

*You have established a stronghold
from the mouths of children...
to silence the enemy
and the avenger.*

— Psalm 8:2 (HCSB)



Raising Up a
New Generation
from the
4/14 Window
to **Transform**
the **World**



LUIS BUSH

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*You have established a stronghold
From the mouths of children and nursing infants ...
to silence the enemy and the avenger
Psalm 8:2 (HCSB)¹*

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Introduction

At the end of the last century I wrote a pamphlet entitled *The 10/40 Window: Getting to the Core of the Core*.² In the first years of this new century, I am urging a new missional focus: **The 4/14 Window**. Although in a different sense, it too can be called “the core of the core.” The 10/40 Window referenced a geographic frame; the 4/14 Window describes a demographic frame—a life season comprising the ten years between the ages of 4 and 14.

This booklet is an urgent appeal to consider the strategic importance and potential of the 1.2 billion children and youth in the 4/14 Window. It is a plea to open your heart and mind to the idea of reaching and raising up a new generation from within that vast group—a generation that *can* experience personal transformation and *can* be mobilized as agents for transformation throughout the world. Our vision and hope is to maximize their transformational impact while they are young, and to mobilize them for continuing impact for the rest of their lives. I invite you to join with many others who are making a commitment to fulfill this vision and realize this hope.

To maximize the transformational impact of children and youth in the 4/14 Window we must address the spiritual, mental, physical, relational, economic, and social issues they face. We must also confront their “ministerial poverty”—the scarcity of opportunities for them to exercise their gifts and achieve their potential in ways that honor God and advance His Kingdom.

It is crucial that mission efforts be re-prioritized and re-directed toward the 4/14 age group worldwide. This requires that we become acutely aware of what is taking place in their lives. We must also endeavor to understand their nature and the essential means to nurture them. Only with this kind of informed awareness will we be able to reach them, shape them, and raise them up to transform the world.

This booklet presents an overview of the needs, nature and potential of children and youth in the 4/14 Window. It also addresses the very real opposition and obstacles to raising them up as a transformational generation. We must not be defeated by the opposition or deterred by the obstacles; and as we engage in strategic global thinking and answer God’s call to catalytic action, we must do so within a biblical framework.

The meaning and implications of a world-transforming mission is based on the Word of God itself. The term *transformation* comes from the Greek word *metamorphoo*. The word *metamorphoo* is made up of two words: *meta* which means *change*, and *morphoo* which means *form*. In the natural

realm, it describes the process by which a caterpillar completes its miraculous makeover into a beautifully mature adult butterfly. In the Scriptures the term is used to describe Jesus when He was transfigured: His outward appearance changed, He became radiant and His clothes became intensely white (Mark 9:2).

Transformation results in a greater likeness to the nature of God Himself and a greater adherence to His will for the human race. The term *metamorphoo* is used in 2 Corinthians 3:18 to describe this process: “...being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.” It is clear that transformation comes from the Lord for it is rooted in His nature, and it is an expression of His character.

Scripture makes it absolutely clear that the transformational mission of God involves bringing together all things under the headship of Christ (Ephesians 1:9-10) through the church, which is His body. The church is the fullness of Christ on earth, who fills all in all (Ephesians 1:22-23), with the result that all things on earth are reconciled and aligned to Him (Colossians 1:20).

The body of Christ worldwide—including children and youth in the 4/14 Window—are God’s agents of transformation under the headship of Jesus Christ. Every Christ follower in every community and nation—even children and youth—are called to involvement in Christ’s transformational mission.

As we approach this bold initiative, engaging and seeking to equip a new generation to transform the world, we do well to adopt the watchword, “*transformed and always transforming*.” This simple phrase reminds us that transformation is a process and is not fully realized until Jesus comes again. We are co-laborers with Christ, under His headship, collaborating with Him in His transformational mission to raise up a new generation from the 4/14 Window to transform the world.

Such global transformation will only take place as God’s people are individually re-made through the renewing of their minds (Romans 12:1-2). Then they will discover the good and perfect will of God, this will be their “spiritual act of worship,” and they will be led to engage in God’s mission.

May God renew our minds through His Word and the vision presented in this booklet. May we be God’s change agents to transform the world for the glory of Christ. By God’s grace, may the world as we know it be transformed.



The 4/14 Window: Ages of Opportunity and Challenge

In human development there is no more critical period than the decade represented by the 4/14 Window. It is a profoundly formative period when perspectives are shaped either positively or negatively and when a view of one's own significance (or lack of significance) is formulated. The needs and potential of this age group should inspire a purposeful response by those charged today with forming the world of tomorrow. It is a call to turn "the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers" (Malachi 4:6).

The Intersection of the 10/40 Window and the 4/14 Window

The 10/40 Window represents the primary geographic challenge entering the 21st Century, in that it is the geographical location in which each of five key challenges are indisputably and significantly more prominent. (See panel on the right)³

In 2008, fifteen years into a worldwide mission emphasis on the 10/40 Window, there are encouraging indicators that this has been a region highly responsive to the presentation of the Gospel. The annual growth rate of Christ followers in the 10/40 Window was almost twice that of those outside the 10/40 Window.⁴ Christ followers in the 10/40 Window nations increased from 2.5% of the population in 1990 to 4.7% in 2005. The general population grew at only 1.5% annually, while the population of Christ followers grew at an amazing 5.4% per year!⁵

If we correlate these statistics with the fact that almost 70% of the world's 4- to 14-year-olds (833,378,750) live in the 10/40 Window, we can begin to see the intersection of the 10/40 Window

10/40 Window Statistics			AVERAGE ANNUAL GROWTH RATE
	IN 1990	IN 2005	
Christ followers as a % of total population	2.5%	4.7%	
Estimated population of Christ followers	87,535,000	205,209,000	5.4%
Estimated total population	3,441,271,000	4,326,363,000	1.5%

Source of Statistics: Patrick Johnstone, data prepared for two upcoming publications

GEOGRAPHICAL CHALLENGES

By Patrick Johnstone

The Urban Challenge. The people of the twenty-first century will live in an urban world for the first time. Currently 50% of the world lives in an urban setting. By the end of the twenty-first century 80% of the world will be urbanized. The expanding slums and shantytowns of the world's cities are already populated by one billion people. Nearly 40% of the developing world live in these dilapidated dwellings. This century will necessitate pioneer missionaries who will give their lives for the city.

The Social Challenge. Social responsibility has been recognized and affirmed in the last 25 years as an essential component of Christ's Great Commission. An estimated 10 million children suffer forced prostitution. Malnutrition kills 35,000 children under five every day. The number of street children has grown to 100 million. These facts make the world's children an epicenter of Christian social responsibility. Several other great social concerns afflict us as we enter the twenty-first century. AIDS in Africa has grown at alarming proportions with millions of adults becoming infected and millions of children becoming orphaned in the aftermath. The next decade will result in tens of millions of additional AIDS orphans. Drug addiction, along with the illegal, global drug manufacturing and trading industry, strangles the people in cities and countries today. Infectious diseases like tuberculosis and malaria continue to slaughter millions.

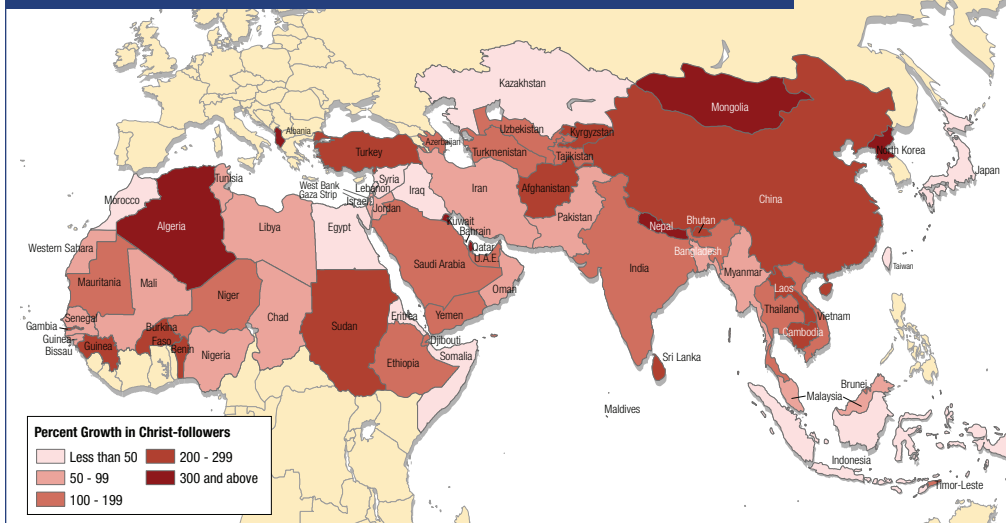
The People Challenge. More than 1000 peoples are still without a viable, indigenous church planting movement in their midst with sufficient strength, resources, and commitment to sustain and ensure the continuous multiplication of churches. Various strategic ministries need to be strengthened for this discipling process to be effective and lasting. More research, church planting efforts, literature production, *Jesus* Film distribution, Scripture translation, and radio ministries are required.

The Ideological Challenge. The Islamic worldview prevents a substantive ideological challenge with social and legal systems that make it nearly impossible for a Muslim to become a Christian. Then there is the growth of "fundamentalist" terrorism. The pluralism of the Hindus and the atheism of Buddhists require innovative approaches. Other ideological challenges are presented by the Baha'i, the Sikhs, the Jains, and the Animists. Worst of all, nominal Christians have settled for a form of godliness with no power.

The Spiritual Challenge. We have been involved in spiritual warfare ever since Satan wrested control of the world. There always remain the dually dangerous challenges of "underemphasis" on the spiritual nature of the conflict and a "preoccupation" with the enemy. Prayer makes a profound difference in world evangelization. Global networks of prayer have been raised up to meet this challenge.

From: *The Church is Bigger than You Think*, by Patrick Johnstone, 1998

Growth of Christ Followers in the 10/40 Window – 1990-2005



NOTE: The dramatic % change in some counties is partially attributed to the low evangelical population in 1990: Mongolia (552), North Korea (104,960), Nepal (131,605), Algeria (5,038), Kuwait (2,452), Qatar (2,336), Afghanistan (2,696), Albania (1,154), Turkey (8,145), Kyrgyzstan (9,288), and Saudi Arabia (87,000)

Sources: Patrick Johnstone – data prepared for two upcoming publications; United Nations Map by Global Mapping International, Jan. 2009

and the 4/14 Window.⁶ The 10/40 Window is the geographical area with the greatest need and opportunity. The 4/14 Window is the demographical grouping that is the most open, receptive, and moldable to every form of spiritual and developmental input.

The most compelling conclusion regarding the relationship between the 10/40 and the 4/14 windows is that efforts be refocused on *the 4/14 within the 10/40* in order to reach the most receptive persons in the area of the greatest need and opportunity. In so doing we are also recognizing the importance of children and youth in God's work of transforming the world.

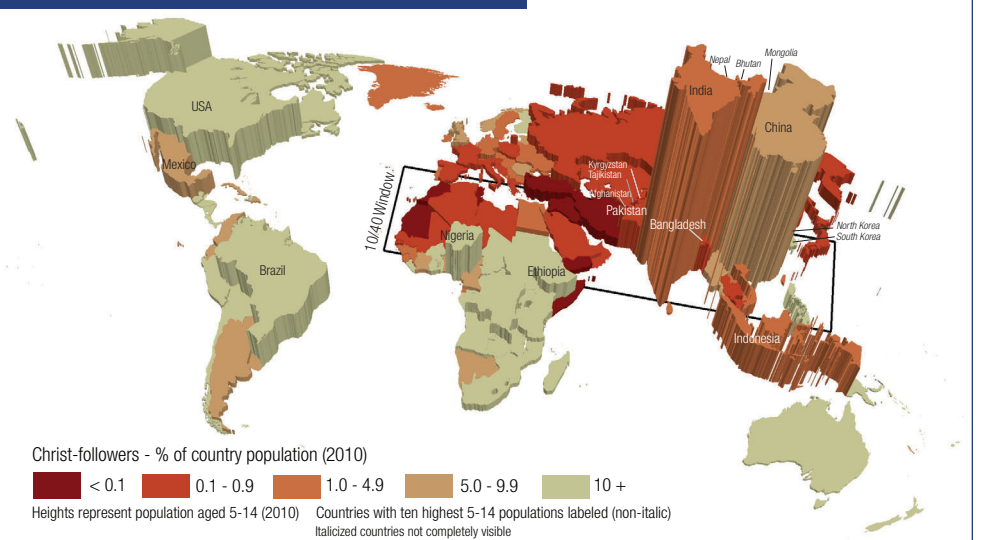
When he was asked by His disciples "Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" Jesus called a little child, whom he placed among them. And He said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever takes a humble place—becoming like this child—is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me. If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them if a large millstone were hung around their neck and they were drowned in the depths of the sea" (Matthew 18:1-6 TNIV).

Have we really listened to Jesus' teaching about the place of children in the kingdom of God? First, they model the essence of gospel faith and faithful discipleship by showing us how to humbly repent and to trust in the God of salvation. Second, to 'welcome' a child—that is, to accept, love, value and respect a child—is to welcome Christ Himself! Finally, as Jesus made very clear, whoever neglects, abuses, hinders, or turns away a child from faith in Christ will face severe judgment from God Himself.

The 4/14 Age Group Around the World

A country-by-country comparison of the nations with the most 4-to-14ers is revealing. India, with almost 20% fewer people than China, has over 30% more children and youth. This is largely due to China's infamous "one child" policy. Nigeria and Indonesia, with half the population of the U.S., actually have more children and young teens in absolute numbers. In the U.S., 25% of the nearly 42 million school-age children are Hispanic—though Hispanics comprise only 15% of the general population. And, as the chart indicates, in Africa and in places such as Gaza, Afghanistan, Pakistan and most Middle Eastern countries, 40 to 50% of the population is under 15 years of age.⁷

Christ Followers & The 4/14 Window



Sources: Patrick Johnstone – data prepared for two upcoming publications; United Nations Map by Global Mapping International, Jan. 2009