

Notes concerning the present state of missions in general

There is much information about missions on the Internet. If you are interested, search for “missions”, or “world missions”, or “missionary agencies”.

I have grabbed a number of quotes from various websites. Not all of the numbers will agree because they come from different sources, but they are in general agreement. Also, be aware that some organizations put more emphasis on evangelism than on establishing churches and training nationals to become spiritual leaders. While evangelism is the tip of the spear, it should not be the ultimate end of missions. Otherwise there will be saved people who do not know much about the Word of God/plan of God, and will be ill-equipped to train the next generation.

Skim through the quotes below. What impresses you?

- Christianity (all kinds) is growing at 1.18% per year, but Islam is growing at 1.92% and thus faster than general Christianity. Evangelical / Charismatic Christianity is growing at about the same rate as Islam. (Status of Global Christianity-2021)
- Well over 90% of all cross-cultural missionaries labor among nominally Christian people groups, well below 10% among unreached peoples.
- 81% of all non-Christians do not know a Christ-follower. (World Christian Encyclopedia)
- Out of every dollar of Christian giving to all causes, less than one penny goes toward pioneer church planting among unreached peoples.
- While Christians of all types make up about 1/3 of the world's population, the absolute number of non-Christians is increasing. In other words, the world is producing unbelievers faster than Christians are producing Christians.
- An estimated 95% of pastors worldwide have had no formal training.

WHAT IS THE 10/40 WINDOW?

Most (96.3%) of the world's unreached people are located geographically in what some scholars call “The 10/40 Window” from West Africa across Asia between 10 degrees latitude north of the equator to 40 degrees north.

Total Population in 10/40: 5.22 billion people

Total People Groups in 10/40: 8,875 people groups

Total UPGs in 10/40: 6,161 Unreached People Groups totaling 3.16 billion people.

60% of unreached people groups live in countries closed to missionaries from North America.

Over 1,000 unreached people groups are NOT in the 10/40 Window, these total over 82 million individuals.

International students

There are over 900,000 international students in the U.S. each year.

62% of internationals are from 10/40 Window countries. Total Number of Students from 10/40 Window Countries studying in US: 451,568 from 68 Countries

Top 10 Countries: China (35%), India (18%), South Korea (4%), Canada, Taiwan, Saudi Arabia, Brazil, Vietnam, Mexico, Nigeria.

Why reach out to internationals?

80% of those students will return to their countries having never been invited to an American home.

40% of the world's 220 Heads of State once studied in the US.

Only 10% of international students are reached by ministries while in the United States.

You can have a ministry to foreign students right in your own home. Most of them are alone, without friends, without social life, and would welcome the opportunity to get to know Americans and our culture better. As you get to know them, you can demonstrate what the culture of the American Christian is, especially on holidays; prayer at meals; invite them to church. Pray with them and for them.

WHAT CHRISTIANS EARN:

Annual income of Evangelical Christians is approximately \$6.72 trillion.

WHAT PEOPLE GIVE:

Given to any Christian causes: \$896 billion.

“Americans have recently spent more money buying Halloween costumes for their pets than the amount given to reach the unreached.” — Claude Hickman

- That's also how much we spend in America on Christmas.
- Christian organizations spend \$8 billion a year on conferences. (Yohannan, Come Let's Reach the World, 126)

Given to Missions: \$52 billion.

- That's only 5.78% of the money given to Christian causes of any kind (2022).
- Embezzled: More money is reported embezzled from churches than is given to missions (\$59 billion missing).

HOW CHRISTIAN GIVING IS USED.

- Pastoral ministries of local churches (mostly in Christian nations): \$734 billion (82%)
- **“Home Missions”** in same Christian nations: \$107.5 billion (12%)
- Going to **Un-Evangelized** Non-Christian world: \$51.7 billion (5.7%)
- Money that goes toward **Unreached Peoples**: Estimated \$880 million (1.7%)

For every \$100,000 that Christians make, they give \$1.70 to the unreached.

“Until recently, Americans spent more on golf balls and Twinkies than was given to reach the unreached.” — Claude Hickman

Christians spend more on the annual audits of their churches and agencies (\$810 million) than on all their workers in the non-Christian world. (World Evangelization Research Center)

The total cost of Christian outreach averages \$330,000 for every newly baptized person. (World Evangelization Research Center)

It costs Christians 700 times more money to baptize converts in rich Christian countries, such as the US or Switzerland, than in poor unevangelized countries, such as Nepal. (World Evangelization Research Center)

- Only 1 of every 209,086 Christians goes as a missionary to the Unreached.
- There are 54,000 Evangelical Christians for every one unreached people group.
- Young people have traditionally led the way in going and there are roughly 21 million university students

Is God to blame for not "Calling" People to Missions?

If everyone is obeying God's "calling" to be a missionary wherever they are, then God is apparently calling 99.9995% of people to work among the half of the world population that already has the gospel, and calling virtually no one (0.0005%) to relocate among the other half of the world population that are not Christian. You have a better chance of being in a plane crash than being one of the few missionaries to the unreached.

In light of God's Word, this seems unfathomable and it appears to be almost complete disobedience on the part of the Church worldwide to go make disciples of all the nations.

Financially we are hoarding 99.99% of our income to ourselves and what little is given is mostly directed toward reached people groups.

The current status quo is to do virtually nothing to reach the UPGs (Unreached People Groups) of the world. The percentages of man-power and money focused on UPGs are almost undetectable they are so small. The amount of resources that fall off the Christian table for unreached peoples is more comparable (we googled it...) with the number of skin cells you lose over a month's time: something hardly worth calling a sacrifice of the body.

“I believe that in each generation God has called enough men and women to evangelize all the yet unreached tribes of the earth. It is not God who does not call. It is man who will not respond!”

— Isobel Kuhn, missionary to Lisu people in China

There are 140,000 recorded protestant missionaries serving in the world, with 64,000 from the US. (The Traveling Team)

Of all missionaries employed by US mission agencies, about 2/3 are non-US citizen native missionaries working in their own country. Only 1/3 are American missionaries. (80,834 vs. 44,384) (Weber and Welliver 2007, 13)

US ministries send out over 144,000 **short-term** missionaries each year. (Weber and Welliver 2007, 13)

The average American Christian gives only 1 penny a day to global missions. (Yohannan, Revolution in World Missions, 142)

Approximately 85% of all missionary finances are being used by Western missionaries who are working among the established churches on the field rather than being used for pioneer evangelism to the lost. (Yohannan, Revolution in World Missions, 143)

Only 10 to 33 percent of Western missionaries are involved in evangelism and church planting. (Yohannan, Come Let's Reach the World, 35)

Up to 1/2 of all new missionaries do not last beyond their first term on the mission field. (Yohannan, Come Let's Reach the World, 45)

Only 1/4 of North American cross-cultural missionaries are involved in evangelism activities (such as preaching, translation, church planting, and teaching), while 3/4 are involved in administration and support work (such as agriculture, aviation, community development, literacy, medicine, and relief efforts). (Yohannan, Come Let's Reach the World, 63)