



Seeing What We
believe

Mark 12:24, Jn. 4:22

Mark 12:24 And Jesus answering said unto them, **Do ye not therefore err, because ye know not the scriptures**, neither the power of God?

Jn. 4:22 Ye worship ye know not what: **we know what we worship**: for salvation is of the Jews.

MOUNTAIN SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH BYLAWS

ARTICLE 1

NAME AND PURPOSE

ARTICLE 2

STATEMENT OF FAITH AND COVENANT

SECTION 2.01—STATEMENT OF FAITH

(A) The Holy Scriptures.

(B) Dispensationalism.

(C) The Godhead.

(D) The Person and Work of Christ.

(E) The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit.

(F) The Depravity of Man.

(G) Salvation.

(H) The Eternal Security and Assurance of Believers.

(I) The Church

(J) Separation.

(K) The Second Coming of Christ.

(L) The Eternal State.

(M) The Personality of Satan.

(N) Creation.

- (O) Civil Government.**
- (P) Human Sexuality**
- (Q) Family Relationships**
- (R) Divorce and remarriage.**
- (S) Abortion**
- (T) Euthanasia**
- (U) Love**
- (V) Lawsuits Between Believers**

Our doctrinal statement is as follows:

(W) Missions. We believe that God has given the church a great commission and the authority to proclaim the Gospel to all nations so that there might be a great multitude from every nation, tribe, ethnic group, and language group who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. As ambassadors of Christ we must use all available means to go to the foreign nations for the primary purpose of establishing churches and not wait for them to come to us. (Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-48; John 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2 Cor. 5:20). “Missions” will also be understood to be both home and foreign opportunities to establish churches.

Tonight, we continue to look at one of my favorite doctrinal positions – missions. As mentioned last week, a proper doctrinal position of Ecclesiology is needed in order to understand the spiritual significance of this this doctrine.

I. THE COMMISSION

We believe that God has given the church a great commission and the authority to proclaim the Gospel to all nations so that there might be a great multitude from every nation, tribe, ethnic group, and language group who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.

A. To the Disciples

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- The commission to the disciples was not an individual commission, but a corporate commission to them as the first church.
- Churches are commissioned to start churches:

As ambassadors of Christ we must use all available means to go to the foreign nations for the primary purpose of establishing churches and not wait for them to come to us.

The church in Jerusalem sent Barnabas to Antioch

- Churches are commissioned to start churches at home and foreign countries.

“Missions” will also be understood to be both home and foreign opportunities to establish churches.

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and **ye shall be witnesses unto me both** in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

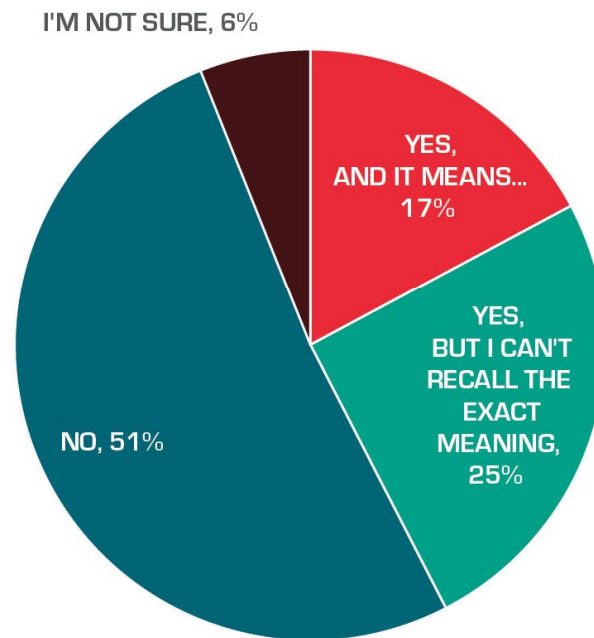
B. To Make Disciples

- The mission of churches is make disciples.
- The commission's priority is focused upon three specific goals:
 1. To Evangelize – “19a **Go ye therefore, and teach all nations...**”
 2. To Edify – “19b ...baptizing them in **the name** of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost...”
 3. To Educate – “20 **Teaching them** to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you...”
- The “Mission Commission” was emphasized FIVE TIMES!
- The Doctrine of Missions is most important to God and must be of the same importance to His churches!

A major finding from our *Translating the Great Commission* report, produced in partnership with Seed Company, is that more than half of U.S. churchgoers have not heard of the Great Commission. Additionally, even when presented with a list of passages, 37 percent don't recognize which well-known passage typically goes by this name.

CHURCHGOERS: HAVE YOU HEARD OF THE GREAT COMMISSION?

Barna



October 2017, n=1,004 U.S. churchgoers

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<https://www.barna.com/research/future-teaching-great-commission/>

The “Great Commission” is great for several reasons:

- The Great Commission is great because the Commander is Great;
- The Great Commission is great because the Message is Great;
- The Great Commission is great because the Forgiveness is Great;
- The Great Commission is great because the Salvation is Great;
- The Great Commission is great because the Cause is Great;
- The Great Commission is great because the Deliverance is Great;
- The Great Commission is great because the Challenge is Great.

Tonight, we will consider how great the challenge is.

II. THE CHALLENGE

A. The Challenge of the Perpetual Population Expansion

- The world population during the days of Jesus and the first church in Jerusalem is estimated to be between 200 and 300 million people.

USA 330,067,175

8/4/20 @ 12:47 p.m.

<https://www.census.gov/popclock/>

WORLD 7,669,397,350

8/4/20 @ 12:48 p.m.

- ❖ The USA has 4.3% of the world's population.
- ❖ The USA may have as many as 90% of all evangelical preachers.
- ❖ By 2050, world population will cross the 9 billion mark.

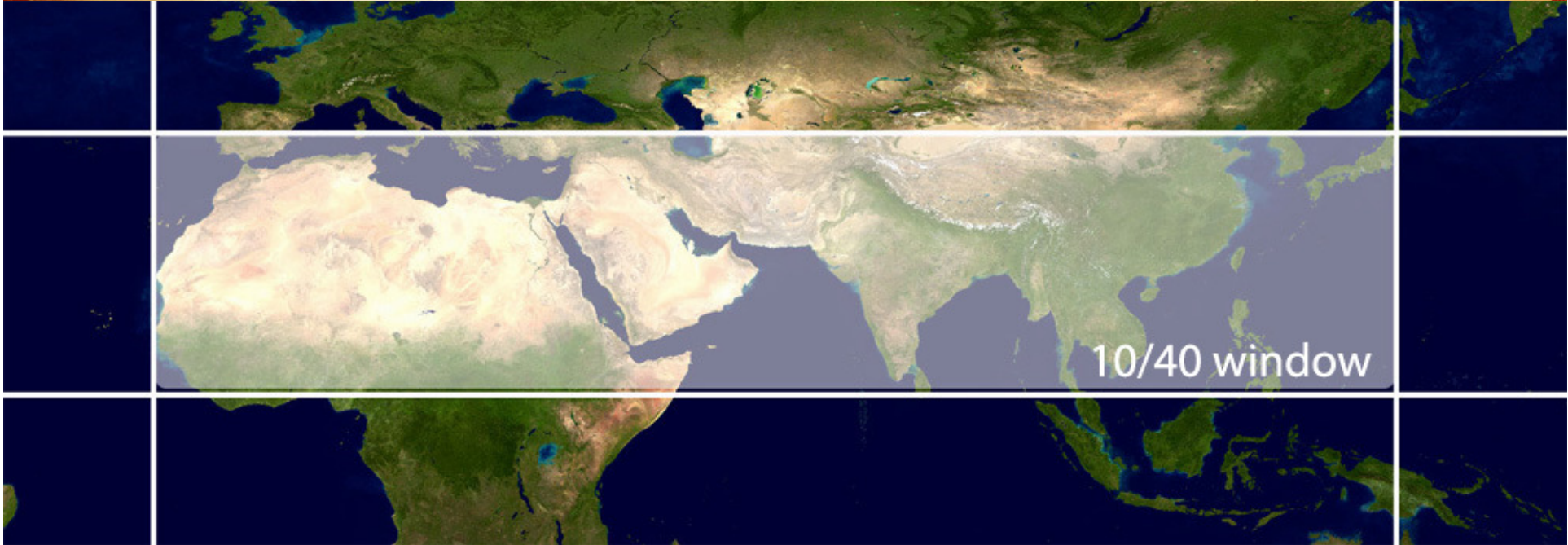
https://static1.squarespace.com/static/4f661fde24ac1097e013deea/t/550f7d77e4b0907feba099b0/1427078519637/StatusGlobalChristianity2015_CSGC_IBMR.pdf

WORLDWIDE

- Total People Groups: 16,591

UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUPS

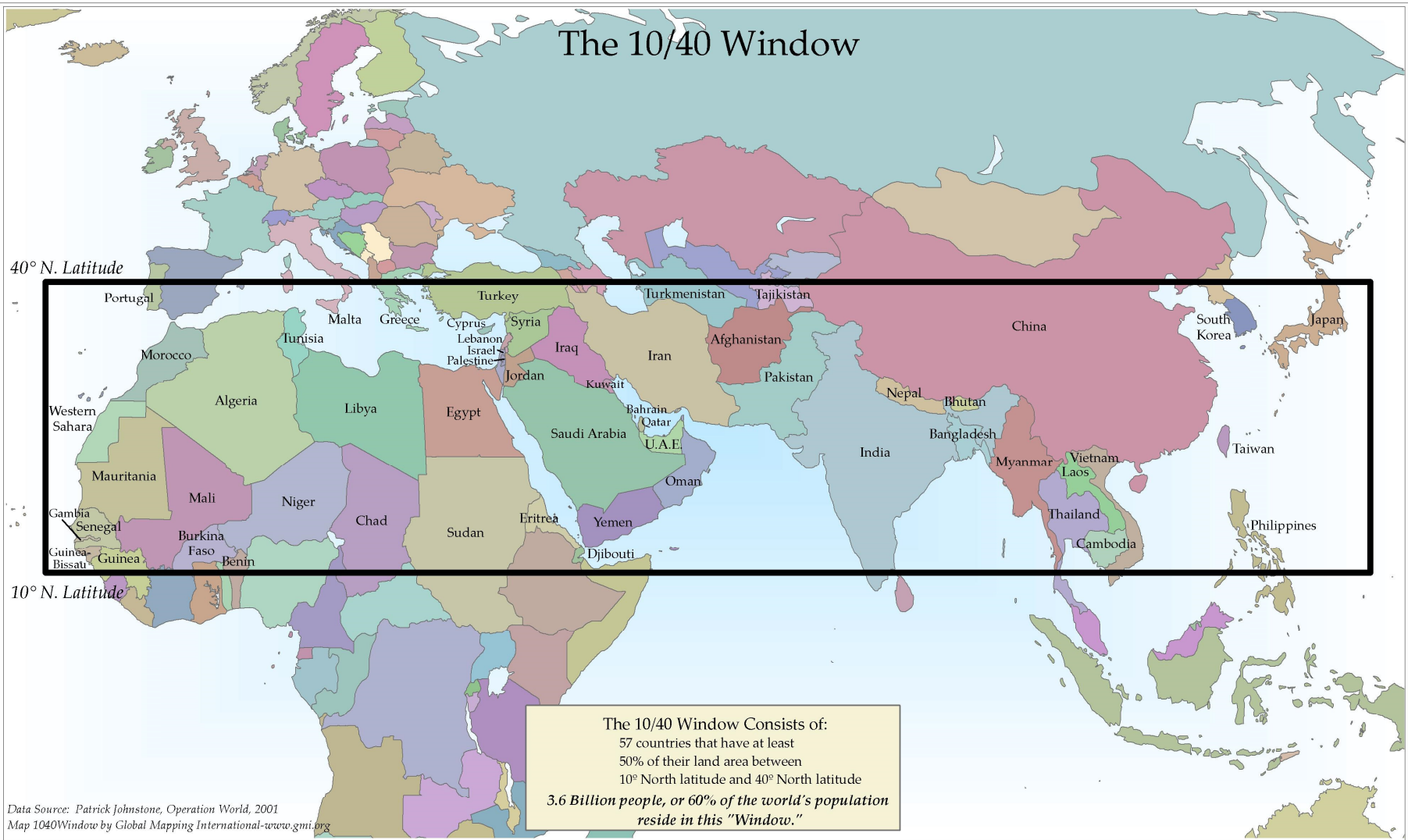
- Less than 2% Evangelical Christian.
- Total Unreached People Groups: 6,741
- Total Population of UPGs: 3.14 billion people
- Total Percentage of world: UPG's **make up 42.2% of world population**



<http://www.tomharle.com/charitable-dental-organizations/health-teams-international-canada/>



The 10/40 Window



https://www.missioninfobank.org/mib/index.php?main_page=popup_image&pID=3501

- ❖ Most (97%) of the world's **unreached people** are located geographically in what some scholars call The 10/40 Window from West Africa across Asia between 10 degrees latitude north of the equator to 40 degrees north.
- ❖ **Total Population in 10/40:** 4.89 billion people
- ❖ **Total People Groups in 10/40:** 8,213 people groups
- ❖ **Total UPG's in 10/40:** 5,626 Unreached People Groups totaling 3.05 billion people. 40% of all individuals
- ❖ 60% of unreached people groups live in countries **closed to missionaries from North America.**
- ❖ Over 1,000 unreached people groups are NOT in the 10/40 Window, these total over 80 million individuals.

ALL CHRISTIANS

Christians number 2.2 Billion worldwide (**all Catholic, Protestant, etc.,**) within 6,876 total people groups comprising 28.6% of the world population.

EVANGELICALS

- ❖ Evangelical Christians total 550 million, 25% of all “Christians.” (*Operation World 2015*).
- ❖ Evangelicals have grown from only 3 million in AD 1500, to 550 million worldwide, with 54% being Non-Whites.
- ❖ In ministries, there are 4.19 million full-time Christian workers and **95% are working within the Christian world.** [*original source, Frontier Harvest Ministries, 2007*]
- ❖ There are 900 churches for every one unreached people group. (*USCWM, Mission Frontiers, 2001*)

- ❖ There are 78,000 Evangelical Christians for every one unreached people group.

WHAT CHRISTIANS EARN:

Annual Income of all Church Members: \$42 trillion.

- (Annual income of Evangelical Christians is approximately \$7 trillion.)

WHAT PEOPLE GIVE:

Given to any Christian causes: \$700 billion.

“Americans have recently spent more money buying Halloween costumes for their pets than the amount given to reach the unreached.”

HOW CHRISTIAN GIVING IS USED.

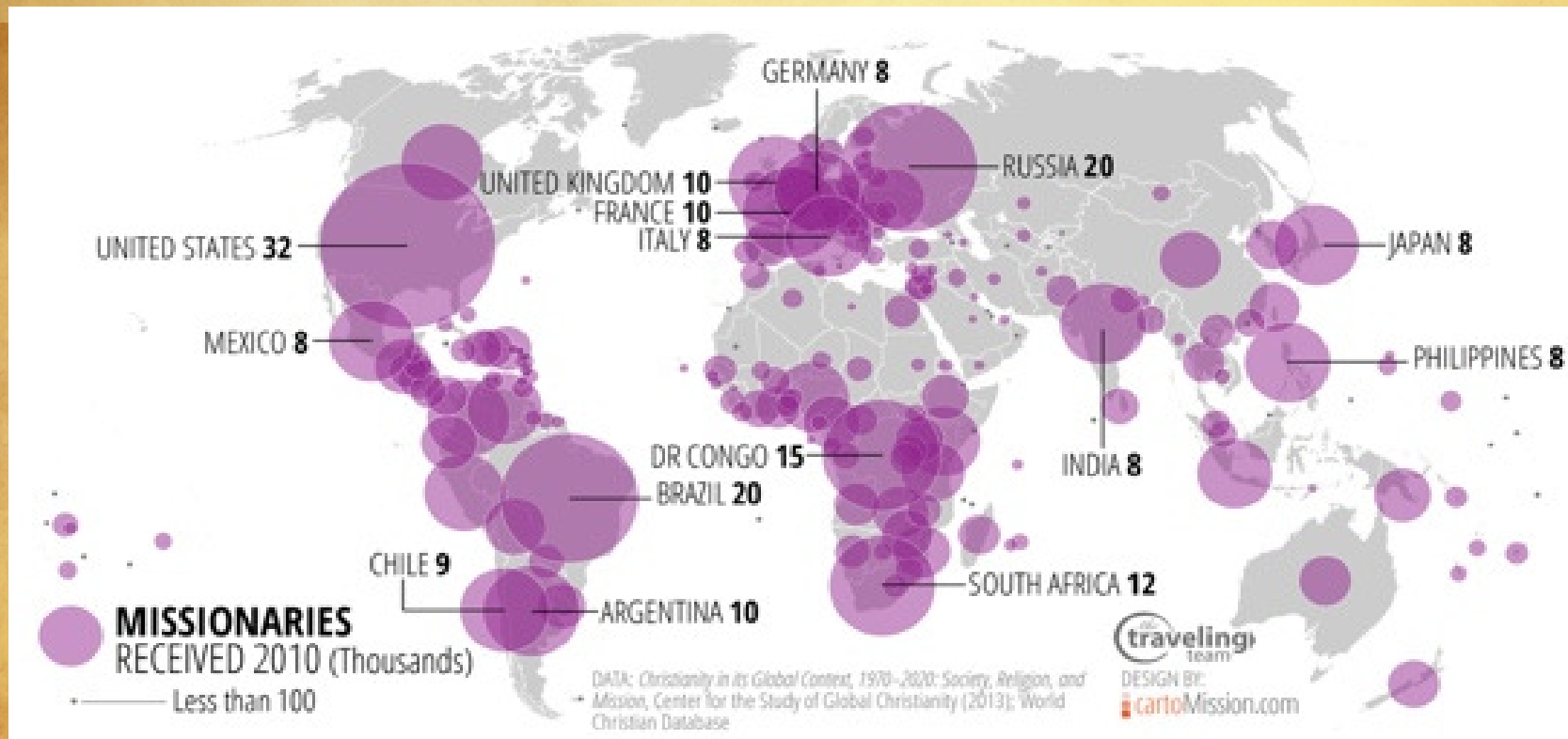
- Pastoral ministries of local churches (mostly in Christian nations): \$677 billion (96.8%)
- "Home Missions" in same Christian nations: \$20.3 billion (2.9%)
- Going to Unevangelized Non-Christian world: \$2.1 billion (.3%) **This is different than "Unreached"*
- Money that goes toward Unreached Peoples: *Estimated \$450 million

**In 2001 only 1% of giving to "Missions" went to unreached - if that trend holds true today it would be \$450 million. The estimated \$450 million going toward UPG's is only .001% of the \$42 trillion Income of Christians. For every \$100,000 that Christians make, they give \$1 to the unreached.*

HYPOTHETICAL OBSERVATIONS

- Evangelical Christians could provide all of the funds needed to plant a church in each of the 6,900 unreached people groups with only 0.03% of their income.
- “The Church” has roughly 3,000 times the financial resources and 9,000 times the manpower needed to finish the Great Commission. **If every evangelical gave 10% of their income to missions we could easily support 2 million new missionaries.**

ALL MISSIONARIES



- **All Missionaries in the World** (Catholic, Protestant, etc.): 400,000 foreign missionaries
- **Missionaries in the Reached World : 309,315 foreign missionaries (77.3%)**
- Missionaries in the **Unevangelized** : 77,610 foreign missionaries (19.4%)
- Missionaries in the **Unreached** : 13,315 foreign missionaries (3.3%)

30:1

“ROUGHLY THIRTY-TIMES AS MANY MISSIONARIES GO TO **REACHED** PEOPLE GROUPS TO WORK WITH CHRISTIANS, AS GO TO **UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUPS**. FAR LESS GO TO THE FRONTIER PEOPLE GROUPS, WHERE THERE ARE AS YET NO BELIEVERS.” - R.W. LEWIS

MISSIONARIES PER RELIGION:

- **Tribals** – 714,108,000 population with 11,900 Missionaries: **1 for every 60,000**
- **Hindus** – 984,532,000 population with 5,500 Missionaries: **1 for every 179,000**
- **Unreligious** – 831,267,000 population with 11,700 Missionaries: **1 for every 71,000**
- **Muslims** – 1,703,146,000 population with 4,200 Missionaries: **1 for every 405,500**
- **Buddhists** – 520,002,000 population with 2,000 Missionaries: **1 for every 260,000**

MORE TTT OBSERVATIONS

- The ratio of UPG workers the total unreached world is: 1 missionary for every 216,300 people.
- There are 78,000 Evangelical Christians for every one unreached people group.
- ❖ In the meantime, somewhere between 4,000 and 7,000 churches close their doors every year. Southern Baptist researcher, Thom Rainer, in a recent article entitled "13 Issues for Churches in 2013" puts the estimate higher. He says between 8,000 and 10,000 churches will likely close this year.
- ❖ Ed Stetzer has listed three different categories of Christians he thinks explains the dire situation faced by the church.
- ❖ He says there is a kind of "classification" system between those who "profess Christianity" as their faith choice:

First, he says there are **cultural Christians** or those who “believe” themselves to be Christians simply because their culture says they are. But, clearly, he implies they are not.

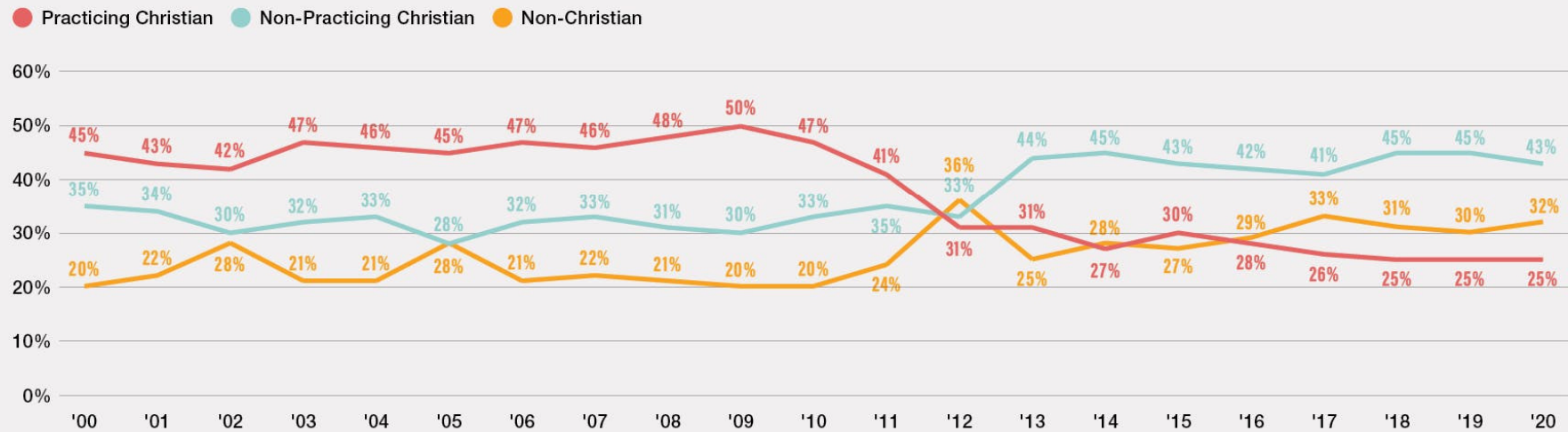
Second, he classifies a group of **congregational Christians** which he says are not much better off than the first misguided group, except that these are loosely connected to the church.

Third, he notes the third group, which no doubt he ranks as “his” group, that he calls the **convictional Christians**. These are the true Christians who are actually living their faith, according to Ed Stetzer.

❖ **Currently, Just One in Four Americans Is a Practicing Christian**

- **Practicing Christians** identify as Christian, agree strongly that faith is very important in their lives and have attended church within the past month.
 - **Non-practicing Christians** are self-identified Christians who do not qualify as practicing.
 - **Non-Christians** are U.S. adults who do not identify as Christian.
- ❖ Now, just one in four Americans (25%) is a practicing Christian. **In essence, the share of practicing Christians has nearly dropped in half since 2000.**

HOW AMERICANS RELATE TO CHRISTIANITY IS CHANGING: 2000-2020



n = 96,171 U.S. adults | 2000-2020

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<https://www.barna.com/research/changing-state-of-the-church/>

- ❖ As the world population increases, the need becomes even greater as fewer “practicing Christians” fall away and the churches close:

Luke 10:2 Therefore said he unto them, **The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.**

B. The Challenge for Power in Presenting Evangelism

Luke 24:49 And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: **but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.**

Acts 1:8 But **ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you:** and **ye shall be witnesses unto me both** in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

- ❖ The Lord Jesus Christ has given us the power of authority.
- ❖ The Holy Spirit gives us the power for action!
- ❖ Powerless churches today are substituting spiritual façades as a “form of godliness.”

2 Tim. 3:1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. ...

5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

Conclusion

Psa. 126:5 They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.

6 He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves *with him*.

Jn. 15:8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

“Must I go, and empty-handed,
Thus my dear Redeemer meet?
Not one day of service give Him,
Lay no trophy at His feet?
“Must I go, and empty-handed?”
Must I meet my Savior so?
Not one soul with which to greet Him:
Must I empty-handed go?
Not at death I shrink nor falter,
For my Savior saves me now;
But to meet Him empty-handed,
Thought of that now clouds my brow.
O the years in sinning wasted;
Could I but recall them now,
I would give them to my Savior,
To His will I’d gladly bow.
O ye saints, arouse, be earnest,
Up and work while yet ’tis day;
Ere the night of death o’ertake thee,
Strive for souls while still you may.