

FOCUS

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PRAY THROUGH THE 10/40 WINDOW THE LAST FRONTIERS

SIGNS OF
HIS COMING
(MATT. 24 : 3 -
14)

- > False Messiahs
- > Wars and rumors of wars
- > Nation against nation
- > Famines
- > Earthquakes
- > Tribulation
- > Persecution of Christians
- > Falling away of many
- > Israel becomes a nation again
- > Jerusalem in the hands of Israel

INSIDE THIS
ISSUE :

Unreached people groups 1

A look at world evangelism 2

What are the challenges? 2

Prayer Focus 3

General Information 4

The last frontiers refers to those regions that are yet to have a significant Christian presence or hear the good news of the gospel.

It is true that there are unbelievers every where, but the question is where are the people groups who don't have any Christians in them or church? How many are they, and how many are unreached? That's the missionary question, ultimately the question every Christian must be concerned with.

The last frontiers include; North Africa, the Middle East and Asia. They lie in an imaginary rectangular "window called the 10/40 window. This window contains the bulk of the unreached. Asia is the only

inhabited continent in the world where Christianity is not the major religion, Islam is. Though parts of Africa especially the north are in the 10/40 window, Christianity remains the major religion in Africa.

Asia is the birth place of the World's major religions; Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism. Christianity is yet to have a significant influence in Asia. Islam is spread through out North Africa, the Middle East, Central Asia and parts of South and South East Asia. Islam professes uncertain salvation through works, but no guarantee of heaven. Over a billion Muslims trapped in this hopeless future.

Buddhism professes the

path to enlightenment through the never ending circle of reincarnation, until you reach perfection, no knowing when that will happen. A hopeless path to nothing. Well over a billion Buddhist and spirit worshippers cover east and south east Asia, China and Japan.

Hinduism offers a variety of over 330 million lifeless idols to choose from as gods. The rituals are endless to appease these gods. Like the Buddhist they are caught up in the circle of death and rebirth, revolving in the wheel of reincarnation. In all that they profess to be, none addresses the problem of the indwelling sin nature of man nor can they.

UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUPS

According to Joshua project there are 16,596 people groups in the world, amounting to 6.75 billion individuals. 6,872 of these people groups are considered unreached, that is 41.4% of the world's people groups.

Majority of the unevangelized people groups are in Asia. 2,192 people groups in the sub-continent of India alone. Out of the 2.80 billion unreached people in the world, 2.72 billion are in the 10/40 window, that is 86% of all unreached people. The Islamic coun-

tries of central Asia host some of the least evangelized people on earth.

What is a people group?

"For evangelization purposes, a people group is the largest group within which the gospel can

A LOOK AT WORLD EVANGELISM



spread as a church planting movement without encountering barriers of understanding or acceptance" (Source: 1982 Lausanne Committee Chicago meeting.)

What distinguishes one group from another?

"Ideally, "people groups" would be defined to mean (a) all individuals in the group understand each other reasonably well and (b) cultural relationship barriers aren't so high that

the transmission of the gospel is seriously impeded." (Source: Joshua project.)

Why after over 2000 years of Christian history has the 10/40 window region remained unreached and resistant to the Christian gospel? Why has the Islamic, Buddhist and Hindu regions remained impenetrable?

At the first Lausanne conference on world Evangel-

ism in 1974 by Billy Graham, Christian leaders from all over the world looked at the great commission afresh. How can we in our generation finish this task? From this conference came a fresh look at how to go about accomplishing the task. The approach was to look at people groups rather than geographical entities, that way focus on segments of unreached humanity, this will then allow

"Why after over 2000 years of Christian history has the 10/40 window region remained unreached...?"

WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES ?

for strategic targeted planning on how to engage them.

The next question was how then can we successfully engage them? Realizing that they are captives to demons as Paul clearly states in 2 Cor. 4:4. "The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of

Christ, who is the image of God".

"The Changing Face of World Missions" addresses the issue of spiritual warfare as key to taking the last frontiers. Up till now we have taken for granted the need for spiritual warfare, nor have we understood the opposition as Satanic resistance.

There were growing concerns among missionary

strategist at the lack of spiritual power among many missionaries. By the mid 80s many Pentecostals advocated a more spiritual warfare approach to missions. Many Christian leaders realized that they had failed to prepare workers for ministry in regions of great satanic resistance.

Spiritual warfare now became the key, many



Christian mission organizations began prayer initiatives for the unreached and the 10/40 window region. Concerted efforts on prayer heightened, through identifying and binding demons thought to control these regions. The results were emergence of prayer ministries targeting unreached people groups.

Ralph and Roberta Winters founded "The US Center for World Missions" in 1978 to coordinate research on unreached peoples and mobilize Christians to minister to them, by 1986 Thomas Wang was calling for "A Church for Every People" by the year 2000, "The Joshua Project", a guided informa-

tion on the unreached and how to pray for them, to mention but a few.

No doubt there has been increased awareness of intercessory needs and prayer focus for the unreached in the past couple of decades. Some of the results we are now seeing in the Middle East, God is pulling down repressive

political systems that have hindered the gospel from reaching the people in these regions.

Another key challenge we face is that most of the unreached perceive Christianity as a Western religion associated with colonial oppressors and foreign to their culture. In view of this, they have resisted the gospel.

We are also guilty of distancing ourselves from the very people we are trying to

take them to a neighboring country in order to train as well as disciple them. This is very cost intensive for many missionaries who can barely meet their own basic needs. Oh, how we so need the financial support of the rest of the body of Christ to do our work.

We lack adequate financial and human resources needed to do the work. The average Christian only gives

PRAYER FOCUS

pray, you can send and you can go.

What will it take to accomplish the task? Very simple, radically committed Christians ready to lose all, short of this we are wasting our time. There will be enormous casualties. The Christian history has always been that of persecution and martyrdom, the gospel has always ad-

reach, especially in the way we live when we are amongst them. Is there economic disparity between us and the people we minister to? We missionaries as much as is possible must live with and like them, if we are ever to truly reach them.

The approach to missions has been that of support and oversight. The failure to groom as well as involve indigenous people in any meaningful role to take over our work, makes continuity

1.8% of their income, only 5% of Christian giving goes to cross cultural mission, of this 5%, only 0.1% to 1.66% is focused on the unreached. We lack the financial resources required to do the work.

There is a 45% decline in Western missionary efforts, a huge gap that needs to be filled. The Chinese Christians have a goal to send 50,000

vanced at the cost of Christian lives. The early Christians laid the foundation with their blood, so must we.

Jesus directly linked His return to the fulfillment of the great commission. It is in our hands to hasten the Lord's coming. I challenge you to get involved.

This article is in no way exhaustive of the chal-

lenges we face in taking the last frontiers, but I have chosen to mention just a few.

impossible. This dependency has failed to produce any meaningful growth. The other challenge is how do we disciple new converts in areas of religious exclusivity, where conversion to Christianity is against the law? This has been a great obstacle to grooming converts especially from Islam to also evangelize their own people. I know of a fellow missionary who had won several converts in a restricted area, but had to

missionaries through Central Asia and the Middle East back to Jerusalem. What is our vision in Nigeria and Africa as a whole towards accomplishing the great commission?

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Ignorance: Most Christians are unaware of the unreached, those that are feel its not their responsibility. How far from the truth this is. Every Christian has a part to play; you can

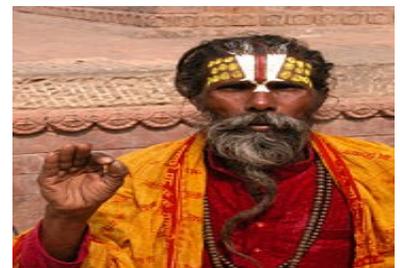
Please pray for the regions in the Last Frontiers.

Pray for missionaries especially those laboring in restricted countries.

Pray for mission agencies; CAPRO, YWAM, Wycliffe, CMD, Asia Harvest and many others .



“The Chinese Christians have a goal to send 50,000 missionaries through Central Asia and the Middle East back to Jerusalem”



REFERENCES

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FOCUS is a monthly newsletter birth from a God given desire during my time in Missions School at Christ for the Nations **Dallas TX** 17 years ago. Also from a recent phone call on my birthday March 16th 2008, from my sister Koko urging me to write a newsletter called *FOCUS*, that as it's name implies bring attention to the unreached people groups, and Countries in the 10/40 window.

This month's edition is one of several articles focusing on the unreached in the 10/40 window. My desire is to bring to the awareness of the body of Christ worldwide, especially in the free world the unreached in the 10/40 window, and the plight of the persecuted Church. My intention in doing this is to provoke you to pray, go as a missionary to these places or people groups, or support the missionaries who are there.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU

Transforming the nations through Christ.

Penetrating the 10/40 window with the gospel.

Look around at the nations and be amazed!
For I am doing something in your own day, something you wouldn't believe even if someone told you about it.

Habakkuk 1:5 (NLT).