

# GROWTH, DECLINE AND CONFUSION: CHURCH AFFILIATION IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

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Papua New Guinea (PNG) is called a “Christian” country. The preamble to the PNG Constitution pledges to “guard and pass on to those who come after us our noble traditions and Christian principles that are ours now”. However, the term “Christian” is a general term that needs study and explanation, since there are almost 200 Christian Churches and organisations in the country, many having very different beliefs and practices. This paper will attempt to analyse and explain the changing shape of religious affiliation in PNG at the beginning of the 21st century.

The last official census in PNG was in July 2000. The National Statistical Office (NSO) has released official figures, and in addition, the writer has obtained other unofficial data from the NSO, both of which will be considered in this study. The official figures given for religion refer to citizens in “Private Dwellings”, with a total population given of 5,140,476. However, there were also 50,310 people who are either non-citizens or living in non-private dwellings, who are included in the official total population figure of 5,190,786, but not included in the official figures given for religion and religious affiliation. Though the difference between the official figures of citizens in private dwellings and the total population is not very significant, amounting to less than 1%, the writer will at times refer to these figures from the total population (See especially tables 2 and 7).

## **Official and unofficial data**

Official figures for Citizen Population in Private dwellings is shown in the following table.

As will be noted further in this paper, the official figures in Table 1 are misleading and use different categories from those of previous census results, making comparison and analysis very difficult.

Unofficial figures giving more detail on churches in PNG are shown in Table 2. (A breakdown of the same table at the Provincial Level is shown in the Appendix Table 7: A, B, C, and D).

**Table 1: PNG Citizen Population In Private Dwellings by Religion (2000 census)**

|                               | Total     | Males     | Females   |
|-------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Citizens in Private Dwellings | 5,140,476 | 2,659,394 | 2,481,082 |
|                               |           |           |           |
| Christian                     | 4,934,098 | 2,550,114 | 2,383,984 |
| Anglican                      | 166,046   | 87,096    | 78,950    |
| Evangelical Alliance          | 266,598   | 134,548   | 132,050   |
| Evangelical Lutheran          | 1,001,005 | 523,363   | 477,642   |
| Roman Catholic                | 1,391,033 | 724,242   | 666,791   |
| Salvation Army                | 10,377    | 5,401     | 4,976     |
| Seventh Day Adventist         | 520,098   | 266,690   | 253,408   |
| United Church                 | 591,458   | 307,711   | 283,747   |
| Pentecostal                   | 440,904   | 221,424   | 219,480   |
| Baptist                       | 130,987   | 67,625    | 63,342    |
| Other Christian               | 415,592   | 212,014   | 203,578   |
|                               |           |           |           |
| Other Religions               | 72,406    | 37,253    | 35,153    |
| Baha'i                        | 15,408    | 8,211     | 7,197     |
| Church of Christ              | 20,516    | 10,464    | 10,052    |
| Jehovah's Witness             | 20,625    | 10,427    | 10,198    |
| Other religion                | 15,857    | 8,151     | 7,706     |
|                               |           |           |           |
| No Religion                   | 30,733    | 17,813    | 12,920    |
| Not Stated                    | 103,239   | 54,214    | 49,025    |

*Source: 2000 Census Basic Tables - National Level, Table A6*

**Table 2: Religion - PNG Citizens and Non-Citizens. Total**

|    |                         |           |    |                     |         |
|----|-------------------------|-----------|----|---------------------|---------|
| 1  | None                    | 31,397    | 30 | Asia Pacific        | 590     |
| 2  | Anglican                | 167,534   | 31 | Australian Church   | 2,570   |
| 3  | Evangelical Brotherhood | 101,646   | 32 | Bamu River          | 230     |
| 4  | South Seas Evangelical  | 48,981    | 33 | Brethren            | 49,057  |
| 5  | Church of Papua         | 99,146    | 34 | Many Lands          | 313     |
| 6  | Wesleyan                | 11,533    | 35 | Union Mission       | 21,262  |
| 7  | Church of Manus         | 6,728     | 36 | Nazarene            | 32,870  |
| 8  | Lutheran                | 974,136   | 37 | Faith Mission       | 5,870   |
| 9  | Gutnius Lutheran        | 29,610    | 38 | Hohola Mission      | 31      |
| 10 | Roman Catholic          | 1,406,299 | 39 | Independent         | 838     |
| 11 | Salvation Army          | 10,427    | 40 | New Guinea Gospel   | 276     |
| 12 | Seventh Day Adventist   | 522,661   | 41 | New Life Mission    | 7,547   |
| 13 | United Church           | 586,006   | 42 | New Tribes          | 27,549  |
| 14 | Kwato Church            | 9,061     | 43 | Paliau (Makasol)    | 401     |
| 15 | Assemblies of God       | 138,532   | 44 | Plymouth Brethren   | 690     |
| 16 | Revival Crusade         | 61,971    | 45 | Presbyterian        | 141     |
| 17 | Life Centre             | 27,080    | 46 | Tiliba Mission      | 14,892  |
| 18 | Lighthouse Church       | 1,237     | 47 | Village Mission     | 8,026   |
| 19 | Four Square Gospel      | 76,558    | 48 | Other Christian     | 143,252 |
| 20 | Rhema Fellowship        | 2,520     | 49 | Bahai of PNG        | 15,480  |
| 21 | Wewak Fellowship        | 473       | 50 | Buddhism            | 800     |
| 22 | Other Pentecostal       | 134,902   | 51 | Church of Christ    | 20,619  |
| 23 | Baptist                 | 130,524   | 52 | Islam               | 756     |
| 24 | Boroko Baptist          | 67        | 53 | Jehovah Witness     | 20,850  |
| 25 | Sepik Baptist           | 323       | 54 | Judaism             | 46      |
| 26 | Sovereign Grace         | 249       | 55 | Hindu               | 475     |
| 27 | Tokarara Christian      | 104       | 56 | Other Religion      | 15,287  |
| 28 | Western Highland        | 1,086     | 57 | NR (Not Reported)   | 110,747 |
| 29 | Apostolic               | 101,053   | 58 | NA (Not Applicable) | 7,477   |

Source: Printout from NSO

The list in Table 2 provided by the NSO, is not exhaustive. This writer has found at least 180 different churches and church bodies in

PNG. Some names and categories in the above table (and Table 7) call for further explanation.

- \* The “None” category may be a place for respondents who follow Traditional Melanesian Religious beliefs and practices, since there is no such category provided in the list of religions (Zocca 2004: 63).
- \* With the Lutheran entries in #8 and #9, there is obviously some confusion since in Table 7B (Appendix), in the Enga Province column, the numbers for Gutnius Lutheran are lower than those for Lutheran. Since in Enga the majority of Lutherans are members of the Gutnius Lutheran Church, it is obvious than many Gutnius Lutheran respondents simply gave their Church as ‘Lutheran’ and thus, were counted in the wrong category.
- \* The official census total for Seventh Day Adventists is 522,661 (#12). However, Seventh Day Adventists themselves claim only half that number. Possibly the SDA number is inflated in the census because census workers counted all members of an SDA-led household, whether they attended Sabbath School or not. This raises the issue of how churches count their members. Seventh Day Adventists count the number attending Sabbath School. Some churches count adult baptised members. Other churches, particularly those that baptise infants, count adults and children.
- \* It is difficult to know how census officers assigned responses to the general “Other Pentecostal” category (#22). In fact, the coding list used for processing the 2000 census responses has many inadequacies. It appears that churches with “Pentecostal” in their name were assigned to the “Pentecostal” category, those with Evangelical in their name were assigned to the “Evangelical” category, and all the rest were put in the “Other” category. In table 3, (E) indicates membership in the Evangelical Alliance, and (P) that the church is a Pentecostal Church. Thus, at least one church in the “Other” category could be classed at Pentecostal, 10 churches in the “Other” category, and 5 churches in the Pentecostal category are members of the Evangelical Alliance. Classification into single categories is difficult because churches may be members of several of those categories. It should be noted that in PNG there are 22 churches, 13 missions, 17 agencies, and one observer in the Evangelical Alliance.

**Table 3: 2000 Census Code Divisions of Evangelical Alliance, Pentecostal and Other Christian**

| Evangelical Alliance        | Pentecostal                    | Other Christian                         |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
|                             |                                |   |
| Evangelical Brotherhood     | Assemblies of God (E)          | Australian Church of Christ Mission (E) |
| South Seas Evangelical      | Christian Revival Crusade      | Bamu River Mission                      |
| Evangelical Church of Papua | Christian Life Centre (E)      | Hohola Christian Mission                |
| Evang. Wesleyan Church      | Gospel Lighthouse Church (E)   | Independent Christian Mission (P)       |
| Evangelical Church of Manus | Four Square Gospel (E)         | New Guinea Gospel Mission               |
|                             | Rhema Fellowship               | Apostolic Church of PNG (E)             |
|                             | Wewak Christian Fellowship (E) | New Life League Mission (E)             |
|                             | Other Pentecostal Churches     | Plymouth Brethren                       |
|                             |                                | News Tribes Mission                     |
|                             |                                | Christian Union Church (E)              |
|                             |                                | Faith Mission (E)                       |
|                             |                                | Church of the Nazarene (E)              |
|                             |                                | Asia Pacific Christian Mission (E)      |
|                             |                                | Christian Brethren Church (E)           |
|                             |                                | Paliau Christian Native Church          |
|                             |                                | Presbyterian Reformed Church            |
|                             |                                | Christian Mission in Many Lands (E)     |
|                             |                                | Tiliba Christian Mission (E)            |
|                             |                                | Village Church Mission                  |
|                             |                                | Others                                  |

*Source: Printout from NSO*

- \* In the 2000 official census results, Baptist churches are amalgamated under one name "Baptist". This is new, as in the 1990 census results they were grouped into the "Other Christian" category. This is just one example of discontinuity between the 2000 census codification and previous ones. In table 2, #23-28, and possibly #39, are Baptist churches. However, if one would in-

clude the names of Independent Baptist churches, the number would surpass 35.

- \* “Asia Pacific” (Table 2, #30) stands for the Asia Pacific Christian Mission (the former Unevangelised Fields Mission), which is now amalgamated with the Evangelical Church of Papua (#5).
- \* “Australian Church” (Table 2, (#31) presumably stands for the “Australian Church of Christ.” This in itself presents a problem because there are several different Churches of Christ in PNG. However, further on (#51) there is a major error in assigning the category “Church of Christ” to the Mormons (The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints). How is one to know whether those in the “Church of Christ” category are in fact members of one of the Churches of Christ, or are from the Latter Day Saints (Mormons)?
- \* Moreover, why are the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints and Jehovah’s Witnesses (Table 2, #53) assigned to the “Other Religions” category in the official results in Table 1? Admittedly, these churches have doctrinal differences with the other major Christian churches, but this is hardly reason to include them in a non-Christian category along with Bahai (#49) Buddhism (#50) and Islam (#52), Judaism (#54) and Hinduism (#55).
- \* The category “NA” (Table 2, #58) meaning “not applicable”, refers to persons in non-private dwellings such as prisons, hotels, hospitals, and persons on board ships. Their numbers were recorded, but not their religious affiliation.

These comments illustrate how one must be critically discerning in using data, both official and non-official, from the PNG 2000 census.

### **Interpreting census results over time**

The National Statistical Office of PNG has released figures from the 1966, 1980, 1990 and 2000 censuses. Difficulties with the census 2000 data have been noted above. Such discrepancies only increase when one tries moves to diachronic analysis of data on religion.

The 1966 and 1980 censuses asked about religion only in urban areas (Urban = >500 persons). Only samples were used for rural areas. A glance at Appendix, Table 7: A, B, C, D will reveal the great

variance in church affiliation in the different provinces of PNG. These are largely due to historical factors and early comity arrangements whereby some missions would co-operate in not encroaching on another's territory. Thus, the Northern Province is predominantly Anglican (60%), while the majority of the population in the Morobe province is Evangelical Lutheran (70%). The historical territorial factor could well bias the results of sampling in rural areas.

The NSO admits that because of differences in the nature of questions asked in the censuses and also the non-uniformity in the coverage in terms of population and geographical areas, it is not possible to carry out a valid comparative analysis at the national level for the 1966, 1980 and 1990 censuses. Only the data for 1966 and 1990 can be compared at the national level. The 1980 data for urban areas can be compared with the urban area data of 1966 and 1990 censuses. The NSO notes that data for rural areas in 1966 were subject to sampling errors (NSO 1994:174).

Moreover, there are inconsistencies in recording names of religion and church throughout the censuses from 1966 until the present day. The names from the four censuses are set out in Table 4 below. The 1966 census results attempt to list most of the churches known at that time. It is the only one to include ancestral beliefs. The 1980 and 1990 lists are not so exhaustive, but include some new groups which were not listed in 1966. For example, Jehovah's Witnesses and Gutnius Lutheran appear in 1980, and Pentecostals and Bahai appear in 1990. Some churches appearing in the 1966 list, such as Papua Ekalesia and Methodist, had, by 1980, become part of the United Church of Papua New Guinea.

The 1966 census counted both "indigenous" and "non-indigenous" persons. From 1980 onwards, census results give religious data for both "citizens" and "non-citizens." In 1990 and 2000 official census results, data for both citizens and non-citizens is available, though official summary tables list figures for citizen population only.

Because of the Bougainville Crisis, the people of the North Solomons Province were not included in the 1990 census. The North Solomons Province was estimated to be 75% Catholic at the time. David Vincent has adjusted the figures to estimate a Catholic population overall of 30.2%, rather than 28.3% based on the official 1990 census figures (Vincent: 40-41). Researchers must take into account that Bougainville was not included in the 1990 census, since a direct comparison of results for 1990 and 2000 in which Bougainville was included could produce biased results.

**Table 4: List of Religions/Churches in Different Censuses**

| 1966 Census            | 1980 Census                        | 1990 Census           | 2000 Census            |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| <i>Christianity</i>    | <i>Christianity</i>                | <i>Christianity</i>   | <i>Christian</i>       |
| Church of England      | Anglican                           | Anglican              | Anglican               |
| Baptist                | Baptist                            |                       | Baptist                |
| Evangelical Alliance   | Evangelical Alliance               | Evangelical Alliance  | Evangelical Alliance   |
| Lutheran               | Lutheran                           | Evangelical Lutheran  | Evangelical Lutheran   |
| Catholic, Roman        | Roman Catholic                     | Roman Catholic        | Roman Catholic         |
| United Church          | United Church                      | United Church         | United Church          |
| Salvation Army         | Salvation Army                     | Salvation Army        | Salvation Army         |
| Seventh D. Adventist   | Seventh D. Adventist               | Seventh D. Adventist  | Seventh D. Adventist   |
|                        |                                    | Pentecostals          | Pentecostal            |
| Congregational         |                                    |                       |                        |
| Methodist              |                                    |                       |                        |
| Papua Ekalesia         |                                    |                       |                        |
| Brethren               |                                    |                       |                        |
| Presbyterian           |                                    |                       |                        |
| Church of Christ       |                                    |                       |                        |
| Orthodox               |                                    |                       |                        |
|                        | Gutnius Lutheran                   |                       |                        |
|                        | Jehovah Witness                    |                       |                        |
| Protestant (undefined) |                                    |                       |                        |
| Other Christians       | Other Missions & Churches & Faiths | Others                | Other Christian        |
| <i>Non-Christians</i>  |                                    | <i>Other Religion</i> | <i>Other Religions</i> |
| Indigenous Religion    |                                    |                       |                        |
|                        |                                    |                       | Church of Christ       |
|                        |                                    |                       | Jehovah's Witness      |
|                        |                                    | Bahai                 | Bahai                  |
|                        |                                    | Hinduism              |                        |
|                        |                                    | Buddhism              |                        |
|                        |                                    | Jewish                |                        |
|                        |                                    | Islam                 |                        |
| Other Non-Christians   |                                    | Others                | Other Religion         |
| Indefinite             | Not Asked                          |                       |                        |
| No Religion            | No Religion                        | No Religion           | No Religion            |
| No Reply               | Not Stated                         | Not Stated            | Not Stated             |



## Growth and Decline of Church Affiliation

The only valid way to compare non-mainline Christian Churches aside from the Salvation Army and Seventh Day Adventist, is to include them all together. This would need to include also the Latter Day Saints and Jehovah's Witnesses who are classed as non-Christian in the 2000 census data.

The results are compared in Table 5 below:

**Table 5: Religious Affiliation (citizens) in PNG (1966-2000)**

| Religions            | 1966      | 1990      | 2000               | Growth   |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------|--------------------|----------|
| Citizens             | 2,078,560 | 3,582,333 | 5,171,548          | x2.5     |
| Christian            | 1,913,110 | 3,458,577 | 4,934,098          | x2.6     |
| Anglican             | 104,336   | 141,082   | 166,046            | x1.6     |
| Lutheran (1)         | 592,936   | 831,598   | 1,001,005          | x1.7     |
| Catholic             | 619,814   | 1,012,091 | 1,391,033          | x2.2     |
| United (2)           | 301,897   | 455,689   | 591,458            | x1.9     |
| Salvation Army       | 417       | 7,441     | 10,377             | x24.9    |
| Seventh D. Adventist | 64,545    | 289,446   | 520,098            | x8.1     |
| Other Christian (3)  | 229,165   | 721,230   | 1,275,222          | x5.6     |
| Non-Christian        | 262       | 10,319    | 32,772 (30,764)    | x125.0   |
| Bahai                | n.a.      | 6,834     | 15,408 (14,924)(4) |          |
| Islam                | n.a.      | 440       | 756 (476)          |          |
| Buddhism             | n.a.      | 459       | 800 (256)          |          |
| Hinduism             | n.a.      | 460       | 475 (40)           |          |
| Judaism              | n.a.      | 40        | 46 (43)            |          |
| Other                | n.a.      | 3,524     | 15287 (15,025)     |          |
| No Religion          | 161,298   | 91,761    | 30,733             | x(-)19.0 |
| Not Stated           | 3,890     | 21,666    | 103,239            | x25.7    |

Source: Various census reports from the NSO

(1) Lutheran includes both Evangelical Lutheran and Gutnius Lutheran.

(2) United includes Methodist, Papua Ekalesia, and United Church.

(3) Other Christian includes Evangelical Alliance, Baptist, Pentecostal, Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, and Other Christian Churches such as Brethren, Presbyterian, Orthodox, and Protestant undefined.

(4) Figures available for non-Christians in 1990 include both citizens and non-citizens. To be consistent, both the figure including citizens and non-citizens is given, with the figure for citizens only in parenthesis.

It is obvious from Table 5 above that between 1966 and 2000, some churches have increased faster than the population growth (x2.5 or 250%), while other churches have not kept up with population growth and have consequently decreased relative to the population. The four “mainline” churches (Anglican, Lutheran, Catholic, United) are all in this latter category. Their membership in 1996 amounted to 77.8% of the citizen population, while in 2000 it is only 61.2%, a decrease of 16.6% over the 34-year period.

The number of people in the “No Religion” category has declined since 1966. By contrast, the percentage of those identified as Christian has increased from 92.0% in 1966 to 96.2% in 2000.

Looking at the change over the ten years between 1990 and 2000, and excluding the census 2000 figures for the North Solomon’s Province so as to make a more accurate comparison, since the North Solomons Province was not included in the 1990 census, the percentage increase is as follows.

**table 6: Percentage increase in citizen population from 1990 - 2000 (excluding NSP)**

|                              | 1990      | 2000      | Pop. increase | % increase |
|------------------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|------------|
| Total Citizen Christian pop. | 3,458,577 | 4,806,003 | 1,347,426     | 40         |
| Anglican                     | 141,082   | 165,726   | 24,644        | 17         |
| Lutheran                     | 831,598   | 1,000,823 | 169,225       | 20         |
| United                       | 455,689   | 566,271   | 110,582       | 24         |
| Catholic                     | 1,012,091 | 1,272,268 | 260,177       | 26         |
| SDA                          | 289,446   | 509,008   | 219,562       | 76         |
| Other Churches (1)           | 728,671   | 1,291,907 | 563,236       | 77         |

*Source: Adapted from various census figures released by NSO*

*(1) Other Churches include all Christian Churches other than those listed above.*

The overall population has increased by 40% during the period between 1990 and 2000. The table shows that the “mainline” churches such as Anglican, Lutheran, United and Catholic have increased in numbers at a much lower rate than the overall population, while churches like the Seventh Day Adventist and “Other” churches (mostly Evangelical Alliance, and Pentecostal churches) have increased at almost twice the rate of the general population and are growing at almost three times the rate of the “mainline” churches. Some Pentecostal churches are increasing at a very rapid rate. For example, the Assemblies of God Church in PNG, has increased by 413% over the 15 years between 1989 and 2004—an average of 28% a year!

## **Trends and implications**

From the 2000 PNG census, we learn that 96% of PNG citizens identify as Christian. This percentage is high compared to some neighbouring countries. For example, Indonesia is 9% Christian ([www.omf.org.uk](http://www.omf.org.uk)), and Australia 67% (Australian Bureau of Statistics 2001 census, Table B10).

This paper has revealed many limitations in the usefulness of census data in PNG, particularly on the subject of churches and religions. In some cases, only samples were used in rural areas. There is lack of uniformity in the nature of questions asked, and in the categories used for the different churches. Moreover, there are inconsistencies in recording names of religion and church throughout the censuses from 1966 until the present day. Perhaps this study will help ease some of the confusion and provide avenues for a more accurate and user-friendly data collection in the future.

The statistical data showing how the historical Mainline Churches are steadily losing ground to other churches in PNG must surely raise questions as to the cause of this trend and the implications for the future of those churches. A student at Martin Luther Seminary commented that if the trend continues, there would come a time when his church would exist “in name only.” The alarmed comment is hypothetical, nevertheless, through interviews and questionnaires, the writer has found that many members of Mainline Churches feel threatened by other newer churches because they compete with them for people’s allegiance. Church rivalry can bring discord within families, clans and villages. Underlying these divisions is a change to a more individualistic lifestyle. Individualism can be expressed in a personal faith commitment and also in a weakening of ties with traditional customs and values. A student from Catholic Theological Institute commented:

“They belong to the Melanesian community, but act as foreigners condemning Melanesian community values. They only believe in their church community and so form new church tribes.”

What are the reasons for the attractiveness and consequent growth of the other newer churches? A good number of respondents commented that these churches are more alive and create a sense of enthusiasm not found in many of the established churches. Music and preaching styles add to an atmosphere that many people find attractive, particularly the youth. Some people feel that these other churches are meeting people’s desire for freedom; freedom of young people to make friends and to get married with less concern for the burden of giving a large “bride-price” payment; freedom from certain cultural responsibilities like compensation payments; freedom (of pastors) to be their own boss. Respondents also mention prosperity—both material and spiritual. Some people feel that the new churches are filling a spiritual gap left by the Mainline Churches. Others benefit materially through support for school fees, or connections for getting employment. Franco Zocca makes the point that according to census figures, it seems that women are more likely to be attracted to the non-mainline churches (Zocca 2004: 64).

From the writer’s enquiries in some Highlands Provinces, it seems that many people leave mainline churches for quite personal reasons: cure of an illness after prayer, a dream, the desire to not have to care for pigs, anger against members of the church, particularly priests or pastors, or trying to resolve marital problems. Some would like to return to their original church, but feel ashamed. Nevertheless, the movement is not all one way. One Enga woman told of how she decided to become a Catholic after visiting the Holy Land and being impressed by the Catholic presence there.

Some researchers propose that Mainline Churches should establish better dialogue with Melanesian traditions (Mantovani 1995:38), and devote more attention to the magical and millennial components of Melanesian traditional religion (Zocca 1995: 91ff). Mainline Churches tend to promote a rational view of human progress and development, and do not give much urgency to the final coming of God’s Kingdom. “No wonder that Melanesians are more attracted to the latter group of Churches” (Zocca 1995: 183).

Despite losing out to the new churches, the four historical Mainline Churches have responded rather differently to revival-type phenomena. The Catholic Church has generally encouraged the charismatic movement within the church, though some take a cautious stand,

seeing such forms of worship as foreign to Catholic tradition. In some cases, parish priests have felt the need to establish some sort of order. Such intervention might be accepted and in other cases it could result in groups forming their own breakaway movement or church. Revival and renewal exists in the Anglican Church also. Renewal in a broader sense has been accepted, but revival has been the cause of some tension within the Church (Interview with Archbishop Ayong, Mt Hagen 22.11.02).

The United Church has been less accommodating to renewal and charismatic type movements. Generally those entertaining Pentecostal tendencies have found little place in the Church. However, one United Church student commented, "The Church is beginning to accept renewal movements, but it must be taught in a way that it appears as a blessing to the church from God and not something else."

The Lutheran Church has created a special office for dialogue with Renewal Movements. Some Lutheran students commented how renewal and charismatic movements create a vital and inspiring atmosphere in the church. Others noted how the renewal movements do not follow the order of worship, and have "thrown everything out the window". Benefiting from the office for dialogue with Renewal Movements, some have learned that praise in worship is not a monopoly of renewal movements—that one finds it in the Book of Psalms, and that such expressions are not a threat, but a message to the Mainline Churches of what has been lost and stands to be regained.

The churches that are growing quickly in PNG tend to have what could be termed a charismatic approach, coming from a worldview quite different from the Western scientific one. Prophecy is an everyday reality, and exorcism, faith healing and dream visions are commonplace. In PNG, despite modernisation, most people are open to "signs and wonders". They find similarities between their world and the world of the Bible. Thus, there is great interest in manifestations of the miraculous through the power of the Spirit, especially in healing and deliverance ministries. When they experience God's presence in their lives, people have a sense of liberation from fear and fate. Theirs is not a God of the poor, so much as a Saviour whose Spirit can overpower forces of evil, both spiritual and social. This is the Salvation people are searching for, whether within the Mainline Churches or elsewhere.

## APPENDIX

**Table 7A Religion: Citizens and Non-Citizens by Province:  
Southern Region**

| <i>Religion</i>         | <i>Western</i> | <i>Gulf</i> | <i>Central</i> | <i>NCD</i> | <i>Milne B.</i> | <i>Northern</i> |
|-------------------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| None                    | 591            | 1,280       | 178            | 1,228      | 101             | 206             |
| Anglican                | 429            | 224         | 1,078          | 7,711      | 27,650          | 80,359          |
| Evangelical Brotherhood | 108            | 116         | 162            | 994        | 69              | 257             |
| South Seas Evangelical  | 41             | 26          | 3              | 83         | 15              | 200             |
| Church of Papua         | 54,694         | 213         | 36             | 1,519      | 32              | 44              |
| Wesleyan                | 11             | 12          | 2              | 128        | 9               | 7               |
| Church of Manus         | 10             | 10          | 42             | 137        | 10              | 8               |
| Lutheran                | 1,652          | 6,232       | 1,294          | 22,690     | 449             | 4,666           |
| Gutnius Lutheran        | 12             | 9           | 9              | 145        | 8               | 5               |
| Roman Catholic          | 27,745         | 25,537      | 62,832         | 54,954     | 29,045          | 2,551           |
| Salvation Army          | 43             | 873         | 2,807          | 1,123      | 78              | 153             |
| Seventh Day Adventist   | 15,386         | 16,330      | 22,001         | 37,835     | 5,486           | 8,486           |
| United Church           | 17,552         | 39,375      | 76,003         | 72,952     | 117,107         | 1,155           |
| Kwato Church            | 2              | 3           | 610            | 101        | 8,249           | 10              |
| Assemblies of God       | 1,245          | 299         | 585            | 7,379      | 1,046           | 1,751           |
| Revival Crusade         | 2,558          | 2,136       | 3,083          | 4,082      | 3,148           | 15,786          |
| Life Centre             | 2,749          | 970         | 754            | 1,716      | 1,021           | 61              |
| Lighthouse Church       | 0              | 1           | 5              | 14         | 0               | 0               |
| Four Square Gospel      | 565            | 235         | 184            | 2,626      | 242             | 665             |
| Rhema Fellowship        | 91             | 31          | 30             | 148        | 646             | 9               |
| Wewak Fellowship        | 3              | 4           | 10             | 8          | 7               | 14              |
| Other Pentecostal       | 3,528          | 1,021       | 1,368          | 6,359      | 2,453           | 4,079           |
| Baptist                 | 7,081          | 2,647       | 1,231          | 5,590      | 173             | 672             |
| Boroko Baptist          | 0              | 1           | 0              | 10         | 1               | 0               |
| Sepik Baptist           | 4              | 0           | 0              | 6          | 0               | 1               |
| Sovereign Grace         | 25             | 1           | 0              | 29         | 0               | 2               |
| Tokarara Christian      | 1              | 0           | 0              | 47         | 0               | 2               |
| Western Highland        | 9              | 2           | 2              | 5          | 0               | 1               |
| Apostolic               | 4,701          | 1,038       | 455            | 1,104      | 244             | 2,189           |
| Asia Pacific            | 8              | 5           | 3              | 19         | 3               | 5               |
| Australian Church       | 1              | 238         | 1              | 152        | 2               | 112             |

**Table 7A Continued**

| <i>Religion</i>     | <i>Western</i> | <i>Gulf</i> | <i>Central</i> | <i>NCD</i> | <i>Milne B.</i> | <i>Northern</i> |
|---------------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Bamu River          | 1              | 0           | 5              | 2          | 3               | 0               |
| Brethren            | 0              | 1           | 260            | 349        | 1               | 1               |
| Many Lands          | 1              | 0           | 0              | 2          | 0               | 0               |
| Union Mission       | 0              | 8           | 10             | 70         | 0               | 0               |
| Nazarene            | 6              | 113         | 111            | 718        | 24              | 0               |
| Faith Mission       | 0              | 0           | 0              | 178        | 0               | 0               |
| Hohola Mission      | 0              | 0           | 0              | 1          | 0               | 0               |
| Independent         | 0              | 0           | 0              | 0          | 0               | 0               |
| New Guinea Gospel   | 0              | 0           | 0              | 1          | 0               | 0               |
| New Life Mission    | 1              | 0           | 11             | 35         | 1               | 2               |
| New Tribes          | 6              | 1,540       | 5              | 95         | 1               | 2               |
| Paliau (Makasol)    | 3              | 3           | 2              | 14         | 3               | 0               |
| Plymouth Brethren   | 0              | 0           | 0              | 4          | 0               | 1               |
| Presbyterian        | 2              | 0           | 1              | 37         | 0               | 0               |
| Tiliba Mission      | 0              | 1           | 1              | 37         | 1               | 7               |
| Village Mission     | 2              | 410         | 0              | 24         | 1               | 196             |
| Other Christian     | 4,501          | 1,230       | 786            | 5,707      | 2,736           | 4,819           |
| Bahai of PNG        | 1,768          | 349         | 2,048          | 423        | 4,450           | 1,018           |
| Buddhism            | 43             | 16          | 19             | 351        | 25              | 8               |
| Church of Christ    | 1,832          | 127         | 184            | 2,361      | 223             | 618             |
| Islam               | 27             | 1           | 6              | 293        | 4               | 7               |
| Jehovah Witness     | 660            | 1,750       | 1,198          | 3,053      | 1,178           | 751             |
| Judaism             | 5              | 2           | 2              | 9          | 1               | 4               |
| Hindu               | 1              | 1           | 1              | 284        | 3               | 0               |
| Other Religion      | 809            | 34          | 78             | 1,232      | 138             | 21              |
| NR (Not Reported)   | 2,617          | 2,268       | 4,395          | 6,649      | 3,904           | 2,063           |
| NA (Not applicable) | 174            | 175         | 92             | 1,335      | 421             | 91              |

**Table 7B Religion: Citizens and Non-Citizens by Province:  
Highlands Region**

| <i>Religion</i>         | <i>Southern H.</i> | <i>Enga</i> | <i>Western H.</i> | <i>Simbu</i> | <i>Eastern H</i> |
|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------------|--------------|------------------|
| None                    | 2,967              | 2,804       | 6,516             | 1,002        | 7,292            |
| Anglican                | 222                | 58          | 10,886            | 2,557        | 2,236            |
| Evangelical Brotherhood | 20,155             | 242         | 24,734            | 13,205       | 25,861           |
| South Seas Evangelical  | 956                | 4           | 381               | 723          | 45               |
| Church of Papua         | 40,982             | 197         | 421               | 115          | 131              |
| Wesleyan                | 10,168             | 17          | 848               | 17           | 40               |
| Church of Manus         | 175                | 17          | 49                | 18           | 15               |
| Lutheran                | 46,796             | 65,850      | 102,723           | 68,307       | 118,780          |
| Gutnius Lutheran        | 790                | 20,396      | 6,145             | 37           | 1,507            |
| Roman Catholic          | 114,341            | 63,642      | 135,561           | 91,608       | 12,193           |
| Salvation Army          | 97                 | 152         | 87                | 91           | 4,094            |
| Seventh Day Adventist   | 37,743             | 39,786      | 27,926            | 30,396       | 152,596          |
| United Church           | 85,332             | 3,643       | 2,632             | 641          | 1,759            |
| Kwato Church            | 17                 | 1           | 10                | 0            | 0                |
| Assemblies of God       | 6,676              | 2,821       | 16,965            | 3,355        | 1,908            |
| Revival Crusade         | 1,324              | 1,673       | 1,239             | 605          | 1,292            |
| Life Centre             | 2,009              | 283         | 2,078             | 2,584        | 5,400            |
| Lighthouse Church       | 75                 | 13          | 17                | 35           | 29               |
| Four Square Gospel      | 392                | 3,795       | 4,149             | 10,700       | 29,119           |
| Rhema Fellowship        | 163                | 32          | 125               | 35           | 137              |
| Wewak Fellowship        | 35                 | 25          | 102               | 50           | 66               |
| Other Pentecostal       | 25,740             | 14,758      | 10,778            | 9,691        | 10,843           |
| Baptist                 | 15,526             | 13,941      | 17,566            | 5,094        | 14,542           |
| Boroko Baptist          | 12                 | 2           | 0                 | 1            | 6                |
| Sepik Baptist           | 39                 | 6           | 8                 | 0            | 239              |
| Sovereign Grace         | 13                 | 38          | 22                | 61           | 0                |
| Tokarara Christian      | 44                 | 0           | 0                 | 1            | 3                |
| Western Highland        | 25                 | 13          | 966               | 8            | 7                |
| Apostolic               | 17,237             | 43,721      | 5,230             | 485          | 160              |
| Asia Pacific            | 370                | 28          | 51                | 13           | 21               |
| Australian Church       | 111                | 14          | 230               | 245          | 429              |
| Bamu River              | 55                 | 3           | 3                 | 6            | 6                |



**Table 7B Continued**

| <i>Religion</i>     | <i>Southern H.</i> | <i>Enga</i> | <i>Western H.</i> | <i>Simbu</i> | <i>Eastern H</i> |
|---------------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------------|--------------|------------------|
| Brethren            | 22,530             | 155         | 271               | 59           | 5                |
| Many Lands          | 11                 | 1           | 3                 | 1            | 3                |
| Union Mission       | 20,618             | 5           | 239               | 5            | 5                |
| Nazarene            | 2,959              | 589         | 13,893            | 3,792        | 458              |
| Faith Mission       | 10                 | 0           | 3                 | 624          | 4,891            |
| Hohola Mission      | 22                 | 0           | 1                 | 0            | 1                |
| Independent         | 7                  | 4           | 18                | 3            | 25               |
| New Guinea Gospel   | 14                 | 4           | 11                | 2            | 8                |
| New Life Mission    | 3                  | 4           | 151               | 56           | 570              |
| New Tribes          | 32                 | 28          | 23                | 1,328        | 9,742            |
| Paliau (Makasol)    | 16                 | 2           | 12                | 2            | 5                |
| Plymouth Brethren   | 674                | 0           | 0                 | 1            | 0                |
| Presbyterian        | 4                  | 6           | 34                | 2            | 27               |
| Tiliba Mission      | 14,621             | 2           | 95                | 3            | 3                |
| Village Mission     | 691                | 111         | 2,439             | 533          | 84               |
| Other Christian     | 39,187             | 5,849       | 30,402            | 3,757        | 9,492            |
| Bahai of PNG        | 147                | 2           | 245               | 474          | 400              |
| Buddhism            | 11                 | 7           | 20                | 15           | 24               |
| Church of Christ    | 281                | 5           | 374               | 1,437        | 186              |
| Islam               | 7                  | 0           | 25                | 204          | 17               |
| Jehovah Witness     | 97                 | 53          | 833               | 502          | 1,198            |
| Judaism             | 1                  | 1           | 1                 | 3            | 0                |
| Hindu               | 0                  | 1           | 10                | 2            | 18               |
| Other Religion      | 1,254              | 2,152       | 971               | 427          | 288              |
| NR (Not Reported)   | 12,390             | 7,988       | 10,787            | 4,626        | 14,743           |
| NA (Not applicable) | 91                 | 87          | 716               | 159          | 23               |

**Table 7C Religion: Citizens and Non-Citizens by Province:  
Momase Region**

| <i>Religion</i>         | <i>Morobe</i> | <i>Madang</i> | <i>East Sepik</i> | <i>West Sepik</i> |
|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| None                    | 2,204         | 1,617         | 1,235             | 572               |
| Anglican                | 4,620         | 21,838        | 261               | 37                |
| Evangelical Brotherhood | 2,993         | 4,022         | 5,479             | 2,692             |
| South Seas Evangelical  | 812           | 348           | 36,699            | 1,661             |
| Church of Papua         | 507           | 63            | 42                | 36                |
| Wesleyan                | 81            | 29            | 75                | 38                |
| Church of Manus         | 63            | 79            | 289               | 3                 |
| Lutheran                | 377,061       | 136,044       | 2,629             | 1,219             |
| Gutnius Lutheran        | 223           | 117           | 61                | 39                |
| Roman Catholic          | 29,389        | 121,885       | 151,108           | 86,774            |
| Salvation Army          | 365           | 66            | 55                | 46                |
| Seventh Day Adventist   | 29,337        | 15,652        | 25,195            | 8,057             |
| United Church           | 6,554         | 2,178         | 909               | 349               |
| Kwato Church            | 8             | 12            | 9                 | 7                 |
| Assemblies of God       | 7,364         | 2,380         | 62,307            | 5,484             |
| Revival Crusade         | 4,092         | 2,572         | 4,889             | 6,100             |
| Life Centre             | 1,179         | 678           | 887               | 5                 |
| Lighthouse Church       | 309           | 648           | 29                | 8                 |
| Four Square Gospel      | 4,973         | 11,335        | 2,080             | 1,613             |
| Rhema Fellowship        | 60            | 212           | 65                | 455               |
| Wewak Fellowship        | 11            | 18            | 41                | 12                |
| Other Pentecostal       | 10,485        | 5,826         | 6,325             | 6,323             |
| Baptist                 | 12,411        | 5,236         | 2,124             | 22,751            |
| Boroko Baptist          | 2             | 3             | 5                 | 20                |
| Sepik Baptist           | 6             | 2             | 2                 | 4                 |
| Sovereign Grace         | 15            | 2             | 30                | 9                 |
| Tokarara Christian      | 2             | 0             | 1                 | 0                 |
| Western Highland        | 23            | 8             | 10                | 3                 |
| Apostolic               | 2,439         | 2,353         | 15,546            | 3,457             |
| Asia Pacific            | 13            | 3             | 18                | 6                 |
| Australian Church       | 559           | 89            | 368               | 2                 |
| Bamu River              | 1             | 7             | 4                 | 131               |

**Table 7C Continued**

| <i>Religion</i>     | <i>Morobe</i> | <i>Madang</i> | <i>East Sepik</i> | <i>West Sepik</i> |
|---------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Brethren            | 119           | 8             | 212               | 25,069            |
| Many Lands          | 0             | 0             | 0                 | 7                 |
| Union Mission       | 7             | 7             | 6                 | 6                 |
| Nazarene            | 1,250         | 6,009         | 904               | 1,676             |
| Faith Mission       | 33            | 3             | 0                 | 119               |
| Hohola Mission      | 2             | 1             | 1                 | 1                 |
| Independent         | 2             | 43            | 681               | 55                |
| New Guinea Gospel   | 40            | 172           | 0                 | 23                |
| New Life Mission    | 1,467         | 6             | 996               | 3,974             |
| New Tribes          | 4,953         | 16            | 2,286             | 5                 |
| Paliau (Makasol)    | 3             | 1             | 6                 | 4                 |
| Plymouth Brethren   | 8             | 0             | 1                 | 1                 |
| Presbyterian        | 5             | 3             | 6                 | 0                 |
| Tiliba Mission      | 11            | 0             | 94                | 3                 |
| Village Mission     | 719           | 46            | 1,320             | 3                 |
| Other Christian     | 13,476        | 4,309         | 5,095             | 2,525             |
| Bahai of PNG        | 757           | 1,501         | 642               | 114               |
| Buddhism            | 118           | 24            | 16                | 19                |
| Church of Christ    | 1,595         | 6,817         | 4,370             | 6                 |
| Islam               | 56            | 5             | 2                 | 23                |
| Jehovah Witness     | 2,415         | 2,393         | 1,205             | 634               |
| Judaism             | 3             | 4             | 6                 | 0                 |
| Hindu               | 112           | 12            | 3                 | 0                 |
| Other Religion      | 3,295         | 941           | 378               | 632               |
| NR (Not Reported)   | 9,260         | 6,766         | 5,878             | 2,785             |
| NA (Not applicable) | 1,537         | 697           | 295               | 144               |

**Table 7D Religion: Citizens and Non-Citizens by Province: New Guinea Islands Region**

| <i>Religion</i>         | <i>Manus</i> | <i>New Ireland</i> | <i>E. N. Britain</i> | <i>W. N. Britain</i> | <i>N. Solomons</i> |
|-------------------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| None                    | 418          | 124                | 177                  | 146                  | 739                |
| Anglican                | 72           | 287                | 571                  | 6,111                | 327                |
| Evangelical Brotherhood | 13           | 47                 | 121                  | 303                  | 73                 |
| South Seas Evangelical  | 1            | 695                | 337                  | 5,937                | 14                 |
| Church of Papua         | 15           | 8                  | 14                   | 62                   | 15                 |
| Wesleyan                | 24           | 2                  | 5                    | 13                   | 7                  |
| Church of Manus         | 5,614        | 15                 | 55                   | 47                   | 72                 |
| Lutheran                | 2,168        | 1,556              | 3,244                | 10,604               | 172                |
| Gutnius Lutheran        | 2            | 25                 | 54                   | 13                   | 13                 |
| Roman Catholic          | 19,350       | 45,830             | 110,529              | 102,209              | 119,216            |
| Salvation Army          | 4            | 28                 | 67                   | 149                  | 49                 |
| Seventh Day Adventist   | 9,103        | 10,206             | 8,073                | 11,947               | 11,120             |
| United Church           | 497          | 46,575             | 70,075               | 15,371               | 25,347             |
| Kwato Church            | 2            | 10                 | 3                    | 5                    | 2                  |
| Assemblies of God       | 340          | 840                | 2,916                | 12,136               | 735                |
| Revival Crusade         | 965          | 491                | 3,069                | 1,455                | 1,412              |
| Life Centre             | 3            | 361                | 187                  | 659                  | 3,496              |
| Lighthouse Church       | 0            | 7                  | 20                   | 24                   | 3                  |
| Four Square Gospel      | 152          | 718                | 1,320                | 848                  | 847                |
| Rhema Fellowship        | 3            | 12                 | 146                  | 62                   | 58                 |
| Wewak Fellowship        | 2            | 11                 | 16                   | 9                    | 29                 |
| Other Pentecostal       | 89           | 3,400              | 7,166                | 1,321                | 3,348              |
| Baptist                 | 255          | 495                | 1,425                | 1,414                | 350                |
| Boroko Baptist          | 0            | 1                  | 3                    | 0                    | 0                  |
| Sepik Baptist           | 0            | 0                  | 3                    | 2                    | 1                  |
| Sovereign Grace         | 0            | 0                  | 1                    | 1                    | 0                  |
| Tokarara Christian      | 1            | 1                  | 1                    | 0                    | 0                  |
| Western Highland        | 1            | 0                  | 0                    | 2                    | 1                  |
| Apostolic               | 117          | 59                 | 27                   | 490                  | 1                  |
| Asia Pacific            | 4            | 4                  | 7                    | 3                    | 6                  |
| Australian Church       | 9            | 0                  | 5                    | 2                    | 1                  |
| Bamu River              | 0            | 0                  | 1                    | 1                    | 1                  |

**Table 7D Continued**

| <i>Religion</i>     | <i>Manus</i> | <i>New Ireland</i> | <i>E. N. Britain</i> | <i>W. N. Britain</i> | <i>N. Solomons</i> |
|---------------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Brethren            | 0            | 0                  | 1                    | 16                   | 0                  |
| Many Lands          | 1            | 1                  | 0                    | 0                    | 282                |
| Union Mission       | 0            | 0                  | 6                    | 270                  | 0                  |
| Nazarene            | 1            | 97                 | 15                   | 188                  | 67                 |
| Faith Mission       | 0            | 0                  | 0                    | 0                    | 9                  |
| Hohola Mission      | 0            | 0                  | 1                    | 0                    | 0                  |
| Independent         | 0            | 0                  | 0                    | 0                    | 0                  |
| New Guinea Gospel   | 0            | 1                  | 0                    | 0                    | 0                  |
| New Life Mission    | 3            | 176                | 5                    | 84                   | 2                  |
| New Tribes          | 2            | 5                  | 896                  | 5,899                | 685                |
| Paliau (Makasol)    | 314          | 5                  | 3                    | 3                    | 0                  |
| Plymouth Brethren   | 0            | 0                  | 0                    | 0                    | 0                  |
| Presbyterian        | 0            | 2                  | 0                    | 11                   | 1                  |
| Tiliba Mission      | 1            | 1                  | 4                    | 4                    | 3                  |
| Village Mission     | 0            | 522                | 732                  | 127                  | 66                 |
| Other Christian     | 2,360        | 1,896              | 2,435                | 1,024                | 1,666              |
| Bahai of PNG        | 77           | 218                | 59                   | 750                  | 38                 |
| Buddhism            | 4            | 5                  | 28                   | 42                   | 4                  |
| Church of Christ    | 25           | 8                  | 72                   | 48                   | 50                 |
| Islam               | 0            | 1                  | 13                   | 65                   | 0                  |
| Jehovah Witness     | 281          | 540                | 788                  | 939                  | 382                |
| Judaism             | 0            | 1                  | 0                    | 1                    | 2                  |
| Hindu               | 0            | 0                  | 13                   | 14                   | 0                  |
| Other Religion      | 36           | 607                | 779                  | 310                  | 905                |
| NR (Not Reported)   | 1,045        | 2,099              | 4,057                | 2,931                | 3,496              |
| NA (Not applicable) | 13           | 357                | 587                  | 436                  | 47                 |

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