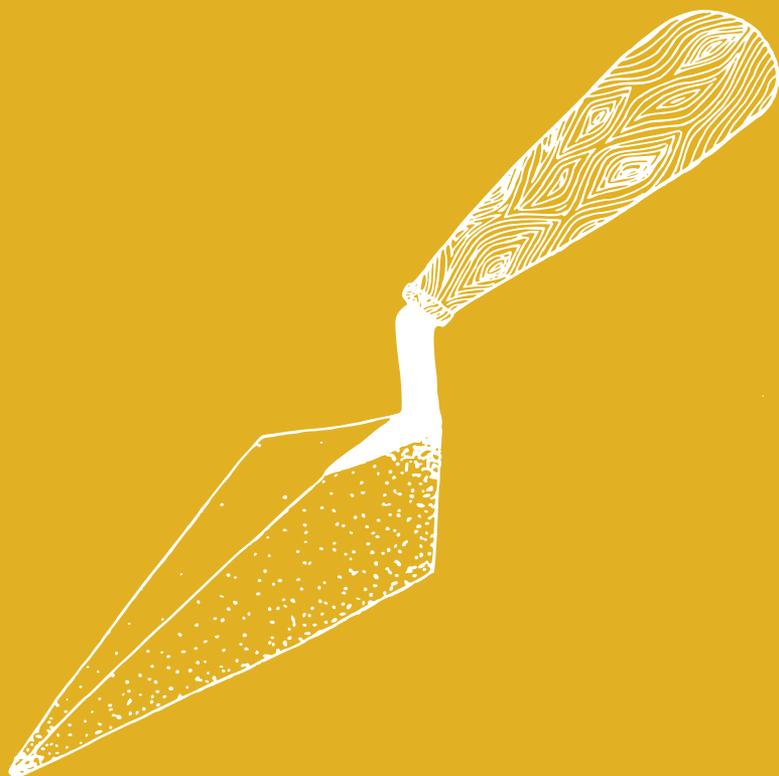
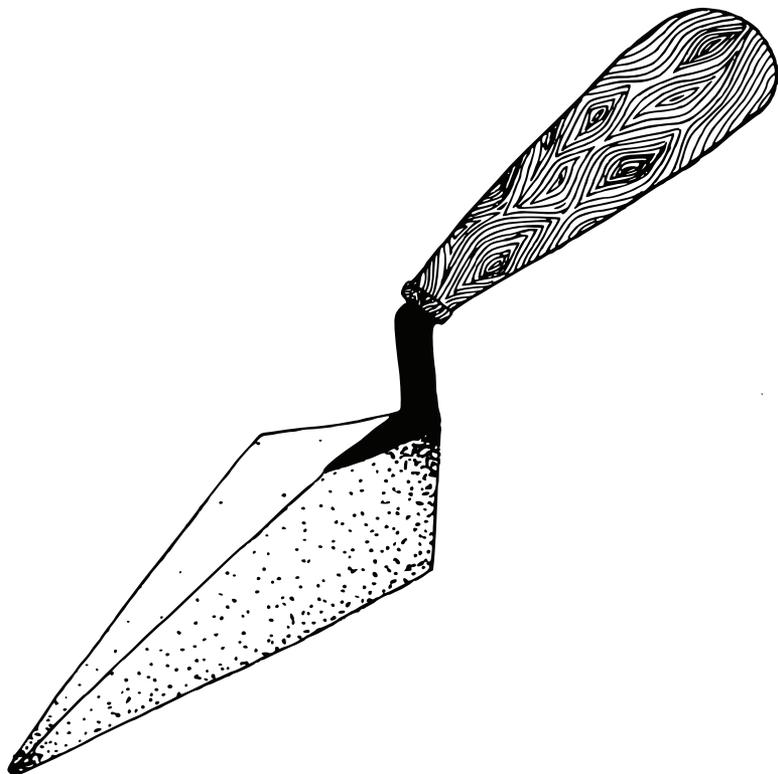


MISSION



VOLUME III
2017-2018

MISSION



VOLUME II
2017-2018

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PREFACE

By Dr. John and Anita Koeshall

CHAPTER 1

My Father, My King, an article by Dick Brogden

CHAPTER 2

Who Cares?, an article by William Booth

CHAPTER 3

Why You Should Go to the Mission Field, an article by Keith Green

PREFACE

To quote C S Lewis in the **Weight of Glory**:

"Being a faithful follower of Him is the essential point in our lives...All day long we are helping our friends and neighbors toward their eternal destination...There are no ordinary people."

May we have God's eyes, hands and heart, and be missionary people like God, who is a missionary god.

May this book help you to be those kinds of people.

We love and pray for you,

Drs. John and Anita Koeshall

MY FATHER, MY KING

BY DICK BROGDEN

PSALM 2 (NKJV)

1 Why do the nations rage,
And the people plot a vain thing?

2 The kings of the earth set themselves,
And the rulers take counsel together,
Against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying,
3 "Let us break Their bonds in pieces
And cast away Their cords from us."

4 He who sits in the heavens shall laugh;
The Lord shall hold them in derision.

5 Then He shall speak to them in His wrath,
And distress them in His deep displeasure:

6 "Yet I have set My King
On My holy hill of Zion."

7 "I will declare the decree:
The Lord has said to Me,
'You are My Son,
Today I have begotten You.

***8 Ask of Me, and I will give You
The nations for Your inheritance,
And the ends of the earth for Your possession.***

9 You shall break them with a rod of iron;
You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel."

10 Now therefore, be wise, O kings;
Be instructed, you judges of the earth.

11 Serve the Lord with fear,
And rejoice with trembling.

12 Kiss the Son, lest He be angry,
And you perish in the way,
When His wrath is kindled but a little.
Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.

The title of my message today is:

My Father, My King

The big idea is that Our Father and King is looking for

***Fearless Messengers
Who will represent Him faithfully
Among the Nations***

Let me reflect on the text initially by means of a fable.

*I grew up in a palatial castle, I was a prince, a child of the king.
My first memories were the twinkling blue eyes of my Father
As he played with me in my nursery.
I didn't know He was king, I didn't know what a King was
All I knew was the strong arms of my papa as He carried me around
I can close my eyes and remember His comforting embrace
His soothing voice
His silly jokes
His infectious laughter*

*My papa was strong and kind, loving and gentle
All was right in my little world
We would wrestle together, play together, giggle together.
He loved me, I was safe.
He was so tender. He was so approachable.
He was my friend, my father, my comfort, my peace.*

*I grew up with this loving man who cared for me and showered mercy,
joy, love and grace upon me.*

As I grew, I noticed that not all treated my dad as I did

We had servants who stood straighter and talked less when he came into the room

I could tell they adored my dad as I did, but they were super respectful of him

*They begin to use this "king" word – always with anticipation and delight
Like when papa would travel and be expected back*

they would say:

"THE KING IS COMING!"

And there would be a surge of activity to make sure the castle looked perfect.

I thought it funny and somewhat unnecessary

It's just my dad – and if they could only see him roll around the floor with me

they wouldn't be so guarded or circumspect around him.

It all changed for me one day when I happened by the throne room

Changed in the good way I mean, change that gained something

Not a change by loss

I happened to be walking past the throne room and the curtains were agape

I could see in without being seen

I could see my dad and He didn't look pleased

As I watched some rebels were brought in

I don't think I have ever seen my father so furious

Nor the faces of His generals so solemn

I was a little bit surprised.

The rebels did not repent, They cursed my father – and even I felt the insult

They threatened, mocked, and insulted the King!

And that made me tremble.

I could only stare at my papa

For I saw things on His face I had never seen before

I didn't really understand what I was seeing

*The wrath, the narrowing of His eyes
I had not seen that look before*

*My Father, the King stood up
And with a quiet voice, but fire in His eyes said,*

*"You have plundered my kingdom, cut down my forests,
polluted my rivers
You have mistreated my animals
You have lived by greed and cruel self interest
Worse than that
you have ravaged the crown jewel of my creation
You have aborted and abused my children
You have dishonored and enslaved my women
You have disrespected and perverted my men
You have misled the young and abandoned the grey headed
Worst of all
you have not represented my interests or
character
You have defamed and slandered my good name
You have rejected my rule
You have twisted my truth
You have insulted and offended me
And you have done so repeatedly with deliberate and
evil intent"*

*The hall fell silent at the angry passion of the king
And then the judgment fell*

*"Take these rebels and hang them in the public square
And then send some of my best and bravest officers to their stronghold
Send an offer of peace
On these inviolate terms:*

*If they will lay down their arms
If they will repent of their wrongs
I will have mercy on them
I will bring them under the protection
of my kingdom
They can eat from my table
I will shower them with love and affection*

*But if they will not turn from their rebellion
They will face the full force of my wrath*

*This is not a discussion, a dialogue, or a negotiation.
They must either repent or perish.*

*I slipped away from the throne room and went to my chamber
My heart hammering
My head exploding*

*I couldn't quite understand what I was feeling
But when I thought about my father, the King
Something expanded within me
I wanted to cry and fight all at the same time.*

*I heard footsteps and turned
My dad walked in.
He suddenly looked bigger, and stronger
I ran to him, He embraced me, and I Him
And in that intimacy
I was both son and subject*

The one holding me was both my father and my king.

Most of us – and fittingly so – first came to know God as Father
This is beautifully fitting.
In our brokenness, He loved us, saved us, cared for us – and nurtured
us

This love of the Heavenly Father has been our milk
And long will love's nutrients strengthen our spiritual bones
...But now it is time to add the meat

A maturing child does not treat his father in private as He does in public
The intimacy of the home and the honor of the office are not in tension

The Father who nurtures and loves us sits on a throne
Yes, a throne we can boldly approach...But still a throne.
And the children who run in to sit on the King's knee
Must grow into men who prostrate with all the other warriors of the King

Is it not awe inspiring that this most famous of old Testament missions verses:

Ask of me, and I will give the nations...As an inheritance for you

Is set in a Psalm about the Messiah and His Regal Triumph?

We are so used to preaching missions from a John 3:16 perspective
GOD SO LOVED...That we have neglected GOD IS SO ANGERED...

In truth to preach God's love without preaching God's wrath
is akin to running an Olympic 100 meter race by hopping on one foot.

That one leg may indeed be robust,
but without the synergy that comes from a matching healthy second leg,
no prize will be won.

One robust leg paired to a shriveled one makes it impossible to run straight,

Much less in such a way as wins the crown
A boat rowed with one arm vastly stronger than the other
Will reach no harbor but aimlessly spin in circles.
An airplane with one wing curved for lift, the other flat

Will not safely land but swiftly crash

The Nations rage

The people plot vain things

Rulers take counsel against the Lord

The King's authority is questioned

The Great Throne of Heaven is disrespected

The Eternal Court is despised Our Sovereign God is insulted and demeaned

And now our King raises Himself up from His throne in Righteous Anger

Now the gavel of judgment descends and falls

Now, He who sits in the heavens stirs

He has a message for us to transmit to the Nations:

Kiss Him – placate Him

Bow Before Him – Humble yourself

Confess Him as Lord

Make Peace with Him while it is day...

for the angry night of judgment cometh when
no man can work.

And *"Oh, by the way ASK OF ME AND I WILL GIVE YOU THE NATIONS"*

The very Nations are in rebellion

A rebellion that WILL be crushed

The Great High King is looking for war time ambassadors

Representatives to Libya, Somalia, Iran, Afghanistan

Kashmir,

God is searching for fearless proclaimers who will go to the Muslims
of China,

The Buddhists of Thailand, The Hindus of India

Ambassadors to join their voice to John the Baptist and cry:

"Repent, Flee the Wrath to Come" (Matthew 3)

To join Jesus in crying **"Repent, The Kingdom is at hand"**

(Matthew 4)

To join Peter in crying **"Repent, And let everyone be baptized"** (Acts 2)

Stephen who cried **"You stiff-necked, you always resist the Holy Spirit"** (Acts 8)

And to Paul who cried (Acts 17) **"These times of ignorance God overlooked**

But now commands all men everywhere to repent"

The urgent cry goes out from all the King's ambassadors

REPENT...FLEE THE WRATH TO COME!

Kiss the Son...Make Peace with Him...Before He makes an End of you

For the fable is indeed based on fact

Our loving Father...Is also the insulted, offended, and angry King

In this biblical reality

A world where the nations are in rebellion against the King

A world rushing toward the poured out wrath of God

Here are the facts:

1) There are 7 and a half Billion People in the World Today

2) These 7.5 Billion are collected in over 200 nations
And 16,000 People Groups

3) One Nation (Political Entity) can have multiple ethnicities
Pakistan for example is one nation with 400 people groups

4) These People Groups align in major affinity blocks
- Affinities that reach across borders

Globally

32% of the world Christian

22% Muslim

16% Secular

14% Hindu
5% Buddhist
10% of the world is a collection of other religious
affiliations

Jews – Sikhs- Mormons – Baha'i – etc.

5) For the specific focus of the Antioch Initiative
The Muslim, Hindu, and Buddhist affinities make 42% of
the world's 3.15 Billion

6) These 3.15 Billion People are found in around 7000 Un
reached People Groups

7) An Unreached People is understood to be less than 2%
Evangelical and without the power to reach themselves
They are still in need of missionary presence

8) Of those 7000 Unreached almost half, 3,500 are unengaged
peoples

No resident missionaries

No local churches...No access to the gospel

No news of either the King's wrath or His love

They don't even know what trouble they are in
Let alone that there is a loving means of deliverance.

9) To add insult to injury, even though the Muslim, Buddhist,
Hindu consortium

Is 42% of the world and about half the global population

It only receives 3% of the personnel and finances.

The King is sorely under represented

To our great grief and shame.

3.15 Billion people don't even know how badly they have
insulted King Jesus

They have no idea that judgment looms

They have no idea that eternal disaster is about to strike.

**We are here today – along with friends and leaders
To make an appeal for ambassadors**

Fresh from the lands that tremble

Fresh from the fields who reject and resist the divine authority of our
Father the King

We wonder...

Is there anyone here who will fearlessly and faithfully
Represent the King among the nations?

Before you respond,

Let me expound on the job description

With the help of prophets, parables, and apostles

For I don't want to mislead you

The assignment is not for the faint of hear

And ambassadors of the King do not achieve prophetic results

Without prophetic pain

Psalm 2 is not the only misrepresented missions text in the old Testa-
ment

Another is found in Isaiah 6

Most missions messages end with the "Here am I, send me"

I propose we need to start there

And consider carefully what follows

Let's pick up the familiar story in verse 5:

Woe is me,, for I am undone

For my eyes have seen the KING

The Lord of Angel armies

Isaiah sees the King

Is undone

Is cleansed and forgiven

Volunteers

And then is given his assignment in verse 9 and
following

*Go, speak to a people who will hear but not understand
They will see but not perceive
Their heart will be dull
Their ears heavy
Their eyes shut*

*And go in this futile proclamation until...[verse 11]
Cities are laid waste
Houses without a man
The population is decimated, and
The land is filled with forsaken places*

Essentially, the "Here I am, Send me" of Isaiah leads what feels like a fools errand

Where no one listens

In fact "Here I am" leads to failing 90% of the time.

I say a 90% failure rate because verse 13 offers the hope
of a tithe as a remnant

A stump that remains when the oak is cut down
With holy seed in that stump.

*"We are men of action", said Wesley to Prince Humperdink, "Lies do not
become us."*

So here is the unvarnished truth of our call.

We see the King

We are commissioned to those who will not listen

We are called to fail 90% of the time.

Broad indeed is the road that leads to destruction,

Narrow the road that leads to life

And few are they that find it.

The missions road is one of heartache

The prophetic call is one of rejection

The rank of ambassador is for those who can handle insult

And hold their head high

You will be refused more than you will be accepted

You will appear to fail 90% of the time...

But the seed is in the stump
And 10% of 3.15 Billion
Means 300 million Muslims, Buddhists, and Hindus
around the throne, worshiping the King.

Is the King not worth the pain that praise demands!

Jeremiah too was ordained a prophet to the nations (1:5)
Whatever I command you, you shall speak (1:7)
Do not be dismayed before their faces (1:17)
I will make My words in your mouth like a fire (5:14)

His message, so counter to popular opinion was a burden he could
hardly bear (20:7-9)

O Lord, You persuaded me...
You are stronger than I...
I am a laughingstock all day long...
I shouted violence and plunder...
Because the word of the Lord was made to me
A reproach and a derision daily
Then I said, 'I will not make mention of Him
Nor speak any more in His name

But His word was in my heart like a burning fire
Shut up in my bones
I was weary of holding it back
And I could not.

What was this message of fire?

It was not love, grace, mercy, favor, and blessing
How Jeremiah longed to give those sermons
How he longed to be the good parson for once.

No, the message of the prophet was

Judgement! Violence! Wrath! Punishment! Disaster!
The message caused Jeremiah to be hated.
And who likes to be hated – either by kin or kingdoms?

We have been told that we must serve in such a way as to be liked

Jesus says: *Woe to you when all men speak well of you*
We have been told that we must unite with those that oppose the
Gospel

Jesus says: *I did not come to bring peace but a sword*
We have been told to make our voice winsome

Jesus says: *Lift up your voice and wail, sons and daughters of
Jerusalem*

*For the time of your kingly visitation has come
And you do not recognize it*

Jeremiah 23:16 and following

Do not listen to the words of the prophets...who say...you shall
have peace

Verse 18

*For who has stood in the counsel of the Lord
And has perceived and heard His word
Who has marked His word and heard it
Behold a whirlwind of the Lord has gone forth in fury...
It will fall violently on the head of the wicked*

Verse 20

*The anger of the Lord will not turn back
...in the latter days you will understand perfectly*

Verse 28

*And he who has my word
Let him speak my word faithfully*

Verse 29

*Is not My word like a fire? Says the Lord
And like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces.*

Ezekiel understood what it meant to break rocks

In Ezekiel chapter 3:1 He is told by God

*Son of man, go...speak to the house of Israel
(v.7) But the house of Israel will not listen to you
(v.8) Behold I have made your face strong against their faces
And your forehead strong against their foreheads
Like adamant stone, harder than flint, I have made your*

forehead

Do not be afraid of them, nor be dismayed by their

looks

(v.10) Son of man receive into your heart all my words

(v.11) Tell them, 'Thus says the Lord God, whether they or whether they refuse'

Then the Spirit lifted me up [Ezekiel says in verse 12]

And I heard behind me a great thunderous voice

Blessed is the glory of the Lord from this place

...and the hand of the Lord was strong upon me (verse 14)

It is this encounter with the King – similar to Isaiah
That leads to the prophetic assignment

Son of man (verse 17) I have made you a watchman

When I say to the wicked (verse 18), You shall surely die

And you give him no warning...

That same wicked man shall die...

But his blood I will require at your hand

Then verse 26-27

Ezekiel is told to be mute at times

[But when God speaks to him]...

Open your mouth, and you shall say

"Thus says the Lord God."

He who hears let him hear

He who refuses let him refuse

For they are a rebellious house

If you do not open your mouth and tell the Somali right outside our door

That they are in rebellion

That they have insulted the King

That wrath descends upon them

Then their inevitable blood will be upon your head

Are Somali's hard headed, bound by Satan, deceived in Islam?
Yes...

But God has made the foreheads of His prophetic people like
adamant stone

Harder than flint

If we do not yell warning from the ramparts

If we do not shout disturbing news from the walls

If we do not point out the descending wrath

We have not loved...We have only subtly hated

In wanting to be liked we have loved
ourselves more than the lost

We have been more
concerned with being
appreciated

Than being
ambassadors that
save lives

If we do not move among Buddhists, Muslims, and Hindus

With hard foreheads...and soft hearts

We have not represented the King

And the blood of 3 billion people is upon us.

And lest you think

That radical messaging is only for Old Testament Prophets
Consider these New Testament examples.

Luke 12:35 tells of servants waiting for the master's return

v. 40 Be ready, the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do
not expect

And what will the Son of Man – Gentle Jesus

Do to the unfaithful and unready servant?
(v46-47)

What is the fate of the servant who did not do
what he was told to do?

Who did not say what he was told to

say?

**Beaten with many stripes
Cut in two, appointed a
portion with unbelievers**

Luke 19 is just as graphic.

Jesus is asked about the appearing of the Kingdom of God.
He responds with the parable of the talents...And the
culmination?

What will the Master do when He comes?
*"Bring here those enemies of mine, who did not want me to
reign over them, and slay them before me.*

These are the words of an angry and insulted ruler.

In Mark 13:3 the disciples ask Jesus about the signs of the end.

Jesus details all the terrible things that will happen

Jesus says we must be his ambassadors before rulers and
kings

And verse 10, (like Psalm 2) is context for the wonderful
missions promise

**AND THE GOSPEL MUST FIRST BE PREACHED TO
ALL NATIONS**

Where we must speak whatever is given to us in that
hour (verse 11)

And where we will be hated by all for His name sake
(verse 13)

Is it not remarkable, that the gospel going forward to all the nations

Comes at the cost of being hated, not loved?

Do you doubt this? Does this surprise you? What then of Matthew 24
and 25?

Matthew 24 and 25 are all about Apocalyptic Eschatology

That's the fancy way of saying the end of Human centered History

When JESUS comes in power and glory to judge the wicked,
vindicate the righteous

And set up His eternal reign.

Matthew Chapter 25 ends with verse 31 and following:

"When the Son of Man comes in HIS GLORY...He will sit on his throne

ALL NATIONS will be gathered before Him..."

AND HE WILL JUDGE SHEEP AND GOATS

In Matthew 24:3 Jesus is asked

What will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age.

Jesus responds, verse 9

They will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you

And you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake

And then many will be offended

Then many false prophets will arise

And this is the striking context – being hated and refused

In the spirit of Psalm 2, Isaiah 6, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Mark 13

Of the famous missions declaration of Matthew 24:14

And this gospel of the kingdom

Shall be preached....In all the nations

And then the endWill come.

In Acts 4:17, post-Pentecost outpouring

The apostles are commanded to speak to no man [in the name of Jesus]

Peter and John respond in verse 19-20

Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God – you judge

For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard

Peter and John report to the other apostles, verse 24, whereupon

They raised their voice with one accord and said

LORD, You are God who made heaven and earth...

Then they quote Psalm 2

Why do the nations rage, And the peoples plot vain things

*The kings of the earth took their stand
And the rulers were gathered together Against the Lord and
against His Christ*

*Now Lord (verse 29) look on their threats
And grant to your servants that with all boldness
They may speak your word And when they had prayed,
the place where they assembled together was shaken
And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit
And they spoke the word of God with boldness*

Psalm 2, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Luke 12, Luke 19, Mark 13, Matthew
24-25, Acts 4

A vision of the King

And a burning compulsion to defend His honor...

And to speak for His fame.

Is it strange for you to hear a missions call linked to
The anger and honor of the King?

Is it strange to be told that what is needed today – as has always been
true –

Are prophetic ambassadors

Apostles who in fidelity to the insulted King

Proclaim fearlessly

That Rebellious nations are under
wrath

And they must run to the King
and His cross

To escape the judgment
to come?

Is this discomfort with the reality of our Scriptures and our Sovereign
not an indictment on all of us?

Has our awe of the King fallen so low...

That now what motivates us is opinions and causes of men
and not the King Himself?

Are we inspired more by the beauty of the earth or the beauty of the King?
Are we offended more at man's hatred of man or man's hatred of the King?
Are we sickened more when men violate women, or when men violate the King?
Are we energized more by temporal justice, or by the King's eternal laws?
Is our goal to be amicable or ambassadorial?
Are we driven more by being popular or by being prophetic?

And in mission itself, have we taken up the causes of the King as our fuel? Or is it the King HIMSELF, His honor, His Name, His Glory
...that gives us life, purpose and calling?

Let me Conclude

Our Loving Father, The King yet rules
He casts a searching eye over His subject
...and commands

DARE TO BE A DANIEL, DARE TO STAND ALONE
DARE TO "HERE AM I" WITH ISAIAH TO A 90% FAILURE RATE
DARE TO STAND ON THE WALL YELLING WARNING WITH JEREMIAH
TEARS STREAMING DOWN YOUR FACE
DARE TO BANG YOUR HEAD WITH EZEKIEL AGAINST THE STONE WALLS
OF HELL BOUND HEARTS
DARE TO JOIN THE HATED VOICE OF APOSTLES AND MARTYRS
OF THE LAST TWO MILLENIUM
IN A GOSPEL PROCLAMATION
THAT IS FAITHFUL TO THE HONOR OF THE KING

We are convened to align our attention on the world of unreached peoples.

It is right and fitting that we do so.

We are accustomed to how our Heavenly Father interacts with the lost in kind

Merciful, Gracious Love

This is most precious to us

...And ever shall be.

But what the rebellious nations need now is not weak and fearful theologians

What is needed is not ambassadors

Who hop on one leg

Flail with one arm

Or flap with one wing

The Muslim, Hindu, and Buddhist World

7000 People groups...3.15 Billion people

need a new Isaiah

they need another Jeremiah

they need a fresh Ezekiel

they need not Joan of arc

But a new Joan the Baptist

What is needed among the unreached today

are fearless and faithful ambassadors plenipotentiary of the

King of Kings

Men and women who will proclaim God's wrath and love with Equal

Passion

Altar Call

(Kneel before the Lord and His congregation)

Come let us worship and bow down

Let us kneel before the Lord our God, our maker

For He is our King

*And we are the people of His pasture,
And the sheep of His hand*

Would you join me today

Would you come and kneel before the King

You have known Him as Father – in mutual delight

Would you remember again today with “tremble joy” – that He is King

Would you come, would you rise out of your seats

Would you allow your body to join the posture of a bowing heart

Can we not come to the altar today and just reverently kneel before
our King?

And now...

**The King asking for prophetic ambassadors to represent Him
among the rebellious**

Muslims, Buddhists, and Hindus of earth

Who will say...“Here am I..send me.”?

WHO CARES?

BY GENERAL WILLIAM BOOTH

On one of my recent journeys, as I gazed from the coach window, I was led into a train of thought concerning the condition of the multitudes around me. They were living carelessly in the most open and shameless rebellion against God, without a thought for their eternal welfare. As I looked out of the window, I seemed to see them all... millions of people all around me given up to their drink and their pleasure, their dancing and their music, their business and their anxieties, their politics and their troubles. Ignorant — willfully ignorant in many cases — and in other instances knowing all about the truth and not caring at all. But all of them, the whole mass of them, sweeping on and up in their blasphemies and devilries to the Throne of God. While my mind was thus engaged, I had a vision. I saw a dark and stormy ocean. Over it the black clouds hung heavily; through them every now and then vivid lightening flashed and loud thunder rolled, while the winds moaned, and the waves rose and foamed, towered and broke, only to rise and foam, tower and break again. In that ocean I thought I saw myriads of poor human beings plunging and floating, shouting and shrieking, cursing and struggling and drowning; and as they cursed and screamed they rose and shrieked again, and then some sank to rise no more. And I saw out of this dark angry ocean, a mighty rock that rose up with its summit towering high above the black clouds that overhung the stormy sea. And all around the base of this great rock I saw a vast platform. Onto this platform, I saw with delight a number of the poor struggling, drowning wretches continually climbing out of the angry ocean. And I saw that a few of those who were already safe on the platform were helping the poor creatures still in the angry waters to reach the place of safety. On looking more closely I found a number of those who had been rescued, industriously working and scheming by ladders, ropes, boats and other means more effective, to deliver the poor strugglers out of the sea. Here and there were some who actually jumped into the water, regardless of the consequences in their passion to *"rescue the perishing."* And I

hardly know which gladdened me the most — the sight of the poor drowning people climbing onto the rocks reaching a place of safety, or the devotion and self-sacrifice of those whose whole being was wrapped up in the effort for their deliverance. As I looked on, I saw that the occupants of that platform were quite a mixed company. That is, they were divided into different “sets” or classes, and they occupied themselves with different pleasures and employments. But only a very few of them seemed to make it their business to get the people out of the sea. But what puzzled me most was the fact that though all of them had been rescued at one time or another from the ocean, nearly everyone seemed to have forgotten all about it. Anyway, it seemed the memory of its darkness and danger no longer troubled them at all. And what seemed equally strange and perplexing to me was that these people did not even seem to have any care — that is any agonizing care — about the poor perishing ones who were struggling and drowning right before their very eyes... many of whom were their own husbands and wives, brothers and sisters and even their own children. Now this astonishing unconcern could not have been the result of ignorance or lack of knowledge, because they lived right there in full sight of it all and even talked about it sometimes. Many even went regularly to hear lectures and sermons in which the awful state of these poor drowning creatures was described. I have always said that the occupants of this platform were engaged in different pursuits and pastimes. Some of them were absorbed day and night in trading and business in order to make gain, storing up their savings in boxes, safes and the like. Many spent their time in amusing themselves with growing flowers on the side of the rock, others in painting pieces of cloth or in playing music, or in dressing themselves up in different styles and walking about to be admired. Some occupied themselves chiefly in eating and drinking, others were taken up with arguing about the poor drowning creatures that had already been rescued. But the thing to me that seemed the most amazing was that those on the platform to whom He called, who heard His voice and felt that they ought to obey it — at least they said they did — those who confessed to love Him much were in full sympathy with Him in the task He had undertaken — who worshipped Him or who professed to do so — were so taken

up with their trades and professions, their money saving and pleasures, their families and circles, their religions and arguments about it, and their preparation for going to the mainland, that they did not listen to the cry that came to them from this Wonderful Being who had Himself gone down into the sea. Anyway, if they heard it they did not heed it. They did not care. And so the multitude went on right before them struggling and shrieking and drowning in the darkness. And then I saw something that seemed to me even more strange than anything that had gone on before in this strange vision. I saw that some of these people on the platform whom this Wonderful Being had called to, wanting them to come and help Him in His difficult task of saving these perishing creatures, were always praying and crying out to Him to come to them! Some wanted Him to come and stay with them, and spend His time and strength in making them happier. Others wanted Him to come and take away various doubts and misgivings they had concerning the truth of some letters He had written them. Some wanted Him to come and make them feel more secure on the rock — so secure that they would be quite sure that they should never slip off again into the ocean. Numbers of others wanted Him to make them feel quite certain that they would really get off the rock and onto the mainland someday: because as a matter of fact, it was well known that some had walked so carelessly as to lose their footing, and had fallen back again into the stormy waters. So these people used to meet and get up as high on the rock as they could, and looking towards the mainland (where they thought the Great Being was) they would cry out, *"Come to us! Come and help us!"* And all the while He was down (by His Spirit) among the poor struggling, drowning creatures in the angry deep, with His arms around them trying to drag them out, and looking up — oh! so longingly but all in vain — to those on the rock, crying to them with His voice all hoarse from calling, *"Come to Me! Come, and help Me!"* And then I understood it all. It was plain enough. The sea was the ocean of life — the sea of real, actual human existence. That lightening was the gleaming of piercing truth coming from Jehovah's Throne. That thunder was the distant echoing of the wrath of God. Those multitudes of people shrieking, struggling and agonizing in the stormy sea, was the thousands and thousands of

poor harlots and harlot-makers, of drunkards and drunkard makers, of thieves, liars, blasphemers and ungodly people of every kindred, tongue and nation. Oh what a black sea it was! And oh, what multitudes of rich and poor, ignorant and educated were there. They were all so unlike in their outward circumstances and conditions, yet all alike in one thing — all sinners before God — all held by and holding onto, some iniquity, fascinated by some idol, the slaves of some devilish lust, and ruled by the foul fiend from the bottomless pit! *"All alike in one thing?"* No, all alike in two things — not only the same in their wickedness but, unless rescued, the same in their sinking, sinking... down, down, down... to the same terrible doom. That great sheltering rock represented Calvary, the place where Jesus had died for them. And the people on it were those who had been rescued. The way they used their energies, gifts and time represented the occupations and amusements of those who professed to be saved from sin and hell — followers of the Lord Jesus Christ. The handful of fierce, determined ones, who were risking their own lives in saving the perishing were true soldiers of the cross of Jesus. That Mighty Being who was calling to them from the midst of the angry waters was the Son of God, *"the same yesterday, today and forever"* who is still struggling and interceding to save the dying multitudes about us from this terrible doom of damnation, and whose voice can be heard above the music, machinery, and noise of life, calling on the rescued to come and help Him save the world. My friends in Christ, you are rescued from the waters, you are on the rock, He is in the dark sea calling on you to come to Him and help Him. Will you go? Look for yourselves. The surging sea of life, crowded with perishing multitudes rolls up to the very spot on which you stand. Leaving the vision, I now come to speak of the fact — a fact that is as real as the Bible, as real as the Christ who hung upon the cross, as real as the judgment day will be, and as real as the heaven and hell that will follow it. Look! Don't be deceived by appearances — men and things are not what they seem. All who are not on the rock are in the sea! Look at them from the standpoint of the great White Throne, and what a sight you have! Jesus Christ, the Son of God is, through His Spirit, in the midst of this dying multitude, struggling to save them. And He is calling on you to

jump into the sea — to go right away to His side and help Him in the holy strife. Will you jump? That is, will you go to His feet and place yourself absolutely at His disposal? A young Christian once came to me, and told me that for some time she had been giving the Lord her profession and prayers and money, but now she wanted to give Him her life. She wanted to go right into the fight. In other words, she wanted to go to His assistance in the sea. As when a man from the shore, seeing another struggling in the water, takes off those outer garments that would hinder his efforts and leaps to the rescue, so will you who still linger on the bank, thinking and singing and praying about the poor perishing souls, lay aside your shame, your pride, your cares about other people's opinions, your love of ease and all the selfish loves that have kept you back for so long, and rush to the rescue of this multitude of dying men and women. Does the surging sea look dark and dangerous? Unquestionably it is so. There is no doubt that the leap for you, as for everyone who takes it, means difficulty and scorn and suffering. For you it may mean more than this. It may mean death. He who beckons you from the sea however, knows what it will mean — and knowing, He still calls to you and bids to you to come. You must do it! You cannot hold back. You have enjoyed yourself in Christianity long enough. You have had pleasant feelings, pleasant songs, pleasant meetings, pleasant prospects. There has been much of human happiness, much clapping of hands and shouting of praises — very much of heaven on earth. Now then, go to God and tell Him you are prepared as much as necessary to turn your back upon it all, and that you are willing to spend the rest of your days struggling in the midst of these perishing multitudes, whatever it may cost you. You must do it. With the light that is now broken in upon your mind and the call that is now sounding in your ears, and the beckoning hands that are now before your eyes, you have no alternative. To go down among the perishing crowds is your duty. Your happiness from now on will consist in sharing their misery, your ease in sharing their pain, your crown in helping them to bear their cross, and your heaven in going into the very jaws of hell to rescue them.

WHY YOU SHOULD GO TO THE MISSION FIELD

BY KEITH GREEN

PART I: The Call Of The Lord A Biblical Look At The Missions Call I recently returned from visiting some overseas missionary bases, and I must say that since returning, my life has not been quite the same. The vision and goals of our ministry have suddenly changed. The Lord definitely did something to my heart on that trip. Besides showing me how small my vision had been, He began to give me a great burden to see the ranks of His army in the field swell!

One of the greatest things God opened my eyes to was how tremendously evangelized my own country was, while the rest of the world was barely being reached. As I traveled from country to country, I thought of the millions of people I was passing through who needed to have the Gospel of Jesus shown to them in a real way - and yet there was hardly anyone there to reach them.

As I visited each mission base, I spoke with different missionaries, and picked up various pieces of literature that told the story of what was being done in different parts of the world to expand the Kingdom of God. As I read the statistics, I was shocked - I really had never known how little the need was being met!

When I returned home, I got hold of some of the leaders of different missionary organizations and set up some meetings to find out more about what was being done to fill the need. After these meetings, I decided to do a study of God's Word (to see what He had to say about reaching the lost in other countries), and I also read through some more of the missions literature I had been given.

This article is the result of that study, and also a burning desire in my heart to see 100,000 young people released to the mission field over the next five years!

So...why should you go to the mission field? **1)** Because Jesus has told you to go. *"Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to all creation."* (Mark 16:15)

With these words, Jesus made it clear exactly what His disciples were to do - they were to spread His teachings in His name, preaching salvation unto the ends of the earth. (Rom. 10:18) If you consider yourself a *"believer"*, then you must consider yourself a *"disciple"* of Jesus - no less called and chosen than the very first 12 apostles. There are no such things as *"1st class"* Christians and *"2nd class"* Christians - every believer is called to spread the Good News about Jesus to those who have not yet heard. Jesus' command is definite and clear - it is His great mandate, His *"Great Commission"* to the soldiers in His holy army. We must go, because our great General has commanded us to go.

2) You should go because the need is so great. *"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore, beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."* (Matthew 9:37-38) Ever since Jesus first spoke these compassionate words, the supply of workers in the fields of soul-harvest has always been horribly low. But today the need is the greatest it has ever been in the history of mankind. Remember, Hell is not just for the weekend! More people are alive today, and more souls are at stake, than the total number of people who have ever lived on the face of the earth in all of human history! This simply means that we can populate either Heaven or Hell by our obedience or our laziness. There are over 2,700,000,000 people who have never heard the Gospel at all, and there are only 5,000 to 7,000 missionaries worldwide, working directly with these totally unreached groups of people.¹ That means there is approximately one missionary for every 450,000 of these people! There are over 16,000 different and distinct cultures and people-groups - even whole countries, where not one single church is in existence.² There are 7,010 distinct living languages, and 5,199 of them still have no Bible or Scripture translations available in their own language!³ Do these figures move you at all? Does it matter to you that an estimated 80,000 unsaved people die every day (approximately 3,333 every hour...55 people every single minute!) to face the judgment seat of Christ? **3)** You should go be-

cause so few Christians are obeying the call, making the need even greater! *"Faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the Word of Christ... how shall they hear without a preacher?"* (Romans 10:17,14) Right now worldwide there are only 85,000 workers on the mission field - working mainly among those who have heard the gospel before. ⁵ This figure includes missionaries from all over the world of every nationality. When you compare this number with the amount of Americans selling Avon or Amway products, it is staggering. Just in America alone there are 435,000 Avon sales-people⁶ (with 1,280,000 worldwide), and over 750,000 Amway products distributors,⁷ (with over a million worldwide)! Do you realize that these two companies combined have 14 times more representatives in the United States alone than the Church of Jesus Christ has in the whole world outside of America?

And what about the Christian representatives we do have in the world? Only 9% of the world's population speaks English, and yet 94% of all ordained preachers in the whole world minister to the 9% who speak English. And 96% of all Christian finances are spent in the United States on 6% of the world's population. Only 4% of all Christian money is spent on missionary efforts to reach the other 94% of the world's population! There are over 1,000,000 full-time Christian workers in the United States; while one half of the world's population (3 major groups - Moslem, Hindu, and Chinese), 2,200,000,000 people, have only 2,417 full-time Christian workers.⁸ As you can see by these figures, something is definitely wrong. While we in America have approximately one worker for every 230 people - those who have never heard the Gospel even once have one worker for every 450,000 souls! Please forgive us, Jesus, for being too timid to obey You and reach out into all the world like You have commanded us to! **4)** You should go because God gives special anointing and grace to those who leave their own land, people, and culture to do God's will and spread the Gospel. *"And the Lord said to Abram, 'Go forth from your country and from your relatives, and from your father's house...and I will bless you and make your name great; and so you shall also be a blessing; and I will bless those that bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'"* (Genesis 12:1-3) Abram

(later to be renamed Abraham by God) is only one of the many people in the Bible who God used mightily only after he left his own people, his own land, and his own culture. Look at the travels and ministries of people like Jacob and Moses - both of whom had to go into other lands to learn from God and be used by Him.

No matter where you look in the Bible, God always gave a great anointing and blessing to those who served Him in a foreign land. Look at Joseph and Daniel. They were the only two men in the Bible who God raised up as successful, secular officials in foreign and heathen cultures - and they remained faithful witnesses and servants of God to the very end, and often at the risk of their very lives!

What about Jonah? He was a good example of someone who didn't want to go to the mission field and preach to heathens! Stubborn, rebellious, and selfish - and yet God "*made him an offer he couldn't refuse.*" (I pray that God would freely move like that in all our lives, "*helping*" us to make the right decisions about going.)

And then there's the apostle Paul - who had such a burden for his own people and country, Israel. Oh , how he would have loved a ministry among the Jews! But what did God say? "*Go! For I will send you far away to the Gentiles.*" (Acts 22:21) That's what God commanded, and "*go*" he did. Never was there a missionary like Paul. Take a look at II Corinthians 11 if you'd like to see a list of his qualifications: beatings, imprisonment's, stonings, mobs, shipwrecks, the list goes on and on - and so did Paul, obeying his Master who bought him.

From Noah to Abraham, from Moses to Jonah, from Daniel to Paul, God has always given special blessing to those who, leaving the comforts of home and relatives, cross the boundaries of their little worlds to bring God's message and blessing to the nations.

Remember Jesus' words about this subject, "*A prophet is not without honor except in his home town,*" (Matthew 13:57) **5** You should go because America (and some other western nations) is literally drenched with the Gospel, while most other countries and cultures of the world

do not have any continual, relevant witness at all. *"And thus I aspired to preach the Gospel, not where Christ was already named, that I might not build upon another man's foundation; but as it is written, 'They that had no news of Him shall see, and they who have not heard shall understand.'" (Romans 15:20-21)* It is so true that we here in America are continually bombarded with Christian witness and ministry. Almost at every turn there's a billboard or a bumper sticker proclaiming something about Jesus. Turn the dial on your radio at any time of the day or night, and you've got non-stop preaching. There are several Christian satellite and cable networks. And there are over 250 different Christian magazines and publications. In most cities there's a church on almost every corner. I am not trying to say that this is all bad - a lot of it is good, winning many souls to Jesus - but as I've traveled overseas, it is hard for me to believe that it is God's will for there to be so much Gospel preaching and literature available here, while there is comparatively little or even none in many places outside of this country.

The world is going to Hell on every continent! Is it God's fault that so few are hearing the gospel - or is it the Church's? Aren't we who love Jesus accountable to reach our generation with the gospel? A friend of mine has written, *"this generation of Christians is responsible for this generation of sinners."* If this is true, then each of us must take a good, long look at our lives and priorities - finding out where God would have us begin to get ready to go! **6)** You should go because, as Oswald J. Smith said, *"No one has the right to hear the Gospel twice, while there remains someone who has not heard it once."* *"But if our Gospel be hidden, it is hidden to them that are lost: in whom the god of this world has blinded the minds of them which believe not, that they might not see the light of the Gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."* (II Corinthians 4:3-4) Has it occurred to you that Jesus wants every creature to hear the Gospel? If you had 20 children to feed and plenty of food to feed them all with, do you think it would be right to give 3 of the children 10 meals, 7 children only 1 meal, and the remaining nothing - causing them to die of starvation? That's exactly what we're doing with the Gospel in the world today!

Because we believers are so deaf to God's call to go into all nations, we keep most of God's resources to ourselves! We keep feeding and reaching the same people over and over again. I am not saying there should be no Gospel preached in America, I am saying that there needs to be a spreading out of the soldiers of God, to fight the enemy where his greatest strongholds are - *"where Christ is not already named!"* **7)** You should go because the time is short. More and more countries are closing their doors to missionaries and the Gospel, and we must go now. *"We must work the works of Him who sent me, as long as it is day; night is coming, when no man can work."* (John 9:4) I constantly hear of country after country where missionaries used to be welcome, but now the doors are closed to them entering. Though it is true that many Christians can still go to be subtle witnesses as doctors, teachers, engineers, etc., the Gospel can no longer be openly preached in many lands.

Although there are still vast areas of the world wide open for foreign evangelism, such as western Europe, parts of Asia, and most of the Pacific (Japan, South Korea, Singapore, etc.) there are many other countries where it is illegal to hold a street meeting or pass out Gospel literature. We need to sense the urgency of this hour, and obey God by reaching out to those lost in the darkness *"while it is still day."*

8) You should go because the Holy Spirit is speaking to Christian leadership all over the world that it is God's desire for there to be a great final missionary thrust with the Gospel before the end of the age. It is His desire that every people should have the Gospel preached to them, and that the Gospel should be published in every nation and in every language. And unless YOU get involved personally, there is no hope of that ever happening in our generation! *"...And you shall be my witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."* (Acts 1:8) *"And this gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a witness to all the nations, and then the end shall come."* (Matthew 24:14) *"The Lord is...patient toward you, not wishing for you to perish but for all to come to repentance."* (II Peter 3:9) Is there any doubt in your mind that God wants everyone to be saved? If you believe this, and you really love Jesus, then WHY

are you so timid about getting involved in this great thrust to bring the Gospel to all the nations? Do you think that while you're reading this, God isn't grieved that His Church is being so lazy and disobedient about fulfilling his commission? He knows that you agree with the Scriptures, and He's listening to every excuse you're turning over in your mind like, *"Yes, I know that more people need to go...but He just couldn't mean ME! I'm...just not the 'missionary-type'..."* In Part 2 of *"Why YOU Should Go To The Mission Field,"* we will see what "type" of Christian you really are...

Part II: The Most Commonly Heard Excuses The following objections are just a few of the many that Christian groups and missionary societies constantly hear from prospective recruits for the mission field. Although many may merely be excuses, we have heard them spoken so many times as serious statements from well-meaning Christians in response to the question, *"Why don't you get trained to go into full time Christian service in a foreign country?"* **1)** *"But I'm not called."* You don't know how many people I've met who have said to me *"Keith, I agree that more people need to go to the mission field, but I've never heard God tell me to go."*

Well, the truth is that God has already told you to go in His Word. In fact, He commands you to go...*"Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature."* (Mark 16:15) That's right... YOU ARE CALLED!

In fact, if you don't go, you need a specific calling from God to stay home. Has God definitely told you not to "go" somewhere outside your country to preach the Gospel? If He hasn't, then you'd better start praying WHERE to go, instead of IF you should go - for again, you're already called! **2)** *"But God needs people to stay here to be a witness to those lost in America. There's enough need right here!"* It is true that God has called some people to stay right where they are to be witnesses for Jesus in their daily lives and professions. But again, God is merciful and just. Since America has only about 5% of the world's population, then only about 5% of the believers would really be called to stay in this country as a witness (that's only about 1 out of 20) while the rest of us should go into the parts of the world where there are almost 0%

believers. (In Albania, for instance, there are only “a handful” of known believers in the whole country of 2.7 million people - less than 1/2 of 1/1000th percent!!) **3)** *“But God needs people to stay home and financially support those ministries and missionaries who are already all over the world. In fact, my church is already supporting some missionaries with my tithes and offerings.”* You should never have to worry about there not being enough Christians staying home to support missionaries! There will always be enough people around who will not answer the call to go - who will stay home and gladly just send a check (instead of themselves) to reach to lost. After all, nothing is easier to give than money (except nothing!).

This does not mean that everyone who stays home is selfish and disobedient. As I've already said, there are some who know they are definitely called to stay, and they are doing exactly what God would have them do here, while they greatly support other ministries. I'm just saying that there will always be plenty of people around to financially support the pitifully few who answer the call and obey God. **4)** *“But my family and friends would frown upon me going.”* *“He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me...”* (Matthew 10:37) God is very clear about whose approval we should seek. It's shocking to me how even Christian parents react when their children say that they'd like to go for training as a full-time Christian worker. *“A missionary! Are you crazy?!”* It's as if they've announced they'd like to be a thief or a prostitute.

It is true that God wants us to honor our parents and love our friends, but He has also made it clear in His Word that this honor and love must not exceed our love and obedience to Him and His calling on our lives. We should always try our best to explain God's call to our families, lovingly and patiently, but the bottom line must be that we will obey Christ no matter what the cost. We should always try to get our family's understanding and blessing when God makes our ministry clear to us, but we must also always be ready to leave *“houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or farms”* for His sake *“and for the Gospel's sake.”* (Mark 10:29) **5)** *“But I need to stay here and*

lead my relatives to the Lord first. If I go somewhere else, how can they get saved?" There was once a man who wanted to follow and obey Jesus, but he said to Him, "Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father." Jesus' answer to him was, "Follow me; and allow the dead to bury their own dead." (Matthew 8:21-22)

This may sound cruel of Jesus not to allow the man to have a funeral for his dead father - but most likely, the man's father had not died yet. The phrase "wait until I bury my father" was sometimes used to say "wait until my father has died." What he was really saying was, "I'd like to follow You now, but You see, my parents wouldn't understand. Please wait until after they've died, and then I'll be more than glad to follow You!"

Jesus' answer was appropriate... "allow the dead to bury their own dead." In other words, "allow the unbelievers to take care of themselves, and follow Me!" Jesus doesn't want us to throw our usefulness away because our relatives are not yet saved. The greatest witness they can see is you fully obeying the call of God on your life. Jesus didn't want this man's father to be buried - He wanted the young man to follow Him, and then maybe even the man's father would come to know Him too. Obedience is truly greater than sacrifice (1 Samuel 15:22) - when we obey God, He takes care of all our other obligations. (Matt. 6:33)

6) "But I need to get an education first." I don't believe that God wants every Christian to go to college just because, "Well, everyone goes to college now, unless they're too dumb!" You shouldn't go to college unless God has definitely called you to go. Just like everything else in our Christian lives, He's the Master, we're the servants. He's the General, we're the soldiers. If you're really a Christian, you're at the beck and command of the King. If you're not at His command, then you're really not a Christian.

Yes, God does call some people to go to college. Sometimes it's to get training for a ministry calling He's made clear to them. For instance, if you know what country you're called to, perhaps God would lead you to learn the language and culture somewhat before you go (although the very best place to learn is within the country itself - it's a

definite “*crash course*”!)

Of course, another reason God might lead you to college is to minister to people right there on the campus - as well as to mature emotionally and spiritually. But be careful! Make sure you're there in direct obedience to God, or else you're wasting your time - and His. **7)** *“But I need to get married first, and then maybe my mate will want to serve God full-time on the field, rather than me going alone.”* Nothing could be a more foolish reason for putting off obeying God now. God does not want you to look for a husband or wife, He wants you to be married to Him, and trust Him for any mate He may bring into your life. I know of many single Christians serving Jesus overseas who are trusting Him for everything. And some of the most beautiful stories of God's grace I've ever heard are told by couples who went to the mission field single, and then God led them to marry another whose heart was also fully devoted to serving Him there. Remember, *“Your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.”* (Matt. 6:8) Trust Him!

8) *“But I have a family to support. God doesn't want me to neglect them, does He?”* The Word of God says, *“Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you.”* (Matt.6:33) If you can trust God for your needs, you can certainly trust Him for your family's needs. You would never be foolishly *“neglecting”* your family's needs by obeying God's call to go. God will show you the way. I know of so many families - some with many children - who are on the field right now, trusting God for their needs while they minister in His name. I have never heard of ONE occurrence where God didn't meet the needs of one of His servants and their families. As King David said... *“I have been young, and now I am old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, or his descendants begging bread. All day long he is gracious and lends; and his descendants are a blessing.”* (Psalm 37:25-26)

9) *“But the mission field is dangerous. God would not have me put myself or my family in danger of disease or native hostilities, would he?”* *“Why is the Lord bringing us into this land, to fall by the sword? Our wives and our little ones will become plunder; would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?”* (Numbers 14:3) It is all a matter of our priorities - do we look

at the temporary or the eternal in making our choices? It's true that you will probably be in more physical danger on the mission field than you would be in the suburbs of America, but that is part of the cost that we need to count when it comes to serving God. The question should not be, *"Will I be kept safe wherever I go?"* but rather, *"What is on the Lord's heart for me to do?"*

If Jesus decided to go the way of least pain, He would have never gone to the cross. There is no place of greater blessing for you than in the center of God's will. You must stop to count the cost, but remember one thing - the privilege of serving God always outweighs the price! *"If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake and the Gospel's shall save it."* (Mark 8:34-35) **10** *"Although in the past most countries freely allowed foreign missionaries to come, most people in other lands now resent them. Why should I go where I'm not welcomed?"* Did you welcome the Gospel before you were saved? The Word says that we should save some, *"snatching them out of the fire,"* (Jude 23) Some people just don't want to be saved! That's exactly why we need to go to them. The more unwelcome, the better. If they resent Americans, then you have an opportunity to show them that Christian Americans can be humble with the love of Jesus in their hearts. For the Word says, *"He who is wise wins souls."* (Proverbs 11:30) **11** *"But I could not afford to get the training, and raise the necessary finances to place myself (or my family) on the field."* Don't worry, God'll help raise the money you need. Wherever God guides, He supplies - even if it means helping you get a job! Problems and worries about finances are usually only a surface excuse when it comes to obeying God to go. In your heart you know He'll make a way for you! **12** *"But I don't have any special talents or abilities that would qualify me to be a missionary."* Then you're just the person God is looking for! Sure God can use nurses, teachers, accountants, and mechanics on the field, but it always blesses God to greatly use the one who seemingly has nothing to offer. It is this person who has the opportunity of purely representing Jesus in the endless *"common"* tasks that are part of the daily life of a missionary. *"When I am weak,*

then I am strong." (II Corinthians 12:10; also see I Corinthians 1:26-31)

13) *"But how could I commit myself for years and years to go to the field without having a chance to see what it would be like?"* It is true that in past generations a foreign missionary had to make almost a lifetime commitment before he could go to the field. Then in most cases, he had to go to college for at least four years, and then seminary for two to four years before he could even begin his missions training and service. But today there are missionary organizations that have short term programs for people who want to receive training and find out what serving God in other countries is like. These programs last from a few weeks to a few years in length. So now there is an opportunity to *"take a look"* before making a much longer commitment. **14)** *"But God wants me to stay in this country and prosper. The reason the rest of the world is so poor and unconverted is because their heathen religions and idolatry have caused them to live in ignorance and poverty, without God's blessing."* This has to be THE most selfish reasoning I've ever heard for not going - and I've heard it! Of course they live in ignorance and poverty, that's just the reason you should go - to bring the enlightenment that comes from knowing the truth about Jesus, and to bring them the true riches of knowing Christ. If you don't believe that the reason God has blessed you with abundance in this country is so you can be a blessing to others - then you have never understood the Gospel of Jesus Christ! *"Freely you received, freely give."* (Matthew 10:8) **15)** *"I'm just not ready to make that kind of a sacrifice and commitment."* Ah! That's just the point. That's probably the underlying reason for almost every one of the above objections. In fact, you might just as well have said, *"I'm not willing."* You need to decide whether or not you are a disciple of Jesus - that is the question. If you are His disciple, then *"you are not your own...you have been bought with a price."* (I Corinthians 6:19-20) And if you truly love Him, then you will not feel bondage, you will feel incredible excitement at being chosen to represent Him in the world! To be a servant of Jesus Christ, an ambassador, a missionary, is the highest calling a man or woman can attain to!

Now what are you waiting for?? What Is A Missionary? A Christian missionary is a person whose passion is to make the Lord Jesus known to

the whole world. They are completely under the command of King Jesus, and they will go anywhere, under any circumstances, for no pay, with poor living conditions and food, even though no one ever notices. They know that their Sovereign is watching every minute, and that is the only reward and joy they seek.

We see in the Bible that all Christians should continually be seeking every opportunity to lead the unsaved to Christ no matter where they are, for this is the privilege of every believer. But I believe that too many people use the word “missionary” too lightly - it’s a term that has become misused in our everyday “Christian vocabulary.” Too many justify their not obeying the call of the Lord to go to the front lines of the battlefield, by saying they are “missionaries where they are.” I believe that “being a missionary” in the truest sense of the word is taking the Gospel where it has never been before, or at least to a different culture or a different language group. A true missionary is someone who will risk everything for the sake of the lost of this world.

Of course, as in every battle, not everyone can be on the front lines, for there are many things that are needed to aid those who are. But you must be clearly called by the Lord to stay away from those front lines before you can be assured that you are in the will of God. It is obviously true that many Christians are called to reach out to the lost in the ghettos, red light districts, and homosexual communities in their own areas. And there are always those faithful wives and mothers who diligently let Christ be known to their doctors, plumbers, and P.T.A. groups. These things bless God’s heart, there’s no doubt about it. Someone who loves Jesus should always be ministering His love no matter where they are. But every Christian should always be willing, ready, and “on-call” to leave everything at the command of their General, and go to a different “battlefield” to war against the king of darkness, bringing healing and light to “free the captives.”

The goal of a true missionary is to please and glorify their God by delivering the whole world into His hands and under His rule. It doesn’t matter where they are stationed, for they are always at home in their Father’s arms, no matter what the landscape or the language may

be. They are only *"aliens and strangers"* (I Peter 2:11), and they are not concerned with trivial things like location or comfort. They are God's soldiers, perhaps hidden to our eyes, but always evident to His. Please, seek Him to see if you might be privileged to take the Gospel to those who have never heard it. **What Shall I Do? Be Available** - Abandon yourself to God and to His call on your life. Tell Him you will go anywhere and do anything that He shows you as His will for you.

Be Informed - Don't hide behind ignorance. Gather all the information you can so you can pray and seek the Lord intelligently. Subscribe to missions publications and make it a priority to know what's going on in the world. If you know where the needs are, it will be easier for you to meet some of them.

Be Inspired - Checkout our booklist and get hold of some inspiring biographies of Christian missionaries. You'll find out that most *"missionary greats"* are just common people who decided to let their love for God and their love for the lost overrule their own desires in life - allowing God to use them in bold and wonderful ways.

Expect An Open Door - Expect God to give you an opportunity to fully serve Him through this new information you are exposing yourself to. Then when He opens the door - walk through it! **Missions Booklist** The following is a suggested list of excellent books that will help you to learn more about missions - the need, the burden, the lifestyle, and the ministry. Check with your local bookstore - they can order them for you if they don't have them in stock.

Anointed for Burial -The story of a young American couple from Dallas that the Lord sent to Phnom Penh, Cambodia, while the city was falling to the communist forces of Pol Pot. They held crusades while the city was being bombed and shelled and experienced a remarkable revival among the Christians of the fledgling Church in Cambodia. They miraculously escaped on the very last plane out of the country just before the terrible persecution that was to follow. - by Todd and DeAnn Burke; Logos.

Bruchko - There remarkable story of Bruce Olson. As a 19-year-old American boy, he followed the call of the Lord against incredible odds into the jungles of Venezuela. Near death after being shot with an arrow, he recovered and, all alone, without the help of any missionary society, he evangelized the savage Motilone Indians. - by Bruce Olson; Creation House.

Peace Child - The contemporary story of a man who went into a tribe of stone-age cannibals whose source of tribal pride was seeing "*who could be the most treacherous.*" Don Richardson and his family lived an incredible adventure among these people and brought them to know and love the true Peace Child. - by Don Richardson; Regal.

Operation World - A Handbook For World Intercession - As well as describing the economic and religious status of each nation, this book tells you what is currently being done to bring these people to Christ. It is an effective prayer tool since it is full of statistics and specific prayer requests for each nation. - by P. J. Johnstone; Send The Light Publications.

The General Next To God - The moving and exciting story of William and Catherine Booth and the founding of the Salvation Army in the slums of England. - by Richard Collier; Fontana.

Through Gates Of Splendor - The story of Jim Elliot from Portland, Oregon, who was one of the five martyrs killed by the Auca Indians (1956) in the jungles of Ecuador. This story will grip your heart and change the way you personally live. - by Elisabeth Elliot; Spire.

Eternity In Their Hearts - This book gives a remarkable insight into the vast opportunities of world evangelism. It shows many factual instances of groups of people who, through their ancient folklore, are totally prepared to receive the Gospel. They are literally waiting for and expecting God to show up. All they need is someone to lead them to the truth. - by Don Richardson; Regal.

Hudson Taylor's Spiritual Secret - Hudson Taylor was the pioneer of modern faith missions. His life is an incredible adventure as we follow

the story of the founding of the China Inland Mission in the 1800s. - by Dr. & Mrs. Howard Taylor; Moody

Key To The Missionary Problem - Although written as a response to the Missions conference of 1901, this summons to action for missions is as burning and contemporary as when first issued. This is a book of great intensity, which sounds forth a rousing and solemn call to new activity, fresh consecration, and more abundant prayer for the cause of missions. - by Andrew Murray; Christian Literature Crusade.

God's Smuggler - The exciting, true account of one man's dedication to Christ, and burden to bring God's Word to those behind the "*closed doors*" of the Iron Curtain. - by Brother Andrew; Spire.

IN THE WORLD AND ON HIS MIND

BY MATTHEW BRISEÑO

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life"
John 3:16

When I thought of mission trips, three things came to my mind: I'd be traveling where I did not know the language, where the weather was hot, and the water would most likely make me sick. Images of people getting on planes, boats, and trains traveling to far places controlled my imagination. I thought that only certain Christian people could do these Indiana Jones-type tasks for God. Surely ordinary young college students could never do such things.

My second summer in SHSU XA, I signed up to go on my first mission trip: Mexico City. I remember thinking, *"How could God could really use someone like me to minister in a place I've never been?"* I recall going to a small village and standing under a tent on a street median. Nearby stood a decrepit concrete building that looked abandoned; the village used it as a school!

The youth leader asked our team if anyone could sing a worship song. Myself and another girl on our team went up front and led the village school in praise and worship. Now, I'm not the best singer—and nothing about the venue was extravagant, but I knew that God was glorified in that little worship service on that street median. I heard the sweet praises of those young Mexican students singing to Jesus in that tiny community.

No matter where we are or who we are with, these places and people matter to God! He can use anyone to bring glory to His name. If the people we talk to, or the places we go are in this world, then they are definitely on Christ's mind.

How can we convey His love to them? A willing heart.

God can use anyone and take them to the places that seem so far (or near) and even far more insignificant, and pair them with those who have not yet received a heart of flesh in exchange for their heart of stone. Even in an obscure place in Mexico, with a guy like me.

CONVICTION:

No little people, no little places.

PRACTICAL CHALLENGE:

What are ways you could volunteer/serve a ministry, friends, family in areas you may not be the best at? How can you begin to look for people on your campus, at work, in your family that other people may have overlooked?