The 4/14 Window

Raising Up a New Generation to Transform the World
Raising Up a New Generation from the 4/14 Window to Transform the World
Abraza al Futuro

Levantando una Nueva Generación de la Ventana 4/14 para Transformar al Mundo
4/14 GLOBAL MOVE
Wave of God
4/14 Le Burundi with Presidente
June 2008
TRANSFORMA CHILE Mobilizing 4/14ers
Transform World, 2005
Desperate for Deus
PASSING TORCH TO NEW GENERATION
New Generation Lifting the Flag

Children in Prayer networks in many Cities
Moko

In Poso, South Sulewesi, Indonésia
South Korea, 2007
Colombia – 2007
III Cumbre
de Transforma Latinoamérica
San Salvador, El Salvador
24 – 26 de Junio de 2008

¡Sanza nuestra tierra,
Levanta reformadores,
Que Tu gloria venga sobre nuestra sociedad!

El Salvador – 2008
350 Servants / 68 Countries

Welcome to 4/14 Window Global Summit

That saved a wretch like me!

September, 2009
4/14 Burundi
Com o Presidente do País
Junho, 2008
Monterrey, Nuevo León, en la Nave Lewis del Parque Fundidora.

FECHA: 19 de Marzo del 2010
Bienvenidos
Cumbre Ventana 4/14
Monterrey, Nuevo León 19 de marzo 2010
MONTERREY, NUEVO LEÓN, EN LA NAVE LEWIS DEL PARQUE FUNDIDORA.

FECHA: 19 DE MARZO DEL 2010

VENTANA 4/14

NAVE LEWIS
19 DE MARZO 2010
PARQUE FUNDIDORA
Monterrey, Mexico, March 2010

1100 + Servants of God
ETHIOPIA
NEW GENERATION

RAISING UP CHRIST FOLLOWERS FROM TO TRANSFORM THE WORLD
South Korea

Train a child in the way he should go... (Prov. 22:6)

May 6-7, 2010

1600+ Servants of God
4/14 in 3 Cities in Egypt, June
Realidade brasileira
Children are in the Lions Den
Reaching the 4/14 Generation to become God's Agent of Transformation
4 | 14 WINDOW
transforming the future
SINGAPORE
4 | 14 WINDOW
transforming the future

Singapore, Julio 2010
Paraguay 4/14 Launch July 16-17, 2010
600 Servants from 52 cities
Paraguay, 2009
19º WORKSHOP DE EDUCAÇÃO ESCOLAR CRISTÃ
3º Encontro de Estudantes e Ex-alunos de Escolas de Educação por Princípios

JANELA 4/14: O DESAFIO DO MILÊNIO PARA A EDUCAÇÃO ESCOLAR CRISTÃ
March 2010
Challenge

1.2 billion 4 / 14 ers
The 4/14 Window
Raising Up a New Generation to Transform the World

Strategy Handbook
LEVANTANDO UMA NOVA GERAÇÃO DA JANELA 4/14

Con a Igreja Evangelica em N. Iguaçu

24 DE JULIO 2010
Embrace the Future! Abraza al Futuro!
RAISING UP A NEW GENERATION FROM THE 4/14 WINDOW TO TRANSFORM THE WORLD:

This is the time to open the 4/14 Window

4th August 2010

Introduction:

The greatest battle going on in our day is the battle for the hearts and minds of men and women. The frontline of that battle is the age group (4-14) according to Ron Jenson of High Ground.

Chuck Colson wrote: The great need of our day is to fuel a movement to equip believers to nurture Christian transformation in minds, lives, relationships, ministries, and spheres of influence around the world. And who should be at the forefront of that movement? The leaders of tomorrow -- orthodox believers ages 4-14 firmly rooted in a faith that propels them to be the hands and feet of Christ. … it's more critical than ever to focus our efforts on reaching this generation.

Wes Stafford, President of Compassion International, supporting one and a half million children worldwide, wrote: This “4/14 Window” is the bull’s-eye, the very heart of the harvest.” He wrote: “The dynamic insight of the 4-14 Window demands a significant paradigm shift in missiology thinking. . . . Not only are children the most receptive group to the Gospel, they are uniquely positioned to be a powerful Kingdom force—even today, as children. And with their whole lives ahead of them to live out and share their faith, they also have time to be long-term agents of change. Every major movement in history has grasped the need to target the next generation in order to advance their agenda and secure its legacy into the future.”

One way in which you can join God in missio dei -- the mission of God is to reflect, reach and raise up a new generation of Christ followers from the 4/14 Window to transform the world.

Christ followers around the world are becoming more sensitive to the vital importance Jesus gave to children. In Matthew chapter 18 Jesus announced to
his followers that the child symbolizes what is best in humanity. He spoke out what he would like to see replicated in all of us. “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.” Jesus also said he identifies with the children: “Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me.”

Consequently, Jesus went on to say that the punishment for those who cause children to fall would be indescribable. So much so, in fact, that it was worth making any sacrifice to avoid the risk of causing a child to stumble (Mat 18:6-9).

Jesus continued to note the prominence of children in the eyes of God in verse 10. He said that children have special treatment by the Father, because their angels are always in His presence (v. 10). “See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven.”

That vision of the 4/14 Window as the primary focus for the church is catching on among servants of God around the world. Two weeks ago a 4/14 Window Conference took place in Singapore, often called, the Antioch of Asia. Rick Seaward, the highly respected convener of the Singapore 4/14 Window Pastors Conference, wrote these words in the invitation letter: “I feel such a deep sense of responsibility to convey to fellow pastors of our city the urgency of the 4/14 Window. It’s a global initiative, “potentially the most significant missional focus of the 21st century.”

On the Time Magazine cover of the June 30, 2003 edition, the question on the read: Should Christians Convert Muslims? You see a picture of a hand holding a cross. The title of the article is Mission to Islam with the sentence descriptor “Muslim countries are the hot new destination for evangelical missionaries.” The report features the 10/40 Window as the geographic zone where the majority of the world’s Muslims live between 10 degrees and 40 degrees north latitude. The 10/40 Window is a geographically framed focus for the mission of the church.
The 4/14 Window, on the other hand, references a demographic frame, symbolizing the world of children and youth roughly between the ages of 4 and 14, a window.

The 4/14 Window has already become a decadal emphasis for some major Christian bodies. For example, in July of last year 20,000-plus people representing more than 100 countries converged at the annual General Assembly of the Church of the Nazarene where the Board of General Superintendents declared an emphasis of “Connecting A New Generation: A Decadal Emphasis on Children and Youth,” a commitment rooted in Psalm 79:4: "We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the mighty works he has done." This Covenant, passed unanimously in the General Assembly, references the 4/14 Window and states outright, “the Church of the Nazarene acknowledges that children are important to God and a priority in His kingdom.”

In some places the 4/14 Window is becoming a millennial challenge. Last week for instance, Brazilian Christian school teachers and directors suggested that the 4/14 Window could represent a challenge not only for this century but this millennium. The theme of their three day nationwide event of more than 500 educators committed to biblically principled education representing 20,000 students was the 4/14 Window challenge of the Millennium for Christian education in Brazil.

Yesterday I returned from South America with my wife Doris, from taking part in five separate 4/14 events including a 4/14 conference in Paraguay where 600 pastors, educators and government officials from 52 cities met for two days. On the Saturday a children’s rally involved thousands of children gathered with the rallying cry Arriba Ninos Arriba Paraguay. Rise up Children Rise up Paraguay.

In June Dr. Eun Moo took part in three city wide 4/14 Summits in Egypt. In April Christian servant leaders in Ethiopia conducted a three day 4/14 Consultation “Putting Aflame and Harnessing the Potentials of the 4/14 Window for Ethiopia’s
Transformation”. As one of the oldest, fastest growing, most united and largest expressions of the body of Christ in Africa, Ethiopia presents a model of the great needs and opportunities of the African church. When Christian leaders in Ethiopia gathered they identified eight threats to respond to amidst a season of rapid change in the nation: environmental degradation, poverty, ethnic conflict, low level of democratic culture, poor governance (within the church as well as in government), little understanding about human rights, a situation that gets worse in the areas of women and children’s rights, a dangerously low level of understanding of hygiene and sanitation and alarming levels of fanaticism in some religious groups. Inspired by the question what is that in your hand?” (Ex 4:2) they offered a twofold solution – the church as the body of Christ and Children as Solution—that is what we have in our hand.

In May a 4/14 Africa-wide Summit took place at the end of which they resolved that a national summit on the 4/14 Window be conducted in all of the participating countries to propagate and adopt the initiative.

In India, where one of every 5 of the 1.2 billion 4/14ers live, the first of four regional 4/14 summits took place in the North East part of the country. 200 Bishops, Mission Leaders and Servant Catalysts gathered at the famous Puri city, in Orissa State of Eastern India in February of this year to consider the implications of the 4/14 window. In neighboring Pakistan a few days later in the first week of March the 4/14 Window National Pakistan Summit was held with 44 organizations and 17 denominations gathered which has very rarely happened in the history of the Pakistani church according to the event facilitator.

In the last few months Mexico 4/14 summits have been held in around ten states with large numbers of pastors and leaders attending. The vision has caught on such that plans are in place to catalyze the 4/14 vision on a state by state basis in each of the 32 states where Mexicans are convinced that a culture of narco-trafficking will only be stopped from the roots, i.e. the children.

My own experience in the state of Nueva Leone at the Cumbre/the 4/14 Summit of Monterrey March 18-20, 2010 was a reminder of the intensity of the battle for
the lives and souls of the 4/14ers. When I flew in on March 18 traffic coming from airport was backed up and a car burning with many police cars on hand. Next day the airport was closed. We were scheduled to have a 4/14 Summit for state of Nueva Leone. But that day Army drug lords blocked 30 roads in all of metropolitan Monterrey. The Governor of Nueva Leon was to speak at event but was meeting all day with the military leaders of his army and navy so he sent his next in command to speak. But nothing can block the purposes of God and more than 1100 pastors from State of Nueva Leon and leaders came. We met all day and God worked powerfully in our midst.

In East Asia, in May, 4/14 launched in an event called: Transform Korea 4/14 Window Global Conference 2010 at which total of 1,600 leaders, including 80 from 22 other nations, gathered for it at which they declared 2010 to 2020 to be the "Initial Decade of the 4/14 Window Movement" during which we will focus on children ministries, giving strategic meaning to world missions.

In South East Asia, in June The Indonesian 4-14 Window Leader's Summit involved 250 people. There are already more than 100 citywide children prayer networks operating in Indonesia.

In North Asia, even Mongolia, which had one known Christian in 1990 are planning a 4/14 Summit this month.

The rapid home grown engagement and global scope of the 4/14 initiative -- which appears to have gone viral -- tells us that indeed, as God’s people, **this is the time for us to open wide the 4/14 Window.**

We live and move at a crossroads of history, on the millennial hinge, of what was then and what is now. We need to drill down deeper to raise up a new generation.

What about Europe, someone might ask? At the beginning of the 21st century no region of the world needs to learn just how critical it is to focus on the 4/14 Window. What a difference one century makes! Just over two hundred years ago one man Robert Raikes, a newspaper proprietor, decided to do something about
the challenges faced in the UK by setting up schools for children. John Wesley noted this and commented “I find these schools spring up wherever I go”. The transformation of Britain had begun, and it was to continue right through the 19th Century. It would transform the spiritual condition of the country. By the end of 1900 85% of the children in the UK attended Sunday School. Things have changed for the worse, however!

John Langlois, a Christian leader in the World Evangelical Alliance and British politician says “unless we raise up a new generation of children the church in the UK will be dead in 20 years” that was in the year 2000 when less than 4% of children in the UK went to Sunday School compared to 85% in 1900. If Langlois is right there are but ten years to go. That’s a dramatic change from 100 years ago when the vast majority of Christ-followers lived in Europe. Today out of population of more than 6 billion people, a mere 17 million or so Christ followers can be found in Europe according to Patrick Johnstone of Operation World.

A book that addresses some of the needs in Europe as recognized by the Europeans is "Toxic Childhood" by UK writer Sue Palmer. She says: "Over the last twenty-five years, huge technological and cultural changes have transformed the lifestyle of people in the developed world - largely for the better. But it's all happened so fast we haven't noticed that changes which benefit adults aren't always so good for children. A toxic cocktail of the side-effects of cultural change is now damaging the social, emotional and cognitive development of a growing number of children, with knock-on effects on their behaviour."

Jeff Fountain who, for two decades, has chaired an umbrella of networks, partnerships and alliances called Hope for Europe, launched the 4/14 focus for each country of Europe with the hope that it would lead to 4/14 networks in every country. There are now 4/14 networks in three countries which seek to raise up a new generation to bring hope for Europe.

What about the United States?
When we met at Chuck Colson’s invitation in January 2009 with a common mission to promote and nurture Christian transformation in the minds, lives, relationships, ministries, and spheres of influence of those we will be serving we were reminded that the times were changing in the United States. In an article on critical issues by Del Tackett sent out in advance of our gathering he made the following sobering observation. Out of his experience in a “total immersion” program in the Focus Leadership Institute which is a one-semester program that attracts more than fifty selected Christian university students three times a year, he drew attention to the fact that they are increasingly afraid of marriage and are delaying it as long as they can. Similarly they are increasingly skeptical about the institutional church, labor and the state.

In 2007 David Kinnaman, president of the Barna Institute wrote: *unChristian: What a New Generation Really Thinks about Christianity* following three years of extensive research on what young Americans—from late teens to early 30-somethings—think about Christianity.

This was the tip of the iceberg. Last year, two years after the publishing of *unchristian*, in a book titled: *Already Gone* authored by Ken Ham and consumer behavior research analyst C. Britt Beemer, presented the startling fact discovered 20–29 year olds who used to attend evangelical churches on a regular basis, have since left it behind. These Nationwide polls and denominational reports are showing that the next generation is calling it quits on the traditional church. And it’s not just happening on the nominal fringe; it’s happening at the core of the faith.

In an article titled: *The Courage to Be Bored*, on BreakPoint 7/23/10, Prison Fellowship President Mark Earley related the story of a 14-year-old who told the Times, "I feel like my days would be boring without" my smart phone.

According to a recent Kaiser study, Earley noted, if your teenager is awake and isn't in school, he or she is staring at a screen a smart-phone, a computer, or watching television. Kaiser's researchers interviewed more than 2,000 kids
between the ages of eight and eighteen. They found that, when you include time spent actually talking on these smart-phones or sending and receiving messages and multi-tasking, American kids spend the equivalent of eleven hours a day tethered to an electronic device.

The fact is that unless we focus on the younger generation of 4/14ers we may, like the UK, not have much remaining church going population in America. But departure from religious tradition is not only an American phenomenon, it is a global reality.

Traditional values face unprecedented challenges in the digital world. The Internet provides youth the world over with instant access to a wide variety of cultural styles, and “McWorld” values and the “technological culture” reaches around the world, replacing even long held values. India, for example, is a nation where communication technology has produced dramatic changes in youth culture resulting in a drastic decline in traditional values. India exemplifies the global youth culture phenomenon. The revolutionary information age is widening social distances, weakening family ties and the relationship with parents. The World Values Survey\(^1\) findings accentuate the conclusion that intergenerational changes are taking place in basic values related to politics, applied economics, religion, gender roles, family and sexual norms. The World Values Survey is an ongoing academic project by social scientists to assess the state of sociocultural, moral, religious, and political values of different cultures around the world which has produced more than 300 publications in 14 languages.

They began with research on the youth. They found that the values of younger generations differ consistently from those prevailing among older generations, and are transforming social, economic, and political life in some cases literally remaking thousands of years of traditional cultures in the span of a single

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\(^1\) The World Values Survey is an ongoing academic project by social scientists to assess the state of sociocultural, moral, religious, and political values of different cultures around the world which has produced more than 300 publications in 14 languages. It has established the largest cross-national investigation of social change that has ever existed. It has developed a network of social scientists on six continents who are working together to analyze and understand changing human values and beliefs.
generation. One of the dramatic effects will take place is demographic according to John L. Allan Jr. in his book The Future Church: Ten Trends that are Revolutionizing the Catholic Church, by One of Allan’s “Revolutionary Trends”. He writes:

“What we know for sure is that by the time today’s twenty-year-olds reach retirement age, the population of the world will be contracting. The decline will be most aggravated in Europe and parts of Asia, including China, which could lose 20 to 30 percent of its population every generation beginning around mid-century.

Today’s children and young people have been given a host of labels such as, “Digital kids,” “Millennials” or “Mosaics.” These labels suggest that today’s kids are vastly different in culture and worldview from the Baby Boomer era. They are living in a postmodern age where the spirit of deconstructionism is pecking away at their values affecting their self-identity and changing their view of the home, school, and society at large. These are the formative years of human beings. George Barna “Research Shows That Spiritual Maturity Process Should Start at a Young Age.” He concludes “By the age of 13, your spiritual identity is largely set in place.” If we can reach them and disciple them when their worldviews are being shaped we will set these young people on a rock that will not be easily moved.

These are only a few of the reasons why we should respond to the challenge prioritize our focus on raising up a new generation from the 4/14 Window?

1. **Because God is moving on the heart of His servants around the world to run with this vision**

2. **Because the Bible tells me so in Psalm 8 and other places**

3. **Because Jesus did so prioritize as in Mat 11, 18 & 21**

4. **The 4/14 Window** is a most formative age in which most of our moral and spiritual foundations are made and worldview is formulated. Worldview makes a difference in life as became clear to me once again while reading a
September 2009 PhD dissertation at the Universiti Putra Malaysia, considered Malaysia’s Leading Research University. It was titled **CHRISTIANITY AND THE WORLDVIEW OF THE KELABIT SOCIETY, SARAWAK, MALAYSIA**. In the conclusion, author HEE CHAN JUNG writes: it can be said that the present worldview of the Kelabit has been strongly influenced by Christianity and that their Christianized worldview has brought positive changes and improvement in the life of the Kelabits.

5. **Because the 4/14 Window is the most receptive age to receive the Gospel**

6. **The 4/14 Window** is good stewardship of our God-given resources.

7. **The 4/14 Window** represent the next generation of servants of God.

**Who are in the 4/14 Window?**

The UN classifies children as under 15 years old so you would call the 4/14ers children between the ages of 4 to 14. In human development there is no more critical period than the decade represented by the 4/14 Window. It is a profoundly formative period when perspectives are shaped either positively or negatively and when a view of one’s own significance (or lack of significance) is formulated. It’s a “season of awakening” in which their understanding of life emerges and their consciences are awakened to judge right from wrong. The life circumstances of the typical 4/14er is a cross between a minefield and an obstacle course.

From a mission’s standpoint, our interest in the 4 to 14 age group is not only because they are the most receptive, but also because as we will see, they are often the most effective agents for mission. Fortunately, Jesus understood their worth: “I praise you Father, Lord of heaven and earth,” he said, “because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure” (Matthew 11:25-26).

**What** is the nature of the challenge of the 4/14 Window?
A. The vision statement of the 4/14 initiative then is “the Church’s primary focus is raising up the 4/14 generation to transform the world.

B. Our Mission is to mobilize the body of Christ worldwide to invest in reaching, equipping and empower the 4.14 generation to maximize their transformational impact.

To maximize their transformational impact, we holistically address seven major challenges facing the 1.2 billion 4/14ers. These include the spiritual, mental, physical, relational, economic, and social issues of this age group. And, we also confront their “ministerial poverty” – the lack of a challenge and opportunity for children and young people to use their enormous giftedness and potential in ways that will further the Kingdom.

C. The building blocks in the 4/14 Global Initiative blueprint include 4/14 Initiatives at the national and regional and global level with values of integrity, collaboration and prayer.

D. Transformational functional, resource tracks each with facilitation teams such as parents’ track which is facilitated by one of the centurions on this call, Lisa Nagle.

We seek to join God on His mission of raising up a new generation. In the Scriptures God’s missional purpose for 4/14ers can be seen in the incident in temple in Mat 21 when Jesus quotes from Psalm 8 which begins with the words “O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. Verse 2 From the lips of children and infants you have ordained strength because of your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger. In these kind of children and 4/14ers God established strength as stated in Ps 8:2 a quality attributed to God as in Ps 61:3 “The Lord is a strong tower against the enemy.”

In Psalm 8 the whole story of man is told by David in three broad strokes. God created us, verse 1-2 God cares for us, verse 3-4 and God crowns us, verse 5-8. Verse 2 makes clear that God established have a divinely appointed missional purpose for children.
Jesus presents children as God’s way of silencing the avenger. Jesus affirmed and announced the time and the place of its fulfillment. The incident took place on the Tuesday of Passion Week when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the things he did and the children shouting in the temple area, “Hosanna to the Son of David,” they became angry. The text in Mat 21:14-16 reads they were indignant. “Do you hear what these children are saying?” they asked him. “Yes,” replied Jesus, “have you never read, “‘From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise’?”

The Hebrew word meaning strength in Ps 8:2 becomes the word praise on the lips of Jesus. At the very moment Jesus is being rejected by the leaders, these young people, who are likely 4/14 boys who have become Bar Mitzvah at age 13 “… are captivated by the full meaning of who Jesus is causing praise to come forth from their lips. Perfected praise produces power.” It was followed by silence from the enemies of the truth as Jesus left the temple.

Later that same week we see the fulfillment on the cross where, we learn in 1 Jn 3:8 he Jesus destroyed the works of the Devil—the foe and the avenger.

Mat 11:25 was also fulfilled: “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children.”

In both and the New Testaments we see God using children as solution to the problems of their day. While David was but a youth that the Philistines were routed as he dispatched the giant Goliath. Josiah, through whom reformation came to the nation, was a boy-king of 8 years when the dramatic reforms began. Esther, the future queen who would save the Jewish people, was an orphan girl. Jeremiah was chosen by God, though he was ‘only a child.’

“It is not just that these people happened to be children, writes Keith White, founder and director of the Child Theology Movement, “but that some of the most significant acts and revelations of God were through these children. Now is the time! Now is the opportunity. This “4/14 Window” is the very heart of the harvest and God’s plans to transform our national and our world. Nothing is more strategic in the war between good and evil—the Kingdom of Darkness and the Kingdom of Light. This is a call to put the flame and harness the potentials of the 4/14ers by raising up a new generation from the 4/14 Window to transform the world. Let us join hearts and hands together to reflect, reach and raise up a new generation from the 4/14 Window to bless the nations. 

**Wherefore?** So what can you do with the 4/14 Window.

1. Catch the vision: The church’s primary focus is railing up the 4/14 generation to transform the world.
2. Make it your mission to mobilize the body of Christ to invest in reaching, equipping and empower the 4/14 generation to maximize their transformational impact.
3. Pray for the II 4/14 Global Summit – contact Martha

**Conclusion:** In studying the decline of twenty-six civilizations, Arnold J. Toynbee came to this conclusion “... for any civilization or culture to maintain its health and advance, it must respond positively to the challenges with which it is presented at a given point in time described as the crisis/catalytic/kairos moment of opportunity. Are we ready to respond positively to the challenges in our time of the 4/14 Window?