

Opening Windows of Opportunity

by David H. Snyder



In recent years we have often been reminded about the many windows of opportunity that exist in unevangelized areas around the globe. The *unreached people groups* are being emphasized because of the millions who have never heard the true message of salvation. Also, BIMI's *100+ Nations Ministry* has been highlighting numerous places in the world where the need is especially great. This is something that definitely needs to be discussed since our Lord commanded us to go *into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature* (Mark 16:15 – emphasis added). The need of getting the Gospel into every part of God's harvest field should be obvious—in spite of how difficult it may be to “open the window.”

I had the privilege of growing up in the country, surrounded by many acres of farmland. With that privilege came the responsibilities associated with raising many different kinds of animals. My family lived in an old farmhouse that had a history dating back approximately 200 years. As one can imagine, we did not have air conditioning. This called for open windows and fans during the summer months. The old, wood-framed windows in our house were often difficult to open due to high humidity or adverse weather conditions. As a young person, I would push up on one of those hard-to-open windows with all my might, and once it began to open, I would stop to rest. After a few moments, I would try to open the window further so that we could get more airflow. In doing so, I found I had lost momentum and it was almost like starting over. Through trial and error I discovered that once the window started opening, I needed to keep the momentum going in order to push it open as far as possible. After opening one window, I would continue to open as many other windows as possible in order to increase the flow of air throughout the house.



Although there are many windows of opportunity in missions, a lot of those windows are difficult to open. A tremendous number of nations have religious beliefs dating back hundreds if not thousands of years. Nevertheless, after many years of diligent work, missionaries have seen many hard-to-open windows opened to the Gospel. Additionally, the renewed interest in Gospel-deprived regions has caused many Christians to surrender to serve in “pioneer” areas of the world. Realizing this, we must remember that now

is not the time to stop and rest. Rather, we should take advantage of the momentum that has been created. We must endeavor to open as many windows as possible and to open them as far as possible. Since this is the case, I would like to suggest some things that can be done to keep the momentum going.

First and foremost, we must **PRAY**. Pray that God would *send forth labourers into his harvest* (Matthew 9:38). The size and population of the world demands a tremendous host of missionaries. Also, we should pray for the protection of those who labor in the “uttermost” areas of God's harvest field. Church planting can sometimes be very difficult and very dangerous. I am reminded of what Paul wrote concerning an open door that can be applied to an open window: *For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries* (1 Corinthians 16:9).

Second, we must do what we can to **PROMOTE** the cause of missions. Those who teach Sunday school or Junior church should emphasize the subject of missions on a regular basis. Pastors who repeatedly preach about the great need for more laborers will be blessed by seeing church members surrender to missions. Parents play the biggest role in the development of their children. Therefore, the idea of dads and moms encouraging their young people to become missionaries should not be overlooked. Furthermore, giving financially to support missionaries is also an essential part of promoting missions. In short, we must do whatever we can to advance missions and thus help to open as many windows of opportunity as possible.

Finally, we must **PONDER** God's question, “*Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?*” (Isaiah 6:8). Too many Christians are content to “window shop” when it comes to missions. We should not be content with just looking at windows of opportunity. It is important that we consider whether or not God is calling us to go through that open window. The Lord does not want everyone to serve as a foreign missionary. However, with the tremendous need that exists, it is only logical that God is calling a *multitude* of workers. Perhaps as you read this editorial, you would be willing to breathe the prayer, “*Here am I; send me*” (Isaiah 6:8).

Most likely, the majority of those who read this article have had the privilege of growing up in a country where the Gospel is proclaimed on a regular basis. With every privilege comes responsibility. While there is momentum, we must do what we can to open the many windows of opportunity that exist around the world. To be sure, there are countless hard-to-open windows due to difficult circumstances and adverse spiritual conditions. Nevertheless, when God sets before us *an open door—or window—no man can shut it* (Revelation 3:8). 