Let the Nations Be Glad
The Big Picture

Sometimes we are so close to something we don’t see “the forest for the trees.”
Finishing the Task

1. What is the task?
2. What remains to be done?
3. Glimpses of God’s global work
4. Challenges
What is “the Task?”

“Go therefore, and make disciples of all the nations” Matt 28:19

Nations = ethne = ethnic people groups

Last words are lasting words

Task: Make disciples of all ethnic people groups
Countries vs Nations

Nigeria – one country

Nigeria – 538 nations
Pancakes vs Waffles

Is the world like a pancake or a waffle?

Like syrup on a waffle, the Gospel naturally flows only until it encounters ethnic boundaries.
What is “the Task?”

“a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb” Rev 5:9

Task: Make God’s Word available in every language
“Finishing The Task” from two perspectives

- Every ethne - peoples
- Every tongue - languages
“Make disciples of all nations”

- Who are the ethnic people groups?
- Which ones have few, if any, disciples?
How many ethnic people groups are there?

Total Peoples by Country: 16,800
How many people groups are considered unreached?  
(Unreached = less than 2% Christ-followers)

Current best estimate: **7,000 (40%)**
Where are these unreached peoples?

5 out of every 6 unreached people groups are in the 10/40 Window
## Countries with the most unreached people groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Unreached People Groups</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>2276</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>445</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>386</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>293</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nepal</td>
<td>258</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Lodha of India
6.8 million,
Hindu, Unreached
Task: Provide the Scriptures in every language

Current best estimate: 7,100
Approximately 1,650 languages need Bible translation to begin.
Bible Translation: Vision 2025

Rate needed to accomplish Vision 2025 - Bible translation in progress in every needed language by the year 2025

Great improvement, but still take until 2038 before all translation projects started.

Vision 2025 Accelerated

Would take until 2150 before all translation projects started.

Vision 2025 Initiated

Bible Translation Projects started per year
Glimpses of God’s work around the world

- Religion comparison
- Remarkable growth
- Great Shift
- Receivers to senders
- Unprecedented outreach
- Challenges
“Islam is growing faster than Christianity.”

Agree or disagree?
Yes, Islam is growing faster than “Christianity.”

Data from Operation World 2010
Evangelicals are growing faster than Islam and two times faster than Buddhism and Hinduism.

Data from Operation World 2010
Banjar of Indonesia

4.1 million,
Sunni Muslim, Unreached
Glimpses of God’s work around the world

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Remarkable Growth

China

Christian percentage of county/city

1949 – Less than 1 million Christians
2017 – More than 100 million Christians
Remarkable Growth

Amidst an oppressive, anti-Christian regime
Southern Africa - In 1900, Africa was 3% Christian. Today Africa is more than 50% Christian in some countries. 20,000 new African believers every day.

Egypt - A huge cave on the outskirts of Cairo accommodates the largest gathering of disciples in the Middle East; 10,000 meet weekly for worship.

Turkey - One-third of the new believers in Turkey say they came to Christ because He appeared to them in a dream or vision.
Emergence of Messianic Jewish Movement

Romans 11:25–29
“a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in; and so all Israel will be saved”

- The fullness of the Gentiles brought in
- All Israel must be saved

More Jews have embraced Yeshua as Messiah since 1967 when the Jews took control of Jerusalem than in all the years between 100 AD and 1967.
Glimpses of God’s work around the world

- Religion comparison
- Remarkable growth
- Great Shift
- Receivers to senders
- Unprecedented outreach
- Challenges
The Great Shift

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>% Christians in Europe and North America</th>
<th>% Christians in Latin America, Africa, Asia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1800</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1900</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There are now approximately as many Christ-followers in China as in the United States.
Emergence of the “Global South”  
(Latin America, Africa, Asia)

The new faces of the Body of Christ
Glimpses of God’s work around the world

- Religion comparison
  - Remarkable growth
  - Global South
- Receivers to senders
  - Unprecedented outreach
  - Challenges
From 1985 to 2010 long-term missionaries (4+ years) sent out by U.S. mission agencies has been basically flat.
Rise of Asian, Africa and Latin American missionaries

Sending missionaries into and through the 10/40 Window.
Khmer of Cambodia

14.0 million,
Buddhist, Unreached
Glimpses of God’s work around the world

- Religion comparison
- Remarkable growth
- Global South
- Receivers to senders
- Unprecedented outreach
- Challenges
The Jesus Film

- Over **9.5 billion** viewers
- Available **online** in over **1,550** languages covering **97%** of the world’s population.
Internet
- Online evangelism
- Social networking
- Availability of information

Mobile devices
Glimpses of God’s work around the world

- Religion comparison
- Remarkable growth
- Global South
- Receivers to senders
- Unprecedented outreach
- Challenges
Challenge of Persecution

More Christians were martyred in the 20th century than in the previous 19 centuries combined.
Challenge of Access

About 6,100 out of 7,000 unreached people groups live in restricted access countries

81% of the world's Hindu, Muslims, and Buddhists have never met a Christ-follower
Challenge of Missionary Distribution

Only about 1 out of 10 cross-cultural foreign missionaries minister among unreached people groups.
Challenge of Mission Funding

**Question:** For every $1 of Christian giving to all causes how much goes to financing pioneer church planting among unreached peoples?

**Answer:** Less than a penny
Hazara of Afghanistan
2.9 million,
Shi'ite Muslim, Unreached
“Make disciples of all nations”

Vision of Coca-Cola Company:

“A can of Coke in the hand of every person on the planet.”
How much more Jesus Christ?
Each of us is a piece of the puzzle.

Every follower of Christ has the responsibility and joy of participating in the Great Commission.
That There Might Be Worshippers

“After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb”  

Rev 7:9
Let the Nations Be Glad