

# Encouraging Trends from the Field

## Global Mission Trends

An average of 160,000 a day hear the message of redemption in Christ for the first time. Every hour, over 1,600 people decide to follow Jesus Christ.

In 1800, those who had never heard the Gospel were almost 75% of the globe's population. Today the percentage of those who have not heard is about 28%; a major move forward. However that means almost two billion people have not heard the Gospel message even one time!

Fifteen years ago there were about 100 prayer networks around the world. Today there are 4,000 networks involving an estimated 25,000,000 intercessors.

## Internet Trends

Over three billion people are now on the Internet! Well over one million new people get connected every day! Remarkably, the second most popular search topic on the internet is "spiritual and religious" related information.

## Negative Trends

In 2011, \$35 billion was embezzled by church staff and treasurers world-wide. This is \$3 billion more than the \$32 billion world's annual giving to missions. Eliminating this fraudulent activity within the Church could add billions of dollars to global missions!

Long-term missionaries (4+ years) sent out by U.S. mission agencies has been basically flat since 1985.

**Egypt:** On 11/11/11 the largest prayer meeting in the history of the Middle East took place at the Garbage Village's Cave Church complex with more than 50,000 people from all denominations and all walks of life praying for Egypt.

The Coptic Church is by far the largest body of Christians in the Middle East and is a strategic key for the evangelization of the region.

**Iraq:** During Saddam Hussein's rule, there were only a few hundred known Evangelicals; now there are an estimated 53,000 in the country. However since 2003, Islamist groups have stepped up persecution of religious minorities.

**Afghanistan:** There were only 17 known Muslim background followers of Christ before 9/11/01. Today there are more than 10,000.

## 10/40 Window

Less than 2% of all missions giving is directed toward the 10/40 Window. Yet "dollar for dollar and hour for hour, the harvest coming from the 10/40 Window nations outstrips that from the rest of the world 100 to 1."

The top 10 countries with the largest "unevangelized population" are located in the 10/40 Window. 85% of the world's poorest of the poor live in the 10/40 Window. 43 of the top 50 countries that persecute Christians are in the 10/40 Window.

**China:** The Communist government has printed 50 million Bibles over the past 20 years at its official Amity Press. The Bibles and NTs are distributed at 55,000 distribution points throughout the country. But still many in rural areas have no Bible or share handwritten portions among many believers.

**Ghana:** About 63% of Ghanaians call themselves Christian. Almost all of the 84 languages in Ghana have at least Scripture portions. Evangelism among the unreached, especially the northern peoples is increasing as indigenous churches adopt the challenge of the unreached peoples in their midst and send missionaries of their own.

**Iran:** At the time of the Iranian Revolution in 1979, there were possibly only 500 Shi'ite background followers of Christ. Today, many Iranian pastors suggest there may be as many as one million, although persecution has caused many to flee the country.

**Uganda:** One church in Kampala seats 10,500 and is filled to capacity for four services every Sunday. The church has planted more than 1,000 daughter churches across Uganda and has sent missionaries to South America, Japan and the United States. Uganda one of the most truly Christian nations in the world, with church attendance high and public prayer common, even in government and judicial buildings.

**Indonesia:** More than 60,000 house churches have sprung up in recent years. Operation World 2010 edition reports that Indonesia, the largest Muslim country in the world, is now over 15% Christian and Evangelicals are growing at a rate of nearly 3% annually compared to 1.2% Muslim growth rate.