

# The Green Window

to  
the  
**last**  
of  
the  
**last**

by Joshua Chang





The Green Window  
Copyright ©2016 by Green Window Ministries, Inc.  
Pictures by Joshua Chang  
Green Window Ministries, Inc.  
13790 SW 102nd Street  
Dunnellon, FL 34432  
[www.greenwindowministries.org](http://www.greenwindowministries.org)







---

# THE GREEN WINDOW

---

“To the Last of the Last”

by Joshua Chang



# Introduction

The movement of the “10/40 Window”<sup>1</sup> first received the church’s attention in the 1980’s. Since then, there’s been a great shift in mission movements around the world to emphasize reaching people groups in urban regions that contain the most populated and the most cosmopolitan areas. The church was challenged to embrace this “10/40 Window”.



Despite the astonishing recent rise of churches in the southern hemisphere and the incredible advance of the Gospel in this region, over 35 years have passed since the “10/40 Window” challenge was launched and the task of reaching “ALL THE NATIONS” referred to by Jesus in the Great Commission, to “*go therefore and make disciples of ALL THE NATIONS*” (Matthew 28: 18-20), is no closer to completion.

---

<sup>1</sup> A missiological term coined by Luis Bush in the early 80’s

Why? Why are there still more than 3 to 7 thousand unreached “NATIONS” in the world (depending on your source)?

It is difficult to predict that we will, in fact, *ever* reach “ALL THE NATIONS” while the established church is focused on our “favored methods” rather than focusing on obeying Jesus’ command. Research by Christian organizations show that most missionary efforts today are now focused on large population centers. But what about the tribal peoples who live in the tropics? They are like the one lost sheep in Jesus’ parable recorded by both Matthew and Luke.



In 2007, during a mission conference in Pará, Brazil, supposedly focused on indigenous people groups in the Amazon, there was a lengthy discussion about the “10/40 Window.” The tribal leaders at that conference felt uncomfortable, and some were even indignant.

One of the key leaders from *CONPLEI*, a large Christian tribal organization, expressed his frustration that the [Brazilian]

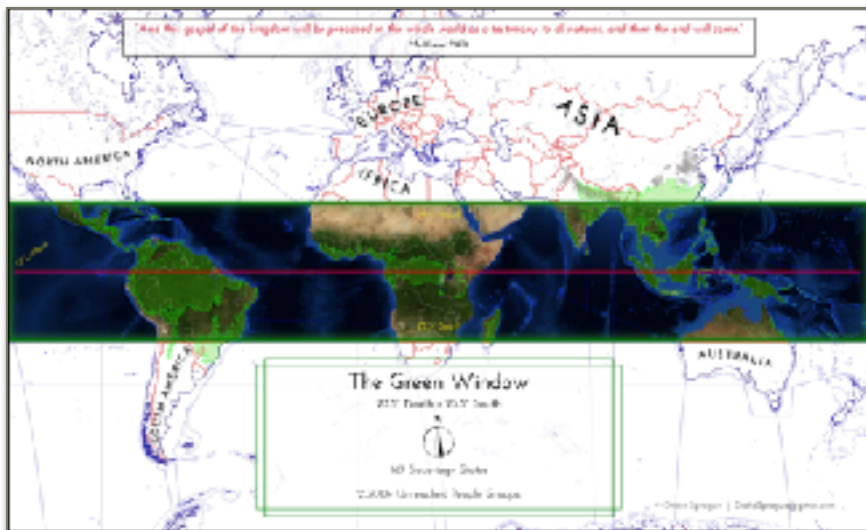
church was focusing on the “10/40 Window” to the point that it was forgetting the Amazon—their own backyard—where more than 220<sup>2</sup> tribal “NATIONS” exist without ever having heard the Gospel of salvation.

The following year, 2008, during the large quadrennial *CONPLEI* conference, we began dreaming of a network that could unite both growing South American tribal and non-tribal churches to reach tribal people groups in unreached areas. Tribal peoples are especially well-equipped to reach other tribal nations like themselves, but they frequently need the help and encouragement from the established church to do so.

In *CONPLEI's* 7th conference (2012), in Chapada dos Guimarães, Amazonian tribal leaders designated a special time to launch the vision of the “GREEN WINDOW”, and I was asked to head up the task of developing this new missionary effort.

---

<sup>2</sup> Estimated number of Unreached Tribal groups in the South American Amazon region and Lowland (DAI-AMTB, ALTECO).



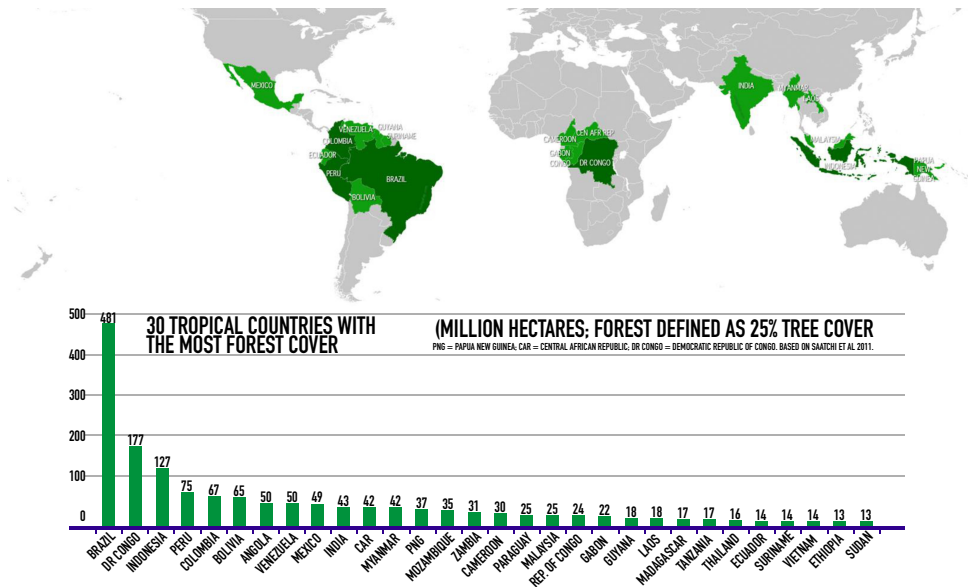
(map designed by Drake Sprague)

## What is the Green Window and Where is it?

The Green Window<sup>3</sup> is the rainforest zone of the world. The world is divided into two hemispheres, North and South, by an imaginary geographical line at the Equator. 23.5° North and 23.5° South of the Equator are two zones called the Tropic of Capricorn and the Tropic of Cancer. This is where almost all of the world's tropical rainforests are — which we now call the GREEN WINDOW. Rainforests are green areas. There, in these green areas, are tribal people groups who live and die every day without

<sup>3</sup> "Green Window" was first used by Joshua Chang in 2012 during the national indigenous mission conference, CONPLEI ([www.conplei.org.br](http://www.conplei.org.br)) and launched as a vision.

even the chance of hearing the Gospel. There are an estimated 2200 tribal “NATIONS” in the Green Window.



Within the Green Window are countries where the rainforests dominate the landscape, including the following (in order presented above): 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,  
S U D A N ,     T H E  
P H I L I P P I N E S   a n d  
others.





# CHALLENGES

Many challenges face us in reaching all the ethnic groups within this Green Window. Here are some of the most challenging ones that we currently encounter.

## ***Geographic:***

Tribal people generally live deep in the rain forests. The jungle is home to them but is a very difficult place for people like us, from the cities, 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 to the tribal villages deep in the rain forests, not only does it take a lot of time and money, but it is easy to get lost. In the Amazon, we don't talk about distance in miles or kilometers since, depending on the weather conditions, it may take days to cover as little as 60 miles! Another difficult geographic factor is that the tribal people in these areas are generally nomadic, meaning that they regularly move in search of food and safety. Also, when they are approached, many might retreat to avoid contact with the outside world (foreign to them).

## ***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 most countries to “isolate” the tribal people from external influences. Many governments use the pretense of preserving tribal cultures from external influences which includes the Gospel.

For instance, people groups from the “10/40 Window” are moving in mass to other countries in search of political, religious, and economical freedom. These people have the opportunity to hear the Gospel in many countries that they flee to. However, the tribal people groups in the jungle would not have the chance to hear the Gospel since they would hardly go outside their own boundaries.

## ***Cultural:***

We may not even need to discuss this point since it is obvious that it could be one of the most challenging aspects when we are dealing with the Unreached and Unengaged Tribal People Groups (UUTPG). We face many challenges, from different languages and dialects, to the types of food they eat, let alone their rituals and daily customs. It is , indeed, a huge challenge for those from the immediate context and even more for us who live in urban areas. A

deeper anthropological study is necessary but is very difficult to accomplish because many are not engaged and have not been contacted. However, it is possible that those that had been contacted first and are close to the UUTPGs have a better chance to reach them than others who are outsiders or foreigners and have less understanding of their culture and lifestyle.

***...it is possible that those that had been contacted first and are close to the UUTPGs have a better chance to reach them...***

## ***Denominational:***

Perhaps the greatest and most prominent challenge in other to reach the UUTPGs is not the geographic distance, current political situation, or even differing customs and cultures, but it is in every individual coming from different churches, denominational backgrounds, and mission agencies. Every day we are becoming more “specialized” in specific areas but we sin in not working together, or UNITED, towards the Kingdom vision. Jesus said in Matthew 6:33 to “seek first the Kingdom of God His righteousness...” In the same way, we should seek the interests of the Kingdom of God and not fall in pursuit of our individualities.

In 2014, the “Green Window Ministries” was formed as a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization based in Florida to raise

awareness for the Green Window zone and carry forward Jesus' mandate to go to "ALL THE NATIONS". The vision of the Green Window Ministries is :

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

# 3 E Ministry Model

In order to achieve its goals, the Green Window Ministries is implementing a new model in missions which we are calling the “3-E Ministry Model.” The 3-E stands for *Engage*, *Empower*, and *Encourage*.

## ***ENGAGE***

It is the Incarnated model of God. By becoming Immanuel in human nature and experiencing our suffering to the



point of carrying our sins to the death on the cross, He showed us the path of salvation. We are called to go to them in the same manner. When we are with them (the natives) we will get to know the daily struggles they face and, therefore, we will be able to discover opportunities that could open doors for the Gospel.

Engaging is equal to investing. Investing time, investing resources. It is impossible to reach any objective without the appropriate investment. What is troubling is the idea that out of

every 100 dollars the church gives for missions only 10 dollars goes to the unreached people groups field. That's 90% of resources to where the church is already established and only 10% to where there is no church! In addition, only 1% of that 10% is invested in tribal areas. That results in a mere 10 cents for every 100 dollars of offering for missions.<sup>4</sup>

The paths to the jungle areas are truly far, difficult, and expensive. However, if we join hands with the local church, the national church, and the already established “indigenous” church, and engage in biblical discipleship in the same way Jesus did with His disciples, these “indigenous” disciples would truly be the missionaries to reach the unreached tribes in their Green Window.

***...if we join hands with the local church, the national church, and the already established “indigenous” church, and engage in biblical discipleship, in the same way Jesus did with His disciples, these “indigenous” disciples would truly be the missionaries to reach the UUTPG in their Green Window.***

---

<sup>4</sup> Gordon Conwell University Center for the Studies of Global Christianity

Perhaps we know this. But the question we should be asking may be, HOW? If we want to put into practice the ENGAGING, we must do the second ‘E’.

## ***EMPOWER***

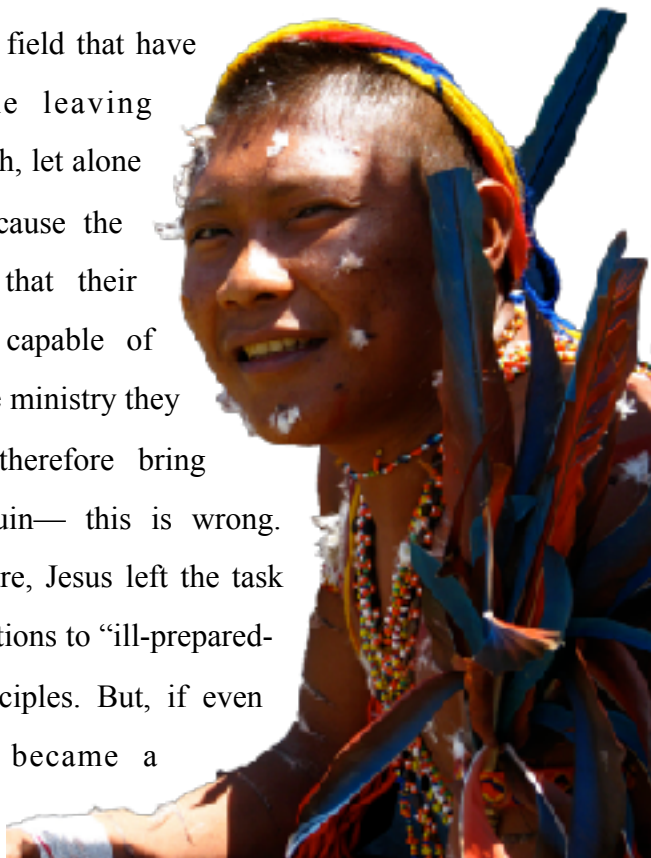
In Matthew 28:18-20, when Jesus gives the Great Commission to the disciples, he told them that ALL authority and power has been given to Him so He was sending them. Also, in Acts 1:8, it is revealed that they now have the power by the Holy Spirit and are to be witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the end of the earth. The Lord did not doubt when He was sending the disciples that they “maybe” will do it, nor question “will they have the strength?” to accomplish the task. He simply trusted that the power given to them was sufficient for them to accomplish all He had commanded them.

There is a need to re-examine if the “disciples” in our ministry are being empowered first by the Spirit and second by us. True empowerment comes from God, but we can also

***He simply trusted that the power given to them was sufficient for them to accomplish all He had commanded them.***

“empower” with the gifts He gave us. Sadly, we see many

missionaries in the field that have had a hard time leaving ministry for a month, let alone an entire year, because the missionaries feel that their disciples are not capable of keeping up with the ministry they built and might therefore bring everything to a ruin— this is wrong. Before His departure, Jesus left the task of discipling the nations to “ill-prepared-in-many-ways” disciples. But, if even people like me became a Christ-follower, I think, somehow,



they did a pretty good job. The reason is simple—they were empowered.

How can we empower our indigenous brothers? Steve Saint<sup>5</sup> used a very simple illustration; “You put them in the driver’s seat and sit on the passenger side, not just watch from the outside.” There is trust and there is respect. Whatever you do you must do it

---

<sup>5</sup> Steve Saint is the son of a pilot martyred by the Waodani in Ecuador and founder of ITEC. [www.itecusa.org](http://www.itecusa.org)



together. See what their real need is and build up together until you have mastered together so that they can take hold of the “wheel”. Not do *for* them, but *with* them—that is empowering. If we keep doing projects and the like *for* them we create more dependency, but if we do it together we create respect and interdependence and ultimately dependency on God and His providence alone.

“Together” is a powerful word. It shows unity, and unity is what Jesus intended in the first place for the disciples. In John 17:20-23, Jesus’ prayer is for all the disciples, past and future, and for their unity. When they are in complete unity, the world would know that God sent Jesus. We have power when we are together, and when we work together. Satan has, and is wholeheartedly trying to destroy that unity in us by dividing the body of Christ into idealisms and doctrines that many times leads into frustration and discouragements. Therefore, I believe that the last ‘E’ is ultimately essential for missions because we all need to be encouraged.

## ***ENCOURAGE***

“Together” is a beautiful word, it’s powerful. Regretfully, it is hard to see it in action especially in the mission field. Perhaps that is the reason why many missionaries are burdened, burnt-out, and suffer from loneliness and depression in many cases. One of the main reasons might be the fact that missionaries do not blend



themselves and share their gifts to build God's kingdom. Instead, they are individualistic and want to build their "own kingdom".

The ministry of the missionary or the mission agency's ministry is

the sole focus and purpose and vision. You may help them to achieve their goal but if your ideas are not "within" their guidelines you will be dismissed and criticized and will hardly find a place to step in. The native indigenous people are the victims in this missionary quarrel. We often hear the indigenous leaders from the Amazon saying that they do not wish the missionaries, agencies, and denominations dragging them into their "competition" and "territorialism" fights.

Mission fields are the world to which we are sent, and Jesus said that the wolves clothed in sheepskin will try at any cost to lead every single person astray from the truth. We will be able to overcome these struggles with the help of the Holy Spirit who is our true encouraging source. He is our "*parakletos*," as Jesus

explains to the disciples in John 14 to 16. He is the one who not only comforts and walks besides us, but also the one who will encourage us with strength and power and gives us words to speak.

All missionaries, whether they are foreigners, nationals, or indigenous, face difficulties in their own context and ministry. Some create difficulties among themselves while others are inflicted by persecution in many forms from outsiders and anti-Christians. We all struggle and strive to serve the One who called us and we all need encouragement daily. We can encourage one another by engaging in their daily lives and empowering them by walking together and by sharing God given resources.

# NEXT STEPS

There is a great need to evaluate the information we have from countries about the existence of tribal groups that make the category of UUTPG in the Green Window area. Also, there is an urgent need to assess the possibility of mission agencies sharing information on specific UUTPG fields to elaborate a functional strategy to link the UUTPG field to the church – the body of Christ.

We need to continually update UUTPG information data profile for churches and search-friendly sites such as *[www.ethnopedia.org](http://www.ethnopedia.org)*.

We need to partner more, at home and abroad, with organizations/churches and individuals/missionaries. For example, the Green Window is working in close partnership with I-TEC ([www.itecusa.org](http://www.itecusa.org)) to help the indigenous churches to become self-sustaining sending missionary churches without creating dependency on people and finances from the outside world. Contact us for more information about ongoing self-sustaining projects and how you can participate.

A specific target for the next couple of years is to gather key leaders from the once unreached tribes that now have churches who are sending missionaries to other unreached nations within

their own geographical areas, an example seen from both the Amazon region and from the Philippines.

For more information, please contact Green Window Ministries at [greenwindow2200@gmail.com](mailto:greenwindow2200@gmail.com) or visit [www.greenwindowministries.org](http://www.greenwindowministries.org)

*“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 (Mat 24:14 NIV)*

# About the author

Joshua Chang was born in Incheon, South Korea, to North Korean parents who fled during the war. In 1973, the whole family immigrated to Bolivia.

From there they went to Brazil in 1982. In 1989, they came to the USA

and here he followed theological studies receiving a M.Div in Missions at Westminster Theological Seminary.

Understanding that God had prepared him to be a missionary for Latin America he obeyed the call in 2001 and was sent by his church to serve the indigenous peoples of the Amazon.

In 2008, he started a new mission paradigm called Green Window and founded the Green Window Ministries with Steve Saint in 2014 where he serves as president.

He is married to Hyun and they have three children; Joan, David and Priscilla.



## Serving Organizations

- 1) Trans-Amazonian Indigenous Leadership, advisor
- 2) CONPLEI, advisor (National Association of Indigenous Pastors and Leaders - [www.conplei.org.br](http://www.conplei.org.br))
- 3) CONPLEI Associates (Founder and International Relations)
- 4) ITEC, board (Indigenous People Technology Education Center, [www.itecusa.org](http://www.itecusa.org))
- 5) Green Window Ministries, Founder and President ([www.greenwindowministries.org](http://www.greenwindowministries.org))



do you know who lives  
behind these trees?

**2200** **UNREACHED**

WITH **NO** CHURCHES IN  
**35** COUNTRIES