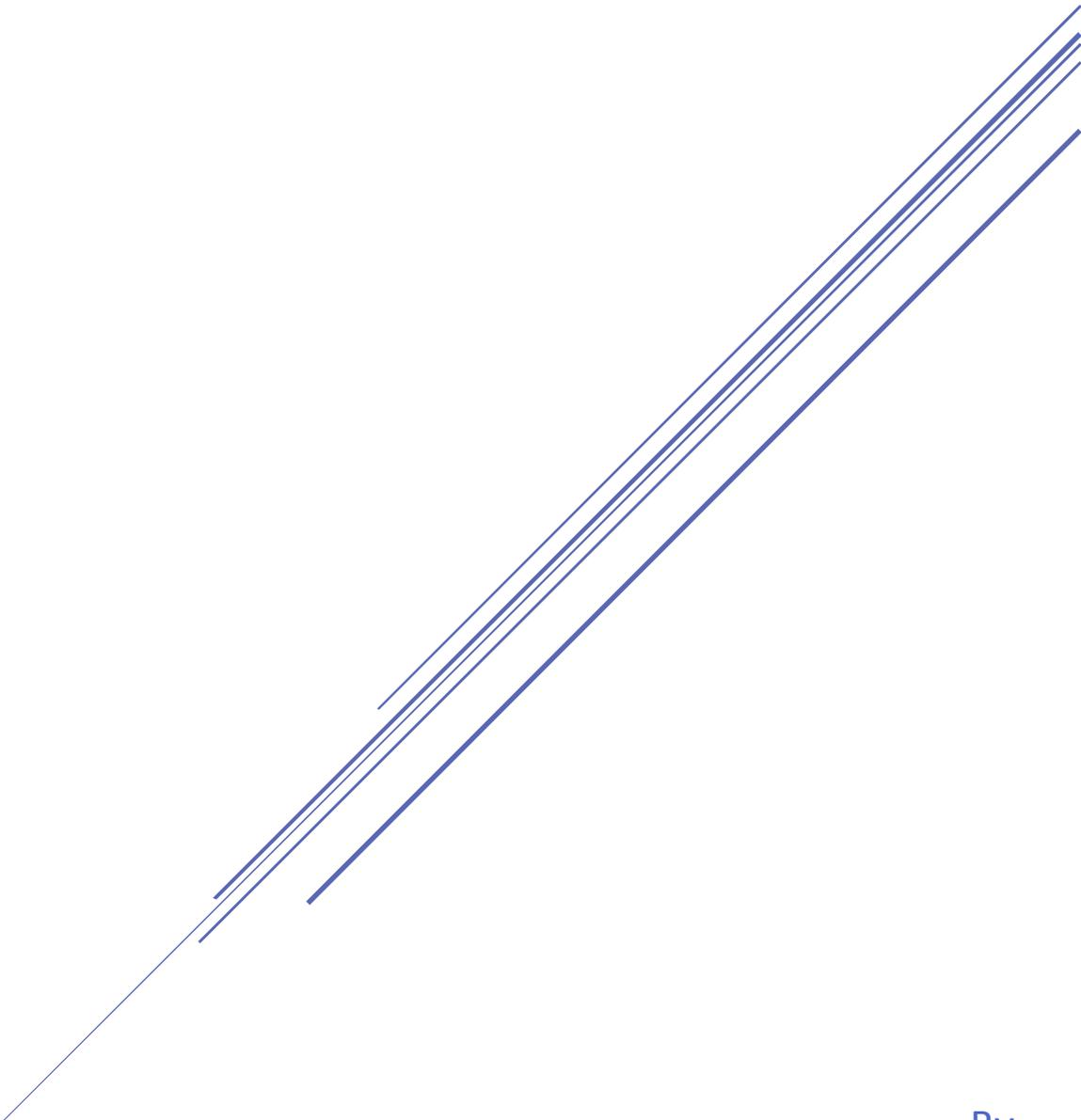


THE GLOBAL IMPACT

Of BILD International



By
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Vision and Mission

Though the Antioch School for Church Planting and Leadership Development and Church Based Theological Education has entered into our discussions about leadership development and the future of our denomination, it is only one piece in a far greater plan for impacting the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ. The goal of this article is to key in on several other ministries of BILD that have begun to make a global impact in the hopes that together we might realize the magnitude of this opportunity and partner with BILD in its vision and mission.

***BILD Vision Statement:** to see well established church planting movements in each of the nine major civilizations, led by leaders, fully trained in “the way of Christ and His Apostles”, who are designing and implementing effective strategies for civilization-wide progress of the gospel. (BILD.org)*

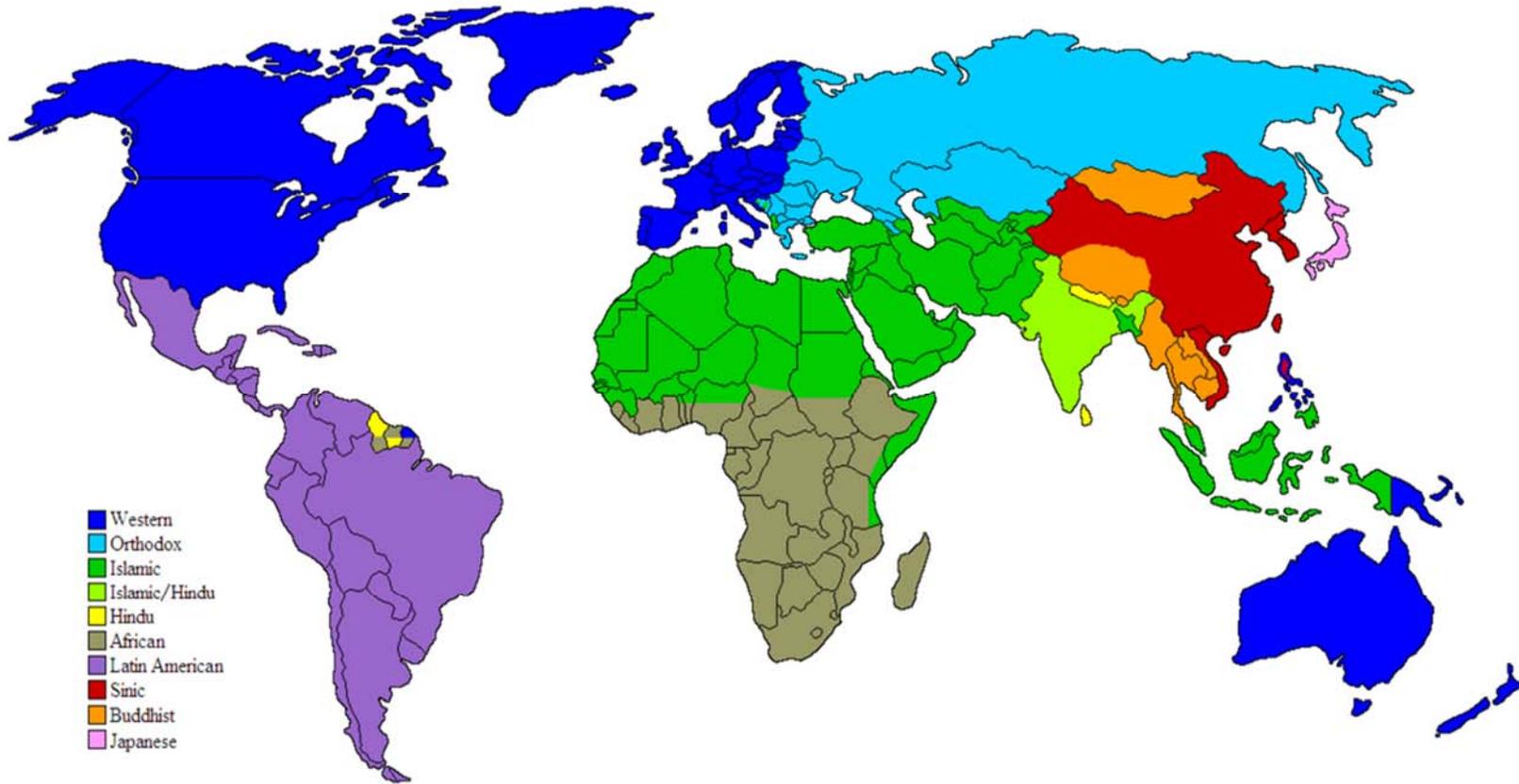
***BILD Mission Statement:** We exist to train networks of leaders, grassroots to national, in the way of Christ and His Apostles, in partnership with Church Planting Movements (CPMs) in each of the nine major civilizations. (BILD.org)*

A Grand Strategy for Global Impact

9 Major Civilizations

This idea of 9 major civilizations came from research BILD was conducting on major global shifts. In this research, a major book was discovered, *The Class of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order* by Samuel Huntington. Huntington’s theory is that a civilization is the broadest cultural entity to which humans have a sense of belonging, short of being human (Wilsher). From that theory, Huntington points to 9 major civilizations in our modern world that are shaping the global culture. On this foundational thinking, BILD International has developed a strategy and process for building and establishing not just major CPMs but also church leaders within these 9 major civilizations in order to advance the gospel of Jesus Christ on a truly global level. They have begun working on these strategies in 8 out of the 9 civilizations.

The 9 Major Civilizations



Global/Shadow Cities Strategies

A global city is a city that is generally considered to be an important node in the global economic system.¹ They also hold great political and cultural power. BILD has labored to identify 600 of these global cities around the world in order to focus on developing the next generation of church leaders who will plant, establish, and shepherd the churches that will spontaneously multiply and transform other global cities of the world. (Grand Strategy, pg. 20)

“The Roman Road included approximately 30 major cities that were vital to the stability and expansion of the Roman Empire during its reign and influence. For Paul, it became the cornerstone for spontaneous, spirit-directed gospel growth in the first century A.D.”
(Grand Strategy, pg. 20)

Shadow Cities describes the slums and shantytowns that grow as squatters flock to the world’s urban centers (global cities) seeking economic betterment. This mass migration often dwarfs or overshadows existing cities. The paradigm of community, property, church, and religion is being challenged. BILDs goal is to train up leaders from global cities who then go into the shadow cities and begin helping the community with an end goal of church planting and expansion. (Grand Strategy, pg. 21) With this strategy alone, BILD International currently has begun their work in 40 countries worldwide-with urgent requests from church-planting organizations in 80 more. (Partnership Path pg. 5)

Their role in all of this is not to do the work of evangelism and church planting in these foreign countries and cities around the world. Rather, they look to connect with indigenous Christians and missions that are already doing this work. They are a catalyst for networking and local leadership development on a grand scale. Their materials get at the first principles of the faith and the establishment of families and churches in “The Way of Christ and His Apostles” (also called the Antioch Tradition).

India is a great example of a country with a great need for the gospel and an opportunity for BILD to get involved. Jeff Reed has done a massive study on India and these are the statistics he’s gathered (Unleash a Torrent, pg.2)

- 1,100,000,000 people need the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- 600,000,000 people have no missionaries or churches.

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Global_city

- 300,000,000 people have no access to the Scripture in their own language.
- 300,000,000 middle class have virtually no meaningful exposure to the gospel.
- 600,000 Christian workers (missionaries, pastors, church planters) need training

In the traditional form of Biblical Education, it would cost millions of dollars in tuition fees and many years to train enough new leaders to effectively spread the gospel to the 1.1 billion people in India. However, with the two BILD training systems (BILD University and Antioch School for Church Planting and Leadership Development) these Christian workers can receive a non-formal but degree level education at a fraction of the cost and within their own local churches. So, BILD has partnered with dozens of Christian evangelistic organization leaders and staff who have collectively committed to train leaders by 2020 who can disciple 200,000,000 new believers. (Unleash a Torrent, pg. 5) They have started this process by committing their top church planting leaders to the D. Min program through Antioch School. They currently have 750 leaders spread throughout the different regions of India working on this. Their goal is 1,500 within the next year.

During the BILD International Annual Leadership Summit held in Ames, Iowa back in November of 2016, I had the opportunity to speak with several of these D.Min students. In one particular conversation, the group I was in asked one of the students how many people he had oversight of (in regards to church leaders and members). Due to the other conversations being had, we thought he had said forty, which was impressive enough. However, when we repeated that number back to him, he exclaimed, “No, four hundred!” As I continued to have other conversations with other leaders from around the world, I found out this was not an unusual number. BILD has strategies for this level of impact in 8 out of 9 of the global civilizations around the world.

Partnership with Wycliffe Associates

BILD International understands that their time and efforts in creating CPMs around the globe can be used more effectively if they partner up with some already established ministries. One partnership that has only within the last year been developed and proven to be beneficial is with Wycliffe Associates (WA). They have two phases within this partnership. One phase involves translating their resources into all 53 “gateway languages”². (Grand Strategy, pg. 40) Another phase is assisting WA in seeing that the Bible is translated in the remaining 5,000+ languages that have no Scripture at all. To help accomplish this, they (BILD) have created a degree that is called the WA Translators Track within the Antioch School program. (Grand Strategy, pg.40)

Again, at the Leadership Summit, we heard the testimony of a man who was currently in the Translators Track and working with Wycliffe Associates. He had gone into a community in which the Bible had never been translated with other members of WA. They gathered some of

² <https://unfoldingword.org/gateway/>

the people of the community and asked them to help translate the Bible into their community dialect. The group (of non-believers) helped translate the book of John in a week. They were hoping to have the entire Bible translated within a month. On top of that, several of the community members in this translating team had come to faith during the translation of John. The story of Christ in which they were interpreting was changing their lives.

Local is Global

30 Urban Cities

Though there are many other partnerships, global movements, and ministries BILD is involved with, it is appropriate to spend some time explaining what they are doing in the United States. Along the same idea of Global Cities, they have identified 30 major cities within the United States in which they will begin partnering with local churches in an effort to train up new leaders who will be committed to transforming urban centers and inner cities of North America. (Grand Strategy, pg. 46) This work will be done using the Antioch School Degree Program and will allow the new generation of leaders to stay in their cities, train for ministry in their churches, develop highly marketable job skills/experience, and impact their city through their church. These are unique opportunities to be mentored and acquire different skills needed to accelerate their careers. These degrees use practicums to develop skills not just for profession church ministry, but can be used to gain skill in community development, entrepreneurship, and trades. The end goal is to help the next generation find their station in life and leverage it for the gospel of Jesus.

Conclusion

Antioch School is just one piece of a much larger ministry network that is BILD International. The ministries I described are representative (not exhaustive) of the many different arenas locally and globally where BILD has an opportunity to accomplish some great work. I believe any investment made in these endeavors and with these people is an effective partnership in the advancement of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

RESOURCES

1. Wilsher, Lars. "Civilizations in the 21st Century—Does Samuel Huntington's Theory Hold Water?" *Popular Social Science*. 10, April 2013.
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2. BILD International. 2007, bild.org. Accessed 30 Jan. 2017.
3. *Grand Strategy Impacts*. BILD International, 2016.
4. *Partnership Path*. BILD International, 2015.
5. *Unleash a Torrent*. BILD International, 2015.