

# SERVING IN MISSIONS IN AN AFRICAN CONTEXT

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**MY FAMILY  
PETER  
PRECIOUS  
PEACE  
PECULIAR  
PRAISE**

# INTRODUCTION

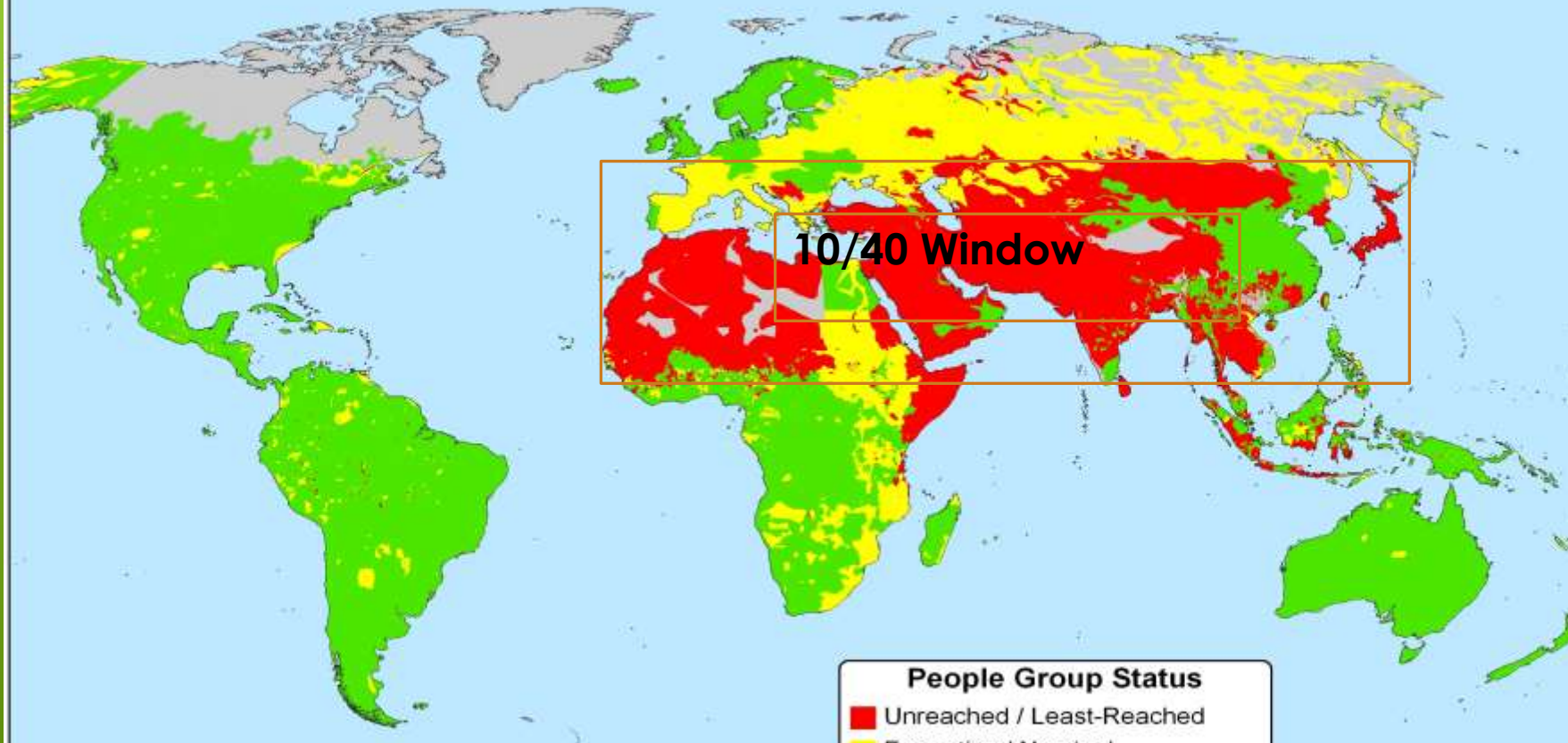
Mission is fulfilling the great commission; that is reaching out to all nations with the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Africans are guided by many strong cultural beliefs, which fashion their perception about life in general



# Progress of the Gospel by People Group

Based on the Joshua Project Progress Scale



Source: Joshua Project ([www.joshuaproject.net](http://www.joshuaproject.net)), December 2009  
Map by Joshua Project and Global Mapping International ([www.gmi.org](http://www.gmi.org))

People Group Status	
Red	Unreached / Least-Reached
Yellow	Formative / Nominal
Green	Established / Significant
Grey	Data not available or uninhabited



## OVERVIEW OF THE AFRICA CONTINENT

### GEOGRAPHY

**Africa covers about 30,244,000 square km; 20.3% of the world's surface area. Of this, 20.6 million sq km are in countries south of the Sahara, and 9.68 million people in the nations of North Africa.**



## PEOPLE

Africa has nearly 2,500 ethnic groups, Sub-Saharan Africa has 67.1%. 2,111 peoples. The 53 people clusters can be grouped into three major blocs such as West Africa, Sudanic and Bantu



## THE CONTINENT IS DIVIDED INTO THE FOLLOWING:



<b>East Africa</b>	<b>-19 countries</b>
<b>Middle/Central Africa</b>	<b>-9 countries</b>
<b>North Africa</b>	<b>- 8 countries</b>
<b>South Africa</b>	<b>- 5 countries</b>
<b>West Africa</b>	<b>- 17 countries</b>

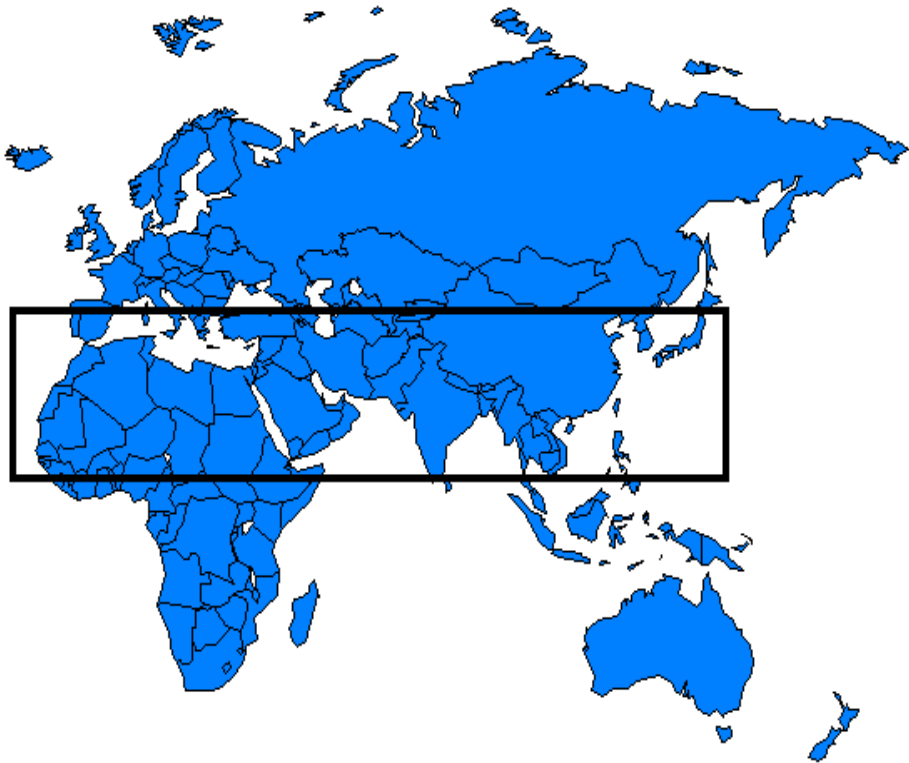
**We have 58 countries in this continent with a total population of (1,163,895,000) (1.163 billion) people.**

**Africa have a total of (3,712) people group out of which (981) are unreached, this makes up to (26.4%), (329,847,000) population are unreached. A total of 0.8 billion people have been reached with the gospel of Christ.**



# 10/40 WINDOW

In this rectangular area are: North Africa, Middle East and Asia and it is popularly called “The Resistant Belt” and includes the majority of the world’s Muslims, Hindus, and Buddhism. About 4.83 billion individuals reside in the region with approximately 8,067 people group. This is the home of the largest unreached people groups in the world.





# WORLDVIEW

**John Fowler** defines the term worldview as “a construct about the make-up of life as if struggles with the questions of reality, truth, ethnics and history. It is a construct that provides a point of departure, a sense of direction, a locus of destination, and a strategy of unity for human thought, life and action.”

# **WORLDVIEW OF THE AFRICA CONTINENT**



**Africans worldview, exerts a strong shaping influences and power on their lives. For any effective mission to be accomplish in Africa, the challenge of the traditional worldview needs to be tackled expeditiously not just to proclaim the gospel, but also to render a complete service of discipling them and providing for the formation of these same people into a new worldview.**

**African Tradition to Christian Tradition**

# **WORLDVIEW OF THE AFRICA CONTINENT**

**Africans believes in a supreme God, they also believe that God lives far from those who are alive. In order to reach Him, His power, and all His other benefits the living have to go through intermediaries who are between those on the higher level of human existences and the supreme God Himself. They can only benefit from God if they recognize the entities of power in their descending order through the elders and other specialists.**

# **WORLDVIEW OF THE AFRICA CONTINENT**

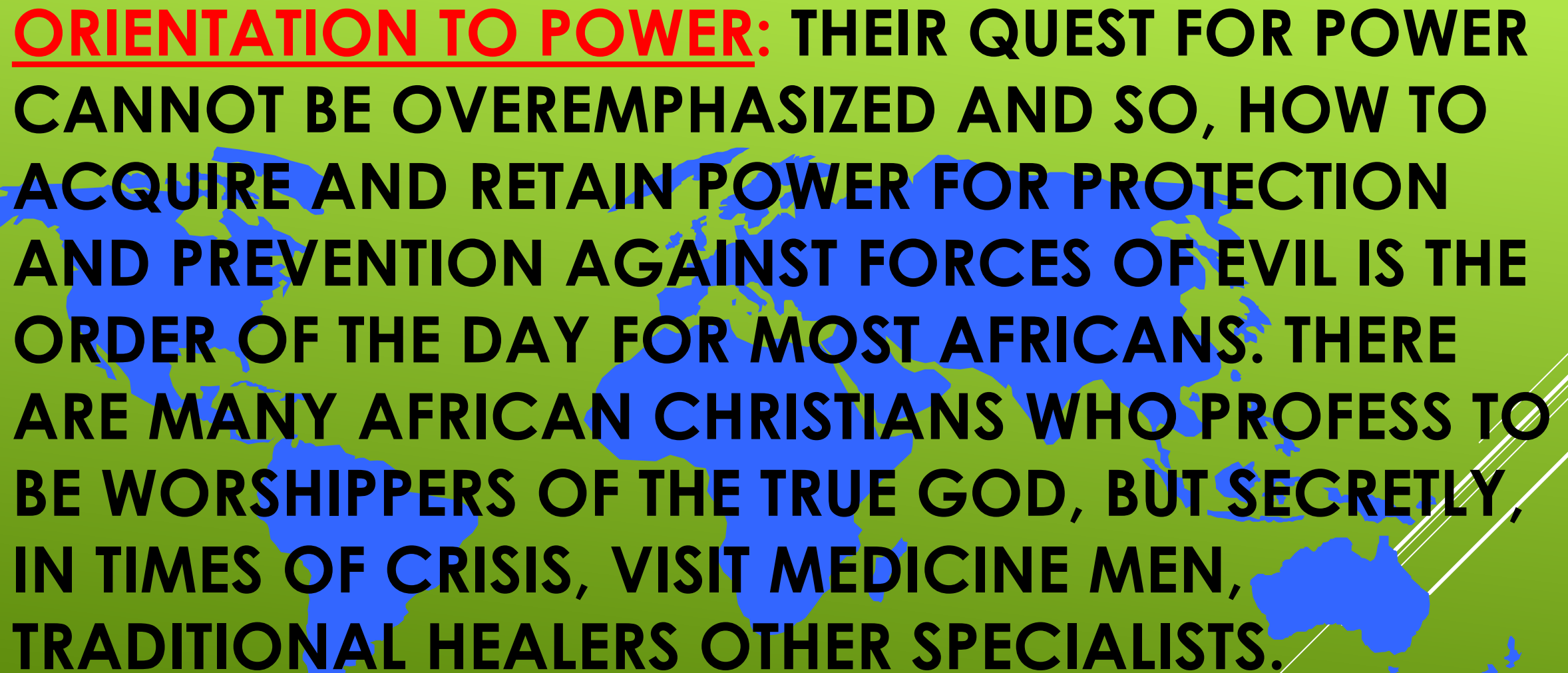
**These views should be taken seriously when traditional Africans are being evangelized and disciplined. Some scholars refer to aspects of the traditional Africa worldview as the religio-cultural heritage of the Africa that must be adhered to or the person who claims to have been converted to Christianity has only a veneer of Christianity.**



**COMMUNITY SOLIDARITY**: ONE OF THE GREATEST GIFTS OF THE AFRICANS TO THE WORLD CONSISTS OF A STRONG SENSE OF COMMUNITY. IN THE TURBULENT ENVIRONMENT OF OUR CONTEMPORARY WORLD, REDEMPTIVE COMMUNITIES HAVE BECOME IMPORTANT IN SHAPING HUMAN BEINGS FOR THE TRADITIONAL AFRICAN, HARMONIOUS RELATIONSHIPS ARE CENTRAL TO THE INFORMATION OF PEOPLE AND ARE THEREFORE, IMPERATIVE TO CULTIVATE AND MAINTAIN RELATIONAL HARMONY WITHIN THE COMMUNITY. AFRICAN VIEW OF MAN SAYS:

**'I AM BECAUSE WE ARE, AND SENSE WE ARE, THEREFORE I AM'**

**ORIENTATION TO POWER: THEIR QUEST FOR POWER CANNOT BE OVEREMPHASIZED AND SO, HOW TO ACQUIRE AND RETAIN POWER FOR PROTECTION AND PREVENTION AGAINST FORCES OF EVIL IS THE ORDER OF THE DAY FOR MOST AFRICANS. THERE ARE MANY AFRICAN CHRISTIANS WHO PROFESS TO BE WORSHIPPERS OF THE TRUE GOD, BUT SECRETLY, IN TIMES OF CRISIS, VISIT MEDICINE MEN, TRADITIONAL HEALERS OTHER SPECIALISTS.**



**MYSTICAL POWER: THE MOST DISTRIBUTING ELEMENT OF AFRICAN TRADITION WORLDVIEW CAN BE IDENTIFIED AS THE FEAR OF POWER THAT MAYBE HARMFULLY USED, AS EVIL MAGIC, WITCHCRAFT AND SORCERY ARE CONSIDERED TO BE AT WORK ALL THE TIME. BAD PEOPLE, WHO KNOW HOW TO TAP THIS POWER, USE IT TO HARM OTHER PEOPLE. IT THEREFORE, MEANS THAT THERE IS A NEED FOR GOOD PEOPLE WHO HAVE ACCESS TO GOOD POWER THAT CAN BE USED TO COUNTERACT POWER FROM EVIL FORCES TO USE THEM. ACTS 17, GAL 6.**

▶ **THE  
UNREACHED/UNEVANGELISED  
PEOPLE groups**



**AFRICA HAS 13 OF THE WORLD'S 20  
LEAST-EVANGELIZED COUNTRIES BY  
PERCENTAGE**



There are 538 people groups in Nigeria with a population of about 181,939,000 people; according to Joshua project 98 tribes (18.2%) are unreached forming a population of 60,696,000 (33.4%).



# **SOME CHALLENGES/NEEDS OF THE AFRICAN**

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- **Islam is the major challenge for Christianity today.**
  - **Africa's urban population has rapidly increased.**
  - **lack of economic and poor infrastructure have made the cities a focal point for dire poverty, squalor, crime, prostitution, disease and misery.**
  - **HIV/AIDS: HIV still afflicts nearly 23 million people in sub-Saharan Africa alone.**

# TYPES OF MISSIONS AVAILABLE IN AFRICA CONTINENT

The types of mission work available in Africa continent are one-on-one: evangelism (preaching a set of beliefs for the purpose of conversion); and humanitarian work, especially among the poor and disadvantaged. There are a few different kinds of mission trips: short-term, long-term, and relational and ones meant simply for helping people in need. Some might choose to dedicate their whole lives to missions as well. Missionaries have the authority to preach the Christian faith (and sometimes to administer sacraments), and provide humanitarian work to improve economic development, literacy, education, health care, and orphanages.

# EXAMPLES OF MISSIONARIES TO THE AFRICA CONTINENT

1. David Livingstone (1813-1873)
2. Mary Slessor (1848-1915)
3. John G. Lake (1870-1935)







## **SOME BASIC QUESTIONS TO ANSWER:**

- 1. Aside the gospel message, what else can you pass on to the people you are going to reach (platform)?**
- 2. What changes are you introducing to those you hope to reach?**

# CONCLUSION

In conclusion, Christian mission is "an organized effort for the propagation of the Christian faith." Missions often involve sending individuals or groups, called "missionaries," across boundaries, most commonly geographical boundaries, for the purpose of proselytism (conversion to Christianity, or from one Christian tradition to another).

# **WHAT ARE THE SOURCES OF THESE INFORMATION?**

**Operation World 7<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2010.**

**Nigeria Evangelical Missions Association (NEMA)**

**Progress, Challenges and Case Studies of Missions in Nigeria.**

**William Adebolu Library, 2010**

**Joshua Project**

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## Further research:

- [www.worldchristiandatabase.org/wcd/](http://www.worldchristiandatabase.org/wcd/)
  - Probably the premiere site for mission stats, by subscription.
- [www.uscwm.org/](http://www.uscwm.org/) Their magazine *Mission Frontiers* is available at <https://www.uscwm.org/our-work/publishing/mission-frontiers>
- [www.mislinks.org/](http://www.mislinks.org/) For research and missions topics
- [www.ethnologue.com/](http://www.ethnologue.com/) Language database
- [www.joshuaproject.net/](http://www.joshuaproject.net/) Unreached people info
- [www.gmi.org](http://www.gmi.org) Global Mapping links
  - [www.gmi.org/research/websites.htm](http://www.gmi.org/research/websites.htm) Global Mapping research links
- <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/> Country information from the US—CIA
- <http://www.thequran.com/>
- Locate this presentation at <http://www.rmni.org>





*THANK YOU*