungry, sick and skeptical world.

OVERALL GOAL

To promote spiritual growth through the power of the Holy Spirit, by helping to bring deeper information, knowledge, and practical applicable understanding of the Christian worldview in areas of daily living, relationships to and with the world, business, and other areas that affect and influence our daily living.

SPECIFIC GOALS

● Outreach to edify discouraged believers: Reaching out to those believers who for whatever reason are unable to attend a good Bible-believing church and/or access good Bible preaching and teaching (2 Cor. 4:7-10; 1 Tim. 4:11; 6:2 and 2 Tim. 2:2)

● Strengthen the Saints: Improving the knowledge of the Word of God in the local Body of Christ through the teaching of the unaltered non-selective Word of God (Eph. 3:16; Col. 3:10; Psalm 111:7; 2 Sam. 7:28; 2 Timothy 2:15; 2 Tim. 3:16), redirecting on how to return to the Truth proper to the Word of God (Psalm 51:6; Eph. 3:16-19; 1 Tim. 2:3-5)

● Outreach to unbelievers with the saving power of Jesus the Christ: Preaching and presenting the good news of the Kingdom of God; and winning lost souls through the saving grace of God (Prov. 11:30; Acts 2:38; Acts 13:47; James 5:20; Matt. 28:19-20; Rev. 3:20; John 5:24; Acts 10:43; Isa. 53:6; Rom 3:23-25; Col 2:9-14)

● Encourage practical local community ministry development: Supporting and developing a network of persons and systems that minister to the material, emotional, physical, economic, educational, and social needs of believers and others (1 John 4:8; James 2:14-17; Romans 12:13-17; 1 Peter 5:2; Eph. 2:10; Gal 5:13; Deut. 8:18)

● Promote professional and entrepreneurship development: Exposing, presenting, and coaching on the potency of the Christian world view in the areas of governance, leadership, and business, and the positive influence it could bring to a decaying world (Prov. 21:5; Prov. 13:11; Prov. 11:1; Gen. 2:15; Prov. 10:9; Prov. 10:4; Psalm 112:5; Col. 3:23; Matt. 6:33.)

● Conducting research and presenting the Christian perspectives to key themes: providing carefully researched information and well-reasoned answers and pointers to various areas pertaining to holistic living within the context of a Christian Worldview (1 Peter 3:11; Romans 12:2; Prov. 25:2; 2 Tim. 3:16; John 17:17)

● Exalt the name of Jesus above every other name (Phil. 2:9; Heb. 2:9; Eph. 4:10; Luke 22:69; Mark 16:19; Acts 5:31; 1 Peter 3:22).

HOW WE WORK

As a Christian Service provider, to bring about the kinds of Changes that will help people to live righteously, revealing God's glory and blessings to others and also to their communities, **we seek to understand** (through the guidance of the Word of God and the Holy Spirit) the key challenges that plague specific areas of interest under consideration. We then **listen and learn to identify** possible solutions and channels of delivery towards addressing such challenges. We finally **match available ministerial callings and experiences** to develop and generate resources to address these targeted challenges.



OUR PARTNERSHIPS

● Our partnerships, programs and projects are all structured and developed to address tough and neglected issues from an uncompromising Christian point of view.



OUR FOCUS

● We look towards pushing for new solutions, while harnessing the game-changing power of our common resources, talents and callings to bring about transformative changes in the lives of individuals, families and communities.

OUR SERVICES



INFORMATIONAL SERVICES

● Provision of carefully researched information and well-reasoned answers and pointers to various areas pertaining to holistic living, within the context of a Christian worldview. This service will focus on:

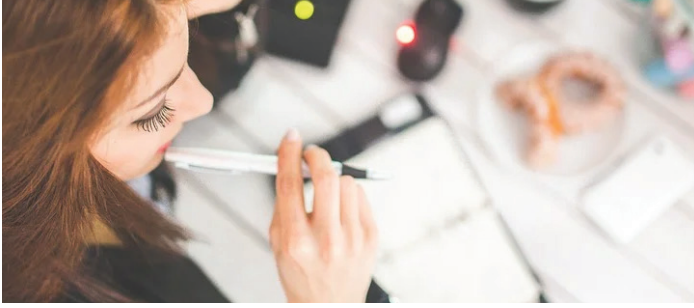
- Research and information dissemination
- Conferences and events
- Online studies



PRACTICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES

● Promote the practical application of discerned and identified local community ministry callings revealed to partners of our network. This service will focus on practical assistance that:

- Meet the needs of the overwhelmed and under-resourced
- Provide for the spiritual and physical needs of people through a centre
- Develop products and services that improve the lives of individuals and families
- Provide professional leadership and personal development coaching and training
- Incubate and birth new Christian leaders and entrepreneurs



HOW CAN WE HELP YOU FULFIL GOD'S CALLING ON YOUR LIFE?

- If you do not know your "Call," we will support you in identifying and entering into it.

- If you know and have been wondering how to go about it, we will support and accompany you in its fulfilment

It has become very obvious to us that very few Christians actually know and understand the "Call" of God upon them. Talking to a wide range of actively committed Christians, almost 95% related to the activities they perform in church as their calling or ministry. This indicates a significant misunderstanding of the link between their "Call" and their "Career." Could this be one of the reasons why most Christians seem to be having "Two Hats" – a "Career Hat" (from Monday to Saturday) and a "Calling or Ministry Hat" (on Sundays). Out of the four walls of their local churches, there is little or no action or engagement.

Remember:

- **Romans 18:19** – "For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God." (KJV)

- **Luke 10:2** – "Therefore said he unto them, the harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest." (KJV).

OUR APPROACH



We are results-oriented, always looking vigilantly to find and identify the impact of the Holy Spirit and its transforming power actively working within lives and communities where we work.

WHY JOIN OUR NETWORK



- If you are in need of solid encouragement in your walk with God
- If the general state of morality and the human condition – in your community, nation, and the world – troubles you to think that some kind of action needs to be done
- If the state of families, couples, young people and the attack on the family keeps you worried about the future
- If you do not know God's Calling yet upon your life and you want to do something to fix something for God's glory
- If you want to meet like-minded or similar-calling people to engage a particular issue together
- If you are worried about the state of the institutional church and its ability to positively influence and affect you and your community in a Godly way
- If you had stopped attending church all together, feeling like you have no place left to turn to for a healthy and God-fearing fellowship
- If you belong to a House Church and you are looking for a broader group of believers to study and continuously grow and conduct ministry together
- If you do not really know what you believe, and can't defend or present your faith to others in an intelligent conversation or defend its principles when under attack
- If you can't make sense and don't know how to make sense of the huge information dump currently available everywhere
- If you need to increase your knowledge of the Word of God, the Christian faith and its worldview
- If the reducing church attendance and increasing non-believing population troubles you

BECOME A MEMBER



Visit our website to see details of the various membership options.

Follow us on Social Media



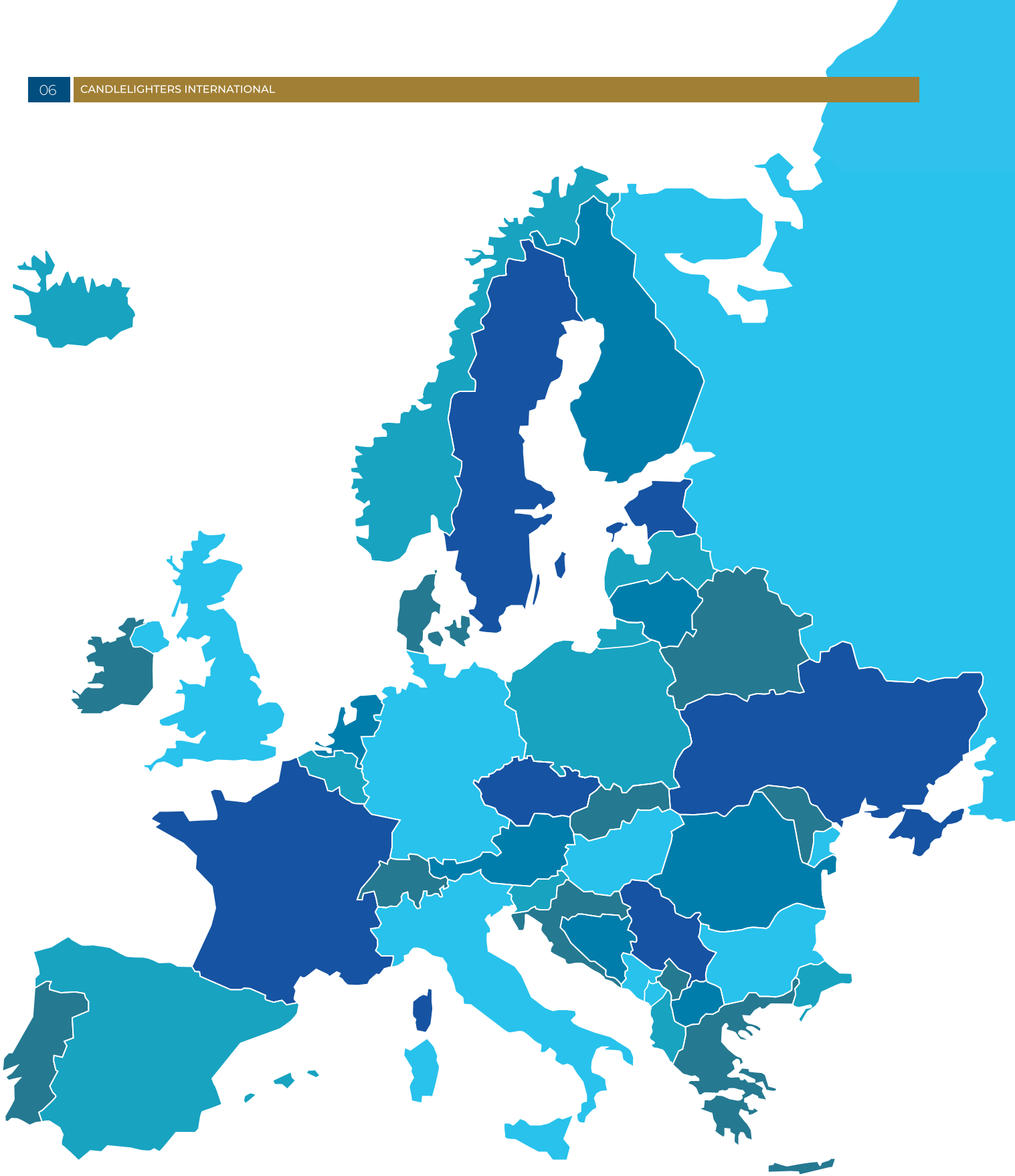
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SOME CHALLENGING FACTS

A. SWITZERLAND

FAMILY



Population of Switzerland

8'799'350

Persons (2019)

49.2%

Male

50.8%

Female



8,5%

Divorced persons.



6 in 10 persons divorced is a female

in 2019

16,885 Divorces

2.0% increase compared to 2018

Overall divorce rate

40%

Average marriage breakups after

15

Years



2 in every 5 marriages end in divorce

4.3%

Drop in weddings

40,716 (2018)

38,974 (2019)

1.9%

Drop in births

85,300 (2018)

83,680 (2019)

In 2018 1/4 of all BIRTHS (21,325 babies) were born to UNMARRIED PARENTS.

(Source:FSO -2019, Data)

CHILDREN



36,550

Minor children involved in divorce cases within the last 3 years

11,529 (2017)

12,212 (2018)

12,809 (2019)



13,787

Juvenile judgments in 2018

36% due to drug use

38% due to other severe crimes

If each child in trouble is having at least 1 sibling, including parents, then

55,148

persons are hurt by the situation

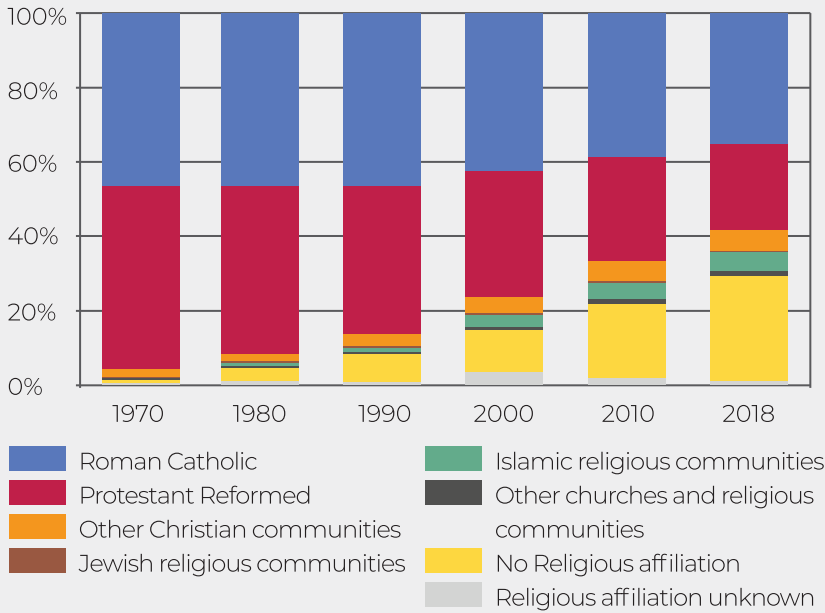


(Source:FSO -2019, Data)

RELIGION

Evolution of religious landscape

Permanent resident population 15 years or over



Sources: FSO-FPC (1970-2000), Structural Survey (SS, 2010-2018)

© FSO 2020

Never Prayed in the last 12 months:

40%
Muslims

34%
Protestants

26%
Catholics

Evangelical communities most devout:

34%
pray several times a day,

51%
pray every day.

(Source: OFS – 2014 Data)

Metaphysical beliefs by gender

G13



Sources: OFS - ELRC 2014

© OFS, Neuchâtel 2016

Absolutely Rather Yes Rather Not Not at All Don't Know

B. RELIGION IN EUROPE

Landscape of Christianity

Secularisation is evident in Western Europe, but most people continue to identify as Christians

% who were/are ...

	Baptized	Raised Christian	Currently Christian
Austria	91%	86%	80%
Belgium	93	83	55
Denmark	95	80	65
Finland	97	85	77
France	83	75	64
Germany	86	79	71
Ireland	90	88	80
Italy	94	88	80
Netherlands	69	67	41
Norway	93	79	51
Portugal	95	94	83
Spain	96	92	66
Sweden	90	74	52
Switzerland	86	81	75
United Kingdom	82	79	73
Median	91	81	71

71%

of Europeans still identify as Christians,

81%

were raised in Christian homes

Of the 71% still identifying as Christians, most are "non-practicing"

Non-practicing = Not Attending Church

(source: Pew Poll)

Source: Pew Research

% of people who say Religion is very important in their lives:

- 9%** Switzerland
- 11%** France
- 11%** Germany
- 10%** UK
- 10%** Sweden
- 10%** Finland
- 20%** Netherlands
- 21%** Italy
- 22%** Spain
- 36%** Portugal

Declines for Christianity mirrored by gains for religiously unaffiliated

% who say they were/are ...

	Raised Christian	Currently Christian	NET Change	Raised unaffiliated	Currently unaffiliated	NET Change
Belgium	83%	55%	-28	12%	38%	+26
Norway	79	51	-28	15	43	+28
Netherlands	67	41	-26	22	48	+26
Spain	92	66	-26	5	30	+25
Sweden	74	52	-22	21	41	+21
Denmark	80	65	-15	16	30	+14
France	75	64	-11	17	28	+11
Portugal	94	83	-11	4	15	+11
Finland	85	77	-8	14	22	+8
Germany	79	71	-8	17	24	+7
Ireland	88	80	-8	7	15	+8
Italy	88	80	-8	8	15	+7
Austria	86	80	-6	11	16	+5
Switzerland	81	75	-6	15	21	+6
United Kingdom	79	73	-6	17	23	+6
Median	81	71		15	24	

(source: Pew Research)

In Support of Church-State Separation

% of people who say religion be kept out of government policies:

80% Sweden	77% Finland	75% Spain	72% Belgium	68% France	68% Netherlands
67% Hungary	60% UK	59% Germany	55% Italy	54% Switzerland	

Source: Pew Research

Knowledge of Other Religions

Majorities say they know not too much, or nothing at all about Islam, Judaism

% who say they know _____ about ...

	Christianity		Islam		Judaism	
	A great deal/ some	Not much/ nothing at all	A great deal/ some	Not much/ nothing at all	A great deal/ some	Not much/ nothing at all
Austria	83%	17%	32%	68%	27%	72%
Belgium	86	14	50	50	35	64
Denmark	88	12	46	54	33	67
Finland	92	8	32	68	30	69
France	77	23	42	57	33	66
Germany	81	19	38	62	33	67
Ireland	81	18	32	67	28	70
Italy	84	16	25	74	24	76
Netherlands	72	28	29	71	23	77
Norway	94	6	60	39	51	48
Portugal	85	15	24	74	17	82
Spain	82	18	28	72	17	83
Sweden	86	14	50	49	40	60
Switzerland	70	21	37	62	34	65
United Kingdom	82	18	37	63	32	67
Median	83	17	37	63	32	67

Source: Pew Research

Attributes to Religion

Variety of factors led Western Europeans to shed their religious identity

Among those who were raised in a religion but now identify as unaffiliated, % who cite _____ as an important reason they left religion

	Gradually drifting away from religion	Disagreeing with their religion's positions on social issues	No longer believing in their religion's teachings	Being unhappy about scandals involving religious institutions	Spiritual needs not being met	Religion failing them in times of need	Marrying someone outside their religion
Austria	66%	75%	44%	59%	32%	24%	12%
Belgium	74	51	70	40	31	21	8
Denmark	85	42	60	19	22	12	8
Finland	65	56	48	35	25	6	4
France	65	64	54	48	32	21	15
Germany	75	64	54	57	24	23	8
Ireland	69	64	54	58	21	17	6
Italy	72	64	35	60	30	23	6
Netherlands	72	55	60	43	28	31	14
Norway	68	58	58	37	20	11	7
Portugal	77	65	55	60	35	26	8
Spain	65	69	64	74	39	20	6
Sweden	60	33	57	15	19	7	6
Switzerland	59	56	46	56	26	24	15
United Kingdom	68	55	37	53	25	24	11
Median	68	58	54	53	26	21	8

Source: Pew Research

Most say religious institutions help poor and needy, bring people together

% of people who agree with the following statements: "Churches and other religious organisations ..."

	Positive attributes			Negative attributes		
	Play an important role in helping the poor and needy	Bring people together & strengthen community bonds	Protect and strengthen morality in society	Focus too much on rules	Are too concerned with money and power	Are too involved with politics
Austria	58%	58%	50%	38%	40%	31%
Belgium	52	66	43	69	66	50
Denmark	73	75	49	57	46	42
Finland	86	76	64	61	48	47
France	50	50	41	47	45	39
Germany	69	53	43	42	39	34
Ireland	52	61	55	50	46	39
Italy	58	56	54	40	43	40
Netherlands	67	75	52	58	51	36
Norway	77	55	53	64	53	53
Portugal	67	71	67	74	66	52
Spain	81	68	54	48	41	37
Sweden	81	82	46	48	41	35
Switzerland	51	49	45	40	41	31
United Kingdom	50	45	39	41	42	34
Median	62	61	50	48	45	39

Source: Pew Research

Most non-practicing Christians say they are raising their children Christian

Among those who are the parents or legal guardians of children under 18 in their household, % who are raising their children Christian/unaffiliated

	Among church-attending Christians		Among non-practicing Christians		Among unaffiliated	
	Raising Christian	Raising unaffiliated	Raising Christian	Raising unaffiliated	Raising Christian	Raising unaffiliated
Austria	97%	0%	91%	8%	N/A	N/A
Belgium	N/A	N/A	76	19	17	83
Denmark	N/A	N/A	85	14	N/A	N/A
Finland	N/A	N/A	85	13	N/A	N/A
France	99	1	84	15	7	87
Germany	99	1	92	7	9	89
Ireland	99	1	92	5	N/A	N/A
Italy	97	3	92	8	N/A	N/A
Netherlands	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	9	85
Norway	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	14	82
Portugal	93	7	86	13	N/A	N/A
Spain	97	3	87	13	26	71
Sweden	N/A	N/A	68	31	14	85
Switzerland	97	3	89	10	4	94
United Kingdom	100	0	89	11	8	91
Median	97	1	87	13	9	85

Source: Pew Research

Young People Aged 16-29 Years

About **55%** of European youngsters aged 16-29 identify with no religion.

(Source: St Mary University Study)



Young people identifying with no religion:

70%

UK

64%

France

46%

Switzerland

45%

Germany

17%

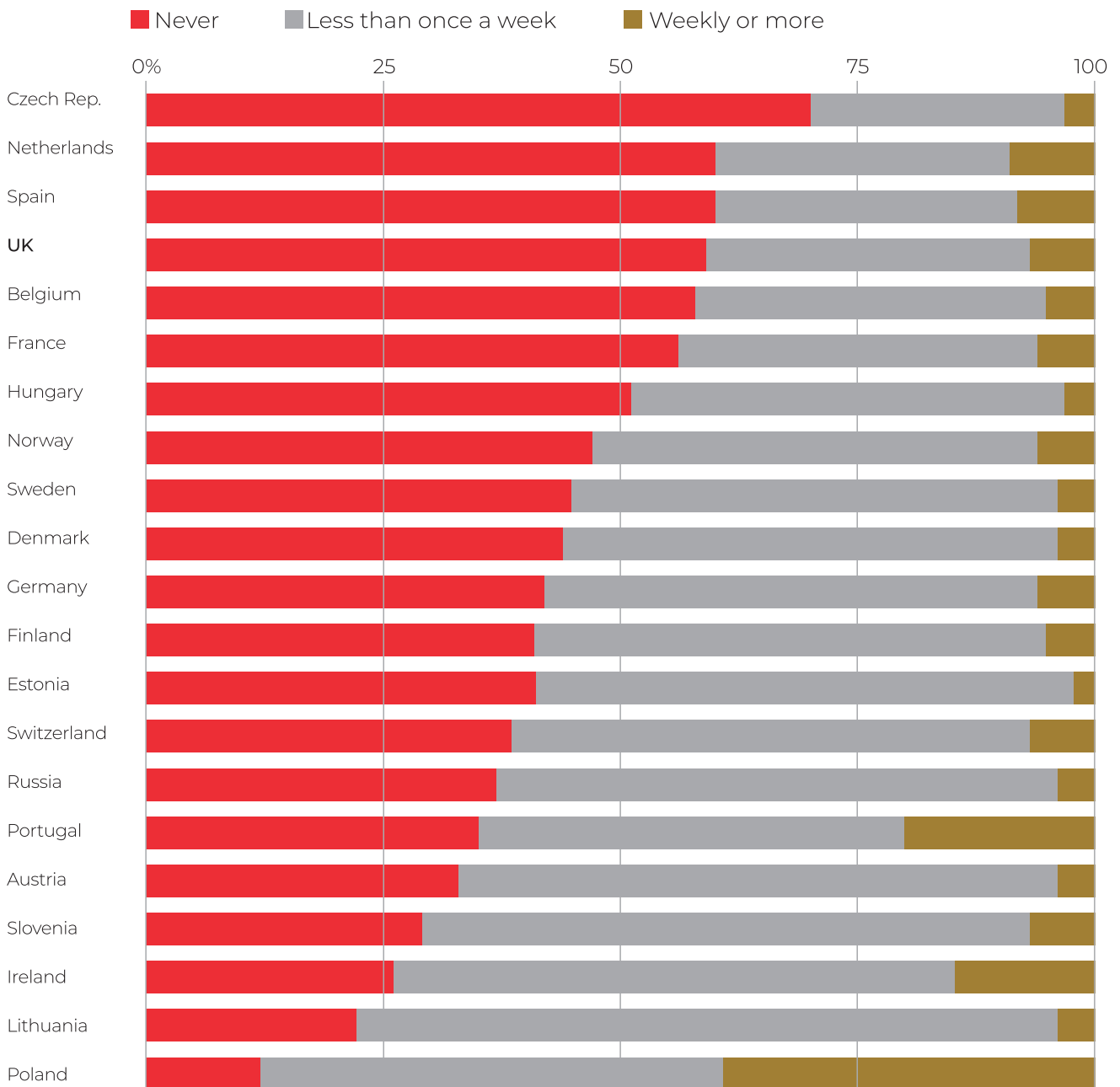
Poland

(Source: St Mary University Study, 2014-2016 survey)



59% of young people in the UK never attend religious services

Frequency of attendance, outside of special occasions, 16- to 29-year-olds



Guardian Graphic | Source: St Mary's University, Twickenham

Knowing a Higher Power

Western Europeans more likely to see God as all-loving than all-powerful, all-knowing

% who believe in God or a higher power and say that God/higher power is ...

	All-loving	All-knowing	All-powerful
Portugal	78%	63%	52%
Finland	56	41	26
Italy	54	49	38
Denmark	53	23	13
Spain	52	40	25
Ireland	49	43	37
Netherlands	48	32	21
Norway	46	32	18
Austria	43	35	29
Belgium	41	25	15
Germany	37	30	25
Sweden	36	26	13
Switzerland	36	34	27
France	35	30	23
United Kingdom	34	31	24
MEDIAN	46	32	25

Source: Pew Research

Most people believe in a higher power, but often not God as described in the Bible

% Who...

	Believe in God as described in the Bible	Believe in other higher power or spiritual force	Do not believe in any higher power
Italy	46%	27%	15%
Ireland	39	35	18
Portugal	36	46	9
Austria	32	40	19
Switzerland	30	36	25
UK	29	35	27
Germany	28	38	26
France	27	33	27
Finland	24	45	24
Spain	22	48	20
Netherlands	20	42	34
Norway	20	38	33
Denmark	17	48	29
Belgium	14	41	39
Sweden	14	37	41
MEDIAN	27	38	26

Source: Pew Research

Religious Services Attendance

Attending religious services 'seldom' or 'never' is the norm in Western Europe

% who say they attend religious services ...

	Weekly/ monthly	A few times a year	Seldom/ never
Italy	43%	18%	39%
Ireland	37	22	41
Portugal	36	22	42
Austria	30	22	48
Switzerland	29	18	53
Germany	24	23	53
Spain	23	11	66
France	22	16	62
United Kingdom	20	22	58
Netherlands	18	18	64
Norway	16	24	60
Denmark	12	36	51
Belgium	11	20	68
Sweden	11	25	63
Finland	10	33	58
MEDIAN	22	22	58

Source: Pew Research

Giving and Volunteering

Religious practices such as giving money to church, fasting are the exception rather than the norm in Western Europe

% who say they ...

	Give money to their religious organization	Wear or carry religious symbols	Fast during holy times	Try to persuade other adults to adopt their religious views
Portugal	43%	33%	33%	17%
Norway	41	15	6	8
Italy	37	34	24	13
Ireland	36	28	23	12
Spain	35	19	18	8
Netherlands	33	9	8	11
Finland	31	11	1	6
Austria	24	23	16	9
Germany	24	21	13	9
Denmark	22	10	3	4
Sweden	22	10	5	7
Switzerland	21	18	12	8
Belgium	20	15	11	6
France	20	16	13	8
UK	18	17	11	8
MEDIAN	24	17	12	8

Source: Pew Research

Highly committed Christians more likely than 'nones' to volunteer with community groups, but more 'nones' engaged in sports clubs

% of _____ who say, in the past month, they spent an hour or more of their time participating in ...

	Community group or neighborhood association				Sports or recreation club			
	Religiously unaffiliated	Christians with low levels of commnt.	Christians with moderate levels of commnt.	Highly commitment Christians	Religiously unaffiliated	Christians with low levels of commnt.	Christians with moderate levels of commnt.	Highly commitment Christians
Austria	10%	13%	15%	30%	43%	38%	34%	35%
Belgium	21	23	24	37	45	48	51	30
Denmark	21	22	34	34	41	46	37	42
Finland	25	24	27	37	32	34	36	31
France	17	13	16	18	39	38	31	31
Germany	9	14	17	22	39	43	33	34
Ireland	23	17	21	32	46	31	33	33
Italy	12	10	15	14	31	26	23	19
Netherlands	20	22	29	27	57	59	60	48
Norway	21	26	27	33	42	35	43	26
Portugal	13	9	8	13	31	26	22	19
Spain	18	13	19	28	34	32	25	27
Sweden	23	23	26	33	35	39	38	31
Switzerland	11	20	15	24	42	29	30	23
UK	12	11	11	19	39	26	30	22
MEDIAN	18	17	19	28	39	35	33	31

Source: Pew Research

Remarks on the Data

The data above reveals a sad and bitter truth. When we subtract the % of non-active Christians, which indicates those no more attending church, the picture of Christianity in Europe should sadden any heart still believing in Christ Jesus and in the Great Commission.

I urge you to consider multiplying all the numbers on family and children presented for Switzerland (population: 8, 99,350) by a factor of 9.52 for Germany (Population: 83,788,628) and 7.41 for France (Population: 65,276,107). The figures are staggering for these two countries also. A reflection of the state of other European countries?

QUESTION:

How then can and should we translate this challenging information presented, into mission field actions, callings, and local community ministries, to seek and save the lost, and provide comfort to the hurting? Is there no more Gospel in Europe? Can we keep on doing "CHURCH" the same way and expect different and better results? Now you know these troubling facts, what is your responsibility?

As for us in Candlelighters International:

In order that we may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death... not as though we had already attained, nor were already perfect: but we follow after, if that we may apprehend that for which also we are apprehended of Christ Jesus ... this one thing we do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before us, **we press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.** (Paraphrased, Philippians 3:10-14, KJV)

WHAT % OF CHRISTIANS

- KNOW WHAT THEY CLAIM TO BELIEVE?
- CAN ENGAGE IN AN INTELLIGENT CONVERSATION WITH PEOPLE OF OTHER FAITHS?
- UNDERSTAND A LITTLE MORE THAN THE VERY BASIC DIFFERENCES THAT EXIST WITH OTHER RELIGIONS?

WHY WE EXIST

Candlelighters International exists to provide believers in Christ and others interested in Christianity with carefully researched information and well-reasoned answers and pointers to various lines of studies, with the target being to encourage them in their faith and equip them to intelligently represent and put into practice the Christian way of life, in order to bring in a very needy world, in a very practical fashion, the light of God through Jesus Christ.

It is very obvious that for almost over half a century now, the world has been speeding down the part of auto destruction. Absolute truth and its absoluteness in a creator God, has been relegated to the fringes, and relative truth and its relativistic tendencies of anything goes (your-truth and my-truth syndrome), has captured the minds of many. Evil is now considered Good and Good is now the new Evil. "Morality" has now emerged to be defined or determined by personal subjective views or at best by a mob or social platforms.

In the age of massive information dump, and so many voices in the communication arena, making sense of all of the mess taking place around us, is not only a difficult task to today's parents; yet, worse of it all is the fact that most of their children have completely given up trying. As such, while parents are plunging into anything that provides temporal spiritual support, their children are racing to actually play with the spirit world. They are doing so in a dangerous fashion that does not prepare them for which visitor they might be inviting from the opposite site.

As we have seen, strong data provides evidence to reveal the high rates of "spiritual apostasy" (all be it, from a Christian view point) on a global scale. This has weakened the church and its influence over its various called-to-influence spheres. Many Churches are now compromising the true message of the Gospel in exchange for the world's approval. Many Christians do not even know what they believe; talk less of defending it against any attack. As a result, many believers today have stopped attending church all together. Some feeling like they have no place left to turn to for the truth proper to the Word of God. Many believers have also resorted to forming little house groups (House Churches) for their mutual edification. Only God knows how long such small groups will go before apostate teachings germinate.

The fun part is that there are many people today, however, who are coming to Christ without being ministered to by or through the traditional Church structures, and who need to be strengthened to develop a deeper and healthy spiritual relationship with the one true God through Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit. Who is caring for these young ones?

This ministry, by the power and through the power of the Holy Spirit is there to serve as a pointer and an enabler, to as many as that will seek to live an impactful Christian life within their communities, their spheres of influence, their careers, etc.; by supporting them in the development of their full person in Christ Jesus, for the full service to society, in order to demonstrate and reveal to the world the Glory of God. Extending heaven's glory to the earth (On earth as it is in heaven).



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