



# ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT

Reporting on 2025 Data



INTERNATIONAL  
MISSION BOARD



The IMB invited representatives from the Korean Foreign Mission Board and Junta de Missões Nacionais in Brazil to participate in field personnel orientation with new missionaries. IMB President Paul Chitwood (third from left) thanks the representatives for sharing their own knowledge. Pictured are: Myung Gun Shin, Hyo Chin Lim, Paul Chitwood, Na Yeon Lee, Wonjang Joo, Gabriel da Silva and Francisco Aires Júnior. IMB Photo

## The Great Commission

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." —*Matthew 28:18-20*

# The Missionary Task

At IMB we believe the core missionary task has six components:  
entry, evangelism, discipleship, healthy church formation, leadership  
development, and exit to partnership.



Learn more about the Missionary Task in IMB's *Foundations* at <https://imb.org/foundations>

# Global Realities

These realities highlight the lostness of the world. "...Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest" (John 4:35).

Global Population

8,227,628,716

Global Daily  
Population Growth

238,485

Total People Groups

12,375

Unreached  
People Groups

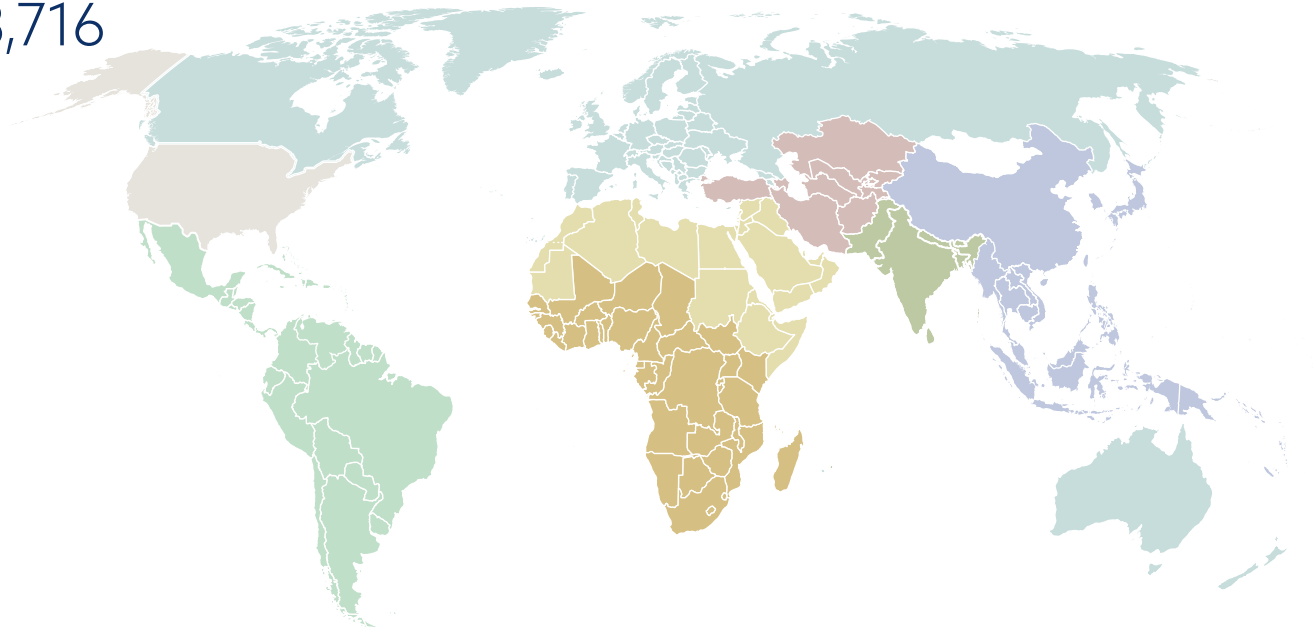
7,291

Unengaged Unreached  
People Groups

3,106

Global Dying Daily  
Apart from Christ

160,101



## Global Affinities

- European Peoples
- Central Asian Peoples
- American Peoples
- South Asian Peoples
- Northern African and Middle Eastern Peoples
- Asian Pacific Rim Peoples
- Sub-Saharan African Peoples
- Global Deaf Peoples



A migrant camp in Greece is one of several temporary camps where migrants receive housing and food while their status is determined. IMB Photo

# Global Impact and Entry

The IMB is making progress in reaching unreached populations by developing strategic plans to access and engage with those who haven't heard the gospel.

## GLOBAL IMPACT

2,358

unique people groups impacted in 2025

77%

of people groups impacted were unreached (UPGs)

31

people groups moved from unengaged to engaged in 2025

13,679

short-term volunteers went on mission trips with IMB

2,165,370

Children, youth, and students impacted

286,788

Refugees impacted

1,010,193

Rural people impacted

1,089,495

Elderly people impacted

594,656

Urban people impacted



## ENTRY

27,585

Hours spent prayer walking

1,223,691

Views of digital gospel content (watched to at least 95% completion)

38,179

Hours of language learning

# Entry and Evangelism

Human Needs projects allow personnel and partners to share the gospel through words and actions. Evangelism, which involves proclaiming the full gospel message, is at the core of disciple making.

## ENTRY



2,752

Number of human needs projects

149,937

Individuals impacted by human needs projects



## EVANGELISM



2,066,251

Total number of people who heard a partial or full gospel presentation



801,557

Total number of people who heard a partial or full gospel presentation and had an opportunity to respond



196,497

Total number of people who decided to follow Jesus Christ



29,937

Total number of people who were baptized

# Discipleship and Church Formation

The Great Commission's central command is to make disciples through transforming a person's heart, mind, and relationships. A church is a group of baptized believers in Jesus Christ who are committed to be the body of Christ to one another and who meet regularly to carry out the functions of a biblical church.

## DISCIPLESHIP

29,828

Given basic  
discipleship

88,152

Trained in  
evangelism

66,900

Trained to  
make disciples



225,578  
INDIVIDUALS  
DISCIPLED



29,018

Trained in  
church planting

68,895

Trained in  
Bible storying

35,049

Discipled in  
theology or doctrine

37,896

Trained in  
church health

## CHURCH FORMATION

5,488

Total new groups

7,697

Total new churches

# Leadership Development and Exit to Partnership

Biblical leadership is crucial for a local church's well-being and sustainable Kingdom work. IMB's goal is to complete the missionary task and exit to partnership when local churches take responsibility for fulfilling the Great Commission.

68,330  
INDIVIDUALS  
TRAINED



## LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

15,719  
Trained in preaching  
or teaching

17,698  
Trained in  
church health

14,792  
Trained as a  
pastor or elder

3,516  
Trained in  
biblical counseling

23,329  
Trained in  
church planting

15,976  
Trained in  
theology or doctrine

23,890  
Trained in  
evangelism

## EXIT TO PARTNERSHIP

32,073  
Individuals trained in  
cross-cultural sending

275  
Global Missionary  
Partners sent

# Reading this Report

When reading IMB's annual statistical report, please be aware that statistics vary from year to year. For security reasons, the total number of personnel and close partners in each part of the world is not publicly released. Neither is the time spent laboring among a particular people group or place released. Your IMB personnel and partners, regardless of the difficulty of the soil, are laboring diligently, trusting God with the results, and working to provide transparent, accurate, and trustworthy reporting.

Why do field statistics vary? Some field teams have many close partners, while others have few to no believers and partners. In some places, providing the opportunity to hear the gospel is the work of one or two, and in others it is the work of hundreds or thousands. Some teams labor faithfully for a decade to see a single person come to saving faith, while others see many following Christ in their first year. Teams may stay in place for years discipling pastors and leaders, while other teams are forced to leave after a short time by hostile governments, persecution, or health issues. Some teams see fruit in terms of local churches' ownership in the Great Commission and well-discipled pastors and leaders; they then transition to a peer relationship with local leaders, stop reporting those partners' efforts, and shift their team's focus to new unreached people groups resistant to the gospel. Because of this, one year a team may show a multitude of gospel shares and new churches and the next year report minimal gospel sharing and no new churches.

Year-by-year comparisons of "faithfulness" and resulting "fruitfulness," even within the same affinity, should be avoided. The circumstances behind changes are varied and complex. Field and personnel realities point to the desperate need for prayer.

## How is the data collected?

All year IMB missionaries and their close baptistic partners enter activities and any resulting fruit from the Lord into software that tracks and maintains this data. The software identifies progress in each of the six components of the missionary task among the people groups and places of the world. Our personnel carefully report and prayerfully represent IMB's commitment, like the Apostle Paul, not to report on work done outside of the sphere apportioned to us by the Lord (2 Corinthians 10:12-18). Statistics may change from year to year due to changes in reporting relationships with partners.

## Photos and names

Photos in this report are not related to the work described. Names have been changed for security.



# Definitions

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## Terms used in this report

**Affinities** are strategic combinations of all the world's people groups, which help facilitate the spread of the gospel based on shared culture, root languages, ethnicities, and other similar factors. IMB has found that having teams focus on these affinity groupings allows for more focused effort on similar peoples regardless of where they live.

**"Faithfulness" data** is collected about the missionary activities that are the responsibility of our personnel and their partners—sharing the gospel, discipling believers, training pastors and leaders, and identifying and engaging people groups.

**"Fruitfulness" data** shows what God is doing through "faithfulness" activities. "Fruitfulness" data includes such things as individuals receiving salvation through Jesus Christ and new churches forming. IMB collects this data so we can glorify God by boasting in what the Lord is doing through our personnel and partners.

An **Explorer** is a young man or woman sent out to find, share the gospel with, and bring back actionable data about the remaining 3,072 unengaged unreached people groups, so any truly unengaged unreached people groups may be fully engaged with church-planting strategies by 2033.

A **Global Missionary Partner (GMP)** is a national partner and follower of Jesus, who is called by God to be a cross-cultural missionary, assessed and sent by their local church and sending entity, affirmed by IMB field personnel, and working in cooperation with an IMB field team.

**Unreached Peoples** are defined as people groups with less than 2% evangelical populations. The list is designed to highlight priority people groups needing missionary effort.

An **Unengaged People Group** is one where there are no known efforts focused on establishing self-sustaining churches consistent with evangelical faith and practice. A people group becomes engaged when there are the following:

- Sustained commitment to sharing Christ and making disciples;
- Work occurring in culturally appropriate and locally relevant ways;
- Efforts focused on establishing self-sustaining churches.

**Impacted Peoples** are defined as individuals and people groups who had any of the six missionary task activities performed among them by IMB field personnel and partners. Impacted does not necessarily mean engaged with a church-planting strategy.

**New Churches** are groups of baptized believers in Jesus Christ who are committed to be the body of Christ to one another and who meet regularly to carry out the functions of a biblical church. IMB is committed to planting healthy churches that multiply. IMB missionaries work to make disciples and train indigenous pastors/elders/overseers to lead any churches that are formed. IMB plants churches that align with the *Baptist Faith & Message 2000*. This statistic refers only to groups that became churches during the reporting year.

**New Groups** are gatherings of people who intend to become a church according to the *Baptist Faith & Message 2000* definition. These groups consist of believers and non-believers meeting in the early formation stage of a church. This statistic refers only to groups started within the reporting year.

# REACHING THE NATIONS, TOGETHER.



**INTERNATIONAL**  
MISSION BOARD

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