

The 4/14 Window

Raising Up a New Generation
to Transform the World

Strategy Handbook





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INTRODUCTION

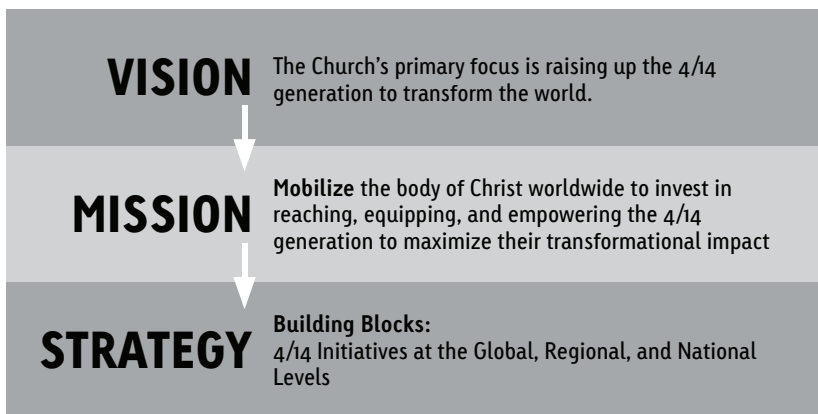
The 4/14 Window refers to the demographic group ages 4 to 14, which is the most open and receptive group to spiritual and developmental input. God is calling us to a new missional focus: the 4/14 Window, the golden age of opportunity to transform the world. God is also calling us to radically change the way we view children and to respond to their strategic importance and rightful place in His kingdom. This often-ignored and suffering people group can be transformed into a precious window of opportunity.

The Bible commands every Christian to “speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute” (Proverbs 31:8, NIV). The *Shema* (Deuteronomy 6:4-7; 11:19) admonishes us to communicate God’s grace to our children. Psalm 78:4 (NIV) declares, “We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done.” Jesus affirms this in Luke 18:16 (NIV): “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.”

In God’s hands, children can become agents of transformational mission under the headship of Jesus Christ. The needs, nature and challenges of raising up a new generation out of the 4/14 Window are presented in *The 4/14 Window* by Luis Bush (Compassion: 2009).

Raising Up a New Generation from the 4/14 Window to Transform the World (a.k.a. 4/14 Window Global Initiative) requires a bold process of collaboration and mobilization that seeks to obey God’s call to this new missional focus.

Blueprint for Raising Up a New Generation from the 4/14 Window



National and Regional Facilitation Teams

Catalytic Events: 4/14 Summits, Consultations, and Conferences



Transformational Tracks

Prayer, Collaboration, Integrity

The Building Blocks of the 4/14 Window Global Initiative

The primary building blocks of the 4/14 Global Initiative are national mobilizing events and transformational-track initiatives. The geographical dimension of the 4/14 Window movement is driven and fueled by national 4/14 catalytic events and initiatives. The various functional tracks define and support the action steps toward holistic transformation of children and institutions within their social environment (such as family, school, community, government, culture and society). The partnership between the geographical and functional aspects of the 4/14 Window Global Initiative reflects and draws on the strengths of God's people in both the Global North and South. It recognizes the growing contribution of leadership, ideas and ministry approach from the Majority World, also referred to as the Global South, Non-Western and Two-Thirds World.

CORE IDEOLOGY

The core ideology of the 4/14 Window Global Initiative includes the mission statement, vision statement, desired outcomes, values, principles and core strategies.

Mission Statement:

Mobilize the Body of Christ worldwide to invest in reaching, equipping and empowering the 4/14 generation to maximize their transformational impact.

Vision Statement

A primary focus of the Church is raising up a new generation from the 4/14 Window to transform the world.

Desired Outcomes

- International and national Christian institutions and local churches around the world engage in meaningful partnerships to reach, equip and empower the 4/14 generation as valuable agents of holistic mission and transformation.
- 4/14 discipleship, which is transforming all spheres of life and society, becomes the main feature of local churches worldwide.

Values

- Integrity: We esteem honesty, integrity and a commitment to holiness that begins with personal transformation.
- Servanthood: We seek to advance our common cause by preferring and serving one another in love according to Philippians 2:1-11.
- Collaboration: We believe that any attempt to control or compete with others is incompatible with God's desire that His body be "jointly fitted together" for kingdom purposes.

Principles

- Disciple-making is the overall basis upon which the 4/14 Window initiative is founded.
- Prayer: We believe communion with God is the only way to nurture spiritual intimacy and avoid the pitfalls of pride and presumption.

OVERALL 7-YEAR STRATEGY

A. Annual Global Summit

Annual 4/14 forums/summits will convene for the next seven years.

The purpose of the annual global summit is to celebrate milestones, monitor and evaluate progress, and make necessary alignments due to changes in mission landscape. The annual summit will fuel the 4/14 global movement with new strategies and renewed passion and energy.

B. National and Regional Summits, Consultations and Conferences

The 4/14 Global Summit will also launch action plans and inspire local, national and regional conferences at the grassroots level to enrich the movement and enhance its effectiveness. Grassroots initiatives will seek to mobilize local churches, ministries and organizations that have the most direct impact in the lives of children in the 4/14 Window.

C. 2012 Global Conference

A follow-up global conference will convene in 2012 to launch the mission and vision of the movement and articulate the various track strategies to the Body of Christ.

D. Publication of Resources

Various books related to the 4/14 Window will be published and translated into multiple languages.

E. Research

Research and mapping activities will be conducted to measure progress, record best practices, collect stories, validate the 4/14 generation's contribution to spiritual and cultural transformation, and explore new and daring strategic ways to accelerate the impact of the movement.




F. 4/14 Global Summit Objectives

1. Challenge participants to consider the missiological significance of the 4/14 Window movement.
2. Engage participants in strategic planning to produce the 12-month action plan and validate long-term goals.
3. Equip participants to be effective catalysts in raising up the 4/14 generation to become agents of transformation in their families, churches, communities and nations.
4. Give participants a wide range of helpful resources and links.
5. Encourage participants to listen to God and discern the importance of this season of the kingdom of God (Esther 4:14).
6. Promote collaboration as participants listen and learn from one another through the sharing of best practices and the wonderful things the Lord is doing in different parts of the world.
7. Celebrate the presence of God since the September 2009 launch of the 4/14 movement.

G. Global Summit Program Design and Activities

To accomplish Summit objectives, participants will engage in:

1. in-depth biblical reflections on the missiological significance of children and youth in the new landscape of Global Christianity
2. a time for group and personal reflection on understanding the new “season” of the kingdom (Esther 4:14)
3. planning sessions to review and discuss how to implement 12-month action plans
4. inspirational worship and celebration
5. workshops on a wide range of available and potential resources, links and support for the movement

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6. meetings for regional and national planning
 7. discussions between national teams with track and task force leaders
 8. table displays from tracks and task forces (upon request) to enhance interaction

NATIONAL 4/14 INITIATIVES

Catalytic Events:

National 4/14 initiatives include 4/14 national summits, consultations and conferences

- **4/14 National Summits**

National summits include up to 120 of the most influential spiritual leaders in a nation. The purpose of the summit is to get buy-in from these Christian leaders.

- **4/14 National Consultations**

National 4/14 consultations bring together regional/provincial leaders to mobilize the Body of Christ to raise up the 4/14 generation to transform their communities and nation. The purpose of the national/regional 4/14 consultations is to produce long-term goals, mid-term objectives and short-term action plans for each track and regional leader.

- **4/14 National Conferences**

The 4/14 national conferences launch the vision to a broader section of the Body of Christ, including leaders from different segments of society, such as government, business, education and church. The purpose of the conference is mobilize all components of the Body of Christ to commit themselves to take action in fulfilling the 4/14 vision and mission in their country.

These events are designed to engage international leaders in the task of raising up a new generation from the 4/14 Window within their nations so youth will be equipped and empowered to transform their nations and the world.

MODELS OF 4/14 INITIATIVES

The 4/14 Global Initiative is fueled by the emergence and transformational impact of indigenous local, community and national 4/14 initiatives — examples of how God is working in the nations and in thousands of churches across the globe. The following models represent just a few of the significant acts of God with regard to the 4/14 movement.

Children as Solution: A National Model

Many Christian leaders in Ethiopia feel a sense of spiritual/ministerial indebtedness to the African and global Church. They seek to fulfill their call to bless the nations of Africa and beyond, just as the first-century Ethiopian eunuch blessed others when he returned with the Word of God in his heart following his visit to Jerusalem and encounter with Philip (Acts 8).

The 4/14 Ethiopian Summit held July 24-25, 2009, unveiled a readiness to become a Philip for other nations of Africa and the world, having received the revelation of “children as solution” and having begun to take practical steps toward its implementation.

Ethiopia is both old and new. Old in age (going back 3,000 years), but new in age (with three of every four people under age 18 and two of every five people under 14). I am convinced the Ethiopian Church is a model for churches around the world and a source of encouragement, inspiration, information and instruction for the following reasons:

1. The Ethiopian Church responded to the Marxist takeover in 1974 with all 11 major denominations coming together and persevering in unity for 35 years.
2. The great wave of violent persecution that followed until 1991 was transformed from an insurmountable barrier to the gospel that threatened to destroy the Church to a purification of the Church instead.
3. Cell group multiplication and house churches developed

leadership throughout the church, with the teaching of the priesthood of every believer.

4. The Church grew not only in quantity (to 8 million by 1997 and more than 15 million just 11 years later), but also in quality. The Ethiopian Church has become a model of a growing, healthy church.
5. The study of the Scriptures and understanding that each believer was to live a prophetic life exerted transformational impact on society in every domain and sphere in which believers found themselves.
6. Ethiopian Christ followers took counsel together (as the elders of the Church did in Acts 12) in the April 2004 Church Council for three days of prayer and reflection on the role of the Body of Christ in addressing Ethiopia's challenges. They explored opportunities within and through the Church to be His agent to bless the nation.
7. These Ethiopian church leaders concluded that the Church is called to be the solution to national challenges but also, uniquely (as I believe no other nation has done with such clarity and conviction), viewed children as the solution. They considered, "What is that in your hand?" (Exodus 4:2, NIV) and realized it was their own children, called to become agents of Ethiopia's transformation: children as solution.

The Ethiopian Church realized that children's ministry and building healthy families are among the most strategic ways to build the Church and bless society. They have written and embraced a covenant on ministry to children with no less than 60 different provisions.

The 4/14 Initiative, under the Lordship of Christ, aligns itself with growing a healthy Church in accordance with His Word: "I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18, esv), and the Ethiopian Church provides a way by which this becomes reality.

After hearing the Ethiopian story, a Latin American leader wrote:

“There are many parallels in the secular and Christian history of Ethiopia with that of Latin America ... influence of Marxism, growth of cell groups, growth of the church in quantity and quality (mega-churches, etc.), and the surging transformation movements in Latin America.”

Children as Hope for the Future: National Networks

Europe models for us the need to focus on the 4/14 Window. The call comes from Hope for Europe, an emerging group of networks developing across the continent. In 2002, 1,000 invited leaders from across Europe met in Budapest, Hungary, aiming to impart a fresh sense of vision, hope and responsibility toward shaping Europe’s future. Out of the focus on the 4/14 Window, an initiative emerged to establish a 4/14 network in each European nation. To date, three French-speaking countries have established networks.

Children as Anointed Servants of God: a Shalom Community Model

Indonesia provides the model through the lives of two 8-year-olds, Adlan and Selfin. While Selfin prays for a touch from God, Adlan stands beside him speaking to individuals and crowds. These two anointed servants of God have transformed South Sulawesi, Indonesia, from a violent to a peaceful community.

Adlan said, “I think the Lord wants us to have peace in Poso ... the Lord wants us to have one heart. We should love one another.”

As Pastor Rinaldy Daminik of the Sulawesi Christian Church has said, “I believe the Lord is using the children to call for repentance and great transformation in Poso. We can say the seed of [earlier] martyrs’ blood in Poso is now bearing fruit through Adlan and Selfin.” The result is a more peaceful province.

Children as Disciples in Training: a Denominational Model

The convergence of more than 20,000 people represented more than 100 countries at the annual General Assembly of the Church of the Nazarene in July 2009. The Board of General Superintendents

declared an emphasis on children and youth based on Psalm 78:4 (NIV), “We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done.” This covenant, passed unanimously in the General Assembly, references the 4/14 Window and states, “The Church of the Nazarene acknowledges that children are important to God and a priority in His kingdom.”

The denomination believes God directed us to attend to all children — to love, nurture, protect, uphold, guide and advocate for them. It is God’s plan that believers introduce children to the life of salvation and growth in grace. Salvation, holiness and discipleship are possible and imperative in children’s lives. The Church recognizes that children are not a means to an end, but full participants in the Body of Christ. Children are disciples in training, not disciples in waiting.

Thus, the Church of the Nazarene declared holistic and transformational ministry to children and their families in every local church will be a priority as evidenced by:

1. providing effective and empowering ministries to the whole child — physically, mentally, emotionally, socially and spiritually;
2. articulating Christian positions on social justice issues that affect children;
3. connecting children to the heart of the mission and ministry of the faith community; and
4. equipping parents to nurture the spiritual formation of their children.

Since the denomination’s educational institutions (colleges, universities and seminaries) prepare students for leadership, they play a crucial role in carrying out the vision and mission of communicating the value of children.

The Church of the Nazarene envisions an intergenerational faith community in which children and youth are loved and valued, ministered to, and incorporated into the Church family through a wide variety of means and methods. In this faith community, children have opportunities to minister to others in ways consistent with their ages,

development, abilities and spiritual gifts. The denomination notes the following reasons for child ministry:

1. As a child, Jesus was embraced by the religious leaders in the Temple. They listened to Him and marveled at His insight.
2. As an adult, Jesus valued and welcomed children.
3. Around the world, many children are not valued and nurtured.
4. In a world characterized by pluralism and postmodernism, it is critical to reach out in love to children and youth. More than one-third of the world's population is children and youth. Statistics show the prime age to win a child to Christ is the "4/14 Window," the ages between 4 and 14. A child's sense of trust develops in the first year of life. Trust is necessary for a person to have faith to receive Jesus Christ as Savior. Trust comes as loving, caring adults meet the needs of the whole child.

COMPONENTS OF THE 4/14 GLOBAL INITIATIVES

Definition and Role of Tracks, Task Forces and Regional Caucuses

- A **Global Track** is a strategic partnership/collaboration focused on specific key issues to mobilize the Body of Christ in fulfilling the mission and vision of the 4/14 movement. There are 13 tracks grouped in four categories: child transformation, institutional transformation, environmental/societal transformation, and missional transformation.
- A **Task Force** is a network team organized around a specific aspect of providing links and resources (literature, technology, media, etc.) to support the tracks, national, regional and global mobilization efforts.
- **Regional Caucuses** coordinate, encourage, and link National Facilitating Teams and Initiatives to one another and to the broader initiatives to create a dynamic community of these teams in the region.

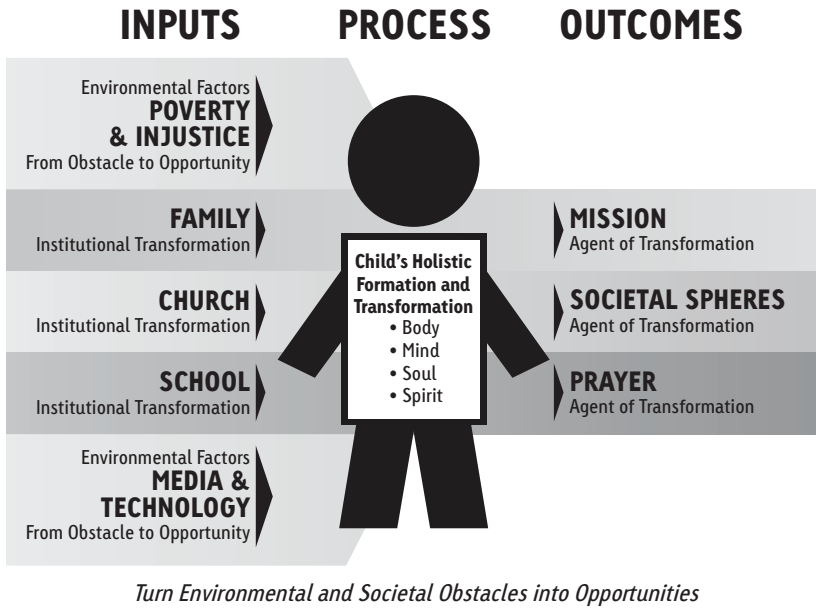
Functional Structure of Tracks, Task Forces and Regional Caucuses

The 4/14 Tracks

The 4/14 Global Initiative operates using 13 strategic tracks to develop and implement the seven-year plans. These global tracks operate on the regional, continental and national levels to serve the emerging 4/14 initiative. All the tracks are grounded in the Great Commission. Each track is designed to stand as a semi-autonomous unit, with facilitators responsible for the recruitment, organization, personnel, style, funding and activities of their track in order to achieve the movement's overall objective: Raising up a new generation from the 4/14 Window to transform the world.

Each track leader is charged with mobilizing, recruiting and

connecting track members to the global vision. In order to promote unity and avoid overlap and competition, each track leader will seek to unite its global membership in prayer, mutual respect, friendship and support of one another through sharing ideas and resources.



Transformation Framework

The various tracks are organized using the following paradigm and process of transformation:

- **Redeem and disciple** the child as a whole person: *Child Transformation*
- **Engage and strengthen** the institutions that nurture child transformation: *Institutional Transformation*
- **Identify** environmental/societal obstacles **and explore** how they can be turned into opportunities: *Environmental/Societal Transformation*
- **Equip and empower** the 4/14 generation to become agents of mission: *Missional Transformation*

Track Categories

Child Transformation — The Spiritual, Education and Health tracks will discuss, formulate, and facilitate a long-term plan for the Body of Christ to identify the needs, nurture and potential of 4/14 generation. Using a biblical and holistic perspective of transformation, the Body of Christ would then address these issues.

1. Spiritual Transformation Track
2. Education Track
3. Health Track

Institutional Transformation — The Parent and Family, Pastoral and Government tracks will discuss, formulate, and facilitate a long-term plan for the Body of Christ to strengthen the roles of the most significant groups and institutions affecting the lives of the 4/14 generation, so they can provide the greatest positive impact for children's transformation.

4. Parent and Family Track
5. Pastoral Track
6. Government Track
7. Local Church Children's Ministries

Environmental/Societal Transformation — The Poverty and Outcome-based tracks will discuss, formulate, and facilitate a long-term plan for the Body of Christ to address the issues of poverty affecting children, particularly for those children who are not reached by the Church and live with the greatest issues of risk and neglect. These tracks will also discuss how the powerful influences of media and technology can be turned from harmful to positive instruments that contribute to children's transformation.

8. Poverty Track

Missional Transformation — The GEN Y, Children and Youth Leadership Development (CYLD), Children in Transformational Ministry, Academic and Theological Transformation, and Literature-based tracks will discuss, formulate, and facilitate a long-term plan

for the Body of Christ that will provide opportunities and approaches to equip and empower the 4/14 children as agents of mission and transformation in their generation.

9. GEN Y Track
10. Children and Youth Leadership Development Track
11. Children in Transformational Ministry Track
12. Academic and Theological Transformation Track
13. Literature-based Track

Global Tracks Facilitators

1. Spiritual Transformation — Sylvia Foth
2. Education — Don Fanning and Alex Philip
3. Health — Linda Reesor and Alemayehu Habtegabriel
4. Parent and Family — Lisa and John Nagle and Stephen Langa
5. Pastoral — Rick Seaward and David Oginde
6. Government — Mark Beliles, Shiferaw Michael and Miguel Moreno
7. Poverty — Kennedy Dhanabalan and Dino Touthang
8. GEN Y — Bambang Budijanto (Interim facilitator)
9. Children and Youth Leadership Development — Bambang Budijanto
10. Children in Transformational Ministry — Jane Mackie
11. Academic and Theological Transformation — Dan Brewster and Jesudason B. Jeyaraj
12. Literature-based — LaReau Anderson and Scott Bolinder
13. Local Church Children's Ministries — Enrique Pinedo and Carolos Escobar

The Responsibilities of Track Facilitators


1. Identify, invite, build, and nurture a global track team (beyond one's own organization or existing networks) that will work collaboratively to mobilize the global Body of Christ.
2. Ensure 20 percent of track members are from countries not represented at the 4/14 Global Summit 2009.
3. Ensure their track consists of 25 people or more who will attend the 4 /14 Global Summit 2010.
4. Develop within the overall action plan a realistic set of measureable objectives and a related 12-month action plan to be accomplished before the 4/14 Global Summit 2011 to obtain broader and stronger engagement of the Body of Christ globally.
5. Provide a quarterly report to the steering committee chairperson or designate on the progress of the 12-month action plan.
6. Organize (in coordination with the respective National Team) from within each track a national 4/14 summit in at least one country that has not had one.
7. Participate in at least two of the three 4/14 leadership meetings, including the meetings before and after the Global Summit (which counts as one of the meetings).
8. Designate or raise funds to allow track leaders to participate in at least two of the three 4/14 leadership meetings.

Task Forces

The role of a Task Force is to focus on and fulfill a specific duty synergistically with the tracks toward the goal of raising up a new generation from the 4/14 Window to transform the world.

Task Forces and Facilitators


1. Children's Prayer Movement — John Robb

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2. Child Theology — Keith White
 3. Justice and Governmental Affairs— Stephen McDowell
 4. Seven Spheres Transformation — Jose Gonzalez and Teri Benner
 5. Media and Technology — John Fornof
 6. Outcome based – Allen Reesor


The Responsibilities of Task Force Facilitators

1. To build ministry resources to support the 4/14 movement
2. To make available ministry resources to the Body of Christ

Track and Task Force Facilitators



Each track and task force is to be led by two facilitators (or more) who represent servant leaders from the Global South and the Global North, with clearly defined roles and responsibilities for each.



GEOGRAPHICAL STRUCTURE

The 4/14 Regions

1. Africa
2. Middle East
3. Latin America —Hispanic
4. Latin America—Portuguese
5. Europe — Former Western
6. Europe — Former Eastern
7. North America
8. East Asia
9. South Asia
10. Southeast Asia
11. North Asia
12. Central Asia
13. South Pacific/Oceania
14. Caribbean

The Responsibilities of Regional Facilitators

1. To identify and invite to the 4/14 Global Summit 2010 at least two facilitators from each country in their region and build and nurture a team that will work collaboratively to mobilize the global Body of Christ in their region
2. To encourage each country to conduct a 4/14 Global Summit followed by a 4/14 National Consultation and then a 4/14 National Conference to propel the 4/14 movement in the countries of their region
3. To provide a quarterly report to the steering committee chairman or designate on the progress of the 12-month action plan
4. To participate in the 4/14 leadership meetings before and after the 4/14 Global Summit 2010

National Facilitating Teams:

National Facilitating Teams emerge from among the national leaders, demonstrating vision, servant leadership and the spirit of collaboration.

Criteria for Selection of National Facilitating Team

- Character and competence: National Christian leaders must have the highest integrity, credibility and capacity among other servant leaders in the nation.
- Passion and vision: Facilitators have the burden and vision for raising up a new generation from the 4/14 Window. These servant leaders must have leadership experience and verifiable record of accomplishment related to holistic mission and /or work with children and youth and/or youth leadership development.
- Trusted and reputable: Leaders must have a platform of experience from which to advocate to their leadership colleagues at the national level.
- Collaborative and broadly accepted: Facilitators must have proven ability in fostering collaboration among other Christian organizations and denominational groups.

EPILOGUE — The Birth of the Global 4/14 Movement

“We are being called back into union with the Father. Something is being birthed here today.”

—Wesley Tullis

*the facilitator of the 4/14 Prayer Track of the 2009 Global Summit,
in the early morning prayer on September 7.*

In January 2001, following the official closure of the AD2000 Movement office, for the first time in 30 years I had no Christian ministry responsibility. On the day we moved into our house in Pasadena, my son, Daniel, asked if I would share the Word of God the next morning. I waited on the Lord that first night (January 14, 2001) to see what He would have me share with my son and my wife, what He would say about Christian ministry, and what He wanted me to do with the rest of my life. It was a defining moment for me.

God graciously showed me Genesis 28, the story of Jacob’s ladder going to heaven. As He did with Jacob, God assured me He was with me and had a mission — a new calling for me. Like Jacob, I was seeing the angels coming down and going up that ladder. It was so real! I found myself saying along with Jacob, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven” (Genesis 28:17, NIV).

While asleep or in that dream, I became aware of the manifest presence of God and His purpose for my life, for the rest of my ministry. God showed me the scope of the ministry He had for me: to “spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south” (Genesis 28:14, NIV). And He revealed the nature of His commission — to raise up a new generation. This was about my own family and descendants but also much, much more. It was about a missional movement to focus on the next generation as instrumental to bless the nations and transform the world.

That was the defining moment. That night was the birth of the vision.

The conviction that God is on a mission of transformation had been growing in my own spirit. I had spent three years in a listening mode seeking to hear the heart of the servants of God around the world. One result of that listening was the first Transform World event in Indonesia 2005, and the establishment of Transform World Connections in Singapore to link with other servants of God who found themselves on God's mission of transformation.

But it was more. Mission means movement. Across the nations and across history, God's mission is always moving. For Moses it was a movement out of Egypt, through the desert, and to the Promised Land. Moses did not complete that movement because God had planned that final step for the "Joshua Generation." And it is the same today. I am convinced that God is leading His Church through Jesus, who is the head of the Church. This is not just a concept. It is reality. And when God moves, I want to be moving closely, following in the footsteps of Jesus. Today, I believe God is calling the Body of Christ to put a priority on raising up a new generation from the 4/14 Window to transform the world.

As the vision took shape in my mind and heart, I thought back to what God had been saying to me for several years. The vital role of children in intercession had been a highlight at the Global Consultation on World Evangelization (GCOWE) 1995 event in Seoul, Korea, two years earlier. As 50 children participating in the children's track led us in a Concert of Prayer for the nations, it had become clear to me and other participants that God was using children as intercessors.

I also knew of the reality of the receptivity of the 4/14ers — the fact that 85 percent of people in the U.S. who will ever make a decision to follow Christ will do so between the ages of 4 and 14. Dr. Bryant Myers had presented this data at an Evangelical Fellowship of Missions Agencies conference in Colorado Springs in 1993¹.

In 1996, Dan Brewster, then Program Director for Compassion

¹ Bryant L. Myers, "State of the World's Children: Critical Challenge to Christian Mission," *International Bulletin of Missionary Research*, July: 1994.

International, published an article called “The 4/14 Window: Child Ministries and Mission Strategy.”² Dan and I met occasionally to play racquetball, and he told me we needed a track for children and youth at the Global Consultation on World Evangelization. The resulting children’s track at GCOWE ’97, coordinated by Dan and Patrick McDonald of VIVA Network, affirmed again the vital role of children as God’s agents of mission.

Fast-forward to 2008 — in December of that year, I came to Promise Ministries (Full Gospel New York Church) in Flushing, New York, and met Pastor Nam Soo Kim. I was to minister at the church for several days, and as Pastor Kim and I met for the first time he said, “I have been waiting for you.” My wife Doris wondered, “Why is he waiting for you?” Pastor Kim told me of a vision that had been gestating in him for 10 years; that same vision for the world’s children! His church was fulfilling this vision and mission locally, but he was awaiting the birth of a global children’s movement. Pastor Kim said, “Luis, this is my burden. Would you join me in seeing this vision fulfilled?”

What a marvelous confirmation of the work that God had already been doing in my spirit! We shook hands across the table and our mutual commitment was sealed.

We began to plan and prepare a 4/14 Global Summit, which would be hosted by Pastor Kim’s Promise Ministries church. We agreed that God’s servants committed to the vision of raising up a new generation from the 4/14 Window to transform the world would come together at the summit.

I then called Dr. Bambang Budijanto, the dynamic Vice President for Asia for Compassion International, about serving as the Chairman of the 4/14 Global Summit and International Steering Committee. Dr. Bambang had already articulated his burden. Under his name in every e-mail he wrote was a commitment to raise up a new generation of “Daniels and Esthers.” I observed him leading the Asian Emerging Leaders Summit, demonstrating godly ministry and capability acquired

² Dan Brewster, “The 4/14 Window: Child Ministries and Mission Strategy,” *Children in Crisis: A New Commitment*, ed. Phyllis Kilbourn (Monrovia, CA: MARC, 1996).

over an extended period. Moreover, Bambang represented a ministry with a holistic view of raising up a new generation. His response to the invitation was to visit with Pastor Nam Soo Kim and Dr. Eun Moo Lee in New York City to listen to their vision and capture their passion.

A next step was to begin the research that led to the publication of a book on raising up a new generation from the 4/14 Window, and not just to reach them, but to empower and enable them to change the world. I uncovered amazing stories of how people around the world had experienced a transforming moment as they realized the need to reprioritize their missional focus on the 4/14 Window. This research, summarized in the book *The 4/14 Window*, itself became a transforming moment of great significance for me.

I had known that at one time Europe was the center of Christianity, but in my research I learned that in 1900, when almost 90 percent of all known Christ followers lived in Europe, 86 percent of European children attended Sunday school. However, 100 years later, in the year 2000, only 4 percent of European children did so. Twenty years ago, some European Christians, including Jeff Fountain, realized the spiritual hopelessness of their continent. Jeff knew that the greatest hope for Europe was, and is, its children. Jeff and others launched a movement called Hope for Europe that champions that idea. The focus of Hope for Europe is children ages 4 to 14, and its goal is to have a 4/14 focus in each country of Europe. Three European countries now have a 4/14 nationwide network, with others planned.

I learned, too, about the 4/14 Window Forums conducted by Awana. In 2004, Jack Eggar, President of Awana, along with George Barna, gathered leaders in Chicago from more than 50 children's ministries. They focused on ways to reach children between the ages of 4 and 14³. Subsequently, Awana registered the term 4/14 Forum and has conducted these forums, led by Frank Carmical, in nearly 30 countries. They have partnered with a growing network of national churches and children's organizations and seen tens of thousands of children reached in the Global South.

³ <http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2004/july/37.53.html>.

I learned about the remarkable work of Dhan Raj Ghimire, a Hindu convert who was a “Saul,” a tireless persecutor of believers in Nepal. Now one of the most remarkable Christian leaders in Nepal, Dhan Raj is organizing 4/14 Window events all across that nation. He realizes the hope for Nepal’s transformation lies in reaching and empowering the next generation.

And it is not just individuals who are understanding this powerful truth. I learned about the extraordinary commitment made by the global leadership of the Church of the Nazarene.

In early July 2009, more than 20,000 people representing more than 100 countries converged at their annual General Assembly. 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 78:4: “We will tell the **next generation** the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the mighty works he has done.” This covenant refers to the 4/14 Window and proclaims, “The Church of the Nazarene acknowledges that children are important to God and a priority in His kingdom.”

These are just a few of many instances of individuals, organizations, churches, missions and national and international ministries understanding the profound strategic importance of children and youth in our cultures and nations. They are preparing and mobilizing for new, creative, cutting-edge efforts to reach and mobilize the 4/14ers. Like Rachel of old, who was desperate to have and to hold the next generation, they are crying out to God saying, “Give me children or I’ll die!” (Gen. 30:1).

Fast-forward again to September 2009. The 4/14 Summit was a historic event. We expected approximately 100 to 150 people. More than 350 people from 70 countries participated — 250 from outside the United States! The graciousness and servant leadership of hundreds of members of Pastor Kim’s Promise Ministries church were astounding. Through 17 strategic tracks, we worked to develop plans and strategies to reach and mobilize the 4/14ers. Attendees took away visions, commitments and concrete plans to mobilize and catalyze their colleagues in their nations and regions across the world, to raise

up a new generation to transform the world.

This is the brief and incomplete history of how God planted a seed of a vision in individual hearts, nurtured it through the years, and in His timing brought the elements together as a shared vision to birth a global 4/14 movement.

To God be the glory.

— **Luis Bush**

International 4/14 Servant Catalyst

THE ORGANIZING STRUCTURE

- **International Steering Committee:** Menchit Wong, Wendy Strachan, Patrick McDonald, Katherine Barnhart, David Ramirez, Ricardo Luna, Alex Philip, Rick Seaward, Shiferaw Michael, Aiah Foday-Khabenje, Bambang Budijanto (Chairman)
- **International 4/14 Servant Catalyst:** Luis Bush
- **Host Committee:** Promise Ministries (Full Gospel New York Church), New York, and Pastor Nam Soo Kim (Chairman)







