

The Global Village

By Richard Stearns, President of World Vision U.S.

*At the present time your plenty will supply what they need,
so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need.
Then there will be equality.
(II Corinthians 8:14)*

To better understand the makeup of the human race, imagine that all 6.7 billion people on earth could be represented by a single "global village" of just 100 people. If we picture this, then we can more easily comprehend the different proportions we find across the world in terms of race, ethnicity, and gender. Here's a snapshot of what that global village would look like. Out of 100 people:

- 60 would be Asian.
- 14 would be African.
- 12 would be European.
- 8 would be Latin American.
- 5 would be American or Canadian.
- 1 would be from the South Pacific.
- 51 would be male; 49 would be female.
- 82 would be non-white; 18 white.
- 67 would be non-Christian; 33 would be Christian.

We might summarize this by saying we live in a world that is non-American, non-white, and non-Christian.

But now, let's take the 6.7 billion people and divide them a different way, into the haves and the have-nots. There are many ways to define the "have-nots," but for simplicity, we will define them by income. The average income in America is \$38,611 per person or about \$105 per day. Compare that to the shocking daily reality of almost half the people on earth. One dollar a day versus more than a *hundred* dollars a day - that is the disparity between the average American and the bottom billion people on the planet.... You get the idea; the discrepancy between the wealthiest and poorest people on earth is vast....

Here I want to make a key point: it is not our fault that people are poor, but it *is* our responsibility to do something about it.... We cannot look at their situation and simply say, "Not my problem." Neither can we sit smugly in our comfortable bubbles and claim no responsibility for the disadvantaged in our world. God did not leave us that option.

Taken from the book The Hole in Our Gospel by Richard Stearns Thomas Nelson. Nashville. 2009. (pp. 121-123).