

Chapter 3

Geography and Ethnology of World Evangelization

LESSON OBJECTIVE

It is important to understand that:

- The spread of the gospel saw much increase since the early 20th century
- In spite of this, much work still remains to be done
- The biggest challenge for world missions is found in the 10-40 window
- The 4-14 window presents another huge challenge

LESSON OUTLINE

Topics we will discuss in this lesson are:

- Evangelical Growth in the 20th Century
- The Unfinished Part of the Task
- All Nations, Peoples, Tribes and Tongues
- Funds for Missions
- The 4-14 Window

LESSON CONTENTS

In this chapter we look into recent history (how the gospel spread in the 2nd half of the 20th century) and at the remaining task. We learn the meaning of some terms, used in W.E. You'll better understand the concept of 'all nations, tribes, peoples and languages' and we conclude by considering a grossly overlooked area of ministry.

Evangelical Growth in the 20th Century

One of the major trends in protestant Christianity since 1960 is the decline of traditional mainline churches. During this decline however, the Evangelicals (especially Charismatics and Pentecostals) grew significantly in numbers, conversions and as a proportion of Christianity. They are hard to count, because they can be found in new churches as well as scattered in the old denominations.

Although Evangelicals in the West grew steadily, their growth was slow, compared to their brother denominations in Latin America, Africa and Asia. E.g. in 1960 there were 50 million Evangelicals, only half of which were non-Western. Evangelical growth rates have gone down from a peak of 4.5% in 1990 to about 2.6% in 2010. The projected figures for 2025 are: 600 million Evangelicals, of which only 120 million are Western.⁸⁵ This total is about 7.9% of the world's population of (7.6 billion in 2018); some expect the 8 billion figure by 2023.⁸⁶

The world population's growth rate is 1.1%;⁸⁷ protestant growth rate is 1.6%, almost entirely due to evangelical growth, because non-evangelical Protestantism is in decline; Roman Catholics grow slower (1%) than the world population, and therefore are in decline too. The star of Christian growth is evangelical Christianity, which grows about twice as fast as the world population (about 2.1%), by means of conversion.⁸⁸

Mandryk reports huge Christian and evangelical growth in the 20th century, mainly in the southern hemisphere:

1. In **Africa**: Christianity grew from 9.1% (1.5% Evangelical) in 1900 to 48.8% (17.7% Evangelical) in 2010.⁸⁹ Around 2020 Christianity in Africa will count about 504 million, almost half the population. Of these 239 million are

85 Johnstone, 2011

86 <http://www.worldometers.info/world-population/> (accessed 13-3-'18)

87 Johnstone, 2011

88 World Christian Database (accessed 2-8-'17)

89 Mandryk, 2010:33

- Evangelicals, 18.6% of the total population.⁹⁰ No continent ever saw such growth!
2. Evangelicals in **Latin America** grew from 700,000 (1% of the population) in 1900 to 91 million in 2010, (16.8% of the population). Brazil counts about 2½ times as many Evangelicals as all of Europe does.⁹¹
 3. In **Asia** Christianity grew from 22 million (2.3% of the population) in 1900 to 370 million (8.8% of the population) in 2010. There are more Evangelicals in Asia (150 million) than in the USA (94 million).⁹² In 1900 Korea had no protestant church. In 1990 it was 30% Christian, with 7,000 churches in Seoul alone.⁹³

The Unfinished Part of the Task

W.E. has made great progress and continues to do so, but the task is by no means finished, as recent research shows. Research methods have been refined. We know much about the progress Christianity made through the ages, as we saw in the last chapter. Yet, as long as the Lord does not call the task finished, neither should we. Careful investigation of the unfinished part of the task remains necessary.

'The 10 degrees south – 40 degrees north' Window

The 10-40 Window is located from 10 degrees **south** to 40 degrees north of the equator.⁹⁴ We find there 77 nations across Northern Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia. Two billion people living there never had even a chance to hear the gospel! The Window contains the heartlands of all major non-Christian religions: Islam,

90 Downloaded from www.johuaproject.net with data from Operation World, 2015

91 Mandryk, 2010:48,163

92 Ibid. p. 59,60,43

93 Stearns, 1991:16

94 The traditional description of the 10-40 Window (10th-40th degree latitude, northern hemisphere), has been redefined on this site from the 10th degree south to the 40th degree north! This explains why the given data differ from most other descriptions of the Window. There are 77 nations in this version, not 69 as the site indicates.

See: <http://win1040.com/about-the-1040-window.php> (accessed 13-3-'18)

Buddhism, Hinduism. Satan's strongholds are the fiercest in the Window. It contains the following countries:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Brunei, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Chad, China, Cyprus, Djibouti, East Timor, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Gaza Strip, Gibraltar, Greece, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Korea (North), Korea (South), Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Lebanon, Libya, Macao, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Morocco, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Niger, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Sri Lanka, Syria, Taiwan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tibet, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, West Bank, Western Sahara and Yemen.

- Two-thirds of the world's population — 4 billion people — live in the 10/40 Window
- 95% of these 4 billion people are un-evangelized
- 87% are the poorest of the poor, living on an average of only \$250 per family annually
- In many of these 77 nations, witnessing is illegal and will result in imprisonment or death
- 45 of the 50 worst Christians-persecuting countries in the world are in the Window
- Child prostitution and child slavery run rampant in many of these nations
- Horrific abuse of women and children remains unchecked, including an epidemic of pedophilia
- Most terrorist organizations are based there. Even small children are trained to be Jihad soldiers.

From these data we can draw the following conclusions:

- Most missionaries work in areas that are already heavily Christianized
- Harsh climates: hot dry summers or long cold winters make the Window less popular among missionaries

- Political climates are often hostile and it is difficult to obtain visa
- Local believers are often persecuted, which some expatriates find hard to handle
- Living conditions are often disease-infected and poverty-stricken.

*Major World Religions by 2025:*⁹⁵

1. Christians - 2,616.6 million,
or 33.4% of the world's population
2. Muslims - 1,784.9 million,
or 22.8% of the world's population
3. Hindus - 1,049.2 million,
or 13.4% of the world's population
4. Buddhists - 418 million,
or 5.3% of the world's population.

The four groups together add up to about 5.8 billion, more than $\frac{3}{4}$ of the world's population by 2025.

Other data, provided by Barrett and Johnson, are:⁹⁶

⁹⁵ Expecting a world population of 7,8 billion people

⁹⁶ Barrett, D. and Johnson, T. World Christian Trends, 2001, table 1-2, William Carey Library, Pasadena. From Global adherence of the world's major religions ... 1900-2050 ... assuming that current trends continue. Data differ somewhat from Operation World.

Religion:	# of Adherents	% of World Population
All Christians	2,616.6 million	33.4 % ⁹⁷
Evangelicals	328.8 million	4.2 %
Pentecostals/ Charismatics	811 million	10.4 %
Muslims	1,784.9 million	22.8 %
Hindus	1,049.2 million	13.4 %
Nonreligious	875 million	11.2 %
Buddhists	418 million	5.3 %
Chinese Folk Religionists	449 million	5.7 %
Ethno religionists	277.2 million	3.5 %
Neo religionists	114.7 million	1.5 %
Sikhs	31.4 million	0.4 %
Jews	14 million	0.2 %
World population	7,823,703,000 billion ⁹⁸	100 %

Tentmakers

Tentmaker missionaries gain access visa to a restricted country on the basis of their vocational skills, e.g. businessmen, doctors, teachers, and seek to be a Christian witness during and after work. They have

97 In this calculation there is an overlap of about 12% between 'all Christians' and the Evangelicals, Pentecostals and Charismatics

98 Other sources project ± 8.1 billion by 2025

to be very careful to not jeopardize their ministry by too much openness in their witness.

All Nations, Peoples, Tribes and Tongues

Nations, Peoples, Tribes...

In Genesis 10 we find 70 peoples. God promised Abraham that in him all the families of the earth will be blessed. Jesus confirms this in the great commission with the gospel to be preached to *panta ta ethne*,⁹⁹ literally: all the ethnic or people groups on earth. Translating this verse as 'all nations' has brought the misunderstanding of geopolitical units, or just countries. If that would have been what Jesus meant, the great commission had been finished by now.

The 70 peoples of Genesis 10 have increased much since then, till about 16,956. In 1800 AD only about 2,000 of these people groups were reached with the gospel, a century later this figure had doubled. But the number of people groups also grew, because of migration of ethnic communities and intermarriage. It was only in the latter part of the 20th century that W.E. started to speedily overtake the amount of people groups.¹⁰⁰

Thousands of people groups are pioneer fields. No or only small churches exist. Over 1,000 have no indigenous church and no missionaries to reach them. Since 1996 the Joshua Project (JP) defines 'unreached' as less than 2% evangelical and less than 5% Christian.¹⁰¹ Since 2001 the JP tracks all peoples regardless of population.¹⁰²

99 Matt. 28:19

100 Johnstone, 1998:104,105

101 Mission Frontiers, May-August 1996:38-52

102 See www.johuaproject.net Worthwhile missiological articles and visuals can be downloaded for free

... & *Tongues*

Producing scriptures in each of the 1,650 languages that need translation is a time-consuming effort. A complete Bible translation may take 10-20 years. By 2017 the number of scripture portions grew to 3,312: i.e. 670 complete Bibles, 1,521 NTs and 1,121 portions, serving 85% of the world's population. Wycliffe plans translation projects for every people group that needs it by 2025.¹⁰³ Let's pray that the Lord calls many more Bible translators!

Due to increasing urbanization – now over 51% – and the use of mass media, languages spoken by smaller tribes will die out. It is estimated that by 2100 at least half of the present 7,100 languages will be extinct.¹⁰⁴

When the Bible speaks about the representatives of 'all nations, tribes, peoples and languages', (Rev. 5:9 & 7:9) it does not mean that people from all languages will have written scripture portions in their own language. They may even be illiterate. Worldwide literacy averages 76%;¹⁰⁵ functional literacy may be even lower. For illiterates, or in oral cultures, other evangelism means than literature are needed. This is where radio- and cassette ministries come in.

For that reason, Global Recordings Network (GRN) started in 1939 with operations in over 30 countries. GRN also focuses on smaller people groups. For many of them there is no scripture available. Many are illiterate. Some groups even are too small to justify the cost of producing radio programs in that language. By 2018, GRN had recordings in 6,422 languages available. GRN's prime objective remains to avail people of the gospel in their heart language.¹⁰⁶

103 www.wycliffe.net/statistics , October 2017 (accessed 2-2-'18)

104 Mandryk, 2010:15

105 Barrett, D. and Johnson, T. World Christian Trends, 2001, diagram 34, WCL

106 See www.globalrecordings.net/en (accessed 14-3-2018)

Affinity Blocs

Mandryk distinguishes Affinity Blocs. These can be sub-divided into clusters, with a closer relationship regarding culture and/or language. He counts 16,350 people groups in the world, of which 6,645 (=40.6%) fit the 'unreached/least-reached' category. These contain 2.84 billion people (41.1% of humanity).¹⁰⁷ There are 11 Affinity Blocs, grouped by affinities of language, history, culture, etc. Nearly all least reached peoples are migrants from these blocs who now live in Europe, the Americas and Australasia. Here are the Affinity Blocs:

Africa (sub-Sahara)	2,994 peoples	Tibetan / Himalayan	770 peoples
Africa (Horn)	160 peoples	East Asian	454 peoples
Arab World	573 peoples	South East Asian	615 peoples
Iranian/Median	273 peoples	Malay	1,018 peoples
South Asian	3,718 peoples	Jewish	181 peoples
Turkic	311 peoples	Rest of the world	5,283 peoples

Funds for Missions

Are Western Christians sufficiently moved with compassion that they, although most stay away from these areas, put as much money into it as possible, because of the much greater need? NO! Here are data about spending by the global church in 2010:

82.4%	or \$ 473.3 billion for home pastoral ministry
12.0%	or \$ 69.4 billion for home missions
5.6%	or \$ 32.4 billion for foreign missions

The beneficiaries of this spending are as follows:

96.8%	or \$ 559.5 billion for World C	(all individual believers)
2.9%	or \$ 16.8 billion for World B	(non-Christians who have become evangelized)
0.3%	or \$ 1.7 billion for World A	(the world of the un-evangelized peoples) ¹⁰⁸

¹⁰⁷ Mandryk, 2010:25 (in 2018 this would translate to 3.12 billion)

¹⁰⁸ Johnson and Ross, Atlas of Global Christianity, 2010:296

It is shocking that the Christian world (C) receives 80% of all missionaries, whereas world B only receives 16% and the hard-core un-evangelized world (A) only 4%.¹⁰⁹ In other words: we tithe to ourselves and reach out to ourselves and grossly neglect the areas that need it most!

The 4-14 Window

At first, during the Lausanne Congresses for W.E. in 1974 and 1980, the need for ministry to children – especially children at risk – was grossly overlooked. No research was done and no action undertaken. That has changed now. Lausanne has recognized the challenge.

The term *4-14 Window* is used by the agency *Compassion*, describing ‘ministry to the group of 4-14 years old’. Through numerous ministries reaching out to children, e.g. *Child Evangelism Fellowship* and *Scripture Union*, outreach to children has matured. In the USA 85% of people who accept Christ are between the ages of 4 and 14.¹¹⁰ Often, the 4-14 Window is a door of opportunity into the 10-40 Window.¹¹¹

Increasingly, children grow up in underdeveloped countries, in poverty, come from dysfunctional families, live on the streets, flee war zones, and struggle with abuse and addiction. Numbers are soaring, and they demand our attention. Only in the late eighties interest started to grow for the youngsters living at the periphery of society.

*Staggering Data*¹¹²

About 30% of the world’s population, 2.25 billion people, is under 15, truly the *Largest Unreached People Group in the World*, as 1.5 billion

109 Barrett, D. and Johnson, T. *World Christian Trends*, 2001, diagram 62, WCL

110 Kilbourn, 1996:iv, 126

111 Ibid. 1996:137

112 Most data: Barrett & Johnson, *World Christian Trends*, 2001, diagrams 18 & 34, calculating a 25% increase of the world’s population (2018 versus 2001). Abortion data: www.gutmacher.org, 2007; <https://www.lifeinternational.com/the-problem/> (acc. 3-2-'18)

grow up in a non-Christian setting.¹¹³ Over a third of them will grow up poor and illiterate. Many will be malnourished (40% in Asia and 26% in Africa).¹¹⁴ Since the 1990ies more and more horrible events were reported in the media about child-labor, -abuse, -prostitution, -addiction, -massacres, -exploitation and -soldiers. The overall term became *children at risk*. Look at these horrific facts:

<i>Abortions</i>	kill every year 56 million (27% of all conceptions)
<i>Sexual abuse</i>	there are 7.2 million pedophilia victims and 31 million children's abuse incidents annually
<i>Malnutrition</i>	kills over 60,000 children under 5 every day; 18 million are born malnourished annually
<i>Street Children</i>	number over 150 million. They live and work on the streets of mega-cities
<i>Abandonment</i>	87 million children and infants are abandoned annually
<i>Homelessness</i>	436 million children live without homes or families; there are 625 million orphans
<i>Education</i>	837 million children of school age do not attend school, 24% has no school access
<i>Handicapped</i>	425 million children live with a handicap, 100 million of them have severe handicaps
<i>Slavery/Labor</i>	is the daily reality for 250 million children
<i>H.I.V. / AIDS</i>	About 1.8 million people worldwide became newly infected with HIV in 2016: 5,000 per day, including 160,000 children under 15, most of them in Africa

Street children often live in gangs that provide a surrogate kind of identity, belonging and protection. They are survivors who confront challenges and suffer indignities that most of us could not endure. Each year more than 1 million of them are forced into prostitution, or to other sexual purposes. Countless millions will die, most of them unnecessarily, of illness and malnutrition if these trends continue.¹¹⁵

Let the figures speak, but let them not remain just figures. May the Lord grant us compassion with the victims that hide behind the figures! Besides, do you know the figures for your country?

113 Kilbourn, 1996:80

114 Johnstone, 2001:707

115 Kilbourn, 1997:12,13,15,26,27,221

Dr Phyllis Kilbourn, of WEC's Rainbows of Hope, was so moved by the effects of civil war in Liberia that she produced several books on children at risk. I refer you to five. See the Bibliography.

RESEARCH

The websites below offer many more resources and data:

- www.joshuaproject.net
- www.operationworld.org
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=agUb0vTcWfU>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2r98qQrpGY8>
- www.uscwm.org
- <http://www.atlasofglobalchristianity.org/>

MISCELLANEOUS

Recommended books: See Bibliography

Recommended articles: Mission Frontiers, May-August 1996:38-52

Assignments

- 'There is much work to be done ...' Describe how you see your own role in the remaining work. If you don't know yet, pray about it for a week, and write down your impressions
- Were you shocked about the very few funds the worldwide church spends on hard-core cross-cultural missions? Decide in prayer, how much you can contribute on a regular basis
- Try to research relevant data that apply to your country. Use the 10 italic entries under 'Staggering Data' as an example. This may give you an idea about how to do demographical research yourself

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Which part of Christianity has shown the biggest growth in the past 40 years?
2. Which three continents saw major Christian growth in the 20th century?
3. Which are the three major religions in the Resistant Belt?
4. Explain what is meant by the 10-40 Window. How many countries do we find there?
5. What is a tentmaker-missionary? (Give two definitions)
6. Explain the relationship between where the greatest needs in W.E. are, and where its allocated funds are really spent?
7. Explain the term Affinity Blocs
8. What do we mean by the 4-14 Window?
9. Mention five major problems, faced by children at risk