

Earth City

If Earth's population of more than 6.6 billion people was shrunk into a village of just 100 people, with all the human ratios existing in the world still remaining, what would this tiny, diverse village look like?

Author David J. Smith invites readers to this global village in his book, *If the World Were a Village*. The following data reflects the most recent statistics available.

- 61 would be Asian
- 11 would be European
- 13 would be from the Western Hemisphere
- 14 would be African
- 32 would be Christian
- 52 would be non-Christian
- 16 are non-religious
- 10 people have over half the entire world's wealth
- 50 would suffer from malnutrition
- 20 are severely undernourished
- 30 always have enough to eat
- 73 people are over the age of 15 and 64 of them can read at least a little, but 17 cannot read at all. More males are taught to read than females.
- 1 person will die this year
- The average life expectancy is 63 years old
- 3 babies will be born this year

The following is an anonymous interpretation of these statistics:

Think of it this way. If you live in a good home, have plenty to eat and can read, you are a member of a very select group. And if you have a good house, food, can read and have a computer you are among the very elite. If you woke up this morning with more health than illness... you are more fortunate than the million who will not survive this week. If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, of the pangs of starvation... you are head of 500 million people in the world.

If you can attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture of death... you are fortunate; more than three billion people in the world can't. If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep... you are richer than 75% of this world. If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish someplace... you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy. If your parents are still alive and married... you are very rare, even in the United States.

If you can read this message, you are more fortunate than over one billion people in the world that cannot read at all.