
Transform World 2020

Christ's Missional Challenge Report

By Paul Eshleman

Facilitator

TW 2020 Christ's Missional Challenge

I. Introduction

- A. 2000 years ago our Lord outlined his cause, His command and His commission to make disciples of all nations. In one sense we never finish teaching nations to observe all that he has commanded. But, the missional portion of His command is achievable and we must be obedient to follow what the Lord has told us to do.

Two years ago at the Global Summit in Bali, we outlined ten elements of the Great Commission which are major directives of our Lord with regard to reaching and discipling nations.

On the last page of your hand out, those ten elements are listed. During this short session, I want to review some of our expected outcomes, and give you a progress report on what is happening in two or three of these elements.

II. Foundational to all Great Commission efforts are elements 6-10.

Let's take a look at these:

- A. Prayer and Unity
1. Jesus says in Luke, Pray the Lord of the Harvest to send forth workers.
 2. John 17 stresses the importance of our unity. If you are united, Jesus says, people will know that I came from God and that He loves them as much as He loved me.
- B. Compassion Ministries
1. Ephesians 2:10 We are created in Christ Jesus for the purpose of doing good works.
- C. Confession, Repentance and the Holy Spirit
1. If we lift up Jesus, He will draw men and women to Himself.
 2. If there is sin in our lives the Lord won't hear our prayers.
 3. If we rely on the Holy Spirit, He will convict those we talk to of sin, righteousness and judgment.
-

- D. Mobilizing the body of Christ (People and Finances)
 - 1. John 20:21 In the same way that the Father sent Jesus into the world, so He sends us to seek and disciple the lost.
- E. Research, Mapping and Reporting
 - 1. In the Old Testament, we have the group research effort as Joshua led the spies into the land of Canaan. We need to research and report on every place not yet touched by the Gospel.

III. **Strategic Elements** – Added to the foundational elements are five additional elements that are currently very strategic toward the making of disciples everywhere. Here are the five strategic elements:

- A. Translation of Scripture
- B. Sending workers to unengaged unreached people groups
- C. Doing evangelism everywhere
- D. Helping oral learners to know God through Biblical chronological storytelling.
- E. Planting churches in every village and neighborhood

IV. **Count for Zero**

I have the privilege of serving with a mission advocacy group called the Issachar Initiative. Its purpose is to help focus the attention of the global church on the unfulfilled parts of the Great Commission. Their challenge to all of us is to make our lives Count for Zero

- A. Zero languages without the Scriptures
- B. Zero people groups without disciple makers
- C. Zero people who have not heard the Gospel
- D. Zero oral learners without the gospel in oral form
- E. Zero villages or neighborhoods without a church

So how are we doing? Let's take a look first at:

V. **Scripture Translation**

- A. The current status:
 - 1. 2,500 languages have some scripture available
 - 2. 2,000 languages are currently in process but there are no completed books as yet
 - 3. 1,850 languages have no translation in process and no one is working to begin.
 - B. The opportunity – we can finish all remaining Bible translations for about \$1 billion plus redoing 200 languages that need to be updated.
 - C. The biggest obstacles – there are currently not enough scripture translation consultants to ensure that new translations being completed are accurate. Transform World can help to recruit Old Testament and New Testament scholars from churches, Bible Colleges and Seminaries who could lend their expertise to this challenge.
-

VI. Engaging Unreached People Groups

A. Progress on engaging the top 50 UUPGs

1. At the center of Christ's Missional Challenge is the reaching of every people group throughout the world. In 2012, Transform World set a goal of engaging the 50 of the largest unengaged, unreached people groups. The results as of this date are that 25 groups have already been engaged with 2, 484 full-time workers living among them.
2. The collector of this information in the Finishing the Task Network, supported by the Joshua Project, International Mission Board and many individual indigenous mission.
3. People Group Reports - - There are exciting stories to report all over the world with the engagement of these people groups.
 - a. Two weeks ago I baptized 92 Believers in North India that had all come to faith in the last year in previously unengaged people groups.
 - b. Most of the workers being recruited are indigenous to the country where the people group lives.
 - c. The Holy Spirit continues to impress people of the Muslim world through dreams and visions - - Read, "A Wind in the House of Islam" by David Garrison
 - d. Ex: Dehradun – met with new believers from 15 groups. One lady told me the story of her daughter who hadn't spoken since birth...
4. Global Report of the Church - - Let me give you the progress of getting workers into these unengaged groups over the last eight years. The data that follows comes from 1,264 churches and organizations involved in the Finishing the Task Network:

1,572	Groups engaged
17,565	Full-time vocational workers sent by 300 engaging ministries
51,336	Bi-vocational workers
76,247	Churches Planted
1,560,446	Estimated Believers
5. What is the remaining task? The attached list shows a portion of the groups that remain to be engaged. In addition, many of the already engaged groups are in need of many more workers in order to effectively reach them.
6. Download: **Transform World 2020 Updated Unengaged Unreached People Group List March-26-15:**
https://gallery.mailchimp.com/14741411b49b6bc06b54b7960/files/Transform_World_2020_Updated_Unengaged_Unreached_People_Group_List_March_26_15.pdf
Perhaps you can use your influence to help develop workers for these groups.

- ## VII. Evangelism Progress
- In the area under the element of Evangelism, many ministries are seeing a response on the internet. One ministry, Global Media Outreach received over 438 million visits to their site during 2014. Almost 37 million made decisions to receive Christ. These are being followed up by 8,500 online missionaries in 129 countries. Last year, 151 million viewers from Muslim backgrounds
-

read the gospel on their sites and nearly 13 million indicated decisions to receive Christ.

VIII. **Church Planting** – In the area of church planting, a new network of about 40 cooperating ministries has now reported 330,000 new churches started since the beginning of 2010.

IX. **God is at work**, but in some places, His servants are under incredible attack. I close with an admonition to all of us to realize that there is a price being paid in the midst of these wonderful reports.

Ex. Somalia - In Somalia last year, radicals shot a video as they beheaded 10 workers with knives. They sent the video to the mission, saying "We will continue to do this if you continue to send people to talk about Jesus". A week or so later, as the word spread of the workers executions, 20 young believers stepped forward to take the place of those who were killed.

May God give us grace and a renewed commitment to stand with our brothers and sisters everywhere to see His missional challenge fulfilled.
