

100 years of World Missions *Today*

One Hundred years
of reaching
Jerusalem,
Judea,
Samaria
and the
uttermost
part of the
earth.

*So, where
are we
now?*

[Revised November 2015]



“Foreign missions is no more or no less,
than the far-reaching effects of
our own personal discipleship efforts.”

100 years of World Missions *Today*

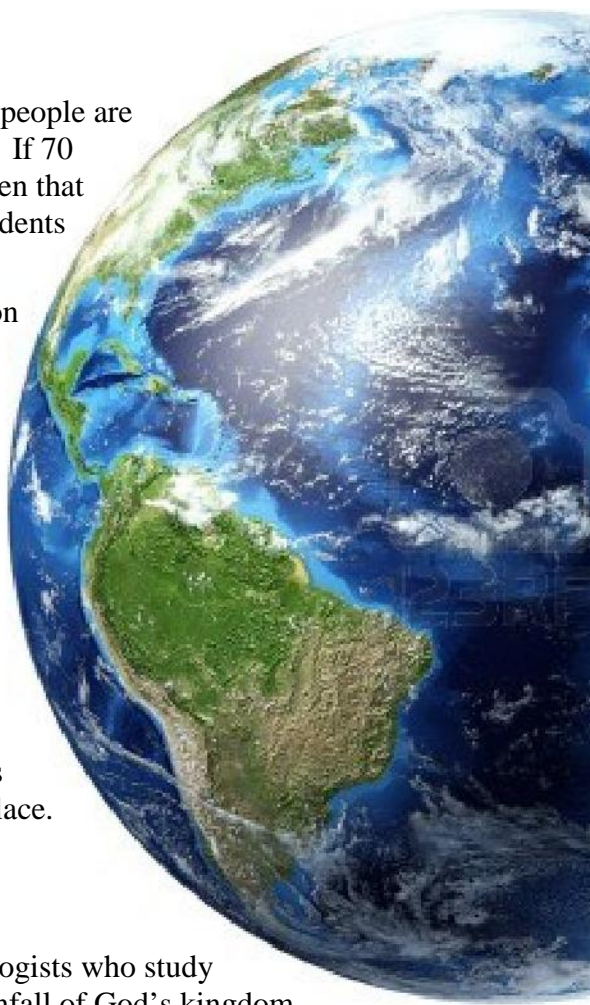
Hometown Stats

Today, approximately 1,200 people are living in Saegertown proper. If 70 people are in your church, then that breaks down to about 17 residents to every 1 church member.

Do you realize that if 1 person
---- spent 1 year -----
reaching only 1 other person
effectively ---

--- your church would
double by this time next
year? Can you grasp the
potential kingdom impact of
each believing Christian
saying **YES** to God's
Kingdom Call to reach the
lost and make disciples?

But the sad reality is that this
does not seem to be taking place.



Global Missiology

Most missionaries or missiologists who study missions tell us that the downfall of God's kingdom work is not due to unbelieving pagans, but disobedient disciples. (2 Chron. 7:14)

In 1910 in Edinburgh the World Missionary Conference for world evangelization was held. They met and examined and discussed ideas and strategies for reaching the world for Christ in their century.

In 1980, the 2nd Global Missions Consultation for world evangelization was held again in Edinburgh and the vision was a church for every people by 2000. And again, they examined and discussed ideas and strategies for reaching the world for Christ in their century.

In Berlin 1966, the World Congress on Evangelism was held. Billy Graham and many others met and examined and discussed ideas and strategies for reaching the world for Christ in their century.

In 1974, the 2nd World Congress of world evangelism, was held in Lausanne Switzerland, which was the follow up to Berlin in 1966. This became known as the Lausanne Gathering. They met and examined and discussed ideas and strategies for reaching the world for Christ in their century.

In 1989 Manila, Philippines, Lausanne 2, which was actually the 3rd World Congress for World Evangelism was held. Again, key global Christian leaders examined and discussed ideas and strategies for reaching the world for Christ before the end of their century.

In the 1980s and '90s, AD2000 was a missionary movement that was developed and their motto was “a church for every people group and the Scripture in every language by 2000AD”.

Today there are more organized and sophisticated and strategized movements to reach the world than ever before in the history of the church and yet we still have so far to go.

The Reality

In May 2010, “Tokyo2010” (which was the followup to the preceding World Congress Edinburgh conferences) met together and examined and discussed why their goals of reaching the world for Christ by 2000, *had not been reached*.

Oddly enough, in October, “Capetown 2010”, which was the 3rd Lausanne Congress on World Evangelism, also met to examine and discuss why their goals of reaching the world for Christ by 2000, *had not been realized*.

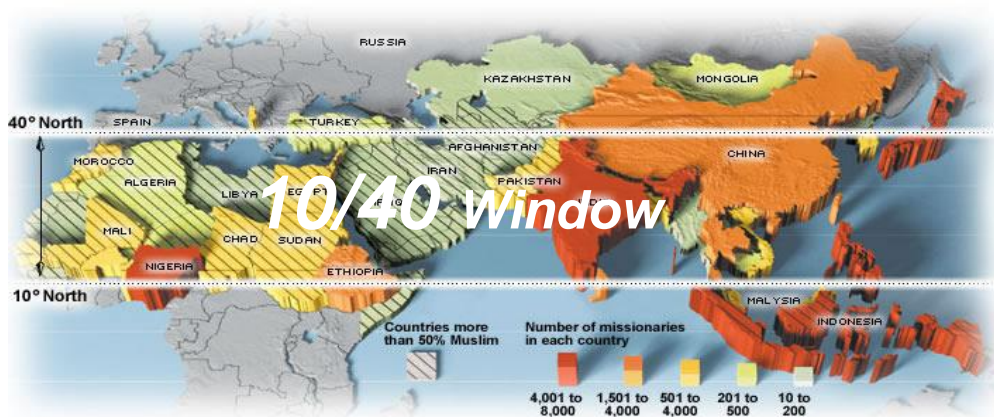
And today, the AD2000 movement? It has since changed its name to “AD2000 and Beyond”.

We must ask and answer this all important question: “***What has happened?***” Why have we not reached our goals of reaching the world by 2000?? And why are we apparently farther behind today, than we were 40 yrs ago?

The 10/40 Window

Part of the answer may lie in the discovery and growth of the 10/40 window. According to missiologist’s statistics, there are approximately 1 missionary for every 100,000 unbelievers.

Our Pennsylvania county of Crawford County’s population is just under 90,000. Can you imagine God saying to you, “[your name here], I’m assigning you (a single individual) to Crawford County as your mission field.” Or [your church here] church (a single church), I’m assigning you the state of Pennsylvania as your mission field. How overwhelming would that be?



From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia that anyone can edit

The **10/40 Window** is a term coined by Christian missionary strategists [Luis Bush in 1990] to refer those regions of the eastern hemisphere located between 10 and 40 degrees north of the equator, a general area that in 1990 was purported to have the highest level of socioeconomic challenges and least access to the Christian message and Christian resources on the planet.

The 10/40 Window concept highlights these three elements: an area of the world, with the greatest poverty and low quality of life, combined with the least access to Christian resources.

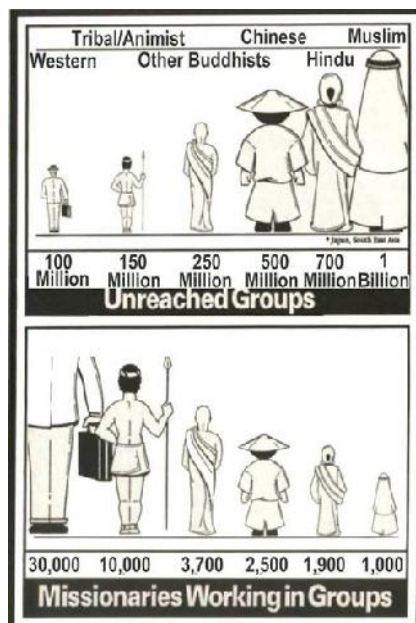
Roughly two-thirds of the world population lives in the 10/40 Window. The 10/40 Window is populated by people who are predominantly Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Animist, Jewish or Atheist. Many governments in the 10/40 Window are formally or informally opposed to Christian work of any kind within their borders.

In Short

The 10/40 window is the most densely populated region on earth. It is also the most unreached geographic location on earth. Its population is among the most impoverished of all the people on planet earth.

With the greatest human need, the largest number of people, and the least amount of believers, it is conservatively estimated that there are 3 billion unreached people within the 10/40 window alone – not including the rest of the world.

With those statistics, where would it make the most sense to be sending missionaries? Perhaps to the *least reached* groups?



Where should we be sending more missionaries?

The issue is not that lost people are more important in unreached groups than previously reached areas. The issue is in what appears to be an imbalance between previously reached areas and unreached areas.

“Ultimately, the gospel is needed *wherever* there is *anyone* who is outside the family of God.”

In the 2nd half of the 20th century so many of the missionary movements were targeting the year 2000 as anticipating perhaps the end of missions which would surely usher in the coming of the Lord Himself. And yet here we are the year 2012 with somewhere between 3-4 billion unreached people in the world. And with the approximate global population at 7 billion, – this is approximately half the world’s population now to believed to be in the unreached category.

And the question that comes to my mind is, “What happened?” How has the unbelieving population of the world so profoundly surpassed our very best missionary efforts? We are farther behind today than we were 30-40 years ago.

With all these global efforts, what has happened? Why is Gods plan not working??



Family Farms

Imagine in the old days of family farms. It was not unusual for farming families to be large. The more children a farming family had, the more people to work on the farm, the more to work the fields, the more to bring in the harvest.

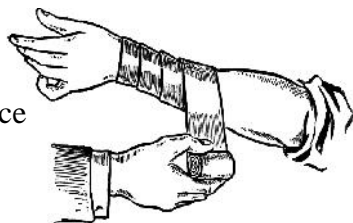
Imagine for a moment, the farmer and his wife beginning to give birth to still born children –dead children – one right after the other. What would eventually be the effect on the family farm? Quite likely, the farm would become too much for the mom and dad and the other siblings to manage. It is likely that they’d either have to hire on servants from outside the family or the farm would become more and more unfruitful until they had to give it up all together.

If the family continued giving birth to dead babies, there soon would not be enough family help to do the plowing, to do the planting, to do the weeding, to fix the barn, repair the plow, take

care of the livestock, weed the gardens, or ultimately, to bring in the harvest, which is the purpose of farming.

The Great Wound

The Great Commission is like a great wound. When we get wounded, we experience pain over the wound. The wound bleeds. It eventually scabs over and begins its healing process.



When Christ gives us the Great Commission (Mat.28:19 / Acts 1:8), it is like a being pierced by a great double edged sword and it wounds us. And like a sword, it causes us to double up, writhing in pain for the lost, with blood gushing from the wound and tears flowing down our cheeks.

However, like many wounds, after a while the wound begins to heal up and scab over. The blood stops it's flowing, the pain begins to ease up – often *Novocained* and numbed by our rationalization and excuses of lack of time, lack of giftedness, or lack of ability.

For many the wound of the Great Commission is scabbing over. For some, the Great Commission is no longer an issue of pain. We are no longer bleeding over the lost. Our tears have dried up and the wound is scabbing over and on the mends. Our challenge for today is to scrape the scab off the great wound of the Great Commission – bring back the pain – cause it to begin bleeding all over again, that we would be painfully reminded afresh, of the desperate state of those who live next door to us as well as those who live on foreign fields.

Diverted and Distracted



It is the Church that God calls to do His kingdom work. It is to the church that Christ issues the Great Commission. It is the church that is to obediently live and share the gospel message, being the light of Christ to all who will look, listen and believe. It is the

Church that chooses obedience or disobedience for the work of the

Kingdom. It is Christ who has promised to build His church. It is the Church, which is to be the tool of Christ for the spread of the gospel.

Cutting Corners - Acts 1:8

What's missing? We have the foundation, the landscaping, and the roof. But seems like something important might be missing. What could it be? Ah, yes, the supporting walls.



Cutting corners while building a house could cause it to be a failure. Cutting corners in almost anything, can possibly lead to failure. Cutting corners can occur when attempting to save time, limit expenses, stretch resources, make the most of limited manpower or even when the necessary work to be done is simply avoided.

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in *Jerusalem* and in all *Judea* and *Samaria*, and to the *end of the earth*." Act 1:8

"You see, we have reached around the world, but we have failed to reach the world around us."

Like a blue print gives the building plan for a house; foundation first, next the supporting walls, then the roof, and finally the landscaping, likewise in Acts 1:8, Jesus gave us a *prophetic* message on the gospel reaching the world. Yet it was also a *strategic* formula for how to accomplish this seemingly insurmountable task.



Before we go any further, please do not consider this as a rebuttal or any attempt to devalue foreign missions. On the contrary, it is a call back to God's Biblical model and mindset for how foreign missions is to be most effectively achieved.

In Scripture, missions is given as missions. There doesn't seem to be any distinguishing between the most or least important areas of world missions. There does not seem to be a hierarchy for the most

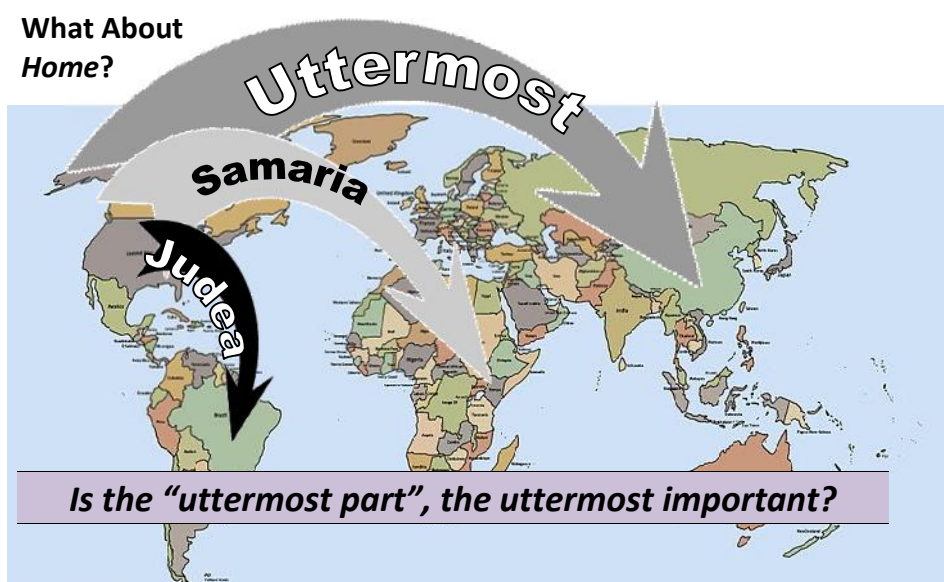
important level of missions. Therefore, *foreign* missions is no more important than *home* missions.

Jesus did **NOT** present foreign missions, “the utter most part of the earth”, as the most important thing. But He did present foreign missions as the ultimate thing. Foreign missions is no more important than local home missions. The uttermost part of the earth, is not more important than Jerusalem missions.

In His prophetic and strategic plan to reach the world, He gives the basic blueprint: Jerusalem (home), Judea (surrounding areas), Samaria (missions further away and more unfamiliar), and ultimately the uttermost part of the world (all the gospel, to all people, in all places).

So in the Bible, that is how missions begins, reaching their Jerusalem, that is those people closest to them. The strategy of this is for believers to reach those closest to them, then those they reach in their Jerusalem, begin to reach out to those in Judea. Then those people reached in Judea, begin to reach out to those in Samaria. Then those who were reached in Samaria, begin to reach out to those in the uttermost part of the world. It is like a ripple effect. The rock of the gospel falls where we are, and the ripples of our efforts reaching others, goes out and ultimately reaching the uttermost part of the world.

**What About
Home?**



“Is The Uttermost Part, the Uttermost Important?”

Perhaps what has happened, is that we have been drawn so much to see the world reached, that we have left Christ’s strategy, jumped out of the formula for effectively reaching the world and gone straight to the uttermost part of the earth, thinking that while that is the ultimate thing, it is also the most important thing in missions.

And what we have done is, we have reached around the world, but we have failed to reach the world around us. We have shortcut the strategic plan Christ gave to us. So in failing to reach the world around us, that is our Jerusalem, we set ourselves up for failure to effectively reach the utter most part of the world.

Perhaps the most important thing is adhering to the prophetic, strategic pattern given to us by Christ, by reaching world, by reaching others, who will reach others, who will in turn, reach others. The uttermost part of the world is not the uttermost important part of missions, though it is the ultimate goal of missions. Therefore, foreign missions is not the most important thing, though it is the ultimate thing. We must not overlook the important link and purpose of home, or local missions.

The uttermost part of the world is not a *place* but a *goal*. The uttermost part of the world is intended to indicate the goal of Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the uttermost part of the world being achieved. If we have accomplished the “uttermost part of the world”, or foreign missions, yet failed at our Jerusalem and Judea, then the uttermost represents, not a goal we achieved, but merely a place we reached.



So now, where does the responsibility for missions lie? With Billy Graham? SIM? OMS? EFCA ReachGlobal?

And Is the Uttermost part, the uttermost important?

The responsibility of global *and* local missions - home *and* uttermost part of the world, lies with us. Every true believer, living the life of a true disciple, carrying out the work and commission of the True King – this is missions. The secret of effective missions does not lie in finding the right missions organization and the right open country, those are clearly an important part to consider. The secret lies in every Christian, living every day obediently showing God’s love by serving with others and sharing Christ’s message of the gospel of salvation.

Every Christian, is a missionary: Everywhere we go, Everything we do, with Everyone we meet. Connecting with others, in order to connect them to Christ and to other Christ followers, *the church*.

What we have termed as “*missions*”, is what Christ has termed as “*being witnesses*”. That meant everyone, everywhere. No excuses. No exceptions. No broken links. No skipped areas. No ignored strategies.

Conclusion

In our calling to reach around the world, we must not fail to reach the world around us. We must realize that the ultimate thing, is not necessarily the most important thing. And, we must understand that the uttermost part of the world, is not a location to be reached, but a goal to be achieved.

-----*Apply to Missions*-----

“Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall your poverty come as one that travels; and your want as an armed man.”

--Proverbs 24:33-34



Strategic?

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." --Act 1:8

or Prophetic?

"Foreign missions is no more or no less,
than the far-reaching effects of
our own personal discipleship efforts."

Other Free Booklets

1 PETER, pt.1-2 (2Vol): *Suffering in Sojourning*
1 PETER, pt.3-5 (3Vol): *The Church God Always Wanted*
100 YEARS OF MISSIONS: *So Where Are We Now?*
A NEW CREATION: *Beginning Your New Life In Christ*
ADVENT: *The Submission of Christ*
AMERICA ADRIFT: *A Culture in Crisis and the Challenges Before the Church*
CHALLENGES OF FAITH *From Characters in the Bible*
CHRIST'S COMING KINGDOM: *What Will Be Will Be*
CPR Evangelism: *Helping others Step from Death to Life*
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WHAT GOD HAS JOINED TOGETHER: *A Handbook for Pre-Marriage Considerations*
YOUR LIFE IS LIKE...: *The Challenge to Disciple A Community*
-- All downloadable free resources at: www.christefca.org --



Life Line Resources

May each lesson bring a growing submission, a deeper obedience and an increase of the righteous reign of the Lordship of Jesus Christ in the fullness of His Spirit, in His Church and throughout our mission field

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