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Community Transformation Through Empowerment of Local Churches

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World Relief Haiti

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The State of the World

- More than 800 million hungry (1 in 9)
- 2 Billion Malnourished
- 2.5 Billion lack access to improved sanitation
- 800 Thousand children under 5 die of diarrhea each year



The State of the World

- 36 million living with HIV/AIDS
- 31 million girls of primary school age not in school
- More than 600,000 women and girls trafficked annually.



The State of the World

- Nearly 12 million displaced by war and conflict in 2017 alone
- While poverty rates have improved worldwide over the last decade, it is increasing in Sub-Saharan Africa



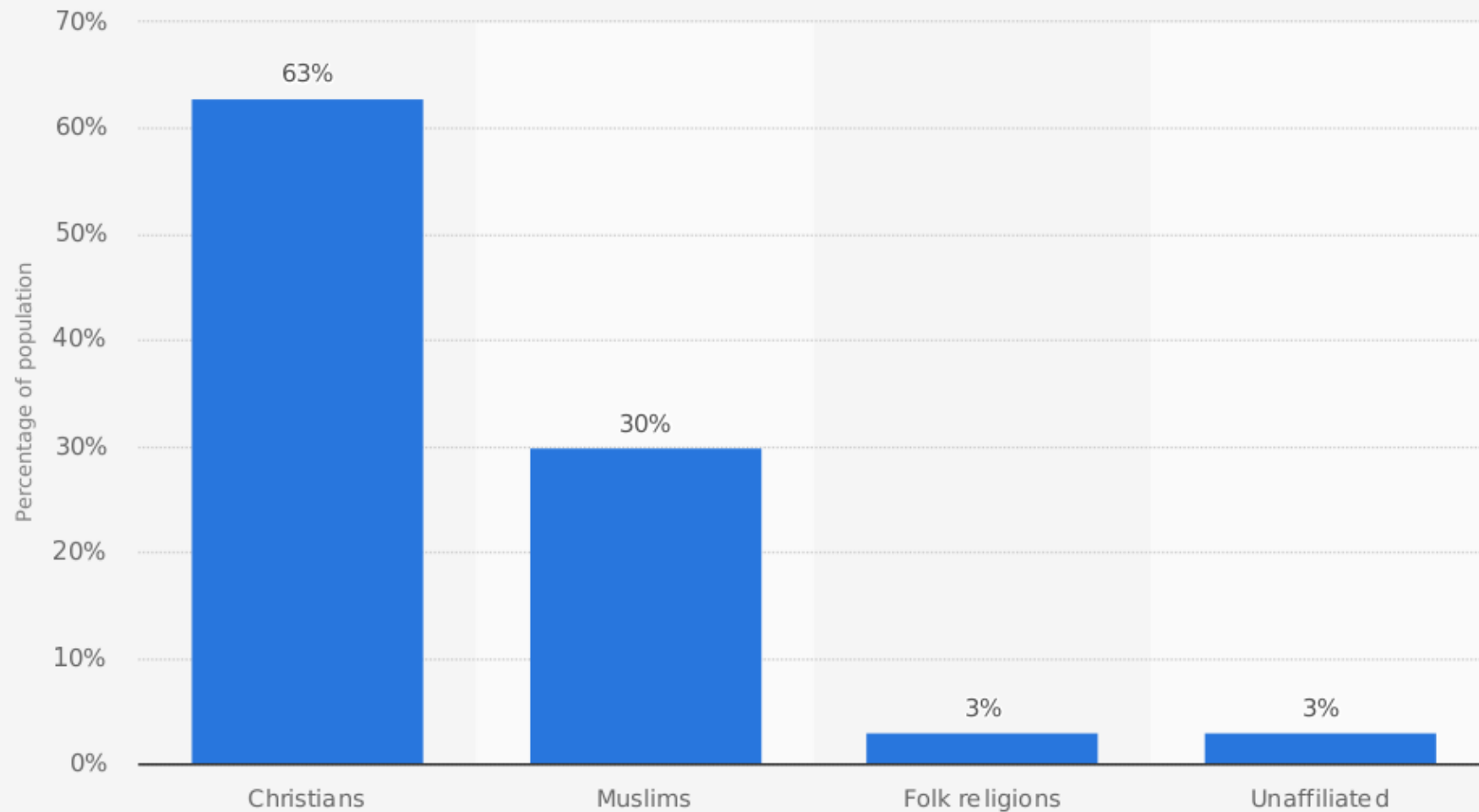
Where is the Church?



Where is the Church?

- 2.3 Billion Christians around the world in 2015
- The church has access to nearly every people group around the world
- We are neighbors to the problems around us

Percentage of population in Sub-Saharan Africa that belonged to major religious groups in 2010, by religion



Source
Pew Research Center
© Statista 2018

Additional Information:
Africa; Pew Research Center



Where is the Church?

If 63% of those who are among the most impoverished population in the world are Christian, what would be the best way to reach them and to meet their needs?



The Church: The Obvious Partner

- Why the church?
 - Access
 - Morality
 - Mandate
 - Permanence



The Church: God's "Plan A"

The Bible never indicates any other solution to the world's brokenness and need than The People of God living in the way that God intended.



Starting Internally

- The Rwandan Genocide claimed nearly a million lives in a few months. (90% Christian)
- Who perpetrates 48 rapes per hour in 90%+ Christian Congo?
- How did Christian nations justify the trade of human lives for sugar, coffee, tobacco and rum for 400 years (American Colonization)



Starting Internally

“The Gospel cannot be powerful through us until it is powerful within us.”

-- Gil Odendaal

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The Integral Mission of the Church

- To preach the Gospel in **Word, Deed, & Being.**
- **Ministering to the whole person**
 - **Body, Soul, and Spirit**
- **Combining the Great Commission & the Great Commandments**



Confronting False Dichotomies

When a disaster hits Haiti, who is most responsible for alleviating the suffering of the victims: The American Church or the Haitian Church?



Confronting False Dichotomies

Being members of the same body, we share the responsibility and we carry the same burden, but, naturally, we do not all perform the same function.



Confronting False Dichotomies

- Where is the Home Front? Where is the Mission Field?
- What differentiates a *minister* or a *missionary* from an *ordinary believer*?



Confronting False Dichotomies

- Surprised by our “Little Brothers in Christ”
- The materially poor have much to offer



In the economy of God's Kingdom, one talent is still a talent. A quarter talent still carries a moral obligation.

When we treat materially poor Christians as if they have nothing to offer, we rob them of their reward and we rob God of His increase.

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How to Empower the Church

- Believe in the Church
- Find your function as a member
- Re-examine what it looks like to “Go into all of the World” in the current context
 - Reached vs. Unreached Nations
 - Presence vs. Influence



The Bride Wore White...

“Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure— for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.”

-- Revelation 19:10

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...and the Bridesmaids rejoiced

*The one who has the bride is the bridegroom.
The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and
hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's
voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now
complete. He must increase, but I must
decrease.*

-- John 3:29-30

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Speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

--Ephesians 4:15-16

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Sources

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