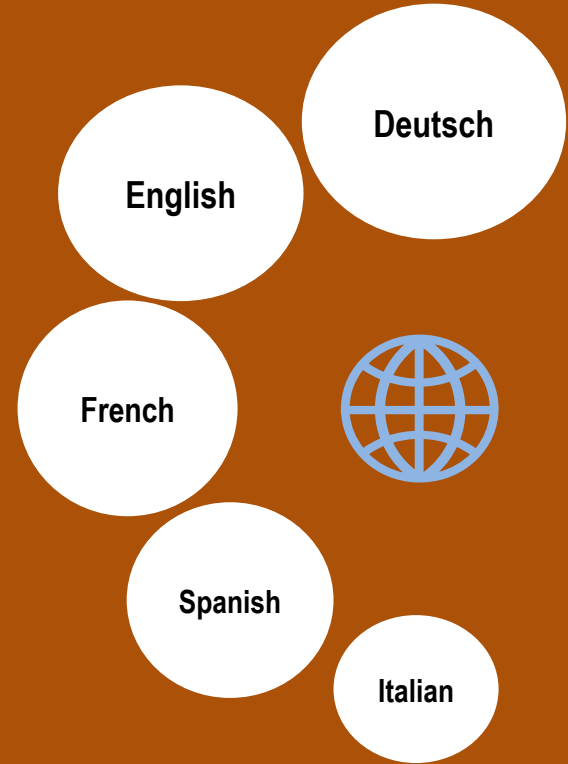
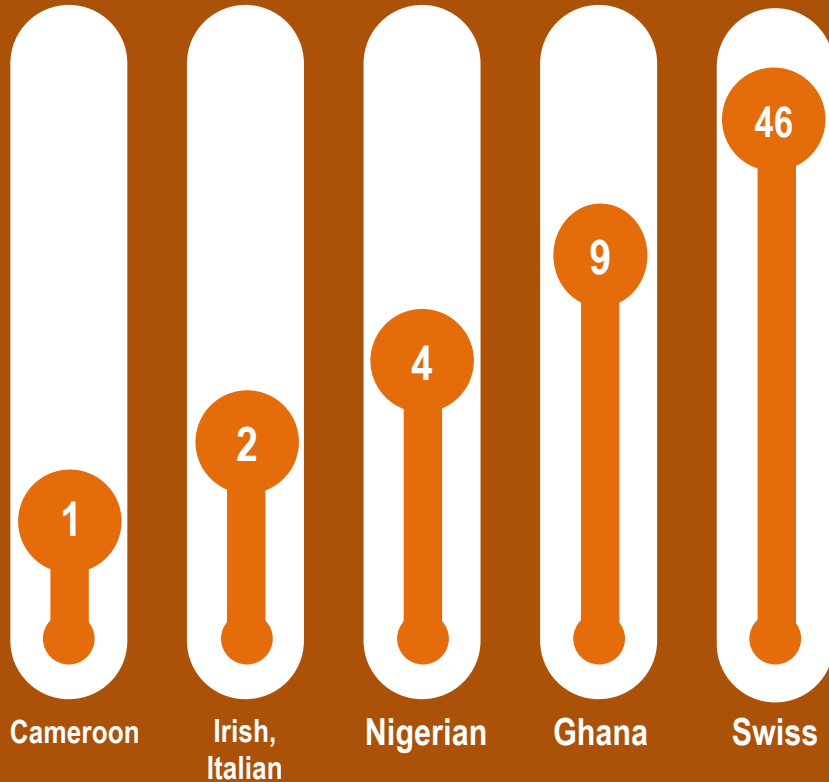


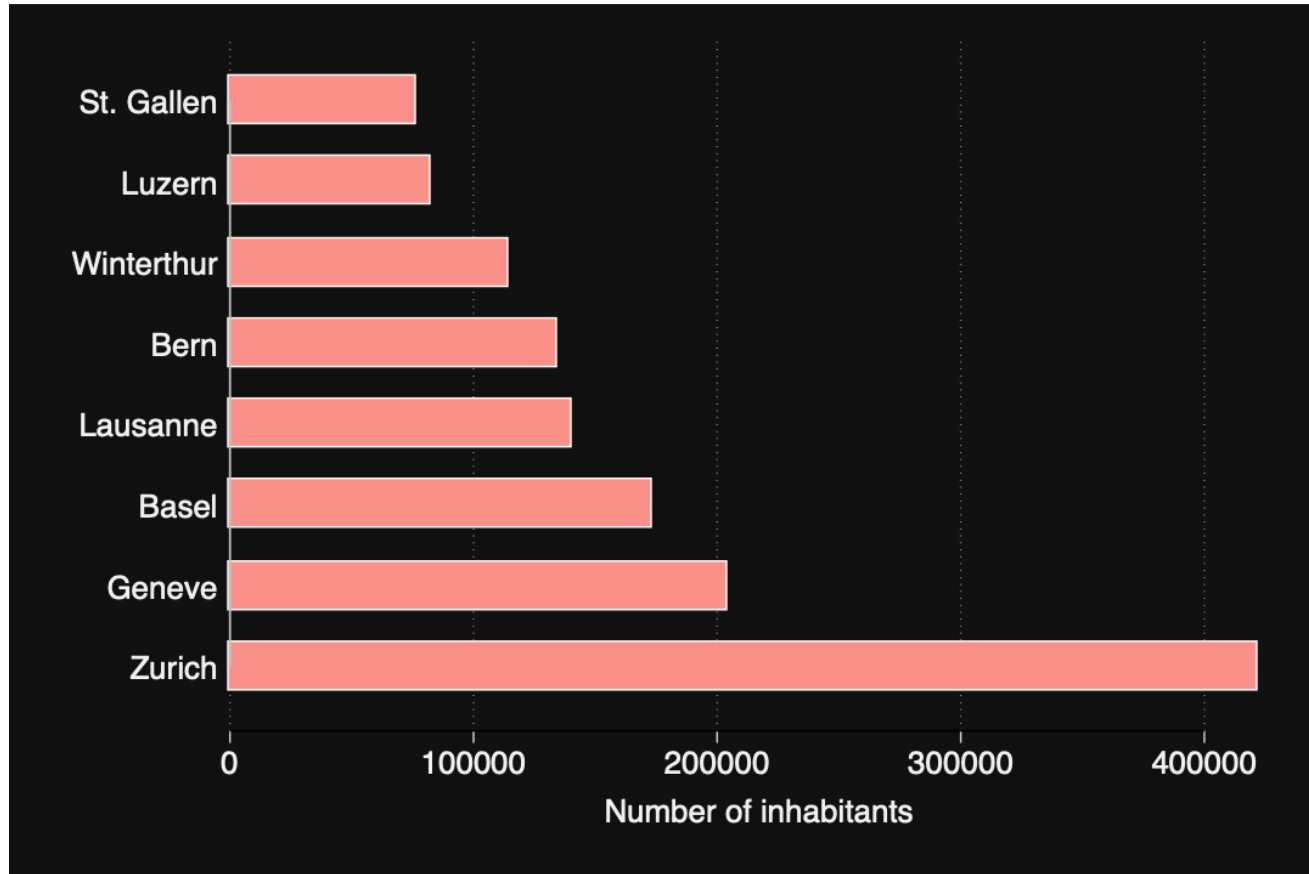
An aerial photograph of a city skyline, likely New York City, viewed from a high angle. The image is overlaid with a solid orange gradient. In the center, the text "The PIWC Local Church as a City Church" is written in a large, white, sans-serif font. The city buildings are visible in the foreground and middle ground, with a body of water (likely the Hudson River) visible in the background.

The PIWC Local Church as a City Church

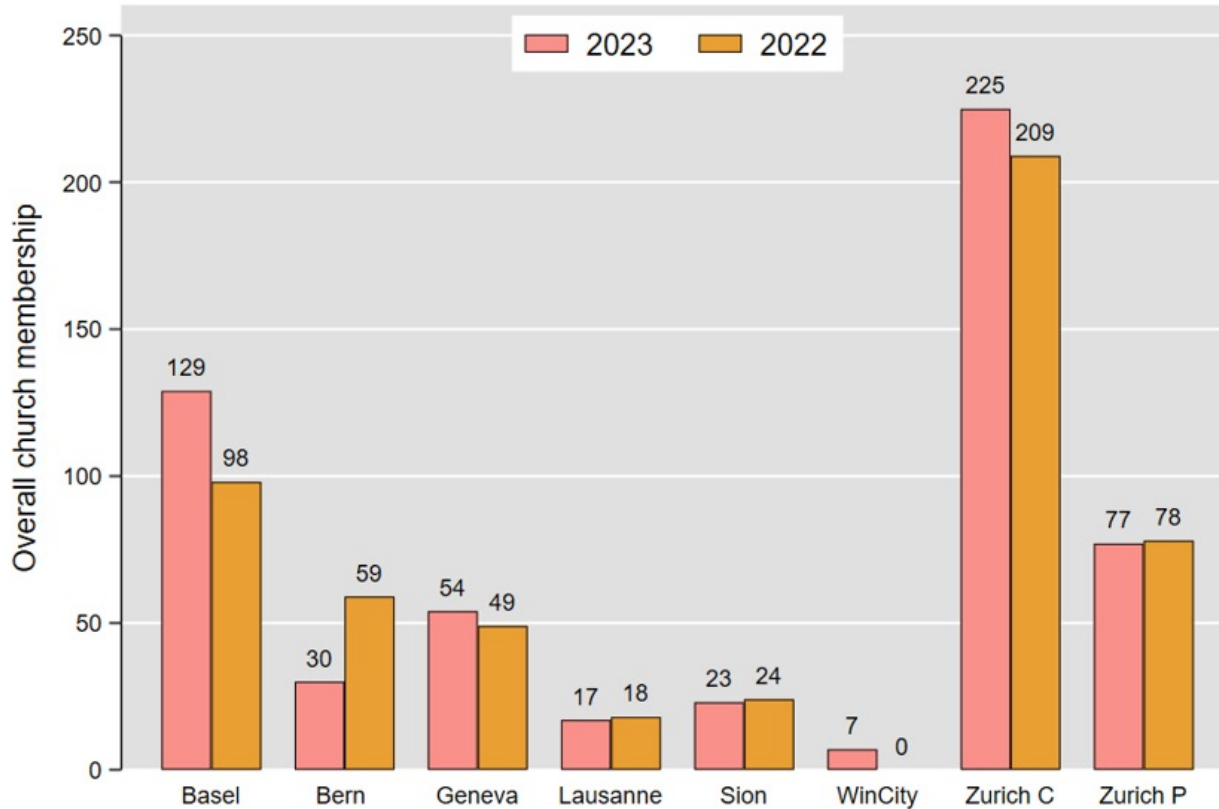
PIWC Zurich is unique in its diversity



Zurich is a key entry point for city ministry



Zurich is a key entry point for city ministry



Cities have always been important in the Bible

And Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch. And he built a city, and called the name of the city after the name of his son—Enoch.

– Genesis 4:17, NKJV

And they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.”

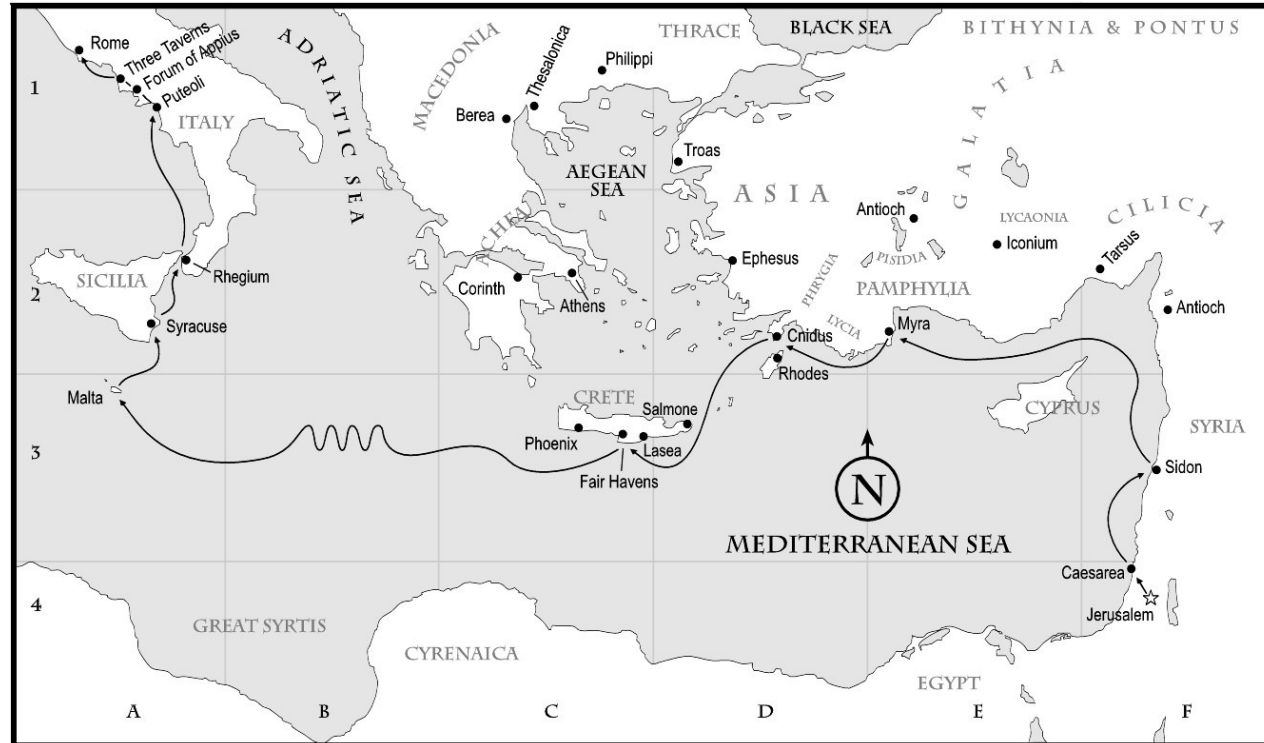
– Genesis 11:4: NKJV



Cities were strategic locations in Paul's ministry

Cities in

- Israel
- Turkey
- Cyprus
- Lebanon
- Syria
- Greece
- Malta
- Italy



Paul's third missionary journey to Rome



Cities provide unique opportunities to witness

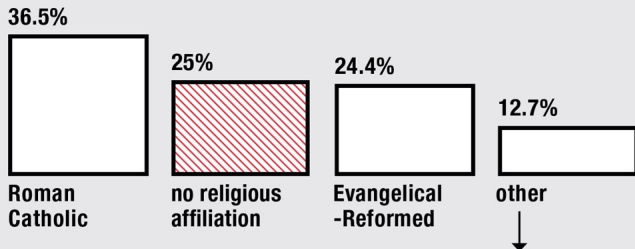


Switzerland.

WE BELIEVE IN FREEDOM OF RELIGION

RELIGION

of inhabitants over 15 years of age (in 2017):



Other Christian religious communities	6%
Islamic religious communities	5.2%
Other religious communities	1.4%
Jewish religious communities	0.3%

2 REFORMERS



The Reformation in Switzerland in the 16th century began with Huldrych Zwingli in Zurich and Jean Calvin in Geneva.

FREEDOM

Religious freedom is a fundamental right in Switzerland and is enshrined in the Federal Constitution.



The Swiss Guard has protected the Pope and his residence since 1506.

¹⁴ I am obligated to both to Greeks and non-Greek, both to the wise and the foolish. ¹⁵ That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are in Rome. ¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes

Romans 1: 14 – 16, NIV



But cities are also difficult terrains

I only know that in every **city** the Holy Spirit warns me that **prison** and **hardships** are facing me.

– Acts 20:23, NIV



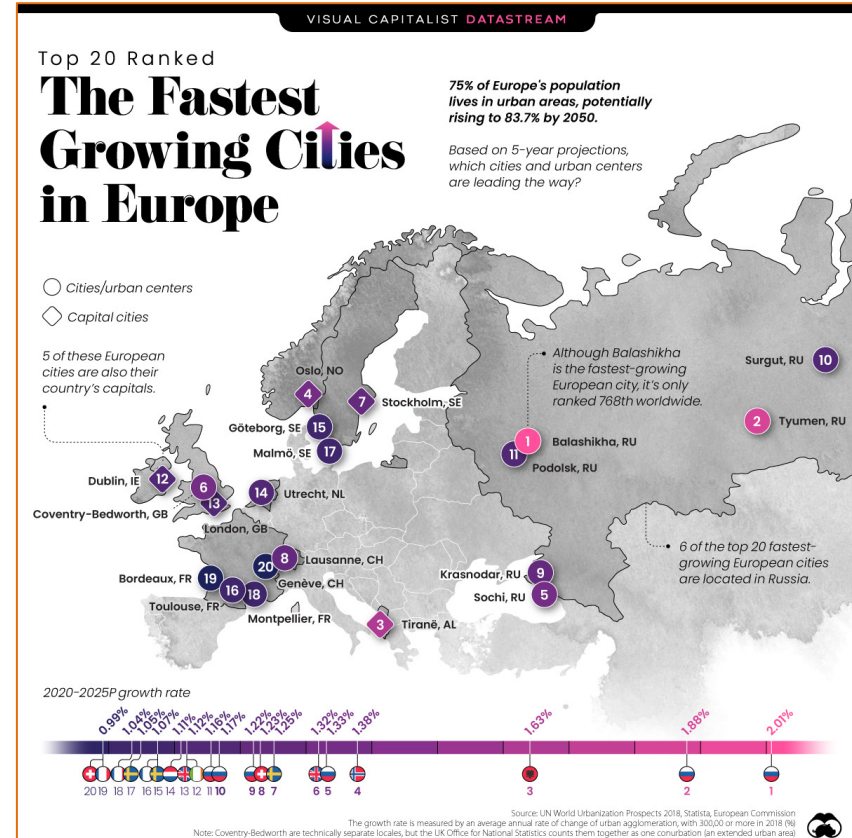
Apostle Paul in prison



What is driving city trends?

32 From the tribe of Issachar, there were 200 leaders of the tribe with their relatives. **All these men understood the signs of the times and knew the best course for Israel to take.**

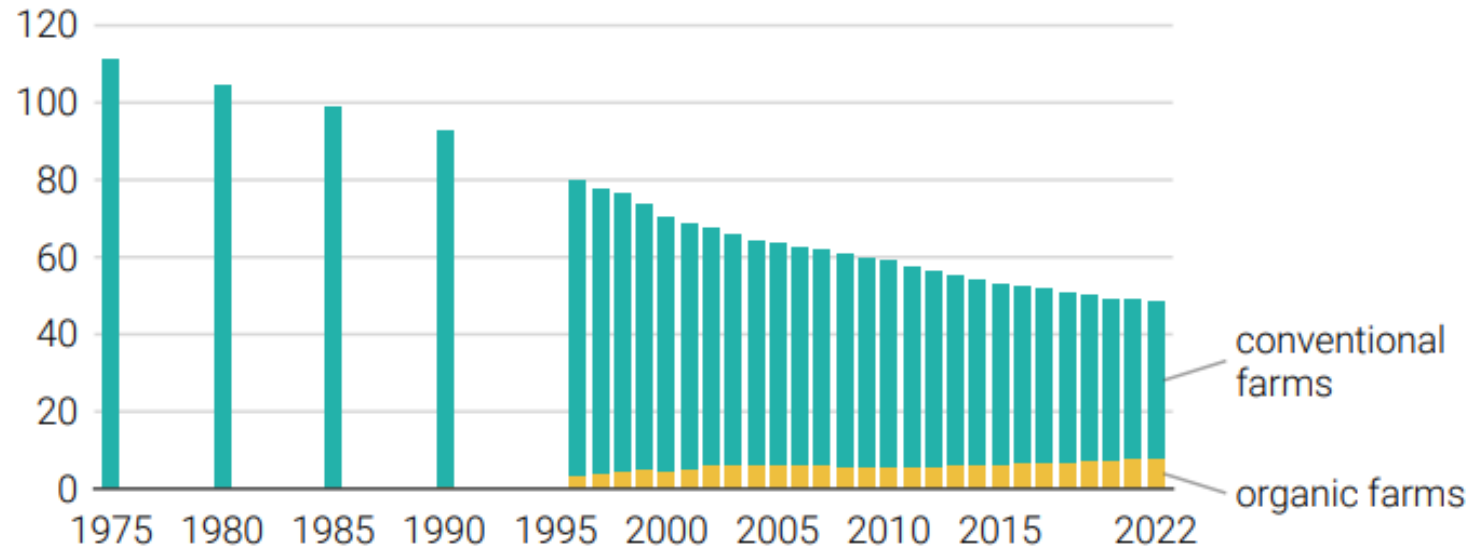
– 1 Chronicles 12:32, NLT



Push factors: rural-urban migration

Farms, 1975–2022

Thousands of farms



Source: FSO – Farm structure survey

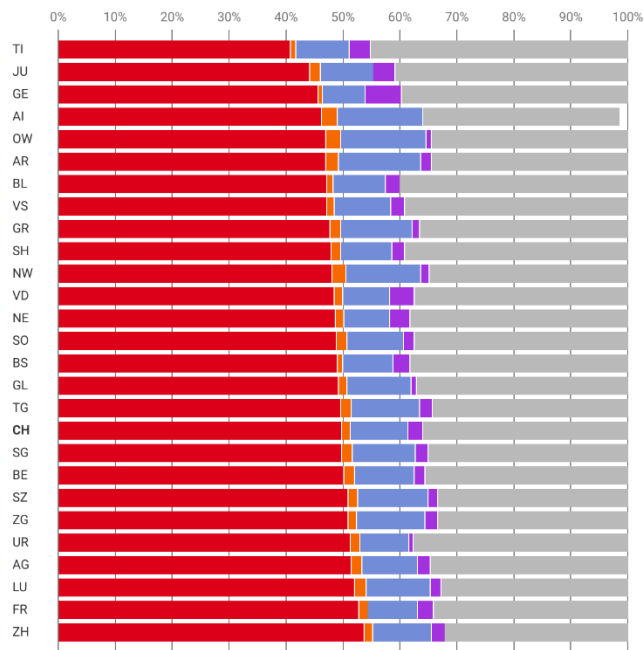
© FSO 2023



Pull factors: better employment prospects

Employment status¹ by canton, 2022

- employees
- apprentices
- self-employed (excl. PLC or limited company), company owners (PLC or limited company), family members working in family business
- unemployed
- economically inactive persons

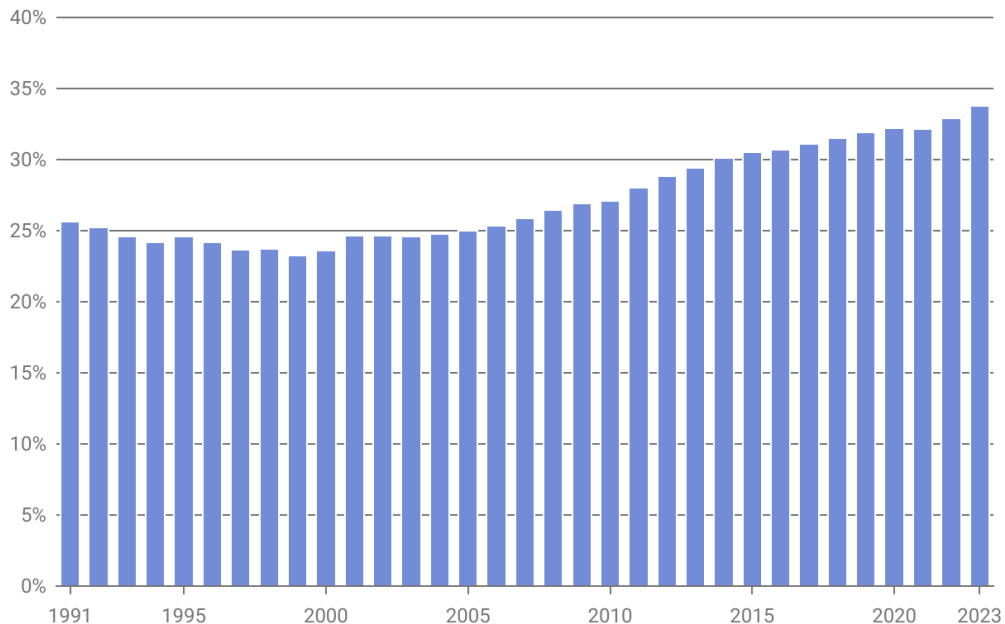


¹ Sociological definition: employees in their own business count as self-employed.

NB: no information can be provided on unemployed persons in the canton AI as too few observations are available.

Share of employed persons with foreign nationality

Domestic concept



Data as on: 22.02.2024

Source: FSO – Employment Statistics (ES)

gr-e-03.02.01.05b-je

© FSO 2024

These trends call for a different approach to ministry

Defines our membership structure

- One church, four generations
- **Citizens & long term residents**
- Economic migrants, career nomads, students, asylum seekers



How do we adapt?



1. We need to understand the times

“The whole world has become one immense city”

– Harvey Cox (theologian)

“The only conclusion we can reach is that at no time in history has it been more true than now that he who wins the city wins the world”

– Roger Greenway (missionary)

“It is quite clear from the statistics that the rural values which fostered success for us may well prove to be counter productive as the society becomes increasingly urbanized”

– Apostle Eric Nyamekye (Chairman, CoP)

How do we adapt?

2. Status quo vs. Change

- In rural settings, the status quo normally prevails.
- But the city is different. Things change rapidly

¹³ Then a voice told him, “Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.” ¹⁴ “Surely not, Lord!” Peter replied. “I have never eaten anything impure or unclean.” ¹⁵ The voice spoke to him a second time, “Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.”

– Acts 10: 13 – 15

- Paul in Acts 15 struggles to convince the people about circumcision
- Some things have no biblical basis but are regional norms

How do we adapt?

3. Rural vs. Urban values

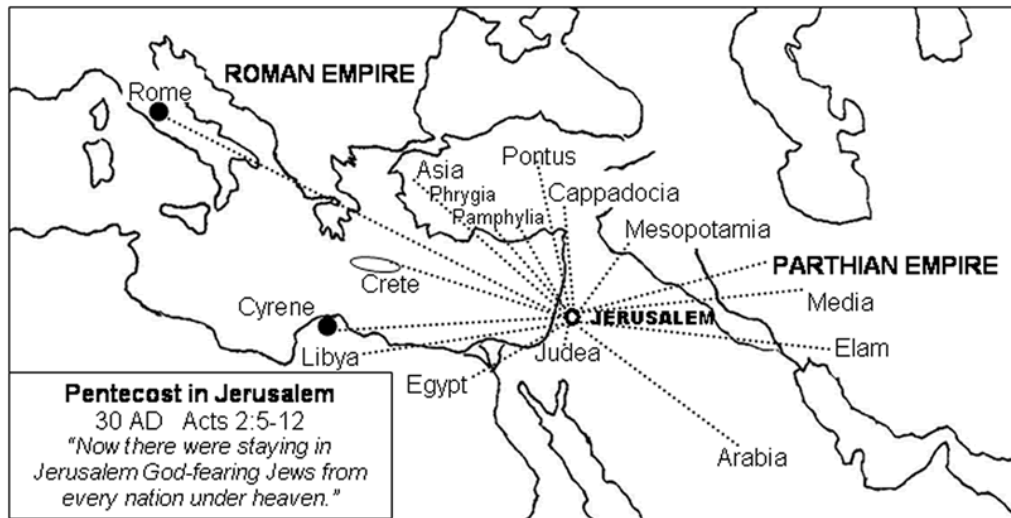
“The farm is more than a place; it is a mindset. The same is true for the city. There is a rural psyche and an urban psyche, definite, distinct way of approaching life. These two mindsets have different value systems which are often in conflict with each other” – *Frank R. Tillapaugh*

- The conflict between rural and urban values is merely that of preference. It is not about right or wrong.
- But rural values work well in rural settings and urban values work well in urban environments

How do we adapt?

4. Sameness vs. diversity

The city is a diverse place



Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven – Acts 2:5

Some of the Jews were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a large number of God-fearing Greeks and quite a few prominent women. But other Jews were jealous; so they rounded up some bad characters from the marketplace, formed a mob and started a riot in the city – Acts 17: 4 – 5

How do we adapt?

5. We must embrace our “Swissness”

SWITZERLAND BUSINESS TIMES CHEATSHEET



< 7:00 am

Early Business Calls



7:00 am

Business Meetings



6:00 - 7:00 am

Managerial Arrival
at the Workplace



7:30 - 9:00 am

Employee Arrival



9:30 am

Employees in Italy
Start Arriving



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The nation that hates to be late

25 February 2022

By **Eric Weiner**, Features correspondent



To stay relevant we must embrace change

The purpose of God

- Eternal
- Foundational
- Unchanging

Our Generation

- Temporal
- Cultural
- Changeable

Our message is unchanging (Malachi 3:6; Hebrew 13:8)

But the methods in the city must be flexible

We need to constantly ask ourselves

1. How can we improve?
2. How can we expand our ministry?
3. How do we meet the growing demands for change?



Pray for a
CHANGE

The image shows the phrase "Pray for a CHANGE" written in a hand-drawn, chalk-like style on a dark grey background. "Pray" is in white, "for a" is in a smaller white font, and "CHANGE" is in large, multi-colored letters (orange, green, purple, yellow). The text is framed by white decorative lines with swirls at the ends.