



**Andrew Abah**

As I reflect on the current state of the global harvest, the passage that comes to mind is 1 Samuel 17:1-12. Reading through that passage, one can say that history is seemingly repeating itself. The church is in a critical state. ***Goliath is out. His size is staggering. He is openly challenging the church.*** He is not only trying to halt the advance of God's kingdom but determined to reverse the progress made thus far. The Philistines are jubilating. They think they are winning. I hear Goliath say to the church: "This day I defy the ranks of Israel! Give me a man and let us fight each other."

May their victory not last!

God is looking for the Davids of our time. God is looking for men and women who will put a check on the advancement of the Kingdom of darkness, and enthrone the Lordship of Jesus in all the nations that Jesus died for.

For those that understand the time, they will agree with me that this is the state of today's church. I am not a pessimistic person but if we are to win the battle of world evangelization, we must rightly evaluate the strength of the enemy. This is not time for celebration. It is a time for sober reflection.

Mission researchers today revealed that the world population is growing very fast. It is estimated at 6,696,813,000. Out of this number the total unreached population is 2,742,282,000. This implies that we still have 41% of the world's population as Unreached. They also said we have 16,351 as total people groups in today's world out of which 6,640 are unreached people. The current unreached people percentage is

## The Great Commission: Is the Church Losing Out?

put at 41%. For me, this statistic is very staggering. One would expect more significant progress than this, as it has been over 2000 years since the church was commissioned.

Without being sentimental, we can see on the other hand that Islam is growing very fast. Dale Garside and Richard L. Steiner in their book, "Muslim Evangelism for Church Growth", revealed that Islam's rate of growth is 2.9% per year.

In 1900, Muslims made up 12% of the total population. Today, they are well over 20%. Unfortunately, if the church does not produce men like David to confront the Goliath called Islam, the world will soon be swept away by Islam.

A recent mail from Missions Network News (MNN) revealed yet another staggering projection. The MNN said a birth rate of 2.11 is required for a culture to perpetuate. Today it is an average of 1.9. The European Union is now 1.38, Canada is 1.6, USA is 2.11 but the Muslim birth rate is said to be 8.1. The MNN projects that ***in the next 40 years, France will become an Islamic Republic.*** By 2050, Germany will become an Islamic Republic and in 30 years time, USA will produce 50 million Muslims.

Coming back to my home country, Nigeria, the situation is no better. There is no doubt that we have a few mega churches in some cities but God's mandate for us is to disciple the nations. Our evaluation of the church must be on that basis. Out of

300 people groups surveyed in Nigeria, 178 are classified as unreached people. Thirty-four of these people groups are 100% unreached; 76 are adherents of ATR (African Traditional religion); 172 are Islamic and 70 people groups are classified as top priority for evangelism.

Again, one has to ask why so many unreached people after over 2000 years of Jesus having paid the price on Calvary? Is Islam having an upper hand? Remember of the 300 people groups just mentioned 172 people groups are purely Islamic. Again, I can hear Goliath say: "This day I defy the ranks of Israel!"

Beside Islam, Buddhism and Hinduism are also spreading fast. They too are looking straight into the eyes of the church and saying like Goliath: "This day I defy the ranks of Israel! Give me a man..."

***I also hear God cry out in response: "whom shall I send and who will go for us?"*** I challenge you to be the David of our time. I challenge you to be the Isaiah of our time and respond to the challenge God gave Isaiah "Here am I, send me!" If you cannot go, you can send those willing to go through your prayers and finances.

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