

## The Evangelical Baptist Church of Georgia

First and foremost aim of the Evangelical Baptist Church of Georgia is to provide God's mission in Georgia. The Commission of Mission and Evangelism carry out the missionary work within the Church and issues new plans for more effective evangelisation work in Georgia and supports missionaries financially and spiritually as well.

This year the Commission of Mission and Evangelism supports 22 missionaries throughout Georgia.

The Commission of Mission and Evangelism has already made a decision to extend missionary ministry in the region of Ajara in western Georgia that is mostly populated by Georgian Muslims.

### Statistics

There are about 50 Churches with about 15.000 active members and 53 Mission Stations within the Evangelical Baptist Church of Georgia that is divided in four regions:

N	Regions	Number of Churches	Number of Mission Stations
1	Tbilisi	12	6
2	Kartli	14	14
3	West	5	14
4	East	19	16

## Religious situation in Georgia

Eastern European state of Georgia is a country of ancient history and culture and Christianity roots there in the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD.

According to the legends St. Andrew and St. Simon were first missionaries in Georgia and St. Mathatias as well preached the gospel in western Georgia.

St. Irineus of Lion listing Christian nations in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD has mentioned Georgians (Iberians) too.

Christianity was proclaimed as an official religion in Georgia in 326 AD.

In the early 90s of the last century after the collapse of USSR and declaration of independence Georgia has been incorporated into the several international treaties, pacts, and conventions. The state authorities announced democracy and freedom as a main issue of the day. But despite the official position and constitutional guarantees newly established state faced multilateral problems in sphere of democracy, human rights and religious freedom.

We have to decisively underline a heavy religious situation that overwhelms entire society during last decade.

Georgians officially or formally like to remark their own religious tolerance and some historical sources confirm it. But contemporary facts can steadily notice contrary. Today Georgia is a state where religious intolerance would grow up into the bloodshed and it threatens a legacy of democracy in the country.