

Top 20 Unreached People Groups

Adapted from a presentation by Doug Lucas at Heartland MissionFest, Tulsa, OK

1) Geographical challenge

The 10/40 Window contains:

- 35% of global land mass
- 65% of world population
- 95% of those who have never heard the gospel
- 90% of world's poorest people



The geographical challenge: Overwhelming!



Bhutan



Turkey

India

SUDAN

Saudi Arabia

SOMALIA

Chad

Libya

N. Korea

The geographical challenge: Unreached countries

- 23 countries with 10-50% professing Christians
- 35 countries with 1-10% Christian (including China and India)
- 29 countries (all within the 10/40 window) with less than 1% Christian



2) Urban Challenge

- Growth of cities
 - 1800: 4% urban
 - 1900: 14% urban
 - 2000: 51% urban
- Growth of slums
 - 1 billion people live in squatter settlements
 - Of the 2 billion people living in 3rd world cities, 40% are the “very poor”



3) Ideological challenge

- Islam -- 1.1 billion
- Hinduism -- 800 million
- Buddhism -- 700 million
- Druze
- Baha'i
- Ahmaddiyah
- Sikhism
- Jainism
- Parseeism
- Animism

4) Social challenge

□ Child issues

- Abortion: 40 million per year
- Child prostitution: 10 million currently, 1 million new/year
- Malnutrition kills 35,000 children per day
- Street children: 100 million
- Victims of war: 1.5 million children killed in a recent decade; 4 million disabled, 12 million lost homes
- More than 1.5 million AIDS infected children

□ Slavery: 100 to 200 million children

□ Drug addiction

□ Disease

- TB - 30 million in 90s, 70% of prisoners in Russia have TB
- Malaria - 3 million died in recent year, including 1 million children

□ AIDS

- unknown in 1980, more than 6.5 million dead (25% children of HIV carriers), 2.3 million deaths in a recent year; 20 million known infected in Africa

5) The “People Challenge”

Joshua Project list of Unreached Peoples

Our filter:

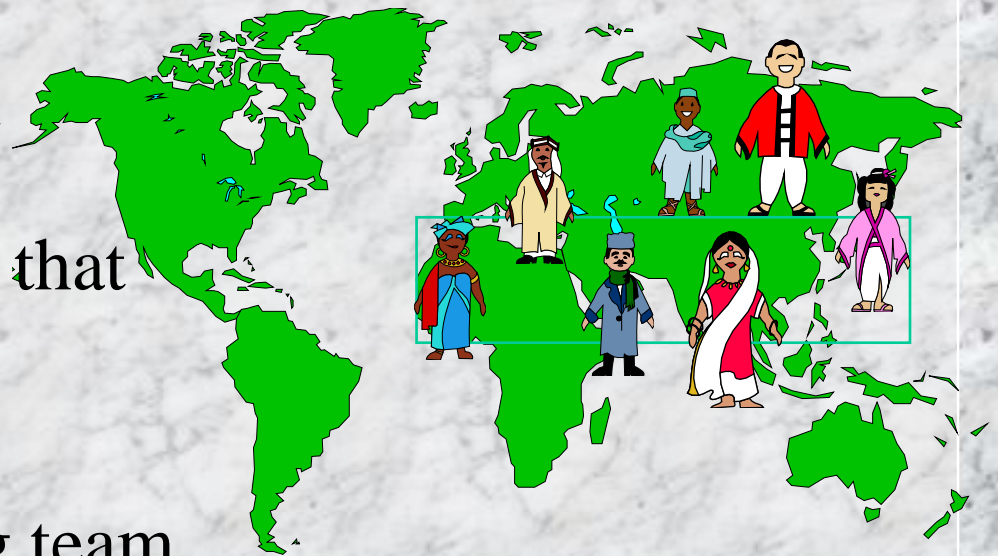
- More than 10,000 pop.
- Less than 5% Christian or <2% evangelical

1610 people groups fit that criteria

240 are “untargeted”

624 no church planting team

1152 have no reported church of at least 100 believers



#20 Kurds

- 25 million
- High profile in the news
- Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Syria
- One worker wrote, "In Turkey, where the largest contingent (40 percent) of Kurds live, the Kurdish are seen as a threat by the Turkish government. They have sought to assimilate the Kurds into Turkish society through forced resettlement. Until recently, it was a crime to speak Kurdish in public."



#19 Shuwa Arabs

- ❑ 1.5 to 2 million Sunni Muslims living mainly in central Chad (Africa)
- ❑ Comprise one-third of the population of Chad
- ❑ Less than 10 known believers among them
- ❑ Only one missionary family working among them

#18 Baloch



- ❑ 6 million speakers
- ❑ Iran and Pakistan (Balochistan)
- ❑ About 100 scattered believers among them
- ❑ 6 missionary couples are working among them
- ❑ No established and continuing Christian fellowship

#17 Bengali



- Nearly 200,000,000 in Bangladesh and the Indian state of West Bengal
- 6th largest people group in the world
- One of largest Muslim people groups
- Seemingly always suffering.
- The largest, least evangelized people group in the world.

#16: Gujarati

- ❑ Population: 45 million (mostly in western India)
- ❑ Less than one-half of 1% are Christian
- ❑ 7th largest language group on earth (spoken by 100 million people)
- ❑ Only 1 adopting church



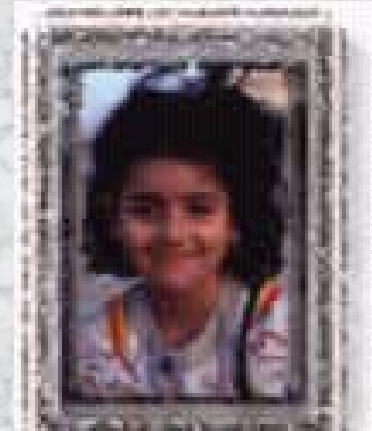
#15: Wolof



- ❑ 3 million
- ❑ Very influential group in Senegal
- ❑ Follow Muslim-African religions
- ❑ Only 10-40 known believers worldwide
- ❑ No known Wolof Christian fellowship anywhere in the world.

#14: Turkmen

- Location: Afghanistan
- Population: 1 million
- Nomads by history; refugees by war
- Muslim in religion



#13: Iraqi Arabs



- 17-18 million
- One of the most misunderstood and hated groups on earth

#12: Luri of Iran

- Hostile to outsiders
- Turkic, semi-nomadic, and therefore a minority group that is elusive and very inaccessible.



#11: Indonesian Groups

- ❑ Staunchly Muslim people group
- ❑ Population of 8 million
- ❑ 4th largest ethnic group in Indonesia
- ❑ Homeland: Sumatra, "least evangelized island in the world"
- ❑ According to Patrick Johnstone, "the most strategic unreached people in the Indo-Malay world."

#10: Bambara

- 3.9 million people in Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Senegal
- Muslim and ethnic religions
- 4% Christian
- About half never heard the gospel



#9: Southern Shilha Berbers of Morocco

- Population: 3 million
- Muslim
- One of largest unreached groups
- No church gatherings meeting in native tongue
- Only handful of missionaries speak their language

#8: Kazaks in China

- 1.1 million
- Nominally Muslim
- Very few have ever heard the Gospel
- Only a handful have come to believe in Christ.

#7: Tajakant Bedouins of Algeria

- Remote
- Resources lacking
 - No Scripture
 - No Christian recordings
- No “tent-maker” missionaries working among them
- No known believers



#6: Danakil of the Horn of Africa (Afar)

- ❑ 1.6 million scattered across 3 countries
- ❑ 3 organizations working among them



#5: Maldives



- ❑ Small country with small population
- ❑ 99.9% Muslim
- ❑ Christian activity is expressly forbidden
- ❑ No Bible in their language, Divehi
- ❑ 50 or so believers in a country of 270,000

#4: Hazara of Afghanistan

- ❑ Population: 2 million
- ❑ 100% Muslim
- ❑ Make up 20% of Afghanistan
- ❑ No scripture, but there are radio broadcasts



#3: Muslims of Bosnia

- 1.3 Million Muslims
- Victims of war, injustice, ethnic cleansing
 - 200,000 dead
 - 100,000 were children
- Little or no hope
- High unemployment



#2: The Lao of Laos

- ❑ 3 million Buddhists and animists
- ❑ Maybe 3% Christian
- ❑ Over 1 million have never heard the gospel for the first time



#1: Riffi Berber of Morocco

- 1.5 million
- 99.99% Muslim
- Maybe 30 believers



Isaiah 54:3 - A promise to claim

“For you will spread
abroad to the right and
to the left, and your
descendants will
possess the peoples
and will people the
desolate cities.” (RSV)



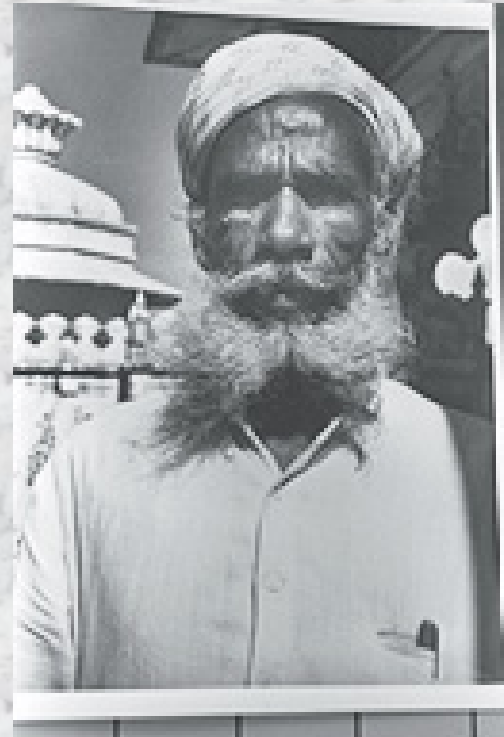
No valley is too isolated

...like the remote,
unevangelized
Kingdom of
Mustang on
Nepal's northern
border



No island is too distant

...like the yet-
unreached Maldiv
Islands in the Indian
Ocean



No forest is too dense

. . . like the Congo
jungles where the
Pygmy people live



No mountain is too inaccessible

... like the remote
and harsh Tibetan
plateau of central
Asia



No city is too fortified

... like Mecca where
no Christian is
allowed to set foot



No desert is too hostile

...like the Saharan
oases in Algeria
where the Mzab
Berber peoples live



We won't reach them by accident

We must intentionally . . .

- Pray
- Give
- Go
 - Short-term
 - Long-term



This PowerPoint presentation is available along with related materials and other PowerPoint presentations at <http://home.snu.edu/~hculbert/ppt.htm>