

The Amazing Countdown Facts!



“And this Gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.” Matthew 24:14

(“Ethne” is the Greek word translated here as “nations.” It means peoples or tribes rather than countries.)

“You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.” Revelation 5:9

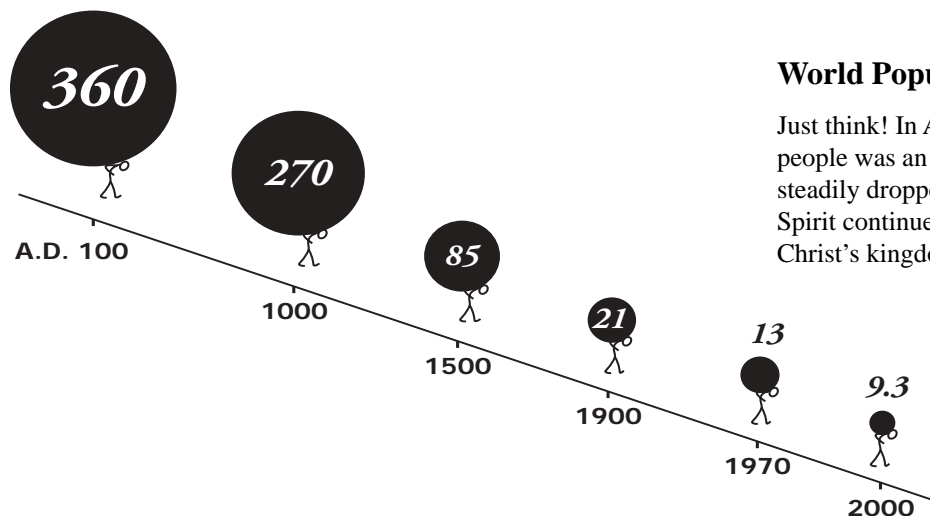
The World For Whom Christ Died

On our planet live over 6.1 billion people within approximately 24,000 of these nations and languages and peoples. Some of these 24,000 peoples have heard the gospel. Some haven't.

Those Who Have Heard – *The “Reached” peoples*

In the first place, there are about 14,000 peoples that have embraced the Gospel, resulting in strong churches led by national (non-missionary) leaders with a serious commitment to finish evangelizing the rest of their people. (Missionaries refer to this as a “viable, indigenous church movement.”) 4 billion people live in these “ethne.”

- **Christian Believers** — 650 million have been born again into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- **Other Christians** — 1.4 billion who consider themselves Christians because they come from a Christian culture.
- **Culturally near non-Christians** — 2 billion are not yet Christians but live in a people where a viable, indigenous church movement has been established.



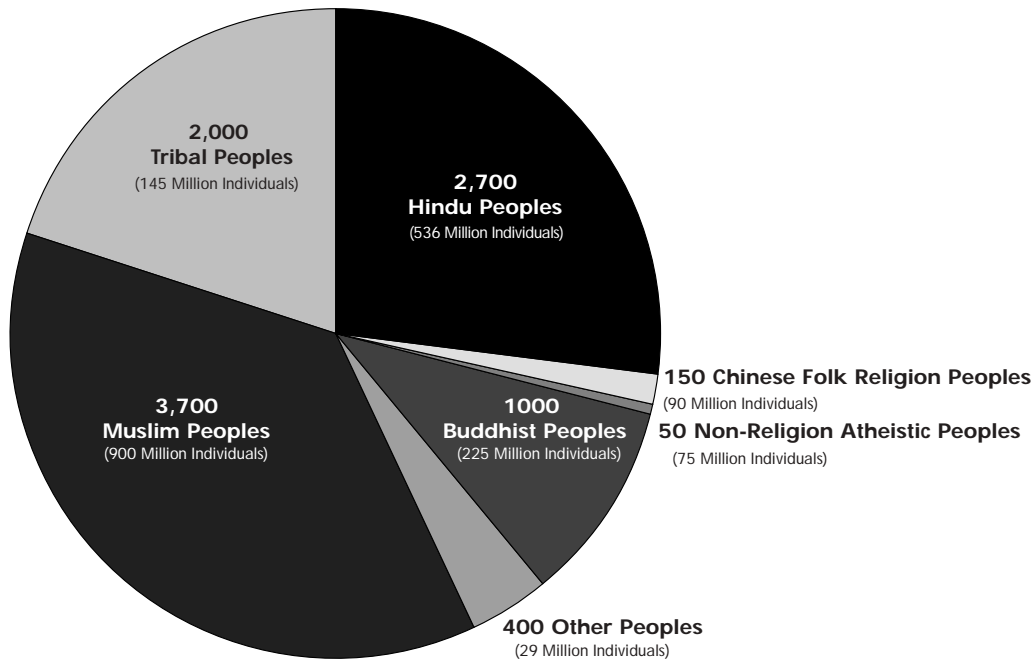
World Population per Believer

Just think! In A.D. 100 only one in every 360 people was an active believer. That ratio has steadily dropped as the initiative of the Holy Spirit continues to accelerate the expansion of Christ's kingdom!

Those Who Haven't Heard – *The “Unreached” Peoples*

On the other hand, an estimated 10,000 peoples don't yet have a native church movement, and therefore no access to the Gospel! Almost 2 billion individuals live in these peoples. The Bible says that “God our Savior...desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”

These 10,000 Unreached Peoples are divided into 7 “megaspheres”:



Finishing the Great Commission

Despite the tremendous progress of the Gospel shown on page one, being able to actually finish the Great Commission still seems like an impossibility to some. That's because most of us tend to look at the immensity of the job, without realizing all that God has placed at our disposal to do the job. The task before us is no doubt very large, but God has given His Church everything we need to do just as He commanded!

What Is Needed ?

- **Personnel** — Each of the 10,000 Unreached Peoples needs a team of at least 4 missionaries focused on establishing a church movement among them — so, a total of 40,000 missionaries are needed. Well over half of these will come from countries *other* than the U.S.
- **Finances** — Each of these 40,000 new missionaries will need an average of \$15,000 per year to support their work. This means that \$600 million more is needed annually.
- **Prayer** — Prayer will always be the most crucial need in world evangelization. Missionaries can be sent out and work really hard, but if people back home don't pray, very little will be accomplished. Exactly how much prayer is needed? All we can really do is make an estimate. Each missionary should be covered by at least an hour of specific prayer daily—both for the people group they work with and also for personal needs. So we need a foundation of 40,000 more hours of prayer daily.

Year (A.D.)	Total World Population (Millions)	Active Believers (Millions)	World Population per believer	Unreached People Groups	Christian Congregations per Unreached People Group
Column	1	2	3	4	5
100	180	0.5	360 to 1	60,000	1 to 12
1000	270	1	270 to 1	50,000	1 to 5
1500	425	5	85 to 1	44,000	1.1 to 1
1900	1,620	78	21 to 1	40,000	20 to 1
1970	3,700	277	13 to 1	18,000	150 to 1
2000	6,060	650	9.3 to 1	10,000	650 to 1

This chart demonstrates the amazing progress the Church has already made, just how close we are to finishing the task and the resources available for discipling the nations.

Finishing the Task!

As you can see, the possibility for reaching each remaining unreached people group early in the 21st century is a very real possibility. The job is clearer than ever, and every needed resource is available. Among the many significant initiatives today to link these resources with this task is the Adopt-A-People movement.

As the name implies, Adopt-A-People links a local congregation—through “adoption”—with one Unreached People group. Several churches (or even several hundred) will adopt the same people and focus their prayers, finances and energies together through one or more mission agencies to the end that a strong, vibrant, evangelizing church movement is established in that people. Mission agencies provide a very concrete and specific mechanism for participating churches to channel resources to their adopted people. And adopting introduces the kind of direct involvement that helps keep churches challenged and on the task.

Most importantly, as thousands of congregations successfully adopt and reach their Unreached People, we will literally see the completion of this task! God has given every resource to do the work. We have no excuse not to do it.

It can be done. It must be done. Will you help?

For more information on how your church can adopt a people, contact:



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