

## **World Evangelization—AD 2000 and Beyond**

### **1. The World is Blind, Deaf, and Dumb to What God Is Doing!**

- a. There are 16,000 new Christians in Africa every day!  
—Africa was 4% Christian in 1900, is over 40% Christian today
- b. In Latin America the evangelical movement is growing 3 times as fast as the population
- c. In the Soviet Union, after 70 years of oppression, the Christian movement is 36% of pop.  
—that is more than 100 million!—over 5 times the size of the Communist Party
- d. Many are aware of the miracle of growth of the Christian movement in China (23,000 new Christians per day!)
- e. In Indonesia the percentage of Christians is so high the government will not print it
- f. In India 25% of the people would like to be Christians if they could stay within their families
- g. Among over 800 million Muslims, Jesus is actually more highly revered than Mohammed, and thousands of Muslims are turning to the Bible in East Africa...

### **2. We are Nearing the End of History**

- a. The Completion of the Task and the Return of Christ are linked—Matt 24:14
- b. The Gospel is making tremendous progress  
—In AD100 there were 181 million people in the world, to be won by 500,000 believers (that is 360 to one!)  
—By 1900 there were 1 billion who did not claim to be Christians, to be evangelized by 40 million Bible-believing Christians—(that's only 27 to one!)  
—Today there are 3.4 billion non-Christians, to be evangelized by 500 million Bible-believing Christians—(That's only 7 to one! See Chart on previous page for details)
- c. Looking at the world in terms of peoples is very helpful  
—Many missiologists, consider the type of group significant to mission strategy to be what a Lausanne-sponsored, widely representative meeting in 1982 concluded:  
“For evangelistic 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.”  
—Both David Barrett and I feel that we need to think in terms of about 12,000 such groups still remaining unreached, unpenetrated, without as yet an internal, indigenous, evangelizing church movement, that is, still objects of mission strategy. (Prior to the merging of many groups due to evangelization there were around 60,000 such groups.)  
—Since there are about 5 million Bible-believing congregations, this means there are about 416 congregations in the world for each of the 12,000 groups yet to be reached.  
—Furthermore, work has already begun or is about to begin in about 8,000 groups!

### **3. Unprecedented forces are attempting together to complete this task by AD 2000**

- a. Mission structures are becoming more prominent than ever  
—In the United States, 350 new mission agencies have been established since 1950  
—Even more significant is the fact that the same number in the same period have come into being in the so-called Third World.  
—Note the new Third World Missions Advance group now, on the world level  
—In 1986 the Congreso de Misiones Ibero-Americano (COMIBAM), held in Sao Paulo, Brazil, drew the largest delegations from every country of Latin America that had ever attended any previous meeting. (3,500 attended, 500 from Asia and Africa)
- b. Young people in the USA, in Europe, Latin America, Africa and Asia, are more interested in missions today than at any time since the days of the Student Volunteer Movement. The largest meetings of young people interested in missions ever held are appearing in Europe, in Latin America, even in local regions in the United States (1500 at a midwest meeting).
- c. Unprecedented collaboration is taking place  
—There is now a global association of Centers for World Mission (15 Centers)  
—There is now an AD 2000 Global Service Office, linking evangelicals and charismatics who gathered in Singapore in January of 1989

## Reaching Unreached Peoples

### 1. The Difference Between Missions and Evangelism

- a. *Missionary work is a special kind of Evangelism*—all missions is evangelism, but not all evangelism is true, pioneer missionary work  
—92% of today’s missionaries do not work in a true mission field—yet are in a superb position to inspire national churches to reach out to Unreached Peoples!
- b. **Evangelism** means winning individuals to Christ—whoever they are  
—This could be where the church already is or where the church is not
- c. **Missions** reaches into groups not yet having an adequate internal witness  
—Such a witness requires an indigenous church movement

### 2. The Difference Between *People* (individuals) and *Peoples* (groups)

- a. Genesis, Chapter 11 lists **peoples** (groups)
- b. Psalms refers to **peoples**  
—See Ps 67 (the most missionary of all Psalms)  
—See Ps 87:6, the reference to “A Register of the **Peoples**”  
(Likely the same as “The Lamb’s Book of Life,” Rev 20:12, 21:27)  
(That is, individuals are listed in this Book according to their **group**, nation)
- c. Isaiah 49:6 says Israel is expected to be “A Light to the Gentiles (nations, **peoples**)”
- d. The Great Commission in Matthew 28:19 refers to discipling **peoples**, not individuals
- e. In the End Times God is still thinking in terms of different **peoples**  
—(Rev 21:3 says **peoples**, not **people**, in the Greek,  
“Now the dwelling of God is with men,  
and He will live with them; they will be His **peoples**”
- f. The Bible NEVER refers to what we today call “countries”  
—Countries erect political barriers  
—Missions deals with linguistic and cultural barriers
- g. It is important to note what size of groups we are talking about  
—Notice that it is possible to speak of “the Chinese people” as a whole  
—But the Bible refers to still smaller groups  
even smaller than “Mandarin” or “Cantonese” or “Swatow”  
—12 tribes entered the promised land, but there were **60 “mishpahah”**  
“Mishpahah” is the word found in Genesis 12:3  
e.g. “all **peoples** on earth will be blessed by you,” Gen 12:3  
—In the world today there are only about 300 huge families of human beings,  
3000 major groups, about 24,000 smaller groups (12,000 yet unreached)  
—There once were about 60,000 groups of the kind that missions must penetrate  
All but about 12,000 have been reached!  
In about half of these, work has already begun or is already planned!  
Tribal groups are the largest and toughest part—about 3,000 to be reached
- h. Reaching all 12,000 unreached groups is possible by the year 2000—if we hurry!

### 3. The Difference Between *Reaching People* (individuals) and *Reaching Peoples* (groups)

- a. Reaching a **person** means winning that **person** to Christ.
- b. This is why **missions** is much, *much more complicated* than ordinary **evangelism**  
—perhaps half of all missionaries fall short due to the lack of adequate training  
—take, for example, “Ancestor Cult” in Chinese society—how to Christianize?
- c. **Reaching a people** is the goal, and it means  
—penetrating **for the first time** into a previously unreached group  
—learning not just the language, but understanding the culture  
—establishing “a people movement to Christ” that is wholly indigenous  
(so that people have a fair chance to know Christ)