



FRAMEWORK

OF BARNABAS TEAMS

Purpose

To connect the **Missionary with the Body at home** and to connect the **Body at home to the Missionary** (and Great Commission) abroad, for **mutual encouragement** and for **unity** in heart and mind as we, the Church, obey the Lord Jesus in taking the Gospel to all the nations.

Goal

That the Missionary would be **encouraged** and **sustained** through **consistent** connectivity with the Body at home, knowing he or she is not “out of sight and out of mind” but is rather a **member** of the same Body and an **extension** of the ministry of the Church. Also, that the home Body would be consistently connected to and participating in taking the gospel to the nations.

Design

The design of the Barnabas team is to **be relational** first and foremost. With relational encouragement in mind, it is important to keep the Barnabas team somewhat smaller in order for the Missionary to get to know the members of the Barnabas team and vice versa. In hopes of **genuine and consistent friendship** between Barnabas team members and the missionary, it is best for the Barnabas team to be designed around an already existing “small-group.” As the small-group will already be meeting consistently for bible study and fellowship, the Missionary (and family) will simply become honorary members of their group. As small-group members meet weekly to pray for one another, they can also pray for the Missionary. As small-group members encourage one another spontaneously throughout the week (via calls, texts, email, etc), the missionary can be a part of this **mutual encouragement**.

The design is not to cause a small-group to be consumed by being a Barnabas team, but rather to simply add the Barnabas team element to the already existing dynamic of the small-group. Thus essentially nothing changes other than adding a missionary (and family) as an honorary member of the small group for prayer and mutual encouragement.

SUGGESTIONS

FOR BARNABAS TEAMS

Initial Questions to Ask

- What is the best way to stay in touch? (email, imessage, viber, skype, etc)
- Do you have a monthly newsletter? If so, can you put me on your list?
- How can we be helpful? Do you have any needs?
- Do we need to be careful with how we speak about “your work”?

How to Encourage

- Regularity of text or email to touch base and say hello
- Send care package or letters for holidays or other special dates
- Make a trip to visit your missionary
- Host your missionary when on furlough
- Respond to Newsletters that come (so the missionary sees you have read them)
- Celebrate with your missionary what they are celebrating
- However the Lord leads

Ways to Pray

- Pray for needs listed in monthly newsletter
- Pray for spiritual health/encouragement and protection from the enemy
- Pray for the people group or location in which the missionary works (city, region, 1040 window)
- Praise God for what He is doing
- However the Lord leads

Barnabas Days

- Skype your missionary in to say hello as a team
- Take stock of upcoming special dates and plan how to encourage on those days (package, happy birthday text, etc)
- Put together a care package as a team
- Read the latest newsletter and have extended prayer time
- Extended time of prayer for the people group or place specifically
- Extended time of prayer for the nations generally
- However the Lord leads

PRACTICAL APPLICATION



FOR BARNABAS TEAMS

In practice the Barnabas team will typically function no differently than a normal small group in its relational capacity: ie. Small group members being “in one another’s lives” and encouraging one another. Through the vast array of tech options (**imessage, Viber, Skype, Facetime, email, etc**) Barnabas team members can easily be in **relationship** with the Missionary. This may be as simple as sending a text: “thinking about you” or “how are you?” No differently than one might connect with a friend in the States. There may be times when the group as a **whole or individual** members want to plan a time to Skype with the Missionary for a longer face-to-face conversation. In practice the Barnabas team’s relationship with the Missionary should be an **organic** one, not overly structured and certainly not forced.

Having a “Barnabas Day” in place of the normal Bible study once every 6 weeks or so (whatever the team decides) is a great idea and an opportunity to focus specifically on the Missionaries, their ministry, and that specific part of the world. A few ideas for what a “Barnabas Day” might look like:

1. Planned Skype as a group with the Missionary, followed by a time of prayer for the missionary, their ministry and that part of the world.
2. Prayer, followed by taking stock of upcoming special dates such as Missionary birthdays, anniversaries, holidays, etc. and planning how the Team might encourage the missionaries on these days.
3. Prayer, followed by putting together a box of goodies to ship to the missionary, perhaps for a special date (ie Christmas) or just spontaneously.
4. Reading information about the people group (or ministry) the Missionary is working with to better understand the daily context and life of the Missionary.

SECURITY CONCERNS

FOR THE 10/40 WINDOW

Your missionary and family may be in a **hostile** environment for believers. Therefore, we must get into the habit of communicating in **safe** ways on and off the record. We want to communicate in sensitive ways as to not **compromise** their ministry and or **ability** to stay on the field.

Here is how it works: Some foreign governments are very invasive, and have access to communications, tending to **screen** everything. Much of the internet information that passes through their servers is screened and anything noteworthy is **red flagged**. There have been instances where a “worker” received an email with a “red flag word” and the government **confiscated** their computer within a couple days. Fortunately, most “workers” have taken precaution and have a **secure email** which will be operating on a VPN (virtual private network). However, we would prefer to be **safe rather than sorry**- and thus need to simply be mindful what words we use in our communication.



- Missionary= "M" or worker
- Church=Body, Fellowship
- Christian=brother/sister, believer
- Pray or Prayer= Pr@y or Pr@yer, or PR
- Evangelism= EV
- Ministry or Missions= Work
- Jesus= JC, the Son
- God= the Father

**Or any other word that seems related to Christian Missionary Work. Just replace that word with something rather obvious. It's actually kind of fun using code words.

**If you ever have any questions about security, don't hesitate to email me
Benji@lakewoodlife.org

10/40 WINDOW

WHAT-WHERE-WHY

WHAT IS THE 10/40 WINDOW?

The 10/40 Window is the rectangular area of North Africa, the Middle East and Asia approximately between 10 degrees north and 40 degrees north latitude. The 10/40 Window is often called "**The Resistant Belt**" and includes the **majority** of the world's Muslims, Hindus, and Buddhists. The original 10/40 Window included only countries with at least 50% of their land mass within 10 and 40 degrees north latitude. The revised 10/40 Window includes several additional countries that are close to 10 or 40 degrees north latitude and have **high concentrations of unreached peoples**. Approximately **4.89 billion** individuals residing in approximately 8,176 distinct people groups are in the revised 10/40 Window. **5,583 (68.3%)** of these people groups are considered unreached and have a population of **3.02 billion**. This means approximately 62% of the individuals in the 10/40 Window live in an unreached people group. The 10/40 Window is home to some of the largest unreached people groups in the world such as the Shaikh, Yadava, Turks, Moroccan Arabs, Pashtun, Jat and Burmese.

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The 10/40 Window has several important considerations: first, the historical and Biblical significance; second, the least evangelized countries; third, the unreached people groups and cities; fourth, the dominance of three religious blocs; fifth, the preponderance of the poor; sixth, the strongholds of Satan within the 10/40 Window.



Global Summary

An overview of the people groups of the world

People Groups:	16,835
Unreached Groups:	6,945
% Unreached Groups:	41.3%
Population:	7.47 Billion
Popl in Unreached:	3.16 Billion
% Popl in Unreached:	42.2%

10/40 WINDOW

WHAT-WHERE-WHY



- **People Group:** "A significantly large grouping of individuals who perceive themselves to have a common affinity with one another."
- **Unengaged People Groups :** "A people group is unengaged when no evangelical church planting strategy is underway."
- **Unreached People Groups:** "A people group is unreached when less than 2 percent of its population is evangelical Christian."



The 10/40 Window is home to the majority of the world's unevangelized countries
The 10/40 Window is home to the majority of the world's unevangelized countries. The "unevangelized" are people who have a **minimal knowledge of the gospel**, but have **no valid opportunity to respond to it**. While it constitutes only one-third of earth's total land area, nearly **two-thirds** of the world's people reside in the 10/40 Window. The original 10/40 Window included only countries with at least 50% of their land mass within 10 and 40 degrees north latitude. The revised 10/40 Window removes several Christianized countries such as South Korea and the Philippines and includes several additional countries, such as Indonesia, that are close to 10 or 40 degrees north latitude and have high concentrations of unreached peoples. See the original and revised country lists.

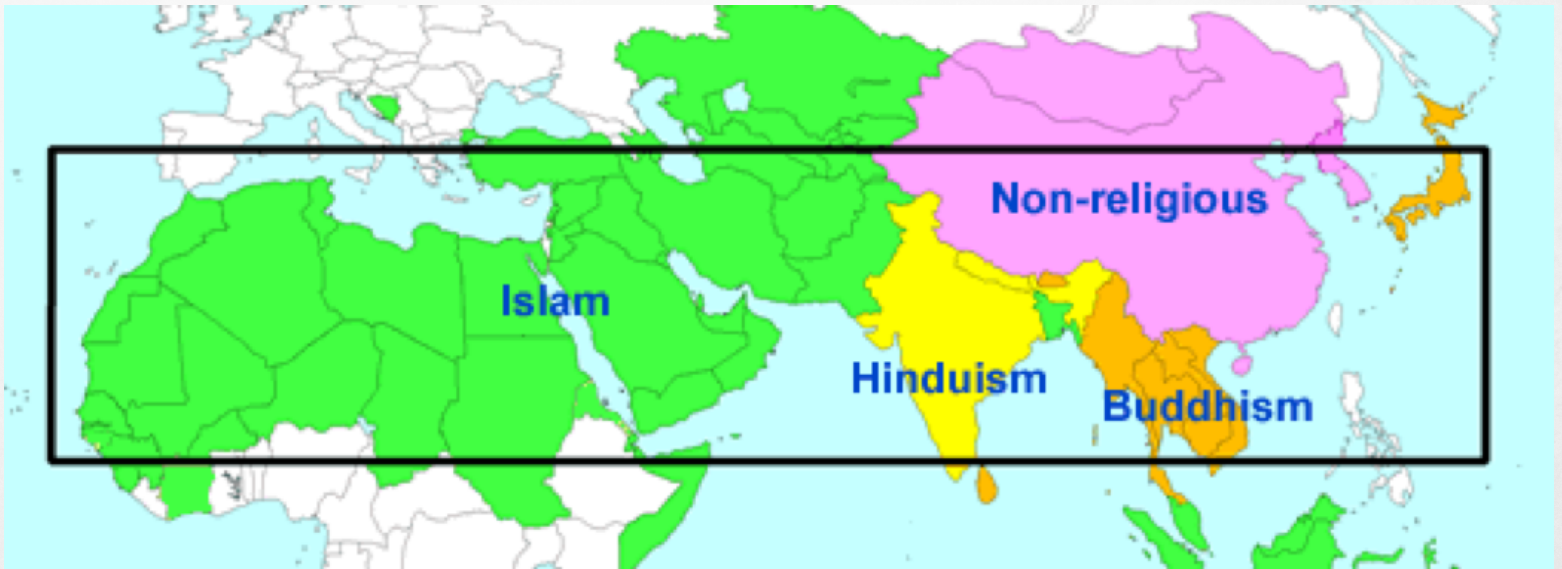
These lists include both sovereign states and non-sovereign dependencies.

The 10/40 Window: The Unreached Peoples and Cities

An estimated 3.02 billion individuals live in approximately 5,583 unreached people groups in the 10/40 Window. The 10/40 Window also contains the largest unreached peoples over one million in population. In addition, the 10/40 Window contains the overwhelming majority of the world's least evangelized megacities -- that is those with a population of more than one million. The top 50 least evangelized megacities are all in the 10/40 Window! That fact alone underscores the need for prioritizing 10/40 Window Great Commission efforts.

10/40 WINDOW

WHAT-WHERE-WHY



The 10/40 Window contains four of the world's dominant religious blocs

The 10/40 Window contains four of the world's dominant religious blocs. The majority of the followers of Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism as well as the Non-Religious block live within the 10/40 Window. On the left side or western part of the 10/40 Window, the Muslim world can be seen most prominently in a wide band across the north of Africa into the Middle East. South Asia, in the middle of the 10/40 Window, is the heart of Hinduism with its 330 million gods. Buddhism influences the right side or eastern part of the 10/40 Window. Buddhism is the primary religion in Southeast Asia and although officially an atheistic country since the Marxist revolution of the late 1940s, China is nevertheless deeply influenced by its Buddhist roots.

- Northeast Asia has 150 languages (88,200,000 speakers) without scripture, Jesus film, Gospel recordings, or God's Story video.
- Southeast Asia has 584 languages (13,690,000 speakers) without scripture, Jesus film, Gospel recordings, or God's Story video.
- Some 65-70% of the world's population live in religiously restrictive countries.



10/40 WINDOW

WHAT-WHERE-WHY

The 10/40 Window: The Preponderance of the Poor

The 10/40 Window is home to the majority of the world's poor. Of the poorest of the poor, more than eight out of ten live in the 10/40 Window. On average, they exist on less than a few hundred dollars per person per year. It has been said that "the poor are the lost, and the lost are the poor" as the majority of the unreached live in the poorest countries of the world. There is a remarkable overlap between the poorest countries of the world and those that are least evangelized.

The 10/40 Window: Spiritual Stronghold

The Yadav in India are one of the largest unreached people groups in the 10/40 Window. The 10/40 Window includes numerous spiritual strongholds. The billions of people who live in the 10/40 Window have suffered not only the ravages of poverty and disease, they have also been kept from the transforming power of the Gospel. They are poignant examples of the truth expressed in 2 Corinthians 4:4, which states that "the god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."

The 10/40 Window: A Renewed Focus

The focus of the Christian missions community 200 years ago was for the coastlands of the world. A century later, the success of the coastlands effort motivated a new generation to reach the interior regions of the continents. Within the past several decades, the success of the inland thrust has led to a major focus on people groups. Today, followers of Christ are concentrating their efforts on the unreached peoples of the world, most of which are in the 10/40 Window.



People Groups by Progress Scale

