

Five Celebrations – Five Challenges

A Great Commission Overview

1

Great Commission

- Big-Picture Overview
- Five Positive Trends
- Five Challenges
- Involvement Ideas

2

Missing the forest for the trees

3

The sign of His coming

Matt 24:3 "As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be **the sign** of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"

Matt 24:4-13 a list of birth pangs, but not the answer to the disciples question.

Matt 24:14 "... This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and **then** the end will come."

4

The Great Commission

Matt 28:18-20 "All authority has been given to me in heaven and earth. Go therefore, and make disciples of **all the nations** baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

- vs 18 – Statement
- vs 19 – Command
 - Main verb: *make disciples*
 - Object: *all the nations*
 - Three participles:
 - go
 - baptize
 - teach
- vs 20 – Promise

5

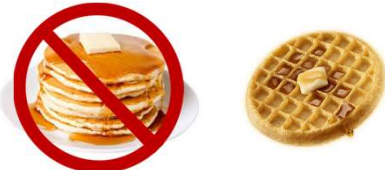
Jesus' command:
 "make disciples of all the **nations**"

"nation" = ethne = people group


Nigeria – one country Nigeria – 544 nations

6

A pancake or a waffle?




Like syrup on a waffle, the Gospel naturally flows only until it encounters ethnic boundaries.



7

“Make disciples of all the nations”


1. Who are the people groups?
2. Which ones have few, if any, disciples?



8

Current estimate of people groups


17,400



9

Current estimate of people groups considered **unreached**
(few, if any, Christ-followers)

7,400 (42%)



10

3.1 billion individuals live in **unreached** people groups

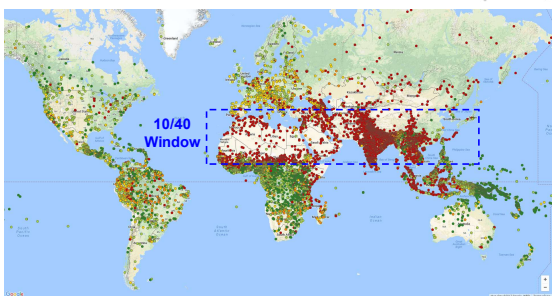


Chamar of India
51.6 million, Hindu, **Unreached**



Jat of Pakistan
32.5 million, Muslim, **Unreached**


11



5 out of 6 unreached groups are in the **10/40 Window**

12


50 largest unreached people groups



- These 50 largest unreached groups are comprised of 1.5 billion souls.
- One in five people on earth live in these 50 unreached peoples.
- Every group is larger than 10,000,000 in population.
- None have an indigenous church capable of taking the Gospel to the entire group.

13

Two numbers to remember




17,400 people groups
7,400 of which are considered unreached

Empty seats at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb

14

Five Great Commission Positive Trends

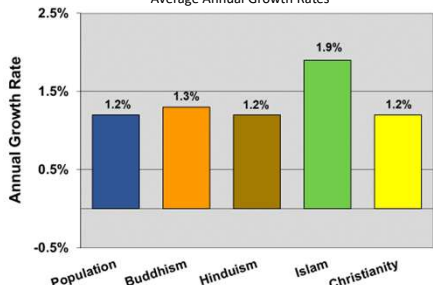
*Islam is growing faster than Christianity.
 Agree or disagree?*




15

Major Global Religions

Average Annual Growth Rates



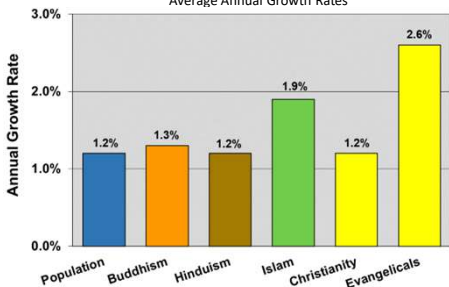
Yes, Islam is growing faster than "Christianity"




16

Major Global Religions vs Evangelicals

Average Annual Growth Rates




NO, Evangelicals are growing faster than Islam



17

Trend #1

Amazing growth of Christ-followers world-wide




18

Amazing Advance of the Gospel

- Globally an estimated **50,000** people become Christ-followers every day.
- About **3,500** churches are planted every week around the world.

	1965	Currently
Evangelicals world-wide	90 million	680 million
% of Worlds Population	4%	9%



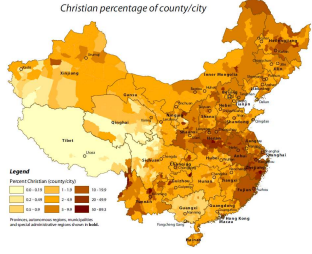
19

Remarkable Growth in China

Christian percentage of country/city


1949 – Less that **1 million** believers
Today – Estimates suggest between **80-100 million** believers

There are now about as many Christ-followers in China as in North America.



20


Remarkable Growth in Iran



- 1979** – **500** known Christ-followers
- Today** – Estimates suggest possibly **1 million** Christ-followers (sadly many have had to flee the country)

21

Remarkable Growth in Mongolia



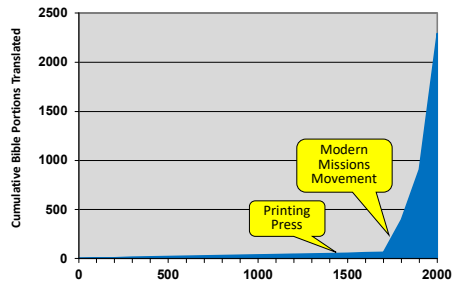
1989 – Less that **10** known believers
Today – Estimates suggest between **60,000 to 80,000** believers

8% Annual growth rate of Christ-followers – one of the fastest growing Christian populations in the world.

Mongolian believers reviewing an unreached peoples list for Mongolia

22

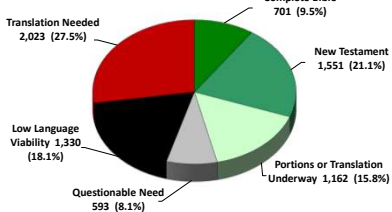
Trend #2 Acceleration of Bible translation



23


Status of Bible translation

7,360 total languages



Category	Count	Percentage
Complete Bible	701	9.5%
New Testament	1,551	21.1%
Portions or Translation Underway	1,162	15.8%
Questionable Need	593	8.1%
Low Language Viability	1,330	18.1%
Translation Needed	2,023	27.5%

About **2,023** (27.5%) languages need Bible translation to begin



24



25

Exploding Scripture availability

Importance of Orality

- 80% of the world's population are oral communicators
- Most unreached people groups prefer oral learning

Online Scripture

- YouVersion.com – 1,370 languages text
- Bible.is – over 1,330 languages audio

Jesus Film

- 1,850 languages – 3 new per week
- most viewed film in history

Logos: ION (International Orality Network), HOLY BIBLE, Bible.is, JESUS FILM PROJECT

26

Trend #3 Rise of Global South as the center of Christianity

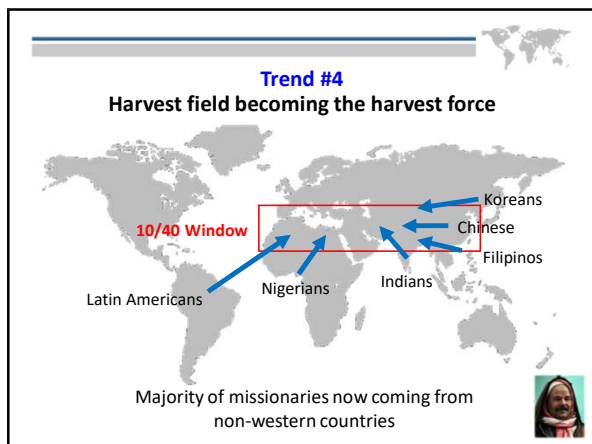
Year	% Christians in Europe and North America	% Christians in Latin America, Africa and Asia
1800	99%	1%
1900	82%	18%
1979	50%	50%
2020	33%	67%
2050	15%	85%

27

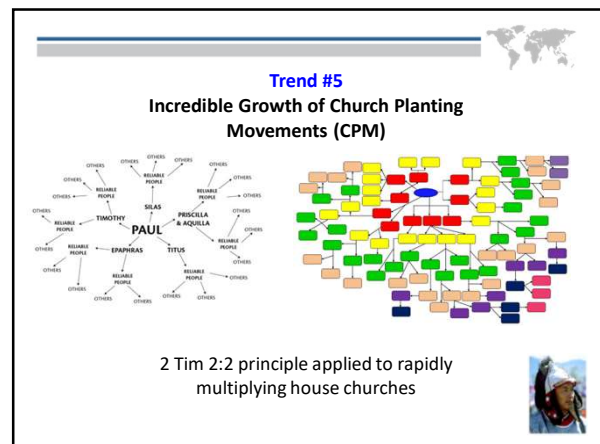
New Faces of the Body of Christ

For every **1** new Christ-follower in the US and Europe there are **16** in the Latin America, Africa and Asia.

28



29



30

Church Planting Movements

Definition: Four or more streams reproducing consistently to four or more spiritual generations

In last 15 years

- Over 1,350 movements reported
- 90% are in unreached people groups
- 4.8 million new house churches
- 76+ million new believers
- Annual growth rate 20% and higher

31

Muslim Movements to Christ

Research as of 2013. Some suggest there currently are many hundred!

"The greatest turning of Muslims to Christ in history is occurring today."

Year	Movements
~900	1
~1200	2
~1800	2
2000	69

32

Remarkable Movements in Indonesia

(the largest Muslim country in the world)

- 80,000 new house churches in last few years
- Some movements report 20 generations of multiplying house churches
- Over 15% of Indonesians are now Christ-followers

33

Five Great Commission Positive Trends

1. Amazing growth of Christ-followers
2. Acceleration of Bible translation
3. Global South as new center of Christianity
4. Harvest field becoming the harvest force
5. Growth of people group movements to Christ

34

Challenge #1

Loss of Great Commission focus

Barna Research asked U.S. church-goers this question: **Have you previously heard of the Great Commission?**

Response	Percentage
NO	51%
YES, BUT I CAN'T RECALL THE EXACT MEANING	25%
YES, AND IT MEANS...	17%
I'M NOT SURE	6%

35

Unreached is off the radar or has lost its meaning

Unreached peoples are **off the radar**
"Been there. Done that. Got the T-shirt. Let's move on."


Unreached now **applied to everything**
"My neighbor ... co-worker ... New Jersey is unreached."

36

Challenge #2
Absolute number of non-believers is growing

	New Christ-followers	Individuals added to world population
Every minute	35	158
Every hour	2,080	9,475
Every day	50,000	227,000
Every year	18,200,000	83,000,000

For every **10** new Christ-followers there are **45** new individuals added to the world's population



37

Business as usual is not fulfilling the Great Commission!



We are **losing** ground.



38

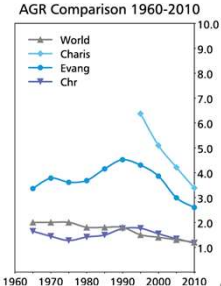

There are more people alive today that do not know Christ than at any other time in history.



39

Challenge #3
Slowing Evangelical growth since peak in 1990s

Slowing growth – China
 Plateauing – Korea
 Declining – Europe / West

40

Challenge #4
Urgent need for pastoral leadership training




Globally **95%** of pastors lack formal theological training

An estimated two million or more pastors, particularly in Asia, Africa and Latin America, are undertrained and isolated.

41

Challenge #5
Limited resources directed toward unreached people groups



42

Limited missionaries to unreached peoples

Less than **1 in 10** missionaries work among the unreached

43

Unreached have limited contact with Christ-followers

87% of the world's Hindu, Muslims, and Buddhists have relatively little, if any, contact with Christians

44

Limited churches among the unreached

Location	Population	Churches	Location	Population	Churches
Portland, OR	580,000	448	Asansol, India	564,000	0
Indianapolis, IN	852,000	511	Al Hudayadah, Yemen	618,000	0
Birmingham, AL	212,000	459	Smarakaland, Uzbekistan	504,000	0

Few, if any, indigenous reproducing churches among unreached people groups

45

Limited finances directed toward unreached

Question: For every dollar of Christian giving to all causes how much goes to financing pioneer church planting among unreached peoples?

Answer: Less than a penny

North Americans spend about as much on Halloween costumes for pets as on outreach to unreached people groups.

46

Five Great Commission Challenges

1. Loss of Great Commission focus
2. Absolute number of non-believers is growing
3. Evangelical growth rate is declining
4. Great need for pastoral leadership training
5. Limited resources directed toward unreached

47


Get Involved Ideas

Unreached of the Day mobile app or email


Get Involved Handout

www.joshuaproject.net


48




Vision of Coca-Cola Company





"A can of Coke in the hand of every person on the planet."




49




How much more Jesus Christ?

50



That There Might Be Worshippers

"After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb" Rev 7:9



51




Missing Worshippers



7,400 people groups without a self-sustaining indigenous movement

The Lamb is **worthy** of worship from every one of them!

52



For more information visit
joshuaproject.net

53