

Section

3

The Spread of Christian Ideas

Get Ready to Read!

What's the Connection?

In the last section, you read about the growth of the Christian church. In this section, you will learn how the church underwent a great division and how Christians spread their faith to new lands.

Focusing on the Main Ideas

- Church and government worked closely together in the Byzantine Empire. (page 359)
- Christians founded new communities and spread their faith to various parts of Europe. (page 361)

Locating Places

Byzantine Empire

(BIH•zuhn•TEEN EHM•PYR)

Britain (BRIH•tuhn)

Ireland (EYER•luhnd)

Meeting People

Charlemagne (SHAHR•luh•MAYN)

Basil (BAY•zuhl)

Benedict (BEH•nuh•DIHKT)

Cyril (SIHR•uhl)

Patrick

Building Your Vocabulary

icon (EYE•KAHN)

iconoclast (eye•KAH•nuh•KLAST)

excommunicate

(EHK•skuh•MYOO•nuh•KAYT)

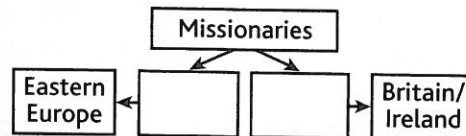
schism (SIH•zuhm)

monastery (MAH•nuh•STEHR•ee)

missionary (MIH•shuh•NEHR•ee)

Reading Strategy

Organizing Information Create a diagram to show the reach of Christian missionaries.



When & Where?



A.D. 400

c. A.D. 450

Patrick preaches Christianity in Ireland

A.D. 800

A.D. 726

Emperor Leo III removes icons from churches

A.D. 1200

A.D. 1054

Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic Churches separate

The Byzantine Church

Main Idea Church and government worked closely together in the Byzantine Empire.

Reading Focus In the United States, religion and government are separated. Read to learn about the relationship between religion and government in the Byzantine Empire.

As you learned earlier, the church of Rome survived the fall of the Western Roman Empire. Its head, the pope, became the strongest leader in Western Europe. Under the pope, the Latin churches of the region became known as the Roman Catholic Church. In the East, however, the Roman Empire continued. It developed into the **Byzantine Empire** (BIH•zuhn•TEEN EHM•PYR). Like Roman Catholics in the West, the Byzantines developed their own form of Christianity. It was based on their Greek heritage and was known as the Eastern Orthodox Church.

Church and State Church and government worked closely together in the Byzantine Empire. The Byzantines believed their emperor represented Jesus Christ on Earth. The emperor was crowned in a religious ceremony.

The emperor also chose the patriarch of Constantinople, the leading church official in the Byzantine Empire. In this way, the emperor controlled the Church as well as the government. Byzantines believed that God wanted them to preserve and spread Christianity. All Church and government officials were united in this goal.

Religious Arguments Many Byzantines, from the emperor down to the poorest farmer, were very interested in religious matters. In homes and shops, they argued about religious questions. For example, Byzantines loved to discuss the exact relationship between Jesus and God.

In the A.D. 700s, a major dispute divided the Church in the Byzantine Empire. The argument was over the use of **icons** (EYE•KAHNZ). Icons are pictures or images of Jesus, Mary (the mother of Jesus), and the saints, or Christian holy people. Many Byzantines honored icons. They covered the walls of their churches with them. A few important icons were even believed to work miracles.

Some Byzantines, however, wanted an end to the use of icons. They thought that honoring them was a form of idol worship forbidden by God. Supporters of icons,

▼ This gold Byzantine incense burner is in the shape of a church. *What was the Christian church that developed in the Byzantine Empire called?*



History online

Web Activity Visit jat.glencoe.com and click on **Chapter 10—Student Web Activity** to learn more about the rise of Christianity.



▲ This icon on wood shows the archangel Gabriel, who served as a messenger for God according to the Bible. *What reasons were given to support the use of icons?*



► Byzantine cross

however, claimed that icons were symbols of God's presence in daily life. These images, they also said, helped explain Christianity to people.

Emperor Leo III did not approve of icons. In A.D. 726 he ordered all icons removed from the churches. Government officials who carried out his orders were known as **iconoclasts** (eye • KAH • nuh • KLASTS), or image breakers. We use this word today to mean someone who attacks traditional beliefs or institutions.

Most Byzantines, many church leaders, and even the pope in Rome opposed the emperor's order. In fact, the dispute over icons damaged ties between the churches of Rome and Constantinople. Over the next 100 years, the argument cooled, and the use of icons became accepted once again. They are still an important part of Eastern Orthodox religious practice.

Conflicts Between Churches Icons were not the only issue that caused bitterness between the churches of Constantinople and Rome. The most serious argument was about how churches were to be run. The pope claimed that he was the head of all Christian churches. The Byzantines did not accept the pope's claim. They believed the patriarch of Constantinople and other bishops were equal to the pope.

Making matters worse was the fact that each church sometimes refused to help the other when outsiders attacked. In the late A.D. 700s, the Byzantine emperor refused to help the pope when Italy was invaded. The pope turned instead to a Germanic people called the Franks for help. The Franks were Roman Catholics and loyal to the pope.

The pope was grateful to the Franks for stopping the invasion. In A.D. 800 he gave the Frankish king, **Charlemagne** (SHAH • ruh • MAYN), the title of emperor. This angered the Byzantines. They believed the leader of the Byzantines was the only true Roman emperor.

This conflict pointed out the differences in how each church felt about relations with the government. In the Byzantine Empire, the emperor was in control, with church leaders respecting his wishes. In the West, however, the pope claimed both spiritual and political power. He often quarreled with kings over church and government affairs.

Finally, after centuries of tension, the pope and the patriarch of Constantinople took a drastic step in their ongoing feud. In A.D. 1054 they **excommunicated** (EHK • skuh • MYOO • nuh • KAY • tuhd) each other. Excommunication means to declare that a person or group no longer belongs to the church. This began a **schism** (SIH • zuhm), or separation, of the two most important branches of Christianity. The split between the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Churches has lasted to this day.

✓ **Reading Check Describe** How did church and government work together in the Byzantine Empire?

Christian Ideas Spread

Main Idea Christians founded new communities and spread their faith to various parts of Europe.

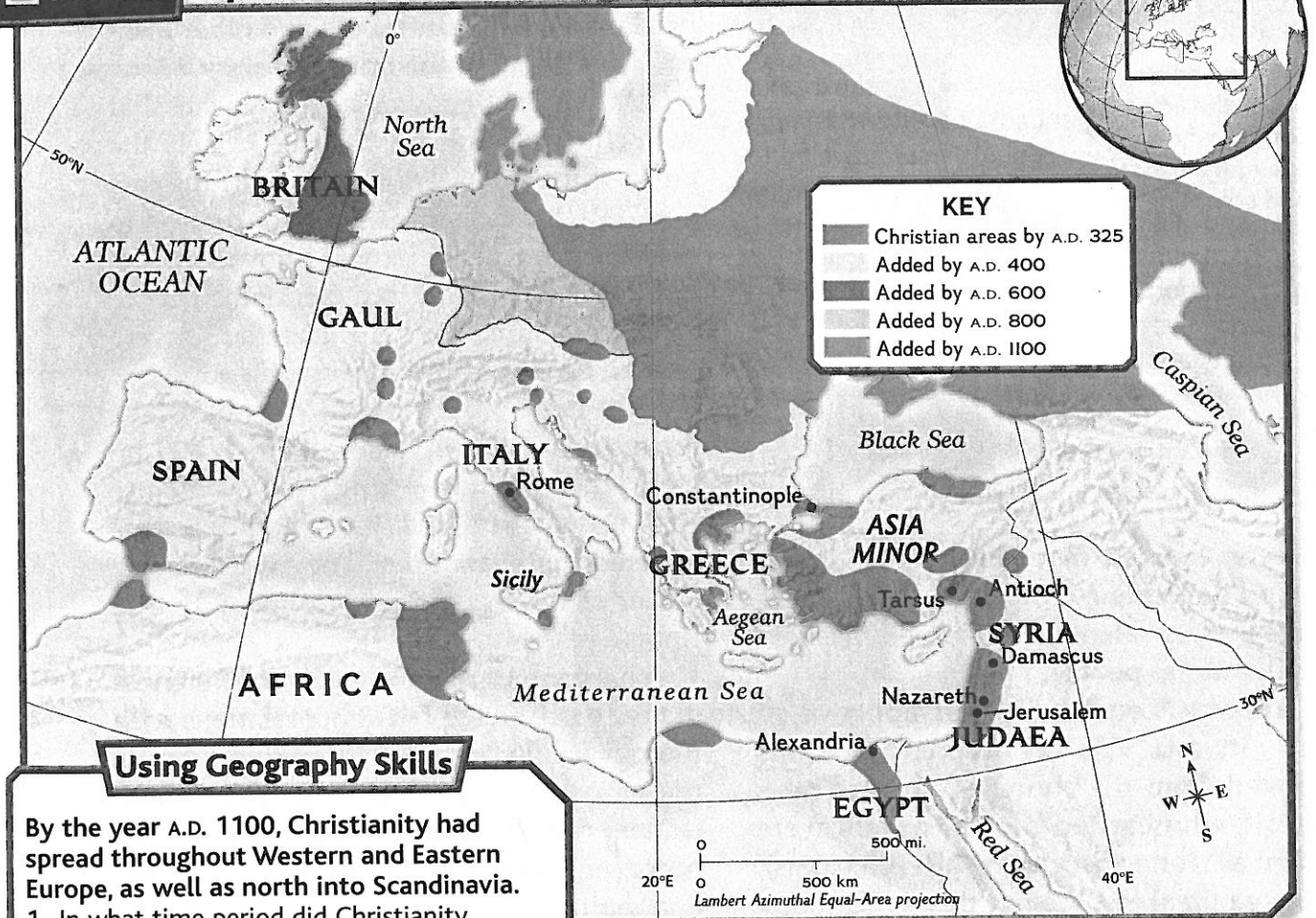
Reading Focus Have you ever tried to get someone to believe something you believe? Read to learn how Christians spread their faith across Europe.

After the fall of Rome, the people of Western Europe faced confusion and conflict. As a result, people were looking for order and unity. Christianity helped to meet this need. It spread rapidly into lands that had once been part of the Roman Empire. It

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

Spread of Christianity A.D. 325–1100

In Motion



also brought new ways of thinking and living to these areas.

What Are Monasteries? During the A.D. 300s, a new kind of religious group was born in the Eastern Roman Empire. Men called monks banded together in religious communities called **monasteries** (MAH•nuh•STEHR•eez). Some monasteries were built near cities, while others arose in isolated areas.

One of the earliest monks was Anthony, who founded a monastery in the deserts of Egypt. Monks tried to live a spiritual life

apart from the temptations of the world. Many also tried to do good deeds and be examples of Christian living. Women soon followed the monks' example and formed communities of their own. These women were called nuns, and they lived in convents.

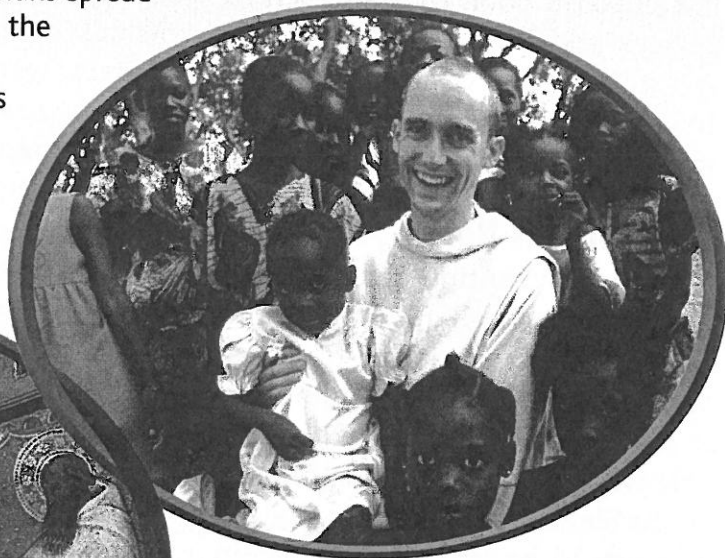
In the early A.D. 400s, Paula, a Roman widow, gave up her wealth and went to Palestine. There she built churches, a hospital, and a convent. Well-educated, Paula helped a scholar named Jerome translate the Bible from Hebrew and Greek into Latin.

Linking Past & Present

Missionaries

THEN Apostles, followers, monks, and nuns spread Christianity throughout western Asia and the Roman Empire. Paul of Tarsus traveled to Greece, Turkey, and Damascus to tell Jews and Gentiles about Christianity. Monks and nuns served as missionaries, in addition to providing community services such as medical care and education.

▼ A Catholic missionary in Senegal



▲ Benedictine monks

NOW Missionaries of many different religions work around the world today. While sharing their religious message, they also help the poor and the sick. Many are not monks or nuns. Some people volunteer for mission trips that can last for weeks or months.

Would you be interested in doing mission work? Why or why not?

A bishop called **Basil** (BAY•zuhl) drew up a list of rules for monks and nuns to follow. This list, called the **Basilian** (buh•ZIH•lee•uhn) Rule, became the model for Eastern Orthodox religious life.

In the West, another set of rules was followed. It was written by an Italian monk named **Benedict** (BEH•nuh•DIHKT). Monks who followed the **Benedictine Rule** gave up their belongings, lived simply, and spent their time in work and prayer. Like Basil's rule in the East, Benedict's rule became the model for monasteries and convents in the West. **Basilian** and **Benedictine** communities still exist today.

Monks and nuns began to play important roles in Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox life. They ran hospitals and schools and aided the poor. They also helped preserve Greek and Roman writings. One important duty was to serve as **missionaries** (MIH•shuh•NEHR•eez). Missionaries teach their religion to those who are not followers.

Christianity Spreads North Among the most successful Byzantine missionaries were two brothers, **Cyril** (SIHR•uhl) and **Methodius**. They carried the Christian message to the Slavs, a people of Eastern Europe.

About A.D. 863, Cyril invented a new alphabet. He wanted to present the Christian message in the Slavic languages. He believed that people would be more interested in Christianity if they could worship and read the Bible in their own languages. The **Cyrillic** (suh•RIH•lihk) alphabet was based on Greek letters. It is still used today by Russians, Ukrainians, Serbs, and Bulgarians.

Eastern Orthodox missionaries traveled in northern lands that bordered the Byzantine Empire. At the same time, other missionaries from Rome were also busy.

The Cyrillic Alphabet



Cyrillic Letter	Written Name	English Sound
Б	beh	B
Г	gey	G
Ж	zheh	ZH
М	em	M
П	pey	P
С	ess	S
Ф	ef	F
Ч	ch eh	CH

Cyril, a Byzantine missionary, developed the Cyrillic alphabet, part of which is shown above. *What peoples still use the Cyrillic alphabet today?*

Christianity Spreads West In the West, Christian missionaries looked to the islands of **Britain** (BRIH•tuhn) and **Ireland** (EYER•luhnd). In the A.D. 300s, Roman soldiers in Britain were called home to defend the empire against Germanic invaders. When the Romans left, Britain was opened to attack by others.

Starting in the A.D. 400s, tribes from what are today Germany and Denmark invaded Britain. These people were the **Angles** and the **Saxons**. These groups united to become the **Anglo-Saxons**. They built settlements and set up several small kingdoms. The southern part of Britain soon became known as **Angleland**, or **England**.

While invading Britain, the **Angles** and **Saxons** pushed aside the people already living there. These people were called the **Celts** (KEHLTS). Some Celts fled to the mountainous regions of Britain. Others went to Ireland.

In the A.D. 400s, a priest named **Patrick** brought Christianity to Ireland. He set up a number of monasteries and churches. Over



the next centuries, Irish monks played an important role in preserving Christian and Roman learning.

The Anglo-Saxon kingdoms of Britain were slower than Ireland to accept the new religion. In A.D. 597 Pope Gregory I sent about 40 monks from Rome to take Christianity to England.

The missionaries converted Ethelbert, the ruler of the English kingdom of Kent. Ethelbert allowed the missionaries to build a church in his capital city of Canterbury. In about 100 years, most of England was Christian. Today, Canterbury is still an important center of Christianity in England.

✓ Reading Check Analyze Why were Basil and Benedict important?

◀ Gregory was a monk before he became Pope Gregory I in the late 500s. **How did Gregory impact Christianity in England?**

History online

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Section 3 Review

Reading Summary

Review the **Main Ideas**

- In the Byzantine Empire, Christianity developed into the Eastern Orthodox Church, which in time split with the Roman Catholic Church in the West.
- Eastern Orthodox and Catholic missionaries helped spread Christianity to areas such as Eastern Europe, Ireland, and Britain.

What Did You Learn?

1. **What are icons, and why was their use controversial?**
2. **What roles did monks and nuns play in Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox life?**
3. **Cause and Effect** Draw a diagram to show the causes that led to the schism between the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Churches.
4. **Describe** How did Cyril make the Christian message available to the Slavs?
5. **Explain** What role did the Frankish king Charlemagne play in the schism between the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Churches?

6. **Analyze** Why do you think the Basilian and Benedictine Rules were put in place for monks?
7. **Expository Writing** Write a newspaper article that describes the spread of Christianity to Ireland and Britain.

