

*The following is taken from pp. 19-20 of Cross-Cultural Connections: Stepping Out and Fitting in Around the World by Duane Elmer (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2002). A handout for the Ward Consultation, Chicago 2004.*

*Duane cites the "2001 World Population Data Sheet", Population Reference Bureau 2001 <[www.prb.org](http://www.prb.org)> and from David B. Barrett, and Todd M. Johnson, "Status of Global Mission, 2001 in Context of 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Centuries," International Bulletin of Missionary Research (January 2001): 25.*

Here are some numbers that give us a glimpse of the global picture. Imagine a village of 1,000 people that represented the world's population.

- 206 would be Chinese
- 167 would be Indian
- 79 would be from Central and South America
- 50 would be from the former Soviet Union (Eastern European)
- 51 would be North American
- 45 would be Western European
- 33 would be Indonesian
- 21 would be from Japan
- 22 would be from Bangladesh
- 21 would be from Nigeria
- 24 would be from Pakistan
- 118 would be from other sub-Saharan African and other Asian countries

The median age of those in the more economically developed countries would be about thirty years, while in the developing countries it would be under sixteen years. In this global village, on a typical day there would be about twenty births: twelve Asian babies, three African, two Latin American and one each from North America, Eastern Europe and Western Europe.

Note the following statistics: The 114 North Americas, Europeans and Japanese (just over 11 percent of the population) own nearly 90 percent of the wealth in the world and consume more than half of its products. The fifteen richest countries have a per capita income of \$11,500 (in 1987 U.S. dollars) while the fifteen poorest countries have a per capita income of \$190.

Religiously, the global village of 1,000 people would look like this:

- Christian: 330, leaving 670 non-Christians
- Muslim: 198
- Nonreligious: 126
- Hindu: 135
- Buddhist: 60
- Ethnoreligionist: 38
- Atheist: 25
- New-religionist: 17
- Sikh: 4
- Jewish: 2
- Other: 65