



TRENDS IN GLOBAL MINISTRY:

New Approaches to Winning the Lost in
Campus

Presented by Bill Dindi at the PENSA Global Delegates Conference, July
27th 2023, Kigali, Rwanda.



Meet my family!

PRESENTATION SCHEMATIC



CASE FOR STUDENT MINISTRY

- **Strategic-** Africa, the youngest continent!
- **Trailblazers-** Disruptors.
- **Unfettered-** Mobility.
- **Developing-** Worldviews et al..
- **Energetic-** 1 John 2:14.
- **Next-Gen-** Leaders.
- **Tech-Savvy-** The knowledge/Creative economy



THE MEDIAN AGE OF CONTINENTS

Africa has the world's youngest population, with a median age in the teens

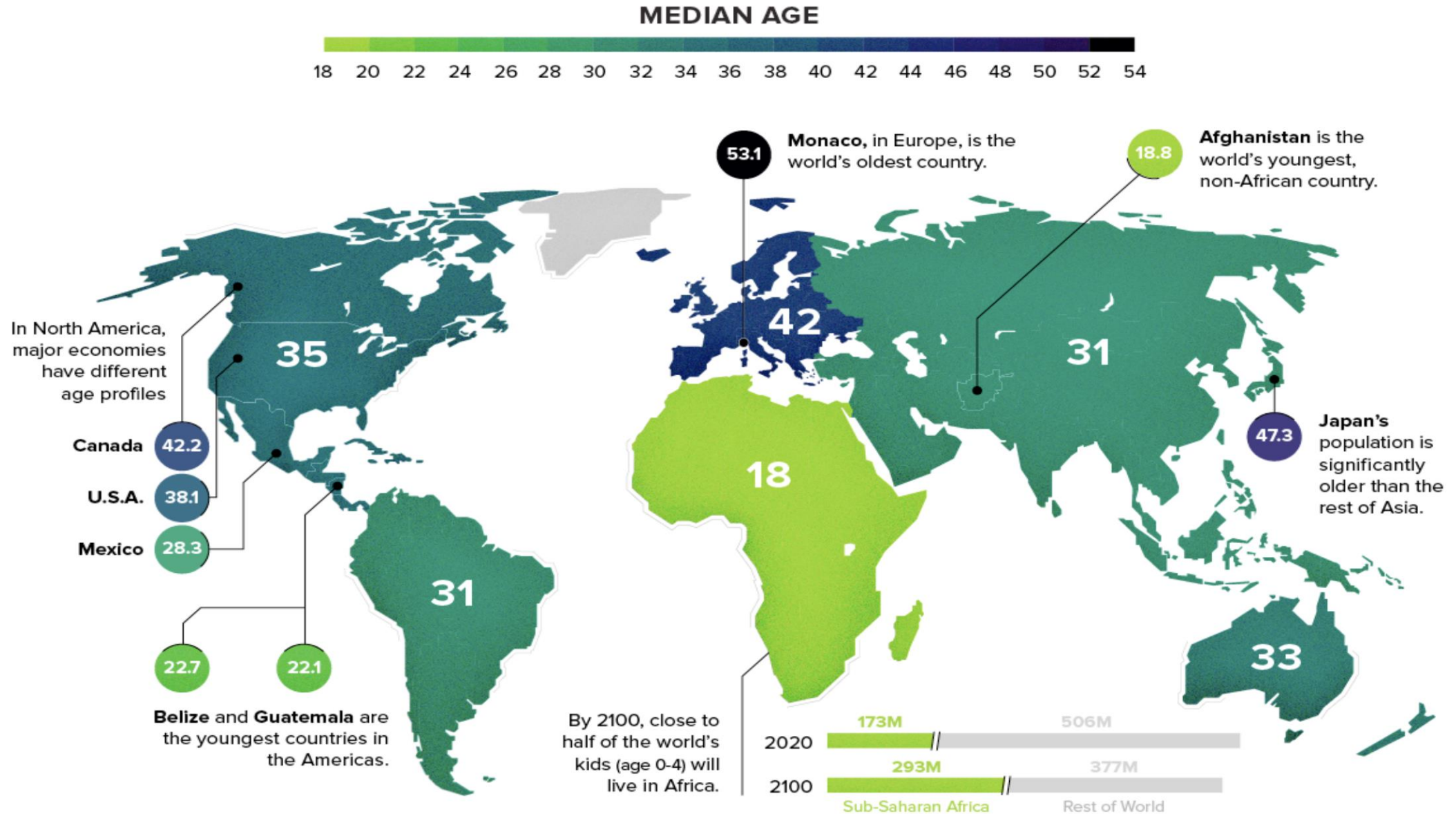
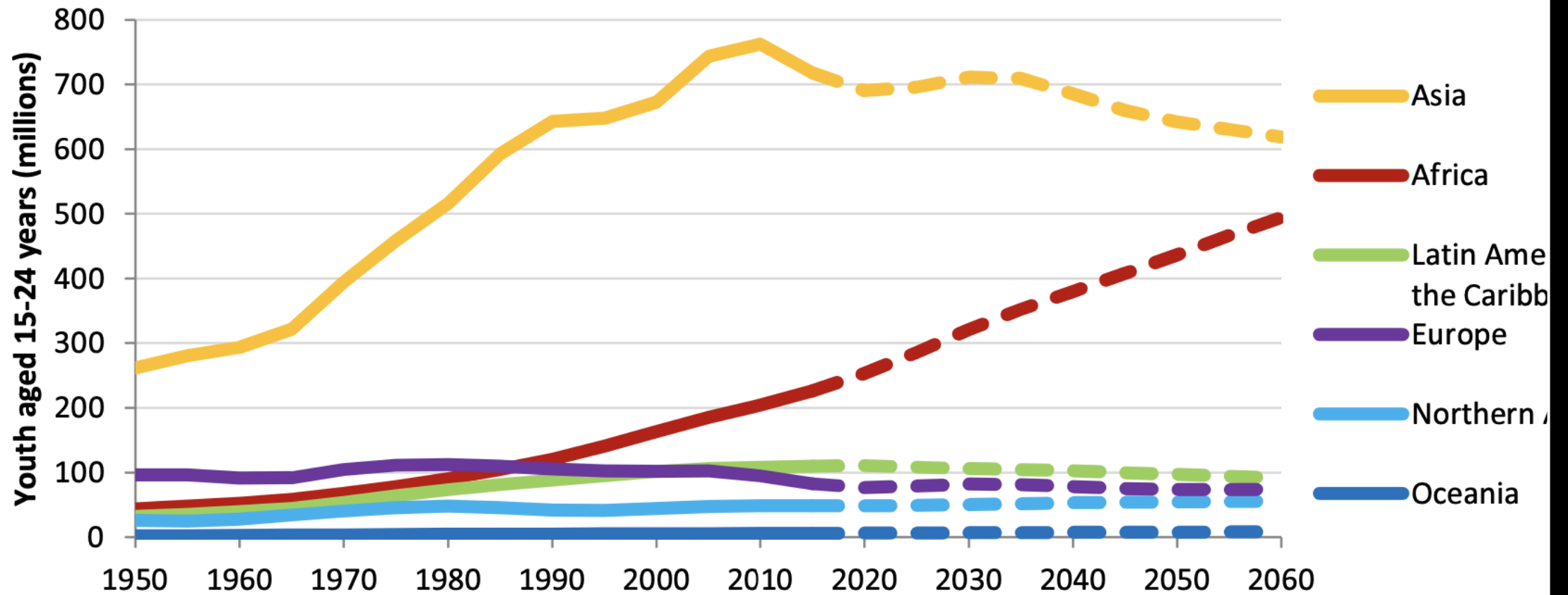


Figure 1: Youth aged 15-24 years, by region, 1950-2060



Africa's youthful population.

The Power, Potential and Promise of youth...



Insight from the Scriptures: A tale of two cities.



A TALE OF TWO CITIES

JERUSALEM



Reconstruction of Jerusalem and the Temple of Herod by James Tissot

ANTIOCH



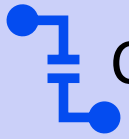
	JERUSALEM	ANTIOCH
DEMOGRAPHIC	Predominantly Jews	Multicultural (13:1)
OUTREACH EMPHASIS	Focus on the Jews (Acts 11:19)	Everyone (Acts 11:20)
VISION	The pagan world as a threat	The pagan world as an opportunity
APPROACH TO MISSION	Inward looking (2:42-47, 4:34,35)	Outward (11:20,29, 11:4-52)
STRUCTURE	Monument-Settler mentality, Gathered people (1:8, 8:1)	Movement-Pilgrim mentality, gathered to scatter (13:2-3)
CHANGE MANAGEMENT/ VUCA	Avoided change & disruption (personified by Paul)	Embraced change & disruption(11:20, 11:25) (Strategies, People, Places)



The case for new approaches: The tale of the Choluteca Bridge- Honduras

- In Honduras, Central America, the government built a new bridge over the river Choluteca to connect it to a new bypass road. Known for its fiery hurricanes they build a bridge that it could withstand Nature's fury. A Japanese firm built the bridge with the latest technology available.
- They build between 1996 and 1998. A few months later, Hurricane Mitch hit and deposited 75 inches of rain in 4 days, equivalent to what they received in 6 months. The river flooded the country. Over 7000 people died.
- The hurricane damaged or destroyed most of the bridges except the Choluteca bridge. It withstood the hurricane. But there was a 'small' problem. The River, which is over 100 metres (300 ft) wide at the bridge, had carved itself a new channel during the massive flooding. It no longer flowed beneath the bridge. The river flowed beside the bridge.
- The Choluteca bridge became a bridge to nowhere.

HOW OUR WORLD IS CHANGING



Connectivity.

The Irony of “alone together”. Most connected, yet disconnected generation



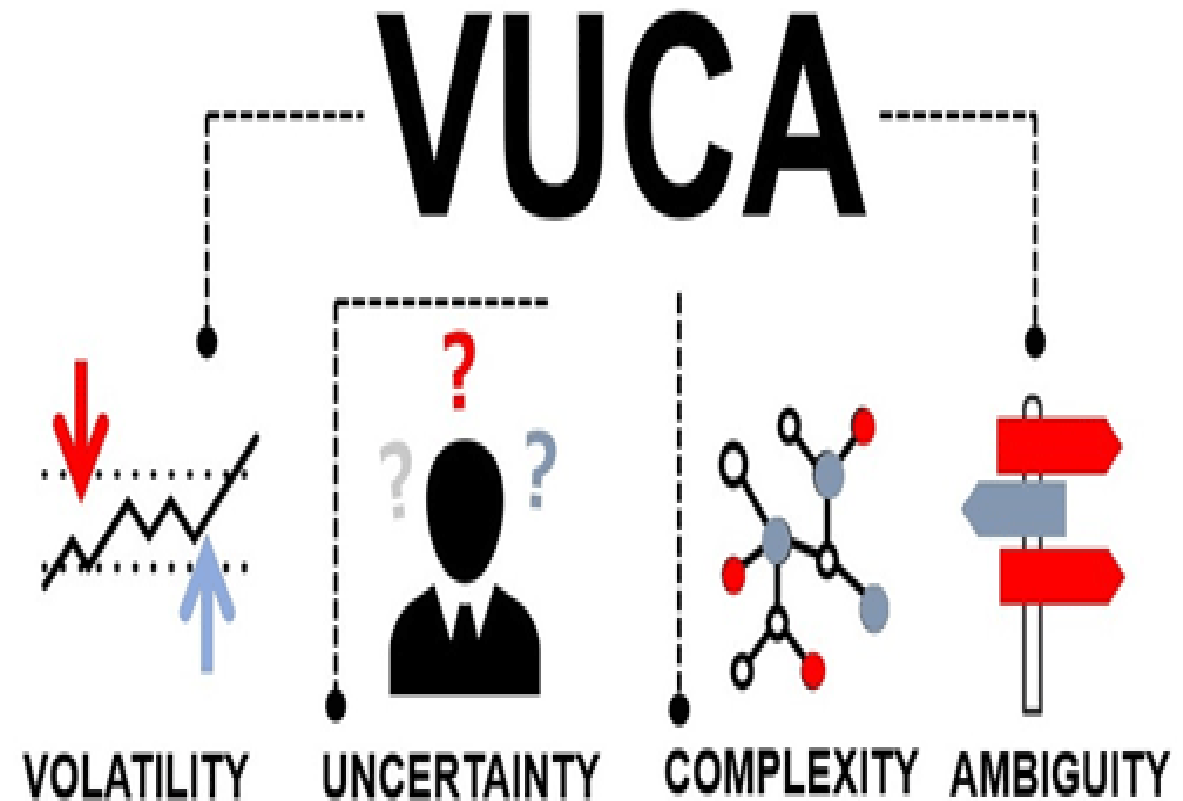
Consumerism.

Choice as the ultimate value, virtue.
“Choice at the expense of the content of the choice elevates the sovereign chooser and devalues the content of the choice and reduces it to a preference.” Os Guinness



Constructivism.

Truth as relative. A world described by self rather than ascribed.
Postmodernism.



The challenge; Presenting the unchanging, timeless Gospel to our changing times

1 Corinthians 1:23-30.

Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

Our culture is steeped in three dominant philosophies, **Relativism**, **Pluralism**, and **Naturalism**.

While Relativism says there is no absolute truth, Christ asserts to be THE way, THE TRUTH and THE Life

While Pluralism says there is no exclusive truth, Christ asserts that no ONE comes to the Father except through him

While Naturalism says there is no supernatural truth, he claims to be omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient and pre-eminent. He makes supernatural claims.

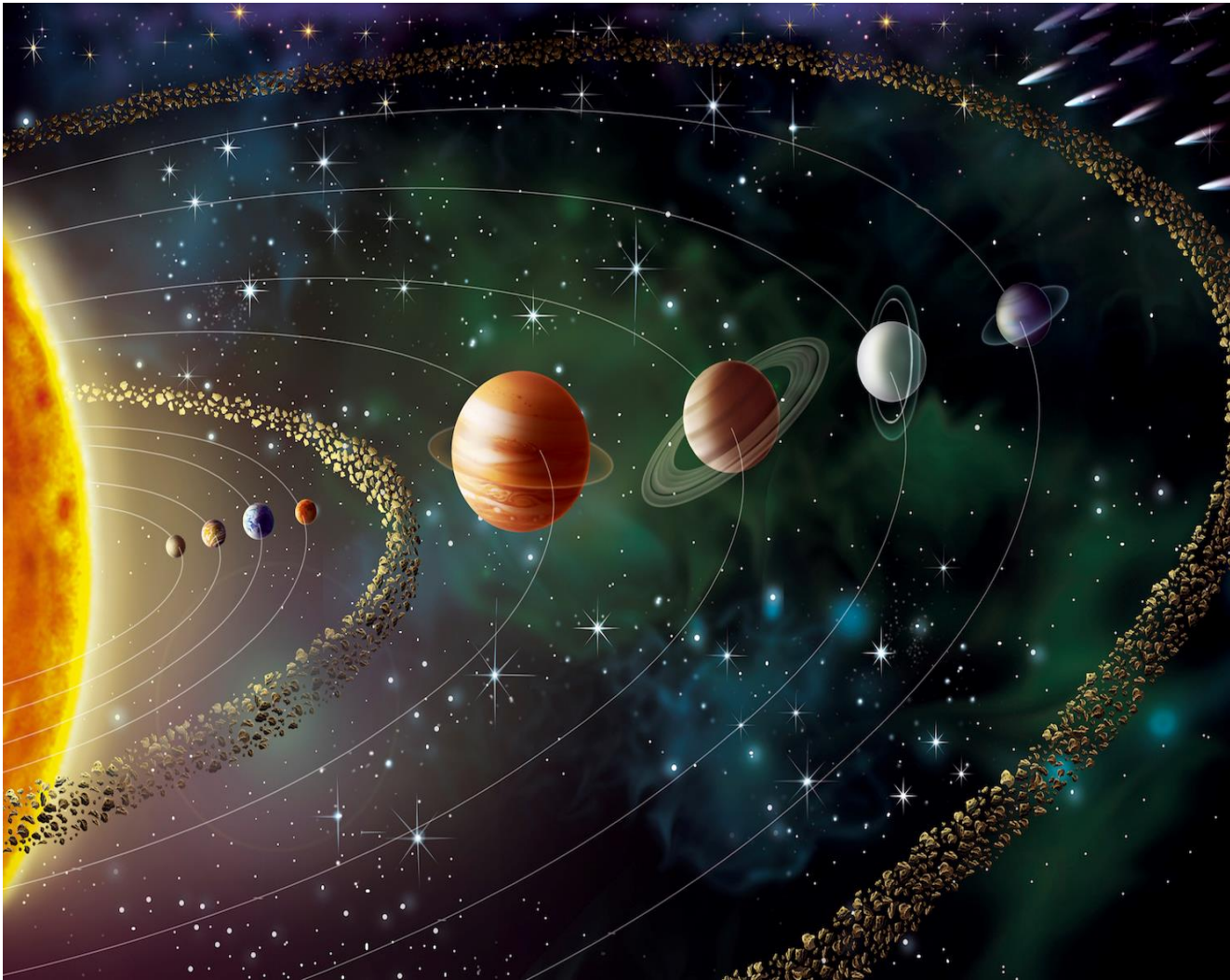
In essence, we are presenting an **ABSOLUTE truth to a relativistic culture**, an **EXCLUSIVE message to an inclusivist world**, and a **SUPERNATURAL reality to a naturalistic worldview**.

A 3D illustration of a person standing at the entrance of a complex maze. The person is a small, dark blue figure with a spherical head, standing on a light gray path that leads into the maze. The maze is constructed from dark gray walls, with a large, open area in the foreground. The background is white, and the overall scene is lit from the left, casting shadows.

How then do we engage?

- Upholding and Asserting the Centrality and Authority of the Bible
- Dependence on God, characterized by Prayerfulness
- Contextualizing the message
- Leveraging technology
- Identifying and Engaging affinity groups.
- Equipping for Apologetics and polemics

Upholding and Asserting the Centrality and Authority of the Bible



- Judges 21:25 all over again.
- The panacea to fluid modernity and post-modernist relativism.
- All things were made by him, for him, and through him. He is before all things and in him, all things consist. Col 1:16,17.
- For of him, and through him, and unto him, are all things. Rom. 11:36.



Dependence on God, characterized by Prayerfulness

- Following the example of Christ.
 - **He Practiced it-** Jesus often withdrew, to “the hills” or a “lonely place”(Luke 4:42) or “the wilderness”(Mat 4:1) or a “high mountain”(Mat 14:23) or to the “seashore” or to the Garden to spend time with God (Matt 26:36-46).
 - **He Prioritized it-** Began his ministry with a prayer through the night before choosing the 12 (Mark 3:13) and fasting for some 40 days and nights, concluded his final night in prayer (Lk 22:43-44) with a prayer on his lip as he died on the cross.
 - **He Preached it -** Taught the disciples. Mat 6:9-13.
 - The secret of his ministry. Before telling people about God, tell God about the people.

Contextualizing the Message.

Learning from the Sons of Issachar “1 Chr. 12:32”

Learning from Christ

- Jesus and Nicodemus-You must be born again (John 3:1-15)
- Jesus and Peter- I will make you a fisher of men (Mat. 4:19)
- Jesus and grieving Mary and Martha-I am the Ressurrection and the Life (John 11:25).
- Jesus and the thirsty Samaritan woman – You’ll never thirst again (John 4:1-42)

Learning from the Acts of the Holy Spirit in the early church.

- The Demon possessed girl needed to see the power of God (Acts 16:16-18).
- Lydia needed to understand the Scriptures (Acts 16:15).
- The Roman soldier needed to experience the lived Gospel-Integrity (Acts 16:25-34)

Learning from Paul

- Paul at the Aeropagus- Acts 17.

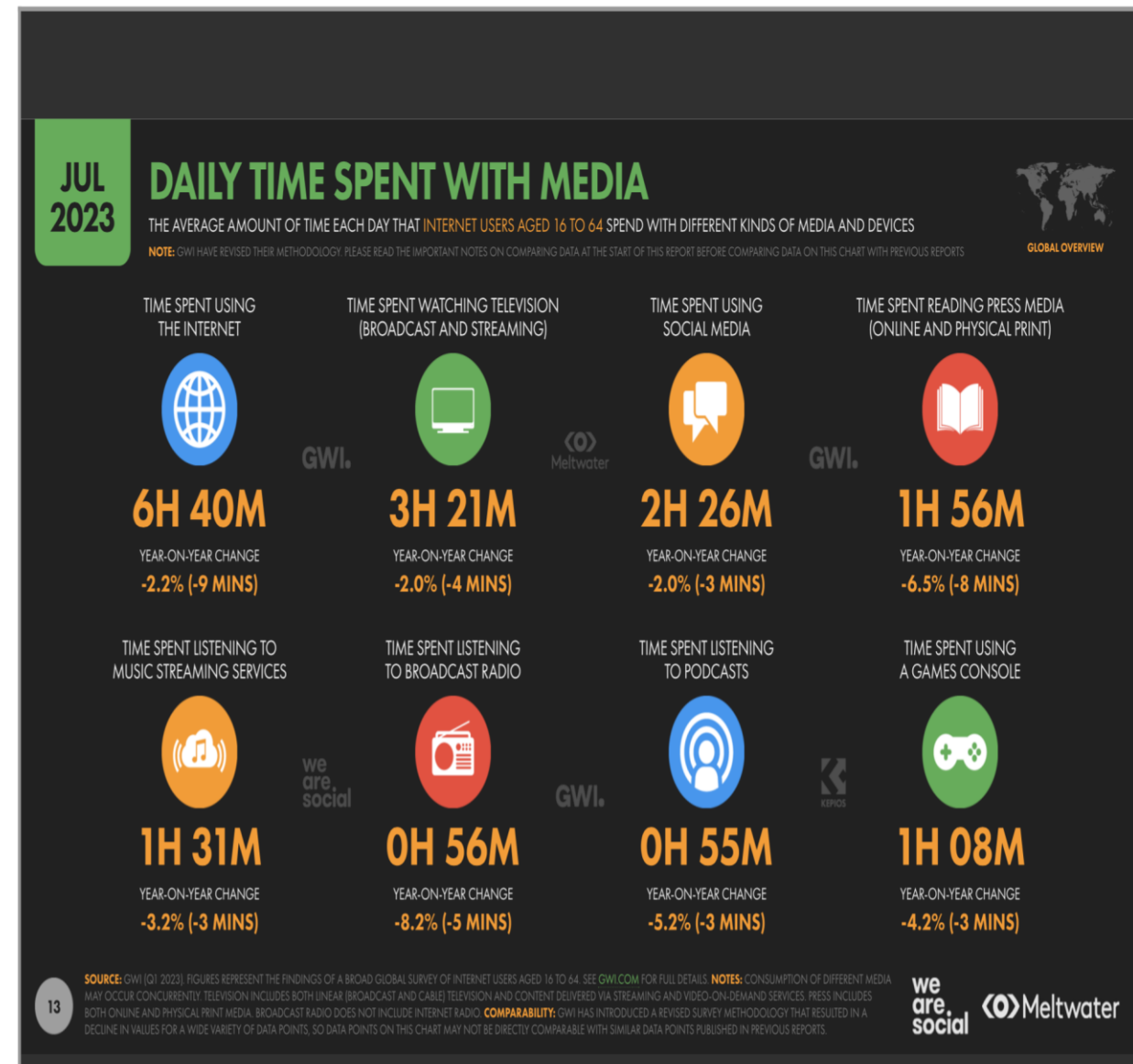
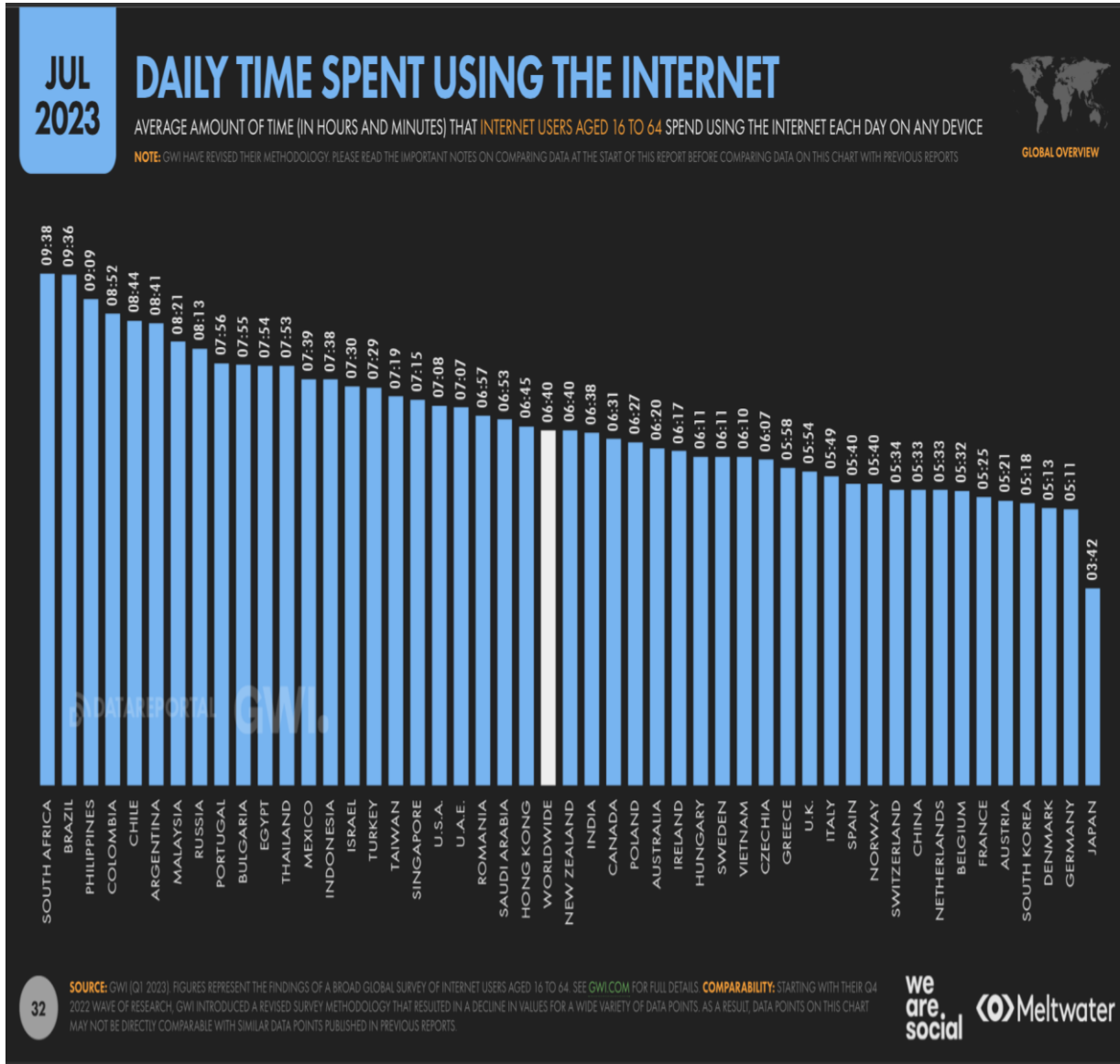
What forms/shapes/expressions should our message take?

A futuristic robotic hand, composed of blue and silver metallic segments, is shown in a hovering position. The hand is positioned over a glowing, pixelated digital interface that resembles a cityscape or a data visualization. The background is dark, with some blurred light sources, creating a high-tech, cybernetic atmosphere. The overall color palette is dominated by blues and blacks, with bright highlights from the digital interface and the robot's joints.

Leveraging Technology



The proliferation of technology



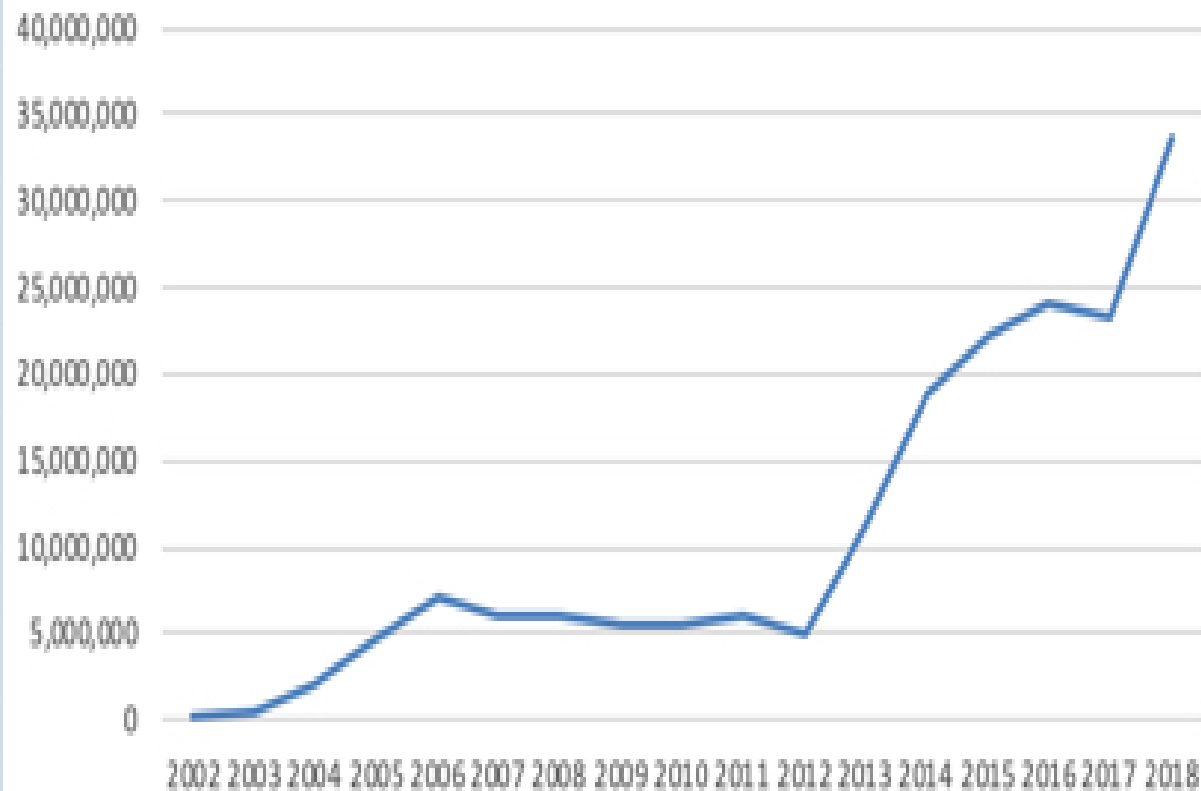
Missional opportunities.

Everystudent.com In 2018 – every country
33.6 million visits 470,000 decisions

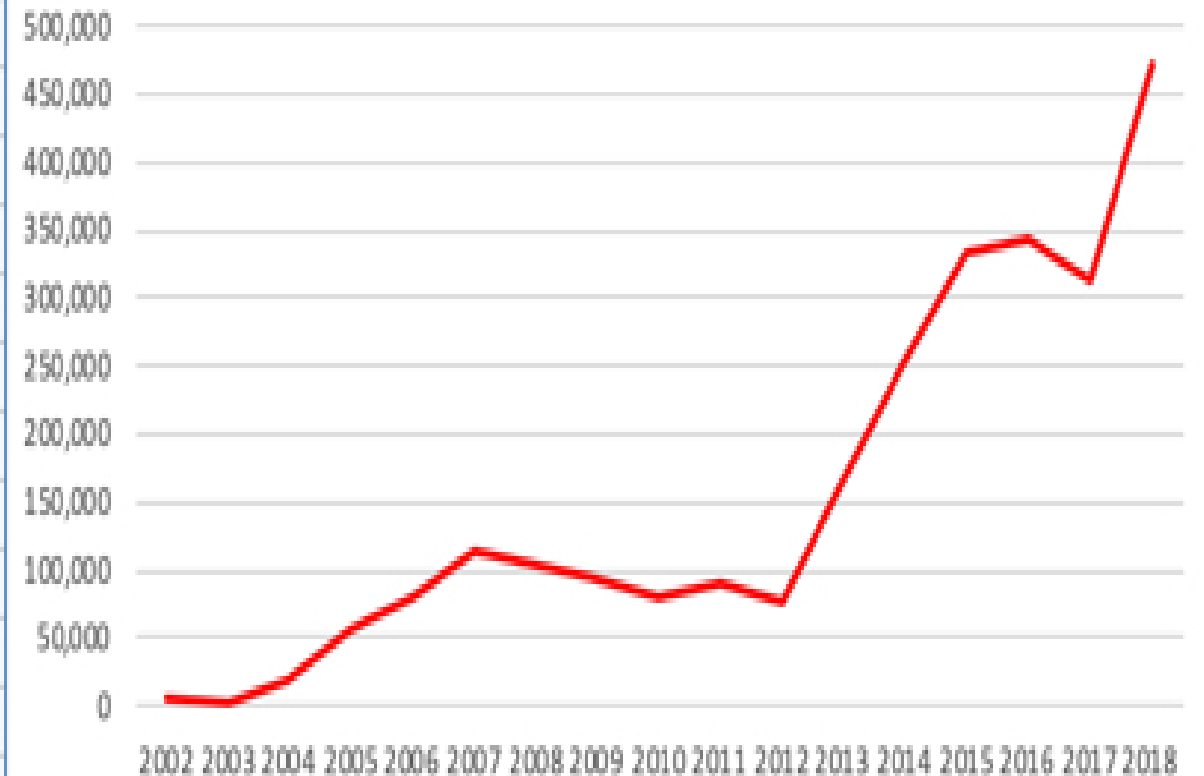


God continues to draw people

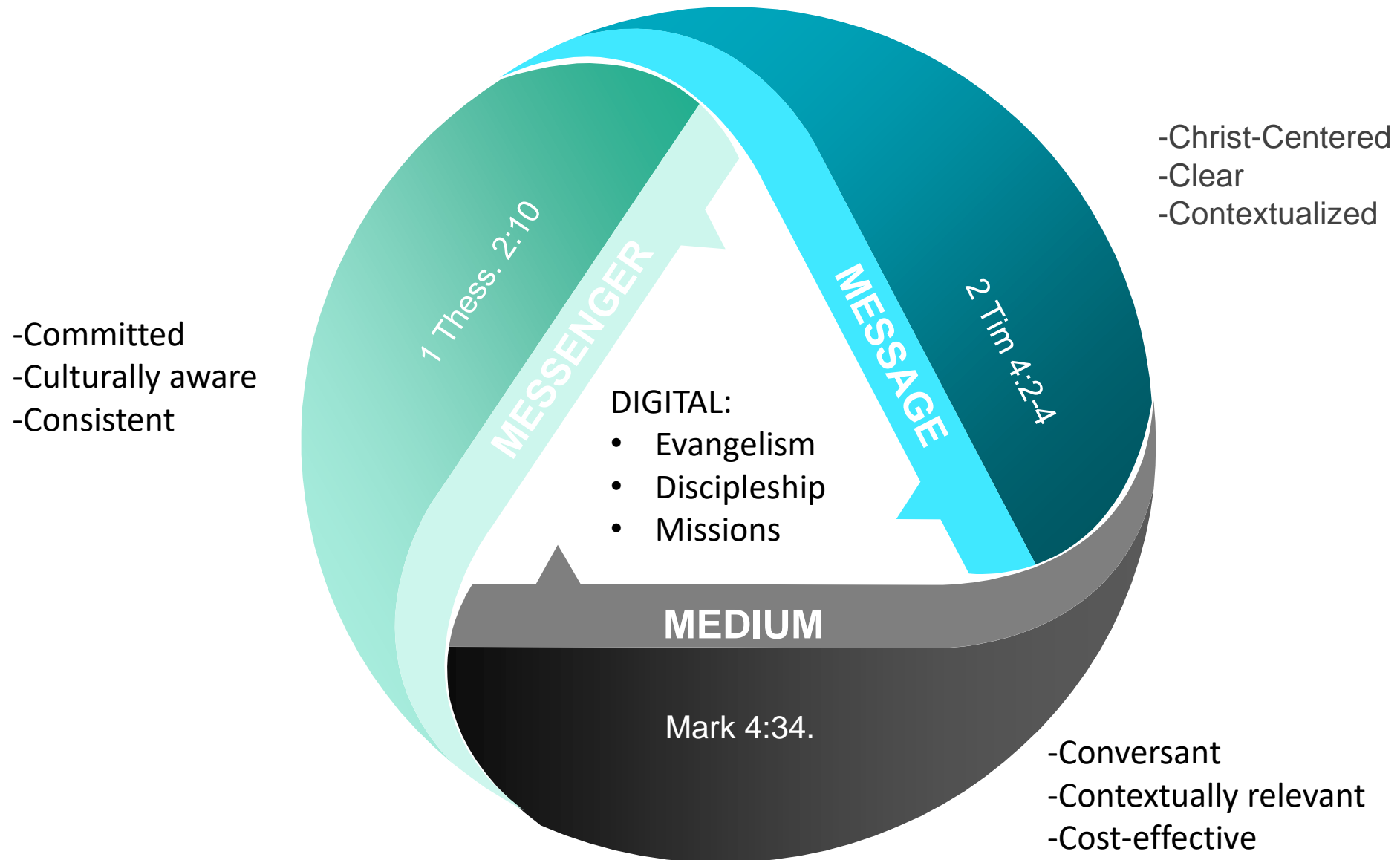
came to EveryStudent.com



decisions to receive Christ

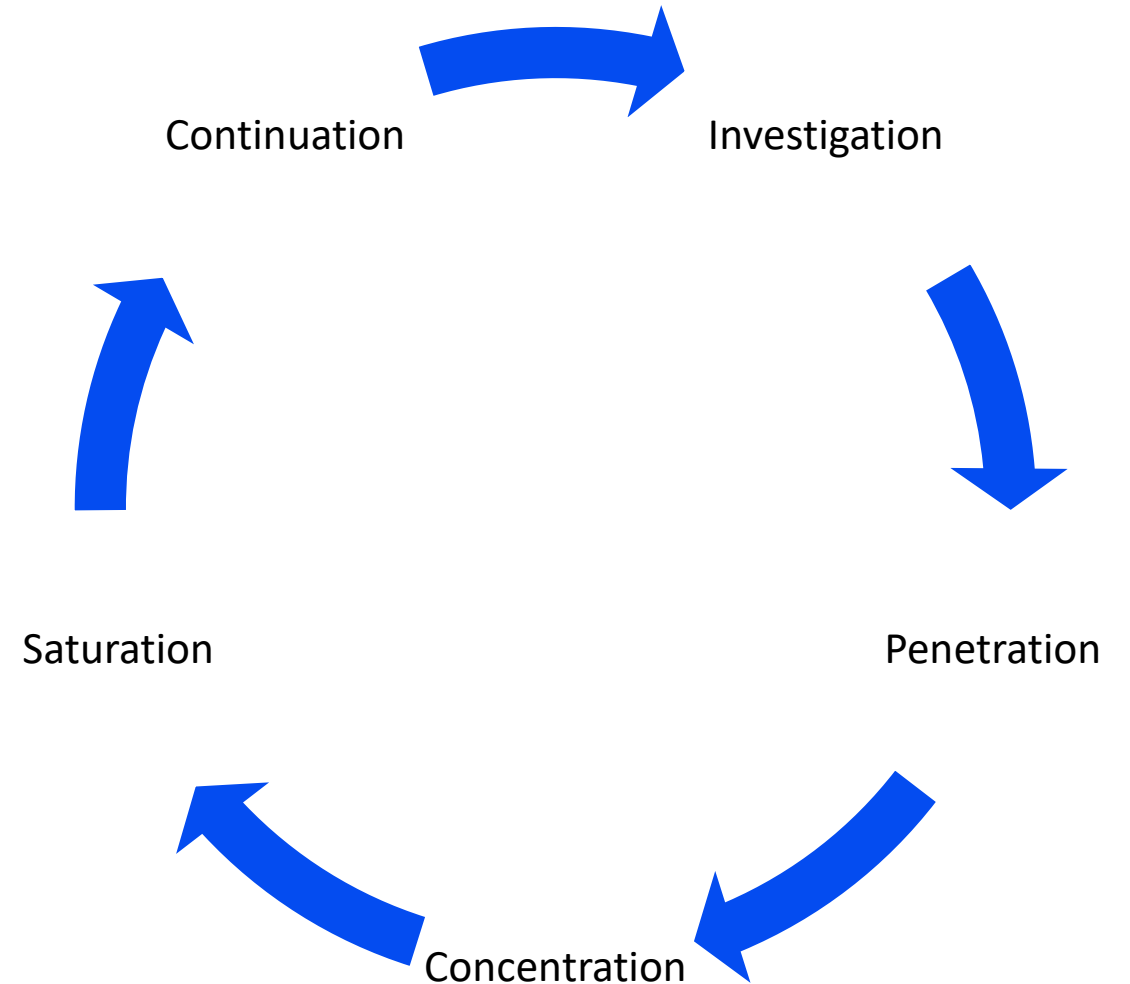


Leveraging the DIGITAL ecosystem...



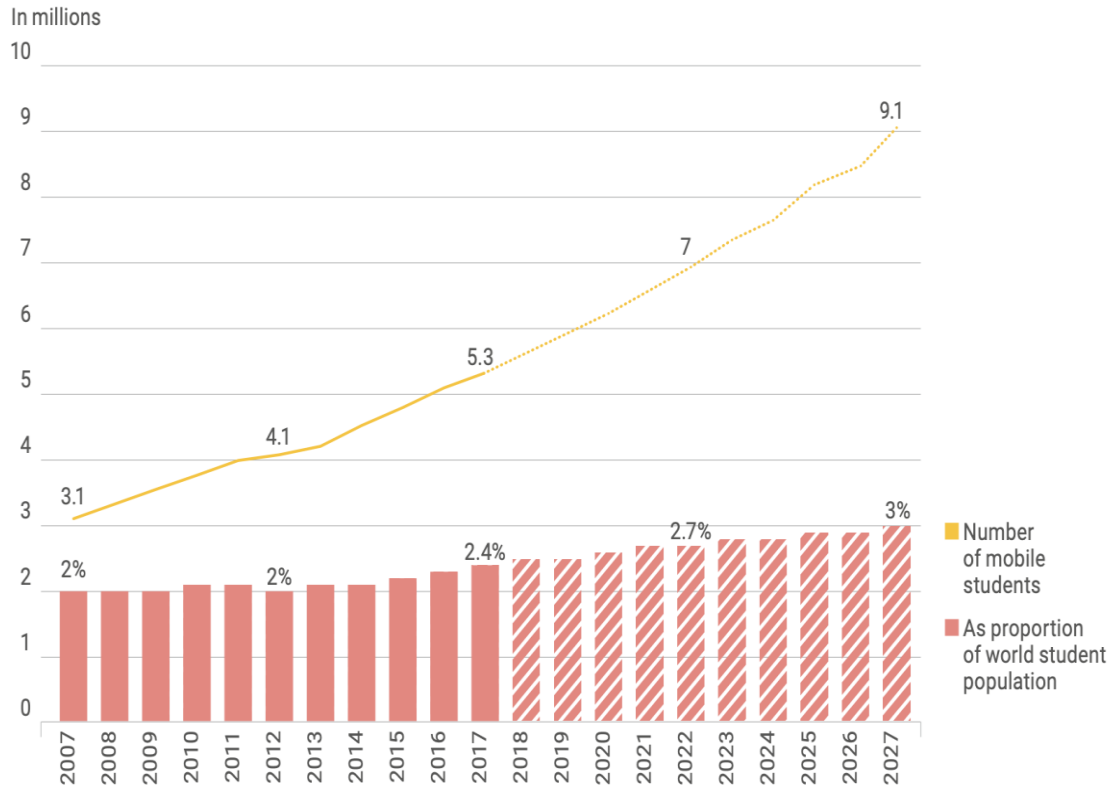
Identifying and Engaging affinity groups.

- Investigation. Penetration. Concentration. Saturation. Continuation
- The reality of the clusters-Social media leverages this. Easier to engage the “tribes”/affinity groups.
- What are the affinity groups in your context?
 - E.g. International students.



The internationalization of higher Education

► Change in student mobility (2007-2027)



Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS), December 2019.

Note: Projections computed from UIS data. An annual growth rate of 5.5% is assumed for the period 2017 to 2027.

- Manifested by diverse, globalized curriculums, international student mobility, aggressive international student recruitment, intentional student support and integration as well as internationalization of faculty.
- Economic dividends international students catalyze. In the 2019-2020 Academic year for instance, international students in the United States contributed some 38.7 billion dollars and supported some 415, 996 jobs.
- African students are the most mobile tertiary students in the world since about 5% of them have crossed a border as compared to the global 2.4% average.
- UNESCO reports that on average one out of 16 students in Sub-Saharan Africa studies abroad, compared to say North America, where the statistic is one out of every 250.
- “With a new intentionality in discovering, developing and deploying the largely unrecognized and untapped diaspora missiological phenomenon of international students to and from Africa, International Student Ministry (ISM) could well become a marvelous feat of African missions in this era .” Yaw Perbi.

Equipping for Apologetics and polemics

- 1 Pet 3:15...readiness to give reason for the hope that we have...
- Col 4:5-6...that you may know how you ought to answer each person...
- 2 Cor. 10:4-5... the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God...
- Jude 3. ... “contend for the faith”



AS WE GO...

His Presence ALL THE TIME

ALL AUTHORITY

ALL THE GOSPEL

ALL NATIONS

