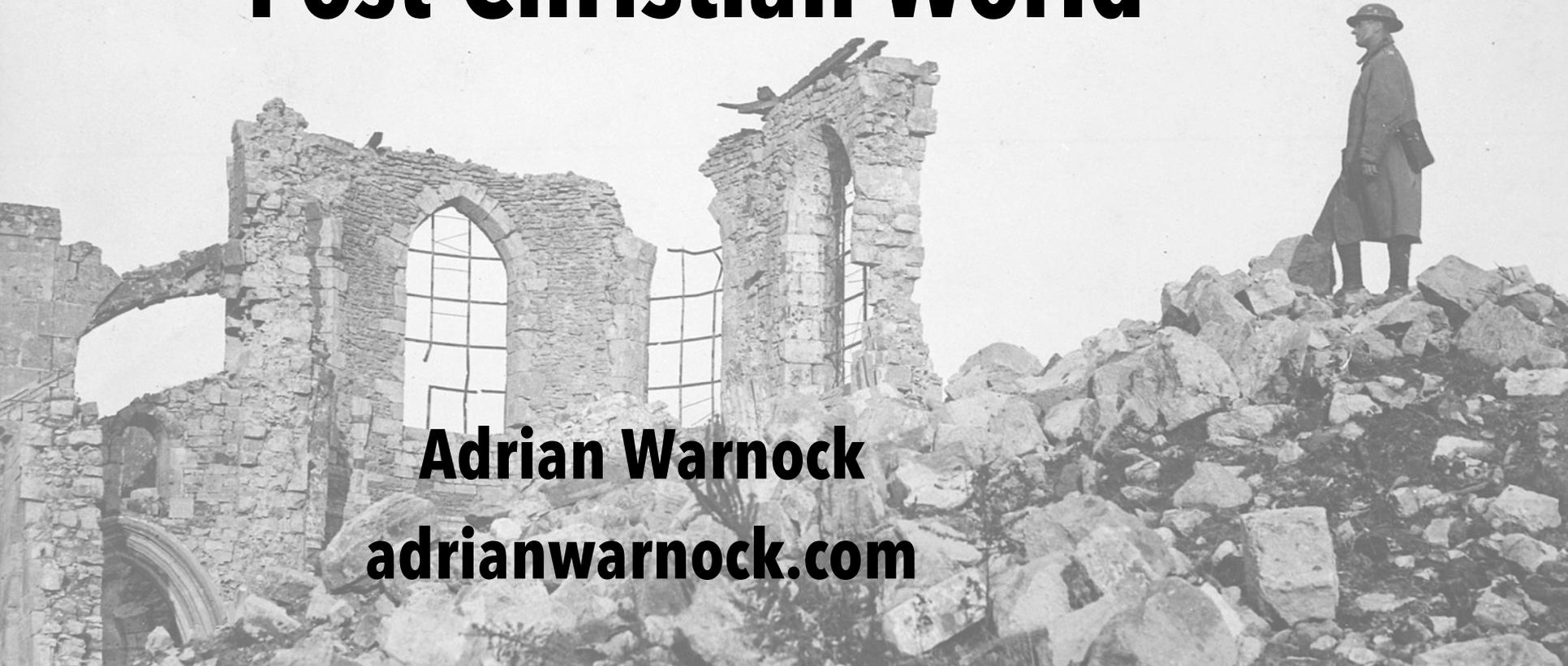


Evangelism in a Post-Christian World

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Websites

- Hopereborn.com
- Adrianwarnock.com
- Jubileechurchlondon.org
- 300leaders.org

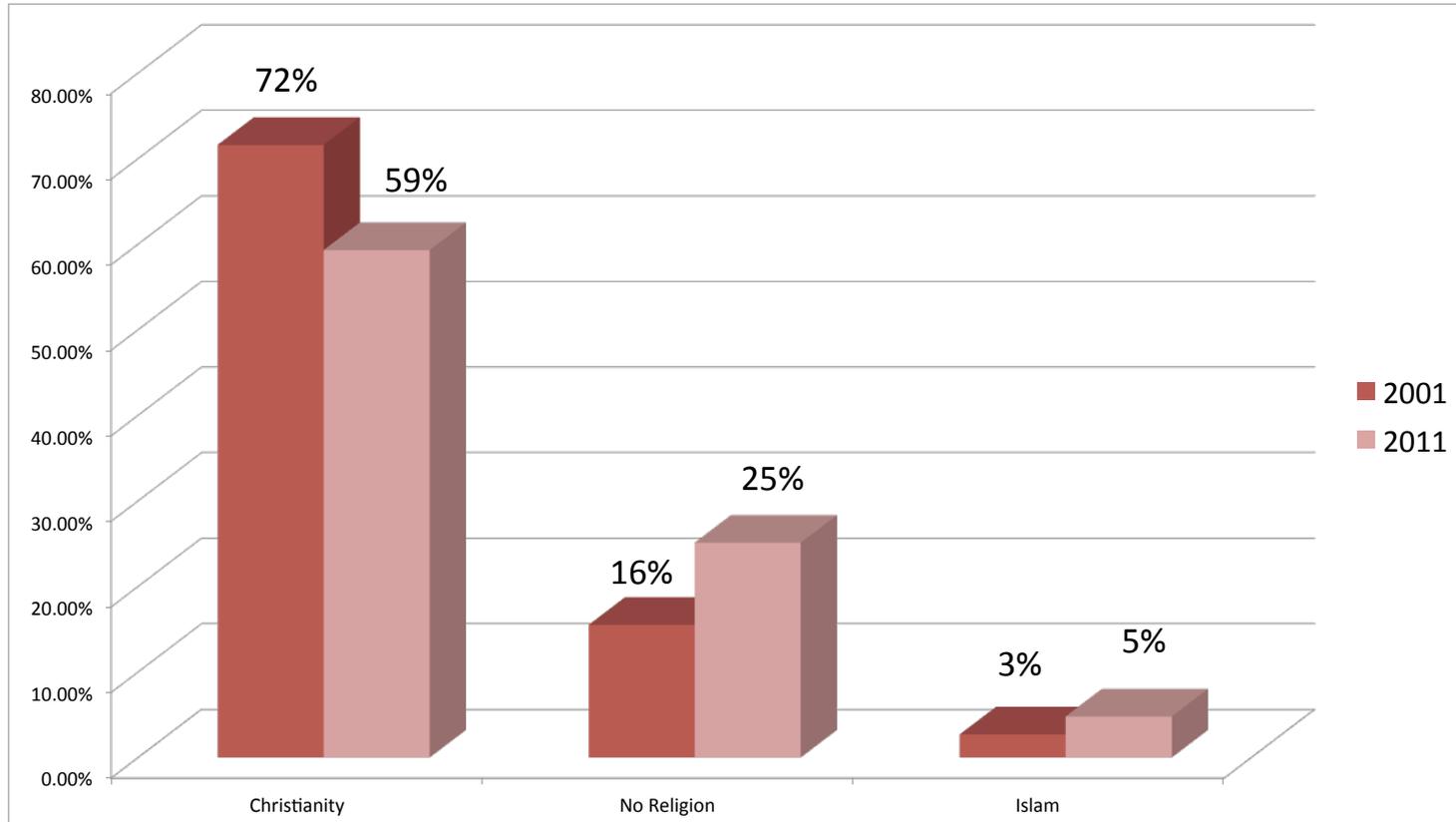
Evangelism in a Post Christian World

1. Ancient Morality vs Modern 'Freedom'
2. Authority vs Internet-inspired anarchy
3. Explaining the Gospel in an age of Biblical illiteracy

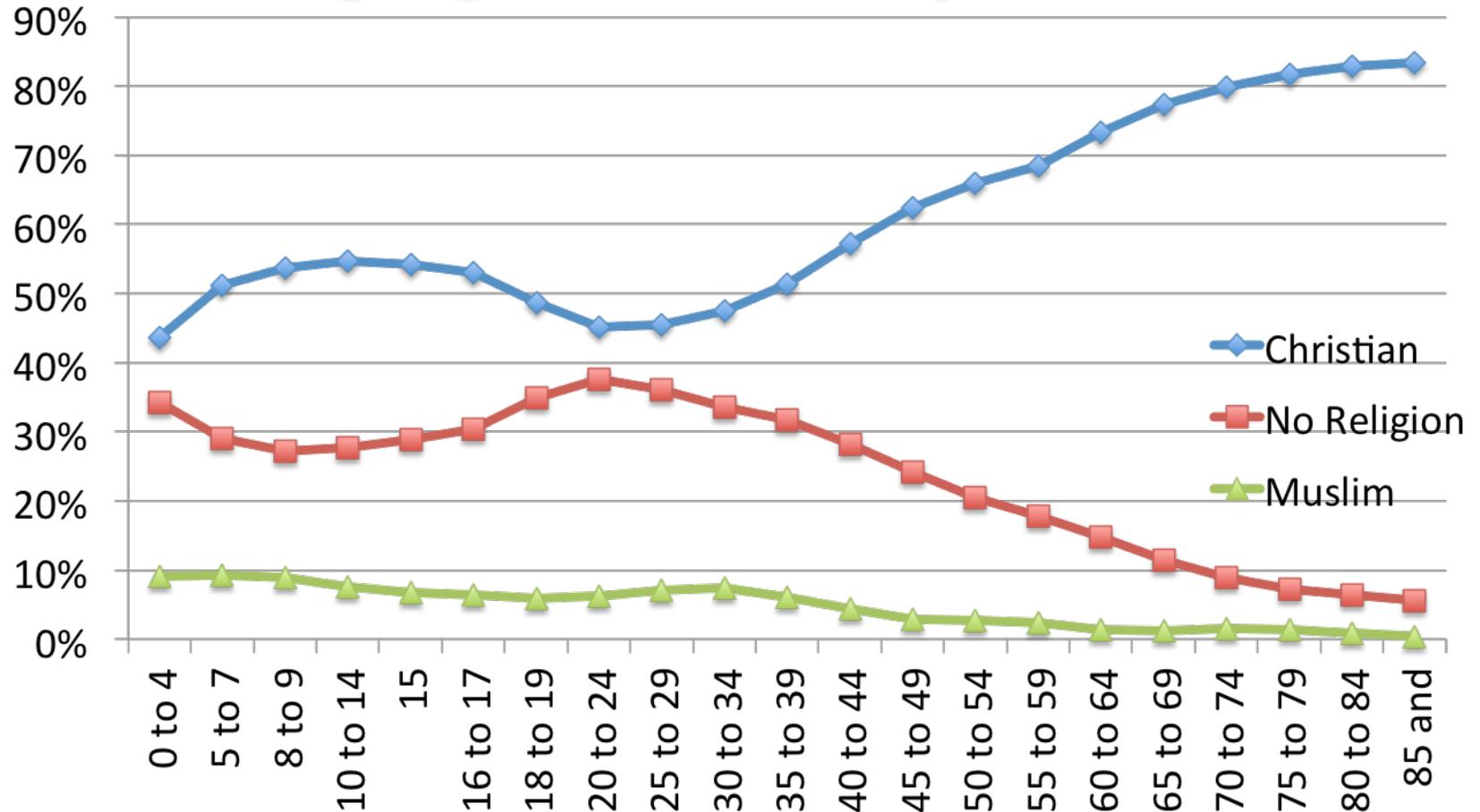
Losing Our Religion.....

- *“Christianity in crisis: Britain loses faith as number of believers fall by 4 MILLION”* **Daily Express**
- *“A decade of mass immigration helped mask the scale of decline in Christian affiliation among the British-born population – while driving a dramatic increase in Islam, particularly among the young...only a minority of people will describe themselves as Christians within the next decade, for first time”* **Telegraph**

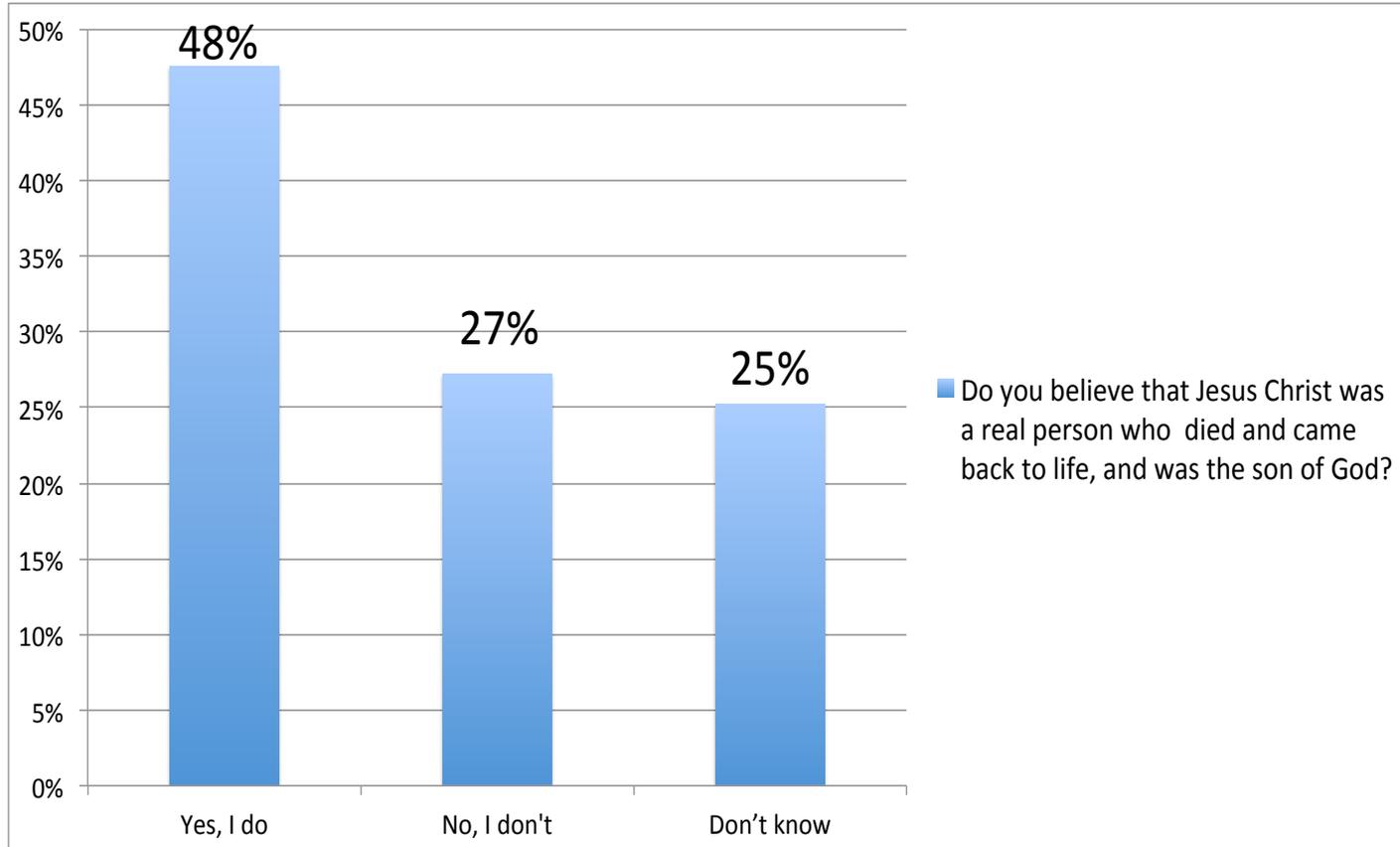
Religion in the UK Census



The Aging Christian Population



Are 'Christians' Really Christian?



Church Attendance on a Given Sunday

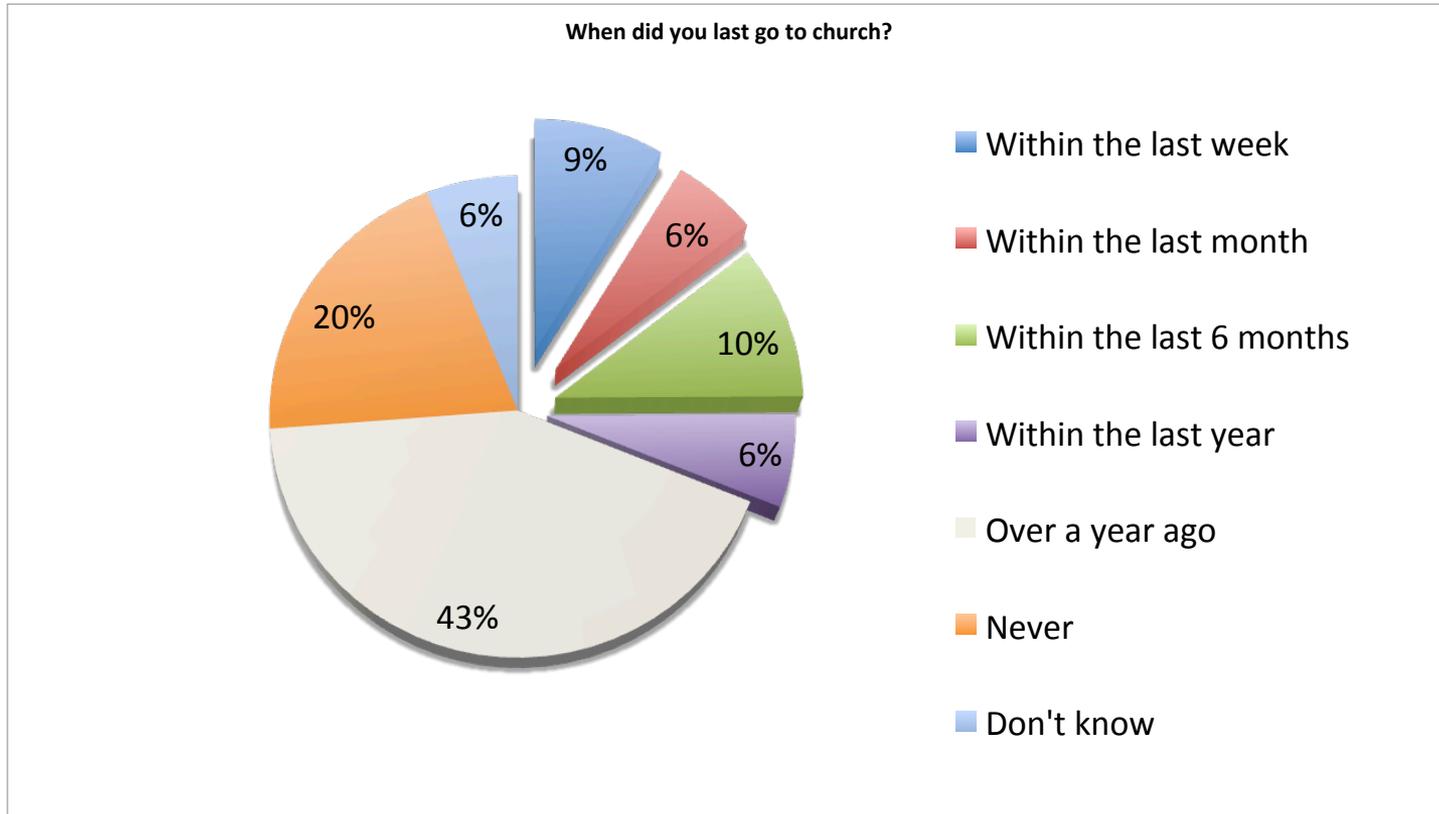
- **1980**

- 5,201,300 people, 11.1% of the UK population,

- **2005**

- 3,166,200 people, 6.3% of the UK population.

UK: A nation of non-churchgoers?



The Collapse of 'Nominal' Christianity

- Liberal churches declining faster
- Some evangelical churches are growing
- To live as a Christian now a costly decision rather than a social asset

Changing social values

- The nation has moved on from Judeo-Christian moral values
- "Ancient, irrelevant."

Euthanasia

"a doctor should be allowed to end the life of a patient with an incurable disease."

- 71% of religious in favour
- 92% non-religious in favour

Euthanasia

"Thou shalt not kill."

Exodus 20:13

Abortion

- Abortion should be allowed in cases where the parents do not wish to have a child
 - 76% in favour
- Ethicists beginning to argue for 'post birth abortion' = infanticide

Abortion

"For you formed my inward parts;
you knitted me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;
my soul knows it very well.
My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
Your eyes saw my unformed substance;
in your book were written, every one of them,
the days that were formed for me,
when as yet there was none of them." **Psalm 139**

Sexuality: the next big challenge for the Church

- Traditional Christian values now seen as repressive
- Anything less than full 'freedom' is 'restrictive'
- Celibacy 'limits the expression of core identity'

How do Christians respond to change?

- **Champion** and promote e.g. **Slavery abolition**
- **Resist but then accept** Society can't be expected to follow Bible's laws e.g. **Divorce**
- **Continually resist** e.g. **Abortion**

The complex questions

- What laws should we expect Society to enact?
- What should the church teach?
- How much disagreement can we allow in a church?
- How should we discuss issues with unbelievers?

John Humphreys 2007 poll

- 42% of the participants believed religion had a harmful effect.

It is incumbent on those who love the doctrines of grace to demonstrate grace, towards others, not condemnation and angry rejection.

- **Phariseeism** is hating sin & the sinner
- **Licentiousness** is loving the sinner & their sin
- Jesus calls us to **hate sin & love the sinner**

How do we 'position' ourselves?

- Superior 'know-it-alls' who reject those who are different from us

Vs

- Broken learners who are on the same journey
- 'Friend of sinners'

How does Jesus see the UK?

"I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it"

Matthew 16:18

How does Jesus see the UK?

"Don't you have a saying, 'It's still four months until harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are **ripe** for harvest."

John 4:35 (NIV)

How does Jesus see the UK?

"The harvest is **plentiful**, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

Luke 10:2

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of **all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." **Matthew 28:18-20**

"Behold, I am sending you out as **sheep in the midst of wolves**, so be **wise as serpents and innocent as doves**. Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles. When they deliver you over, **do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say**, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved." **Matthew 10:16-22**

"But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil." **1 Peter**

3:14-17