

KALEIDOSCOPIC GLOSSARY

CONCEPTS AND TERMS RELATING TO WORLD EVANGELIZATION

—Global Statistics Task Force

Ed. note—This glossary is presently being refined by the Global Statistics Task Force—several dozen researchers and missiologists from around the world. Most of these terms appear in the articles and diagrams in this issue of the journal. Their sources are numerous and are acknowledged throughout the articles and diagrams. There are inherent differences of interpretation between researchers in the precise meanings of several of these terms—underlining both the difficulty in compiling it and its strategic value. See *people group* as a prime example of this difficulty.

The following terms are new in the sense that they are in the main relatively new in theological and missiological circles. They are mainly neologisms that have come into widespread currency in the sphere of world mission during the 1980s. Words in italics refer the reader to definitions elsewhere in the glossary.

AD 2000 and Beyond. A slogan used to encapsulate the goal of completing the evangelization of the world by the year 2000, and keeping it *evangelized* in the subsequent years.

AD 2000 plan. A publicly-announced plan on the part of a church, denomination, mission, or agency, to achieve a specific goal or goals by the year 2000.

advocacy. The process of taking the part of a particular *unevangelized population segment*, and continually seeking opportunities to present their case for a larger share of Christian resources.

affiliated Christians. Church members; all persons belonging to or connected with organized churches, whose names are inscribed, written, or entered on the churches' books, records, or rolls.

alien Christians scale. A computed scale from 0-10 measuring culturally alien Christian influence on a people or other *segment* by estimating the number of *Christians* from other cultures who reside on its territory.

Christians. Followers of Jesus Christ of all kinds: all traditions and confessions, and all degrees of commitment.

Christian world. In the 3-tier schema, this is *World C*, consisting of all who individually are *Christians*.

closed country. A country whose government or regime has closed it to some major form of Christian ministry from outside, usually resident foreign missionaries, visiting evangelists, or freely distributed Scriptures, Christian literature, tapes or videos or films, or other Christian influences from outside.

closing country. A country still open to outside Christian influences but whose increasing restrictions suggest it will become closed within a few months or years.

closure. The concept that the mandate of the church for world mission can be completed in a measurable way by *evangelizing* and/or *reaching* all peoples on Earth; not effectively invoked unless attached to some sort of deadline, the usual one being in the 1980s and 1990s being AD 2000.

convergency. A concept describing the unstructured way in which the *world evangelization* thrusts of 7 major ecclesiastical traditions (Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Ecumenical, Evangelical, Catholic Charismatic, Pentecostal-Charismatic, Fundamentalist) have converged since 1970 in stated aims, goals, terminology, theology, missiology, publications, periodicals, activities, cooperation, and programs.

country. A term covering both sovereign nations and nonsovereign territories or dependencies or colonies which are not integral parts of larger parent nations.

cross-cultural missions scale. A computed scale from 0-10 measuring the influence of cross-cultural missionary presence and activity within a *people group* or other *segment*.

discipleship scale. A computed scale from 0-10 measuring Christian discipleship in a population segment by estimating the number of disciples.

E%. A computed estimate of the percentage of persons in a particular population *segment* (world, country, people, city) who have become *evangelized*.

ethnolinguistic people. An ethnic or racial group within a single country, speaking its own language or mother tongue.

evangelism. The church's organized activity of spreading the gospel.

evangelization. (a) The whole process of spreading the good news of the Kingdom of God; (b) the extent to which the good news has been spread; (c) the extent of awareness of Christianity, Christ, and the gospel.

evangelize. To spread the good news of Christ, with signs following, to preach, to persuade, to win for Christ.

evangelized non-Christian world. In the 3-tier schema, this is *World B*, consisting of all non-Christians who have nevertheless become *evangelized*.

evangelized persons. Individuals who have had adequate opportunity or opportunities to hear the gospel and to respond to it.

evangelizer. A Christian who is active regularly in witness, *evangelism*, and winning others to Christ.

"force for evangelism". The effective evangelizing nucleus in the church, made up of active *Great Commission Christians* who are engaged in some form of evangelizing.

"force for evangelization". The total of all practising church members (their practice having various direct and indirect influences on *evangelization*).

frontier missionary. A full-time foreign missionary who works among an *unreached people* or an *unevangelized population segment*.

frontier people. An alternate term for an *unreached minipeople*.

global desk. A central office within a Great Commission Agency charged with keeping the agency accountable to its goals as they relate to the *unevangelized world*, networking with other *Great Commission Christians*, and maintaining a clear electronic link with other global desks.

global evangelization movement. A term describing the vast number of distinct agencies and plans directed towards *world evangelization* which have

proliferated across the world since the year 1900.

global mission. The mission of Jesus Christ as it involves the entire world.

global plan. A global plan to *evangelize* the world is defined here as a documented, christocentric plan or proposal or purpose or program or scenario or similar variety that presupposes or starts from one or more of 10 central biblical themes (Great Commission, obedience of The Twelve Apostles, discipling the nations, *global mission*, world-wide witness and *evangelism*, *world evangelization*, End-times, Antichrist, Parousia, Millennium), which then articulates concern for the world's entire population, demonstrated in a call or appeal to *Christians* to implement or envision a plan with a number of concrete elements in it, which plan has adequate global significance by virtue either of its timing, or its context, or its novelty, or its appeal, or its persuasiveness, or its impact, or uniqueness of any of its elements, or its global size in cases where its sponsoring organization has work in over 50 nations of the world, or sends out over 5,000 foreign missionary personnel.

global statistics. Numbers, cyphers, and series of figures describing any aspect of the world, the Earth, our globe, its populations, its problems, its past, its present, and its future.

globalist. A specialist in *globalistics*, one who consistently takes the global view and emphasizes the big-picture approach to world problems.

globalistics. The professional study of the world in its entirety, with all its peoples, groupings, problems, and possibilities.

globalized mission. Mission agencies which profess to work for *global mission*, which utilize a veneer of global terminology, and which operate in budget-program isolation from other missions.

globalized evangelization. An organized attempt by a church or mission agency to reach the world by taking a successful local program of mission and *evangelism* and adding to it a veneer of global terminology.

Great Commission (used as an adjective). A descriptive term for persons or organizations or plans or activities of any nationality, denomination, or confession, and which are based on Christ's Great Commission and which are actively working to obey it, personally and corporately.

Great Commission agency. A church or parachurch or service agency

which publicizes its *raison d'etre* as obedience to Christ's *Great Commission*.

Great Commission Christians.

Believers in Jesus Christ who are aware of the implications of Christ's *Great Commission*, who have accepted its personal challenge in their lives, and who are seeking to influence the Body of Christ to implement it.

hidden people. An alternate term for an *unreached minipeople*.

idiom. A language whose speech community regards it as their mother tongue and which shares less than 95% common vocabulary with any other idiom.

KGAP. Kaleidoscopic global action plan, built on the 2,000 existing *global and non-global plans* and attempts in part to deal with gaps in coverage of the *unevangelized world*.

language set. A grouping of *language units* sharing from 35-75% common vocabulary.

language unit. A grouping of *idioms* whose speech communities share from 75-95% common vocabulary.

lexicostatistics. The study of languages by comparing lexicons (word lists) and finding how many words are shared in common by 2 or more languages.

limited-access country. A country whose government or regime limits access by aliens foreign missionaries wishing to reside, usually by small or decreasing quotas or shorter residence permits.

macro region. UN definition of continent, dividing world into 8 such regions; previously named continental areas.

macro segment. A major population subgrouping used in detailing the remaining *unfinished task*

matching up. The process of linking a particular *unevangelized population segment* with a particular *nonresidential missionary* whose vocation it would be to see that the segment becomes *evangelized* by AD 2000.

megapeople. An *ethnolinguistic people* speaking a single *mother tongue* whose population numbers over one million.

metropeople. An *ethnolinguistic people* resident in, and forming a distinct homogenous group in a metropolis.

micropeople. A small close-knit homogeneous *population segment*.

micro segment. A minor population subgrouping used for local targeting in *evangelization*.

minipeople. The largest *people group* within which the gospel can spread as a church-planting movement without en-

countering barriers of understanding or acceptance.

ministry options. A list of possible or potential ministries or missionary or evangelistic approaches that a *nonresidential missionary* draws up, which he considers could be undertaken by various agents and agencies on behalf of his target *segment*.

missiological breakthrough. A term employed as a synonym to minimum mission achievement, which in turn rests on Donald McGavran's well known concept of the basic, essential need for a people movement to Christ in a given culture.

monovocational. In contrast to bivocational persons (describing tentmakers or missionaries with the dual vocation of (a) a secular profession in a *closed country*, undertaken in order to exercise (b) part-time Christian witness or service), monovocational persons describes missionaries whose main or only vocation and profession is full-time Christian service with particular emphasis on the ministry of *evangelization*.

monitoring. The process of regularly tracking and recording the progress of *evangelization* in a particular *unevangelized population segment*, with special reference to measuring the impact of all *Great Commission* activities and influences.

mother tongue. The first language spoken in an individual's home in his early or earliest childhood; one's first language or native language.

nonresidential missionary. This concept describes a full-time, appointed, salaried or supported professional career missionary of any nationality, who is assigned by his or her board or agency in any country—through a matching process designed to concentrate on the priorities of first-time *evangelization* and to avoid gaps or inadvertent duplications with other agencies—to a ministry to one single *unevangelized population segment* of the *unevangelized world* (one metropolis, one *people group*, or one *country*). He resides with his family outside that *segment* or its *country* and is based in an open city with good international communications facilities for networking with all other concerned *Great Commission Christians* who are targeting the same *segment*, with the *overarching objective* of seeing to it that all persons in his *population segment* become *evangelized* by AD 2000.

overarching objective. The long-term goal, over and above all short-term discipling or evangelistic endeavors, of giving every person in every *people*

group and population on Earth the opportunity to hear the gospel with understanding and to become disciples of Christ by the year 2000.

people or people group. A significantly large grouping of individuals who perceive themselves to have a common affinity for one another because of their shared language, religion, ethnicity, residence, occupation, class or caste, situation, etc. or combination of these. Examples of people groups are *ethnolinguistic peoples*, *minipeoples* or *unimax peoples*, *micropeoples*, *metropeoples*, and *sociopeoples*.

Note: This definition which was a result of a meeting of mission executives in Chicago in March of 1982, originally included the phrase "From the viewpoint of *evangelization* this is the largest group in which the gospel can spread as a church-planting movement without encountering barriers of understanding or acceptance." We prefer to preserve this concept through other labels (*unimax group* or *minipeople*) thus allowing the term *people group* to have a broader meaning including all the other types of peoples listed above.

population segment. An expanded term for *segment*, emphasizing its composition as a population.

R%. A computed estimate of the percentage of persons in a *country* or other *population segment* who have become *reached*.

reached. Having heard the gospel, understood it, and having had the opportunity to respond by joining an indigenous church or fellowship of his own culture.

reached minipeople. A *minipeople* with a *viable indigenous church*.

reached people. An *ethnolinguistic people* with a *viable indigenous church*.

reached persons. Individuals who have had an adequate opportunity to hear the gospel and to respond to it, and also to contact a church of their own culture and to meet and join in fellowship with other believers.

restricted-access country. A *country* whose government or regime restricts access by foreign missionaries wishing to reside, foreign *Christians* wishing to visit, or foreign Christian literature, broadcasting or other Christian ministries or influences.

Scripture language. A language in which some Scripture activity exists, either distributing of complete scriptures (complete Books of the Bible) in print, radio, audio, or video versions; or partial scriptures. (ongoing translation and preparation of complete scriptures, or

use of selections of texts in print, radio, or audio versions).

segment. Any subdivision of the world's population (homogeneous or not), made for purposes of understanding and analysis; the most generalized English translation of the biblical Greek word *ethmos* (usually translated "people").

segmentization. The process of dividing the world's population into meaningful small *segments*—usually *countries*, *people groups*, or *cities*—in order to assist with their targeting and *evangelization*.

sociopeople. A people or population group defined primarily by some sociological category such as class, caste, occupation, age, abode; often regarded as a useful bridge people for *evangelism*.

standalone. This adjective as used here does not refer to individuals but to agencies or *global plans* which operate organizationally unrelated to the rest of the *Great Commission World*, i.e. with budget and program unrelated to those of other agencies; also used of a computer which serves only its immediate user without being linked or networked to other computers.

statistics. The shortest and most compact form of factual description with regard to a population or situation.

Third World. Developing nations not politically aligned with either the Western (Capitalist) world or the Communist (Marxist) world.

three (3)-tier schema. A stylized schematic representation in which, to enhance the understanding of *world evangelization*, the globe is divided into 3 slices or tiers or worlds and given the names *World A*, the *Unevangelized World*; *World B*, the *Evangelized Non-Christian World*; and *World C*, the *Christian World*.

U%. A computed estimate of the percentage of persons in a particular *population segment* (world, *country*, *people group*, city) who are *unevangelized*; equivalent to 100-E%.

unevangelized persons. Individuals who have had no adequate opportunity to hear the gospel or respond to it; persons who are unaware of Christianity, Christ, and the gospel; those who have never heard the name of Jesus.

unevangelized population segment. A measurable population community, or an evangelistically manageable population bloc, capable of being targeted by a missionary or couple with a view to its *evangelization*.

unevangelized world. In the *3-tier schema*, this is *World A*, consisting of all non-Christians who have not been

evangelized.

unfinished task. The remaining task of the Christian church on Earth viewed as the church's responsibility within God's plan for the world; usually viewed as completing the fulfillment of Christ's Great Commission.

unimax people. An alternate term for *minipeople*.

unreached. Having never heard the gospel nor having had the opportunity to contact an indigenous church or fellowship of his own culture.

unreached people. An *ethnolinguistic people* who do not have their own *viable indigenous church*.

unreached minipeople. A *minipeople* with no *viable indigenous church*.

unreached persons. Individuals who have, or have had, no adequate opportunity to hear the gospel, or to respond to it, or to meet and have fellowship with other believers.

V%. A computed estimate of the percentage of persons in a *country* or other *population segment* who are *unreached* equivalent to 100-R%.

vehicular megalanguage. A language with a million or more speakers which acts as a trade language or *lingua franca*.

viable indigenous church. Within an *ethnolinguistic people* or a *minipeople*, an indigenous community of believing *Christians* with adequate numbers and resources to *evangelize* their own *people group* without necessitating outside (cross-cultural) assistance.

world evangelization. The term used for the goal of reaching the entire world with the gospel of Christ, or of giving every *people group* and population on Earth the opportunity to hear the gospel with understanding and to become disciples of Christ.

World A. In the *3-tier schema* of the Earth, the *unevangelized world*, i.e. the world of all *unevangelized* individuals.

World B. In the *3-tier schema* of the Earth, the *evangelized non-Christian world*, i.e. all non-Christians who have nevertheless become *evangelized*.

World C. In the *3-tier schema* of the Earth, the *Christian world*, i.e. the world of all who individually are *Christians*.