

# The Pattaya Scale

The *Pattaya Scale* was developed by the Issue Group on Evangelization of Children at the 2004 Forum for World Evangelization hosted by the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization in Pattaya, Thailand, September 29 to October 5, 2004. It is a partial answer to the question "What does it mean to 'reach' every child in the world?" The Group also wanted to provide new ideas that could move the vision for global children's evangelization towards reality. It is intended to:

- Address the need for intentional strategies for long-term involvement with children.
- Provide a key for churches, denominations and mission agencies to use to evaluate the way their personnel, financial resources and existing structures are used in the evangelism of children at global, national or local level.
- Encourage and challenge every church and children's ministry to understand and implement the full process that should accompany any child coming to faith: from prayer to participation in ministry. In this way the children themselves will be part of the solution as fellow members in the task of evangelization both as children and as they grow into adulthood.
- Indicate how all evangelistic activity, theological thinking and models of best practice contribute to an integrated, intentional process of reaching every child for Christ.

The *Pattaya Scale* is made up of two intertwined parts:

1. **The Process of Evangelization** (*the right-hand list on the Pattaya Scale*) defines 10 levels of intentional progression for the church's mission to children.
2. **The Possibilities and Partnerships for Evangelization** (*left-hand triangular flowchart*) are the programs and people who serve the local church across the world by providing and identifying resources at each geographical, language or cultural level to make the intentional progression more effective globally.

# The Process

MOVING CHILDREN UP FROM BEING 'UNREACHED'  
TO BEING PART OF THE GREAT COMMISSION

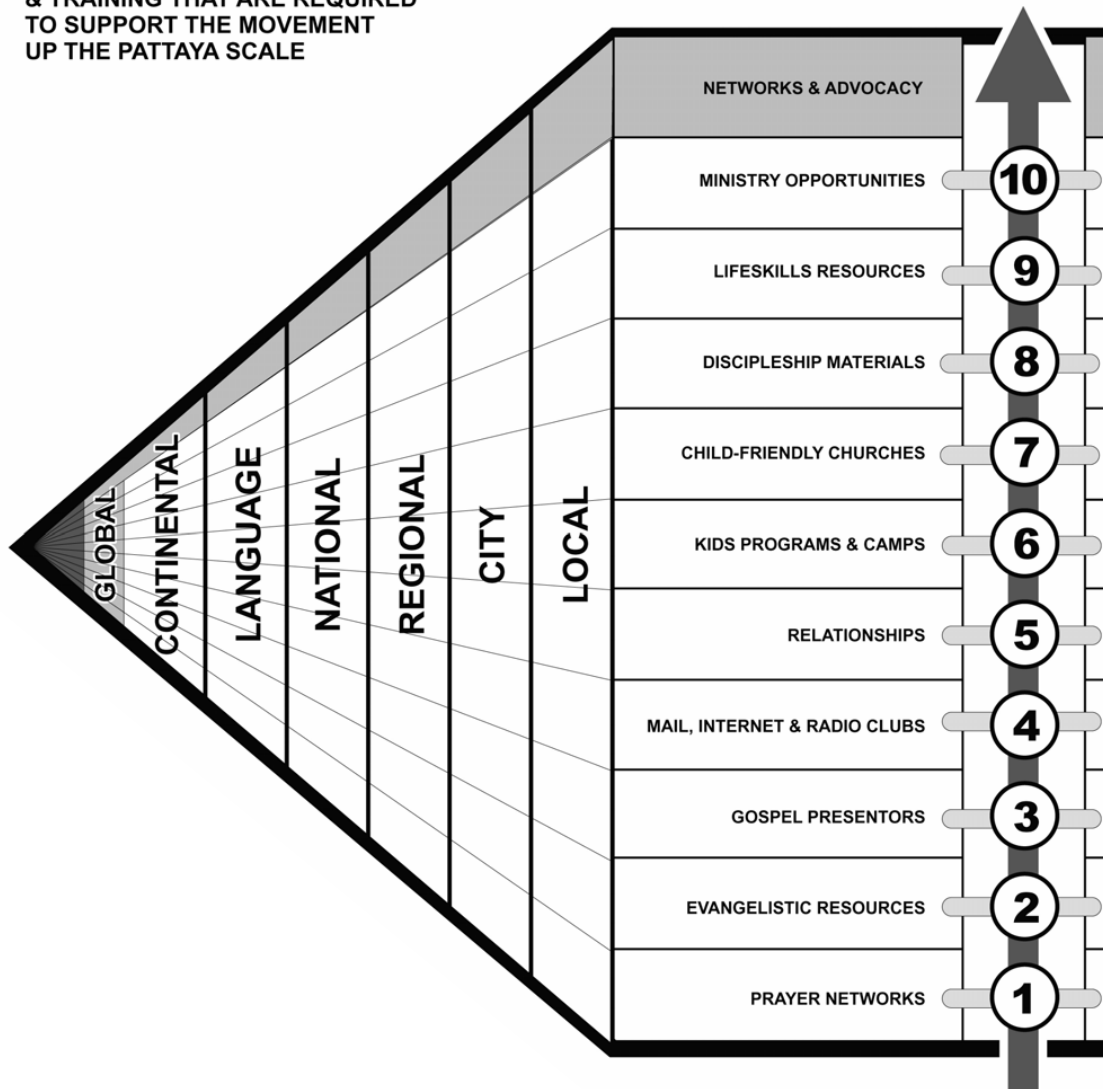
## Notes on The Process Part of the Pattaya Scale

- The Pattaya Scale describes the process 'from the outside' that we must seek to provide for every child if they are to develop faith 'on the inside.' It seeks to trace the path that would move a child from the position where he is to a point where he is a participating church member.
- Faith in Jesus and choosing to follow Him may come at any point on any level of the scale. The Pattaya Scale understands that conversion is the task of the Holy Spirit; the task of a children's evangelist is to provide every opportunity for that to happen. (Before moving to level 8 and above, a child will have come into a living relationship with Christ.)
- The intention of the Pattaya Scale is to reinforce the conviction that continuing biblical discipleship is an integral part of the work of evangelization.
- Many children are not even at the bottom of the scale: no prayer is being offered on their behalf. This is the highest priority. Prayer tools, resources and information need to be engaged urgently.
- Continuing the current strategies of the global church without enlarging our thinking, will keep most children at the bottom couple of steps. We must never be satisfied with simply providing an evangelistic tool and assuming the work of evangelization is done. We must strive to increase the workers, resources, training and vision at each level of the scale, until children themselves become part of the task, so multiplying the workers.
- Children will be at different levels and their progression is not necessarily linear. For example, the first contact a child has with the gospel may be at step 6 through a children's Holiday Club where they would encounter Jesus and be able to explore the gospel at the same time. Nevertheless, every step should be made available to children where possible.



# The Partnerships

EXAMPLES OF THE TYPE OF RESOURCES  
& TRAINING THAT ARE REQUIRED  
TO SUPPORT THE MOVEMENT  
UP THE PATTAYA SCALE



## What the Partnerships Part of the Pattaya Scale highlights to the Global Church

- **Many Churches Lack the Very Basics**

It quickly becomes apparent that there are vast gaps in the current resources available to local churches and children's ministries worldwide. It is likely that at least 75% of the church worldwide lacks basic skills and adequate resources to provide ways to help children move up the scale. Many of the remaining 25% are not intentionally moving children beyond level 7.

- **Resources Exist to Help**

Many good tools already exist, but are not accessed because they are unknown, too costly or not available in enough languages. More new resources are also required to provide ongoing relational discipleship.

## Accomplishing the task

Several areas require 'mapping' and addressing if the church is to be adequately resourced worldwide to do children's ministry effectively. These are issues relating, yet not limited to:

<b>A. Models of child-sensitive communities of faith</b>	<b>To welcome and grow children and families</b>	<b>Levels 5-10</b>
<b>B Training and skills development</b>	To do the work effectively	At every level
<b>C. Strategies and models</b>	To reach children where they live	Levels 1-6
<b>D. Resources and tools</b>	To help accomplish the task	At every level
<b>E. Networks, advocates and strategists</b>	To help serve the process	At every level
<b>F. Technology, media and mass-communication methods</b>	To build a foundation and reach the masses	Levels 1-4
<b>G. Understanding the contexts and sub-cultures</b>	To sharpen the message	At every level

Each of these aspects needs a focus at every level, from global to local church focus and in-between. For example, *Sports&Kids* is *global* in development yet is *local* in its implementation. It requires coordination at a *language group* level to eliminate duplication of labour in translation and communication at a *continental* level is needed to help multiply the strategy across a *region*. The levels in such a model are loosely defined as:

1. Local church
2. Community of Churches in an area
3. City
4. Region (state, province, sub-culture)
5. National
6. Language grouping
7. Continental issues
8. Global

### Global ACTION PLAN to grow The Partnerships for Child Evangelization:

#### ■ Create a process to bring together all major stakeholders in children's evangelism.

The purpose would be to develop strategies that provide for the *least resourced* and *most unevangelised* parts of the world. For too long, the directions of children's evangelization have been determined by donor funds or the newsworthiness of a project, rather than careful global strategising. In addition, there has been tragic competition with multiple organisations creating almost identical gospel resources for one outreach while other language groups miss out entirely. We have done a great disservice to the gospel and to children - and call upon ourselves the condemnation of Jesus. The need and scale of the challenge are too great, the stakes too high and the possibilities through partnership too positive to ignore. If they could work together, all the major partners who

care about the world evangelization of children could begin to address key strategic needs.

1. *Identify and deploy resources to the least evangelized.* Rather than more and more resources being developed for the best-resourced parts of the world, identify the most critical *global* needs and assign different needs to different organisations based on their passions, skills and resources.
2. *Develop together a 'core' of agreed globally available resources* – including print and non-print training materials for workers, and evangelization and discipleship resources for children.
3. *Create a "critical mass" of organisations* to begin to influence the mass-media operators and engage media in culturally-appropriate ways (particularly in developing nations where media use is cheaper).

■ ***Map the major needs of children's evangelism worldwide in all ten areas.***

The task of a meeting of major stakeholders would be to map out the greatest geographical and strategic needs according to the 10 major areas of the Pattaya Scale. Each member's calling and expertise could be channelled to address these needs together.

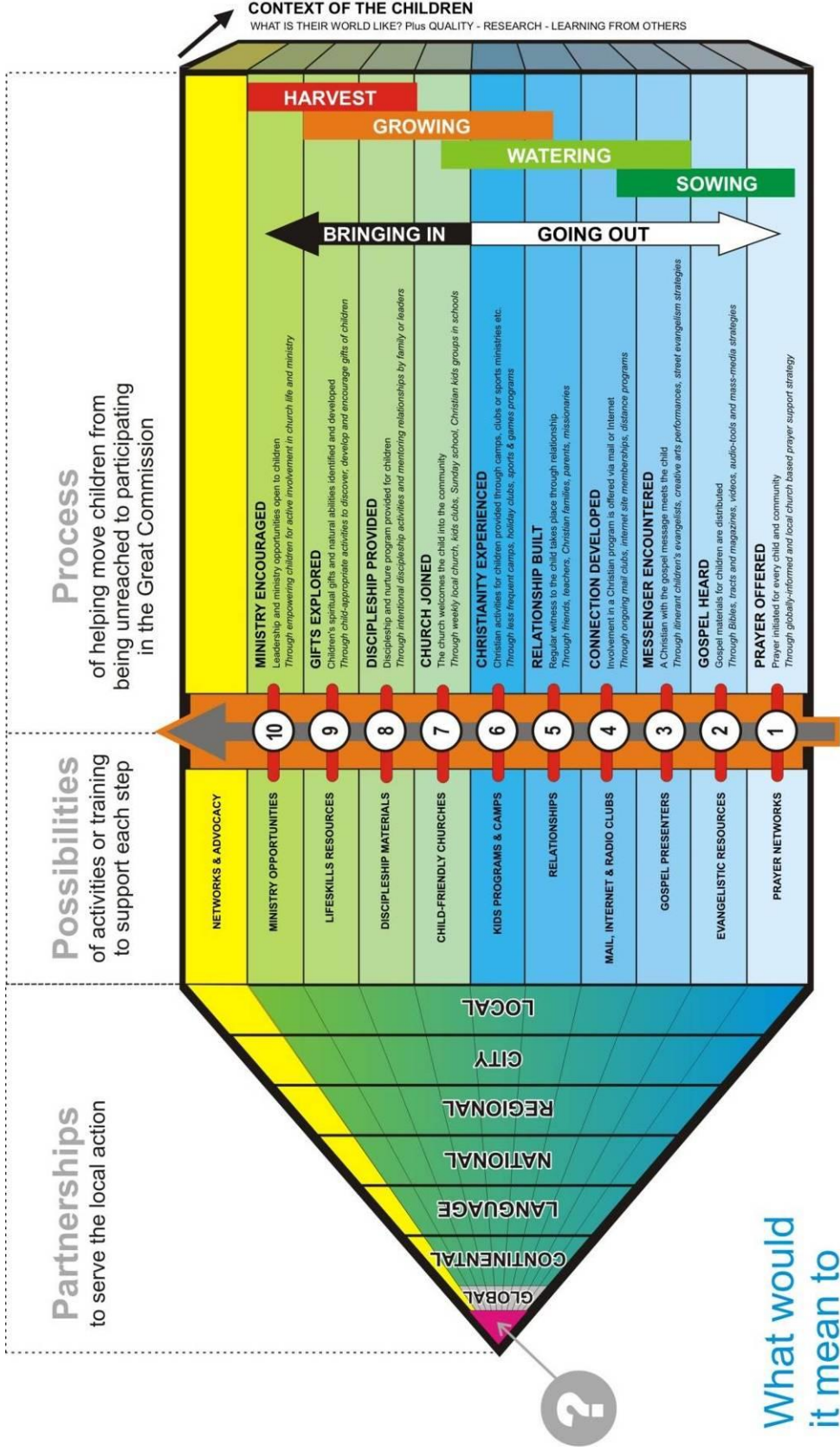
■ ***Identify excellent local, national or global resources which already exist and find ways to make them more widely available.***

Much good work being done in many countries and by many organizations could be spread far further by a global partnership. *For example, imagine the difference that it would make to village churches if MegaVoice, a cheap handheld audio device were used to communicate 160 hours of quality children's ministry training for under-resourced children's workers.*

#### ***What would it take?***

- The will to share the vision
- The humility to lose our egos
- The willingness to listen to those who most need the resources more than to those who have them





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What would it mean to reach every child in your community, in your country or in the world?

See [www.lausanne.org/documents/2004forum/LOP47\\_IG18.pdf](http://www.lausanne.org/documents/2004forum/LOP47_IG18.pdf) for more information and the full document.