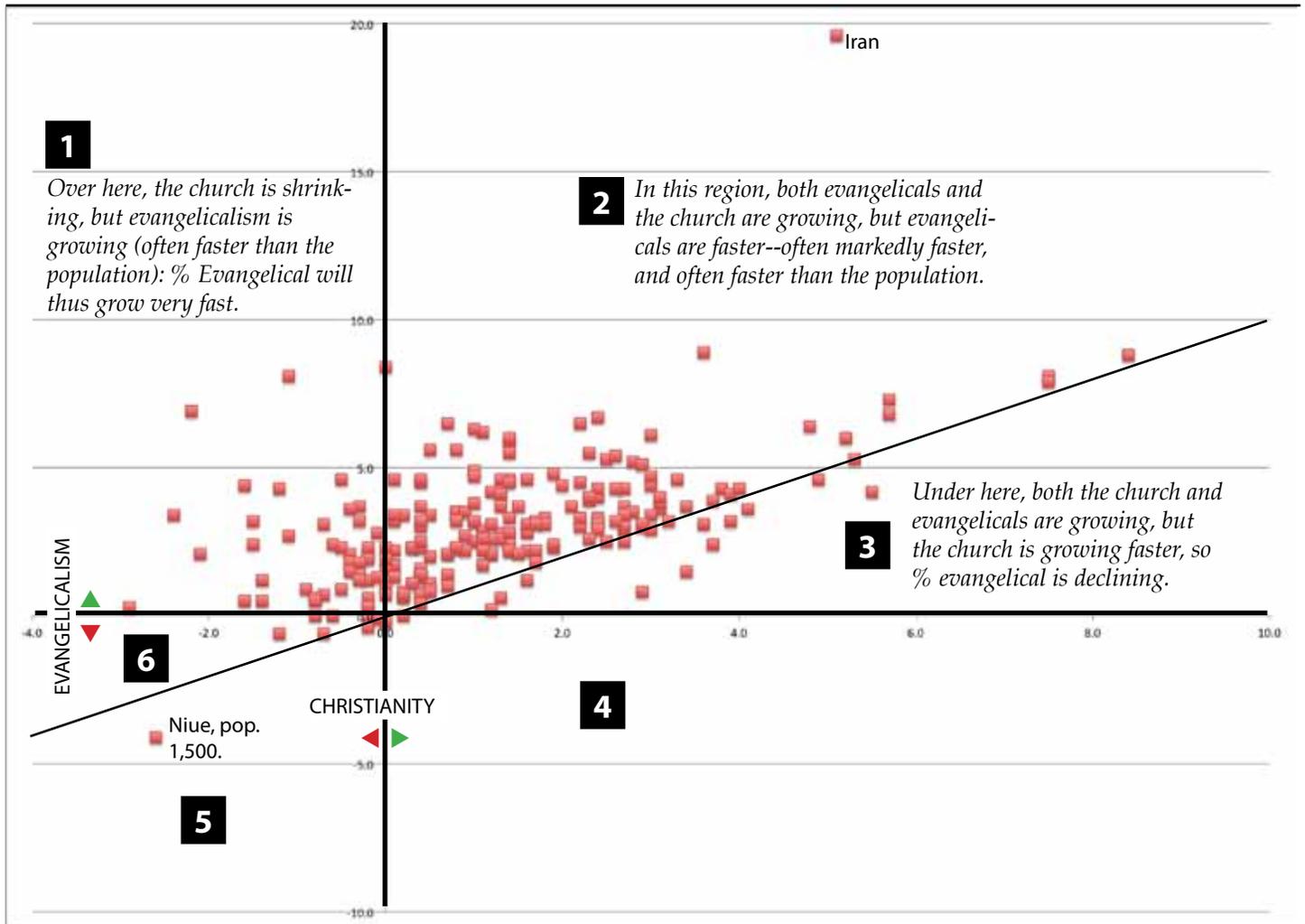


Global Diagram 4: The Evangelicalization of the Church

Vertical axis: the annual growth of evangelicals, AD 2000-2010, from *Operation World*, 7th edition.

Horizontal axis: annual growth of Christianity (all traditions), AD 2000-2010, from *Operation World*, 7th edition.

Diagonal line: where the annual growth rates match. Above the line, evangelicals are growing faster than the church. Below the line, the church is growing faster.



Situation 1: C down, E up			Situation 2: C up, E up more			Situation 3: C up, E up slower			Situation 4-6: Mixed		
Country	C	E	Country	C	E	Country	C	E	Country	C	E
1. Russia	0.0	2.3	1. USA	0.5	0.8	1. Tanzania	3.7	2.4	1. Finland, 5	0.0	-0.1
2. Germany	-0.9	0.9	2. Brazil	1.1	1.7	2. Malawi	3.0	2.9	2. Japan, 5	-0.2	-0.4
3. Britain	-0.8	0.0	3. China	2.7	2.9	3. Myanmar	2.7	2.5	3. Slovenia, 5	0.0	-0.2
4. Italy	-0.2	1.9	4. Mexico	1.0	3.8	4. Chad	3.2	3.2	4. Niue, 5	-2.6	-4.1
5. France	-0.6	2.4	5. Philippines	1.7	3.1	5. Liberia	4.9	4.6	5. Georgia, 6	-1.2	-0.6
6. Ukraine	-0.7	3.1	6. Nigeria	2.7	3.4	6. Botswana	1.6	1.2	6. Tokelau	-0.1	-0.1
7. Poland	-0.4	1.5	7. DR Congo	2.7	3.7	7. Syria	5.5	4.2			
8. Romania	-0.2	2.3	8. India	3.7	3.9	8. Timor	4.1	3.6			
9. Netherlands	-0.8	0.6	9. Ethiopia	2.7	4.3	9. Swaziland	1.2	0.2			
10. Greece	0.0	1.6	10. Colombia	1.4	6.0	10. Singapore	3.9	3.2			

In nearly every country, evangelical growth exceeds church growth as a whole (and often that of the population as well). Even where the church is declining, evangelicalism is mostly growing. Thus, Christianity worldwide is becoming more evangelical. In many places, however, evangelicals still a very small minority, and likely to remain so for a time despite their rapid growth rates. **Diagram Editor:** Justin D. Long. **Data source:** Operation World, 2010 (7th edition). **More global diagrams:** <http://www.justinlong.org/global-diagrams>. This diagram and an additional page of analysis can be downloaded from <https://gumroad.com/l/PeVo>. Justin Long serves with **ActBeyond**, <http://www.beyond.org>.

The Evangelicalization of the Church

by Justin D. Long

This diagram compares the growth rate of Christianity (by country, all traditions) to the growth of evangelicalism (a cross-tradition subset). The growth of evangelicalism has been reported many times before, so it's no surprise to find it: but consider *how much comprehensive and global its growth is*.

In all but a handful of countries, evangelical growth exceed the church (and mostly, far exceed the church, and the population as a whole as well). Evangelicalism is only declining in 19 countries. In 6, it face significant lags: Swaziland, Syria, Tanzania, Christmas Island, Niue, Guinea and Oman. In 13 others, evangelicalism is only behind the church by a tenth or so—so close as to not matter much. In most places Christianity is becoming more evangelical in outlook.

The devil in the definitions

The horizontal axis shows the growth of Christianity (all traditions) for 2000-10. The data is sourced for each country from the latest edition of *Operation World* (2010, 7th), so as to compare it more directly to the growth of evangelicals. The axis runs from -4% to +10%: in some countries, Christianity is declining. When comparing this to previous diagrams, remember the timescale is the past 10 years, not 100.

The vertical axis tracks the growth rate of evangelicals. I chose to use the data from *Operation World* because, while the “% Great Commission Christian” we’ve used in Global Diagram 2 is correlative to “% Evangelical,” it’s not quite the same. When people think of “Evangelical,” the definition in *Operation World* is probably closest. In addition, by using the data for the past ten years we see some of the more recent developments that are masked when we look at a century view.

The diagonal bar is the line where the two growth rates match (for example, where both are 1% per year, or 2% per year, or 3% per year. This gives us an interesting and simple picture:

“above” the diagonal line, evangelicalism is growing faster than Christianity. “Below” and to the “right” of the line, both are growing, but evangelicalism is growing more slowly.

Six situations of growth

The combination of the three axes gives six situations of growth.

1. C down, E up.

In 51, Christianity is shrinking while evangelicals are growing. In 41, Christians are the majority and form large (often state) churches—examples include Russia, Britain and Italy. Their numbers are shrinking due to disaffiliation and aging. In others, they are a small minority and suffering losses in the midst of emigration and restrictions on evangelizing the young (e.g. Turkey). In both situations, evangelical Christianity—although often very small—is growing fast, at rates often three and four times that of Christianity. For most, it would be a long time before Evangelicals became the majority. Yet the effect is undeniable: Christianity here is Evangelicalizing.

2. C Up, E Up more.

In the 151 countries in situation 2, both the church and evangelicalism are growing, but evangelicalism is faster. This includes places like the United States, with no state church; the Philippines, where most are Catholic but evangelicalism is a fast growing minority; and China, with significant restrictions. In most cases evangelicalism edges out Christianity by a small amount, but there are some cases where it is growing much faster (in some cases, evangelicalism is booming: note the outlier that is Iran). In all cases, it is true that the church is becoming more evangelical.

3. C up, E up more slowly.

In 19 countries, Christianity is growing; evangelicalism, too, is growing—but not as fast. Most of these are found

in Africa and Asia. Some are driven by situations of high demographic growth in the main church (Tanzania). Some are situations of restrictiveness, where the more active evangelical church is being more heavily persecuted (Myanmar). Some are situations where evangelicals are being specifically targeted in war (e.g. especially the case now in Syria, where 2014’s growth rates are vastly different from those in 2010). In most cases, the evangelical growth rate is not far off (Bhutan: 3.6% Christian vs 3.1% evangelical). These cases are few and far between and each have their own specific contexts.

4. C up, E down

Although “theoretically possible,” no countries fall into this situation.

5. C down, E down faster

This is the case for only four countries: Finland, Japan, Slovenia and Niue. Japan is an interesting case to look at in depth. Niue’s small population causes its data to skew. The other two are only slightly off.

6. C down, E down more slowly

In Georgia, the evangelical and Christian populations are both shrinking, but evangelicalism is shrinking slower. The net effect is that the church is becoming smaller, but more evangelical. (Tokelau’s shrinkage is at very nearly the same rate, although it technically falls into situation 6.)

Conclusion

Virtually every place where Christianity is present, it is becoming more evangelical in outlook. The reason is fairly simple: evangelicalism is more likely to make converts at a higher rate, and thus benefits from demographics and conversion.

Still, it is a long way from the majority: in many places, evangelicals will be a rapidly growing minority for some time.