

ORALITY

The need and current South African context, challenges and opportunities

WENSA – National Consultation for Christian Leaders

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The Need

Over **60%** of the world's population does not read.

Who are they?

They are completely **illiterate, functionally illiterate, visually impaired** or simply part of an **oral culture** – where learning takes place without the written word.

They live in **remote villages** without electricity and in **urban squalor**.

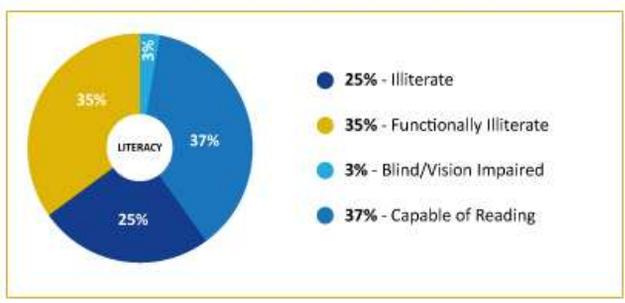
They live under **difficult conditions**.

They comprise well over **half the world's population**.

They need to hear.

How will they hear of God's love?

DAVAR  South Africa's
International
the sound of life **Context**
How then will they hear?

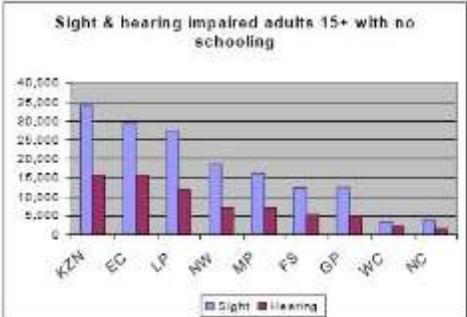
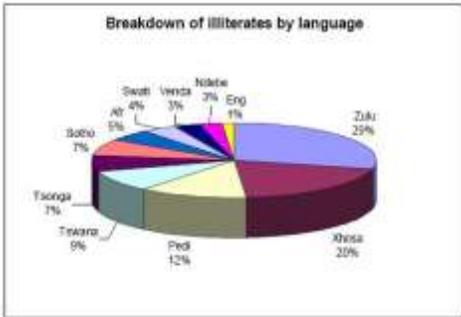


25% of the world's population is **completely illiterate** -- unable to write a simple sentence in any language.

Another **35%** are **functionally illiterate** -- having inadequate reading and writing skills for use in daily life.

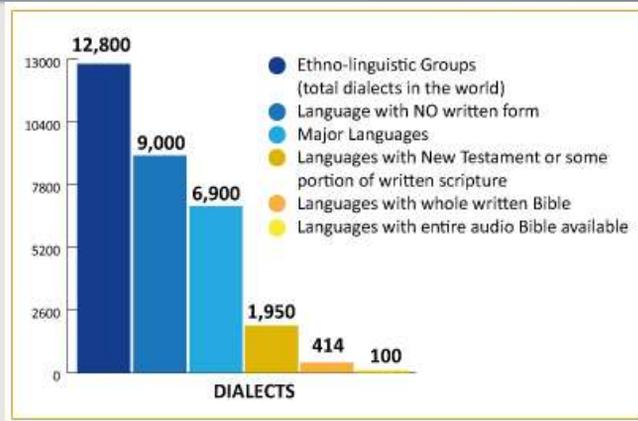
Another **3%** are physically incapable of reading due to **visual impairment**.

DAVAR  South Africa's
International
the sound of life **Context:**
And in South Africa?



Over **33%** of the population are **functionally illiterate**,
10% of the population are **illiterate**,
2% are **visually impaired**.

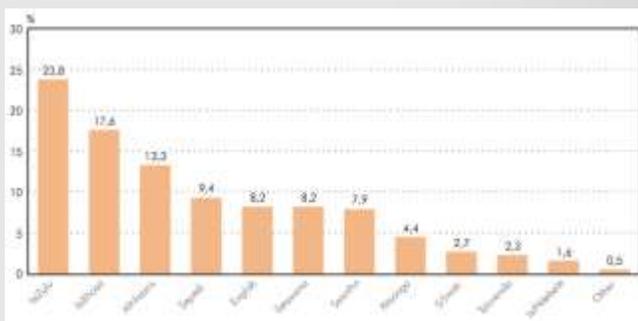
Statistics from Department of Basic Education 2011, STATS SA, Department of Education, Council for the Blind.



There are over **12,000 dialects** in the world.

Nearly **3/4** of these have no written form.

And even with the crucial work of Bible translators around the globe, less than **7%** of the world's major languages have **completed written Bibles**.



South Africa has **11 official languages**, the **four major** languages are: Zulu, Xhosa, Afrikaans and Pedi.

Each one of these languages has a complete written Bible.

AND YET NEARLY 50% OF THE PEOPLE DO NOT READ!



The Global Challenge

Foundation for life transformation is obedience to the Word of God, and that it is the inalienable right of every person, every oral learner, to have access to the Word of God in their own language and in a media they understand.

Yet there are 4.35 billion people consisting of:

- 350,000* million Unreached Unengaged People Groups,
- 1 billion children aged 8 to 18; 1 billion illiterate adults,
- and 2 billion oral preference learners,

who do not have access to God's Word because they do not read.

Of these 4.35 billion oral communicators, there are 2.7 billion who are counted as the world's unreached peoples.

There are approximately 2 billion people without the Old Testament and there are 2,252 unengaged unreached people groups, composed of 350 million people without a single verse of Scripture!

** 1015 Unengaged Unreached People Groups*



The South African Challenge

Foundation to a **worldview change** is **obedience to the COMPLETE Word of God**, and that it is the inalienable right of every person, every oral learner, to have access to the Word of God in their own language and in a media they understand.

South Africa has a population of more than 50 million people consisting of:

- 61 different people groups,
- 5 Unreached People Groups,
- about 50% whom do not read,
- and a majority of oral preference learners,

who need to hear his Word because they do not read.

For these oral communicators, limited resources are available in audio or audio visual format.

How shall we help them to hear, as '...faith comes by hearing, and hearing the word of God...?'

Info from Joshua Project and Finish The Task

Reaching the world in this generation is a reality.

***“By 2015 every people group to engage
with the Word of God.”***

- Finish the Task

Agencies working with oral communities have made it their goal to develop Songs, Stories and Scripture for the oral people.

The majority of Christians now live in the Global South – 2005.

“By 2050 three out of every five Christians will be in Africa!”

(Prof. Phillip Jenkins in *The Next Christendom: The Coming of Global Christianity*)

The need to hear.

How will they hear of God’s love?

Desired outcome of Key Focus Area:

To formulate a national process or workgroup to serve and guide on Orality in South Africa.

Discussion Groups – 50 minutes

Discussion points:

- Discuss the specific **needs, challenges and opportunities** that exist for the illiterate, functional illiterate, visually impaired and Oral learners in **South Africa**.
- List and discuss the role and place of **South African Agencies** working with the needs of these learners.
- List and discuss the **South African resources** available to these oral learners: audio and audio-visual content, human resources and technology.
- Discuss and list the **South African oral people groups** that has limited or none resources available.
- Discuss what the **role and function** of a national process or workgroup would be.
- Discuss and list any **other topics** not addressed.

Feedback on Discussion points:

Identify one person per discussion group to give written feedback at the end of the session to the facilitator.

Thanks

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