

# Women OF THE 10/40 Window

The Greatest Untapped Resource for Evangelism



by Lorry Lutz

Women of Global Action  
FORMERLY AD2000 WOMEN'S TRACK

As we begin a new millennium, the need to equip, empower and mobilize all of God's people to share the Good News of Jesus Christ has never been greater. With an exploding world population, there are billions of people who have never heard the Gospel. Now, more than ever, we must encourage all believers to fully utilize the gifts God has given them.

Throughout the ages, Christian women have played an important role in world evangelism. Many have made their contributions despite tremendous cultural and linguistic barriers. Often, they have fought against incredible odds and difficulties to carry out the work God has called them to do. But they have given themselves willingly and fearlessly to this call.

In this booklet, you will read the stories of some of these women—extraordinary women who have dedicated themselves to fulfilling God's purposes in their lives. They realize their value and worth are in Christ who demonstrated through His treatment of women that they are of value. Women have impacted their families, neighborhoods and nations through this realization.

Often, in the past, women have not had access to training that would allow them to contribute fully and build on their abilities. A woman's ability to build up her own family extends to the Church, the community and the nation. But we must properly train women to realize their gifts and talents so they can then offer them to the body of Christ. When this happens, the whole Church benefits.

During the past 10 years, the AD2000 Women's Track has developed a worldwide network of women, trained and mobilized to reach those with the least access to the Gospel. Lorry Lutz, who led this track, and Chairperson Judy Mbugua have worked tirelessly to nurture this network. Their work has been foundational for the next step.

Our prayer for you as you read these stories is to become a risk-taker for God. May women everywhere be encouraged to serve the Lord, and then be given opportunities to do so. As the work of the AD2000 Women's Track continues and expands as *Women of Global Action*, we believe women will play an even greater role in world evangelization into the 21st century.

*Emily O. Voorhies*

Emily Voorhies

Executive Director, Women of Global Action

*As AD2000 & Beyond International Director, one of my commitments has been to encourage women who desire to serve the Lord and give them the opportunity to do so. One of the Movement's values has been the freeing up of God's people to be all He has called them to be, and to equip them to do the things in God's will they have dreamed of doing—whether through leadership in a church, country or affinity group. Praise God for the women in this booklet. May their numbers and impact increase as the AD2000 Women's Track continues under Emily Voorhies' new leadership and under a new ministry umbrella—Women of Global Action.*

*That all may hear soon!*

— Luis Bush, International Director, AD2000 & Beyond Movement

# The Church Moves Ahead in the Heart of the 10/40 Window

## Flourishes in the early centuries

The "core" of the 10/40 Window<sup>1</sup> was once the stronghold of the Church. Vibrant churches flourished in countries like Syria, Egypt, Turkey, Tunisia and Libya—countries that today are strongholds of Islam. The handful of believers grew to 3,000 at Pentecost. Scattered through persecution<sup>2</sup>, the Church grew wherever Christians went. By the sixth century, Christianity had spread across Europe and North Africa, and as far south as Arabia and Ethiopia. Some believe the Apostle Thomas brought Christianity to India.

## Failure to stay strong

But as the institutionalized church grew it exchanged power for passion, apathy for aggressive outreach, division for dialogue. By the seventh century, a bold new religion had stepped into the scene when followers of Mohammed invaded the region. Sadly, many Christ-followers could not stand up against Islam's assault, and the Church all but disappeared in North Africa and the Middle East.

## Failure to gain a foothold

Meanwhile, two other major religions became well established in the Window region. Hinduism, dating 1,500 years before Christ, became not only a religion but also a cultural way of life in India that neither Christianity nor Islam could destroy. Not until the British Colonial period was Christianity able to make inroads into Indian society.



Guatama Buddha lived and taught in India. After his death, his followers prayed to him as a god and worshiped his image. Eventually, Hindu Brahmans drove Buddhism out of India, but by the third century it was the dominant religion of eastern nations, including China. Over the next few centuries, the 10/40 Window became entrenched in Hinduism, Buddhism and Islam.

## Forgotten people

The great missions movement, which began in Europe in the 18th century, placed most of its emphasis on parts of the world where there was great receptivity and easy access. The countries of the 10/40 Window, because they were so difficult to penetrate, received only a tiny fraction of missionaries. By 1990, only 8 percent of missionaries were working in this region, which represented 57 percent of the world's population.<sup>3</sup>

## Growing Force for the Gospel

However, in recent decades, the Church in these resistant lands has grown, often as a result of dreams and visions, miracles and healings, or radio and TV messages that have the ability to penetrate closed doors. Missiologist Ralph Winter states, "In 1974, we were stunned by the revelation that three of four non-Christians in the world were beyond the reach of same-culture evangelism. Today, only one of two non-Christians is beyond reach."

What role have women played in bringing the Gospel to this resistant region? Although little appears about women in church history books, occasionally a name emerges or a ministry describes their efforts, and we see how women have quietly and unobtrusively made their contributions. With a new millennium and more opportunity, it will be exciting to see God utilize this "greatest untapped resource for evangelism."

## *How history has affected women*

### Beautifully created

Bible scholars believe the Garden of Eden lies somewhere between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers in modern day Iraq—right in the heart of the 10/40 Window!

It was there God created Adam and Eve and saw that "it was good." He instructed them to tend the garden and to subdue the earth. They were colleagues and partners, working and playing together in sur-

roundings only heaven could outshine. Adam didn't control Eve; she didn't manipulate him. They were one body, treating each other with the same care we use with our own bodies.

## Broken relationship at the fall

God gave Adam and Eve the choice to love and obey Him, but they chose wrongly. When He confronted them with their sin, they blamed each other and even God Himself.

Heartbroken, God described (rather than prescribed) the result of their choice. Their relationship of equality and partnership was damaged by selfishness and a desire for power. They became blind to the fullness of God's image in each other. This was not what God had desired for them.

Every society and culture since that day is evidence of this broken relationship—even those who have never heard of the biblical fall. Men assume power and control, becoming calloused to the pain it causes. Women consider themselves inferior and become manipulative and demanding to get their way.

The Old Testament reveals the nature of this relationship between men and women again and again. Abraham put Sarah into a compromising situation to save his skin; David used Bathsheba for his pleasure; and Rachel deceived Isaac to obtain the birthright for Jacob.

## Beloved Bride of Christ

Jesus demonstrated for us what His Father intended all along. Consider how He encouraged, taught and healed both men and women, never differentiating them by gender. He announced His resurrection to a woman first.

The New Testament tells of many women involved in early Church leadership—nine named in Romans 16 alone. With Christ, a new day dawned for women.

## Belittled again

But gradually the "fall" took precedence—even in the Church. Early church fathers wrote disparagingly of women. Origen taught, "Even if she says admirable things or even saintly things, that is of little consequence since they come from the mouth of a woman."

Increasingly, church councils decreed restrictions against women. In AD 533 the Synod of Orleans abolished the office of deaconess "on account of her sex." The Synod of Tour declared women impure by nature.

Once again women had become second-class citizens.

## Bold women overcome obstacles

As we look at societies in the 10/40 Window, the obstacles and cultural restrictions women face are obvious. But they also offer tremendous potential for reaching those living in spiritual darkness. Many have risked all, from the Tunisian martyrs of the second century to the Chinese house church leaders of today.



1 The 10/40 Window is the region between 10 degrees and 40 degrees north latitude, extending from North Africa through East Asia. It encompasses more than 3.5 billion people, including most of the world's Muslims, Hindus and Buddhists.

2 Acts 8:1-5

3 Global Mapping, 1991

# French West Africa

## The French Connection

The 10/40 Window begins on the western bulge of Africa, encompassing much of Francophone Africa colonized by the French in the 15th century. With the Arab conquest of North Africa in the eighth century, Islam moved south along the trade routes and the prosperous slave trade. The farther it moved from its origin in the Middle East, the more syncretistic it became. Folk Islam and animism co-exist in the almost 200 unreached tribes located in the region identified by the Joshua Project 2000<sup>4</sup>. Today 60 percent of West Africa is Muslim.

While the Gospel has made a strong impact in central and southern Africa (Niger is 1% Christian), West Africa remains less than 5 percent evangelical with only 15 percent claiming any Christian affiliation at all (Southern Africa is 83% Christian).

The Ivory Coast has the largest Christian population in West Africa (42% Christian), but it also has the most animistic tribes that worship idols and practice witchcraft. There are fewer churches than “sacred forests”—areas where no one can cut sacred trees—and pythons are holy.

In the 20th century, Eliza Davis George, an American daughter of slaves, hiked into a “cursed” Liberian forest. The local chief said his people were afraid to farm it, so if she wanted to take the risk she could have it. There Mother George began her “life’s work” at age 72, eventually starting a school and 13 churches.

## Women become victims of tribal religions

Patience Ahmed, Nigerian researcher for the AD2000 Movement in West Africa, describes the role of women in these animistic tribes. “It’s actually the women who keep traditional religions. [For example, in some tribes] men don masks representing their gods. Women are not allowed to come out of the house during this time... they are severely punished if they are caught looking at the ‘secret gods.’ The men know they are fooling them, but the women are bound by the fear of being cursed.” Thus, the women hold onto the tribal traditions and teach their children to do so.

Across rural Africa, women work 16 to 18 hours a day, raising food, carrying water—sometimes for miles, gathering fuel, caring for children, and preparing and cooking food from scratch. In some tribes, it is taboo for women to eat high protein foods like eggs and chicken or to drink milk.

Patience observes, “I’ve seen a woman working hard in the field, coming back to the village to give birth that night. She does not dare refuse to cook for her husband the next day.”

Rural women accept their role. They know no other way. Fear of curses and punishment, being driven from their homes and losing their children keep them tied to tradition.

## Women in the city reach out

Urban culture is an amalgamation of tribal influx and western influence. Poverty and lack of jobs dash hope; disease and



crime are rampant. But women in West African churches have begun reaching out to those who have not had opportunity to hear the Gospel.

Violet Mtegha, a lawyer from Malawi, visited 12 Francophone countries in 1996, calling women together across denominations. Her passion energized them to pray for and adopt an unreached tribe. In Abidjan where she lived, she divided the city into four zones. Each team of women adopted a people group for prayer and made a journey at their own expense into the tribe. Violet continued mobilizing and praying for these women, even after learning of a fatal heart condition threatening her life. By the time she died in 1998, the women were supporting three church planters in three remote villages and had adopted three other people groups.

Women in other countries also have taken up the challenge. In Chad, Julienne Likasse loads her van with women and supplies to venture deep into the jungle villages where people had never heard the Gospel. In the Congo, women travel for hours by canoe to evangelize Pygmies. On the border of Liberia, Madeleine Gouentoueu held a short-term Bible school for illiterate women.

## What are the strengths of these Christian women in West Africa?

- **They know the power of the enemy.** They've seen the deadly results of curses. They understand the chains of poverty and the controlling web of the extended family.
- **They know the power of prayer.** They know prayer is often the only answer for even the most simple of needs. They pray all night; they pray early in the morning. They know how to battle spiritual warfare. They pray passionately for "their" unreached peoples' needs.
- **They move out in faith and in prayer journeys to "spy out" the land.** They raise money any way they can from selling handcrafts to clothing. They give up luxuries and stretch their grocery money.  
A rising group of well-educated businesswomen, teachers, entrepreneurs and theologically trained women live in the major cities of French-speaking Africa. They help the poor, provide skills training and literacy classes for women, work with prostitutes and provide education for refugee children.
- **They take risks.** They contextualize Christianity so it can have impact on the Muslim women they meet. They journey to villages where the strongholds of witchcraft have flourished. They make faith commitments beyond their means.

If fourth century pagan philosopher, Libanius were alive today he would surely repeat his statement, "What women these Christians have!"

## The Tuareg Connection

God put a special people group on Jeanne Marie Guiro's heart. Ever since she learned that the Tuareg people had fled from Niger's civil war to her city of Abidjan in the Ivory Coast, she and her prayer partners had been praying for them.

But Jeanne Marie had been unable to find anyone who knew where the Tuaregs had settled. One day in an answer to prayer, she heard over the radio an announcement about an upcoming meeting for the Tuaregs at the French Cultural Center in Abidjan.

With great anticipation Jeanne Marie attended the meeting. What a surprise to see who the Tuaregs were. Many of them were the same people who stood under the streetlights in her neighborhood begging or selling small items to make a living!

She told her team where the Tuaregs lived, but now they faced the difficulty of language. The Tuaregs did not speak French and the women did not speak Tamajaq. As the women shared their prayer requests with others, a man who also was burdened for the Tuaregs told them about a young, French-speaking, Tuareg girl.

Jeanne Marie met the girl and invited her and some Tuareg children to a local missionary's home. She translated Bible stories and the children enjoyed the food provided. Soon their parents began attending and the women launched another Bible study. Many of the Tuareg children and adults accepted Christ, and the missionaries began teaching them how to read and write in French.

Along with her prayer partners, Jeanne Marie continued to pray for the Tuaregs. As they prayed and worked among the people in Abidjan, they learned more and more about the Tuareg tribe. Almost one million of them are unreached nomadic people in remote regions of Niger, without a church among them. Though Niger is 80 percent Muslim, the new government allows missionaries to enter the land.

Jeanne Marie and her team decided to go to Niger to see the conditions for themselves and to find ways to help the people. Four women traveled together, but split into two groups so they could each spend a day in a Tuareg village.

As their journey unfolded, the women sensed the presence of a spiritual battle and concluded they might be in danger. They also learned that the bus that brought them to the village would not return until the next day. Not only would they have to stay overnight in the remote village of grass and mud huts, but they also realized the villagers were suspicious of them. For example, one of the French-speaking leaders accused them of spying.

Eventually, however, the people came to understand that these strange women had come to pray for them and their village. So they gave them a place to sleep on the floor of the police station.

The four women returned to Abidjan with exciting stories and a greater burden than ever to reach beyond Abidjan. A young widower had been praying about going to an unreached people group after he completed Bible school. After hearing the women's story, he volunteered to return to Niger to evangelize the villagers and plant a church there. The women in Abidjan now support the young missionary.

4 Joshua Project 2000: A list of about 1,600 country-distinct, unreached people groups of more than 10,000 in population, chosen by their language or ethnic distinctions. They are less than 2 percent evangelical and less than 5 percent Christian adherent.

# Leadership of women waxes and wanes around the Mediterranean

## The Muslim world

*"Aquila and Priscilla  
greet you warmly and so  
does the church that  
meets in their home."*

— 1 Corinthians 16:19

In the early centuries of the Church, women played key roles as church planters. Priscilla with her husband, Aquila, helped start churches in Corinth<sup>8</sup>, Rome and Ephesus<sup>9</sup>. Lydia began a church in her home in Philippi<sup>8</sup>. Parts of these nations fall into the 10/40 Window.

Women continued to hold leadership positions in the Church throughout the first and second centuries, but as the Church moved out of the private sphere of the home and into the public sphere, they experienced more and more restrictions. By the 300s, evidence of the Spirit's power began fading and the miraculous acts of God waned. Women were curtailed from positions of leadership and Church orthodoxy was threatened.

By the seventh century the aggressive inroads of Islam further limited the sphere of public life for women. Islam spread far beyond the Arab Middle East and North Africa into Indonesia, which today boasts the largest Muslim population in the world. In Malaysia, the government strictly prohibits any proselytizing of Muslims by the fast-growing Chinese Christian community there.

## Leader of Islam comes from Saudi Arabia

The founder of Islam, Mohammed, married his employer, Khadija bint Khuwaylid, a woman 15 years his senior. Theirs was a harmonious and monogamous marriage, and her wealth enabled him to follow a contemplative life. At age 40, he began spending time meditating in a cave above Mecca in Saudi Arabia. In AD 610, Mohammed claimed the Angel Gabriel visited him and in a vision delivered to him the first message of Islam, which later became the Qu'ran, the holy book of Islam.

After his wife died, Mohammed married between nine and 12 women. His favorite was A'isha, whom he married when she was 6 years old. They consummated the marriage when she was 10. No matter how carefully Islamic scholars try to explain the reasons for this marriage, this model of child abuse—old men marrying young girls against their will—has been repeated across the Muslim world in countless cases.

Most likely, Mohammed had a higher regard for women than pre-Islamic society, which considered them slaves. At one time he said, "Treat your women well and be kind to them." And later he said, "He who honors women is honorable, he who insults them is lowly and mean." But many of the statements in the Qu'ran—and the later interpretations by Islamic scholars—are degrading to women. Much of the Qu'ran deals with women and marriage, and relates primarily to the sexual needs of men and the necessity for women to obey.

## Women affected by Islamic teaching

Many Westerners have a warped understanding of what Islam is and tend to look down on Muslims. Muslims are as different one from another as any other people. Most are generous, hospitable, friendly and helpful. They care about their families, especially their children. They long to know and obey God and go to great effort to do good deeds. Many find the traditions and practices of Islam comforting.

Iqbal Massey, a Pakistani Christian who leads prayer seminars throughout the Muslim world, writes, "Islam is much more than a religion. It is a sociopolitical system. Its immensity and texture are woven together by the threads that involve every area of human life. Theology is just one strand in the tapestry of Islam.

"Islam is the very lifestyle of its people. It is intertwined with their culture, politics, architecture, art and family and community life. This is what brings such a commitment, close ties and brotherhood in Islam. One who denies Islam is breaking the law and is considered a traitor and an outcast."

— *The World of Women in Islamic Culture*



### ILLITERACY RATES

|                    | MEN         | WOMEN       |
|--------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Africa             | 31.3        | 49.1        |
| Arab states        | 27.1        | 51.0        |
| Asia               | 16.8        | 33.2        |
| America            | 6.7         | 7.9         |
| <b>World total</b> | <b>14.7</b> | <b>26.4</b> |

— UNESCO Statistical Yearbook 1999

Many Muslim women strongly defend Islam in spite of how it affects them. They say they feel protected, and they want to preserve the beauty of their bodies for their husbands only. Hence, they are happy to be veiled. They also like the rules and the clear direction of the Qu'ran. They prefer to stay home, care for their children, experience the community of women, and let their husbands take care of them.

There is great variety in the way Muslim women are treated. Saudi Arabia and Iran are the most orthodox Islamic countries. There, women must be totally veiled, not allowed to drive a car or travel without the company of a close male relative. The most extreme fundamentalism is practiced in Afghanistan (see Taliban sidebar), where most Islamic leaders condemn Turkey for going beyond what Islam teaches.

Turks thank the founder of modern Turkey, Attaturk, for modernizing their country and denouncing head covering for women. But in recent years as fundamentalism has increased, more and more girls and women are appearing "covered."

## What the Qu'ran says

### Women's Rights

*And women shall have rights similar to the rights against them, according to what is equitable; but men have a degree over them.* Surah 2:228

### Inheritance

*To the male a portion equal to that of two females.*  
Surah 4:11

### Witnesses

*And get two witnesses out of your own men, if there are not two men, then a man and two women such as ye choose, for witness....* Surah 2:282

### Husband's authority

*As to those women on whose part ye fear disloyalty and ill-conduct, admonish them, refuse to share their beds, beat them....* Surah 4:34

### Public appearance

*Tell thy wives and daughters and the believing women, that they should cast their outer garments over their persons [when abroad]....* Surah 33:59

### Polygamy

*Marry women of your choice, two or three or four....*  
Surah 4:3

### Harmful to men

Mohammed said (in the Hadith, also viewed by Muslims as inspired), *After me I have not left any affliction more harmful to men than women.* Vol. 7:33

### Women in hell

Mohammed said, *"I was shown the Hellfire and that the majority of its dwellers are women."*  
Hadith Vol. 1:28, 301; Vol. 2:16; Vol. 7:124

## How I met my neighbors

BY A BELIEVER IN TURKEY

When I moved into my neighborhood seven years ago, I soon got to know one of my neighbors. I asked her to take me to visit the other neighbors. People here are happy to have visitors drop in without warning.

From those visits I became a very close friend of Semra's. Over the years I have been able to serve her in various ways. I stayed with her in the hospital when she had a gall bladder operation. I brought oil, flour and sugar to her when they were too broke to buy them. I helped her make a special bread at four in the morning for the pre-dawn breakfast during the Ramadan month of fasting. I even went with her to visit her family in her home village.

Semra is just one of the many women I've spent time with, going to their homes, sitting with them, talking with them, meeting their friends and families. As they get to know me and see how deep my faith is and how it permeates all I do, they talk about me with their families and acquaintances. It's important for these people to see that I'm a normal person and not what all their prejudices have imagined Christians to be.

Eventually we started a Bible study to answer questions and discuss the Bible. By the end of the year, one of the ladies was calling herself a believer, and another was saying she wants to be a believer.

— Adapted from *Love Your Neighbor* by Mary Lance Sisk

## A Church Born Out of a Dream

ONE WOMAN'S DREAM LEADS TO THE PLANTING OF A CHURCH

In her late teens, Fidan (not her real name) was already a wife and mother when one night in her dreams a man appeared to her, calling, "Come to me."

The second night the vision returned, and this time she asked, "Who are you?"

The man responded, "I am *Isa* (Jesus)."

On the third night when *Isa* reappeared, she promised to follow him. When she told her father of her vision he grew angry. He was a powerful Islamic witchdoctor and had promised to pass his powers on to her. He burned incense and tried to deliver her of the "evil spirit," but he could not do it. "I can't do anything," he admitted. "The power in you is so strong."

With her rejection of Islam, her father slapped and beat her and sent her husband and child away. She delivered her second child, but was not allowed to see her before she, too, was given to her husband. He eventually married three other women and kept her children from her. For five years Fidan listened to the voice within her, knowing this Spirit was her friend. But she knew nothing else about him.

When Fidan entered a hospital to have her appendix removed, a Catholic nun she met there secretly gave her a Bible. She began reading in the Islamic way, washing her hands before handling the sacred book. To her surprise, she discovered who her Friend was. He had died on the cross, paying the price for her sin. Fidan realized what a miracle her con-

*continued on page 9, far left*

8 In Greece

9 In modern Turkey

# Lifting the Veil

## How God is raising up Christian women to impact society

Though culture, tradition and governmental authority make it difficult for Christian women to openly evangelize in most Muslim countries, more and more of them are finding ways to reach out with the Gospel.

### • Hospitality

The common stereotype of an Islamic community relegates women to *purdah* (seclusion), childbearing and menial tasks. In reality, often from within the walls of their husbands' homes, women extend a strong influence over their families' lives. Within their homes, women enjoy community, shared child-care and warm hospitality. Devout women often meet to read the Qu'ran together. They welcome visitors, and once they've had tea together, they are no longer strangers. (See "New in the Neighborhood.")

Christian women are learning this kind of hospitality and friendship as a way to open doors for sharing the Gospel. A Muslim woman will welcome prayer for her family or for an illness.

### • Reconciliation

After years of invasions, wars, crusades and atrocities, scars remain on the psyche of those living in Muslim countries. Armenians won't forgive the atrocities of the Turks. Coptic Christians remember the Ottoman attacks. Jewish and Arab Christians find it difficult to pray together.

Women are beginning to mend these hurts by meeting together in international and interdenominational conferences. In 1997, more than 200 women from 42 countries gathered in Cyprus for the International Women's Prayer Conference led by Iqbal Massey. Iqbal recalls the power of the Spirit on the last evening.

*"Country after country came up to the podium and asked for forgiveness from each other. The countries who have been political enemies for years, and some races enemies for centuries... Jewish believers hugged their Arab sisters; Chechenyans and Russians; Iraqi and Kuwaitis; Azerbaijani and Armenians; Russian and Jews; Americans and Russians... Only Christ, the Prince of Peace, could make this happen."*

A similar scene happened during the AD2000 Women's Track 1996 Conference at the Black Sea where 180 women from 14 nations came together. Reconciliation between Armenians and Turks was especially moving because some of the women attending had families personally involved in the massacre of Armenians by Turks during the last century.

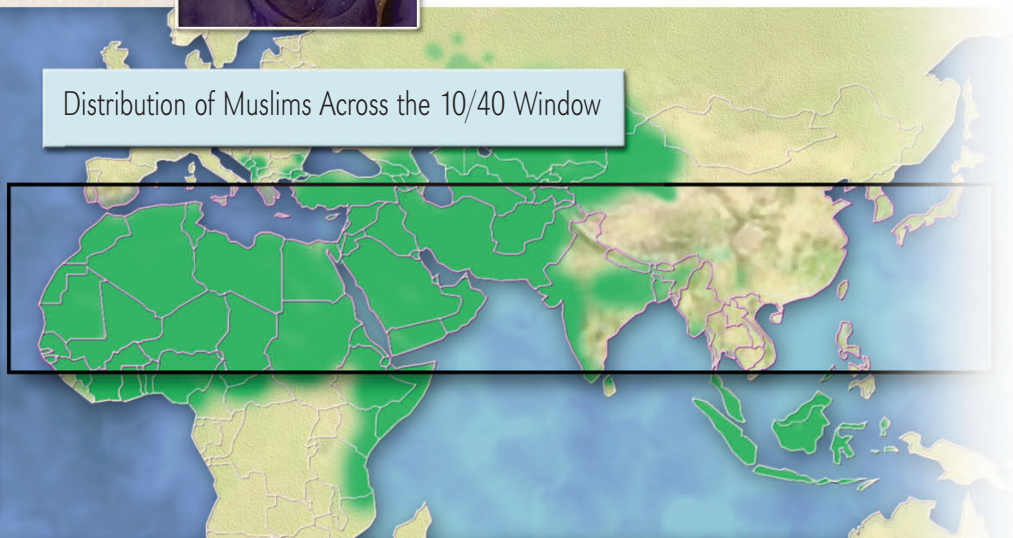
Yet there remains a barrier between Arabs from Christian backgrounds and their Muslim neighbors. History and tradition have left scars that only the Spirit of God can heal.

### • Men encourage women

The Arab World Evangelical Ministers Association (AWEMA), representing a large portion of the evangelical churches and organizations in the Middle East and North Africa, is supporting leadership training and teaching to develop women's spiritual gifts. They've asked AD2000 Women's Track (Women of Global Action) to help. They have held two international training seminars and others are being planned.



Distribution of Muslims Across the 10/40 Window





## • Helping where it hurts

Poverty, illiteracy and poor health care are endemic throughout the 10/40 Window. Even in the early centuries of the church, women were active in caring for the sick and providing for the poor. Throughout the region, women are developing projects to help those in need. In Jordan, a self-help project enables Iraqi refugees to earn a living. In a North African country, a woman prominent in government fights against the practice of female circumcision and helps women get loans to start small businesses.

In Egypt, a Coptic Christian, “Mamma Maggie” as she is known, works in the squalid shantytowns of Cairo. She provides skills training for children who have little or no education and practical support for abandoned single mothers. As a successful professional, Maggie had little idea of what Cairo’s slums were like. After her first visit, she began praying for others to help her. To date, she has been able to enlist the help of young people and Cairo doctors. Together they impact more than 1,000 slum families. Maggie works with Protestants, Catholics and Copts to demonstrate the power of Christ’s love to change lives.<sup>10</sup>

## • Media

Even the poorest people pool their resources, sometimes combining with neighbors, to purchase a TV or a satellite dish. Women in oil-rich homes, secluded and with little to do, spend hours every day in front of the television. Unfortunately, many of the programs are soap operas imported from the forbidden culture of the West. Despite efforts to prevent the West from coming into the public arena, it has slipped insidiously into the homes and hearts of women and children.

On the flip side, programming provided by Middle East Media, is culturally sensitive and containing underlying Christian messages. Another Christian broadcaster, SAT-7, beams Christian programs via satellite into a number of countries for four hours each day in several languages. Arab women presenters and a woman magazine editor are part of the staff, sharing the good news of Christ’s love with the spiritually hungry women in their audience. Remarkably, more than 40 percent of responses come from women.

## • The least you can do is the most you can do

Muslim women face obstacles and great resistance when they try to openly share their faith. Their most powerful tool for evangelism is prayer. Thousands of women in 10/40 Window countries have formed prayer triplets to pray for their neighbors, their cities and nations, and unreached people. As the prayer movement continues to grow, watch for manifestations of God’s Spirit through visions and dreams, miracles and healing. He alone has the power to break through this shroud of darkness and bring light to the nations.

<sup>10</sup> Derived from *Signs of Contradiction* by Lord Alton of Liverpool.

version was. There were no missionaries in her country, but she says now, “God had a plan—He came by Himself.”

Though she did not see her children for 10 years, God gave her a deep sense of peace and the contentment and assurance that He would care for them. Today, not only are her children believers, but her parents are too. Fidan has remarried a Christian man.

Fidan deeply loves her people, but her country is filled with a spirit of magic and witchcraft. She longs to see the day when it is replaced with the Spirit of God. Some estimate there may be as many as 100 believers in her country. She believes at least 70 percent of them have come to faith through dreams, miracles and healings.

Since becoming a believer, this young woman has started one of the few house churches in her North African country. She marvels when the police come to her door because “they can’t see us.” This small fellowship is now sending its members out to other villages to tell them of the love of Christ.

Fidan knows there may still be a greater price to pay for her openness in sharing the Gospel, but she echoes the words of Paul. “God did not give us a spirit of timidity but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.” (2 Timothy 1:7)

— Adapted from *Women of Vision 2000*

## Taliban Extremism

Extreme fundamentalist Islamic law and *Pushtun* traditional practices have placed the women of Afghanistan in a hopeless prison beyond description. It’s hard to believe that 35 years ago the Afghan constitution guaranteed equal rights and suffrage to women, enabling them to attend universities and hold professional positions.

When the Taliban *mujahadin* guerrillas came into power in 1996, Afghan women lost all civil and societal rights. They swelter in 120 degrees weather, covered from head to toe in a *burqa* with only a small screen in front of their eyes to see where they are going. A male relative must accompany them when they walk on the street. Women are beaten for exposing even the smallest amount of skin from an ankle or arm. Many are subject to rape, kidnapping and forced marriages.

According to the Taliban, Islam completely forbids women from working, even in their homes. In August 2000, bakeries were closed which had provided work for 350 widows through the auspices of the UN World Food Program. Kabul, the capitol of Afghanistan, has approximately 30,000 war widows who are forced to beg or go into prostitution if they have no male relatives to care for them.

The Taliban also closed schools for girls and limited the health services provided to them. Secluded in their homes with darkened windows so no one can look in, women who were once teachers, lawyers and businesswomen spend their days in despair and depression. Huddled beneath their burquas, they rock back and forth in an almost catatonic state. Many must beg for food to feed their children. God’s Word says:

“Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another. Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the alien or the poor.” (Zachariah 7:9)

# A religion with 300 million gods

The second largest religion in the 10/40 Window is Hinduism, with more than 800 million followers. Most live in India, which is one-third the geographical size of the United States. Nepal is the only official Hindu nation in the world. Hindus are also found in significant numbers in the 10/40 Window countries of Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Bali in Indonesia.

## Calcutta—Home of Kali

Of Hinduism's more than 300 million gods and goddesses, none is more feared or more loved than Kali, the goddess of destruction. She is enthroned in Calcutta's Kali Temple, named in her honor. Wearing a garland of skulls and serpents across her black body, Kali's four arms hold an axe, a trident and a severed human head. Blood flows from her tongue as she stands astride the corpse of her consort, Shiva. Devotees cast garlands at her feet, pleading for her favor and protection.

## Calcutta—Home to Mother Teresa

Within a stone's throw of Kali Temple and amidst the stalls where devotees sell flowers for temple sacrifices, one can find a simple stone building belonging to the Sisters of Charity. Here in 1929 a tiny Albanian woman and an Indian citizen began a ministry devoted to sharing Christ's love with the poor and the dying. The woman, who later became known as Mother Teresa, felt compelled to leave her sheltered life in Albania to show God's love to those whom no one loved and to the thousands dying alone on the streets.

This city with more than sixteen million people has the lowest urban standard of living in the world. More than five million peo-

ple live in horrific slums and another million or more live on the streets. By the loving grace of God, India has been blessed with courageous and compassionate women like Mother Teresa and the Sisters of Charity. In spite of heavy burdens and insurmountable obstacles, Indian women are seeing to their lot with grace and dignity.

## Chains of religious bondage

Hindu society has its own explanation for the inferior status of woman. It holds that former bad deeds cause one to be born a woman, who is of less value than a cow. With ultra sound now available, many female babies are destroyed in the womb causing the ratio of girl to boy babies to fall well below average.<sup>11</sup>

A girl becomes a heavy financial burden to most parents because they must provide a dowry for her to obtain a husband. Each year, more than 5,000 young Indian brides die a fiery death as their husbands and in-laws set fire to them, seemingly in a kitchen accident so the husband can seek another bride and her dowry.

An employee from the Indian government's Department of Women and Child Development states, "In a culture that idolizes sons and dreads the birth of a daughter, to be born female comes perilously close to being born less than human." Is it any wonder Indian women, even Christian women, suffer from a deep sense of inferiority and lack of self worth?

Added to India's low positioning of women is the social degradation created by the caste system. About 47 percent of Hindus are in the backward and outcast strata. Because of this social stigma, there is tension—even in the church.

## Created in His image

"Indian women learn to suffer in silence," says Juliet Thomas, leader of Arpana, a women's prayer ministry under the auspices of Operation Mobilization. She loves nothing more than to teach Indian Christian women about how they are created in the image of God, beloved and precious to Him.

Though born in a Christian home, she recalls her own sense of inferiority because of her dark skin. She recalls, "When I accepted the Lord Jesus, I was, in a sense, turned inside out and my skin color didn't matter any more. I had such a conviction of the blessedness of being in Jesus Christ. We are the daughters of the King. We may be very ordinary, but we are very special to Him."

Juliet has shared this message of wholeness in Christ with women in more than 100 cities in India. Beyond self-image, Juliet challenges them to pray, not only for their own needs but also for the lost and unreached. Today, thousands of prayer triplets meet regularly across India.

## Committed women in every sphere

Though many Indian women have reached high degrees of professionalism, including the role of prime minister, more than



75 percent are still illiterate. However, across the sub-continent, Indian women are reaching out to lift their sisters up from poverty and despair and into the light of God's love. Here are some samples of how these women are ministering.

Kusum, a woman from an outcast class who completed Bible school, now directs a literacy program among the low caste women of Rajasthan in North India. Annie, a radiologist, gave up her medical career to devote herself full-time to helping illiterate village women who spend their time in drudgery, making chapatis and gathering cow dung for fuel. Annie has started a literacy program, and teaches these women the alphabet and how to read the Bible through a two-month course.

Theeba and her husband minister to stone-age tribal people, bringing children from the jungle to their mission. Theeba often brings demon-possessed children with matted hair, lice infections and filthy bodies into her home for an introduction to a new life. Sheila and her husband work among an unreached people group in Bihar, a state in northern India referred to as the "graveyard of mission." Her friends ridicule her for the decision to go as missionaries into this difficult place where she and her husband train church planters.

Mercy, an experienced and well-trained educator, became the international president of the Baptist Women's Alliance, representing 25 million Baptist women from 100 nations. Mannu organized women's prayer groups during Nepal's anti-Christian era. She believes the constitution's religious freedom without bloodshed amendment was granted, in large part, due to the fervent prayer across the nation.

## Church growth not stifled by persecution

The evangelical church is a growing force in India today, representing 2 to 4 percent of the population. Despite the limited leadership opportunities for women within the institutionalized church, Indian women are making a great impact upon the life of the Church. Indian indigenous missions now number more than 125 agencies. But political tension and militant Hindu fundamentalism have resulted in burned churches and intimidated believers.

One missionary wife has awakened the nation to the true character of Christ and His followers. Gladys Staine's husband and two young sons burned to death in a fire set by a fanatical mob in Orissa while they slept in their van. At their funeral, Gladys forgave those who had done the cruel deed, declaring she would not leave the Indian people whom she and her husband had come to serve in the Leprosy Mission.

God's timing is just as perfect now as it was in the Old Testament when He raised up Esther. Today, He's raising up women in India like Juliet Thomas, Mannu, Mother Teresa and Gladys Staine "for such a time as this."

## A famous Indian women leader:

PANDITA RAMABAI (1858-1922)

Pandita Ramabai had memorized 18,000 Sanskrit verses by the time she was 12 years old. Her father, a Brahmin priest and wandering guru, believed in education for women, contrary to Hindu practices of his day. After her parents died of starvation, she and her brother launched on a religious pilgrimage for 4,000 miles throughout India, seeking truth. While living in Calcutta, Pandita was exposed to Christianity and thereafter continued to compare Christian and Hindu scriptures. As she read the Hindu scriptures, she discovered they all had a very low view of women.

Pandita decided to help raise the standard of women, children and widows in India. In 1880 there were twenty-three million widows in India; 51,000 below age 10, 10,000 below age 4. They were blamed for the deaths of their husbands and were made to shave their heads and wear *whit*, a sign of mourning, for the rest of their lives. When Pandita, herself, became a widow after only 19 months of marriage, she became even more aware of the social rejection and degraded position widows suffered in India.

In 1883 Pandita visited England where she saw the tremendous difference between Christianity and Hinduism in the treatment of women. She wrote, "I realized after reading the fourth chapter of John's gospel, that Christ was truly the Divine Savior He claimed to be, and no one but He could transform and uplift the downtrodden womanhood of India and of every land."

She returned to India to open a school and home for illegitimate children, widows and orphans. She named her mission, "Mukti" which means salvation. (This mission continues to operate today.) Over the years her mission grew to include the care of unwanted babies, training for the blind, and solace for the crippled. She organized bazaars so women could sell their crafts and set up skills-training programs. The orchards and gardens surrounding the mission provided food for hundreds.

During the famine of 1896, Pandita traveled around India to collect 600 starving widows and children and to bring them back to the mission. A great revival broke out at the mission during the overcrowded days of the famine and hundreds of girls were converted.

During the last 15 years of her life, Pandita translated the entire Bible into Mahrathi, the only complete translation in the world done by a woman. As she lay on her deathbed, she asked God to spare her long enough to do the final proofreading of the translation. God answered her prayer, and on the tenth day, when she had proofed the last page, she peacefully fell asleep.

— Adapted from *Women as Risk Takers for God*, by Lorry Lutz



# Buddhism— Eastward to China and Beyond

By the sixth century Buddhism had moved eastward from India, incorporating the philosophies and religious beliefs of the countries in Asia. In China, the religious belief system melded with Confucianism, teaching a strong moral ethic and emphasizing the eternal influence of the ancestors. Its basic premise is that human nature is naturally good. Though officially an atheist country, today's China is strongly influenced by its Buddhist roots, along with a hodgepodge of folklore, mysticism and occult practices.

With recorded history dating back 5,000 years, the Chinese are proud of their culture and traditions. While people in Europe were still living in primitive tribal systems, the Chinese were eating from porcelain plates and writing on paper they had invented in the first century.

Gradually, traders and a few Roman Catholic missionaries arrived. But by the 14th century, China had closed its door to foreigners, except for a few traders, for the next 200 years. Teaching Chinese to foreigners was forbidden, and tensions grew between the Chinese and foreign traders pushing for greater opening into the country.

In 1839, the British fought China over the right to sell opium. As a result, in 1842, China was forced to cede Hong Kong, along with five main ports, to the British. The door to China was again opened to missionaries. But it only reinforced China's bitter resentment of the West, creating conflicting feelings that have never died away completely.



While missionaries like Hudson Taylor (founder of China Inland Mission) accommodated himself to the mores of the people, many foreigners looked down on the Chinese culture. Christianity generally became synonymous with the West's condescension. A strong yearning to be free from such Western patronage and disdain contributed to the desire of China's political leaders to find an answer for China. A young leader from the interior of China emerged—MaoTse-Tung. Mao led the Communist forces to victory in 1949 and declared, "Our nation will never again be an insulted nation."

Mao evicted or imprisoned western missionaries, killed Christians and converted church buildings into warehouses and factories. Today, more than 50 years later, the government only permits registered churches to worship openly. Meanwhile, unregistered house churches are illegal technically and often face closure, arrest and the torture of their adherents. Yet the Church continues to grow at an estimated 20,000 new believers daily.<sup>12</sup>

## Brave Women of China

*"The place of a woman is to respect, obey and submit to authority."*—Confucius

The role of women in China is as varied as its ethnic peoples and its long history. In the heyday of Chinese civilization, one learns of dowager empresses with vast power and authority. Early foreign visitors tell about the daughters of well-to-do families living in luxury, cared for by servants. However, parents bound their daughters' feet in infancy until their toes atrophied and the bones were kept from growing more than three or four inches long. This painful mark of beauty helped the family select a worthy husband, often many times older than their daughter's age. This barbaric custom was fashionable until the early part of the 20th century.

Whether rich or poor, women were under the control of their husbands and mothers-in-law. Early missionaries told about the extreme poverty in rural areas and of parents selling their infant daughters to purchase opium.

## Blessed opportunities for girls

When the first women missionaries arrived in China after the opening of Hong Kong, they found a strong opposition to educating girls. Lottie Moon, the famous Southern Baptist missionary, opened a school for girls in 1877 and many others followed in the years ahead. Eventually, families eagerly sought education for their daughters in mission schools.

## Backbone of evangelism

Throughout the early 20th century women became the backbone of missionary work in China. Though considered the lowliest employees on the hierarchical ladder of the mission church, they became the pioneers and evangelists of the fledgling missionary enterprise. Some of the families of these women rejected them after their conversion. By 1900, more than 3,500 Chinese women

enrolled in training schools to become “Bible women.”

In the years ahead independent national ministries developed. In 1945 CNEC (now known as Partners International) reported: “Thirteen gospel bands made up of Chinese evangelists, Bible women and students were formed. Thirteen gospel halls have been opened. The work extended to five provinces, including Sinkiang just north of Tibet, which had been closed to the gospel for some time and where missionaries weren’t allowed to enter. God opened that door by sending a Christian government worker and his wife. While her husband fulfilled his official duties, Mrs. Lee witnessed and taught the Bible, and soon a church was established.”

### Better future a myth

As political tensions mounted throughout the country, a secular feminist movement began in the urban areas. Women were looking for equality and freedom of choice. Chiang Kai-Shek, ruler of the country at the time, realized women were a force to be reckoned with, so he tightened controls, forcing women into more traditional roles. Consequently, many of the feminists became followers of Mao Tse-Tung, believing that the Communist leader would grant full equality to women.

After their victory in 1949, the Communists closed churches and mission schools and evicted missionaries. They publicly ridiculed Christians, forcing them to write “confessions” of their past wrongs. Many were imprisoned and even killed. Men and women were treated equality, meaning they both worked long hours, lost their freedom and personal rights, and were forced to relocate to rural areas where they faced backbreaking, mindless work.

### Birth limitations

With China’s population reaching one billion, the authorities instituted a “one-child” rule and forced abortions, even late term, for a second pregnancy. Since Chinese culture places great value on a son to continue the family line, daughters were not only unwanted but also often killed. Only since 2000 has the government eased this regulation somewhat, granting permission for a second child in special circumstances.

### Bigger than imagined!

During the years of the Cultural Revolution when little news came from China, Christians in the West wondered what had happened to the Church? Had it disappeared?

With doors opened slightly in the early ‘80s, news emerged that the Church was alive and well. Though the Communists had destroyed or confiscated Christian buildings, a strong house church movement was growing. Today there are between 50 and 80 million Christians in China. Figures estimate that women make up 85 percent of the house church leaders. Perhaps they represent a heritage of those faithful Bible women of almost a century earlier.

## House Church Leaders Pay a Price

Tensions continue to exist between Chinese Christians in the registered churches and the house churches. Some outside observers believe the registered church allows pastors to preach freedom and Truth and, therefore, house churches should register. But many believers fear once they register, the government will control or limit their activities. So they continue to meet illegally.

Because the Communists imprisoned or killed most pastors during the Cultural Revolution, very little trained leadership remained. Women stepped into the gap. They could travel unobtrusively from town to town holding training programs and teaching the Word. But they did so with great caution and discretion.

No one knows the number of house church believers within this vast country. Figures estimate that 75 percent of new believers are women, and a large number of the leaders and trainers are women. Some “parishes” now have as many as 200,000 believers.

A Christian leader from the West recently met with a group of trainers; more than half of whom were women. Some had traveled two to three days to reach the secret rendezvous in a secured apartment complex. But despite security, various group members remained “on watch” all day, making sure no one followed the visitors. Even as they were meeting they learned authorities had arrested 85 believers in one of their regions.

Women hold Sunday school classes in their homes for children, even though it is illegal for anyone to teach Christianity to those younger than 18 years of age. Police have been known to break up a class, arrest the teacher and beat the children.

Arrest and torture are part of the expected price experienced equally by men and women. Samuel and Luann\* led a house church in their home. Police broke into the meeting, arrested Samuel and confiscated their home. Luann stayed with the other believers until the police came for her. They interrogated her for hours until she cried out, “What more do you want? You’ve taken everything I have.”

They responded, “No, we haven’t taken everything. Give us your shoes.” After taking Luann’s shoes, they stomped her feet with their heavy boots until they were broken and bleeding.

\*Not their actual names

## CURRENT POPULATION of BUDDHIST COUNTRIES in ASIA

REPRESENTS 25 PERCENT OF THE WORLD’S TOTAL POPULATION

|                                |             |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Myanmar                        | 42,000,000  |
| Cambodia                       | 12,000,000  |
| Laos                           | 4,500,000   |
| Sri Lanka                      | 19,000,000  |
| Thailand                       | 61,000,000  |
| Japan                          | 126,500,000 |
| Taiwan                         | 22,000,000  |
| Vietnam                        | 79,000,000  |
| China (now officially Atheist) | 1.2 billion |

# What Does the Future Hold for Women of the 10/40 Window?

## From a human perspective, it's not too bright

*"You can tell the condition of a nation by looking at the status of its women."*

— Prime Minister Jawaharal Nehru of Pakistan

- Evidence of growing religious fundamentalism exists throughout the region. Wherever it increases, women will become more oppressed. As extremist movements grow, women are, as one woman put it, "The canaries in the mines."
- Culture and tradition will continue to play important parts in the roles women have in society and in the church. It is unrealistic and unwise to expect that women in the 10/40 Window will have the same opportunities and freedoms women in the West enjoy.
- Abuse, rape, forced prostitution and violence are on the upswing. Violence against women and girls is the most pervasive human rights violation in the world today. The insecurity outside the household is the greatest obstacle in the path of women. Compared to the atrocities outside the home, atrocities within the home are endurable. Women not only continue to accept their inferiority in the home and in society, they even call it sweet.<sup>13</sup>
- The poor are becoming poorer, with women and children among the poorest of the poor. Women who are uneducated cannot earn a good wage. They suffer poor health, lose their children to disease and feel hopeless. Their children remain trapped in the endless labor cycle without opportunity for education or any development potential.

### But change in the society and in the church is evidence of God's plan and grace.

- Educational opportunities for women are increasing in many countries of the region. In the past 30 years, illiteracy rates among women have dropped from 82.2 percent to 49.1 per-

cent in Africa; from 61.9 percent to 33.2 percent in Asia; and from 85 percent to 51 percent in Arab states.<sup>14</sup>

Many more women are attending universities, Bible schools and seminaries, enabling them to develop their ministry gifts. Short-term training seminars, interdenominational conferences, Christian literature and the media all contribute to today's development of women in the 10/40 Window.

- Despite the inferior position of women in many of these cultures, women have risen to the top of their professions. They have served as heads of state in such 10/40 Window countries as Bangladesh, Pakistan, Turkey and India.

Even more important for the Church, are the women who are emerging into roles of leadership within ministry. They are models of encouragement for other women to discover, to develop and use their gifts, and to realize they, too, are able to serve.

The courage of Violet in Cote d'Ivoire, Gladys Staine in India, Serena in North Africa and Luann in China inspires others.

Mary Stewart Van Leeuwen, psychologist and professor at Calvin College, has observed that historically women flourish in Church leadership during two distinct times. One is when revival breaks out (e.g. Pentecost); the other is when needs and difficulties (poverty, war, AIDS, etc.) are so great no one has the luxury to sit around and debate the role of women.

Both conditions are converging in the 10/40 Window at this time, which makes this one of the most fruitful times of ministry for women in that region the world has ever experienced. Luis Bush summarizes his vision for the role of women in the next century.

*From a secular perspective, there is an increasing openness to and desire for the involvement of women in decision and policy-making roles, and an understanding of the contributions they can make. In India where I have visited a number of times, I've seen women playing a key role, especially in community development. African women seem to have a cultural edge in implementation, planning and reliability.*

*I believe women will have a very significant and, more directly, influential role in evangelical circles in the 21st century. However, in the Church, men are still a bit chauvinistic about women in leadership. But that resistance is rapidly decreasing, and there is a spirit of repentance about past attitudes.<sup>15</sup>*

As women of the 10/40 Window join the growing host of godly women around the world in sharing the Good News with a lost world, we will recognize the truth of the Psalmist's words more fully: The Lord commanded the word, and great was the company<sup>16</sup> of women who proclaimed it. Psalm 68:11



<sup>13</sup> *Chronic Hunger and the Status of Women in India*, Carol S. Coonrod, 1998

<sup>14</sup> UNESCO, September 2000

<sup>15</sup> *Women as Risk Takers for God*, by Lorry Lutz

<sup>16</sup> The word for company is feminine in the Hebrew.

# Selected Global Women's Ministries

If God has touched your heart with the plight and potential of the women you've read about here, you may want to learn more about their work and how you might become involved. Listed here are just a few of the global women's organizations that you can contact for further information.

## **Women of Global Action** (formerly AD2000 Women's Track)

Tel: (719) 528-8728

E-mail: [woga@global-act.org](mailto:woga@global-act.org)

Web: [www.globalaction.nu](http://www.globalaction.nu)

Women of Global Action's primary objective is to be a catalytic force in mobilizing, equipping and releasing Christian women for evangelism—especially among the least-reached people of the world. You may become a personal advocate of a woman ministering in the 10/40 Window through the Women's Advocacy Program.

## **Aglow International**

Tel: (425) 775-7282

E-mail: [aglow@aglow.org](mailto:aglow@aglow.org)

Web: [www.aglow.org](http://www.aglow.org)

Aglow is an interdenominational organization of Christian women with more than 3,300 fellowships in more than 140 nations. Aglow disciples and networks with women globally.

## **Frontiers**

Tel: (800) go-2-them

E-mail: [info@us.frontiers.org](mailto:info@us.frontiers.org)

Web: [www.frontiers.org](http://www.frontiers.org)

The Women's Ministry Department of Frontiers helps churches and candidates prepare for ministry among Muslim women by serving and equipping their members to be godly in character, active in mentoring and an encouragement to one another. They effectively minister to, for and with Muslim women.

## **Sisters in Service**

Tel: (800) 966-5515

E-mail: [micheler@partnersintl.org](mailto:micheler@partnersintl.org)

Web: [www.partnersintl.org](http://www.partnersintl.org)

Sisters in Service, an equipping ministry of Partners International, exists to connect North American women with the work of indigenous missionary sisters in some of the hardest places of the world through prayer, funding, short-term mission trips and inviting international sisters to speak in their churches.

## **The Lausanne Movement—Women's Network for World Evangelization**

Tel: 61-2-94499252 (Australia)

E-mail: [dclaydon@ozemail.com.au](mailto:dclaydon@ozemail.com.au)

Women's Network for World Evangelization is an international ministry which connects women who are involved in evangelism around the world so their ideas and ministries can be shared, and so those in particularly difficult places can be assured of committed prayer support, Bible teaching and encouragement for training, challenging and mobilization.

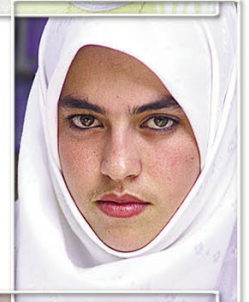


## **World Evangelical Fellowship—COMMISSION ON WOMEN'S CONCERNS**

Tel. 661-746-4748

Email: [ewbartel@lightspeed.net](mailto:ewbartel@lightspeed.net)

The WEF-CWC has a focused, international calling to the Church and the evangelical community—especially as it relates to the plight of women and recognizing the injustices women experience. They take action to alleviate women through networking, facilitating, mobilizing, motivating and cooperating as a global body.



## **Women's Opportunity Fund**

Tel: (630) 645-4100

E-mail: [lkuhn@opportunity.org](mailto:lkuhn@opportunity.org)

Web: [www.opportunity.org](http://www.opportunity.org)

The Women's Opportunity Fund is a Christian non-profit organization responding to Christ's call to serve the poor by providing opportunities for people in chronic poverty and to transform their lives. Women's Opportunity works through indigenous partner organizations that provide small business loans, training and counsel to poor women through peer lending groups called Trust Banks.



## **Caleb Project**

Tel: (303) 730-4170, x. 343

E-mail: [orders@cproject.com](mailto:orders@cproject.com)

Web: [www.calebproject.org](http://www.calebproject.org)

Caleb Project challenges the Church to complete the task of world evangelization by taking the Gospel to the least-evangelized people groups of the world. Caleb Project provides tools to facilitate this process for churches, mission agencies and other ministries.



# Women OF THE 10/40 Window

The Greatest Untapped Resource for Evangelism

To learn more how you can become personally involved in focusing on women in the 10/40 Window or to obtain more copies of this booklet, contact:

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This publication is the latest in a series highlighting the history, progress and present state of Christianity in the 10/40 Window – the region between 10 and 40 degrees north latitude, extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific Oceans. It encompasses over three and one-half billion people, including most of the world's Muslims, Hindus and Buddhists.

Eight booklets in this series were published earlier by the AD2000 & Beyond Movement and are available through Caleb Project:

The 10/40 Window: Getting to the Core of the Core

The Unfinished Task: It Can Be Done

Joshua Project 2000

To the Uttermost Part: The Call to North India

The Arabian Peninsula: An Opening at the Heart of the 10/40 Window

The Horn of Africa: Challenge and Opportunity

The Maghreb: Ancient North Africa Yearns for Rebirth

The 35/45 Turkic Window: A Gateway to the Muslim World

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Thanks to *Create International* and *Caleb Project* for many of the people photos.