



THE AMAZING COUNTDOWN

facts

Editorial Note: The Amazing Countdown Facts was first compiled by Ralph Winter in the 1980s to demonstrate the tremendous potential of the global body of Christ for fulfilling the Great Commission in our generation.

The statistics have been updated by the research office of the U.S. Center for World Mission for the year 2010.

“**A**nd this Gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations (ethne), and then the end will come.” Matthew 24:14

(“Ethne” is the Greek word translated here as “nations.” It means peoples or tribes rather than countries.)

“You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.” Revelation 5:9

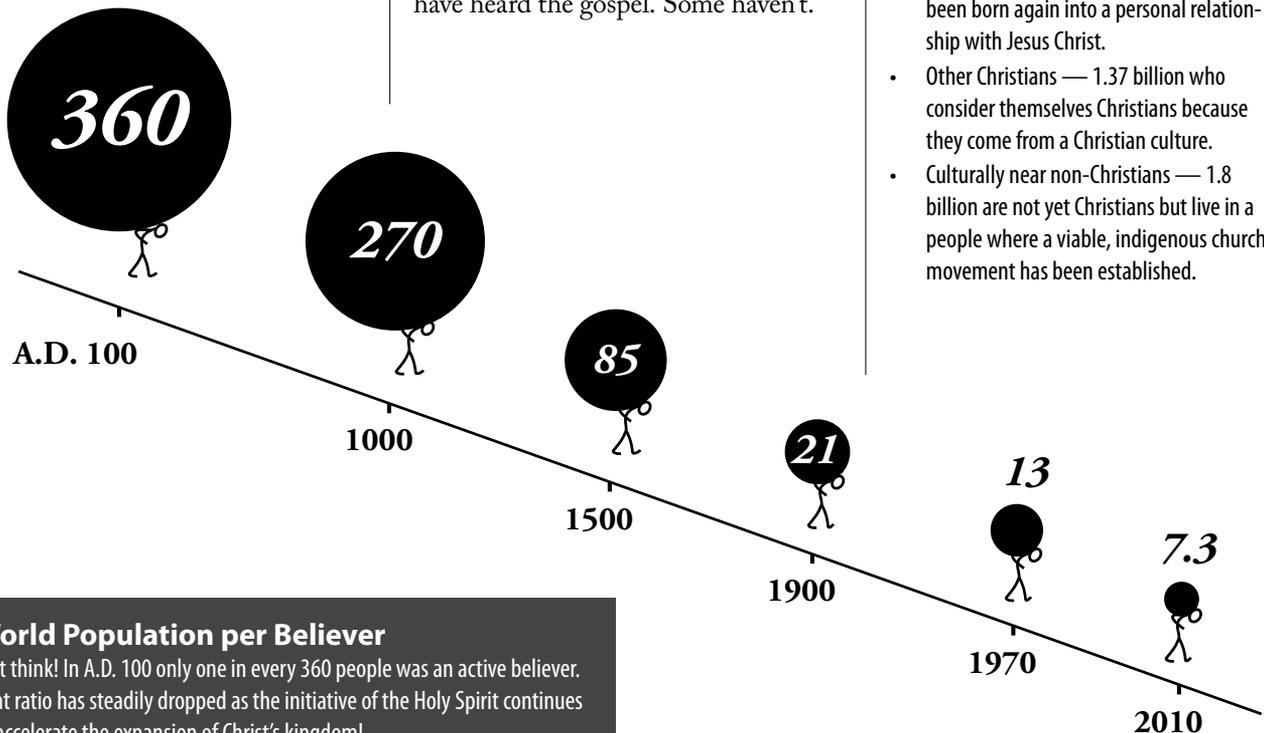
The World for Whom Christ Died

On our planet live over 6.7 billion people within approximately 24,000 of these nations and languages and peoples. Some of these 24,000 peoples have heard the gospel. Some haven't.

Those Who Have Heard – the “Reached” Peoples

In the first place, there are about 16,000 peoples that have embraced the Gospel, resulting in strong churches led by national (non-missionary) leaders with a serious commitment to finish evangelizing the rest of their people. (Missionaries refer to this as a “viable, indigenous church movement.”) 4 billion people live in these “ethne.”

- Christian Believers — 800 million have been born again into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Other Christians — 1.37 billion who consider themselves Christians because they come from a Christian culture.
- Culturally near non-Christians — 1.8 billion are not yet Christians but live in a people where a viable, indigenous church movement has been established.



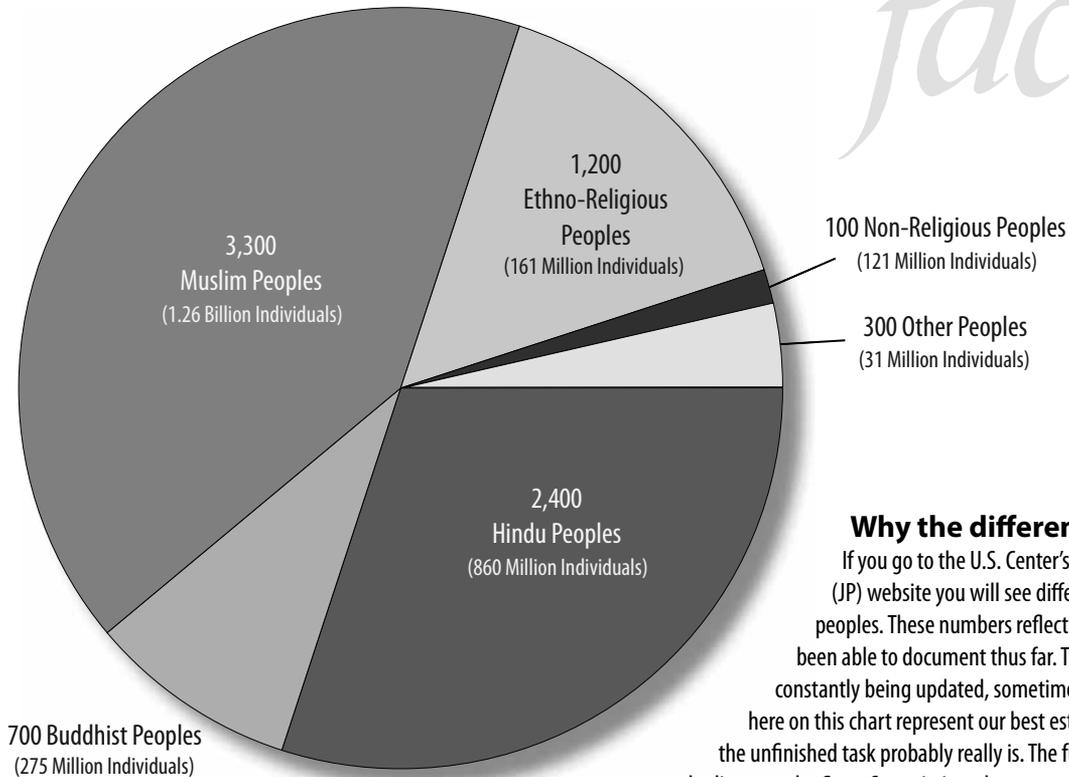
World Population per Believer

Just think! In A.D. 100 only one in every 360 people was an active believer. That ratio has steadily dropped as the initiative of the Holy Spirit continues to accelerate the expansion of Christ's kingdom!

Those Who Haven't Heard – The "Unreached" Peoples

On the other hand, an estimated 8,000 peoples don't yet have a native church movement, and therefore no access to the Gospel! Almost 2.7 billion individuals live in these peoples. The Bible says that "God our Savior . . . desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Tim. 2:3-4).

THESE 8,000 UNREACHED PEOPLES ARE DIVIDED INTO 6 "MEGASPHERES":



Why the different numbers?

If you go to the U.S. Center's Joshua Project (JP) website you will see different numbers for peoples. These numbers reflect what we have been able to document thus far. The JP numbers are constantly being updated, sometimes daily. The numbers here on this chart represent our best estimates of what the unfinished task probably really is. The further we go in obedience to the Great Commission, the more we will know!

Finishing the Great Commission

Despite the tremendous progress of the Gospel shown on the previous page, being able to actually finish the Great Commission still seems like an impossibility to some. That's because most of us tend to look at the immensity of the job, without realizing all that God has placed at our disposal to do the job. The task before us is no doubt very large, but God has given His Church everything we need to do just as He commanded!

What Is Needed ?

- Personnel — At a minimum level, an estimated additional 32,000 missionaries are needed to engage the least-reached population segments among the world's 8,000 unreached peoples. Well over half of these will come from countries other than the U.S.
- Finances — Each of these 32,000 new missionaries will need an average of \$20,000 per year to support their work. This means that \$640 million more is needed annually.
- Prayer — Prayer will always be the most crucial need in world evangelization. Missionaries can be sent out and work really hard, but if people back home don't pray, very little will be accomplished. Exactly how much prayer is needed? All we can really do is make an estimate. Each missionary should be covered by at least an hour of specific prayer daily—both for the people group they work with and also for personal needs. So we need a foundation of 32,000 more hours of prayer daily.

WHAT ARE THE RESOURCES?

- Personnel — There are 800 million Great Commission Christians in the world. So, assuming an average church size of 100 persons, we only need one new missionary from every 250 churches in order to send out the additional 32,000 that are needed!
- Finances — Worldwide, believers give \$17 billion on average to missions; about 5.5%

of all giving to Christian causes, or about \$2,125 a year per church. To make up an additional \$600 million needed would require only \$80 more per year from each church! That's only 80 cents more a year per person! If the U. S. alone had to supply this need through its approximately 144 million born again adults, the cost would be only an extra \$4.16 each.

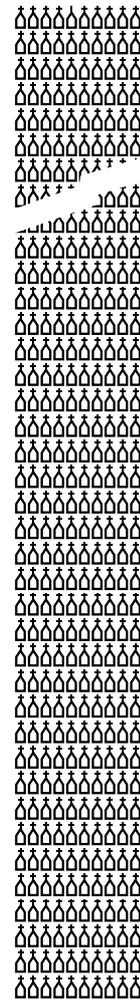
- Prayer — Prayer is something that everyone can do. Assuming the "hour a day" rule mentioned earlier, a church of about 50 praying members could readily supply the prayer support for an entire team of four missionaries if they only prayed 5 minutes a day.

The Final Proof

Aside from all these interesting facts, figures and charts, we have one more proof which leaves no doubt that all peoples will be reached — God's Word!

In Matthew 24:14 (quoted earlier) Jesus Christ prophesied that the Gospel will be proclaimed to every people before the end comes. Then, in Revelation 7:9, the Apostle John writes, "I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb." With John we see the future; as we imagine this glorious scene there is no room left for doubt. All peoples will be present to worship God!

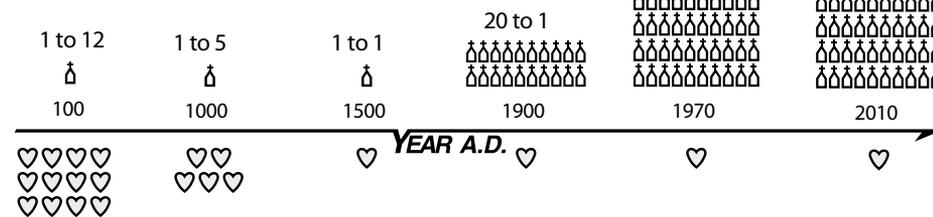
1000 to 1



Congregations of Active Believers per Unreached People Group

Just think! In AD 100 there were twelve (see heart shapes below) Unreached Peoples per congregation of believers. By AD 1000 that was down to five. Jumping ahead, to 1900 there were twenty times as many such congregations per group to be reached. That astonishing trend has continued until there are more than 1,000 congregations today per group to be reached!

150 to 1



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These charts demonstrate the amazing progress the Church has already made, just how close we are to finishing the task, and the resources available for discipling the nations.

| Year (A.D.) | Total World Population (Millions) | Active Believers (Millions) | World Population per believer | Unreached People Groups | Christian Congregations per Unreached People Group |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Column | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 100 | 180 | 0.5 | 360 to 1 | 60,000 | 1 to 12 |
| 1000 | 270 | 1 | 270 to 1 | 50,000 | 1 to 5 |
| 1500 | 425 | 5 | 85 to 1 | 44,000 | 1.1 to 1 |
| 1900 | 1,620 | 78 | 21 to 1 | 40,000 | 20 to 1 |
| 1970 | 3,700 | 277 | 13 to 1 | 18,000 | 150 to 1 |
| 2010 | 6,700 | 800 | 7.3 to 1 | 8,000 | 1000 to 1 |

By AD 1430, (1%) were BBCs* (One to 99 after 1430 years)
 By AD 1790, (2%) were BBCs. (One to 49 after 360 years)
 By AD 1940, (3%) were BBCs. (One to 32 after 150 years)
 By AD 1960, (4%) were BBCs. (One to 24 after 20 years)
 By AD 1970, (5%) were BBCs. (One to 19 after 10 years)
 By AD 1980, (6%) were BBCs. (One to 16 after 10 years)
 By AD 1983, (7%) were BBCs. (One to 13 after 3 years)
 By AD 1986, (8%) were BBCs. (One to 11 after 3 years)
 By AD 1989, (9%) were BBCs. (One to 10 after 3 years)
 By AD 1993, (10%) were BBCs. (One to 9 after 4 years)
 By AD 1997, (11%) were BBCs. (One to 8 after 4 years)
 By AD 2010, (12%) were BBCs. (One to 7 after 13 years)
 * BBCs = Bible Believing Christians

FINISHING THE TASK!

As you can see, the possibility for reaching each remaining unreached people group early in the 21st century is a very real possibility. The job is clearer than ever, and every needed resource is available. Among the many significant initiatives today to link these resources with this task is the Adopt-A-People movement.

As the name implies, Adopt-A-People links a local congrega-

tion—through “adoption”—with one Unreached People group. Several churches (or even several hundred) will adopt the same people and focus their prayers, finances and energies together through one or more mission agencies to the end that a strong, vibrant, evangelizing church movement is established in that people. Mission agencies provide a very concrete and specific mechanism for participating churches to channel resources to their adopted

people. And adopting introduces the kind of direct involvement that helps keep churches challenged and on the task.

Most importantly, as thousands of congregations successfully adopt and reach their Unreached People, we will literally see the completion of this task! God has given every resource to do the work. We have no excuse not to do it.

It can be done. It must be done. Will you help?

For more information on how your church can adopt a people, contact:

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