

Dear friend,

*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 – NIV).*

In the mid-1980s, the Christian world began to be aware of the millions of people who were in language or cultural groups with little or no contact with the gospel. We began to refer to these as “unreached peoples.” In 1985, it was estimated that about 1.1 billion people were, for all intents and purposes, completely cut off from the gospel. This was nearly a quarter of the world’s population.

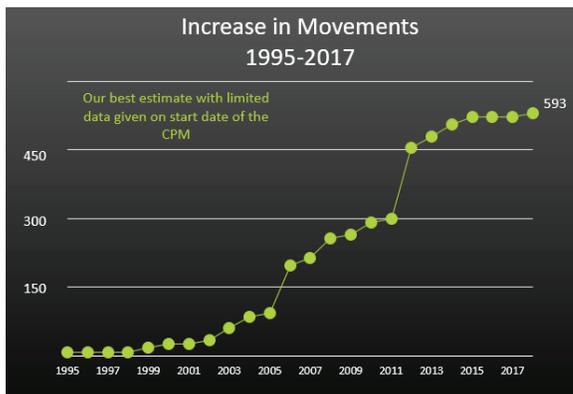
Terri and I went to Indonesia to begin to answer the question, “What role does OC have in reaching these hundreds of millions of unreached peoples?” Over the last 30 years, it has felt like we have made significant progress. The number of people groups in Indonesia with no known believers has dropped from well over 100 to a mere handful. Scores of mission organizations from North America, Latin America, Africa, and Asia have deployed thousands of church planting teams to work among these unreached peoples around the world. For the first time in history we are seeing large numbers of Hindus, Buddhists, and Muslims come to a saving knowledge of the person and work of Jesus.

Between 1985 and 2017, the number of people with no access to the gospel grew from 1.1 billion to 2.1 billion.

Yet, with all that effort and encouraging fruit, there is a rather shocking reality. Thirty years later, there are now over 2 billion people with no access to the gospel. The percentage of the world’s population with no access to the gospel has actually increased. Our global evangelistic efforts are not keeping up with population growth – particularly in the least evangelized parts of world.

That is the bad news. Now for the good news. There is hope.

We are actively involved in movements similar to the rapid growth of the church described in the book of Acts. Sometimes called kingdom movements, these are rapidly reproducing house fellowships. To be considered a movement, we must be able to document multiple streams of at least four generations of house fellowships. We began to experience this in Indonesia in the early 1990s. In 2017, friends of ours have been able to document nearly 600 of these movements on every continent.



The growth of the church in these kingdom movements far exceeds population growth. One movement with which we are working has sustained a 70 percent annual growth rate since 2016. At that rate of growth, the movement triples in size every two years. We have entered into a partnership with other organizations in an effort to accelerate the multiplication of these types of movements globally so that the words of Matthew 24:14 can be realized – that the whole world, all nations (peoples), will have an opportunity to hear and respond to the gospel. Would you join us in praying towards that end?

Dick & Terri