

THE GREEN WINDOW: “To the Last of the Last”

The movement of the 10/40 Window first got the churches attention in the 80’s. Ever since, there’s been a great shift on mission movement across the world to reach the people groups in that area of the world that houses the most populated places, the most people living in poverty and the most difficult-access-to-the-gospel areas due to political and religious issues.



The church was then challenged to embrace this “new window” to finish what Jesus said to the disciples: the GREAT COMMISSION – to go and make disciples of ALL THE NATIONS (Matthew 28:19-20)! Despite the astonishing rise of the southern hemisphere churches and the incredible advance of the Gospel in these areas by many missionary movements, more than 35 years have passed after the 10/40 Window challenge, and still, the task of reaching the remaining ALL NATIONS referred to by Jesus is not even near completion. Why? Why are there still more than 3 to 7 thousand (depending on your sources) unreached nations in the world? It is hard to predict that we will, in fact, reach all THE NATIONS while the visible” church is focused more and more on their internal affairs rather than focusing on completing and obeying Jesus’ command. If we pay close attention to research by Christian organizations we will notice that many are focused on people groups of “large” population. But what about the tribal nations who live in the jungles? Where are the group of people so small in number they do not make the list? In 2007, during a mission conference in Pará, Brazil, where it supposedly was focused on indigenous people groups in the Amazon, we discussed at length about the “10/40 window.” The indigenous and non-indigenous people became very uncomfortable and somewhat indignant. One of the leaders from CONPLEI (National Council of Indigenous Pastors and Evangelical Leaders) expressed his frustration that the [Brazilian] church is focusing on the 10/40 Window more and is forgetting that in the Amazon, their own backyard; there are more than 220 tribal nations who have never heard the gospel of salvation.

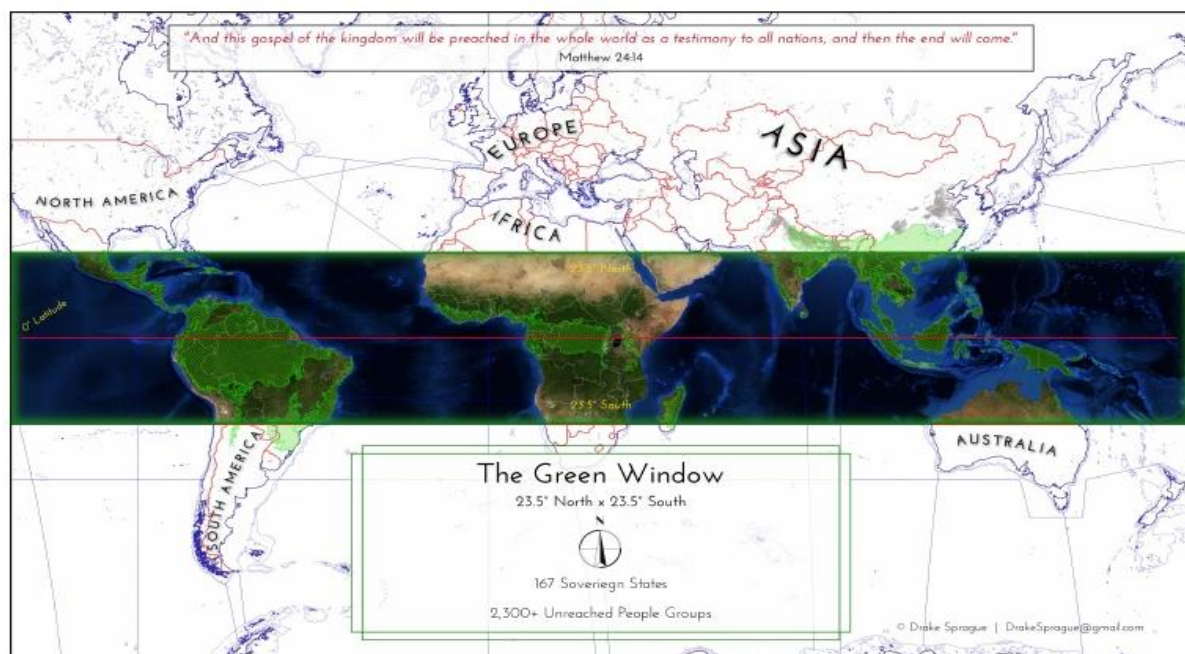
The following year, during the 6th quadrennial CONPLEI conference held at Itacoatiara, in the Amazon state of Brazil, we realized that the indigenous churches in South America are strong and growing but needed a clearer direction to what her purpose was within God’s perfect will for her... So with CONPLEI, we began dreaming about a network that will unite all South American Amazonian countries to reach those in unreachable areas. In CONPLEI’s 7th conference in 2012 in Chapada dos Guimarães, Brazil, there was a time for launching the vision of the “green window.” Joshua Chang was assigned the task of developing this new paradigm.



What and where is the Green Window?

So, what is the Green Window? The Green Window is the rainforest zone of the world. The world is divided into two hemispheres, north and south; by an imaginary geographical line at 0 degrees latitude, we call the Equator. From there 23.5 Latitude North and 23.5 Latitude South between the Capricorn and Cancer is where the worlds tropical rainforests are. Rainforests are green areas. And in these green areas, there are tribal people groups who live and die every day without hearing the gospel. There are an estimated 2200 ethnic groups living in the rainforest areas of the world.

Joshua Chang in 2012 introduced “Green Window” during the National Indigenous Mission Conference, CONPLEI (www.conplei.org.br) and launched as a vision.



There are more than 167 countries and territories within this broad window. Considering only countries that have TRFs (Tropical Rain Forests) with tribal people groups in their territories, the number comes thoroughly 35 (more research is needed). The list is from the countries that have the largest percentage of their land coverage by TRF; BRAZIL, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO, INDONESIA, PERU, COLOMBIA, BOLIVIA, ANGOLA, VENEZUELA, MEXICO, INDIA, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, MYANMAR, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, MOZAMBIQUE, ZAMBIA, CAMEROON, NICARAGUA, GUATEMALA. HONDURAS, PARAGUAY, MALAYSIA, REPUBLIC OF CONGO, GABON, GUYANA, FRENCH GUYANA, LAOS, MADAGASCAR, TANZANIA, THAILAND, PANAMA, ECUADOR, SURINAME, VIETNAM, ETHIOPIA, SUDAN, THE PHILIPPINES, and others.

CHALLENGES

There are many challenges in order for us to reach all the Ethnic groups within this window. Here are, perhaps, some of the most challenging ones that we can think of.

1. Geographic:

Because they are tribal people they live in the deep rain forests. The jungle could be a normal habitat for them but for many of us who live in the cities is a very difficult place to live! We can get to practically any city in the world traveling comfortably on a commercial airplane or vehicle but when it comes to getting too deep in the rainforests not only it will take a lot of time and money but most likely we will get lost. When we go to the Amazon, we don't ask how far in miles or kilometers are the village that we are trying to visit because, depending on the weather conditions, it may take days to cover only 100 kilometers! Another difficult geographic factor is that the tribal people in these areas are nomads, meaning that they are in constant movement searching for food and safety. Also, when they are approached, many seek to retreat and avoid contact with the outside world ending up hiding deeper into the jungle.



2. Political:

One of the reasons we do not have information regarding minority tribal people groups in the world is because there are internal policies in each country to “isolate” them from external influences with the pretext of preserving their tribal culture “pure” and without the evil influence of the invading culture; the gospel, in this case. For instance, for more than 40 years, the churches, Brazilian and global, dedicated their effort almost exclusively to reach the people groups of the 10/40 window but it was hard because there has been political and religious persecution (here very simplified). And because of this persecution we are witnessing today another movement that God is causing among these people groups and countries; a massive diaspora movement. Millions are displaced from the 10/40 window countries to many different countries and continents in search of political, religious and economic freedom. Many of these countries are still open to the gospel. However, the tribal people groups in the rainforest, which are nomads, would hardly do diasporas outside of their own context or habitat even because many do not know the external world or some may know a few who have had a connection or were exposed to the outside world.

3. Cultural:



We may not even need to discuss this point because it is obvious that it could be one of the most challenging aspects when we are dealing with Unreached and Unengaged Tribal People Groups (UUTPG). We face challenges from different spoken languages and dialects to the types of food

they eat let alone the rituals and daily customs. Indeed, a huge challenge even for those from the immediate context and for us who live in the cities, even more. A deeper anthropological study is necessary but it is very difficult because many have not been contacted and are not even engaged. However, it is possible that if those that had been contacted first and are close to the UUTPG, may have a better chance to reach them than others who are outsiders and foreigners with less understanding of their culture.

4. Denominational:

This might be the most difficult challenge of them all. The biggest and the most difficult challenge for others to reach the UUTPGs is not the geographic distance, their current political situation or even the different custom and culture but the feeling of belonging to a denomination is in all of us, from churches to different mission agencies. Every day we are becoming more “specialized” in specific areas but we sin in not working together, as the denominations take priority. If we have a vision for the expansion of the Kingdom we must be UNITED setting aside denominational feeling to bring many souls from UUTPG to His Kingdom. We are not condemning denominations but we are making aware of our priority as the followers of Christ. Jesus said in Matthew 6:33 to seek first the Kingdom of God His righteousness and all of these will be added unto you!

In 2014, the “Green Window Ministries,” a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization based in Dunnellon, Florida, was formed to raise awareness for the Green Window zone and carry forward Jesus’ mandate to go to ALL THE NATIONS. The vision of Green Window Ministries is:

“Connecting the Body of Christ where the church is, to BUILD the Body of Christ where the church is not.”

"And this Gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a **TESTIMONY** to all **NATIONS**, and then the **END** will come." - Jesus (Matthew 24:14) NIV

2200+
Unreached
Tribal People
Groups

POVOS
TRIBAIS
Não-
Alcançados

PUEBLOS
TRIBALES
NO
Alcançados

GWM-MISSION
3E Engage
Empower
Encourage

THE GREEN WINDOW
A JANELA VERDE / LA VENTANA VERDE
From the Equator / do Equador
23.5° N X 23.5° S
TROPICAL RAINFORESTS OF THE WORLD
167 Territories / Territórios
35 Countries / Países

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"E este evangelho do Reino será pregado em todo o mundo como testemunho a todas as nações, e então virão fim." - Jesus (Mateus 24:14) NIV