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created by:
David Hamilton

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call2all communications



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Finishing the Great Commission together

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Introduction

Dr. Steve Douglass turned to Mark Anderson and asked, “Why don’t our two organizations take the rest?” In early August they were in Holland as part of the Amsterdam 2000 World Conference of Evangelists sponsored by the Bill Graham Evangelistic Association. A little over 10,000 evangelists were present, representing many nations of the world. Steve and Mark were part of a working group that had been selected from around the world. Six hundred had gathered around small tables to discuss one question, “What would it take to complete the Great Commission?” Day after day they dealt with how to solve the greatest challenges we face in missions.

On the third day of the gathering they looked at a list of 252 untargeted, unreached people groups. These were large ethnic groups that had never been engaged with the Gospel in all of church history. The leaders present were asked to “adopt” one or more groups. The first 140 groups were adopted quickly by various organizations represented in the room. But the second half of the list – the most difficult to reach – were not being adopted. The room had grown silent and no one was moving. This is when Dr. Douglass leaned over and asked Mark the question, “Why don’t our two organizations, Campus Crusade for Christ and YWAM, adopt the rest?” Mark tells us what happened next:

“With my mind spinning, thinking about what this might mean, I agreed. This is when a whole new adventure began and my life in missions would be forever changed. Shortly after Amsterdam, Steve and I began to meet with a select group of leaders who we would work together with in reaching the targeted people groups. We called ourselves “Table 71”, the table number we sat at on that important day in Amsterdam.

Another key piece began two years later when Dr. Bill Bright began the Global Pastors Network. He envisioned the pastors of the world coming together, working on finishing the Great Commission. Through a series of unexpected events I became the president of the Global Pastors Network in January 2007. As I assumed this new role it became clear that the vision of GPN needed to be expanded. We needed not only the religious leaders to work together in strategic unity; we had to call Christian leaders from all spheres of society to join in this major task. This gave birth to call2all in May 2007.

It was in early 2007 that I had a major encounter with the Lord. In a 6 hour time of personal shaking and sovereign illumination, God made the vision for call2all very clear. At one point in this encounter, the Lord spoke the following, ‘The time has come for the Son of God to be glorified’. This is out of John 17:1, the unity chapter. The assignment from heaven for the call2all Movement was clear: we were to help the global body of Christ come into strategic unity with heaven to reveal Jesus on the earth, leading to the completion of the Great Commission.”
Mark Anderson

Thus, the first call2all Congress was held in January, 2008, designed to strengthen the partnership among Christian leaders to finish the task Jesus gave us. The vision began catching fire among leaders all around the world. The call2all Movement together with its partners has brought together more than 50,000 leaders from thousands of organizations.

Previous call2all Congresses

- 2018** call2all Mongolia Congress, Ulaanbaatar • April
- 2017** call2all Nepal Congress, Kathmandu • March
- 2016** call2all Korea Congress, Seoul • June
- 2015** call2all Kona Summit, Kona • August
- 2013** call2all Mexico Congress, Puebla • November
- 2013** call2all Chiang Mai Congress, Chiang Mai • May
- 2012** call2all South America Congress, Paraguay • November
- 2012** call2all Kansas City Congress, Kansas City • September
- 2012** call2all Western Europe Congress • April
- 2012** call2all Philippine Congress, Cebu City • March
- 2011** call2all LA Global Congress, Long Beach • November
- 2011** call2all Indonesia Congress, Jakarta • May
- 2011** call2all Malta Congress • January & February
- 2010** call2all Colombia Congress • November
- 2010** call2all Amsterdam Consultation • November
- 2010** call2all America, Cincinnati, Ohio • March
- 2010** call2all Middle East • April/May
- 2010** call2all Next Generation, New Zealand • January
- 2009** call2all Eurasia Congress, Kiev Ukraine • September
- 2009** call2all Pacific Congress, Kona, Hawaii • July
- 2009** call2all Global Congress, Hong Kong • June
- 2009** call2all West African Congress, Port Harcourt, Nigeria • May
- 2009** call2all South America, Curitiba • March
- 2009** call2all North America, Dayton, Ohio • January
- 2008** call2all North America, Toronto • October
- 2008** call2all East Africa Congress, Kenya Nairobi • October
- 2008** call2all North America, Orlando • January



Strategic Themes

“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches”
(**REV 2:7,11,17,29; 3:6,13,22**).

The major themes championed by call2all – the enduring themes of God’s heart and reflecting His forever dream – are currently very strategic, key in our contemporary world.

Before any other action is taken we – like the leaders of the early church – must “give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word” (Act 6:4). Everything else emerges from this divine-human conversation in which he speaks to us through his word and we speak to him in the place of prayer. Indeed, Paul reminds us that it is by means of “the word of God and prayer” that all things are “made acceptable” (1Tim 4:5 NLT). That’s why these are the first two strategic themes of the call2all movement:

- **Mobilizing Prayer**
- **Eradicating Bible Poverty**

The next couple of strategic themes reflect the heart of God for all peoples. In his great love he wants every one of his creatures cared for in body and in redeemed in spirit. That’s why we intentionally embrace the two-handed gospel, committing ourselves to preach God’s truth and to demonstrate

God’s love for all people. There is no room for a sacred-secular dichotomy in a Biblical Christian Worldview, for Jesus must be Lord of all or he is Lord not at all. That’s why we heed the Scriptural injunction to “preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season ...” (2Tim 4:2). At the same time, we seek to obey the Biblical imperative, “Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another” (Zec 7:9). In order to advance God’s kingdom and to rightly “show others the goodness of God” we both declare and demonstrate the transformative nature of the gospel, which has brought us out “of the darkness into his wonderful light” (1Pet 2:9). So the Call2All themes involve:

- **Accelerating Evangelism**
- **Demonstrating Powerful Compassion**

The final three strategic themes of call2all draw our attention to three categories of people that have often been overlooked in the mission of the church globally. The first has to do with the larger (over 50,000 people) unreached people groups of the earth. Only a decade ago there were more than a thousand such ethno-linguistic groups totaling over a half billion people. Not only were they unreached, but no one was even trying to reach them.

The church was totally unengaged with them. That's why call2all has been sounding the trumpet to engage these unreached peoples with church-planting movements. The second significant target group has also gone mostly unnoticed by the church worldwide until recent times. This group makes up two-thirds of those unreached with the gospel message. They are the oral learners of the world who can't, won't or don't read. Unless we change our methodologies to include oral strategies they will continue to remain mostly unreached.

Finally, the third group of people living on the margins of the church is the many who never enter the doors of our places of worship on a Sunday. Unless we meet them in their vocational context between Monday and Saturday, the church will remain irrelevant

to them. So we must devise fresh, creative ways to establish church presence where people live the greatest part of their lives – among the spheres of society. A determined focus to take the gospel to these three mega demographic groups will certainly do much to advance the gospel. Therefore the call2all highlights the themes of:

- **Transforming Unreached People Groups**
- **Establishing A Growing Church**
- **Reaching Oral Learners**



Mobilizing Prayer

There is a rising move around the globe. A people passionate for God's presence are rising up to be a people of proclamation. Intimacy with God is leading to impact among the nations. In this generation two streams of renewal are converging; the prayer movement and the missions movement are blending into one. Watch the video, read the notes, or listen to the podcast of Mike Bickle's message, "The Convergence of the Missions and Prayer Movements" given in Toronto on May 13, 2010 (*download it at <http://mikebickle.org/resources/category/ministry-outreach/great-commission>*).

This should not be surprising for, throughout history, these have been inseparably intertwined at the times of greatest spiritual awakening. In the early eighteenth century the Moravians under the leadership of Count Zinzendorf saw not only the first protestant missions movement birthed out of Europe, but also saw the emergence of the first 24/7 prayer experience. In fact, the 24/7 prayer meeting that began in Herrnhut would go uninterrupted for more than 100 years!

God is at it again! Intensified prayer is super-charging missions. The prayer mountains of Korea are legendary, but there is more. An all night prayer meeting in Nigeria was attended by more than 7 million – all in one place seeking God. Prayer is held around the clock

in the famous Plaza de Mayo in Buenos Aires facing the presidential palace. Multiplied millions have gathered around the earth in the annual Global Day of Prayer. Young people in the UK meet in prayer "furnaces" eager to "burn 24/7." In Egypt history-making crowds gather with eagerness to pray and worship. Across America stadiums fill with young people interceding in "the Call" and are living a "fasted life-style", setting themselves apart to seek God in a "house of prayer." All over the world, tens of thousands of "prayer watches" are being set up and God's people are pursuing intimacy with their Redeemer with renewed passion and purpose.

This should not be surprising for Jesus said, "my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations" (first stated in Isa 56:7 and quoted by Jesus in Mat 21:13; Mark 11:17; Luke 19:46). Jesus called his disciples to follow him on a mission (Mark 1:17). Barely had they begun their journey of following Jesus when they were struck by his life-style of prayer (Mark 1:35–36). Because they observed the impact of Jesus' prayer life on his ministry, they were eager to learn to pray like he did. So they asked him to teach them how to pray. The first request of the prayer he taught them was, "your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" (Mat 6:10). Our prayers should be taking hold of heaven and pulling it down to earth!

Many spiritual leaders affirm the place of prayer in missions.

*"The Church today needs to be mobilized with continual prayer and fasting to release the harvest of souls waiting to be garnered from among the nations" (Jack Hayford, Founding Pastor, The Church On The Way).
"The Great Commission needs to be fueled with fiery, continual prayer with fasting. Our greatest effectiveness in reaching millions of souls will be seen only as our work is bathed in prayer and fasting" (Bill Bright, Founder, Campus Crusade for Christ).*

"When God stirs his people to pray, it is because God is planning to answer! We can only dream about what impact it will have on the nations" (Floyd McClung, Founder, All Nations).

"But those who have seen global changes open doors long closed to the gospel readily acknowledge that God, in His sovereign power over nations, moves in response to the prayers of His people. Strongholds crumble and response to the gospel accelerates when we pray." (Jerry Rankin, To the Ends of the Earth, p 18).

Check out the following books. They tell a compelling global story of prayer and missions:

"Fire & Fragrance" by Sean Feucht and Andy Byrd

"Not by Might Nor by Power" by Graham Power and Diane Vermooten

For more insights check out the resources at:

www.ihopkc.org

Links to numerous prayer initiatives movements around the world can be found at two key sites:

www.globaldayofprayer.com

www.ipcprayer.org



Accelerating Evangelism

Evangelism is for everybody. It's not something to be carried out only by a few specialists.

When Jesus called his first disciples, his invitation was demanding. He told his would-be followers, "Repent ... believe ... come ... follow" (Mark 1:15,17). He did not sugarcoat his invitation to discipleship. He used no promises of heavenly blessings to entice them into obedience. Rather he stressed the cost of following (Mark 8:34-38). His demands were unqualified and the response on their part was total and radical. His purpose in calling them was absolutely clear. It was so "that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach" (Mark 3:14). To this end he made one promise – and one promise alone – to his initial followers. He promised that he would transform them into something which they were not, he would make them into "fishers of men" (Mark 1:17). This promise still holds true for those who follow Jesus today. If you pursue him he will change you and no matter what your vocation, you will be equipped by his Spirit to share the good news with others.

We should take great heart in the indisputable fact that Jesus is winning. All around the world the evidence is overwhelming. A little over a century

ago very few in Africa had even heard his name. Today, south of the Sahara, over half of the population attend church! A similar phenomenon has happened in Latin America. For every one committed follower of Jesus a hundred years ago there are now 1,500 in his or her place! The gospel is being proclaimed, the Spirit is moving and Jesus is winning! In 1900 there were just a handful of believers in the Korean peninsula. Today nearly 1 out of every 3 Koreans the world over is a follower of Jesus. At the end of the second world war there were only 3 million believers in China; a number which has exploded to some 150 million today! And the stories of his victories extend to country after country ... Nepal ... Indonesia ... Bhutan ... Cambodia ... Egypt ... India ... and many, many more. Indeed, Jesus is winning!

But even though these victories encourage us, there's still much to do. Be encouraged, but don't relax! It is time to pick up the pace. The greatest time of gospel proclamation lies yet before us. But it will require a new measure of commitment and focus, a new degree of zeal and passion. It will be characterized by fresh innovations in our strategies and technologies in order to harness every means possible to communicate the hope-filled story of redemption.

Why has the age-old dream of world evangelization eluded the Body of Christ for so many generations? I think that in part it is because we have not aimed high enough. We have thought that the goal is to preach the gospel message at least once to everyone in the world in our generation. This sounds great. In fact it sounds audacious. But the reality is it is not audacious enough! Why? Consider the following facts. First: most people commit their lives to Jesus by the time they are 18. Some become believers later in life, but the vast majority are followers of Jesus by their teens or early twenties. Second: Most people need to hear the gospel message at least three times before they make a commitment to follow Jesus.

Conclusion? Take these two facts together and do the math. People come to Jesus by 18 or 24 years of age. They need to hear the gospel at least three times:

$$18 \div 3 = 6. \quad 24 \div 3 = 8$$

Therefore we should be trying to reach everyone on earth with the gospel message every 6–8 years! This approach will put us over the top in seeing God's Great Commission dreams fulfilled. But to do so we cannot proceed with business as usual. We must intentionally accelerate our evangelistic efforts.

May God's good hand be upon us like it was on Elijah so that in this crucial hour we may "gird up our loins" and run like never before (1Ki 18:44–46). Like Olympic athletes we must "run in such a way as to get the prize" (1Co 9:24). This is the ultimate race and this is the time to set an all time record of gospel growth around the world so that "the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea" (Hab 2:14).



► Eradicating Bible Poverty

Rev. John Stott said, “Without the Bible, world evangelization would not only be impossible, but actually inconceivable.”

There are 6,860 known languages on earth. As of September, 2010, there are:

2,565 (37.4%) languages with the Scripture (a full Bible, NT or some portion) available.

2,217 (32.3%) languages with an active translation program in process.

2,078 (30.3%) languages with no translation program yet launched.

This means that there are about 340 million people who do not have any passage of Scripture in their mother tongue. At the turn of the century, the Wycliffe Global Alliance estimated that it would be the year 2150 before the translation of the last language on earth would begin. This assessment seemed unacceptable to them. They refused to accept that some Bibleless peoples would have to wait another 150 years before hearing one word of Scripture in their heart language.

So, they committed to work differently and with a renewed sense of urgency, so that “by the year 2025 a Bible translation project will be in progress for every people group that needs it.” As a result, a release of new technologies, new approaches and a new spirit of collaboration among mission organizations has led to a remarkable acceleration of the process of getting the Bible into the hands of every person on earth in their own language. For example, although it took 9 years for The Seed Company to launch its first 200 Bible translation projects, it only took 5 years for the next 200 to get underway. Then, in the past 4 years, they began translation work in yet another 300 languages! The pace of progress is picking up great speed! The Great Commission implications are extraordinary. We are living in the generation that will likely see everyone on earth – for the first time in history – able to read or hear God’s Word in their own mother tongue! What a privilege it is to be alive today and collaborate with God in these extraordinary days!

But it is not enough to only translate God’s Word. Once translated, it must be published, distributed and used. There is a full continuum of activities that are necessary to result in the dream of eradicating Bible poverty. Many are working together to get the

translated Word distributed. The remarkable service of Faith Comes by Hearing and You Version are examples of ministries using cutting-edge technologies to make the Scriptures freely accessible to many. Great good has come from the global showings of The Jesus Film, which, as of October 25, 2011, was available in 1,121 languages!

The ultimate goal is that people will read or listen to the Bible and thus engage with it in a life-transforming way. Research by the Center for Bible Engagement shows that there are “large behavioral differences between Christians who read or listen to the Bible at least four days a week and those who engage with scripture less often. These differences include both moral behavior as well as how prepared the individual is to serve God and impact the world.”

Increased Bible engagement not only changes individuals, it impacts society, as documented by Loren Cunningham in The Book that Transforms Nations – The Power of the Bible to change Any Country. It is time to trust God for a great resurgence in Bible readership and reflection in nations all around the world!

For further discovery check out these web sites regarding **Bible translation**:

www.theseedcompany.org

www.wycliffe.org

www.wycliffe.net

Regarding **Bible distribution and engagement** go to:

www.bftw.org

www.jesusfilm.org

www.scripture-engagement.org

www.faithcomesbyhearing.com

www.walkthru.org

www.youversion.com

www.backtothebible.org

For some great videos on **eradicating Bible poverty** go to <http://conversation.lausanne.org> and follow the links to the videos on “Scripture in Mission.”



► Establishing A Growing Church

According to research done by Ralph Winter, Founder of the US Center for Missions, the ratio of non - believers to believers has steadily declined over the centuries. He informed us that:

At the end of the first century (AD 100) there were **360 non - believers for every single follower of Jesus** on earth.

By the end of the first millennia (AD 1000) that **number shrank to 220!** By the beginning of the Reformation (AD 1500) there were **69 non - believers for every Christian.**

As the last century began (AD 1900) the number was **down to 27.**

After two world wars (AD 1950) progress was still being made. The number of **non - believers for every Christian totaled 21.**

By 1980 that number had diminished to **11 non - Christians on earth for every "Great Commission Christian"** – those

committed followers of Jesus who are trying to spread their faith to others. Never has it been so feasible to dream of completing the Great Commission

The Barna Group (www.barna.org) states that:

Popular measures such as the percentage of people who are "unchurched" - based on attendance at a conventional church service - are out of date. Various new forms of faith community and experience, such as house churches, marketplace ministries and cyberchurches, must be figured into the mix - and make calculating the percentage of Americans who can be counted as "unchurched" more complicated. The fact that millions of people are now involved in multiple faith communities - for instance, attending a conventional church one week, a house church the next, and interacting with an online faith community in - between - has rendered the standard measures of "churched" and "unchurched" much less precise.

Today the emerging generation is hungry for a tangible, every-day-of-the-week spirituality that is integrated with all areas of life. We cannot offer them a religious experience that impacts only what they do on a Sunday.

They are eager to belong to a community of faith, which shapes their relationships and is seamlessly interwoven with their vocational life 24/7.

New models “where two or three come together” in Christ’s name (Mat 18:20) to encourage and equip each other and worship the living God are key. This is true whether working among post-modern young people in the West or amidst an unreached people group in the 10/40 Window.

But whatever the model, we need a great increase in church presence throughout the world. We cannot acquiesce to a place of irrelevance on the margins of society. We must engage with people in the midst of their day-to-day needs. It’s time to “be fruitful and increase in number” (Gen 1:28).

We must look at everywhere the church is not and target the “empty” places with fresh, intentional strategies of church multiplication. These “empty” places are not only geographic in nature. They also include vocational arenas. The gospel must be present every day of the week in the marketplace, in the school yard, on the movie set, in the political arena, on the sports field, in the family living room, in the research lab, in the university classroom, and in the local neighborhood center.

For further growth and reflection read:

“Taking Our Cities for God: How to Break Spiritual Strongholds” by John Dawson

“If Jesus Were Mayor: How Your Local Church Can Transform Your Community” by Bob Moffitt

“Glocalization: How Followers of Jesus Engage a Flat World” by Bob Roberts



► Transforming Unreached People Groups

The 1974 Lausanne Congress for World Evangelization served as a launching pad for some new strategic language that has greatly shaped the course of missions in this generation. It was there that Dr. Ralph Winter first introduced the concept of “unreached people groups” based on work he had done cooperatively with Donald McGavran. For his perspective on what happened there, go to www.youtube.com and search for “Ralph Winter – Unreached Peoples and Beyond (1974 to Now) .”

An explosion of fresh missional activity emerged as mission strategists started researching the needs of the world through a new ethno-linguistic lens. Operation World, The Joshua Project, the World Christian Database, and the CPPI Index from the International Mission Board (IMB) began collecting information on the many thousands of people groups in the world where there was no indigenous self-reproducing church capable of reaching the group without cross-cultural missionary assistance. This birthed the AD 2000 and Beyond movement and myriads of other initiatives that greatly advanced the cause of Christ in the last quarter of the 20 Century.

Even though much progress was made, there were still over 6,750 unreached people groups in the world at the start of the new millennium. To address the need of the many who were still unreached, Billy Graham sponsored the Amsterdam 2000 World Conference For Evangelists. 10,287 evangelists and other participants representing 209 nations and territories gathered at this historic event. Within this event there was a group of 600 church and mission strategists that met around 75 tables. One afternoon, in a meeting chaired by Paul Eschelman (Founder, The Jesus Film Project) and Bruce Wilkenson (Founder, Walk Thru the Bible) they focused on what they called the 252 largest untargeted people groups. These were people groups each with a population over 100,000 that were not only unreached, but – worse yet! – no one was even trying to reach them. In a moving session they called for mission leaders to adopt these large groups. Excitedly many began to do so, but then the process stopped and there were still half of these untargeted people groups that no one had adopted. –

What happened next was one of the most exciting moments for missions in this generation. For a full appreciation of what occurred go to www.finishingthetask.com/videos.html and click on “History of Table 71” for an inspiring history of the birth of the resulting UUPG movement. In essence, those gathered around one of those 75 tables began to dream together of what would happen if the number of unengaged unreached people groups in the world could be reduced to zero. The strategic synergy that developed led to the creation of Table 71, a group of mission leaders that have met three times a year ever since with the singular goal of doing everything possible to reach that number zero.

One of the initiatives inspired by Table 71 is Finishing the Task (FTT). It was launched at an event sponsored by Table 71 at The Cove (Billy Graham’s Training Center) in Asheville, North Carolina, in November, 2005. At that time, the original list of 252 untargeted people groups used in Amsterdam was upgraded (due to new research) to become a list of 639 UUPGs over 100,000. This then became one of the key themes of the call2all events over the last four years. As a result of this activist movement, a great majority of these UUPGs now have initial church planting initiatives occurring on the ground!

The latest step in this sequence of events that began in Lausanne, was accelerated in Amsterdam, and built steam in Asheville is the call2all World Congress in LA. At this event we are launching a new list of 1,015 UUPGs – new because it now includes all the people groups over 50,000. Of these:

84 are unengaged. No one is trying to reach them. We need to change this.

305 are adopted but not yet engaged with church planting. It’s time to reach them – now!

626 are now engaged with church planting. We need to strengthen these pioneer initiatives.



Demonstrating Powerful Compassion

During the era of modernity a dichotomy emerged in the church, which weakened her witness to the world. It pitted those who were named “evangelicals” against those identified with the “social gospel.” A conflict emerged which hindered the church from her maximum Great Commission fruitfulness. Some said that it was most important to preach the gospel. Others said that it was most important to demonstrate the gospel. God’s Spirit then began to reaffirm the historic position of the church and said that both were important. As stated in the early church, “faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead... Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do” (Jam 2:17-18).

In the later half of the twentieth century a healing began, putting at rest the rift between these two perspectives. A key milestone was achieved at the first Congress for World Evangelization, held in Lausanne, Switzerland in 1974. From it a document emerged which became a missional standard for the church around the world. Among other things it stated:

“Here too we express penitence both for our neglect and for having sometimes regarded evangelism and social concern as mutually exclusive. Although reconciliation with other people is not reconciliation with God, nor is social action evangelism, nor is political liberation salvation, nevertheless we affirm that evangelism and socio-political involvement are both part of our Christian duty. For both are necessary expressions of our doctrines of God and man, our love for our neighbor and our obedience to Jesus Christ... When people receive Christ they are born again into his kingdom and must seek not only to exhibit but also to spread its righteousness in the midst of an unrighteous world. The salvation we claim should be transforming us in the totality of our personal and social responsibilities. Faith without works is dead” (The Lausanne Covenant, Article 5, Christian Social Responsibility).

Fifteen years later world Christian leaders once again gathered together – this time in Manila – for an event that informally came to be called “Lausanne 2” by many. They built on the earlier statement by saying, “We affirm that we must demonstrate God’s love visibly by caring for those who are deprived of justice, dignity, food and shelter... We affirm that every Christian congregation must turn itself outward to its local community in evangelistic witness and compassionate service” (The Manila Covenant, Affirmations 8 and 16). They went on to declare that:

“Evangelism is primary because our chief concern is with the gospel, that all people may have the opportunity to accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. Yet Jesus not only proclaimed the Kingdom of God, he also demonstrated its arrival by works of mercy and power. We are called today to a similar integration of words and deeds. In a spirit of humility we are to preach and teach, minister to the sick, feed the hungry, care for prisoners, help the disadvantaged and handicapped, and deliver the oppressed. While we acknowledge the diversity of spiritual gifts, callings and contexts, we also affirm that good news and good works are inseparable” (The Manila Covenant, Article 4, The Gospel and Social Responsibility).

Today we declare that we are to move forward with a two-handed gospel. If we are to fully represent Christ in this world we need to both proclaim his truth and demonstrate his love.

“He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God” (Mic 6:8). Powerful demonstrations of Holy Spirit-guided compassion often open the door for gospel proclamation, for many people don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care. At times these acts of mercy can be a means to the end of gospel proclamation. At other times those acts of mercy are an end in and of themselves, for they reveal God’s true compassionate character in a compelling way to a broken and hurting world. For this reason Jesus said, “Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful” (Luk 6:36). Similarly, John Wesley, England’s great revivalist, said, “Do all the good you can. By all the means you can. In all the ways you can. In all the places you can. At all the times you can. To all the people you can. As long as ever you can.” Let’s do it!



► Reaching Oral Learners

What follows is extracted from an article What Do You Think, Mr. Gutenberg? by Avery Willis and James Greenelsh (taken from <http://averywillis.org/orality.aspx>):

I had thought for so long that the Gutenberg revolution was a worldwide phenomenon. I grew up thinking that literacy was the one thing the world needed to level the playing field for everyone. Then one day I made an alarming discovery: five hundred years after the invention of the printing press only thirty-three percent of the world are truly literate. This stopped me dead in my tracks ... Let me ask you, if you had a business and you found that sixty-seven percent of your target audience were non-literate oral learners, would you tailor your business plan, dedicate your work force and allocate a huge portion of your operating budget especially to reach them? Of course you would! That's just smart business. Then why are missions not doing this to reach oral learners?

The world of missions is just now waking up to the fact that oral learners are the bull's eye at the center of completing the Great Commission. There are four billion oral learners in the cross-hairs of redemptive history at the beginning of the twenty-first century. What are you, your church and your mission agency doing to hit the bull's eye?

If the term "oral learner" is unfamiliar to you let me offer a simple definition. By oral learners we mean those people who learn best and whose lives are most likely to be transformed when information comes to them through oral, not literate, means. Oral learners transmit their beliefs, heritage and values by means of stories, drama, songs and proverbs. They have built their customs, culture and social fabric around storytelling.

What does this mean for us as we endeavor to fulfill the Great Commission? We must start asking questions such as: How in the world do we share the word of God with people who can't, don't or won't read? Or with those who don't write? Or with those who may not even have a written language?

The development of oral strategies is not meant to detract from print evangelism or Bible translation. In fact, the opposite is true. The most comprehensive strategy for communicating the word of God in the heart language of an oral culture should start with an oral approach that leads to translation and literacy. The problem is, too often we get the cart before the horse. Or worse yet, we forget the horse completely.

Rethink, Recreate, Reproduce. I am convinced that if we take the unique needs of the oral learner to heart and if we make them a priority in shaping our mission strategies then we will make monumental progress in completing the Great Commission.

We urgently need ministries willing to rethink what they are doing, ministries willing to create new tools, new methodologies and new approaches that put the needs of oral learners first. In doing so God will enable us to harness the greatest force on earth for spreading the gospel and multiplying the Church—the power of his stories reproduced by word of mouth over and over again among each unique oral culture of the world in culturally sensitive ways. We need a movement of cross-cultural Bible story experts who have the skill to train people to engage unreached oral learners with a complete set of Bible stories in the local language that are tailored to transform their unique worldview. It is cost effective, reproducible and grassroots accessible ... This is our greatest hope for fulfilling the Great Commission among four billion people who have yet to hear the true story of salvation.

For further understanding check out oralbible.com, the official site of the International Orality Network. Some fruitful ministries involved in the orality movement include:

www.ywamonestory.org

www.e3partners.org

www.davarpartners.com

www.faithcomesbyhearing.com

www.t4global.org

[www.simplythestory.org/
oralbiblestories](http://www.simplythestory.org/oralbiblestories)

www.storyrunners.com

www.globalrecordings.net

www.twr.org

www.situtaining.org

www.imb.org

www.story4all.com.

A story-friendly Bible can be obtained at www.sourceviewbible.com. David Joel Hamilton re-formatted the text of the Bible in a full-color, movie-script layout to recapture the original dramatic narrative of God's Word.

A great informative video on creating an oral Bible can be found at: www.call2allmedia.org. Search for "Oral Story Bible Animated Introduction."



Societal Spheres

How do we see a whole nation transformed? This question occupied the thoughts of Loren Cunningham, founder of YWAM, while on holiday with his family in the Colorado Rockies in the summer of 1975. It was then that he sensed God speak to him about seven spheres of influence through which society can be discipled in the ways of God. Excited by this fresh insight he wrote these seven societal spheres on a sheet taken from a yellow legal pad.

Shortly thereafter he received a call from his good friend, Bill Bright, founder of CCCI, who also happened to be in Colorado at that time. Bill invited Loren and his wife, Darlene, to join him and his wife, Vonette, for dinner.

When the Cunninghams arrived for the rendezvous with the Brights, Loren was eager to share with Bill his new insight. After shaking hands, Loren reached into his coat pocket to pull out that yellow piece of paper to show Bill what he had received from God. But before he could accomplish his goal, Bill said, “Loren, you won’t believe what the Lord has just shown me” – and he proceeded to share with him a list of societal influencers very similar to that which Loren had in his coat pocket! The similarity of the insight each had received encouraged both men that they were onto something significant for accomplishing God’s purposes among the

nations. A few weeks later Francis Schaeffer shared a similar construct. It seemed like the Spirit of the Lord had been leading them all.

Now that more than three decades have passed, the teaching on the spheres of influence as a strategic framework for seeing nations discipled has grown. Several others have now begun to write building on this concept which emerged afresh in 1975, but which is deeply rooted in the Biblical text. Some key books that will enrich your thinking in this area include:

“An Introduction to the Old Testament Template: Rediscovering God’s Principles for Discipling Nations” by Landa L. Cope

“The Book That Transforms Nations: The Power of the Bible to Change Any Country” by Loren Cunningham

“The 9 to 5 Window” by Os Hillman

“The Book That Made Your World: How the Bible Created the Soul of Western Civilization” by Vishal Mangalwadi

“Truth and Transformation: A Manifesto for Ailing Nations” by Vishal Mangalwadi

“Discipling Nations: The Power of Truth to Transform Cultures” by Darrow Miller

“LifeWork: A Biblical Theology for What You Do Every Day” by Darrow Miller

“Transformation: How Glocal Churches Transform Lives and the World” by Bob Roberts

“Real-Time Connections: Linking Your Job with God’s Global Work” by Bob Roberts

“How Should We Then Live? The Rise and Decline of Western Thought and Culture” by Francis A. Schaeffer

“His Kingdom Come: An Integrated Approach to Discipling the Nations and Fulfilling the Great Commission” by Jim Steir

The time is now ripe for this message. Even though several variations of the theme have emerged – some with 7, others with 8 or even 12 spheres – the foundational principle is the same: just like God created individuals (Gen 1:26–27) and loves them, wanting to redeem them from brokenness and sin; even so God created nations (Act 17:26–27) and loves them, and wants to bring kingdom transformation into every dimension of their societal interactions. So whether you call this reality a “sphere”, a “mind-molder” or a “mountain” – it points to a God who cares for both individual and corporate humanity. This

same God sent prophets of old to speak the word of God at times to individuals (a king, a general, a widow) and at times to corporate expressions of humanity (a tribe, a city, a nation). God has a heart for lost individuals and lost nations and invites us to collaborate with him to bring a transformative impact of the kingdom of God into every area of life, both private and public.

Three key websites that can point you towards further study are:

www.templateinstitute.com

www.revelationmovement.com

www.reclaim7mountains.com



Family

This and every sphere is created by God. He was the one who had the idea of family and framed its constituent parts. His purpose for this sphere is that through it life might be multiplied and God-given destiny for every individual may be established. We are aware that the enemy is contending against families all over the world. Broken relationships, abuse, a loss of identity and value, a sense of abandonment and an orphan spirit, communication break downs, rebellion, immorality and accusation are just some of the things that war against the families of the earth. God wants us to engage with families, to serve and strengthen them, to see his purposes of life and destiny restored in them and through them to an emerging generation.

Key Biblical passages:

GEN 2: 24 For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

EXO 20: 12 Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

JOS 24: 14-15 Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your forefathers worshiped beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.

ACT 16: 29-34 The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household." Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized. The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole family.



Government

God has appointed government in order to safeguard justice and defend peace within the nation. Rulers exercise delegated authority in order to serve the citizens whom they govern. The “Law of the King” found in Deu 17:14–21 warns those in authority against multiplying horses, wives, and gold. These three represented a lack of self-control in areas of power, sex and money, leading the ruler into a life-style of authoritarianism, hedonism and materialism. God’s alternative to these three unrighteous value systems is servanthood, purity and generosity. But since we are aware that our civic leaders are often pressed to compromise in these areas, we must pray and work to see every form of greed, injustice and corruption end, and God’s kingdom principles established in our nations. “Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD” (Psa 33:12). We need to work so that every nation on earth might know this blessing.

Key Biblical passages:

DEU 16: 18–20 Appoint judges and officials for each of your tribes in every town the LORD your God is giving you, and they shall judge the people fairly. Do not pervert justice or show partiality. Do not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of the righteous. Follow justice and justice alone...

ISA 33:22 For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king...

ROM 13: 1,3–4 Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God... For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you. For he is God’s servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God’s servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.

1TIM 2: 1–4 I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.



► Economics (Business, Science & Technology)

God's purpose for the sphere of economics is to release provision and model stewardship. The sphere of economics is launched with the creative inventions of science and technology. It is then propelled forward by the distributive capacity of the business enterprise, which produces, markets and sells those inventions. Both the research and the productive aspects of this sphere are evident in God's vocational assignments to Adam in the Garden of Eden prior to the fall. God tasked Adam with two jobs. One was a scientific endeavor, giving the appropriate nomenclature to every living creature (Gen 2:19–20). The other involved an agricultural task, stewarding the fruitful productivity of the garden (Gen 2:15).

Key Biblical passages:

GEN 2: 15,19-20 The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it... Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field.

PRO 10: 4 Lazy hands make a man poor, but diligent hands bring wealth.

Mat 6: 31-33 So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

1TIM 5: 18 For the Scripture says, "Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain," and "The worker deserves his wages."

TIT 3: 14 Our people must learn to devote themselves to doing what is good, in order that they may provide for daily necessities and not live unproductive lives.

Science is the generative motor of this sphere, for it produces the research and development that allows for the creation of wealth by unlocking new products and services. This is achieved as individuals add God-given creativity to God-given resources to release God-given provision. From a Biblical perspective, wealth is not a finite commodity; nor is the economic arena a closed circle. It represents an expanding universe of possibilities that is unlocked by innovation.

Far from a zero sum game, the economic sphere becomes an arena in which creativity releases more and more of earth's potential.

Once science and technology have created the possibility of new wealth, then the business enterprise takes that potential and distributes the wealth through production, marketing and sales. This process of creating and distributing wealth is designed to provide that which is needful and good for life on this planet. When stewarded well, this sphere glorifies the Creator who works with humans as co-creators in this process of life-enhancing innovation.

But all is not well on planet earth. Though God's intent was that the sphere of economics would be a means of godly provision for people as they exercised righteous stewardship over creation, the business world has been corrupted with greed and injustice. We are being called to see a rebirth of kingdom entrepreneurship that will release new creativity in order to provide with integrity new goods and services that enhance people's lives and relationships.

Michael Schluter, founder of the Jubilee Centre in Cambridge (see www.jubilee-centre.org) highlights the fact that the bottom line of the economic sphere must be the enhancing of relationships (check out his book, *The R Factor*). He writes in the *Cambridge Papers*, Vol 18, Num 3, 2009, "The starting point for evaluation of economic and social 'institutions' is the fact that God is a relational being, and that his priority is not economic growth, but right relationships both between humanity and himself, and between human beings. This relational focus is the theme of both Old and New Testaments. When Jesus lays down the overarching moral principles of 'love God and love your neighbor' (Mat 22:34-40) he is pointing to the priority of relational over financial wealth, for love is a quality of relationships." So, let us seek God as to how we may bring Biblical transformation into our society in and through the economic sphere.



Religion

God's purpose for the sphere of religion is the extension of mercy and the promotion of reconciliation between those who have had relationships broken; horizontally between human beings, and vertically between humans and God. Competing religious worldviews contend for the hearts and minds of men and women everywhere. Without falling into a contentious spirit, we are to enter this marketplace of religious ideas and clearly display why the gospel of Christ is unique. In fact, the gospel is the only means of enduring grace, for it alone makes lasting reconciliation possible.

Key Biblical passages:

JER 9: 23-24 This is what the LORD says: "Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength or the richman boast of his riches, but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight," declares the LORD.

MIC 6: 8 He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

MAT 9: 13 But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.'

2COR 5: 18-20 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

JAM 1: 26-27 If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless. Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.



Education

God's purpose is that the educational sphere is designed to be a means of discipleship and multiplication. The Foundational Documents of the Global Accreditation Association (GAA) states that "the purpose of discipleship is the transformation of the student rather than the transacting of knowledge. We see all students being equipped to discover their God-given destiny and be equipped for fruitfulness within the call of God on their lives." With this perspective education becomes a means of developing a Biblical Christian Worldview where Jesus is the model and the Bible is the foundation of the education process. To be Biblical it should occur in a family-based context for it is the family that carries the primary authority and responsibility for the education of children.

Key Biblical passages:

DEU 6:4-7 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

PSA 145:4 One generation will commend your works to another; they will tell of your mighty acts.

PRO 1:8 Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching.

ISA 2:2-3 In the last days the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and all nations will stream to it. Many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

ROM 12: 2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

2PET 1: 5-8 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.



Media

God's purpose for the sphere of media is the transfer of wisdom and the promotion of healthy relationships. Proverbs is full of pithy axioms which emphasize the power of communication to do good or to do ill. For example, "Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing" (Pro 12:18); or "The tongue that brings healing is a tree of life, but a deceitful tongue crushes the spirit" (Pro 15:4); for "The tongue has the power of life and death" (Pro 18:21). There is great power not only in what is said but in how it is said. In the midst of the contemporary communication revolution with new technologies emerging one after another we have more and more capacity to communicate. But what are we communicating? Is it bringing life or death? Is it enhancing wisdom or promoting folly? Is it building up godly relationships or tearing them down? We must enter into this arena as followers of Jesus to use every tool available: print and broadcast media, films and the internet, new social media as well as more traditional media to advance the kingdom of God. Consider reading Landa Cope's *Communicating Christ Clearly*, a book about Jesus-style communication.

Key Biblical passages:

PRO 9: 9-12 Instruct a wise man and he will be wiser still; teach a righteous man and he will add to his learning. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. For through me your days will be many, and years will be added to your life. If you are wise, your wisdom will reward you; if you are a mocker, you alone will suffer.

JAM 3: 2,13,16-17 We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check...Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom... For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.



► Celebration (Arts, Entertainment & Sport)

God's purposes for the sphere of celebration is to strengthen hope and build community. We read in the Scriptures that "Jubal... was the father of all who play the harp and flute" (Gen 4:21). Ever since then, balladeers and artists have used their skills to entertain people and speak to the heart of their culture. In the Bible, these artistic gifts are often identified with the role of the prophetic ministry. When the ideas of God are embedded in story form, the truth resonates with both heart and mind, maximizing the potential impact in the life of those who are drawn into the story. Thus the arts allow truth to touch the senses, inform the mind, engage the emotions, challenge the will, and change the life. It allows for a holistic presentation of truth that engages the whole person in a transforming way. At the same time, story has the power to create identity and community. As individuals identify with a common story they are drawn together into one body with one purpose. Stories of God's work in the past build hope for the future. They become a means of inspiration, giving strength and courage to face the ever present challenges of life's journey.

Key Biblical passages:

EXO 19: 4-6 You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.

ROM 15:13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

1COR 13: 13-14: -1,3 And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy... But everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort.

1PET 2: 9-10 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.



► Geographic Alls

Jesus' final exhortation on earth begins with the word "Go" (Mark 16:15; Mat 28:19)! As Loren Cunningham says, "Go means a change of location." We can't stay where we are. We are called to go where we are not. Go where the gospel is not. Go where the kingdom is not. Paul clearly understood this. For this reason he said, "It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known" (Rom 15:20).

Many times Jesus' final words have been misapplied. He said, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Act 1:8). Note that he does NOT say "first in Jerusalem then in Judea and then in Samaria, and then to the ends of the earth." There is no chronological sequence or strategic priority laid out here. The text says "and ... and ... and," not "then ... then ... then"! Our ministry at one and the same time is to be both global and local – it's supposed to be glocal!

Note also that not one of those listening to these final words of Jesus considered Jerusalem their hometown. They were all from Galilee (see Act 1:11) – the Roman region immediately to the north of Judea and Samaria. It's absence from Jesus' list of geographical targets is noteworthy. Galilee had been the primary place of his three-year ministry. Now he was telling his followers in

essence, "Been there. Done that. Move on to where you have not been to the ends of the earth." The disciples evidently got it. The New Testament does not record any further ministry in their hometown region of Galilee. Once they were filled with the Holy Spirit, they took the gospel to where they had not been – and so should we!

Every ministry – whether one of the seven strategic themes or an initiative among one of the seven societal spheres – takes place somewhere. Geography is a part of the warp and woof of all that we do. It was certainly part of Jesus' Great Commission plan. How is it to be a part of ours?

To be effective in ministry and bear enduring fruit we must see place after place transformed. The prophet exhorts us to "Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise from the ends of the earth, you who go down to the sea, and all that is in it, you islands, and all who live in them. Let the desert and its towns raise their voices; let the settlements where Kedar lives rejoice. Let the people of Sela sing for joy; let them shout from the mountaintops" (Isa 42:10–11). Note where we are to sing, raise our voices, proclaim and shout. Our ministry targets must include those living at sea level and on the mountain tops, those in sparsely populated deserts and in urbanized settlements. We are to go to "the ends of the earth"!

When we fill every geographic corner of the earth with worshipful declarations of his glorious redemption, the prophet promises that God – who in earlier times would “not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets” (Isa 42:2) – will then “march out like a mighty man, like a warrior he will stir up his zeal; with a shout he will raise the battle cry and will triumph over his enemies” (Isa 42:13). Let this be the time when we give God reason to shout! Let this be the time when we go to every last corner of the earth and proclaim the amazing wonders of our God’s salvation! Let this be the time to engage with the alls and everys!

— Countries

If one thinks of breaking down the world geographically, the first thing one tends to think of is countries. After all, when asked where they are from, most people respond by referring to the geopolitical name of their country: “I’m from Brazil ... I’m from China ... I’m from Egypt...”

So, how many countries are there in the world? There is no one, universally-accepted list because there is no one definition of “country.” In our ever-changing world, there is a continuum of political realities from totally sovereign nations to dependent territories. Where do Greenland, Taiwan, Sahara, Bougainville, Kashmir and other geographic areas fit on this continuum? Depending on the political perspective of the beholder they may or may not be “countries.”

So, how many countries are there in the world? Well, for the reasons noted above, country lists range widely. With the recent addition of South Sudan, the United Nations now has 193 member states, but there are 204 national Olympic committees and 208 FIFA nations. One popular travel club lists 321 unique “countries.” We present here a “middle of the road” list that is adapted from the perspective of the Encyclopedia Britannica. This list has 241 countries.

So, how many countries are there in the world? Currently there are:

70 in Africa & the Middle East: Algeria, Angola, Bahrain, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo-Brazzaville, Congo-Zaire, Côte d’Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mayotte, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Reunion, Rwanda, Sahara, Sao Tome & Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Somaliland, South Africa, South Sudan, Spanish North Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Syria, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

4 in Antarctica & the Atlantic Ocean:

Antarctica, Bermuda, Falkland Islands, St Helena.

40 in Asia & the Indian Ocean:

Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, British Indian Ocean Territory, Brunei, Cambodia, China, Christmas Island, Cocos (Keeling) Islands, East Timor, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kirghizstan, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, North Korea, Pakistan, Philippines, Seychelles, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Vietnam.

26 in Australia & the Pacific Ocean:

American Samoa, Australia, Bougainville, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue Island, Norfolk Island, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Pitcairn Islands, Solomon Islands, Samoa, Tokelau Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Wallis & Futuna Islands.

20 in Central & South America:

Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, French Guiana, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay, Venezuela.

52 in Europe & the Mediterranean:

Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Channel Islands, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Faeroe Islands, Finland, France, Germany, Gibraltar, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Isle of Man, Italy, Kosovo, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Northern Cyprus, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Svalbard & Jan Mayen Islands, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, the Vatican.

29 in North America & the Caribbean:

Anguilla, Antigua & Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, British Virgin Islands, Canada, Cayman Islands, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Greenland, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Haiti, Jamaica, Martinique, Mexico, Montserrat, Netherlands Antilles, Puerto Rico, St Kitts & Nevis, St Lucia, St Pierre & Miquelon, St Vincent, Trinidad & Tobago, Turks & Caicos Islands, the United States of America, Virgin Islands of the US.

— Zones

The new 4k map of the world has been a central part of the call2all movement from its beginning. What is the purpose of this new map? It helps us “to see the world and respond to its needs, to see where we are and where we are not, and to reach the all and every.” If we are going to get serious with completing the Great Commission, we have to have a fresh look at God’s world and see it as he sees it – with a demographic or people emphasis. Explore the interactive website at 4kworldmap.com.

Why is a new map needed? Because of the great disparity in size of the countries of the world. The smallest sovereign nation on earth is Pitcairn in the South Pacific – it has less than 100 inhabitants. Contrast that with the largest nation on earth, China, which has over billion citizens! Comparing Pitcairn to China is like comparing apples with (not oranges that’s too similar) ... jumbo jets! They are worlds apart. So we need a new geographical language with more precise granularity to understand the missional needs of the world. Instead of looking at the world as a set of 241 countries, 4k shows us a world comprised of about 4,000 zones. So while Pitcairn is only one zone, China has over 800 zones.

How can this new map be used? There are a couple key applications of the 4k map.

First, it can be used as a prophetic/ prayer tool. During the call2all Congress, a time will be spent interceding on a large 4k floor map. For many participants this has come to be one of the highlight moments of the call2all experience. Though the map is simply made with plastic and ink, it becomes a platform for people to engage with God in prayer. On it people talk to God and he talks to them about the nations and the peoples of the earth. Much has been birthed through these times of 4k inspired prayer.

Second, it can be used as a vision/ strategy tool. Since its inception, many organizations have begun to use 4k as a way to identify areas for Great Commission activity. With a 4k map in hand strategic leaders can more readily see the gaps in their missional efforts and target places for fresh initiatives that will fill the “empty” places with gospel witness. Check out the research reporting capability and the forum possibilities available on the new website. These can serve to inform you with wisdom as you go to where the Body of Christ is not.

— Districts

Districts are geo-political in nature, established administrative divisions of countries. When a country exceeds a certain amount of population, it is broken down into its given states, territories, provinces, Bundesländer, okrugs, oblasts, regions, districts, or whatever else they are called! This helps us zoom into the more populous parts of the world with greater clarity. The zones tend to be larger in the more Christianized areas of the world, and smaller in the least-reached parts of the world. Overall each zone averages about 1.75 million people. Districts then takes us to the next level of geo-political divisions. This greater level of granularity will give us some 60,000 geo-political targets, far beyond the 241 countries of traditional maps or the innovative 4000 zones.

These newly identified areas are called Districts. The purpose is to go deeper and deeper in our outreach to the world, making sure that no “empty” place is left without gospel witness. Greater granularity gives greater visibility. It exposes needs that may have otherwise been overlooked by the superficial nature of the geographic grid that is employed.

For example, Districts has produced a new map which gives the clearest picture ever of the missional needs of the 26 Pacific Island nations. Going beyond zones, Districts has identified every one of the nearly 1600 inhabited islands in Micronesia, Melanesia and Polynesia. This makes it possible for us to make sure that no island – indeed no person – is overlooked as evangelism strategies for the Pacific are developed. This Pacific example can be emulated everywhere.

— Communities

Because the Great Commission is about “all” and “every” there are several more intermediate geo-demographic milestones that we must pass on the road from “all” nations (Mat 28:19) to “every” creature (Mar 16:15). The first three targets (241 countries, 4,000 zones, and some 60,000 districts) are all designed around geo-political realities.

They are all structured around the language of the societal sphere of government. The next three levels of increasing geographic granularity will be centered around the language of three other societal spheres. We will continue to press our way to smaller and smaller segments of society by focusing on those areas defined by the spheres of

- economics (around which communities are formed),
- education (which are key to neighborhoods) and
- the family. At that point we will be well positioned to take the final step to reach every individual with the good news of Jesus!

“Since the earliest origins, urban areas have performed three separate critical functions—the creation of sacred space, the provision of basic security, and the host for a commercial market” (The City: A Global History, by Joel Kotkin). In terms of the societal spheres this refers to religion, government, and economics. This latter is the point of focus now. The marketplace is key to the human experience, whatever form it takes. It could look like a weekly farmer’s market attracting rural people from miles around in Uganda to exchange their wares and swap stories. Or it could be an upscale mall in a suburb of a Western metropolis, where people carrying shopping bags full of purchases mingle with latte-sipping patrons at the local coffee shop.

In the New Testament the marketplace was called the agora. It was a place chosen by both Jesus and Paul as a place for ministry. Mark, speaking of Jesus, says: “wherever he went—into villages, towns or countryside—they placed the sick in the marketplaces. They begged him to let them touch even the edge of his cloak, and all who touched him were healed” (Mar 6:56). Similarly, Luke, describes for us Paul’s ministry methodology thus: “So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there” (Act 17:17). Because people gathered in the marketplace, that’s where Paul went. That’s where we should go too!

— Neighborhoods

As we progress to ever higher granularity of our Great Commission goals we progress from 241 countries to 4,000 zones to 60,000 districts to some 2 million marketplace-defined communities and then on to many millions of school-centric neighborhoods.

All around the world parents are eager to see their children have the best education possible. They want them to be equipped to their fullest potential. This focus on the emerging generation is certainly a reflection of God’s heart. Jesus said, “Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me” (Luk 9:48).

In neighborhoods around the world, the local school – preschool, kindergarten, primary school, middle school, secondary school, high school, university – is the hub of the neighborhood’s social life. Schools vary greatly in size from small one-room rural institutions to large urban establishments. The United Nations informs us that half of the world’s population is under 25 years of age. Reaching every place where the world’s “small half” congregate is essential if we are going to fulfill the Great Commission. It not only will impact the church of today, but also the church of tomorrow.

— Homes

All over the world the family is under attack. Bride burnings in India. Honor killings in Pakistan. The one child policy in China. HIV/AIDS orphans in Africa. Machismo in Latin America. Sex out of wedlock in the West. Same sex marriage laws in numerous countries. Abortion everywhere. The onslaught is great and the attacks against thriving families/homes are coming from every side.

The Telegraph reports that China's divorce rate has more than quadrupled since economic opening up began in earnest in 1985 – from 0.4 per 1,000 people to 1.85 per 1,000 people in 2009 – but still compares favorably to Britain's 2.8 divorces per 1,000 population, the highest rate in the EU. In comparison the USA has 3.6 divorces per 1,000 people. The 2010 US Census informs us that 9% of American men have been divorced. The same is true of 11% of American women. According to www.divorcewizards.com the median duration of first marriages that end in divorce in the USA is barely 7.8 years long.

In the USA, 32.8% of births are now registered as “non-marital.” According to the European Commission, “37.4% of children were born outside marriage in 2009, while the corresponding figure for 1990 was 17.4 %.” The share of extramarital births has been on the rise in recent years in almost every Member State. According to some 2010 records from the Member States, extramarital births accounted for the majority of live births in Estonia, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Sweden and France.”

According to the US Census Bureau, there are approximately 13.7 million single parents in the USA. They are responsible for raising 21.8 million children (approximately one fourth of the children under 21 in America today).

News tells of a study of 1,700 married couples which shows that materialism kills marriages. They report that “materialism was associated with ... less effective communication, higher levels of negative conflict, lower relationship satisfaction, and less marriage stability.”

In our days household size varies greatly in different parts of the world. They are highest in North Africa and the Middle East 1 where households average 5.6 persons. In China they average 3.1; in India 4.8; and the rest of Asia averages 5.1 persons per household. Sub-Saharan Africa averages 5.3 persons and Latin America averages 4.8 persons. North America and Australia each clock in around 2.6 and 2.5 respectively, while Europe averages a mere 2.3 persons per household.

The result is that there are an estimated 250 million households in the Americas; 500 million between Europe and Africa; and 1 billion in Asia and the Pacific – that includes more than 400 million households in China! This brings the total number of households to approximately 1.75 billion today! And God's desire is that every single one of them would experience the blessing promised to Abraham some 4,000 years ago!

Families are central to God's purposes on earth. He instituted marriage back in the Garden of Eden. As the family goes, so the whole society goes. What can you do to strengthen godly family principles where you live? How can you build up families so that husbands and wives will mutually love and respect one another, children will honor their parents, and parents will care for the next generation with love and kindness? How can you restore broken and hurting families in the neighborhood where you live and reach out around the globe? Let us rightly represent to the world the God who shows us what family is truly meant to be, for as a "father of compassion" (2Co 1:3) he has adopted us as his own children.

Any effective Great Commission strategy must consider how to impact the 1.75 billion families that make up the world's population. May we imitate King David and seek to bless our families (1Ch 16:43) with God's blessings!

— Each Individual

The ultimate Great Commission goal is that every individual will hear the gospel and have an opportunity to make a decision to follow Christ or not. There are about 7 billion alive today – at this point we have zoomed in to God's ultimate design. He does not want "anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance" (2Pe 3:9) for he "wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth" (1Ti 2:4). That is why Jesus "gave himself as a ransom for all men" (1Ti 2:6) and why we must do all that we can to spread the good news to every single individual.

The Christian Magna Carta

Everyone on earth has the right to:

- Hear and understand the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Have a Bible available in their own language and in a means they can comprehend.
- Have a Christian fellowship available nearby, to be able to meet for fellowship regularly each week, and to have Biblical teaching and worship with others in the Body of Christ.
- Have a Christian education available for their children.
- Have the basic necessities of life: food, water, clothing, shelter, energy and health care.
- 6. Lead a productive life of fulfillment spiritually, mentally, socially, emotionally, and physically. We commit ourselves, by God's grace, to fulfill this covenant and to live for His glory.

As Christian leaders we must consider the missional implications of Jesus' final command to "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation" (Mar 16:15). If we are going to impact every person in a life-enhancing way with the gospel, then there are certain basic rights that every individual has implicit in the gospel. In 1981 Loren Cunningham spelled out these implicit rights in a document which has come to be known as the Christian Magna Carta. The six points outline a course of transformational action that brings the fullest effect of the gospel into every life.



call2all

PO Box 838

Grandview • MO 64030
USA

call2all.org