

# Eastern Europe

Reaching the former Communist Blocs!



# Sports University

# Football



# The State of Europe

Consider the most recent numbers from the World Christian Database:

- China, 8.5% Christian
- India, 6.2% Christian
- Africa, 13.3% Christian
- Latin America, 18.2% Christian

A recent study, the *European Spiritual Estimate*, indicates that while 72.7% of Europeans would be culturally affiliated with Christianity, only **4.2% of Europeans would claim to follow Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Europe, the veritable home of Christian faith for dozens of centuries, is now the least Christian geography in the world today.**

European Spiritual Estimate

A rough continental estimate of **1.42% Believers** has been calculated in comparison to national population statistics.

European Believers Report

Believers



# The State of Europe

## The Church

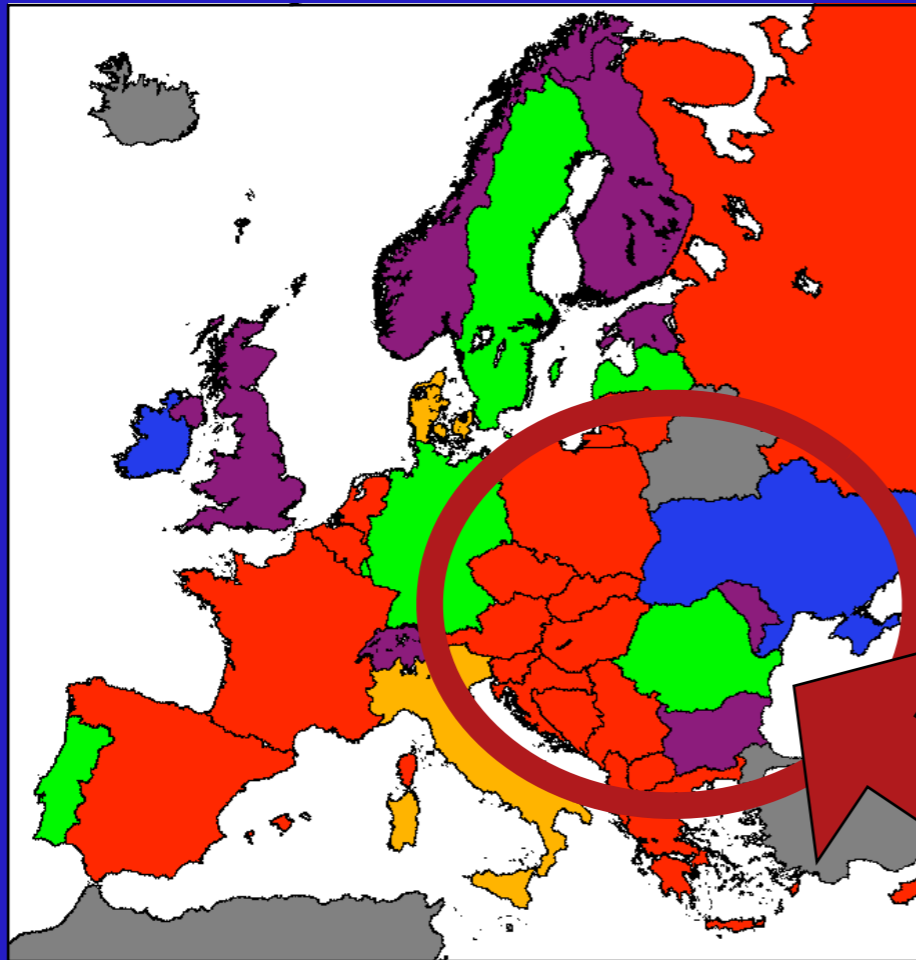
Using the data from the World Christian Database cited above, if we assume that a typical church in India or China has **150 members**, there is **one church for every 1766 people in China** and **one for every 2413 people in India**. According to the *European Spiritual Estimate*, there is on average only one Gospel-Oriented church for every **27749 people on the continent**. The orange areas on the map below show nations where there is less than one church for more than **30000 people** while the red areas are nations where there is less than one church for every **40000 people**. issue on February 24.

European Spiritual Estimate



# The State of Europe

The Church



331 Million People within Eastern Europe



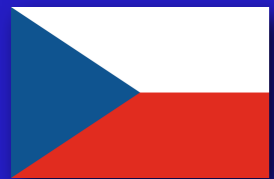
# Eastern Europe\*\*



Belarus



Bulgaria



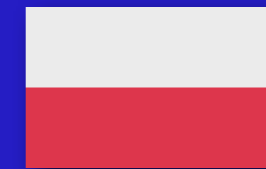
Czech Rep.



Hungary



Moldova



Poland



Romania



Russia



Slovakia



Ukraine

\*\*According to the United Nations

Other countries include: Albania, Croatia, Serbia & Montenegro, Bosnia, Macedonia, Slovenia, Estonia, Lithuania, and Latvia

# Challenges to Overcome

- Years of forced atheism
- Years of lies from the Governments
- Extreme distrust
- Apathy
- Social Persecution
- Extremely post-Christian
- Growing materialism
- Lingering Communist thinking
- Hard Soil in general



# Ukraine



## Number of Believers - 3.5%

### BACKGROUND

Meaning literally “borderland“, Ukraine has a history of shifting borders and external control. The Ukrainian people possess an unusual reserve of national identity typified by their anthem “Ukraine is not yet dead“. This sense of independence led to their autonomy in 1991 with the fall of the Soviet Union and the Orange Revolution of 2004.

### THE SOIL

**Ukraine is home to the fastest growing church in Europe.** The younger generations are especially open to the Gospel. Often the local church faces a challenge of clashing cultures as young and old struggle over forms in the local church.





# Serbia



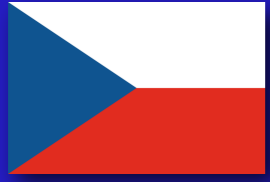
## Number of Believers - .1%

### BACKGROUND

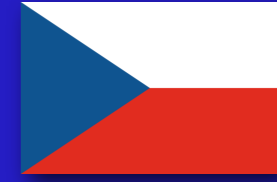
Over the past 13 years Serbia-Montenegro (SCG) has known wars, hatred, refugees and even 78 days of a NATO bombing campaign. During this time it was the Orthodox Church that provided unity and identity for the people, so to be a Serb has now also come to mean being an Orthodox. Even an atheist can be an Orthodox 'believer'. Most Serbs view the Evangelical Denominations like the Brethren Assemblies, the Baptist Union, the Pentecostal Church, and the Evangelical Free Church as sects. This makes it very difficult for evangelical workers in SCG. People are more open to hearing about Christ in the northern part because many different nationalities live there.

### THE SOIL

Almost 11 million people live in Serbia-Montenegro, **but only about 11,000 belong** to the 10 evangelical denominations. By contrast, the Serbian **Orthodox Church claims over 6,500,000 members**, while **Islamic religions claim 1,200,000 members** and the Roman Catholic Church claims 300,000 members. Of the ten evangelical denominations, MREŽA is in contact in some way with nine of them.



# Czech Republic



## Number of Believers - .2%

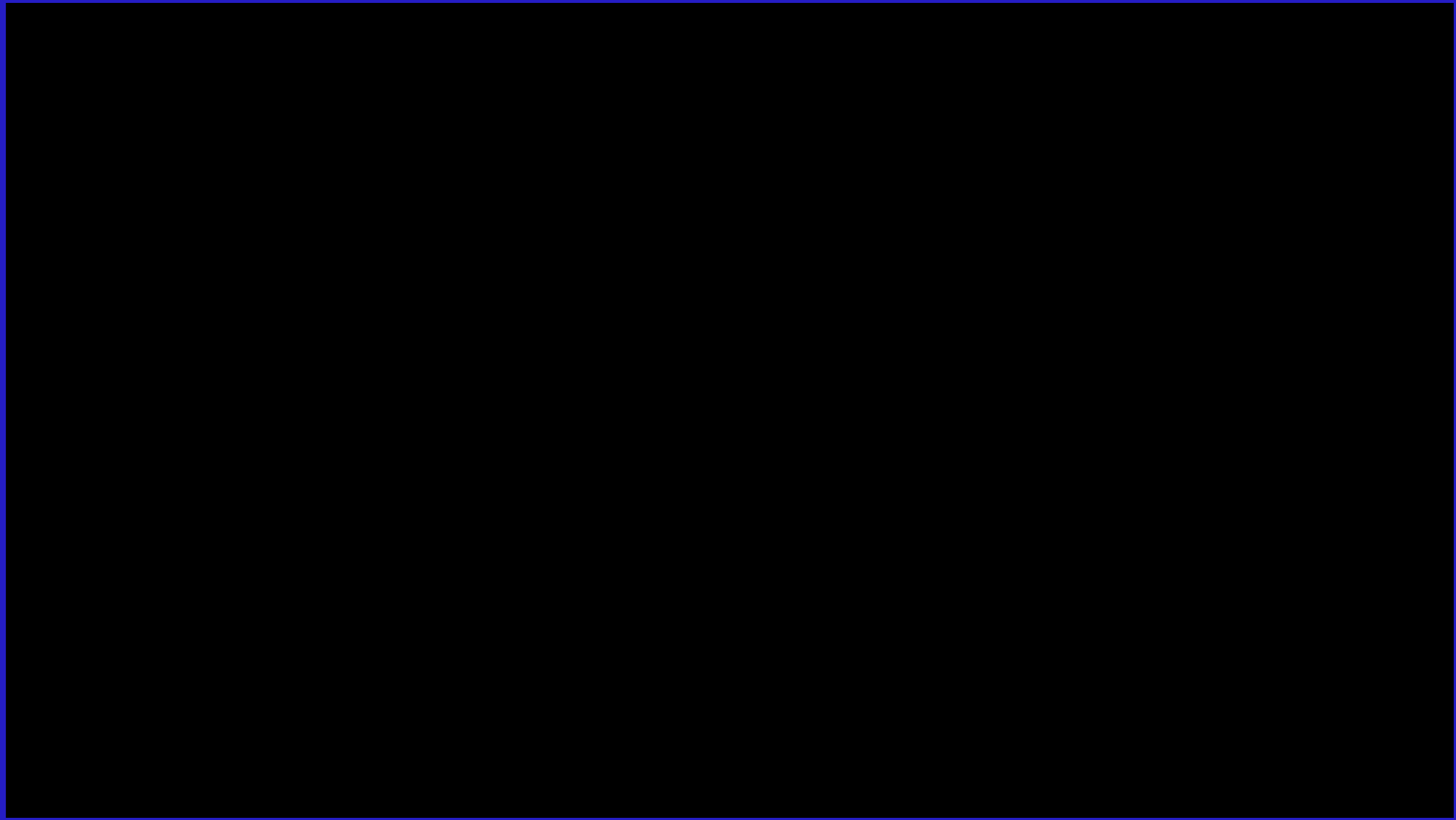
### BACKGROUND

A rich spiritual heritage is also a part of the Czech history, including Jan Hus, a reformer who inspired Martin Luther, and the Moravian Brethren, who in a period of 20 years accomplished more missionary work than the entire Protestant church in the 200 years preceding. In spite of this heritage, the forced domination of the Catholic church during the 1800's and the powerful impact of communism during the 1900's have produced a nation that is profoundly secular and quite skeptical of religion.

### THE SOIL

**Some say it is the most atheistic nation on earth, with the highest percentage of people convinced that God and a spiritual world does not even exist. The evangelical church is tiny, making up only less than one third of one percent in a country of 10 and a half million. Most Czechs have no religious affiliation. Several cults have made significant inroads in recent years, particularly the Jehovah's witnesses. They number close to 25,000, making them twice as large as the largest evangelical denomination.**





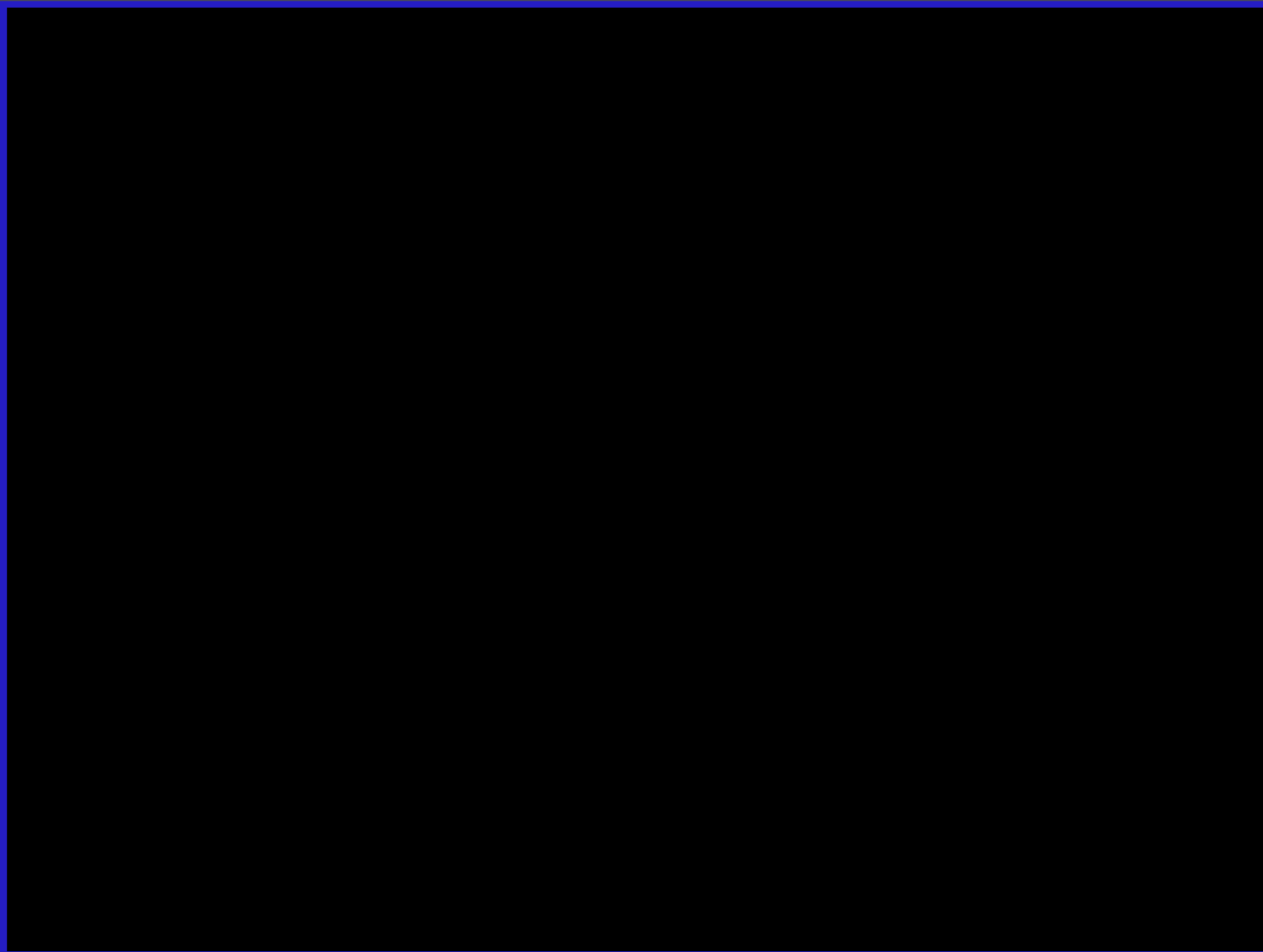
# The State of Eastern Europe



The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

Isaiah 9:2





# Come and Join Us in Reaching these People!

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