

WHY MISSIONS

A SIMPLE, EDUCATIONAL AND INSPIRATIONAL GUIDE TO MISSIONS INVOLVEMENT



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WHY MISSIONS



INTRODUCTION

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR TAKING THE TIME TO LOOK INTO THE AMAZING WORLD OF MISSIONS! OFTEN THIS TOPIC CAN BE BOTH FOREIGN AND CONFUSING TO CHRISTIANS, SO THIS BOOKLET IS DESIGNED TO PRESENT SOME BASIC INFORMATION IN A CLEAN AND SIMPLE FORMAT IN ORDER TO ENGAGE READERS. THE INFORMATION YOU HOLD IN YOUR HANDS RIGHT NOW HAS BEEN COMPILED FROM MANY SOURCES AROUND THE WORLD. WE HAVE ALSO LIVED AND EXPERIENCED THESE TRUTHS, NOT JUST READ ABOUT THEM, SO WE HOPE AND PRAY THAT ALL THE EXCITING AND CHALLENGING MATERIAL HERE WILL BE BOTH AS PRUDENT AND PERTINENT FOR YOU AS IT HAS FOR US. SO WITHOUT FURTHER ADIEU, LET'S DIVE INTO THIS WORLD TOGETHER...

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

- + WHY MISSIONS?
 - BIBLICAL REASONS
 - PRACTICAL REASONS
 - SPIRITUAL REASONS
- + WHAT IS MISSIONS?
 - THE ADVANCING KINGDOM
 - ROLE OF THE CHURCH
 - ROLE OF THE INDIVIDUAL
- + HOW TO GET INVOLVED
 - CORPORATE OPPORTUNITIES
 - PERSONAL OPPORTUNITIES

WHY MISSIONS?

BIBLICAL REASONS



"THE BIBLE ISN'T THE BASIS FOR MISSIONS; MISSIONS IS THE BASIS FOR THE BIBLE."

- DR. RALPH WINTER, MISSIOLOGIST

DID YOU KNOW THERE ARE OVER 150 PASSAGES IN THE BIBLE THAT TALK ABOUT THE CONCEPT OF MISSIONS? FROM COVER TO COVER, THE BIBLE POINTS TO WORLD EVANGELIZATION. I ENCOURAGE YOU TO TAKE THE TIME TO READ JUST A FEW AMAZING EXAMPLES BEFORE GOING ANY FURTHER.

- GENESIS 12:1-3 (CALL OF ABRAHAM)
- EXODUS 9:16 (WHY GOD SPARED EGYPT)
- DEUT. 28:10 (ISRAEL'S PURPOSE)
- JOS. 4:24 (WHY THE JORDAN PARTED)
- 1 KI. 8:43 (PURPOSE OF THE TEMPLE)
- ISA. 52:10 (PROPHECY OF SALVATION)
- (THE ENTIRE BOOK OF JONAH)
- MALACHI 1:11 (PROPHECY OVER NATIONS)
- MAT. 28:19 (GREAT COMMISSION)
- ACTS 1:8 (THE ENDS OF THE EARTH)
- ROMANS 16:25-26 (GOD KNOWN TO ALL)
- 2 CORINTHIANS 10:14-16 (PAUL'S PURPOSE)
- GAL. 3:13-14 (CHRIST DIED FOR ALL)
- 2 PETER 3:9 (GOD'S PATIENCE)
- REV. 5:9 (ALL NATIONS IN HEAVEN)

WE SEE FROM THESE PASSAGES THAT NOT ONLY IS MISSIONS A BIBLICAL PRINCIPLE, IT'S A BIBLICAL MANDATE! WE CANNOT BE A CHRISTIAN WITHOUT ALSO BEING INVOLVED IN MISSIONS- THE TERMS ARE SYNONYMOUS. WHY? BECAUSE "CHRISTIAN" MEANS "LITTLE CHRIST" AND CHRIST HIMSELF WAS A MISSIONARY.

OF COURSE CHRIST WAS A MISSIONARY IN THE TRUEST SENSE OF THE WORD: HE WAS SENT FROM THE FATHER WITH A VERY CLEAR MISSION. BUT WE MUST REALIZE THAT THE FATHER WAS CHRIST'S EXAMPLE JUST AS CHRIST IS OURS- FOR SCRIPTURE TEACHES JESUS WAS IN PERFECT SUBMISSION TO THE FATHER. GOD IS OUR EXAMPLE AS HE DIDN'T JUST SEND A MESSENGER, HE WAS THE MESSENGER.

- JOHN 1:14 (WORD BECAME FLESH)
- JOHN 14:10 (THE FATHER IN CHRIST)
- PHILIPPIANS 2:3-11 (CHRIST'S MISSION)

NOW WE BEGIN TO SEE THAT MISSIONS ISN'T JUST A THING WE AS CHRISTIANS ARE COMMANDED TO DO, IT IS ACTUALLY A PART OF WHO GOD IS- A CHARACTERISTIC OF HIS VERY NATURE. TO BE 'BORN AGAIN' IS TO INVITE THAT NATURE INTO OURSELVES AND TO CULTIVATE IT SO THAT IT REPLACES OUR OWN SELFISH NATURE. AS PAUL SAID, "IT IS NO LONGER I WHO LIVE, BUT CHRIST IN ME..."

WHY MISSIONS?

PRACTICAL REASONS



"I THOUGHT IT REASONABLE THAT I SHOULD SEEK THE WORK WHERE THE WORK WAS THE MOST ABUNDANT AND THE WORKERS FEWEST."

- JAMES GILMOUR, MISSIONARY TO MONGOLIA

MOST CHRISTIANS DO NOT REALIZE THE ENORMOUS RESPONSIBILITY THAT COMES ALONG WITH ACCEPTING CHRIST AND FEW WESTERN CHRISTIANS REALIZE THAT THEY BEAR EVEN MORE RESPONSIBILITY THAN MOST. JESUS SAID IN LUKE 12:48, "TO WHOM MUCH IS GIVEN, MUCH IS REQUIRED." LET ME PUT THIS VERSE INTO PERSPECTIVE: ACCORDING TO THE MOST RECENT DATA AVAILABLE, IF YOU MAKE \$10,000 USD PER YEAR OR MORE, YOU ARE IN THE TOP 8% OF THE WEALTHIEST PEOPLE IN THE WORLD. THINK ABOUT THAT FACT FOR A MOMENT. THE AVERAGE INCOME IN THE WORLD TODAY IS JUST UNDER \$5,000 USD PER YEAR. NEARLY HALF THE WORLD'S POPULATION LIVES ON LESS THAN \$1,000 A YEAR. BUT FINANCES IS JUST ONE ASPECT OF OUR WEALTH. WE HAVE UNPRECEDENTED ACCESS TO INFORMATION, EDUCATION, TRANSPORTATION AND TOOLS THAT MOST PEOPLE IN THE WORLD DO NOT. THEREFORE GOD EXPECTS YOU TO BE A GOOD STEWARD OF THIS INCREDIBLE AMOUNT OF WEALTH AND RESOURCES AND TO USE IT FOR HIS KINGDOM. MISSIONS IS NOT AN OCCUPATION, BUT A MINDSET AND A MINDSET THAT EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD HAVE. THE WORLD IS WAITING TO HEAR THE GOOD NEWS OF THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST- ARE WE ANSWERING THAT CALL? THE SOBERING REALITY IS THAT AS CHRISTIANS OUR LIVES ARE TO BE DEFINED BY OUR LOVE AND YET SO OFTEN WE ARE CALLOUS TOWARD THE SPIRITUAL AND PHYSICAL

NEEDS OF OTHERS. MOST CHRISTIANS STRUGGLE WITH DYING TO SELF AND PUTTING OTHERS FIRST AND THE FURTHER AWAY FROM "SELF" YOUR GIVING BECOMES, OFTEN THE SMALLER THE AMOUNT. WE CAN SEE THIS IN ACTION STATISTICALLY: WHILE EVERY SINGLE CHRISTIAN WILL SPEND MONEY ON THEMSELVES THIS YEAR, ONLY 1 IN 5 WILL GIVE ANY MONEY TO HIS OR HER LOCAL CHURCH. THE AVERAGE GIFT THIS GENEROUS MINORITY WILL GIVE IS 2.5% OF THEIR INCOME. THEN 98% OF THAT 2.5% WILL STAY IN THEIR LOCAL CHURCH, WHILE ONLY 2% OF IT WILL BE GIVEN OUTSIDE THE CHURCH TO MISSIONS.

BUT THERE'S MORE TO MISSIONS THAN MONEY. SENDING PEOPLE IS EVEN BETTER THAN SENDING MONEY (THOUGH TO SEND PEOPLE WILL REQUIRE MONEY). BUT SURPRISINGLY, THOUGH IT IS A BIBLICAL MANDATE, ONLY 0.02% OF CHRISTIANS ARE INVOLVED IN MISSIONS. THAT'S 1 PERSON FOR EVERY 5,000 THAT CALL THEMSELVES A FOLLOWER OF CHRIST. TRULY "THE HARVEST IS PLENTIFUL, BUT THE WORKERS ARE FEW..." -MAT 9:37

CHRISTIAN RESOURCE ALLOCATION:

IF THE RATIO OF CHRISTIAN WORKERS TO TOTAL POPULATION IN N. AFRICA WERE APPLIED TO N. AMERICA, THERE WOULD ONLY BE 120 FULL-TIME WORKERS AND 7 SMALL CHURCHES IN THE ENTIRE CONTINENT.

WHY MISSIONS?

SPIRITUAL REASONS



"THE GOSPEL IS ONLY GOOD NEWS
IF IT GETS THERE IN TIME."
- CARL F.H. HENRY, THEOLOGIAN

LIVING IN COUNTRIES LIKE AMERICA, IT CAN BE DIFFICULT TO GRASP THE REALITY THAT A LARGE PORTION OF THE WORLD HAS NEVER HEARD THE GOSPEL MESSAGE. WE JUST ASSUME THAT PEOPLE IN INDIA ARE HINDU FOR THE SAME REASONS SOME AMERICANS ARE ATHEISTS- IT'S THEIR CHOICE. WITH THIS ASSUMPTION IN MIND, MANY CHRISTIANS HAVE BOUGHT IN TO THE POLITICALLY CORRECT PHILOSOPHY THAT TO "PUSH" OUR BELIEFS ON THEM WOULD BE INSENSITIVE AND WRONG.

THE TRUTH IS HOWEVER THAT OVER HALF THE WORLD'S PEOPLE GROUPS HAVE NEVER EVEN HEARD THE NAME "JESUS", LET ALONE KNOW WHO HE WAS OR WHAT HE DID. THEY HAVE NEVER EVEN BEEN PRESENTED WITH THE OPTION TO CHOOSE CHRIST OVER THEIR FALSE GODS. SCRIPTURE CLEARLY OUTLINES THAT IT IS A CHRISTIAN'S JOB TO PRESENT THE TRUTH OF JESUS CHRIST AND THE CHOICE OF SALVATION TO EVERY "PEOPLE GROUP" (TRANSLATED AS "NATION" IN MOST BIBLES, THE GREEK WORD IS "ETHNE", WHICH MEANS "PEOPLE GROUP" AND IS WHERE WE GET OUR ENGLISH WORD "ETHNIC" FROM). GOD'S HEART IS FOR THE NATIONS AND HE WILL NOT RETURN UNTIL ALL THE NATIONS HAVE BEEN REACHED WITH THE GOSPEL (SEE MAT 24:14 AND MARK 13:10)! WE SEE THE FULFILLMENT OF THESE STATEMENTS IN REV 7:9, SO WE KNOW IT WILL HAPPEN, THE QUESTION IS, ARE WE HELPING OR HINDERING THAT PROPHECY?

A WORLD OF NEED:

- OVER 24,000 PEOPLE GROUPS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED IN THE WORLD
- AROUND 13,000 OF THEM HAVE NOT BEEN REACHED WITH THE GOSPEL
- 95% OF THESE UNREACHED PEOPLES LIVE IN THE "10/40 WINDOW" WHICH CONSISTS OF N. AFRICA, THE MIDDLE EAST AND ASIA
- ONLY 4% OF MISSIONARIES ARE SENT TO THIS REGION
- LESS THAN 1% OF THE MONEY GIVEN TO MISSIONS GOES TO THIS REGION

THERE IS MUCH WORK TO BE DONE! THERE ARE REGIONS OF THE WORLD THAT ARE DESPERATE FOR THE WORD OF GOD AND WE AREN'T GOING. THE NEEDIEST PARTS OF THE WORLD ARE GETTING THE LEAST AMOUNT OF OUR ATTENTION AND SUPPORT. DO NOT LOOK AT THIS AS FAILURE, BUT AS AN ENORMOUS OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU TO MAKE A HUGE IMPACT FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD. THIS IS AN **ISAIAH 6:8** SITUATION- GOD IS CALLING, WILL YOU RESPOND?



WHAT IS MISSIONS? THE ADVANCING KINGDOM



"THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST IS THE SPIRIT OF MISSIONS. THE NEARER WE GET TO HIM, THE MORE INTENSELY MISSIONARY WE BECOME."

- HENRY MARTYN, MISSIONARY TO INDIA

GOD IS ON THE MOVE. AT TIMES WE GET SO FOCUSED ON OUR CIRCUMSTANCES THAT WE OFTEN DON'T SEE THE BIG PICTURE. CHRISTIANITY IS IN SERIOUS DECLINE IN EUROPE AND EVEN AMERICA, BUT THESE ARE THE EXCEPTIONS TO THE GENERAL TREND. AROUND THE WORLD, PEOPLE ARE COMING TO CHRIST IN STAGGERING NUMBERS AND IN NATIONS THAT YOU WOULD NOT EXPECT. THE RECENT GROWTH EXPLOSION IN THESE COUNTRIES CAUSED A HISTORIC SHIFT IN CHRISTIANITY WITHIN THE LAST DECADE: FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE EARLY CHURCH ERA, THERE ARE NOW MORE NON-WESTERN THAN THERE ARE WESTERN CHRISTIANS.

THOUGH CHRISTIANITY HAS CERTAINLY PICKED UP MOMENTUM IN THE LAST CENTURY, THE TRUTH IS THAT GOD HAS BEEN BUILDING HIS CHURCH SINCE DAY ONE. SINCE THE TWELVE DISCIPLES WERE SENT OUT OF JERUSALEM THE KINGDOM OF GOD HAS BEEN INCREASING AT A STAGGERING RATE AS THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST FILLS THE EARTH. WE LIVE IN EXCITING TIMES AS THIS TASK COULD VERY POSSIBLY BE COMPLETED IN OUR LIFETIMES! IS THE CHURCH TODAY UP TO THE TASK OR WILL WE BE DISTRACTED BY OTHER PURSUITS AND AMBITIONS? WE ARE SO CLOSE TO THE FINISH LINE- WE MUST PRESS FORWARD, NO MATTER WHAT THE COST! TAKE A LOOK AT THE STATISTICS TO THE RIGHT AND ASK YOURSELF, "HOW CAN I CONTRIBUTE TO THE PROGRESS OF THE KINGDOM?"

A STORY BY NUMBERS

PERCENTAGE OF WORLD POPULATION WHO CLAIMED CHRISTIANITY:

100 AD:	17360	(0.3%)	
1000 AD:	1220	(0.5%)	
1500 AD:	169	(1.5%)	
1900 AD:	127	(3.7%)	
1950:	121	(4.8%)	
1980:	111	(9.1%)	
1989:	17	(14.3%)	
1995:	15	(20%)	
2003:	13	(33.3%)	
2011:	13	(33.3%)	!!!

AS YOU CAN SEE, MORE PEOPLE HAVE COME TO CHRIST IN THE LAST 50 YEARS THAN IN THE PREVIOUS 1950 COMBINED! ACTS 2:17 SAYS, "AND IT SHALL BE IN THE LAST DAYS," GOD SAYS, "THAT I WILL POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT ON ALL MANKIND..." I BELIEVE THESE NUMBERS PAINT A PRETTY COMPELLING PICTURE OF THIS PASSAGE AND PROMISE. HOWEVER THE CHURCH HAS RECENTLY LOST ITS FOCUS AND GROWTH HAS NEARLY FLAT LINED SINCE 2000. WE NEED CHRISTIANS TO TAKE UP THE CALL ONCE AGAIN!

WHAT IS MISSIONS?

THE ROLE OF THE CHURCH



"THE MARK OF A GREAT CHURCH IS NOT ITS SEATING CAPACITY, BUT ITS SENDING CAPACITY."

- MIKE STACHURA, OPERATION MOBILIZATION

THE CHURCH CULTURE TODAY IS QUITE OBLIVIOUS TO EVEN THE CONCEPT OF MISSIONS, LET ALONE FULLY INVOLVED- BUT THAT IS NOT HOW THE EARLY CHURCH STARTED OUT. READING THE NEW TESTAMENT PAINTS A VERY CLEAR PICTURE OF THE CHURCH BEING ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN THE GREAT COMMISSION BY SENDING, SUPPORTING AND SACRIFICING FOR MISSIONS. WE READ PAUL'S LETTERS FOR THEIR THEOLOGICAL TEACHING AND OFTEN FORGET THAT THEY WERE JUST AS MUCH SUPPORT LETTERS REPORTING BACK TO THE CHURCHES FROM THE FRONT LINES OF THE MISSION FIELD.

IN HIS ARTICLE "THE TWO STRUCTURES OF GOD'S REDEMPITIVE MISSION" DR. RALPH WINTER SHOWS HOW THROUGHOUT HISTORY THE LOCAL CHURCH AND MISSION BANDS OR ORGANIZATIONS HAVE WORKED HAND-IN-HAND IN A SYMBIOTIC RELATIONSHIP. THOUGH THEY ARE TWO SEPARATE ENTITIES AND STRUCTURES, IT IS ONLY BY WORKING TOGETHER THAT THE BODY OF CHRIST (AKA "THE CHURCH") CAN ACCOMPLISH THE WILL OF GOD. HOW THESE TWO STRUCTURES WORK TOGETHER IS THE QUESTION WE NEED TO ANSWER.

FOR SIMPLICITY'S SAKE, LET'S CALL CHURCHES "THE LOCAL CHURCH" AND CALL MISSION ORGANIZATIONS "THE MOBILE CHURCH". NOW THE LOCAL CHURCH IS ENORMOUS- IT COMPRISES ABOUT 99.98% OF THE ENTIRE BODY OF CHRIST WHILE THE MOBILE CHURCH MAKES UP ONLY

AROUND 0.02%. THIS RATIO ALONE SHOULD CAUSE SOME ALARM, BUT NEVERTHELESS, THESE ARE THE FACTS TODAY. HOW THESE TWO STRUCTURES BENEFIT EACH OTHER IS QUITE SIMPLE- EACH CONTRIBUTE PRAYER, PEOPLE AND RESOURCES TO THE OTHER. THIS MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL RELATIONSHIP SHOULD LOOK SOMETHING LIKE THIS:

HARMONY OF THE CHURCH:

LOCAL CHURCH CONTRIBUTION

PRAYER: FOR THE WORKERS
FOR THE HARVEST

PEOPLE: SHORT AND LONG TERM
PASTORAL CARE

RESOURCES: FINANCES

MOBILE CHURCH CONTRIBUTION

PRAYER: FOR GROWTH & MATURITY

PEOPLE: FRUIT OF THE HARVEST
APOSTOLIC INFLUENCE

RESOURCES: EXPERIENCE

IF THESE TWO STRUCTURES FUNCTION AS THEY WERE MEANT TO, THE KINGDOM ADVANCES. IF THEY DO NOT, THEN WE LOSE GROUND TO THE ENEMY.

WHAT IS MISSIONS?

THE ROLE OF THE INDIVIDUAL



"THE CHRISTIAN IS NOT OBEYENT UNLESS HE IS DOING ALL IN HIS POWER TO SEND THE GOSPEL TO THE HEATHEN WORLD."

- A.B. SIMPSON, THEOLOGIAN

THE CHURCH IS NOT A BUILDING- WE ARE THE CHURCH! OUR ACTIONS INFLUENCE THE BODY AS A WHOLE- FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE. WE AS INDIVIDUALS ARE CALLED TO SEND FORTH THE GOSPEL- THERE IS NO NEED TO WAIT FOR PROGRAMS AND ORGANIZATIONS TO BE FORMED. WE CAN BE INVOLVED IN WORLD MISSIONS IN A VARIETY OF DIFFERENT WAYS RIGHT NOW- WE CAN GO, WE CAN SEND AND WE CAN SUPPORT.

MOST OF US WON'T ANSWER THE CALL BY GOING LONG TERM, AND THAT IS ACTUALLY OK- NOT ALL CAN OR SHOULD FULFILL THAT PARTICULAR ROLE IN MISSIONS. SOME OF US CAN FULFILL THE ROLE OF SUPPORTERS BY BEING ON MISSIONS BOARDS, PASTORAL CARE TEAMS AND CARING FOR INDIVIDUAL MISSIONARIES. BUT FOR EVERY PERSON THAT DOES GO LONG-TERM, THERE NEEDS TO BE A HOST OF SENDERS AND THIS IS WHERE ANYONE AND EVERYONE SHOULD BE INVOLVED. THROUGHOUT THE SCRIPTURES GOD MAKES THE LINK BETWEEN MAN'S HEART AND HIS POCKETBOOK CLEAR AS AMY CARMICHAEL ONCE SAID, "YOU CAN GIVE WITHOUT LOVING, BUT YOU CANNOT LOVE WITHOUT GIVING."

MOST CHRISTIANS DO NOT REALIZE THE MISSION OPPORTUNITIES THAT LAY BEFORE THEM SIMPLY THROUGH THEIR GIVING. PAUL UNDERSTOOD THIS PRINCIPLE VERY WELL THOUGH AS HE WROTE TO THE CHURCH OF PHILIPPI. "NEVERTHELESS, YOU HAVE DONE WELL TO SHARE WITH

ME IN MY AFFLICTION. YOU YOURSELVES ALSO KNOW, PHILIPPIANS, THAT AT THE FIRST PREACHING OF THE GOSPEL, AFTER I LEFT MACEDONIA, NO CHURCH SHARED WITH ME IN THE MATTER OF GIVING AND RECEIVING BUT YOU ALONE; FOR EVEN IN THESSALONICA YOU SENT A GIFT MORE THAN ONCE FOR MY NEEDS. NOT THAT I SEEK THE GIFT ITSELF, BUT I SEEK FOR THE PROFIT WHICH INCREASES TO YOUR ACCOUNT. -PHP 4:14-17

BUT GIVING FINANCIALLY TO MISSIONS ISN'T THE ONLY WAY IN WHICH BELIEVERS ARE CALLED TO BE INVOLVED. WORLD MISSIONS IS NOT RESTRICTED TO OVERSEAS- EVERY BELIEVER HAS THEIR OWN MISSION FIELD AT HOME AS WELL. THEREFORE MISSIONS IS A CHRISTIAN LIFESTYLE, NOT A CHRISTIAN OCCUPATION AND THE WHOLE BODY IS CALLED TO DO THEIR PART. JESUS SAID IN ACTS 1:8 THAT WE WILL BE HIS WITNESSES IN JERUSALEM, JUDEA, SAMARIA AND THE ENDS OF THE EARTH, NOT OR. WE ARE ALL CALLED TO MULTIPLE FRONTS, IT IS ONLY OUR ROLES THAT DIFFER.

AS MORE AND MORE INDIVIDUALS IN THE CHURCH SUPPORT MISSIONS, THE CORPORATE BODY WILL SHIFT INTO FULFILLING ITS ROLE AS WELL, BUT IT STARTS WITH THE HEARTS OF INDIVIDUAL PEOPLE, NOT THE CORPORATE AGENDA OF A LOCAL CHURCH OR PASTOR. THE CHANGE STARTS WITH YOU AS YOU RESPOND TO THE HOLY CALLING GOD HAS PLACED ON YOUR LIFE AS HIS DISCIPLE.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED



"WHAT'S YOUR DREAM AND TO WHAT CORNER OF THE MISSIONS WORLD WILL IT TAKE YOU?"

- ELEANOR ROAT, MISSIONS MOBILIZER

INDIVIDUAL OPPORTUNITIES

1. GO. THERE ARE LITERALLY THOUSANDS OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU TO SERVE SOMEWHERE IN WORLD MISSIONS. YOUTH WITH A MISSION ALONE OFFERS HUNDREDS OF TRAINING COURSES EVERY YEAR WITH LONG TERM AND SHORT TERM MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES ALL AROUND THE GLOBE. NO MATTER WHAT YOUR EXPERIENCE, AGE OR SKILL SET, THERE IS A PLACE WHERE GOD CAN USE YOU IN THE FIELD.

2. SUPPORT. BEFRIEND A MISSIONARY! GET INVOLVED IN THEIR LIFE, PRAY FOR THEM AND ENCOURAGE THEM. THE NUMBER ONE CAUSE OF MISSIONARIES LEAVING THE FIELD IS NOT FINANCES- IT'S FEELING ISOLATED AND ALONE. IF YOU DON'T KNOW ANY MISSIONARIES, ASK YOUR CHURCH TO BE INVOLVED ON THE MISSIONS BOARD. IF YOUR CHURCH DOESN'T HAVE A MISSIONS BOARD, CREATE ONE!

3. SEND. THE NUMBER TWO REASON PEOPLE LEAVE THE MISSION FIELD IS FINANCES. WITH ONLY 0.02% OF CHRISTIANS ON THE FIELD, IT SHOULDN'T BE DIFFICULT FOR THE OTHER 99.98% TO PROVIDE FOR THEM AMPLY! I HAVE HEARD OF WEALTHY TV EVANGELISTS AND EVEN PASTORS, BUT I HAVE NEVER HEARD OF A MISSIONARY WHO WASN'T STRUGGLING FINANCIALLY- OFTEN BELOW THE POVERTY LINE. YOU COULD LITERALLY BE THE ANSWER TO A MISSIONARY'S PRAYER. YOU COULD MAKE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A MISSIONARY STAYING ON THE FIELD OR HAVING TO RETURN HOME.

CORPORATE OPPORTUNITIES

1. GO. PLAN A SHORT TERM TRIP WITH YOUR LOCAL CHURCH. THIS IS NOT AN ACTIVITY RESERVED SOLELY FOR YOUTH GROUPS- ADULTS BENEFIT FROM IT JUST AS MUCH! SHORT TERM TRIPS ARE ALSO MORE THAN JUST WORK PROJECTS- CONTACT THE MISSIONARIES YOU OR YOUR CHURCH SUPPORTS AND ASK THEM HOW YOU CAN COME PARTNER WITH AND BLESS THEM. ENJOY THE PLUG-AND-PLAY BENEFITS OF THAT RELATIONSHIP AS THEY HAVE TOILED AND SET UP THE MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU. MAKE YOUR NUMBER ONE PRIORITY TO ENCOURAGE AND BLESS THE LONG TERM WORKERS. THERE AND EVERYONE BENEFITS.

2. SUPPORT. MISSION BOARDS SHOULD BE A BLESSING TO MISSIONARIES, NOT A CURSE. EXPLORE WAYS IN WHICH YOUR CHURCH CAN CORPORATELY SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE THOSE WHO ARE ON THE FIELD. BE CREATIVE!

3. SEND. ENCOURAGE YOUR CHURCH TO SEND MISSIONARIES. IF THE CHURCH ASKS ITS MEMBERS TO GIVE TITHES, IT'S ONLY FAIR TO ASK THE CHURCH TO DO THE SAME. IT'S DISGRACEFUL THAT A CHURCH CAN HAVE A BUILDING FUND BUT NOT A MISSIONARY FUND. WHEN TIMES ARE TOUGH, ENCOURAGE YOUR CHURCH TO TRIM THE FAT IN OTHER AREAS, BUT TO MAINTAIN OR EVEN INCREASE ITS MISSION SUPPORT.

4. DO NOT ASK YOUR CHURCH TO DO ANYTHING THAT YOU YOURSELF ARE NOT WILLING TO DO.

WANT MORE INFO?

"HE WHO ASKS IS A FOOL FOR FIVE MINUTES, HE WHO DOES NOT ASK REMAINS A FOOL FOREVER."

- CHINESE PROVERB

"GOD CANNOT LEAD YOU ON THE BASIS OF FACTS THAT YOU DO NOT KNOW."

- DAVID BRYANT, MINISTER

"IF TEN MEN ARE CARRYING A LOG - NINE OF THEM ON THE LITTLE END AND ONE AT THE HEAVY END - AND YOU WANT TO HELP, WHICH END WILL YOU LIFT ON?"

- WILLIAM BORDEN, AS HE REFLECTED ON THE NUMBER OF WORKERS IN THE U.S. COMPARED TO THOSE OVERSEAS

"TELL THE STUDENTS TO GIVE UP THEIR SMALL AMBITIONS AND COME EASTWARD TO PREACH THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST."

- FRANCIS XAVIER, MISSIONARY TO ASIA

"THE COMMAND HAS BEEN TO 'GO,' BUT WE HAVE STAYED - IN BODY, GIFTS, PRAYER AND INFLUENCE. HE HAS ASKED US TO BE WITNESSES UNTO THE UTMOST PARTS OF THE EARTH ... BUT 99% OF CHRISTIANS HAVE KEPT PUTTERING AROUND IN THE HOMELAND."

- ROBERT SAVAGE, LAT AMERICAN MISSION

"THE BEST REMEDY FOR A SICK CHURCH IS TO PUT IT ON A MISSIONARY DIET."

- UNKNOWN



WE LOVE BEING ABLE TO SERVE ON THE FIELD, BUT WE ALSO FEEL CALLED TO ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO FOLLOW. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION ON MISSIONS, TRAINING, SUPPORTING OR ANY OTHER ASPECT, PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT US. UNTIL THEN, MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS THE WORK OF YOUR HANDS FOR THE BENEFIT OF HIS KINGDOM AND HIS NAME'S SAKE.

SINCERELY,

JOSHUA & STACY STATEHAM

YOUTH WITH A MISSION LAS VEGAS

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