

7 Reasons Why I believe the 4/14 Window is our Priority Missional Focus to Transform the World

By Luis Bush

Introduction:

God says in His Word: "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland (Is. 43:18-19). I believe that a new thing God is doing is calling his people to a new missional focus on the 4/14 Window to make a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland of this world at the beginning of the twenty first century. And He wants to use you!

At the end of the last century I encouraged a missional focus of the church on the 10/40 Window in order to get to the core of the core of the challenge before us. In the first years of this new century, I am urging a new missional focus: the 4/14 Window, which I believe gets to the core of the core of the challenge before us in a different way. The 10/40 Window referenced a geographical frame; the 4/14 Window describes a demographic frame – a life season comprising the ten years between the ages of 4 and 14. Why do I believe this new missional focus on the 4/14 Window?



First, because of the words of Jesus; our Lord and master, the creator and sustainer of the universe, who upholds all things by the word of His power; the radiance of God's glory, the way, the truth and the life and the head of the body of Christ; under whose headship God is bringing together all things in heaven and upon earth.

Jesus spoke to his most dedicated followers as recorded by Matthew over the course of chapters 18 and 19. Here we find Jesus encouraging his followers seven times to prioritize their missional focus on children giving seven reasons why we should do so.

- A. Jesus urged His followers to prioritize their missional focus on children.
 - 1. Jesus said: "Let the little children come to me"
 - 2. "Do not hinder them"
 - 3. Jesus identified himself with the children: "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me."
 - 4. Jesus' call to the adult to change: "unless you turn"
 - 5. Jesus calls adults to become like children
 - 6. Jesus calls adults to humble themselves like a child
 - 7. Jesus calls everyone not to despise one of these little ones

- B. Jesus explained the reasons are for His call to prioritize missional focus on children
 - 1. Children model the essence of gospel faith and discipleship. It is the only way, in fact, to enter the kingdom of heaven
 - 2. To 'welcome,' accept, love, value as a person, respect a child is to 'welcome Christ' himself
 - 3. Children show us the way to be the greatest in the kingdom of heaven
 - 4. Whoever neglects, abuses, hinders, turns away a child from faith in Christ will face indescribably severe judgment from God himself.
 - 5. Children get special treatment by the Father, because their angels are always in His presence (v. 10)
 - 6. Children are worth making any sacrifice for, like the shepherd who, because of one little lost sheep, left the ninety-nine to search for the one who was lost.
 - 7. Prioritizing your missional focus on children leads to true happiness. "What do you think? Jesus asked his followers: If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? And if he finds it, I tell you the truth, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off.

Now here is the amazing thing as you read through Jesus' detailed exhortations with parable and narrative adding dramatic effect of the pastor leaving ninety nine to go looking for one little lost sheep. All this teaching about children comes in Matthew chapter 18. Only one short reference to children comes later in chapter 19. People were bringing their children to Jesus for him to lay hands on them and pray for them. Surely the disciples, his closest followers, would

make way and welcome them to come to Jesus as His words about why to prioritize their focus on children were still ringing in their ears. How could it be that the disciples would rebuke the people and try to hinder children from coming to him? It causes me to ask of myself. Have I really listened to Jesus' teaching about the place of children in God's purposes? How about you? Have you really listened to Jesus' teaching about the place of children in God's purposes? Now is a good time that we hear what the Spirit is saying to the body of Christ through Jesus.

Jesus is saying: *Children are a priority missional focus*. But this was an exchange between Christ and his followers took place in the first century. So why is this new missional focus at the beginning of the twenty first century? It is because Christ followers around the world are becoming more sensitive to the vital importance Jesus gave to children. This takes us to the second reason why a new missional focus.

Second, the 4/14 Window ought to become a new missional focus because a person's life is shaped between the ages of 4 and 14

Although the importance of children has always been true and can be observed at different times in different places throughout history in 2010 the 4/14 Window has become a new missional focus among God's servants all over the world. There are several defining moments over the past twenty years that led to this priority mission vision for the Church.

One of those defining moments was the presentation by Bryant Myers titled *State of the World's Children* as a critical challenge to Christian mission to a gathering of mission leaders in 1993. He presented data to support the fact that 85 percent of people in the U.S. who will ever make a decision to follow Christ will do so between the ages of 4 and 14.

Dan Brewster was one of those people sitting in the audience that day who was profoundly moved in his spirit by what he heard. In fact, it became a defining moment for him. Dan went on to give us the term *the 4/14 Window* in an article published in 1996 three years later titled: *The 4/14 Window: Child Ministries and Mission Strategy*. Dan would tell me at that time that we needed a track for children and youth at the Global Consultation on World Evangelization, GCOWE '97, which was to be held in South Africa which he did with Patrick McDonald of VIVA Network.

Three years later George Barna and his team began research which led to the book *Transforming Your Children into Spiritual Champions*, published in 2003. They concluded that "if people do not embrace Jesus Christ as their Savior before they reach their teenage years, the chance of their doing so at all is slim." However, it was more than a matter of coming to faith in Christ. They concluded: "if you want to shape a person's life--whether you are most concerned about his or her moral, spiritual, physical, intellectual, emotional or economic development--it is during these crucial years that lifelong habits, values, beliefs and attitudes are formed."

A person's lifelong behaviors and beliefs are generally developed by age fifteen. By the age of nine, most of the moral and spiritual foundations of a child are in place. By age thirteen their

sense of identity is largely set in place. Their view of truth, integrity, meaning, justice, morality, and ethics are formed at this early stage of life. There is no better investment than nurturing our youngsters for an eternal payback.

A year later, in 2004, George Barna along with Jack Eggar, President of AWANA, gathered leaders in Chicago from more than 50 children's ministries. They focused on ways to reach children between the ages of 4 and 14.

The 4/14 Window was becoming a new missional focus for children ministries but also for pastors and parents. There was a growing awareness of the fact that the greatest hope for the local church lies in raising godly children.

Statistics become even more convincing when it happens in your family. Within the last month two of my wife Doris and my grandchildren came to faith, Ezekiel, aged six, and Landon, aged five. That Sunday morning, Ezekiel was sitting in the main service of the church listening to a message about Josiah, the boy-king, who began his reign when he was just eight years old. Ezekiel tuned in as he heard the pastor talk about the dramatic reforms of Josiah that led to the transformation of the nation. Ezekiel wondered: How could a young boy like Josiah serve the Lord? That day there was also communion being served after the message in the church. Again little Ezekiel pondered the question: Can young boys take communion? Later, over lunch, back at home, Ezekiel asked these questions to his parents. It was one of those teachable moments. Ezekiel's father explained to him that he needed to be baptized as a believer in Christ to take communion. Ezekiel's mother told how she was baptized as a young girl of five, after placing her trust in Christ. Then Landon begins to ask questions. Finally their Dad asks the question: Do you guys want to do this? "Yes we do," they answered. So their father takes Landon for a walk to talk about this one-on-one. He began telling Landon that the Bible says that all have sinned. Landon understood that meant him. After making the decision to receive the Lord Jesus Christ into his heart he turns and says to his Dad. "I felt like my heart was down in my feet, upside down and split in two. Now it's up by my chin." He began at a public school last Monday. His father said: "you are going to school, the Lord will guard your heart. Go and show love to your class mates. Listen to your teacher. Landon added: "I'll tell them all about Jesus."

All the research done recently on this topic and the findings of groups like Child Evangelism Fellowship and what has just happened in the life of a five and six year old are further evidence that a person's life is shaped between the ages of 4 and 14 which is why the 4/14 Window is becoming a new missional focus for God's people everywhere.

Third, the 4/14 Window provides a priority new missional focus for the church because of the state of the world's children

THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S CHILDREN SPECIAL UNICEF EDITION report was published in November 2009. They reported that one billion children are deprived of services essential to survival and development. We read the UN vision of a world in which all children survive and develop, and are protected, respected and encouraged to participate in the decisions that

affect them. This vision promotes a world of peace, tolerance, equity, respect for human rights and shared responsibility – in short, a world fit for children.

What about the church? As followers of Jesus Christ . . . what kind of world do we envision? Yet, even as UNICEF seeks to promote tolerance and respect for human rights for children and a world of peace there was not one mention of aborted children. The term *abortion* does not even appear in the 2009 one hundred page report by the UN on the State of the World's Children which is celebrating twenty years of the rights of the child. The Alan Guttmacher Institute reports approximately 115,000 abortions take place every single day worldwide. More than 50 million since 1973 have been reported in the United States alone. These would never make it to age four. They never were given a chance. This occurs in a nation which prizes liberty and human rights and so states that in the Declaration of Independence: "We hold these truths to be self evident: that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights."

Does not the unborn child, which is human and alive, have a right to life? The loudest outcry came from one of the smallest adults on the planet who was moved as a 4/14er. She was a Yugoslavian born to Albanian parents who, while still a young girl traveled to India, found her work among the poor and the sick of that nation, and lived there until she died. At the 1994 presidential breakfast sponsored by the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives she gave a message on how peace comes to the world in which she called abortion the "greatest destroyer of peace today." Her voice still rings in my ears as she stood there, a tiny human figure--the size of a child herself--to appeal to the audience of government leaders from many nations, glancing to the then President of the United States and his wife: "Please don't destroy the child; we will take the child. Please don't kill the child. I want the child. Please give me the child. I am willing to accept any child who would be aborted." What more can you do to show the love of Christ to the more than one billion children who are deprived of one or more services essential to survival and development and for those awaiting delivery into the world?

What about the role of the local church? "Almost every church has a children's ministry. Have our churches really prioritized their missional focus on children or are they simply going through the motions. "The greatest hope for the local church lies in raising godly children. Yet if the pastor does not include the ministry to children as one of the top church priorities, the chance of that ministry reaching its potential and having a significant impact on the lives of the church's children is severely reduced."¹ But there is another reason the 4/14 Window needs to become a new missional focus.

Fourth, the 4/14 Window provides a priority new missional focus for the church because of the state of the world's parents. Transformation involves seeking positive change in the whole of human life which begins at home. At the heart of our earthly existence are family relationships.

George Barna, *Transforming Children into Spiritual Champions*, 2003, pages 78, 97, 105, 116

In conducting a project called the *Spiritual State of the World's Children* OneHope gives a voice to children by means of a survey. It paints a picture of the values, lifestyles, beliefs, and behavior of young teens as told by the teens themselves.

What are the children telling us about the state of the world's parents? They are telling us that their families are falling apart or broken. Their fathers are absent. In Latin America, the problem lies in the abandonment of the children by their fathers. In South Asia, the issue is estrangement.

Many children long for their parents to invest more time in their lives. Parents have high influence but little time invested. Ricardo Luna relates the story of the pressing needs facing youth in Latin America as told by 4,000 young adolescents in Colombia. Government officials convened a meeting to receive the report of the Columbian teens. They were shocked when they learned two related realities. First, the average father in Colombia spends less than one hour per week with their adolescent. Second, almost one out of every four of the teenagers had considered suicide in the previous three months. The 4/14ers in Colombia and the world are calling for the hearts of the fathers to turn to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers.

How far can this go? The British Daily Telegraph reports the following amazing account, "Leaving their real daughter at their home in a suburb of a megacity to fend for herself, the pair of parents, who were unemployed, spent hours role-playing in a virtual reality game, which allows users to choose a career and friends, granting them offspring as a reward for passing a certain level. They would go home once a day to give their real baby powdered milk, and then go back to lavish care and attention on their online child. The virtual daughter was named Anima; the real daughter was never given a name. Finally, they came home one day after a 12-hour session to find their baby dead. They were arrested after an autopsy showed that the unnamed little girl had died of prolonged malnutrition. Tragically, on the other hand, the virtual girl is probably doing just fine.

As for Christian parents, they believe they have the primary responsibility for the moral and spiritual development of their children, yet most of them or should I say, most of us, give up that responsibility to our local church. William Saletan puts it this way in the online magazine, Slate: "Look in the mirror. Every time you answer your cell phone in traffic, squander your work day on YouTube, text a colleague during dinner, or turn on the TV to escape your kids, you're leaving this world. You're neglecting the people around you, sometimes at the risk of killing them." There has never been a more glaring need of turning of the hearts of parents toward their children. Yet its not only the state of parents and the state of the children but also . . .

Fifth, the 4/14 Window provides a priority new missional focus because of the state of the world and God's raising up children as agents of transformation.

In his book titled a *Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order*, Samuel Huntington theorized that in a post-Cold War world the primary source of conflict would be related to people's cultural and religious identities. *The dominating source of conflict would be cultural.*

The fault lines between civilizations would be the battle lines of the future. The term *The Clash of Civilizations* was first used in 1990 in an article titled *The Roots of Muslim Rage*.

Almost twenty years ago he predicted two realities that have indeed emerged; first, the clash between Western Civilization and Islamic Civilization and the second, the rise of China as an economic super power.

But there is a new reality emerging. The values that have shaped Western Civilization are embraced by fewer and fewer people in the West. This results from the declining demographic trend of the west. Add to that, the declining conviction related to the values championed by the west of economic freedom, political freedom and moral restraint and what do you get? You get an urgent call to raise up a new generation from the 4/14 Window to transform the world.

In today's west the value of *tolerance* has taken over from the value of *truth*. Today's children and young people have been given a host of labels such as, "Digital kids," "Millennials" or "Mosaics." These labels suggest that today's kids are vastly different in culture and worldview from the Baby Boomer era. They are living in a postmodern age where the spirit of deconstructionism is pecking away at their values affecting their self-identity and changing their view of the home, school, and society at large. On August 3rd I received an email from a concerned mother who wrote: "after seeing how 'deconstructed' my kids have become, especially after college, I see such a great need to reach this generation of children and my grandchildren."

Friends, it is time to work together to raise up a new generation from the 4/14 Window to transform the world. It seems like God has begun to do this. As Wess Stafford likes to say that often when God had something REALLY important to do, something that He couldn't entrust to adults, He used children.

For instance, consider what happened in one of the most conflictive communities in the world, representing one of the most challenging cultural clashes of the twenty-first century. From 1998 to 2006 Poso, a city in Central Sulawesi, Indonesia, experienced terrible communal violence between the Muslim and the Christian communities. Terrorism, bombings, beheadings, and rapes have plagued the villages of Sulawesi, Indonesia in recent years. Hundreds have died and thousands more have been forced from their homes. In the year 2000 alone, 500 homes of Christians were burned down. Today that image of chaos is changing because of a spiritual revival that is taking place. An eyewitness reports, "people are hearing a message of reconciliation from an unusual source: an eight year old. Because of this, the villages in that area once being consumed by bloodshed are now being transformed." The central market, formerly a Muslim stronghold, is now not only a place for Muslims but a place where members of the two previously warring communities shop together. "The miracle is so real and right in front of us. Why is it that we don't believe it?" Adlan Moko, the boy preacher, said as the crowd listened to him intently.

While the crowds worship, Moko's eight year old friend, Selfin, prays for a touch from God. When interviewed by CBN News Moko, who is himself a refugee whose family home was burnt down, said, "I think the Lord wants us to have peace in Poso ... the Lord wants us to have one heart. We should love one another."

When Pastor Rinaldy of the Sulawesi Christian Church was interviewed about what is happening in Poso he answered, "I believe the Lord is using the children to call for repentance and great transformation in Poso. We can say this is the seed of the blood of the martyrs in Poso. Their blood poured out in Posoland is now bearing fruit through Moko and Selfin." The result is a more peaceful province. Does this story provide us with some lessons about how to face the global challenges we face today in our nations. In Indonesia alone, more than one hundred city based intercessory groups have been formed. There are growing reports of how God is using children as his agents of transformation.

In another conflicted country today of Mexico, there have been seven 4/14 statewide Summits since we met here last year. In the Estado de Hidalgo 1000 pastors came together for the 4/14 Summit. Andres Castelazo introduced one of the first speakers, his grandson Israel who was five years old. He spoke for more than one half hour on the topic of the jailor from Philippi and said to the pastors: "We children are not here to be entertained but to be told about Christ." The facilitator of the event, Aroldo Espinosa Rubio, is with us in this global summit, said the pastors were moved to tears. Ricardo Luna reports that in the last twelve months, twelve countries of Latin America have held a 4/14 Summit with more than 13,000 participants.

It is time that we join God on His mission of transformation through raising up a new generation from the 4/14 Window to transform the world. Let us make this our new priority as God's servants wherever we are. Let the 4/14 Window focus become 4/14 Window fervor.

Sixth, the 4/14 Window provides a priority new missional focus because it's on the heart of God's servants today. Servants of God around the world have the conviction that God is doing a new thing in focusing his people on the 4/14 Window. Some perceive this as decadal, others as centennial, some as millennial and some perceive it as an end-times initiative.

The 4/14 Window has already become **a decadal missional focus** for some major Christian bodies. For example, in July of last year 20,000-plus people representing more than 100 countries converged at the annual General Assembly of the Church of the Nazarene where the Board of General Superintendents declared an emphasis of "Connecting A New Generation: A Decadal Emphasis on Children and Youth," a commitment rooted in Psalm 79:4: "We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the mighty works he has done." This Covenant, passed unanimously in the General Assembly, references the 4/14 Window and states outright, "the Church of the Nazarene acknowledges that children are important to God and a priority in His kingdom."

The 4/14 Window is also being proposed **as a centennial missional focus**. In July a 4/14 Window Conference took place in Singapore, often called, the Antioch of Asia. Rick Seaward, the

convener of the Singapore 4/14 Window Pastors Conference, wrote these words in the invitation letter: "I feel such a deep sense of responsibility to convey to fellow pastors of our city the urgency of the 4/14 Window. It's a global initiative, "potentially the most significant missional focus of the 21st century."

For many servants of God in Brazil the 4/14 Window is becoming **a millennial missional focus**. In July 2010 the theme for a three day nationwide event facilitated by Cida Mattar involving more than 500 educators committed to biblically principled education representing 20,000 students was *The 4/14 Window challenge of the Millennium for Christian education in Brazil*.

For some servants of God children are seen as a **permanent timeless solution** for their nation. In April 2010 Christian servant leaders in Ethiopia conducted a three day 4/14 Consultation "Putting Aflame and Harnessing the Potentials of the 4/14 Window for Ethiopia's Transformation." As one of the oldest, fastest growing, most united and largest expressions of the body of Christ in Africa, Ethiopia presents a model of the great needs and opportunities of the African church. When Christian leaders in Ethiopia gathered several years previously they identified the major threats to respond to amidst a season of rapid change in the nation. Inspired by the question what is that in your hand?" (Ex 4:2) they offered a twofold solution – the church as the body of Christ and Children as Solution—that is what we have in our hand. In Europe, Jeff Fountain who, for two decades, has chaired an umbrella of networks, partnerships and alliances called *Hope for Europe*, launched the 4/14 focus with Harry Bryans for each country of Europe with the hope that it would lead to 4/14 networks in every country.

For some servants of God the 4/14 missional focus relates to an End Times call from God as our last chance as the Body of Christ as pastor Nam Soo Kim would say. Steve Hwang, a pastor in Adelaide, wrote: "I would very much like to pursue more on this . . . especially in regards to raising up generations for the End-Times. Rick Seaward's first impression upon reading of this challenge sensed that this is an *end times* move of God.

Seventh, the 4/14 Window provides a priority new missional focus because of the providential moving of God. We have discovered a classic case for study on how to raise up a new generation from the 4/14 Window to transform the world from our text for this second 4/14 Global Summit -- Esther 4/14. "For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for God's people will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?"

In the providence of God, Esther chapter four and verse fourteen represents the hinge verse for the entire book of Esther. Amazingly, Esther 4:14 reveals the core principles of our vision for the servants of God to raise up a new generation from the 4/14 Window to transform the world. As it was then, so it is today.

1) A time of crisis becomes a divine appointment--a *kairos* moment. It was a time of crisis for the people of God of that time, the Jews. There were perhaps 15 million Jews scattered throughout the Persian Empire. Because of Haman's enmity all of them were now appointed to die with no place to go since the Persians ruled from India all the way to Ethiopia (1:1).

Like the day in which we live that was a day of decision. It was a crisis landscape for God's people of that day. The Jews in the various provinces began to fast and mourn (4:3), only one man, Mordecai, was able to do anything about the peril; and he immediately began to act. He became the catalyst to raise up someone from the 4/14 Window, his adopted daughter and niece Esther, to transform the world of her day. There was so much at stake! This was the time. This was his opportunity. How true for that moment was the statement: "All that is required for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing."

God's people all over the world live in a crisis landscape today. Truth, marriage, family are under siege. Like then, so now! It's a day of decision. What can we do? As Dan Brewster has suggested, *It's time to open the 4/14 Window*. We need a catalyst mindset. In whatever country you are *It's time for you to open the 4/14 Window*. In whatever position you are *It's time for you to open the 4/14 Window*.

We have set aside time at this Global 4/14 Summit for group and personal reflection on understanding the new "season" of the kingdom (Esther 4:14), our role in it and how we can work together on God's mission of transforming our world under our head, the Lord Jesus Christ. It calls for a kingdom mindset! Seek first the Kingdom of God. We live not for ourselves.

2). The raising up of a new generation to transform the world through a model mentor. Mordecai was that model mentor who took on the role of a parent by adopting Esther as a young girl after her parents died. Mordecai's speech in Esther 4/14 is the only direct statement to his adopted orphan daughter Esther in the entire book. He made it clear! Her being in the palace was not an accident, for she had "come to royal position for such a time as this." Your being in the position and place you have you too have come to for such a time as this.

The chairman of the 4/14 Global Initiative Steering Committee realizes that. If you have ever received an email from Bambang Budijanto, from Indonesia. Under his name in every e-mail he writes notice a commitment to raise up a new generation of "Daniels and Esthers." Has he not set us a good example to follow?

3). The new generation that was to transform the world was a young orphan girl, a type of 4/14er by the name of Esther. **Esther**, the future queen who would save the Jewish people and transform the world of her day, was called to the Kingdom for such a day.

Esther would need to make a decision to become a catalyst as a servant on God's mission of transformation or remain silent and miss the divine appointment. There was so much at stake! This was the time. This was her opportunity. How true for that moment was the statement: "All that is required for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing." Except for the fact that this was a new generation young woman "All that was required for evil to triumph was for a good young woman to do nothing." Would she be ready to risk her very life!

She took up to the challenge and told her uncle Mordecai. "Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and do not eat or drink for three days, night or

day. I and my young women will also fast as you do. Then I will go to the king, though it is against the law, and if I perish, I perish." It showed that Esther had a catalyst mindset. We too need to risk it all for God today. We are being called to total abandonment to Christ. We need a catalyst mindset! We can begin with calling for a fast as she did. We need to call a 4/14 Fast every year on 14th of April! We need to join Moms in Touch to pray for our children and the schools they go to.

4) The world of Esther's day was indeed transformed and she was humanly speaking instrumental in changing her world. "The enemies of" God's people "had hoped to overpower them, but now the tables were turned. No one could stand against them, because the people of all the other nationalities" suddenly were filled with awe and respect (see Esther 9:2-3).

When person, position, and circumstances all come together, an individual can make a decisive difference in their world. In Esther 4/14 the convergence of person, position, and circumstances, which some perhaps would call *coincidence* or *fate*, Christians recognize as God's hand at work providence. More than any other book of the Bible Esther stands out as the book of God's providence. One basic truths about the providence of God for us today is this. God has divine purposes to accomplish in this world. More than any other book it teaches principles and practices for raising up a new generation from the 4/14 Window to transform the world. Does it not strike you as amazing that the core verse of Esther is Esther 4/14 which embodies all that the 4/14 Movement is all about in seeking to raise up a new generation from the 4/14ers to maximize their transformational impact and so bless the nations.

But now today, you and I, we are the persons with position, and in similar circumstances of global crisis. Here are the Mordecai's and the Esthers in our very midst. The question before us is. Can we become the servant catalysts and mentors where we are situated in our nations?

At the close of this message I will be asking each of you if you would like take a stand with Mordecai and Esther as God's servants ready to take up the divine appointment in our day. Wess Stafford, President of Compassion International, wrote me an email with a proposition I would like to make to all of you: He suggested that April 14 can also be referred to as 4/14 and it might be cool for that to be a special day for the 4/14 movement -- a special day of commemoration! As we relate it to Esther 4/14 there was to be an ongoing commemoration as a day that brought change to the world of that day. What about us calling it: *4/14 Day to Change the World?*

Conclusion:

We seek to transform the way children 4 to 14 are viewed and treated throughout the world by the church, the body of Christ with the intention of seeking their priority missional focus on these 4/14ers. Why do I believe this new missional focus on the 4/14 Window? First, because of the words of Jesus, second, because a person's life is shaped between the ages of 4 and 14, third, because of the state of the world's children, fourth, because of the state of the world's parents, fifth, because of the state of the world and God's raising up children as agents of

transformation, sixth, because it's on the heart of God's servants today, seventh, because of the providential moving of God as in Esther 4/14. "Who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

Yet you say to yourself -- I am only one person what difference does it make in this world? Anne Frank was ranked in the top 100 most important persons of last century according to Time magazine. With a diary kept in a secret attic, she braved the Nazis and lent a searing voice to the fight for human dignity. As a sixteen year old Anne wrote: "How lovely to think that no one need wait a moment, we can start now, start slowly changing the world!" We need to fuel a movement to raise up people like Esther and Anne Frank.

It was Chuck Colson who reflected on the 4/14 Window initiative and wrote: The great need of our day is to fuel a movement to equip believers to nurture Christian transformation in minds, lives, relationships, ministries, and spheres of influence around the world. And who should be at the forefront of that movement? The leaders of tomorrow – Christians with a biblical worldview ages 4-14 firmly rooted in a faith that propels them to be the hands and feet of Christ. ... it's more critical than ever to focus our efforts on reaching this generation." I ask: Are you ready? Would like take a stand with Mordecai and Esther as God's servants ready to take up the divine appointment in our day?