



Chapter 4: World Missions - Yesterday and Today

HEART FOR THE NATIONS

If you desire to be a successful missionary, you should allow God to enlarge the size of your heart. Your heart must be able to contain the people of different tribes, different nationalities, different races and different sectors. That was the size of Jesus' heart for the nations. It is the very beginning of developing a biblical world view as well as missionary spirit in you.

Please remember that today ...

- Only 1/3 of the world population claims to be Christians (including the Catholics) and this number approximates 2 billion people.
- Non-Christians in 2/3 of the world population are mostly found in the Third World.
- South Africa and Kenya are two strategic revival stations for Africa.
- Heretical teachings also found their ways in the body of Christ of Africa and the Third World.
- One of the reasons for heretical teachings to enter the body of Christ is due to lack of teachings of sound doctrine and discipleship.
- A key to successful missionary work is to demonstrate the love of Christ. Love is attractive. It pulls.
- Love meets the needs of others. Love makes people to be interested to know the truth.
- Love is caring. A missionary must love and care for the local people by all means. Always remember that you have come to the mission field for 'them'! 'Love' can also provide the ultimate solution to every problem in ministry. Make your decisions on the mission field on the basis of love for the local people. You will hardly make mistakes.
- *"Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble." (1 John 2:10)*



HISTORY OF WORLD MISSION

World mission history is God’s redemptive history. God has been vigorously keeping His promise to Abraham for the last 4,000 years that all peoples on earth would be blessed through him (Genesis 12:3). The below chart shows us the ten eras of redemption history in which God has been expanding His kingdom in the nations of this earth.

Time	Era	Thrust	Stagnation
2000-1600 B.C.	Patriarchs	Abraham obeyed & was blessed, then blessed the Canaanites. Joseph was a blessing to Egypt.	Genesis begins with life, ends with death. (Joseph in a coffin).
1600-1200	Egyptian captivity	Moses represented God to Pharaoh in Egypt. Joshua led Israel to promised land; Rahab served.	Israel did not believe God. Israel did not obey God.
1200-800	Judges	Israel conquered peoples in the name of God. Ruth, the Moabite, came to Israel.	Last verse in Judges: “Everyone did as he saw fit.”
800-400	Kings	David demonstrated a heart for the nations. Temple built; Queen of Sheba visits.	Solomon ended up loving the world more than God.
400-0	Post Exile	Esther and Ezra represented Yahweh in foreign land. Israel returned to land.	Israel forgot God. Alexander the Great and Julius Caesar conquered.
0-400 A.D.	Romans	Jesus says to make disciples of all nations. Rome became ‘Christian.’	Roman empire was ‘soft’; Christianity did not evangelize Barbarians.
400-800	Barbarians	Church tried to create ‘New Holy Empire.’ Celtic monks go to Europe.	Mixed Christianity with Paganism; limited outreach.
800-1200	Vikings	Captive Friars witness to captors.	Mixed Christianity with political power.
1200-1600	Muslims/ Crusades	Franciscan monks study/write.	Plagues in Europe. Crusades against Muslims.
1600-????	Ends of the earth	Martin Luther opens kingdom doors to nations. 4 Men/3 Eras: Carey, Taylor, McGavran, Townsend.	????

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MODERN MISSION MOVEMENTS

4 Men / 3 Eras

1st Era: Coastland mission (1872 to 1910) - William Carey

2nd Era: Inland mission (1865 to 1980) - Hudson Taylor

3rd Era: Hidden people mission for unreached people (1934 to present) - Cameron Townsend, Donald McGavran

As you can see, we are now living in the third era of modern mission movement. Hidden people are not easily found nor reached because of their 'hidden' nature. One of the most effective ways to reach out to them is sending equipped preachers to where they are. Therefore, much of our mission focus should concentrate on training and commissioning those preachers to the hidden tribes through any possible means. After all, the ultimate key of world evangelization is the *'preachers'* as Romans 10:14-15 clearly states.

FOCUS OF CURRENT WORLD MISSION

Middle East

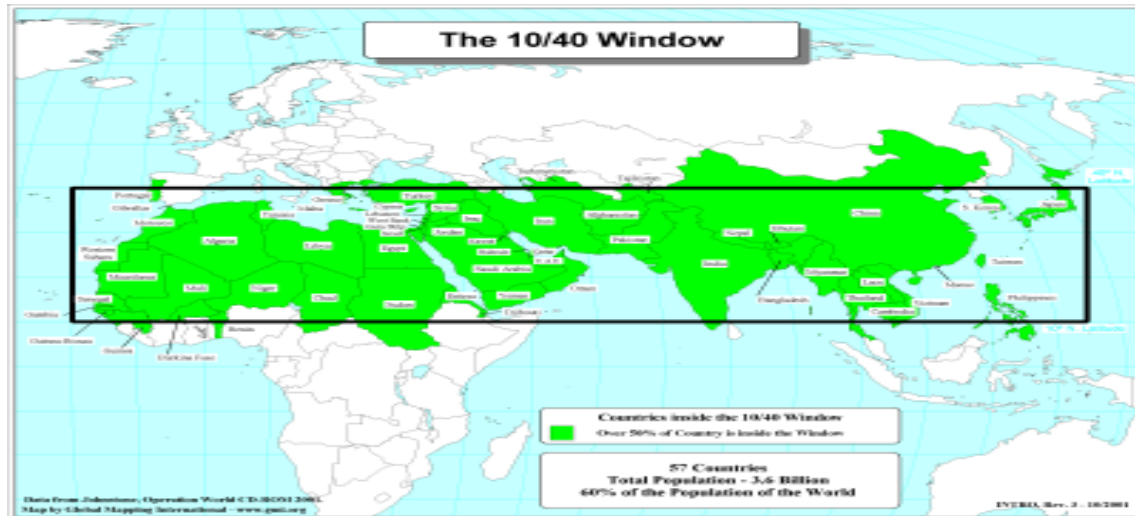
'Middle' East is rightly the center of the world because it connects the whole world. It connects Africa, Asia and Europe. Our Lord Jesus was born in the Middle East when the Roman Empire bound the region together with Africa, Asia and Europe. Why during the Roman Empire? Because it was the first time ever in history when those three continents fell under the same influence. And why the Middle East? Because from the Middle East - the center of the world - the gospel can easily spread to the rest of the world since it connects three continents. Ezekiel 5:5 speaks of the Jerusalem being the center of all nations.

"This is what the Sovereign Lord says: This is Jerusalem, which I have set in the center of the nations, with countries all around her."

The move of the Holy Spirit originated from Mark's upper room and began to shift towards Europe, from Europe to America, from America to Asia, from Asia to Africa, and from Africa back to its origin, Middle East.

10/40 Window

(Adapted from: 10/40 Window, AD 2000 and Beyond (<http://www.ad2000.org>))



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The term '10/40 Window' refers to the area of the world which lies between 10 degrees and 40 degrees north latitude from the equator, bounded by Africa to the west and Japan to the east. This includes all of parts of 61 countries in southern Europe, northern Africa, the entire Middle East, and much of Southeast Asia. This area of the world is also often called 'the Resistance Window' because it is difficult for Christian missionaries to bring the word of God to the people who live there. The three major religions of the area - Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism - are very militant.

1. Islam

The followers of Islam are known as Muslims. Islam is the second largest religion in the world, second only to Christianity. It is also the second most prevalent religion in the 10/40 Window countries, with nearly 706 million followers. Muslims believe in one god, whose name is Allah. The founder of their religion, Muhammad, is their god's only true prophet.

Muslims believe they must earn salvation by faithfully fulfilling the five basic demands of their religion: the daily recital of a sacred oath, recitation of prescribed prayers five times a day, fasting, giving alms to the poor, and making a pilgrimage to Mecca - one of the two holy cities of their religion.

There are two major groups or sects within the Muslim religion. The Shiites, which are about 10% of all Muslims, are the most visible and vocal. They believe in strict enforcement of Muslim law, and are under the spiritual and governmental leadership of the Ayatollah. The second sect, the Sunnites, are much more tolerant of diversity, and believe that the Muslim faith can be lived out within the context of existing governments.

We will have more opportunity later to look into this religion in Chapter 7.

2. Hinduism

Approximately 717 million people in the 10/40 Window are Hindus. Although Hinduism is the third largest religion in the entire world, it is the most prominent religion in the region, accounting for 23% of the total population of the area.

Hindus believe in reincarnation, and that one's soul returns to earth in the body of another person or animal following death. The person is believed to belong to one of five social castes, or classes. The person's goal is to practice discipline on earth in order to advance to the next highest level. Hindus believe that this cycle of rebirth, called 'moksha,' continues until the soul receives salvation (known as total enlightenment). Hindus believe that 'all of reality is one.' That is, both the meaning of the world and the way to reach salvation is through cognition or knowledge.

3. Buddhism

The nearly 153 million Buddhists in the 10/40 Window do not believe in a god. Nor do they pray, make sacrifices, or believe in an afterlife. Buddhism has been called 'the religion of practical atheism.' Like Hinduism, Buddhism expounds a belief in reincarnation, with salvation as the ultimate escape from the cycle of rebirth. Unlike Hinduism, however, Buddhism does not have a caste system.

Buddhism believes that ignorance is the root of all evil, and that the only way to destroy ignorance is to follow the four noble truths of their religion: suffering is universal, suffering is caused by desire, desire must be eliminated, and the only way to eliminate desire is to follow eight steps of daily living. These steps, known as the 'eightfold path' are: right belief, right feelings, right speech, right conduct, right livelihood, right effort, right memory, and right meditation. When one completes the eightfold path of liberation, he/she would enter 'Nirvana (paradise),' however, if one cannot complete the eightfold path in lifetime, the person gets reincarnated as an animal or another human.

Governments in the '10/40 Window' are very densely populated and extremely poor. In fact, the region's four billion people account for more than half of the world's population. They also make up 99% of the world's poorest people. Low adult literacy rates, the extreme diversity of languages, and significant cultural differences (even within an individual country) make effective evangelism nearly impossible in the '10/40 Window.' However, the major deterrent to traditional missionary efforts is the fanaticism and intolerance of the area's major religions.

BARRIERS OF CURRENT WORLD MISSION

There are the barriers within and without which can hinder mission works as follows.

1. Political barriers
2. Religious barriers

3. Cultural barriers
4. Social barriers
5. Personal barriers

Trends and tensions in the political realm are also often reflected in the relationship between national church leaders and missionaries. Remember, only *with prayers* God can open the closed doors.