

Need for Your Participation in the Great Commission

John Pitterle



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Prioritizing the Unreached

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Dedication

This book is dedicated to Jesus because He is truly awesome!!!

Special thanks to my amazingly wonderful wife Leigh
and our two incredibly fantastic children, Stephen and Grace.

Thank you also to Denise Conklin, Michael Sutherland,
Dan Scribner, Glenn Schwartz, and Carl and Jan Hess for their helpful input.

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Preface

This e-book is a production of Advocates for the Unreached (AdvocatesForTheUnreached.com), a ministry and a website with links to information about unreached people groups. This document is a continuation of the initial research which is found in http://AdvocatesForTheUnreached.com/Country_Prioritization.doc. A variation of the initial document is also posted as an article at <http://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/perspectives-php/1242/01-2010>.

Introduction

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” (Matthew 28:19)

As Jesus commanded, every Christian believer needs to participate in the Great Commission. Jesus left us with the unfinished task of reaching and discipling every people group in the world. Unfortunately, the people groups that have the least opportunity to hear the good news of Jesus have relatively few missionaries and few resources dedicated to them. Thus, it is urgent to prioritize these unreached people groups which represent more than three billion people who have little or no chance to hear the life-giving truth about Jesus. It is possible for us, the body of Christ, to readjust our Great Commission priorities. Every believer can play a role and make an eternal difference. In other words, there is a need for your participation in the Great Commission.

This e-book will help show you: why it's urgent to prioritize the unreached, why so many people have heard little or nothing about the truth of Jesus, and how you can pray for a different unreached people group every day. This e-book will help you to better understand the urgent need for the gospel to be preached among the unreached and motivate you so you can more effectively serve your unique role and make a difference. It will help you and your church place greater emphasis on unreached people groups and pray regularly for them, which will impact lives throughout the world. You will learn the fundamentals about how to be an advocate for the unreached and live more in a manner for which you will hear the words, *“Well done, good and faithful servant.” (Matthew 25:21)*

1. What Does the Bible Say about Unreached People Groups?

We know that God so loved the world that He sent His one and only Son. This is not just good news, it is awesome news. This is amazing news for those who have heard. But what about those who have not heard the saving truth about Jesus? What about those who have not yet been reached with the good news about the death and resurrection of Jesus?

The Lord is not a respecter of people. He is an equal opportunity Lover. He does not show favoritism. He has compassion on those who are lost without His good news because *“they cannot tell their right hand from their left.”* (Jonah 4:11b) The somewhat confused Ninevites were an example of this. Even under the Old Covenant, the Lord sent the prophet Jonah to warn Ninevah to repent so they would not be destroyed.

Why did the Lord do this?

“I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me; I was found by those who did not seek me. To a nation that did not call on my name, I said, ‘Here am I, here am I.’” (Isaiah 65:1)

The Lord desires to be known by everyone! This includes those who have not heard about Him and are not seeking Him. Just as the Lord has brought previously lost sheep into His fold, He is still drawing and calling lost sheep, including those without a shepherd who can tell them the good news.

Jesus came to seek and save the lost. His concern for lost (unreached) people is demonstrated by the emphasis He places on them in His parables.

What is the Lord’s desire for lost, unreached people groups?

“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.” (Matthew 24:14)

The word translated “nations” is the Greek word “ethne” meaning tribes or ethnic/people groups, not just political nations. Clearly Jesus wants His gospel to be proclaimed to all people groups. He wants everyone to hear about Him and His good news so they might believe in Him. This requires someone to present Jesus and His truth. Thus it is necessary for people to be sent. (See Romans 10:14, 15.) To this end, we can ask the Lord of the harvest to send laborers to His harvest field and some of us will go. (See Matthew 9:38.)

What precedent does the New Testament set for us? Let us look at the apostle Paul who was a prototype cross-cultural missionary. Why did he go on so many missionary trips? Did he go to visit other missionaries? Where did he go on his mission trips? Paul said,

It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else’s foundation. Rather, as it is written: “Those who were not told about him will see, and those who have not heard will understand.” (Romans 15:20, 21)

Paul wanted to boldly go where no missionary had gone before. He had compassion on those who had not yet heard the truth about Jesus. He desired to reach every people group. He wanted to

make sure that people heard about Jesus so they had an opportunity to trust Him and know Him. Paul also wrote,

We are not going too far in our boasting, as would be the case if we had not come to you, for we did get as far as you with the gospel of Christ. Neither do we go beyond our limits by boasting of work done by others. Our hope is that, as your faith continues to grow, our sphere of activity among you will greatly expand, so that we can preach the gospel in the regions beyond you. For we do not want to boast about work already done in someone else's territory. (2 Corinthians 10:14-16)

As a frontrunner New Testament missionary, Paul set the example of going to unreached regions where other missionaries had not been before. Paul prioritized taking the gospel to those who had not yet heard about Jesus. Should we not do the same?

Why is it vital to reach every people group?

And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation." (Revelation 5:9)

It is urgent that Jesus receive the full reward of His suffering. It is critical that the Lord redeems those whom He purchased with His precious blood. Clearly God wants to reach every people group. Is it because the body of Christ can lose focus on the urgency to reach all people groups that Revelation 5:9 uses four different words to emphasize every people group: tribe, language, people, and nation?

What has the Lord promised regarding every people group?

After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. (Revelation 7:9)

There will be people from every people group in heaven! Again this is made clear by the four words representing people group differences, including the Greek word "ethne" for "nations" or people groups.

Has this happened yet? Are there people in heaven from every people group?

This is the unfinished task of the body of Christ. Jesus' last command was to "Go and make disciples of all nations (ethne, people groups)" (Matthew 28:19) and to "be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8) Disciples of Jesus are still here to proclaim His gospel in the whole world as a testimony to all people groups. It appears that we can hasten the Lord's return (see 2 Peter 3:12) by making disciples of every people group and fulfilling the Great Commission.

2. Three Billion Unreached People Have Little or No Opportunity to Hear the Truth about Jesus

A people group is a significantly large group of individuals who perceive themselves to have a common affinity with one another. “For evangelization purposes, a people group is the largest group within which the gospel can spread as a church planting movement without encountering barriers of understanding or acceptance.”¹ An unreached people group is a people group among which there is no indigenous community of believing Christians with adequate numbers and resources to evangelize this people group.²

As of this writing, nearly 41% of all people groups are unreached with the life-transforming truth of Jesus, according to the Joshua Project.³ These 6,649 people groups³ represent more than *three billion* people who have little or no access to hearing the truth about Jesus. These people often lack access to disciples of Jesus, Bible-believing churches, missionaries, Bibles in their language, and gospel radio, television, literature and other resources.

Where are unreached people groups (and unreached people)?

Most unreached people groups are in a region known as the 10/40 Window, as shown in Figures 1 and 2 below. This is an area covering North Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia between 10 and 40 degrees north latitude. This window includes the followers of Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, as well as millions of nonreligious people. Roughly two-thirds of the world’s population, including the world’s poorest of the poor, lives here on about one-third of the earth’s land mass.



Figure 1 – The 10/40 Window²

¹Joshua Project. (2016). https://joshuaproject.net/resources/articles/what_is_a_people_group

²Joshua Project. (2016). <http://legacy.joshuaproject.net/definitions.php>

³Joshua Project. (2016). <http://joshuaproject.net/>

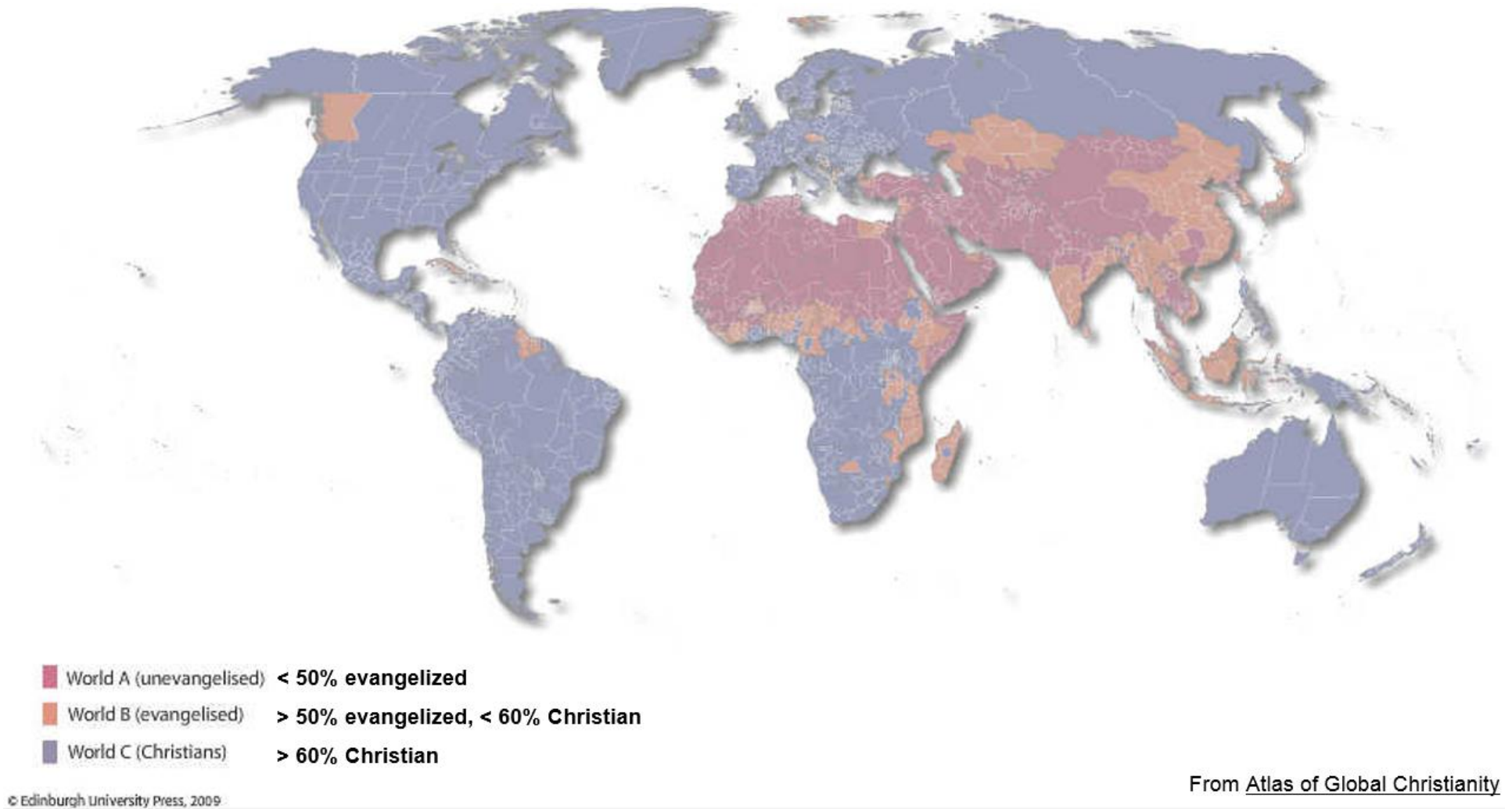


Figure 2 – Location of Most of the Unreached (Who Are Among the Least Evangelized)⁴

⁴Johnson, Todd, & Ross, Kenneth. (2009). Atlas of Global Christianity. Edinburgh, UK: Edinburgh University Press.

Why are so many people unreached with the gospel?

There are many challenges to bringing the truth of Jesus to the world's remaining unreached people groups: spiritual opposition, persecution, language, culture, geography, population, access, missionary trends, available gospel resources, and more. Persecution and opposition have tried to keep missional believers from entering the remaining unreached strongholds of the earth in order to prevent them from bringing light into the darkness. Figure 3 below reveals the countries with the most significant persecution of Christians and it is not a coincidence that this largely coincides with the nations with the largest numbers of unreached people.

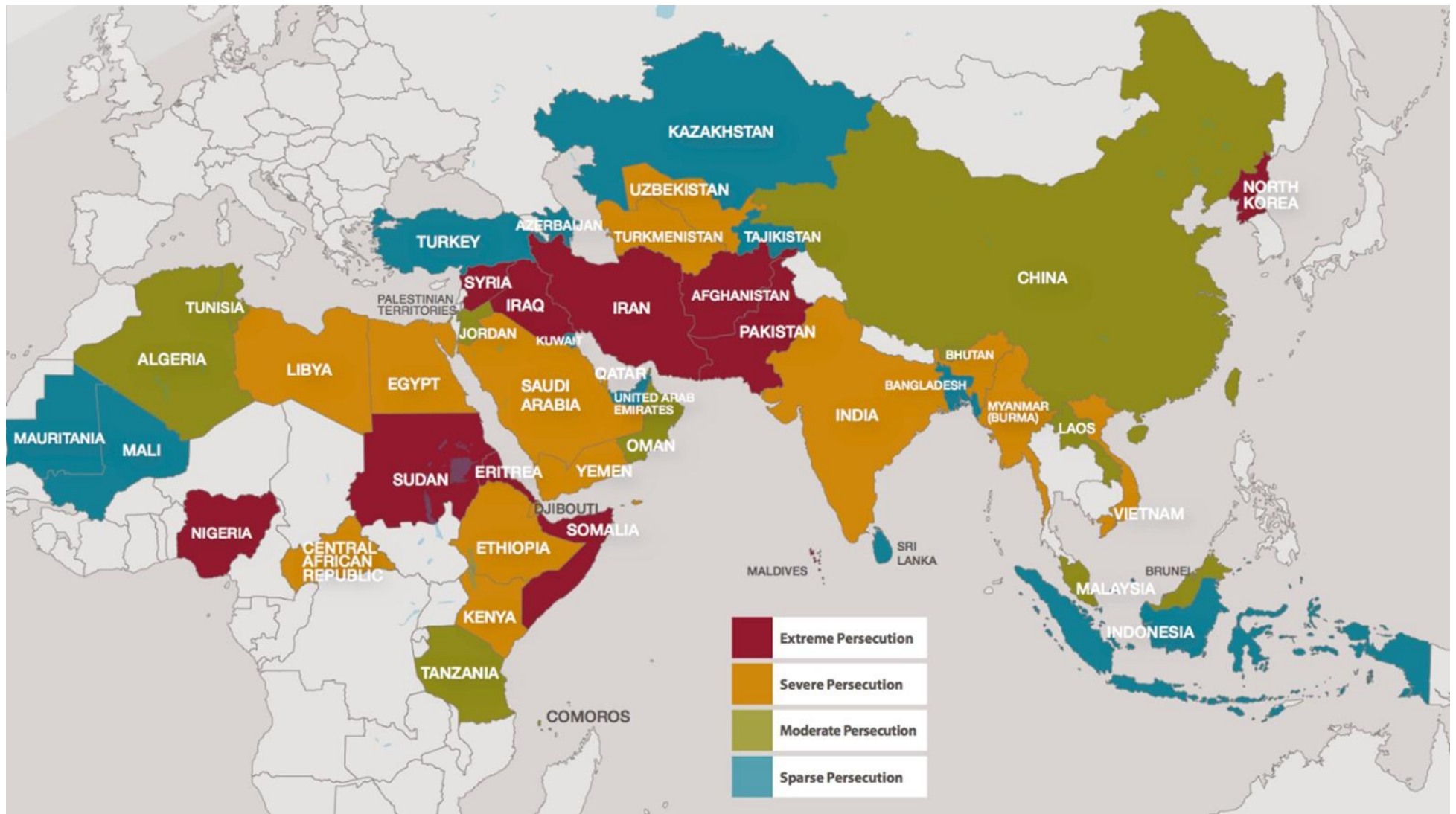


Figure 3 - Top Countries Where Persecution of Christians Is Most Severe⁵

⁵Open Doors. (2015). <https://www.opendoorsusa.org/christian-persecution/world-watch-list/>

People groups are unreached because many in today's world still have not heard the truth of Jesus or have not even heard about Jesus. A primary reason for this is that there are no believers in the lives of unreached people. Typically, most people come to Jesus through the influence of someone close to them. Yet, with unreached people groups, this is not an option. 86% of all Muslims, Hindus and Buddhists do not personally know a Christian.⁶

Figure 4 shows a comparison of two fires, one with very many people, resources, and tools to rescue those in the burning building and one with very few people and resources to help those in a building with limited exits to escape the inferno. This is very much like the situation today with numerous opportunities and options to hear the saving truth about Jesus in the West and some other nations while many people in other parts of the world have few or no options to hear the message of Jesus and be saved. The numbers in the table of Figure 4 are based on actual data and this is explained with more detail after the figure below.

⁶Joshua Project. (2016). http://joshuaproject.net/resources/articles/has_everyone_heard



A Tale of Two Fires

<u>Fire Item</u>	<u>NOT Unreached Apartment Fire</u>	<u>UNREACHED Apartment Fire</u>	<u>Great Commission Item</u>
People in building on fire	579 Residents	421 Residents	Population
Paid professional firemen	99.5 Paid firemen	0.5 Paid firemen	Christian workers per million pop'n.
Good Samaritan rescuers	92.6 Good Sam. rescuers	7.4 Good Samaritan rescuers	Aliens working as missionaries per million
Neighbor/volunteer rescuers	93.9 Neighbor/voluntr rescuers	6.1 Neighbor/volunteer rescuers	Active Great Commission Christians
Spectators/bystanders	99.4 Spectators	0.6 Spectators	Inactive Church Members
Fire trucks	96.6 Fire trucks	3.4 Fire trucks	Church members
Fire hydrants	97.1 Fire hydrants	2.9 Fire hydrants	Bibles distributed per year
Hoses	98.9 Fire hoses	1.1 Fire hoses	New Testaments distributed per year
Doors	98.9 Doors	1.1 Doors	Disciple/evang. offers per person per year
Windows	99.4 Windows	0.6 Windows	Christian books per year per person
Sprinkler system	98 Sprinklers	2 Sprinklers	Christian or religious libraries, per million
Fire extinguishers	100 Fire extinguishers	0 Fire extinguishers	Christian periodicals, per million
Fire tools (axes, masks, etc.)	95.7 Fire tools	4.3 Fire tools	Joshua Project Gospel resources / tools
Ladder fire truck	98.8 Fire ladder trucks	1.2 Fire ladder trucks	Christian radio/TV reg. audience
911 emergency phone	Yes, 911	No 911 emergency phone	1-888-NEED-HIM
Fire department buildings	96.9 Fire Dept. buildings	3.1 Fire Dept. buildings	Worship centers per million
Fire dep't resources value	\$99.96 million Fire Dept.	\$0.04 million Fire Dept.	Personal Christian income per year

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Figure 4 – A Fire with Great Hope for the Occupants and a Fire with Little Hope for the Perishing^{7,8,9}

⁷Dopedesign; Enea. (2016). Via Fiverr.com.

⁸Spak, Steve. (2015). <http://www.stevespak.com/fires/brooklyn/77-77-103.html>.

⁹Based on data from Barrett, David, and Johnson, Todd. (2001). World Christian Trends AD 30 – AD 2200. Pasadena, CA: William Carev Library, pp. 416-425.

The illustration in Figure 4 compares two fires in apartments with similar numbers of inhabitants: one with many fire resources and one with few. With the one fire, it is much more likely that inhabitants will be saved because there are many rescuers and many avenues for escape. With the other fire, it is not as likely that those trapped in the fire will be saved because there are few rescuers and little hope of escape. Those with little access to fire rescue resources may not even hear the sound of a fire alarm or fire truck before they perish.

In many ways, the Figure 4 “Tale of Two Fires” shows the situation with evangelized and unreached people groups today and their access to the truth about Jesus. Evangelized people groups typically have access to more spiritual rescuers, many resources, and many different avenues for escaping the fire of hell. On the other hand, people in unreached people groups have little or no access to spiritual rescuers, resources, or ways of escape. Many of them may never even hear the name of Jesus before they enter a Christ-less eternity.

(The fire resource numbers above are based on actual Great Commission data, mostly from the book World Christian Trends⁹ and also some from the Joshua Project.³ The “Not Unreached” group numbers are based on data for the United States and the “Unreached” group numbers are based on a combination of data relating to Pakistan and Bangladesh as representative unreached countries.)

³Joshua Project. (2016). <http://joshuaproject.net/>

⁹Barrett, David, and Johnson, Todd. (2001). World Christian Trends AD 30 – AD 2200. Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, pp. 416-425.

3. Current Distribution of Missionaries and Resources Is Imbalanced

As the representative fire resource numbers show in Figure 4, there is a tragic imbalance between the number of missionaries and resources dedicated to reached people groups versus the unreached. This imbalance negatively impacts billions of people that Jesus loves and for whom He died. The eternal destinies of these men, women, and children are at stake.

What is the current missionary distribution?

According to recent data¹⁰, approximately 90% of Christian foreign missionaries serve among reached or evangelized people groups while only about 10% serve among the unreached. (See Figure 5 below.) Figure 6 below shows this missionary allocation as well as the missionary distribution among the various world religions. Most missionaries are among Christianized people and smaller, significantly disproportionate numbers of missionaries are among the unreached of other major world religions.

Figure 7 below shows the number of missionaries received per one million residents in the nations of the world. The nations with the fewest missionaries received per capita are mostly in North Africa, the Middle East, and Asia.

¹⁰Winter, Ralph, & Koch, Bruce. (2011). Finishing the Task. In Ralph Winter & Steven Hawthorne (Eds.), Perspectives on the World Christian Movement: A Reader (pp. 543-545). Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library.

Recent Distribution

World Population

Foreign Missionaries

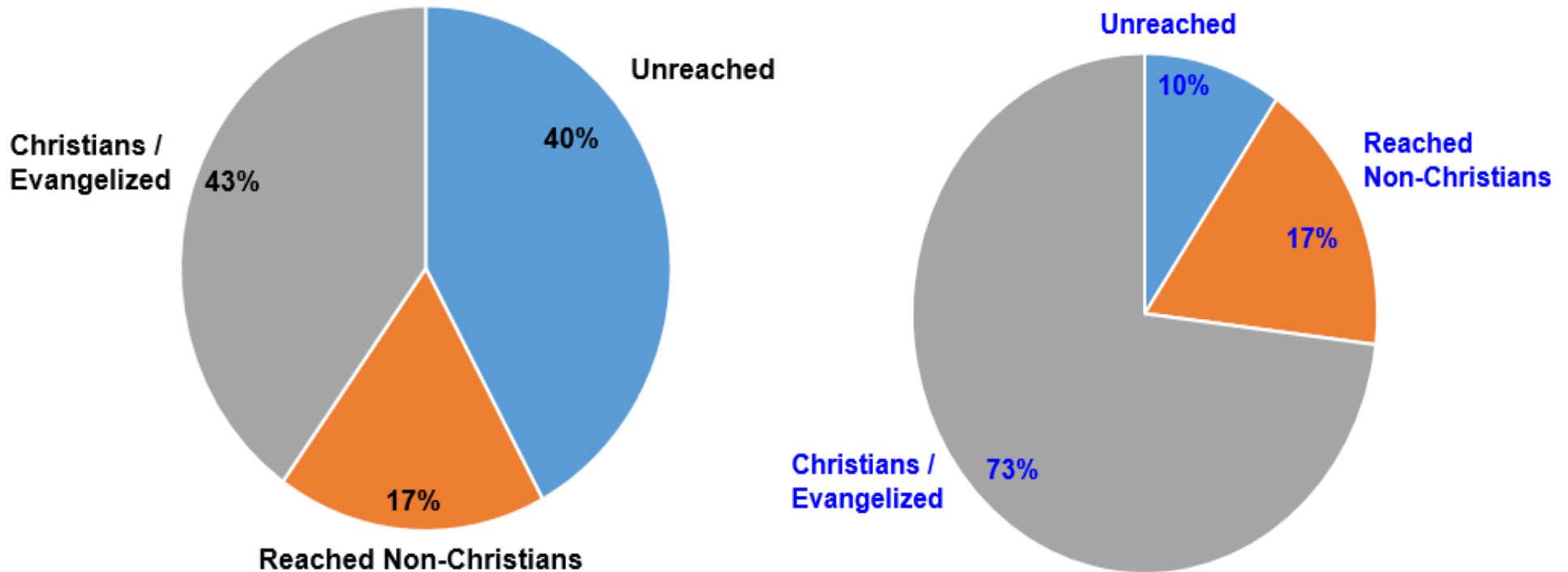


Figure 5 – World Population and Christian Missionary Distribution¹⁰

¹⁰Winter, Ralph, & Koch, Bruce. (2011). Finishing the Task. In Ralph Winter & Steven Hawthorne (Eds.), Perspectives on the World Christian Movement: A Reader (pp. 543-545). Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library.

Source: Mission Maker Magazine 2007

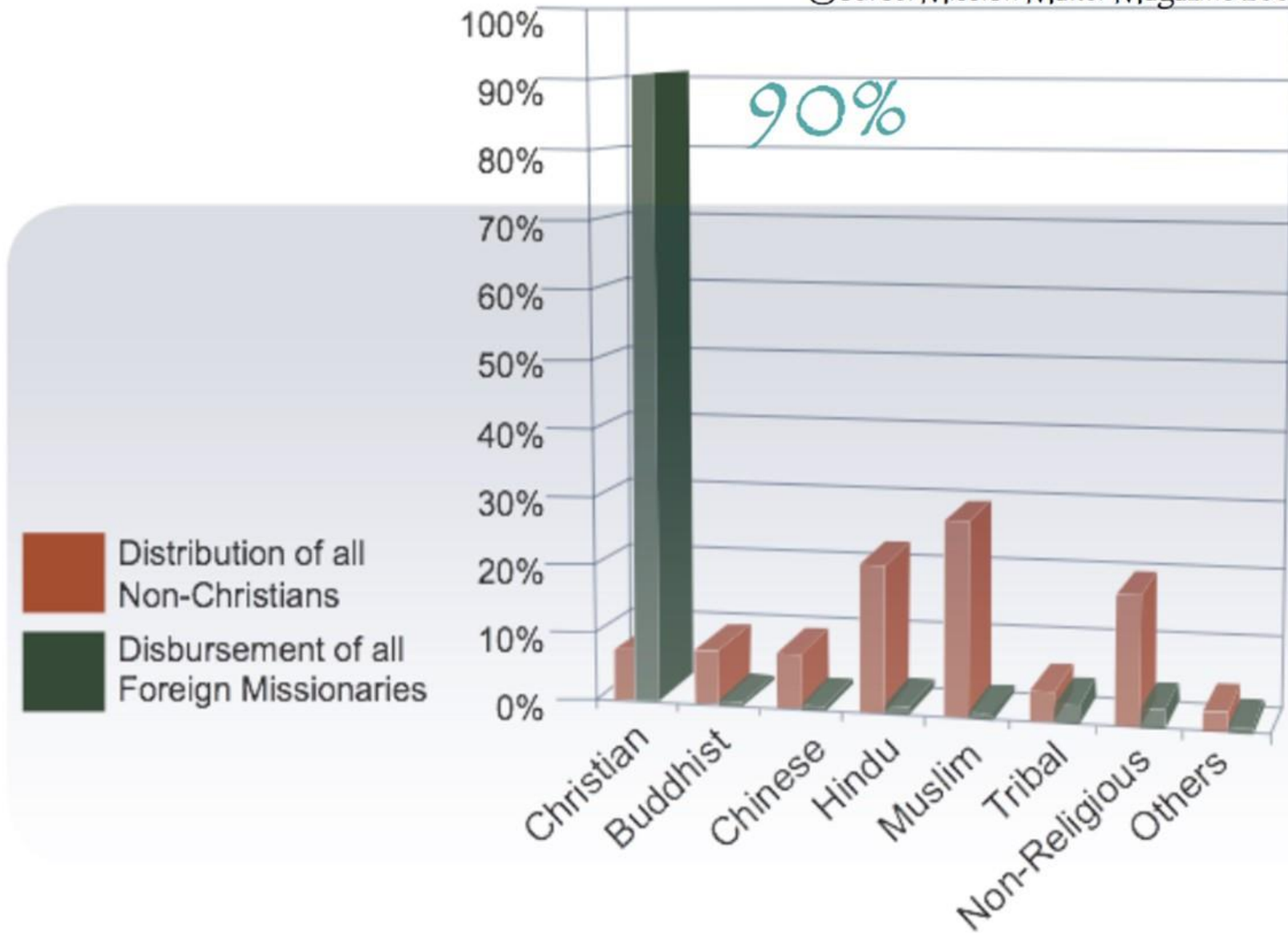


Figure 6 – Christian Missionary Distribution among World Religions¹¹

¹¹STEM International. (2007). Mission Maker Magazine 2007, p. 13.

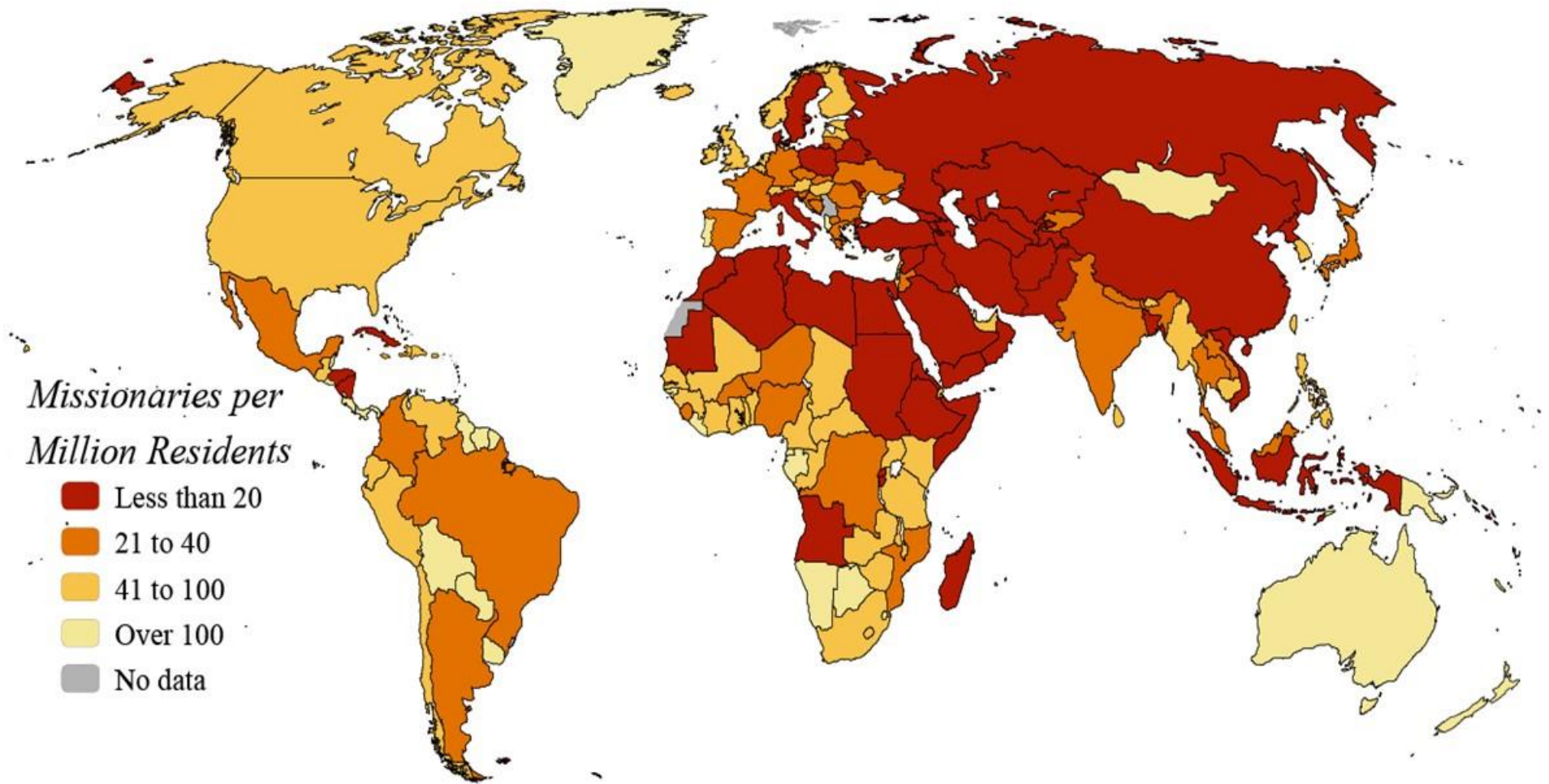


Figure 7 – Countries’ Numbers of Missionaries per One Million People¹²

¹²Mandryk, Jason. (2006). State of the World. Operation World. Young Leaders Gathering. Malaysia.

Why are 90% of missionaries serving among the more evangelized people groups?

This is a good question, perhaps one of the most important questions for us. One possible factor is short-term mission trips (usually less than a few weeks and possibly up to a year or so). Typically people go on a short-term mission trip in partnership with a long-term missionary. As already mentioned, most missionaries serve among reached people groups. Thus, it is understandable why most short-term mission trips visit reached areas of the world.¹³

Believers on mission trips often have an amazing time as the Holy Spirit opens their eyes to the needs around the world. Some people may assume that this awesome trip is a sign from God or a confirmation that they should become long-term missionaries in that particular region of the world. Such reasoning can perpetuate the current missionary distribution.

The easier people groups have generally been reached while the most challenging locations remain. The reached areas of the world have been generally easier for missionaries to enter than most of the remaining unreached areas of the world today. Missionary visas are usually not available in the remaining unreached regions because missionaries are not welcome to enter. However, the Lord is able to open doors and make a way for courageous ambassadors to boldly go where no missionary has gone before.

In this, as in all things, it is important to be led by the Holy Spirit. Paul the apostle provides an excellent example as he desired to preach the word of God in the province of Asia and in Bithynia. However, the Spirit of Jesus directed him not to do so. Instead, after a vision, Paul readjusted his plans and went to Macedonia. Perhaps we could use some Spirit-adjusted plans regarding our current Christian missionary or worker distribution.

How much imbalance is there with the proportion of Christian resources around the world?

As you can imagine, there is a significant imbalance in national proportions of Christian resources. Those basic resources include Christian workers, evangelistic and discipling activities, and Christian resource materials such as Bibles, books, media, broadcasting, and Christian periodicals.

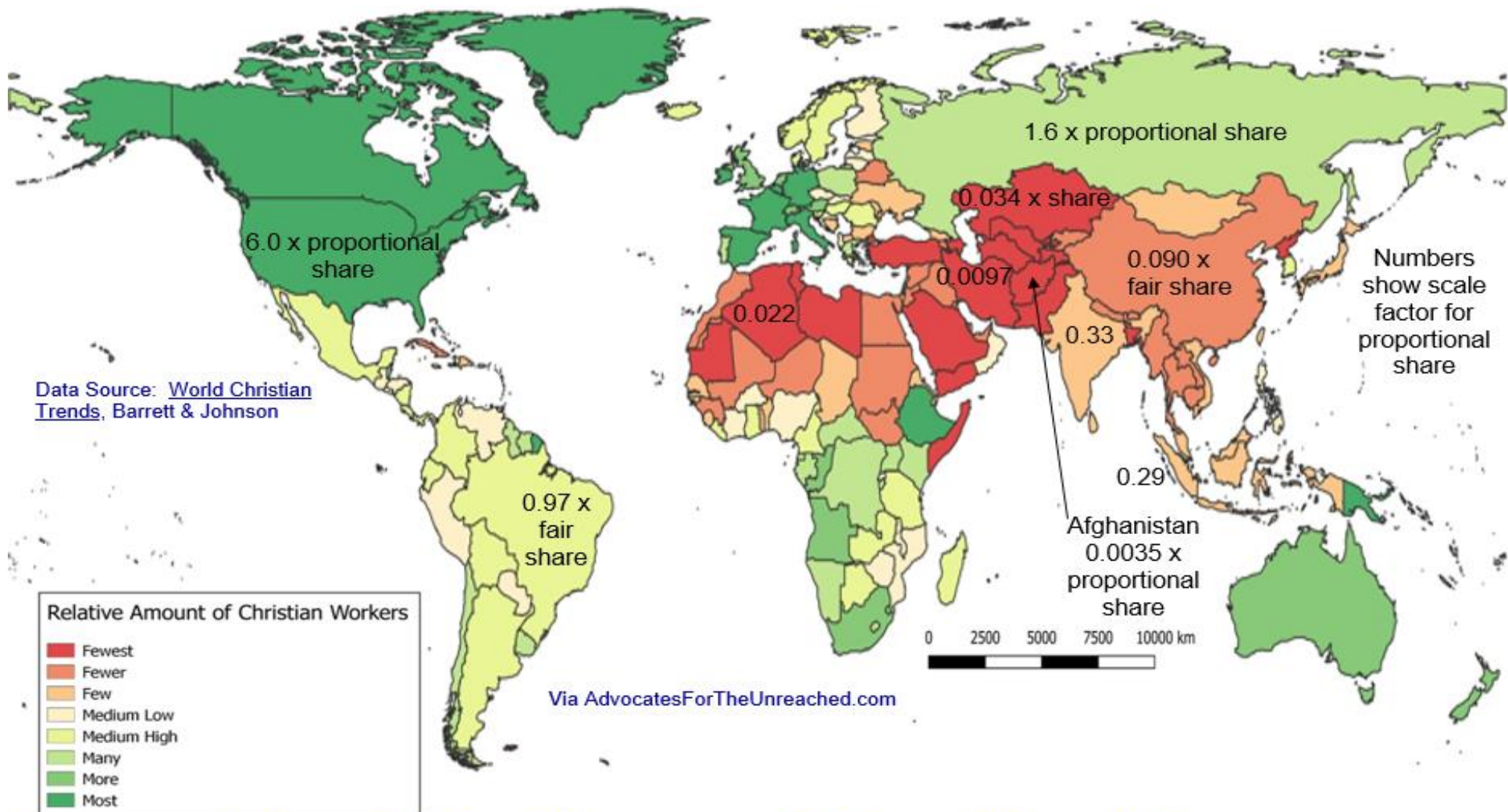
Figure 8 below shows countries' proportional shares of the world's Christian workers based on their respective populations. The shares are based on each country's respective population number compared to the total world population. A proportional share value of 1.0 for a country represents a "fair" share of all the world's Christian workers. Figure 8 shows that some countries, like the United States, have significantly more than their share of the world's Christian workers while others have much less. Most of the 10/40 Window nations have much less than their proportional share of Christian workers. There is a significant imbalance.

There is also an imbalance regarding evangelistic activity. It's like the spiritually rich are becoming richer as much is spent on them. Evangelism (or disciple) offers are defined here as opportunities to become a disciple of Jesus. Figure 9 gives us an indication of the number of evangelistic offers per person in a year in the nations of the world (as identified by the activity of 45 ministries).

There is a similar misallocation of Christian resource materials. As shown in Figure 10 below (which uses Christian periodicals as a representative sample), many Western nations have an over-abundance of Christian resources while the nations with the most unreached people groups have

¹³Williams, Dave. (2008). Redirecting Members of Short-Term Mission to Unreached People Groups. Global Missiology English, Vol 1, No 6. <http://ojs.globalmissiology.org/index.php/english/article/view/40/113>

very small proportions of their share. A proportional share of 1.0 for a country represents a “fair” share of the world’s Christian resource materials (periodicals). However, Figure 10 shows that countries in the 10/40 Window have shares much lower than 1.0, including Afghanistan which has a dismally low 0.0035 proportional share. It is clear that there is a large imbalance of Christian workers, opportunities, and resources among the countries of the world.



Countries' Portions of the World's Christian Workers on a Per Person Basis

Figure 8 – Countries' Proportional Shares of World Christian Workers on a Per Person Basis^{14,15}

¹⁴Pitterle, John. (2012). http://AdvocatesForTheUnreached.com/Perspectives_Mar-2016.ppt

¹⁵Barrett, David, and Johnson, Todd. (2001). [World Christian Trends AD 30 – AD 2200](#). Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, pp. 416-425.

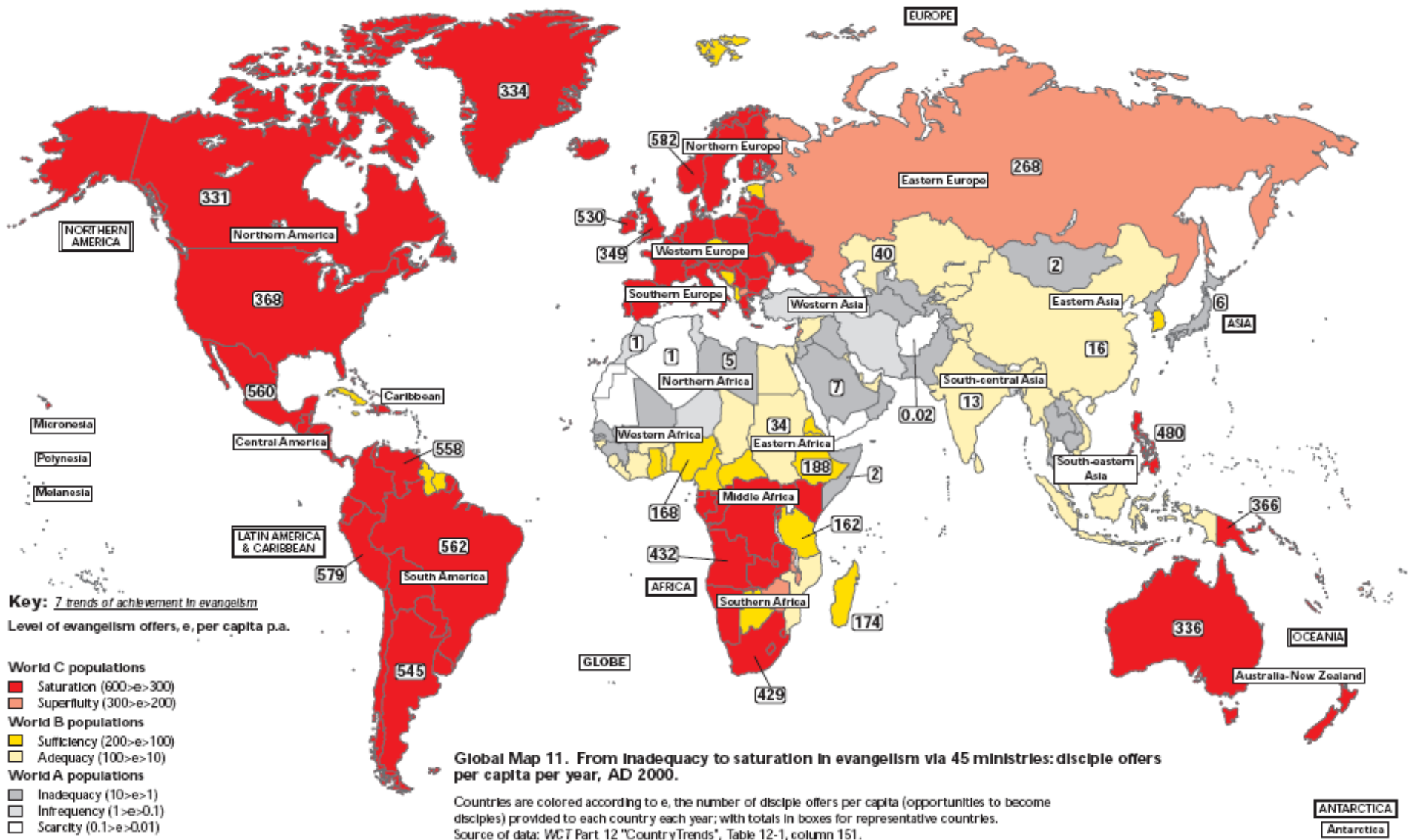
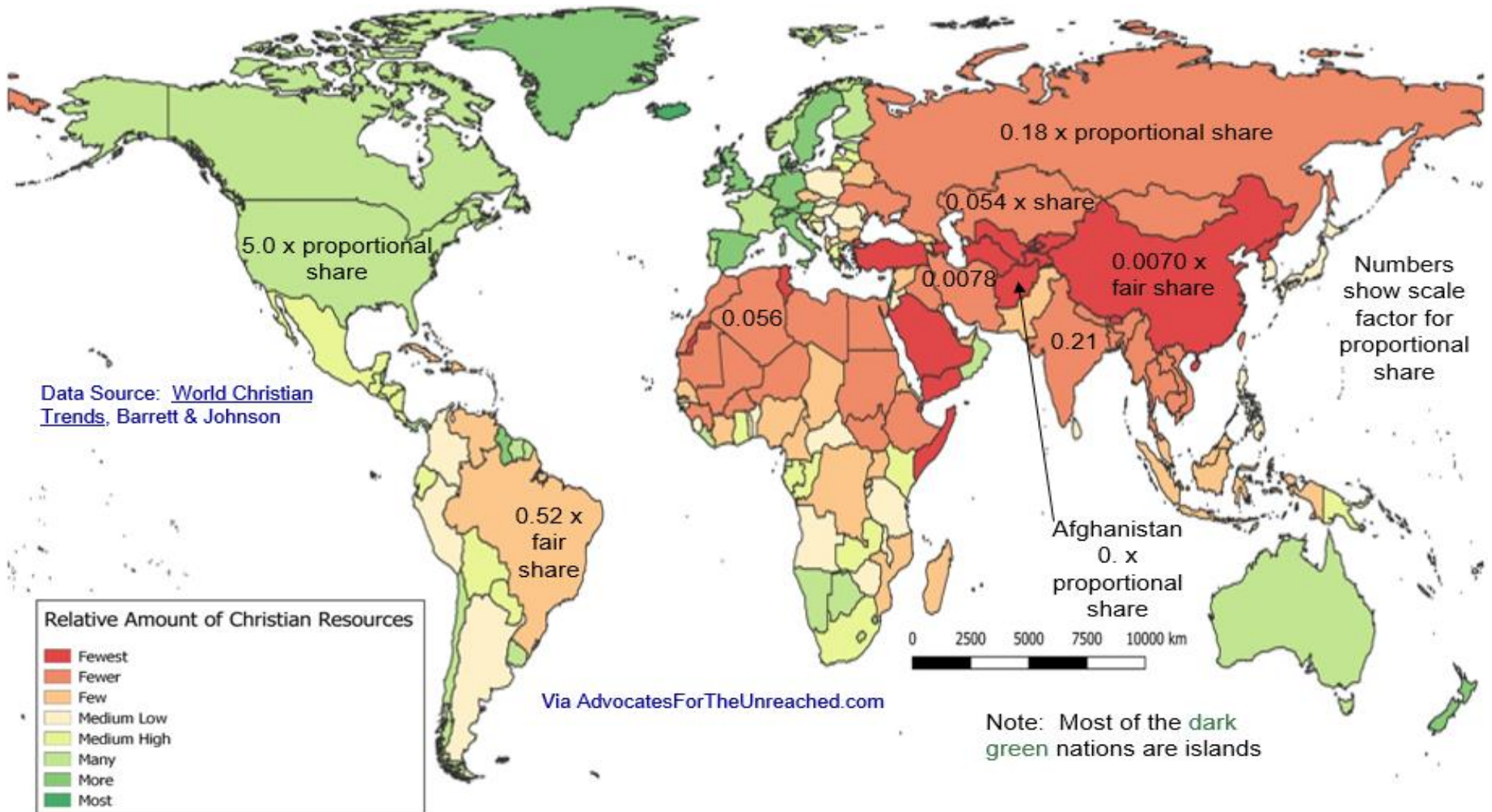


Figure 9 – Annual Evangelism Offers (Disciple Opportunities) per Person in the Countries of the World¹⁵

¹⁵Barrett, David, and Johnson, Todd. (2001). *World Christian Trends AD 30 – AD 2200*. Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, p. 916.



Countries' Portions of the World's Christian Periodicals (Resources)

Figure 10 – Countries' Proportional Shares of Christian Periodicals (Resources)^{14,15}

¹⁴Pitterle, John. (2012). http://AdvocatesForTheUnreached.com/Perspectives_Mar-2016.ppt

¹⁵Barrett, David, and Johnson, Todd. (2001). [World Christian Trends AD 30 – AD 2200](#). Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, pp. 416-425.

How has the imbalance of Christian resources and its effect been described by others?

During the course of my research on unreached people groups, I discovered two quotes that have had a very influential impact on my life. The first was shared in the 1990's by Dick Eastman, author and international president of Every Home for Christ, and the second was written in 1999 by David Barrett, a former missions researcher.

“American Christians spent enough money on new buildings to provide two gospel booklets for every home in 180 worlds the size of ours!”¹⁶ This quote was shared via Dick Eastman after he found it in a 1977 Every Home for Christ publication sermon outline. Based on this statement, 360 gospel booklets could have been made available to every home on earth back in 1977. That's equal to one gospel booklet for every home on almost every day of the year! Yet, almost 40 years later, this still hasn't happened even once for every home.

David Barrett's quote about good missions stewardship was one of the first and most influential things I read about the 10/40 Window and its unreached people in comparison to conventional missions.

In 1997, David Barrett estimated that, “Dollar for dollar and hour for hour, the harvest coming from the 10/40 Window nations outstrips that from the rest of the world 100 to 1. That is, if the same money and time spent to win one person to the Lord in the West were put to use in the 10/40 Window nations, the effort would yield a harvest of 100 souls added to the kingdom of God. It is 100 times more cost effective, therefore, to reach those in the 10/40 Window. But for a sizable number of ethnolinguistic groups, cost-effectiveness reaches 1000 times more than in Western countries.”¹⁷

Some of these trends continue today in various parts of the world. While evangelism efforts in the West are often less effective, there is significant fruit coming from evangelism in the 10/40 Window and unreached regions of the world.¹⁸

¹⁶Eastman, Dick. (≈ 1998). Every Home for Christ newsletter.

¹⁷Barrett, David via Luis Bush and Beverly Pegues. (1999). The Move of the Holy Spirit in the 10/40 Window. Seattle, WA: YWAM Publishing, p. 1.

¹⁸Center for the Study of Global Christianity. (2013). Christianity in its Global Context, 1970 - 2020.

<https://discipleallnations.wordpress.com/2013/08/25/the-top-20-countries-where-christianity-is-growing-the-fastest/>

4. The Body of Christ Can Readjust Priorities and Focus on the Unfinished Task

How would you feel if your apartment building was on fire and rescuers selectively warned some people but passed your apartment and some others without giving any warning?

This is a penetrating question because this is what we as the body of Christ have been doing to unreached people groups. While we continue to warn those who already have heard the fire alarm at least once and often many times, we have not yet warned many people for even the first time.

We have already addressed the significant misallocation of missionaries. It appears that perhaps the body of Christ could learn some helpful lessons from practical life. Let us consider some real life examples:

- In World War II, the United States military forces did not stop at the coast after a successful invasion. The forces did not hunker down to protect only their newly acquired turf. Rather, a small portion of troops remained behind while most of the forces moved forward to claim new ground from the enemy.
- After a first hospital comes to a large region, the next hospital typically is not built near the first one. Rather, a second hospital is often built away from the first one, often near another large population center. Subsequent hospitals are typically built in other needy areas in order to provide people everywhere with access to good medical care.
- After a first school is established in an area, it is not a priority to build other schools in the same region. Rather, it is considered helpful to establish new schools in other places for children who do not have access to one.

These common sense principles are vitally relevant to the kingdom of God on earth today. Instead of only preaching the good news to those who have already been evangelized, it is critically important to bring the saving truth of Jesus to those who have little or no access to the gospel.

The problem today is not a lack of resources. According to missiologist Justin Long, there is already enough evangelistic activity to reach the whole world. His research has shown that, with all available resources, everyone in the world could possibly hear a one hour presentation of the gospel every other day.¹⁹ The problem is that evangelistic activity is unevenly targeted mostly at other Christians.

In 1974, it was difficult to get many Christians, especially from different denominations, to agree upon some things. Yet, something remarkable happened after the Rev. Billy Graham and his evangelistic association helped initiate Lausanne I: The International Congress on World Evangelization. In July of 1974, more than 2,300 evangelical leaders from 150 countries agreed upon the Lausanne Covenant to be more intentional about world evangelization.

The following sentences are quoted from “The Urgency of the Evangelistic Task” section of the Lausanne Covenant of 1974 and would be an excellent centerpiece or core value for any church missions program or personal missions involvement.

¹⁹Long, Justin. (2007). Former www.Momentum-Mag.org. Now <http://justinlong.org/>.

“We are convinced that this is the time for churches and para-church agencies to pray earnestly for the salvation of the unreached and to launch new efforts to achieve world evangelization. A reduction of foreign missionaries and money in an evangelised country may sometimes be necessary to facilitate the national church’s growth in self-reliance and to release resources for unevangelised areas.”²⁰

What do we need?

The greatest need is not for more money. In the West and in America, we have more than our share of ministers of the gospel, finances, and gospel resources. What we need are obedient disciples of Jesus with vision! World-changers are needed and you are called to be a world-changer!

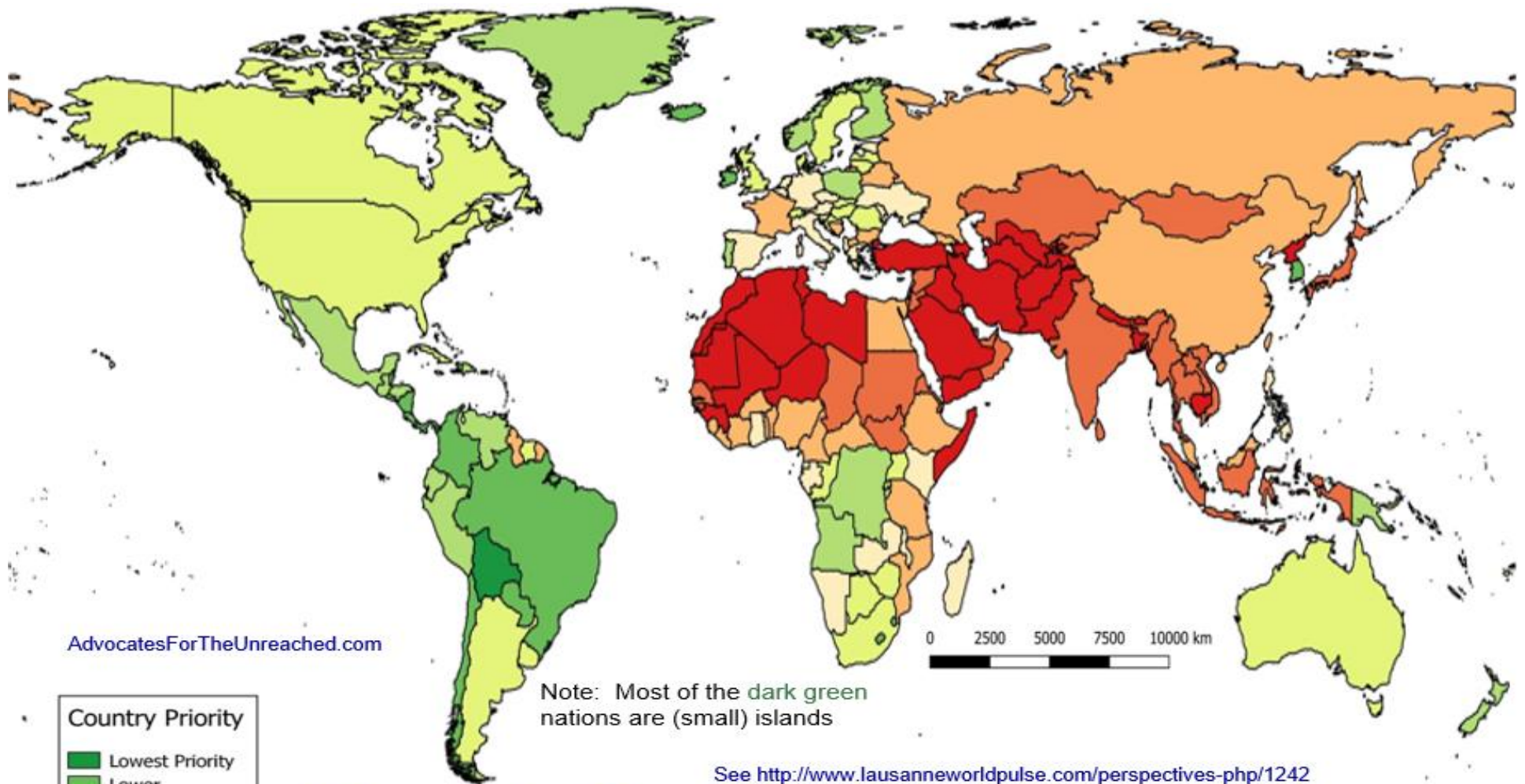
Workers are needed in the Lord’s harvest field. Missionaries need to be sent to proclaim the awesome news of Jesus to those who haven’t heard yet. Prayer warriors are needed.

We need to change our priorities, even regarding the way we have been doing the Great Commission. It is urgent for the body of Christ to prioritize reaching people who have little or no access to the Gospel.

A thorough study was done in search of the “neediest” countries for the saving truth of Jesus. Data for 15,893 people groups and 222 countries were used to evaluate the status of Christianity in the nations of the world.²¹ The map in Figure 11 below shows the resulting Great Commission-oriented prioritization of countries. Country prioritization like this can be used to help churches, ministries, and individuals prioritize their participation in the Great Commission.

²⁰Lausanne Covenant. (1974). <https://www.lausanne.org/content/covenant/lausanne-covenant>

²¹Pitterle, John. (2007). Great Commission Prioritization of Countries: Helping to Make the Great Commission More Meaningful for all Believers. http://AdvocatesForTheUnreached.com/Country_Prioritization.doc



Country Priority	
■	Lowest Priority
■	Lower
■	Low
■	Medium Low
■	Medium High
■	High
■	Higher
■	Highest Priority

Great Commission Prioritization of Countries

Figure 11 – Prioritization of Countries Regarding the Peoples’ Access to the Gospel²¹

²¹Pitterle, John. (2007). Great Commission Prioritization of Countries: Helping to Make the Great Commission More Meaningful for all Believers. http://AdvocatesForTheUnreached.com/Country_Prioritization.doc

5. Practical Ways to Make an Eternal Difference in the Great Commission

Once you have identified high priority places and/or people that need the truth of Jesus, you can decide to put feet to your new understanding. There are at least six significant ways to help reach God's world: learn, pray, go, send, welcome, and mobilize. OMF has six corresponding videos at <https://omf.org/us/6-ways/>.

You can begin to strategically pray, give, and go. For example, you can start praying daily for different unreached people groups (UPGs). You could begin to give monthly to ministries and missionaries that are focused on UPGs.

The Joshua Project has many excellent UPG resources. One such resource is the website with prayer calendars and prayer guides at <http://legacy.joshuaproject.net/prayer-resources.php>. I believe the most important resource I receive every day is the Joshua Project's "Unreached People of the Day" e-mail. It gives readers the highly valuable opportunity to unite with tens of thousands of believers around the world in praying for a different UPG every day. You can sign up at this website -

<http://legacy.joshuaproject.net/unreached-prayer.php>

There are some UPG ministries that can be financially supported without risking unhealthy dependency according to author and missionary speaker Glenn Schwartz.²² It is very helpful to support UPG missionaries as well as the important training they receive before going. For example, the Perspectives on the World Christian Movement²³ class is one good training resource. Bible translation (like Wycliffe Bible Translators²⁴) and UPG gospel radio can also be financially supported since they do not have a natural giving constituency like churches.

There are a number of missions organizations that focus primarily on UPGs. Examples of such missions agencies include: Pioneers,²⁵ OMF,²⁶ Frontiers,²⁷ and Live Dead.²⁸

Hundreds of thousands of international students attend universities in many different countries around the world. Many international students are from unreached people groups. About 80% of these students will not be invited to visit in a local home.²⁹ Yet, it is very easy to befriend international students who want to learn more about local culture and develop friendships with local people. Some universities even have an international hospitality or connection program. Some bodies of Christ in university communities offer a meal-in-a-home opportunity for international students.

Many people and refugees from various "closed" countries and unreached people groups live in the cities of America, European countries, and other open nations. International guests may often be more open to the gospel in places like these outside the confines of their home country. Befriending,

²²Schwartz, Glenn. (2007). When Charity Destroys Dignity. Lancaster, PA: World Mission Associates.

²³Perspectives on the World Christian Movement. (2016). <http://www.perspectives.org/>

²⁴Wycliffe Bible Translators. (2016). <https://www.wycliffe.org/>

²⁵Pioneers. (2016). <http://www.pioneers.org/>

²⁶OMF. (2016). <http://omf.org/>

²⁷Frontiers. (2016). <http://frontiers.org/>

²⁸Live Dead. (2016). <http://www.livedead.org/>

²⁹The Traveling Team. (2015). <http://www.thetravelingteam.org/stats/>

reaching out, and becoming a missionary to the unreached in a reached nation are some practical ways to participate in the Great Commission.

In order to live more effectively and fruitfully, there are a number of excellent resources to learn more about UPGs and the Great Commission. One of the best resources is the previously mentioned Perspectives²³ class that is offered to missions-minded believers around the world. Frontier Ventures' bimonthly Mission Frontiers³⁰ journal is helpful to regularly keep abreast of UPG happenings. YWAM Publishing³¹ and the William Carey Library³² have some good UPG books. With these resources, you can make an eternal difference, especially in the area where your passion and gifts intersect. Everyone has an important piece to contribute in order to complete the entire puzzle.

Serving on a church missions committee is an excellent way to cast vision and mobilize people regarding UPGs. There are many sleeping giants in the pews that could use a wake-up call. Sharing UPG vision can help people realize their calling in the Great Commission. Sharing practical ways for all believers to be involved with UPGs can help people become involved in the Great Commission including influencing people around the world through prayer.

Because the Lord has unique plans for you and your specific role in the Great Commission, you are strongly encouraged to take some new actions steps regarding your participation. The apostle James tells us that actions accompany our faith. Therefore, you are greatly encouraged to initiate a new prayer commitment and a new training or education activity related to unreached people groups. The next page provides a list of excellent prayer and learning opportunities for you to pursue on your journey to fulfill your role in the Great Commission and ultimately to hear the words, "Well done, good and faithful servant." Please choose and pursue at least one prayer initiative and at least one learning activity from the summary list on page 31.

²³Perspectives on the World Christian Movement. (2016). <http://www.perspectives.org/>

³⁰Mission Frontiers. (2016). <http://www.missionfrontiers.org/>

³¹YWAM Publishing. (2016). <http://www.ywampublishing.com/>

³²William Carey Library. (2016). <https://missionbooks.org/>

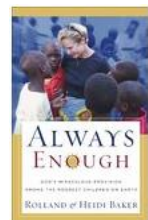
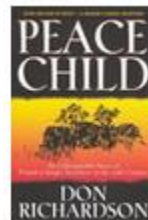
Great Commission Opportunities for Greater Involvement

Prayer

- Joshua Project Unreached of the Day - <https://joshuaproject.net/pray/unreachedoftheday>
 - Via E-mail or app
- Prayer Calendars - https://joshuaproject.net/resources/prayer_calendars
- Global Prayer Digest - <http://www.globalprayerdigest.org/>
- Prayer cast prayer videos for nations and world religions - <http://prayercast.com/nations.html>
- Joshua Project prayer guides - https://joshuaproject.net/resources/prayer_guides
- Joshua Project prayer cards - https://joshuaproject.net/resources/prayer_cards
- Joshua Project prayer videos - https://joshuaproject.net/resources/prayer_videos
- Joshua Project “neediest” people groups via people selector - <https://joshuaproject.net/filter>
- Every Home for Christ world prayer maps - <http://www.ehc.org/free-prayer-maps>
- IMB prayer cards - <http://imbresources.org/index.cfm/product/list/catID/137/deptID/1>
- Unreached Peoples Prayer Profiles - http://kcm.co.kr/bethany_eng/profile1.html

Education/Training/Reading

- Books (like Bruchko, Peace Child, Always Enough) - <https://joshuaproject.net/resources/articles>
- “End of the Spear” or “Peace Child” movie/DVD
- “6 Ways” class - <https://omf.org/us/6-ways/>
- Global Purpose DVD (about 16 minutes) - <https://www.stl-distribution.com/details/?id=9780878086122>
- Perspectives on the World Christian Movement class - <http://perspectives.org/>
- Keith Green’s “Why YOU Should Go to the Mission Field” tract - http://www.lastdaysministries.org/Store/Products/1000010542/LDM_store_products/WiseTracts/Evangelism_and_Missions/Why_YOU_Should.aspx
- Apostolic Passion article - <http://www.evanwigg.com/revival/passion/apospass.html>
- List of books - <http://legacy.joshuaproject.net/great-commission-books.php> or <http://www.davidmays.org/Resources/respublished.html> (available via http://www.worldchristian.com/index_wcn.php or <https://missionbooks.org/>)
- Joshua Project PowerPoint files - <https://joshuaproject.net/resources/powerpoints>
- Joshua Project videos - <https://joshuaproject.net/resources/videos>
- Joshua Project handouts - <https://joshuaproject.net/resources/handouts>
- Joshua Project bulletin inserts - <https://joshuaproject.net/resources/bulletins>
- Joshua Project Regional booklets - <https://joshuaproject.net/resources/booklets>
- Joshua Project quizzes - <https://joshuaproject.net/resources/quiz>
- “Mission Frontiers” journal - <http://www.missionfrontiers.org/>
- Five session UPG class - http://AdvocatesForTheUnreached.com/UPG_Class/
- “Bridges” class - <https://www.crescentproject.org/index.cfm/PagelD/1610/index.html>
- “Discover Missions” class or “Global Ministry Group” - <https://omf.org/us/connect/journey-with-us/global-ministry-groups/>



6. Conclusion

With inadequate access to the saving truth of Jesus, there is a high priority need to send workers and bring the amazing news about Jesus to the many unreached people groups. You and everyone in your church can play your roles in being world-changers to help complete the unfinished task of making disciples of all people groups. We can all pray regularly for specific unreached people groups and be involved in the Great Commission in many additional ways.

How then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent?

(Romans 10:14, 15)

Suggested Donation

Would you please prayerfully consider giving a contribution to Global Mission Awareness and Leif Hetland for their significant outreach in Pakistan?

If you are interested in helping to share the gospel with unreached people, one thing you can do is consider giving a donation to Global Mission Awareness for their ministry in Pakistan. This organization was started by Leif Hetland in the year 2000 with a vision to impact the least, the last, and the lost. More than one million people have come to Jesus through Leif and his ministry.

Please see <https://globalmissionawareness.com/lmop/> to learn more.