

**GCCHM Leadership Certification
Level V, Course #1**

**EVANGELIZING THE 4/14 WINDOW
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(Presenter's Notes)**

During the past ten years the Seventh-day Adventist Church has targeted our worldwide evangelism on the 10/40 Window, a geographic region where millions of people with different ideologies who have not heard the name of Jesus. This worldwide mission emphasis on the 10/40 Window has seen encouraging increases in baptism and church growth through urban church planting, intentional programs for unreached people groups, and innovative and novel ministries to reach the post moderns.

Correlate 10/40 with 4/14 Windows

- 70% of the world's 4-10 yea olds live in the 10/40 Window.
- The 10/40 Window is the geographical area with the greatest need to sow the gospel seeds.
- The 4/14 Window is the demographic grouping that is the most receptive and moldable to spiritual and developmental input.

What Do Research Studies Say?

- The 4/14 Window is the most formative years when values, worldviews, and perspectives of life are shaped either positively or negatively.
- The 4/14 Window is the demographic grouping that is the most receptive and moldable to spiritual and developmental input.

Ellen White About Child Development

"Too much importance cannot be placed on the early training of children. The lessons that the child learns during the first seven years of life have more to do with forming his character than all that it learns in future years." CG 193

"It is still true that children are the most susceptible to the teachings of the gospel; their hearts are open to divine influences, and strong to retain the lessons received." *Desire of Ages*, 515

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Jesus Warns Against Being a Stumbling Block

“If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.” Matthew 18:6

Jesus recognizes that children do believe in Him and accept Him, hence He warns us against being a stumbling block to children in growing their faith.

Jesus’ Teaching about Children

- Jesus recognized the importance of children and youth in His Kingdom work.
- “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”
- “Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.”
- “If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones . . .” (Matt 18:1-6).

Have we really listened to Jesus’ teaching about the place of children in the kingdom of God? Children model faith and discipleship by showing us adults how to humbly repent and trust in the God of salvation. When we welcome them, we are accepting and respecting them as Christ Himself. Notice that Jesus made it very clear that if we neglect and abuse them, or lead them astray, it is better that we be drowned in the depths of the sea.

The 4/14 Age Group Around the World

Luis Bush’s recent paper reveals fascinating figures of the 4-to-14ers worldwide. India, with 20% less population than China, has over 30% more children and youth. This is due to China’s “one child” policy. Nigeria and Indonesia, with half the population of the U. S., actually have more children and teens in absolute numbers. In the U. S., 25% of the nearly 42 million school age children are Hispanic –though Hispanics comprise only 15% of the general population. And, as the chart indicates, in Africa and in the Middle Eastern countries like Afghanistan, Pakistan, and others, 40 to 50% of the population is under 15 years of age. Compare this with countries like Germany (14.4%), Italy (13.8%), etc. It can be seen that the greatest population growth is found in the least developed and conflicted countries of the world.

5/14 POPULATION (2010)

TOP 10 COUNTRIES

India	248,253,120
China	180,084,594
Indonesia	42,716,276
Nigeria	42,716,276
USA	41,819,347

Pakistan	38,118,459
Bangladesh	36,068,928
Brazil	35,263,734
Ethiopia	23,990,943
Mexico	20,855,453
Total (Top 10)	709,595,962
Total (Others)	508,921,404
GLOBAL TOTAL	1,218,517,366

World Population Under 15 Years Old

Problems Facing the 4/14ers in the 10/40 Window

- Sexual exploitation
- Forced child labor
- Neglect
- Abuse – physical, emotional and sexual
- Deprived of basic education
- Lack of basic health care

Characteristics of the Modern 4/14ers

- Internet Generation.”
- “Digital Kids.”
- “Millennials”
- “Facebookers,”
- “You Tubers”
- Do not think twice about sharing their opinions with strangers online whom they call “Friends.”

Our Challenges with 4/14-ers

- Children learn all kinds of worldviews and philosophies from the mass media.
- Teenagers & adults do not have a strong Biblical worldview.

Barna’s 4 P’s of a Biblical Worldview

- **Purpose**—identifying their purpose in life
- **Perspective**—clarifying their core life perspectives
- **Provision**—providing basic conditions and benefits they need to grow in a healthy manner
- **Performance**—describing the performance of specific activities that enable them to lead productive and meaningful lives.

Evangelism Programs for Unchurched Children

- Run child evangelistic programs concurrently with adult evangelism.

- Use family events – family night, Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, etc.
- Use special events – vacation Bible school, sports camp, children’s music festival, Children’s Day.
- Use church services – Sabbath schools, church centennial celebration, praise & worship.
- Use school events – lunchtime club, school assemblies and chapels,

Evangelism Programs for Adventist Children

- Sabbath School
- Small groups
- Prayer groups
- Baptismal classes
- Retreats/Camps
- Children’s church
- Week of prayer
- Nature camps

Evangelism Model

- **Child** – Build relationships
- **Family** – Involve parents and families in child’s faith
- **Community** – Support and affirm them

Finally...

“Children are precious to God and we want to lead them to follow Jesus. They are not miniature adults, but instead they have their special needs, fears, and questions that should be taken into consideration.

References

- **The 4/14 Movement Book by Dr. Luis Bush.**
- **Covenant of 4 to 14 Window – Draft Resolution**
- **The 4/14 Window—Child Ministries and Mission Strategies by Dan Brewster.**