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Chapter 1

From Greenland's Icy Mountains



The largest island in the world is **Greenland**. It has a population of around 55,000, which is about the same as Albany, Oregon, the city where I was born. This might not seem like a lot of people; but think about the fact that all of these people need Jesus. If we could share the Gospel with ten people per day, it would take us well over fifteen years to reach everyone in Greenland

That may seem like a large task, but it would be an even bigger task to evangelize the island of **Guam** in the western Pacific. This little island has over three times the population of Greenland, at nearly 165,000 people. And these people all need Jesus too.

However, even Guam's population is small compared to the Central American country of **Belize**. This country has a population of around 375,000 people, which is more than double the population of Guam. And all these people also need Jesus.

The population of Belize, however, is small compared to the country of **Bhutan** in southern Asia. With over 800,000 people, Bhutan has more people than the countries of Belize, Guam, and Greenland together.

However, Bhutan is also small when compared to the country of **Bahrain** in western Asia. With a population of nearly 1.5 million, Bahrain has more people than Bhutan, Belize, Guam, and Greenland together. Every one of these people also needs Jesus.

Even bigger than Bahrain is the country of **Mongolia** in eastern Asia. With a population of over 3 million, Mongolia has more people than Bahrain, Bhutan, Belize, Guam, and Greenland together.

Mongolia might seem like it has a lot of people, but it also is small when compared to the country of **Nicaragua** in Central America. With well over 6 million people, Nicaragua has more people than Mongolia, Bahrain, Bhutan, Belize, Guam, and Greenland together.

However, even Nicaragua is small when compared with the country of **Somalia** in eastern Africa. Somalia has a population

of nearly 15 million, which makes it bigger than Nicaragua, Mongolia, Bahrain, Bhutan, Belize, Guam, and Greenland together. And each one of these people needs Jesus.

Although Somalia certainly has a lot of people, it doesn't have nearly as many people as the country of **Nepal** in southern Asia. Nepal's population is over 29 million, and therefore has more people than Somalia, Nicaragua, Mongolia, Bahrain, Bhutan, Belize, Guam, and Greenland together.

There is another large country in eastern Africa called **Tanzania**. Tanzania has over 57 million people, making it bigger than Nepal, Somalia, Nicaragua, Mongolia, Bahrain, Bhutan, Belize, Guam, and Greenland together. Every one of these people in Tanzania needs Jesus.

Tanzania might seem like a huge country, and it is. However, there is a country in the western hemisphere that has over twice the population of Tanzania. This country is **Mexico**, the tenth most populous country in the world. The population of Mexico, at over 129 million people, is more than the populations of Tanzania, Nepal, Somalia, Nicaragua, Mongolia, Bahrain, Bhutan, Belize, Guam, and Greenland together.

Although the population of Mexico is huge, it is small in comparison to the population of **Indonesia**, the fourth-largest country in the world. Indonesia has a population of nearly

264 million people, which is more than Mexico, Tanzania, Nepal, Somalia, Nicaragua, Mongolia, Bahrain, Bhutan, Belize, Guam, and Greenland together. And all these people need Jesus.

Although the population of Indonesia is truly mind-boggling, the population of the country of **India** is much, much larger. With a population of well over 1.3 billion people, India has more people than Indonesia, Mexico, Tanzania, Nepal, Somalia, Nicaragua, Mongolia, Bahrain, Bhutan, Belize, Guam, and Greenland together. In fact, if you would add the populations of all these other countries together, it would not even come to one-half of the population of India.

To get a country with the population equal to that of India, we would have to take all the people from the twelve countries listed above, and then add to them the 144 million people who live in the country of **Russia**. Russia is the largest country in the world by area, and the ninth-largest country by population, putting it just ahead of Mexico. But even that would not be enough to get us to the population of India, so we would also have to add in the 165 million people from **Bangladesh**. (This country has a land area smaller than the state of Iowa, but it has a population larger than the country of Russia.)

But even the population of Bangladesh would not bump us up to the population of India, so we would also need to add in the population of **Brazil**, which has the fifth-largest population in the world at well over 200 million people. Finally, we would need to also throw in the 325 million people from the third most populous nation, which is the **United States of America**. Only then would we have a group of people approaching the size of the population of India.

Now that you are starting to grasp the staggering number of people that live in India, please consider several important facts.

- **Fact 1:** All the people in India need Jesus.
- **Fact 2:** The country of China has just as many people, or even slightly more, than India does.
- Fact 3: All the people in China need Jesus.
- **Fact 4:** There are around 3.5 billion people, or nearly half of the world's population, who live in countries other than India, China, or any of the other countries already mentioned.
- Fact 5: All the people in the world need Jesus.

Jesus commanded us as His followers to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every person.

This is starting to look a little overwhelming.