

**2011-  
2020**

**Global *QuickVIEW*:** Trends & Issues That Will Likely Impact the Mission of World Team in Future Years



World Team  
**Global *QuickVIEW***  
Task Force

June, 2011





## A Message from the **International Director**

Dear friends and colleagues,

Fritz Kling in his book, *The Meeting of the Waters*, notes: “All too often, global church leaders do long-range planning as if the future is simply going to be an extension of the present. The report (by an international panel of church experts) questioned whether the Christian church has the ability or desire to recognize a world in flux and figure out how to respond.”

We, at World Team, desire to better understand the changing world in which we live in order to help discern future delivery of ministry to which God has called us. In early January 2011, I asked a group of people from around World Team, starting from Kling’s book, to further research global currents that will (or are) impact missions in the days ahead. This **Global QuickVIEW** is the result of their efforts.

This report serves as a base for us at World Team (and perhaps for you) to seek new solutions and frameworks for ministry in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. May the reading of this document challenge your thinking and stimulate innovations for our hope-filled future.

In His grace, David Riddell

## A Message from the **Global QuickVIEW** Task Force

This **Global QuickVIEW** task force was made up of V. Althouse, James Cottle, Debbie Seckler, and Edwin Walker. At the invitation of World Team’s International Director, David Riddell, our task was to compile a short paper on the essential facts and trends that will impact our world in 2020, looking especially at geo-political, religious, economic and social sectors. Our task was also to consider the effects of these trends, dangers for church-planting missions, and problems or changes that may result from these major facts and trends. We were assigned this task in January of 2011 and submitted our report at the end of March, 2011.

Our research was conducted predominantly through the following means: reading a variety of related literature (books, magazines, journals), online searches, seminars or webinar information, and phone interviews with key missions thinkers. We then came together in online meetings as a “think-tank” – discussing the results of our research and determining together what information was most crucial for our World Team colleagues to know and wrestle through. We respectfully submit this paper as the result of the efforts of this task force. It was our joy to so serve, with the hope that these emerging realities will encourage our World Team colleagues everywhere to embrace increasingly more effective ministry approaches for our hope-filled future.

**Global QuickVIEW: Trends & Issues That Will Likely Impact the Mission of World Team in Future Years (2011-2020)**

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# Global Trends and Great Commission Challenges

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# The Impact of Major Facts and Current Trends: *Glimpses of our world in 2020*

The purpose of this paper is to outline the key facts, trends and issues that will likely have significant impact on Great Commission ministry. These facts, trends and issues could potentially impact World Team’s ability to fulfill its purpose while operating within the guidelines of its core values between now and 2020. *Trends* can be defined as the broad outlines of present realities that will define the way things will likely be in the future. A trend can be regional or global. *Issues* result from trends and have to do with the major points of debate that occupy wide attention at a given time.

The writers of this paper are neither “prophets nor sons of the prophets.” Therefore, we can seek to project the impact of certain current trends based on research, and the likeliness of that impact to continue on into the future, but with our limited knowledge all of our suggestions are fallible. As the very word “trend” suggests; global or regional events can change very quickly and must be frequently evaluated in order to accurately plan and proceed.

In watching trends and issues it is important to understand that all of these included trends are interrelated one with the other. None should be interpreted in isolation from the others. In this report, we propose looking at the world through five key lenses: Globalization, the Migration of Peoples, Mutuality & Partnership, Mercy & Justice, and Major Shifts in Economic and Geo-political Power. With these key areas in mind, we also suggest that readers approach this topic open mindedly and ask the question: *how does this trend, its causes or effects impact Great Commission opportunities both current and potential?*

## 1 GLOBALIZATION & WORLD CULTURE

**Globalization** Restaurants, drinks, clothes brands, cars, planning styles, leadership methods and building structures are only a few of the things that have crossed cultural boundaries and are being used to merge the past with the irreversible changing future. Globalization is “the process by which regional economies, societies, and cultures have become integrated through a global network of political ideas through communication, transportation, and trade.” (Wikipedia, Globalization)

Globalization is more than a trend; *it is a worldview.* (Lundy, 1995)

Globalization is the practical outworking of this changed mindset, whereby a group or an individual moves away from parochialism to universalism.

**Glocalization** is an effect of globalization, referring to the homogenization of global ideas, attitudes, beliefs and practices within a local or regional culture.

Globalization has several catalyst factors. The **economies** of the world are globally interconnected. If an economy wishes to survive in the current and coming context it must become global. **Travel** has become more accessible due to available finances generated by growing transnational businesses. Travel enables people to gain exposure to other parts of the world, thus broadening their worldview. **Technology** (Skype®, cell phones, online news, etc.) and the subsequent sharing of information is



playing a *major role* in expanding the worldviews and connectedness of people to and with other parts of the globe.<sup>1</sup> Finally, **education** has brought our large and diverse world to every classroom. In this current time, people are exponentially more educated and more aware of what is happening around the world than they ever were before. We can reasonably predict that the catalysts described above will continue to dramatically increase in their influence by 2020, resulting in some of the issues described below.

**GLOCALIZED WORLD CULTURE** In addition to the more obvious effects of globalization, we also see a **growing universality of cultural values** due to the globalizing influences listed above. Some believe that there is a growing global ‘monoculture,’ a trend toward shared values across our globe that has begun to slowly erode the cultural differences and thought that we have always seen among diverse peoples. One source has defined the related term “one-world culture” as “a popular belief that the future will bring development of a single homogeneous world culture through links created by modern communication, transportation, and trade.” (AnthropologyDepartment, 2011) Fritz Kling defines this idea by stating that “the culture of all countries will become more and more similar, thanks to the spread of worldwide images, ideals, celebrities, and ad campaigns.” (Kling, 2010) *Disagreement arises, however, as to whether or not this trend is true* and how homogeneous this “one-world culture” could really become. Will there remain both a local and worldwide culture, or will local cultures eventually only remain in isolated pockets of people who resist absorption into the global culture? Dr. Ott of Trinity Evangelical Divinity School states that he believes that surface cultures will merge but undercurrents will remain vastly different. (Ott, 2011)



Both tolerance and intolerance of globalization will increase by 2020. Some religious and/or local groups will embrace globalization or accept it in moderation, while others will completely reject it. **Muslims will represent 26% of the world’s population by 2020.** (Kettani, 2010) Moderate or progressive Muslims welcome globalization as an opportunity to dialogue and to propagate their faith in peaceful ways. (Ramadan, 2004) Yet, there is a visible “rise in radicalism” in the world in general. Specifically, “radical Islam will intensify, become more lethal, be challenging to control, and remain a security threat...” (First Fruits, 2010) “Glocalization” can become ‘Balkanization’<sup>2</sup> when conservative sectors of a society become more entrenched in their local traditions in order to limit the impact of globalization in their community.

**RELIGION** Globalization has produced a distinct awareness of diverse religious beliefs, leading many to doubt the existence of any version of absolute truth. Major epistemological shifts have taken place, moving peoples of the world from *modern to postmodern to ‘global’*. Tolerance is the new absolute. Mark C. Taylor, a postmodern deconstructionist

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<sup>1</sup> The role of technology in globalization is significant. Technology has not been written on extensively in this report but it is covered in the related videos clips that are *included viewing material* in this report. Surprising statistics and visual illustrations of technology’s increasing role are well portrayed in these videos. Please see Addendum A.

<sup>2</sup> *Glocalization* is the syncretism between global and local cultures. *Balkanization* is the strong rejection of the world/foreign culture often leading to a retrenchment of the values of a traditional local culture with hostility to the new global/foreign influences.

professor at Williams College, foresees the twenty-first century as dominated by religion in ways that were inconceivable just a few years ago. Spirituality is on the increase while religion is in decline. In the United States, all denominations lost ground according to a USA Today study that tracked adherents between 1990 and 2008. (USAToday, 2009) This trend is expected to continue, leading us to expect that by 2020 we will see an even larger drop in participation in orthodox religions, while forms of spirituality increase.

**GLOBAL YOUTH CULTURE** By the year 2020 will see a rise in global youth culture and related delayed maturity issues moving into adulthood. “Generation C” born since 1990, are sharing experiences, ideas, music, digital social networking, television, international education, global marketing, and frequent travel that is reflected in their behavior – thus forming a type of global youth culture. Generation “C” is seen predominantly in *developed nations*. These youth speak different languages, but lifestyle aspirations, values, fads, fashions and music are globalized while being homogenized to some degree within their local culture. (Hassan, 1991) They are called generation “C” “because they are connected, communicating, content-centric, computerized, community oriented, always clicking.” (Roman Friedrich, 2011) This generation (called “iY” according to Tim Elmore) is *overwhelmed*, *over-connected* (cell phones are an appendage to their bodies), *over-protected* (parents build self-esteem that leads to disillusionment when they are out in a world that doesn’t care), and *over-served* (leading to the highest rate in history of narcissistic tendencies). (Elmore, 2010)



In the developing world the effect of globalization on the youth is quite different. The 2010 Global Trends report from First Fruits<sup>3</sup> states:

“In parts of the developing world, a high proportion of young people relative to the population can be *destabilizing*, particularly where this generation will be faced with a lack of educational and employment opportunities, high-density urban communities, gender imbalance, overwhelmed governments and communal tensions. Many will be disenchanted with traditional institutions and religious practice and will be susceptible to ideologues, militias, radicalization and crime. Mass communication will further fuel disillusionment, licentious sexual practices, and a ‘tyranny-of-the-now’ global youth culture, as young people become more aware of what is happening around the world and are able to connect with one another with ease. Many will seek out new opportunities through immigration to areas of better prosperity and openness – a potentially troubling trend to ageing populations in the West and Japan.” (Fruits, 2010)

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<sup>3</sup> First Fruit, Inc. is a Christian grant organization. Over the last 35 years, First Fruit has come alongside of faith-based organizations in more than 100 countries in three key programmatic areas – holistic ministries, leadership development, and reaching the less and least reached. Every ten years, First Fruit makes a careful analysis of major global trends and their impact on our world, to give context to future grantmaking. After interviewing over 100 leaders in academia, policy, business, NGOs and Christian ministry, they have selected ten trends and five undercurrents which they think will most significantly influence the coming years. See bibliography for web information on where to find their report.

The National Intelligence Council enforces First Fruits conclusion by stating the following, “If the growing problem of abject poverty and bad governance in troubled states in Sub-Saharan Africa, Eurasia, the Middle East, and Latin America persists, these areas will become more fertile grounds for terrorism, organized crime, and pandemic disease. Forced migration also is likely to be an important dimension of any downward spiral. The international community is likely to face choices about whether, how, and at what cost to intervene.” (NIC, 2004)

We have seen troubling evidence of this prediction even in the past few months in Libya, Egypt, etc. We already know that globalization will continue to increase, and thus we can reasonably predict that by **2020** we will be seeing greater unrest among the world’s discontented youth.

**CONSIDERATIONS FOR GREAT COMMISSION MINISTRY** Globalization brings increased power of global influence, the use of the internet can bring one person’s thoughts and ideas around the globe for good or for ill. (Friedman, 2005) Mark Russell points out; *“Evangelicals who favor globalization point to the ease and ability to spread the gospel message far and wide. Global events and the natural flow of transportation and communication have always affected the spread of the gospel. Christian commentators have long pointed out that the elaborate road network developed by the Roman Empire helped to speed the spread of the gospel after Pentecost.”* (Russell, 2011) When Christians have a globalized worldview, partnership opportunities increase: resulting in a reduction of paternalism and greater cultural sensitivity and understanding. We are living in a unique time with unique opportunities for the spread of the Gospel!

Yet the increasing globalization of our world also presents some dangers and concerns. People can easily become over-informed and overstimulated, sometimes resulting in over-diversified ministry. Increased commitment to ‘religious tolerance’ may result in greater hostility toward true Gospel proclamation. Increased exposure to world religions increases the risk of syncretism and confusion about absolute truth. The church may face “watered-down” versions of itself and a lack of discipleship and spiritual fervor. Globalized world culture brings open doors for the Gospel, while tempting us to minimize cultural differences because of surface similarities.

The emergence of a generation in “adulthood” (Smith, 2009) demands change in traditional Great Commission ministry approaches. The rising generation brings great passion, awareness, knowledge, and technical proficiency while often lacking needed maturity and life skills to navigate the ministry world. Mission leaders must be aware of the needs of this generation and develop strategies to meet these needs if they wish to both recruit and retain younger workers. This research team believes that there is much good in the rising generation that can be harnessed for the Kingdom of God. The greatest danger would be to disengage from this generation, resulting in a loss of disciple-making disciples in a global world.

## 2 MIGRATION OF PEOPLES

“Migration is considered one of the defining global issues of the early twenty-first century, as more and more people are on the move today than at any other point in human history.” (About Migration) There are now about 214 million people living outside their place of birth, representing about 3.1 percent of the world’s population, while 64 million of these people immigrated in the last 10 years. (Migration, 2010) Gallop polls in 2009 revealed that 16% of the world’s adult population (representing 700 million people) would permanently move to another country if given the chance. Their desired destinations include the United States, Canada, European countries like U.K. France, Spain and Germany

as well as Saudi Arabia and Australia. Many desire to migrate to the West; but it is not feasible for them because of cost, travel restrictions or lack of education, yet global migration numbers are still high. We must ask why so many people are uprooting themselves and where are they all going?

**THE FACETS OF MIGRATION** While many desire to move to the West, higher numbers of international migration are **relocations to neighboring countries** (Economist, 2009), with 60% staying within their own region. This aspect of migration represents both those looking for opportunities and refugees (which represent 11-12 million) (Rosenberg, 2010) seeking haven from oppressive governments, wars or natural disaster. Migration also includes the shift in population from rural to urban.

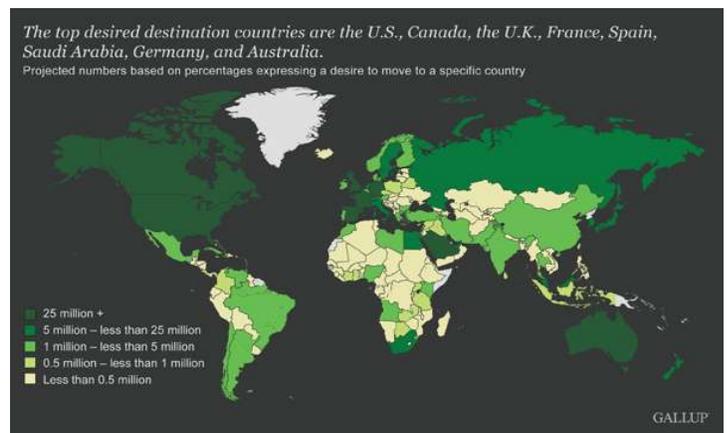


**Urbanization** has changed the economic and social landscape of our world. The world in which we currently live is now half-urban. (Price, Marie and Lisa Benton-Short, 2008) Many of these people live in megacities, described as cities of a metropolitan area of over 10 million, with 21 megacities in existence in 2011 (Wikipedia, 2011), There are predicted to be **27 megacities by 2020**. The urbanization that is now taking place is

unprecedented and will increase exponentially with the increase in world population. People are flooding into cities (large and small) in part due to the availability of education, jobs, food, medical and technological opportunities. **Urbanization is predicted to reach 60% of the world's population by 2030** (Chryssy POTSIYOU, Greece (edit.), 2010) and as high as 70% by 2050. (Trendwatching.com, 2011).

Canada has seen a dramatic increase in immigration: in the 1930's it was less than 500,000, but by 2001 it had risen to well over two million. (Canada Immigration, 2002) Australia has seen a decline in immigration (and faces replacement migration needs), but still remains among the top destination countries for migrants (see graphic Addendum B). (Australian Government, 2010) (Ansley, 2011) The United States immigration rate has tripled since 1970 and continues to rise. (Camarota, 2001)

Two important aspects of this trend are these: the migration of **Muslims** and **replacement migration** needs for parts of Europe. There are currently about 13 million Muslims in France, Germany, the UK, and the Netherlands, mostly from North Africa, Turkey, and the Indian subcontinent. (Christie) With Europe's multiculturalism and tolerance aspirations **the increase of migrating Muslims is projected to be 12% by 2020** with strong contingencies in France, Switzerland and Germany. (The Economist, 2003) But these destination



countries have a low birth rate: Europe's birth rate is 1.6%, which is below replacement, and only 17% of its population is under 15. This presents a both quantitative and qualitative problem when one compares a dwindling workforce and the increase in the ageing population. This is why, according to the United Nations, **Europe will need 16 million replacement immigrants between 2000 and 2025** to remain competitive in the job market. (The Economist, 2003) Where will they come from? The migration of Muslims into Europe at alarming levels has led some Europeans to

suggest that governments should “deliberately promote Christian immigration” in order to reduce the Islamic influence. (Jenkins) One can feel the direness of the situation especially when hearing that “ninety percent of all Muslims believe that Christianity in Europe has come to an end and will soon collapse.” (Siemon-Netto, 2011) (The need for replacement migration is not limited to Europe; it also includes the nation of Japan.)

**EFFECTS OF GLOBAL MIGRATION** Immigration may drain national resources when there are not enough to accommodate the demands of an increasing population. Crime and illegal substance use may rise when displaced people resort to desperate measures to provide for their families. Developing countries suffer something called ‘brain drain’ as their best and brightest choose to immigrate to a more comfortable environment in a new country. (Shah, 2008) (Brain Drain, 2011) Fluid national borders contribute to the lessening of state adherence (loyalty to a nation) while devotion to causes and religious beliefs is on the rise. (Jenkins, 2002) This is evidenced, in part, through the Muslim protests and demands for various ethnic or religious rights in France and more recently in Sweden. There are also concerns about exploitation, such as trafficking and the hiring of cheap labor. Finally, marginalization arises as people uproot and find themselves living in vulnerable situations disconnected from family and familiar structure. (Jenkins, 2002) In contrast, many who migrate say that they have been helped more than harmed by their choice, as their opportunities to receive education, health care and employment rise.

**CONSIDERATIONS FOR GREAT COMMISSION MINISTRY** We are part of a flattening and increasingly borderless world. Missions is no longer “out there” but “here.” (Wan, 2011). Because migration is not limited to Western destinations, Dr. Wan’s term “here” can be defined as ‘anywhere!’ Displaced people, wherever they are found – in refugee camps or universities in Canada – have great needs and are open to a fresh presentation of the Gospel. For two centuries “going to the ends of the earth” has been the rallying cry of missions; but the ends of the earth have now come to us. Australia, Canada, and the U.S.A. are among the more significant migration destinations. Although considerations arise within the Western context, attention must be given to those who are migrating within their own country or to neighboring countries. These displaced peoples may provide receptive soil and open opportunity for Great Commission ministry. There are a wide variety of displaced people who are open to the Gospel: poverty-stricken refugees who need aid and relief, trafficked young women and girls (and boys) who need restoration and healing, international students who need a family away from home, businessmen and women who require networking and professional connections, scholars and diplomats who are seeking intellectual challenges and friendship, and so many more. The wide variety of migrant people and destinations require creativity and vision to minister to their unique needs. What paradigm shifts are necessary for the Church to respond to this dramatic movement of peoples? What hinders the Church from seeing this opportunity as true missions? Is the Church willing and equipped to respond?

## **3 MUTUALITY AND PARTNERSHIP**

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“Mutuality” is the term that Fritz Kling uses to describe a key trend in our time: “While Americans and the West had long been the leaders of worldwide ‘Christendom,’ now Christians from countries all around the world have the education, access, resources, and confidence to share leadership with powerful countries like the US.” While the “Majority World” is a term that has been formerly used to describe the underdeveloped areas of our world, the “Global South” is a term that highlights those who are ‘coming into their own’ and should be heard and seen as full partners in the work of the Gospel. (Jenkins, 2002)



Christianity, although not a Western-born religion, has flourished *from* and been proclaimed *by* Western nations for centuries. Australia, Canada and the U.S. share in this privilege. The landscape of leadership and responsibility within the body of Christ however is quickly changing as national church leaders in the **Global South** (India, Africa, Brazil, China, and many other countries) take on greater responsibility to reach their own people and the peoples of other nations with the Gospel. (Copley, 2009)

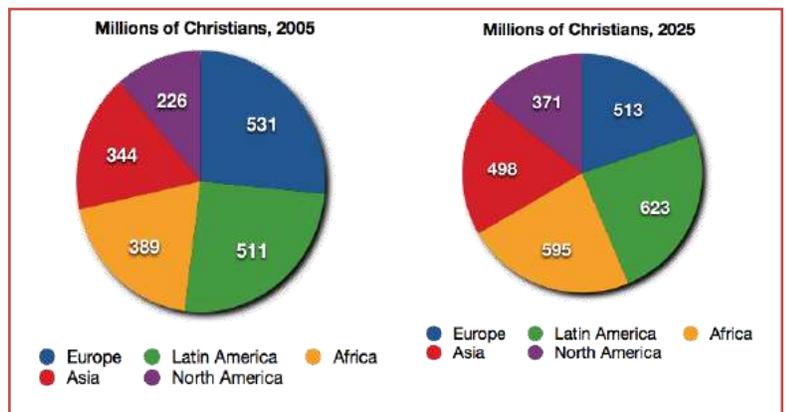
**GLOBAL SOUTH CHURCH NUMBERS**

The Christian Church is growing and the numbers are astounding, ushering us into a different era for the Global Church. It is estimated **by 2025 there will be 2.6 billion Christians of which 633 million would live in Africa, 640 million in Latin America and 460 million in Asia.** (Jenkins, 2002) In previous times Christianity was often personified by a Westerner but today “if you want to visualize a typical contemporary Christian, we should think of a woman living in a village in Nigeria or in Brazil.” (Jenkins, 2002) With 70% of Christians now living in Africa, Asia, and Latin America (Lausanne, 2004) the tide of influence has changed significantly. As this number increases, Global South Church leaders are thankful for the West’s sacrificial contribution throughout the centuries but are now rising up in great number and fervor to partner in taking on the task of evangelism and church planting. (Kling, 2010). The saying “from everywhere to everywhere” rather than “to the ends of the earth,” (Corwin, January 2011) better reflects the status of missionary endeavors today. This shift is easily observed by the millions of new believers and the staggering number of missionaries being sent from the South (see Operation World).

**THINKING DIFFERENTLY** This shift in participation and ownership is not limited to religious circles. Friedman has famously said, “The world is flat.” “...American business isn't just shifting research work because Indian and Chinese brains are young, cheap, and plentiful. In many cases, these engineers combine skills -- mastery of the latest software tools, a knack for complex mathematical algorithms, and fluency in new multimedia technologies...” that often surpass their Western counterparts. (The Economist, 2011) No longer can the West design the future exclusively; the shifts in thinking, the rapidly changing context, and the intercultural dynamic demand broadening our ideas and forging mutual partnerships instead of the typically Western-led format. (Dean, Jan/Feb 2011) Knowledge-based workers will grow in wealth, contributing to an ever-widening gap between the rich and poor. Competition for jobs will increase, and wages for similar work (technical skills, engineering, etc.) will flatten globally. Those countries able to compete in this knowledge age will survive, while those unable to do so will experience severe economic setbacks. (Friedman, A Manifesto for the First World, 2000)

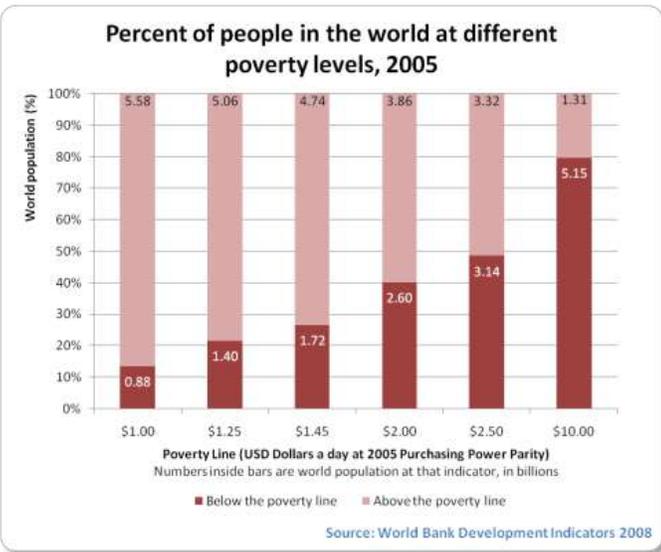
**CONSIDERATIONS FOR GREAT COMMISSION**

**MINISTRY** We know that great sacrifice has been made in order to establish God’s church in the South when we consider the past and still current ministry of “Northern” believers. There still exists a desire to equip



and empower fellow laborers to carry out the Great Commission task. Yet, there still remain challenges for the North concerning partnership and recognition of the Global South Church. No longer can *“the church in the North look at the church in the South with ‘northern’ eyes. The long standing dominance of the North has to give way to the reality of the Church in the South and East not only as something ‘emergent’ but as a present reality. This shift has enormous implications for the church in the North and will require gentle humility, open communication, a servant attitude and an unflagging disposition to face change.”* (Biachi, 2010) The great danger for the Church in the North, particularly in the U.S., Canada, and Australia, is to ignore this trend.

Multicultural teams reaching out in a cross-cultural and globalized society is the new reality. Organizations and mission teams who remain resistant to partnerships that cross cultural and ethnic boundaries are missing out on what God is doing. Even more, organizations and teams who lack the infrastructure and openness to work side by side with those from the Global South may miss the blessing of sending forth those who will be more effective in areas not traditionally receptive to Northern workers. Questions of money, resources, sending centers/structure, and questions of avoiding dependency all rise to the surface when considering appropriate responses to this trend. New missionary-sending countries from the South will rise and go forth, and at the same time they may make mistakes similar to those made by older sending countries: how will we respond? Theological views will likely be stretched by those who come from different worldviews, but dangers in theology may rise as we face new challenges of syncretism and contextualization in a globalized world. How will the Church in the Global North face its changing role? How can we join what God is doing? God’s Spirit is moving in the Global South – it’s a cause for celebration! Because the Church is “bigger than you think” (Patrick Johnstone), what adjustments will need to be made to seize this global growth opportunity?



## 4 MERCY & JUSTICE

Global poverty is an area that one might expect would decrease as nations grow in wealth and partnership. However, due to an enlarging global population of people to nearly **8 billion by 2020**, the increase of natural disasters, (International Disaster Database) the lack of local resources and the tyrannical acts of social injustice; **the issues of poverty will still be with us in 2020 and in growing proportions.** Although the varying agencies (NGO’s, Churches, and government institutions) have labored extensively to aid the poor and oppressed, the issues of poverty are far from over.

**THE DIRE SITUATION** There are an estimated 27 million slaves in the world today. (IJM) Worldwide, there are nearly two million children in the commercial sex trade. (UNICEF) The total market value of illicit human trafficking is estimated to be in excess of \$32 billion. (U.N) Nearly half the world – over three billion people – live on less than \$2.50 USD/day. (IJM) About 1.1 billion people in developing countries have inadequate access to water, and 2.6 billion lack basic sanitation facilities. (IJM) There are approximately 1.9 billion children in the developing world: Of those, 640 million are without adequate shelter, 400 million do not have access to safe water, and 270 million do not have access to health services. (IJM) Over 11 million children die each year from preventable causes. (IJM) The sharp rise in food prices has

pushed 44 million people from developing countries into poverty. (Chan, 2011) In 2009, more than 1 billion people went undernourished. (FAO, 2010)

### FACTS & CONCERNS LOOKING TOWARD 2020

- **Global Ageing:** U.N. figures show that the proportion of the world's population aged over 65 is set to more than double by 2050; to 16.2% from the 7.6% currently. A dwindling work force will face increased pressure to support an older population. (Standard & Poor, 2010)
- Access to or ability to acquire technology will be key factors that show the widening gulf between the "haves" and "have nots." (NIC, 2004)
- Advancements in **biotechnology** will increase, enhancing healthcare in developing nations. But with greater biotechnology comes greater risk for bio-warfare and advanced weaponry that may target human life, animal life, or agriculture. The poor are often most vulnerable to such an attack. (NIC, 2004)
- **Illiteracy rates** among adults in impoverished nations are expected to increase. (NIC, 2004)
- "The rapid rise in adult deaths caused by **AIDS** has left an unprecedented number of orphans in Africa. Today in some African countries one in ten children is an **orphan**, and the situation is certain to worsen." (NIC, 2004)
- "The debilitation and death of millions of people resulting from the AIDS pandemic will have a growing impact on the economies of the hardest-hit countries, particularly those in Sub-Saharan Africa, where more than 20 million are believed to have died from HIV/AIDS since the early 1980s. Studies show that household incomes drop by 50 to 80 percent when key earners become infected. In "second wave" HIV/AIDS countries—Nigeria, Ethiopia, Russia, India, China, Brazil, Ukraine, and the Central Asian states—the disease will continue to spread beyond traditional high-risk groups into the general population. As HIV/AIDS spreads, it has the potential to **derail the economic prospects** of many up-and-coming economic powers." (NIC, 2004)
- The **condition of women** in the world is likely to improve by 2020, but on average women will still earn less than men. In areas where men are valued more than women, there will be greater risk for women in the areas of infanticide, sex trafficking, and loss of educational privileges. (NIC, 2004)
- **Natural disasters** have increased in frequency up to 3,000% since 1900 (Global Poverty Project, 2010) and we can reasonably expect them to continue to increase in the next 10 years.
- In 2020, the UN has projected that we will have 50 million **environmental refugees**. (Environmental refugees are those who are forced to migrate to find food because climate changes in their region have made food scarce). (Dzubow, 2011)
- India has long been a nation riddled with poverty, but because of its recent economic growth it is expected that 37% of its population will be middle class by 2025. (The Economic Times, 2011) By 2020, we may not associate India as one of the world's most poverty-stricken nations.
- Because of the anticipated additional 900 million people in our population, the world will face **food shortages** by 2020 if global temperatures rise to the levels that have been predicted by a U.N.-backed panel. (Reuters, 2011) Food prices are steadily rising. (FAO, World Food Situation, 2011) "The tragic consequences of this trend will be felt by poor people in countries dependent on imported food. Worst affected will be countries like Northern



Africa, the Middle East, and also some poor countries in Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. Many families in these regions spend 40% or more of their income for food so these price shifts are devastating. Food shortages and high prices can also spark political instability. **High food prices** already have contributed to the overall discontent that is driving uprisings in the Arab world.” (Savage, 2011)

- There is a growing likelihood of a **global pandemic** in the form of infectious disease (similar to SARS). Globalization increases this risk. There is yet no early warning system for this possible widespread illness. (Dr. Stephen Morse, 2011)

The rising need for mercy and social justice facing us in **2020** has numerous ramifications. Lack of income and its resulting poverty creates **instability** among families and within communities. Instability is also evidenced in national and regional **governments** as the oppressed demand change and personal rights. (Global Poverty Project, 2010). Poverty and oppression result in **migration**, as a mass exodus from rural to urban centers takes place. **Fatalism** reinforces this vicious cycle. Poverty and the lack of opportunity are also linked to an increase in **terrorism and crime**.

**A HUMANITARIAN GENERATION** Ongoing needs for mercy and social justice run side by side with a growing *awareness* of poverty among developed nations, especially among youth. **Global awareness of poverty is at its highest peak since 1700.**<sup>4</sup> (Ravallion, 2011) Generations “Y” and “C” are focused on humanitarian relief. To them, social justice has become a “global imperative.” (Kling, 2010) This trend toward mercy and social justice is a movement toward the



Gospel in action, or as Kling describes it, “*actions as much as words.*” Prior to his death, Ralph Winter predicted an ‘evangelical renaissance’ in missiological history that would show itself in the resurrection of friar-like orders of young people, dedicated to lives of social justice and mercy, living simply and incarnationally among the world’s marginalized populations. (Bessenecker, 2006)

**Considerations for Great Commission Ministry** The opportunities for the Church to be the hands and feet of Christ in 2020 through demonstrable acts of mercy and justice are too large to ignore. Those in Great Commission ministry may find that they cannot begin the proclamation of the Gospel without first demonstrating it in physical ways, because “the physical needs are so raw, pervasive, and obvious that it is unthinkable to ignore them.” (Kling, 2010)

Those in ministry must be careful to watch that these mercy acts do not eclipse the proclamation of the Gospel and the making of disciples. What partnerships should we consider to adequately address these needs? The current increase in awareness of social justice issues, especially by youth in developed countries, provides a positive platform for the church to engage in ministry ‘to the least of these.’ Younger generations focusing on mercy ministries bring an “evangelism too” approach, intertwining the message with humanitarian efforts. (Kling, 2010) There is great potential in the younger generation’s passion to serve the world’s poor and underprivileged: what training will release these young adults to work appropriately among them?

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<sup>4</sup> See chart Addendum C

# 5 MAJOR SHIFTS IN ECONOMIC & GEO-POLITICAL POWER

Major shifts in economic and geo-political power are taking place today. Australia, Canada and the U.S.A., along with the rest of the Western power block, are seeing a decline in power and a rise in power in the East. We expect this trend not only to continue but to accelerate. The decline of former super powers, the rapid and massive rise of some traditionally less-developed countries, political tensions and often ensuing warfare are factors we must consider when we speculate what **2020** will look like.

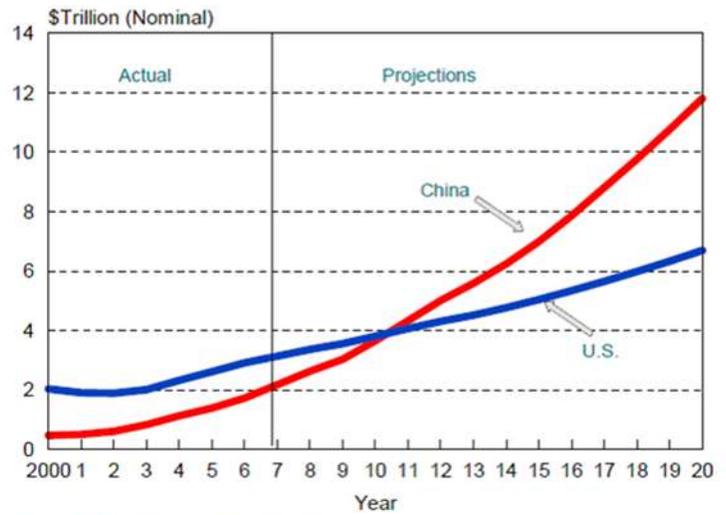
## DECLINE of the UNITED STATES as SUPERPOWER

The United States has enjoyed the relatively unchallenged position of super-power for multiple decades. Although the U.S will remain a key figure in the world there are clear marks of digression in the area of economics, influence, and military capabilities; revealing **shifts in power from West to East**. China & India are in an economic race to the top, but not necessarily in the race for global leadership of the same form that the USA has used in the past. The U.S has served the world in various capacities such as in defending human rights, encouraging economic development, providing aid/relief, protecting citizens from oppressive regimes, etc. However, if this trend continues unaltered, the ability of the United States to continue in this role is highly questionable. Fred Kaplan cites the National Intelligence Council in his 2005 article, stating that their “Mapping the Global Future” report shows the following: “The likely emergence of China and India...as new major global players...will transform the geopolitical landscape with impacts potentially as dramatic as those in the previous two centuries.” It continues to state that while the **United States will remain an important player, its “relative power position” will have “eroded.”** “The new ‘arriviste powers’ – not only China and India, but also Brazil, Indonesia, and perhaps others – will accelerate this erosion by pursuing ‘strategies designed to exclude or isolate the United States’ in order to ‘force or cajole’ us into playing by their rules.” (Kaplan, 2005)

## RAPID RISE OF CHINA & INDIA

China officially passed Japan to become the world’s second biggest economy when Japan said its GDP was worth \$5.5 trillion in 2010. China’s amounted to \$5.9 trillion. (The Economist, 2011) The **top ten largest economies in 2010** in terms of total GDP measured at purchasing power parity (PPP) are the USA, China, Japan, India, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom (UK), France, Brazil and Italy... (Euromonitor, 2010) As China’s economy grows, the economy of the USA and the other Western powers is becoming more and more fragile. “Never has the world seen the simultaneous, sustained takeoffs of two nations that together account for one-third of the planet's population. For the past two decades, China has been growing at an astounding 9.5% a year, and India by 6%. Given their young populations, high savings, and the sheer amount of catching up they still have to do, most economists figure China and India possess the fundamentals to keep growing in

Projections for Total Trade (Exports plus imports) in Merchandise for the United States and China in 2020



Source: Projections by Global Insight



the 7%-to-8% range for decades. Barring cataclysm, within three decades India should have vaulted over Germany as the world's third-biggest economy. **By mid-century, China should have overtaken the U.S. as No. 1. By then, China and India could account for half of global output.**" (The Economist, 2011) Although many projections support these numbers; some like John Bolton feel that China's perceived economic strength is all "smoke and mirrors" and is easily misunderstood due to the fact that the banks and many businesses are government owned; thus real power and growth are hard to gauge accurately.

#### EXPECTED CHANGES LOOKING TOWARD 2020

- A trend toward democratic government was seen following the Cold-War era. A number of majority world powers moved toward this model of government. However, **democracy seems to be declining.** A January 2011 issue of The Economist stated, "A snapshot of the state of democracy worldwide in 165 countries since 2008 shows that one-half of the world's population lives in democracy, but the system is no longer gaining ground, and is now in retreat..."
- **Political Islam** will be a major force by 2020, according to the National Intelligence Council. (Kaplan, 2005) "Terrorism is unlikely to disappear by 2025, but its appeal could diminish if economic growth continues and youth unemployment is mitigated in the Middle East. Terrorist groups in 2025 are likely to be a combination of descendants of long-established groups and newly emergent collections of 'the angry and disenfranchised that become self-radicalized'." (NIC, 2004)
- By 2020, there will be major shifts in the world economic order in which emerging economies will become more important. China will overtake the U.S.A. to become the largest world economy in 2017 and there will be more emerging economies in the top ten economies by 2020 and beyond. (Euromonitor, 2010)
- By 2020, **Russia** will rank higher than Germany in the top ten economies in terms of GDP measured at PPP terms and become the fifth largest economy. **Brazil**, on the other hand, will have overtaken both the UK and France to become the seventh largest economy in 2020. Being amongst the world's major exporters of energy and natural resources, Russian and Brazilian growth potential is promising, although Russia's lack of economic diversification may cause problems in the longer term. (Euromonitor, 2010)
- By 2020, **Mexico** will have overtaken Italy to be the world's tenth largest economy by GDP measured at PPP terms. (Euromonitor, 2010)
- With five emerging countries in the list of top-ten-largest economies, **global power will become more balanced** by 2020. (Euromonitor, 2010)
- PriceWaterhouseCoopers (PWC) also said in its report that by 2030 the **top 10 world economies** could be China, followed by the United States, India, Japan, Brazil, Russia, Germany, Mexico, France and Britain. (AFP, 2010)

**CONSIDERATIONS FOR GREAT COMMISSION MINISTRY** It is still unclear what the effects will be for the Church and for missions endeavors as China and other nations rise to prominent roles. Religious freedom may fall under attack in greater measure as the influence of the United States as super power declines. Oil producing countries with oppressive governments may gain increased influence over new world super powers. The economic strength that the West has often brought into its missions and sending efforts will certainly decline. Smaller countries may find themselves obligated to react to pressure to prohibit missionaries from larger, more

dominant powers. Participants in Great Commission ministry must be aware of these shifts and not allow themselves to function in ignorance of the coming effects of these predicted changes in economic and (resulting) political power.

God's Kingdom is not limited by the lack of financial resources. It is not limited by political power or military might. The decline of financial strength in the West may have some purifying effects on Western Christianity, shifting our subtle confidence and contributions from finances to *faith*. Decreasing financial resources may force the Church to more selectively choose its methods of outreach. Greater equality in global partnerships may also be a positive result of this trend.

## ***CONCLUSION***

There is a great deal of difference between projections and predictions. In this presentation, we have shared facts, trends, and resulting projections based on what we know today. The facts are evident, but the trends and projections are subject to change. Trends and facts must be continually monitored, and so the authors of this report encourage readers to continue their exploration of these (and yet to immerge) trends and issues both now and in the future.

The Church has often failed to keep pace with a changing world, and the danger lies in allowing that to continue. It is the Canadian hockey player, Wayne Gretsky, who said, "I skate to where the puck is going to be, not where it has been." This is a simple yet clear challenge to the Church (and all of her varying entities) to look beyond the here and now to where the people, the world and the Church might be in the next 10 years. This research team has only scratched the surface of very deep issues that authors, scholars and laymen have been directing people towards for years. It is our hope that this research will cause each reader to consider these projections and the possible outcomes and then to ask; what strategic decisions and actions should we take today in the light of what the future is likely to be?

## **ADDENDUM A**

### YouTube® Material *Considered an Integral Part* of This Report

#### **Changing World:**

Will we change or collapse? Will Steffen, Posted 2010 (4:08)

[http://www.youtube.com/user/ericssonmultimedia?v=reTrzC-ueYc&feature=pyv&ad=5061452556&kw=2020&glid=CPrz1aGhjacCFQl\\_5QodAg7FfQ#p/a/u/1/Ktlvh-UVaTs](http://www.youtube.com/user/ericssonmultimedia?v=reTrzC-ueYc&feature=pyv&ad=5061452556&kw=2020&glid=CPrz1aGhjacCFQl_5QodAg7FfQ#p/a/u/1/Ktlvh-UVaTs) (be sure to scroll down on page to see video)

#### **Technology, Globalization, & Mutuality:**

Flow of information/Media - Posted 2009 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C2jD0kzrVew> (4:39)

The New World of Work – Posted 2008

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oL6GTqvtYHM> (4:36)

#### **Mercy, Justice & Migration:**

Roy Beck, World Poverty & Immigration represented in gumballs, Posted 2010

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LPjzfGChGlE> (6:08) (This video has some political overtones, but we ask the viewer to focus on the striking, visual representation of poverty in our world).

Australia's population boom - huge 65% increase expected to 35 million by 2050. Posted 2009.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u37qIMrRnWE> (2:20)

#### **Shifts in Economic & Geo-Political Power:**

Hans Rosling's 200 Countries, 200 Years, 4 Minutes – Shifts in Wealth & Health - BBC, Posted 2009

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jbkSRLYSojo> (4:48)

## **ADDENDUM B**

### Suggested Reading for ***Further Study***

1. Thomas L. Friedman. *The World Is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-first Century*, 2007
2. Richard Tiplady (Editor). *One World or Many? The Impact of Globalization on Mission*, 2003
3. Michael Pocock & Gailyn Van Rheenen, *Changing Face of World Missions, The Engaging Contemporary Issues & Trends*, 2005
4. Paul G. Heibert, *Missiological Implications of Epistemological Shifts*, 1999
5. Philip Jenkins, *The Next Christendom: The Coming Global Christianity*, 2007
6. Irving Hexham & Karla Poewe, *New Religions as Global Cultures*, 1997
7. Peter Jones, *One or Two: Seeing a World of Difference*, 2010
8. Enoch Wan & Michael Pocock (Editors), *Missions from the Majority World*, 2009
9. Keith E. Eitel (Editor), *Missions in a Context of Violence*, 2007
10. Tim Elmore & Dan T. Cathy, *Generation iY*, 2010

## **ADDENDUM C**

### Suggested Reading for *Application*

1. Fritz Kling, *The Meeting of the Waters*,
2. Robertson McQuilkin, *The Five smooth Stones: Essential Principles for Biblical Ministry*, 2007
3. Tom Steffen (Author), Sherwood G. Lingenfelter (Foreword), *The Facilitator Era: Beyond Pioneer Church Multiplication*, 2011
4. David J. Hesselgrave, *Paradigms in Conflict*, 2005
5. Tom Steffen & Mike Barnett, *Business as Mission: from Impoverished to Empowered*, 2006
6. David La Piana, *The Nonprofit Strategy Revolution: Real-Time Strategic Planning in a Rapid-Response World*, 2008
7. Ward Hunt Goodenough, *Cooperation in Change: An Anthropological Approach to Community Development*, 1963 (A classic that is not outdated.)
8. *When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty Without Hurting the Poor and Yourself* by Steve Corbett & Brian Fikkert, Moody Publishers, Chicago, 2009.
9. *Reaching and Teaching: A Call to Great Commission Obedience* by M. David Sills, Moody Publishers, Chicago, 2010.

## ADDENDUM D

### Recommended Websites

<http://themeetingofthewaters.com/> Author Fritz Kling's website, blog posts, videos, and more on current trends and missions.

[www.dni.gov/nic/NIC\\_2025\\_project.html](http://www.dni.gov/nic/NIC_2025_project.html) 2008 National Intelligence Council's Global Trends 2025 Final Report

[http://www.firstfruit.org/news-resources/guiding\\_trends/global-trends](http://www.firstfruit.org/news-resources/guiding_trends/global-trends) 2010 Global Trends Analysis –  
“Every ten years, First Fruit makes a careful analysis of major global trends and their impact on our world, to give context to our future grantmaking. After interviewing over 100 leaders in academia, policy, business, NGOs and Christian ministry, we have selected ten trends and five undercurrents which we think will most significantly influence the coming years. We have defined **trends** as important global shifts that will endure for a number of years. **Undercurrents** underlie all of the trends and, in fact, are what drive them. They are long-term, wide-ranging and largely empirically provable.”

<http://www.ericsson.com/campaign/20about2020/> 2011 20 Ideas about 2020 – This page has 20, 3 ½ minute videos by experts on various aspects of expected change in 2020, primarily focused on technology.

# ADDENDUM E

## ADDITIONAL GRAPHICS, CHARTS, AND STATISTICS

### MERCY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE:

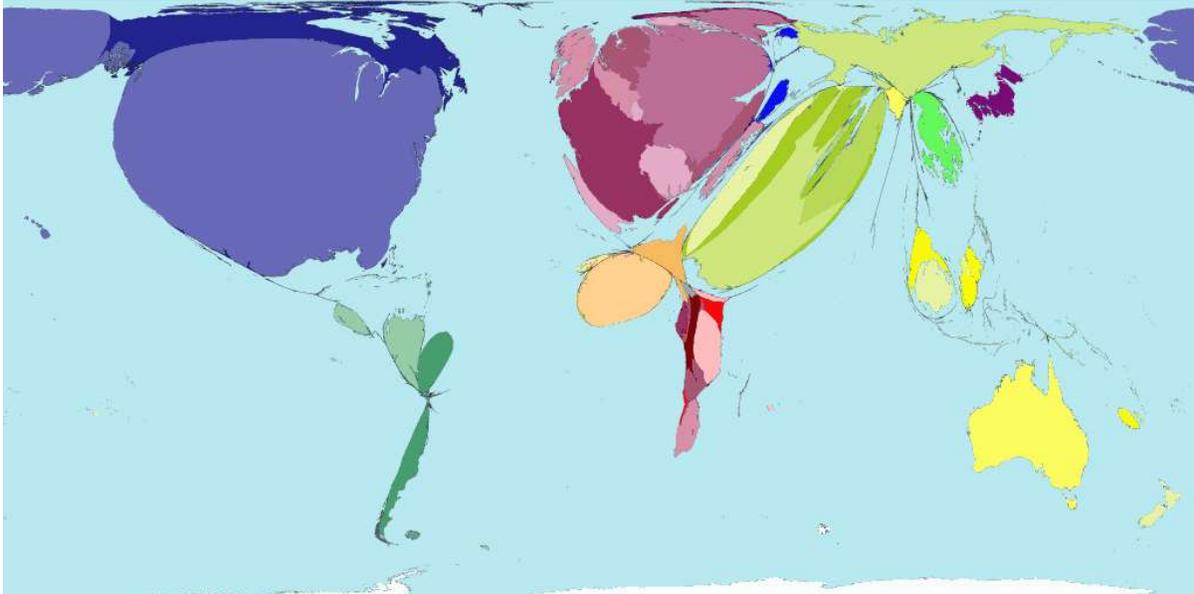
Incidence of references to poverty in Google Books 1700-2000. (Ravallion, 2011)



### MIGRATION:

Muslim migration shifts within Europe

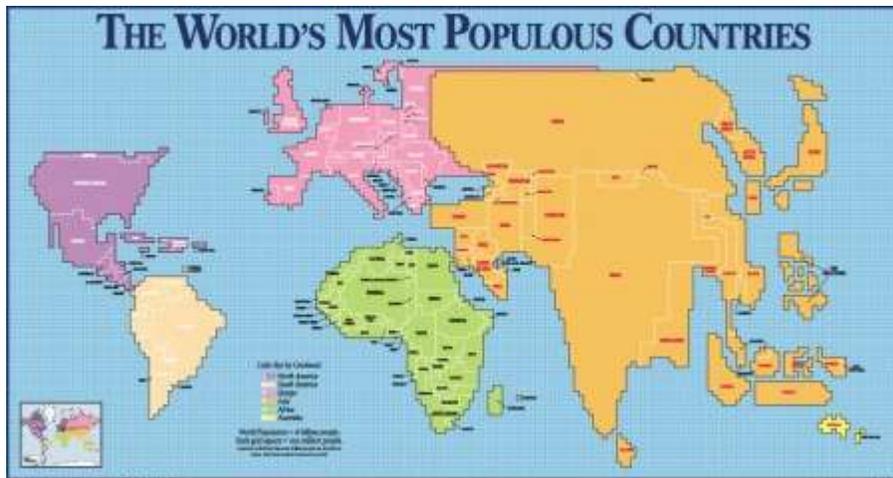




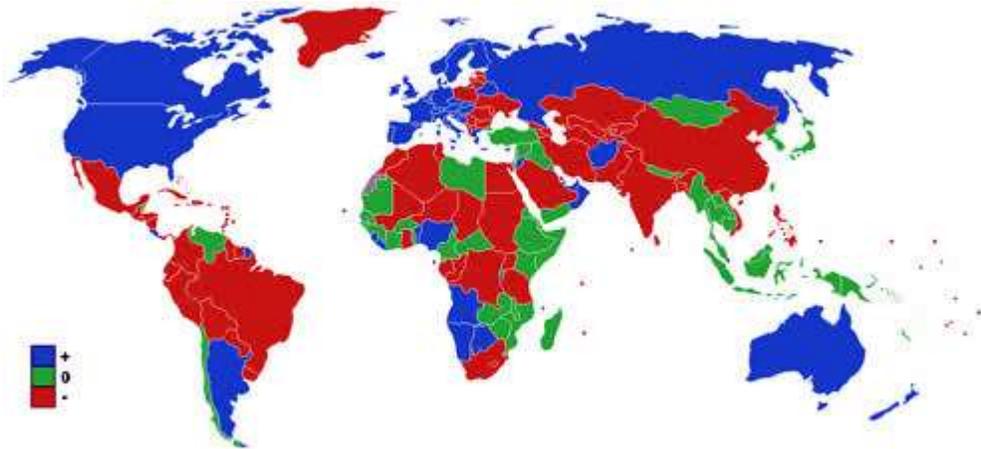
MIGRATION in picture form.

(Above from <http://whiteafrican.com/2005/12/17/world-population-map/>)

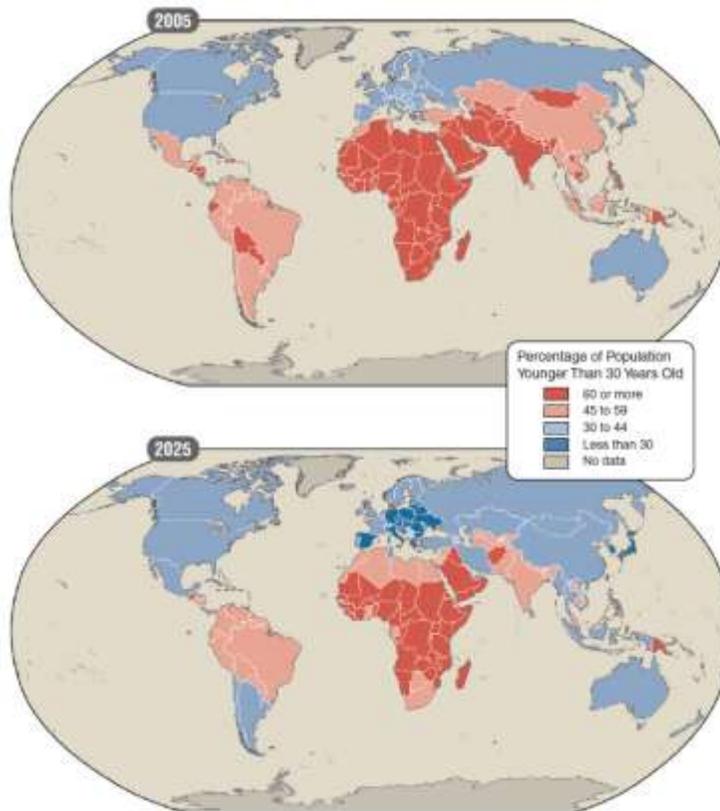
If the world map were drawn according to its population size it would look like this:



**World immigration map** (blue indicates increase due to immigration and red indicates countries losing population due to migration)



World Age Structure, 2005 and Projected 2025



Source: US Census data.

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