

READY - SET - GO

How to Prepare for the Mission Field

"The harvest is truly plentiful, but the laborers are few" Mt. 9:37



Bruce R. Edwards

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**HOW TO PREPARE
FOR THE MISSION FIELD
Developing Your Resources**

Bruce R. Edwards

Ready – Set - Go
How to prepare for the mission field

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PREFACE

THE GREAT COMMISSION

Our Shared Mandate

This book exists to help prepare those called to the mission field—mentally, spiritually, physically, and financially. But before we talk about how to pack your bags, learn a new language, or raise financial support, we have to start with the *why*.

The Great Commission is not simply the mission of the church—it *is* the mission of every believer. And because you are part of the church, it's your mission too. Whether God calls you to another nation to plant churches among unreached people groups or to share Christ with a neighbor across the street, the command from Jesus is your marching order.

As missionary Jim Elliot once said:

“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.”

The Great Commission is not just a ministry strategy—it's a divine summons that shapes the very purpose of our lives.

Jesus Gave Us the Great Commission

In Matthew 28:19–20, Jesus gave His final instructions before returning to the Father:

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Think about the weight of that moment. The resurrected Christ, having conquered sin and death, stood before His disciples and handed them a mission that would define the rest of their lives—and the rest of history.

Early in His ministry, Jesus had already sent the disciples out two by two, giving them authority over demons and the power to heal the sick (Luke 9:1–6). He told them to proclaim the Kingdom of God and to move on quickly if a town rejected them, even shaking the dust from their feet. But now, His instruction expanded dramatically.

The surprising part was not the command to “go”—that was familiar. The shocking part was “*to all nations*”. The Gospel was no longer limited to the Jews. It was for the Gentiles, the Samaritans, and *everyone*—in every place and every culture.

Theologian John Stott wrote:

“The Christian mission is rooted in the nature of God Himself. God is a missionary God.”

The Great Commission Across the Gospels

We often quote Matthew’s version, but each Gospel records the Great Commission, each with a unique emphasis.

- **Matthew 28:19–20** – Make disciples, baptize, and teach obedience.

- **Mark 16:15–18** – Preach to all creation, with signs confirming the message.
- **Luke 24:46–49** – Proclaim repentance and forgiveness to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.
- **John 20:21–23** – “As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”
- **Acts 1:8** – Be witnesses empowered by the Holy Spirit in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

Every version contains action verbs: **go, teach, baptize, preach, forgive, send, witness**. The Great Commission is not a discussion point—it’s an instruction to be obeyed.

Oswald J. Smith captured the urgency when he said:

“The supreme task of the church is the evangelization of the world. The church that does not evangelize will fossilize.”

Three Core Truths of the Great Commission

From all the passages, we can summarize the Great Commission this way:

1. **The Mandate** – Don’t just pray about it—*go* to where lost people are, even to the ends of the earth.
2. **The Mission** – Continue Jesus’ mission of proclaiming the Good News everywhere.
3. **The Message** – Christ’s death for the forgiveness of sins and His resurrection for the defeat of death—the Gospel itself.

Bottom line: **Go – Preach - The Gospel.**

The Great Commission in the Early Church

This was one of the last and most important assignments Jesus gave before His ascension. And the early church took it seriously.

On the Day of Pentecost, 3,000 people responded to Peter's preaching (Acts 2:41). Empowered by the Holy Spirit, the apostles preached boldly, performed miracles, and planted churches.

- Peter reached Jews and Gentiles alike, breaking cultural barriers.
- Paul took the Gospel across modern-day Turkey, Greece, and eventually to Rome.
- Churches were planted in strategic cities like Corinth, Ephesus, and Philippi.

They faced opposition, imprisonment, and persecution, but they pressed on. The Gospel spread from a small band of believers in Jerusalem to communities throughout the Roman Empire.

Hudson Taylor, pioneer to China, understood the cost and the reward:

“The Great Commission is not an option to be considered; it is a command to be obeyed.”

The Great Commission Today

The Great Commission didn't expire with the apostles. The need is as urgent today as it was 2,000 years ago.

Romans 10:14 asks:

“How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard?”

Despite technology, billions have never heard the Gospel. Others have heard a distorted version and need the truth. The world is more connected than ever, but also more divided, skeptical, and spiritually hungry.

Billy Graham warned:

“The evangelistic harvest is always urgent... Every generation is strategic... We do have our generation.”

Two key words stand out: **go** and **make**. This doesn't always mean moving overseas. Many early believers lived out the Great Commission right where they were. Today, you can too—at work, in your neighborhood, on social media.

The ripple effect of discipling one person who then disciples another is how the Gospel has advanced for 20 centuries.

Not Everyone Goes—But Everyone Sends

It's true—not every believer is called to cross oceans. Paul didn't expect all Christians in Rome to join him in Spain, but he did expect them to **send him** (Romans 15:24).

That's why the Great Commission is a **shared calling**. Some go. Others send. All participate. You don't need a pulpit to obey the Great Commission—you need:

- A heart for people
- A willingness to speak up
- A commitment to follow through

William Carey, often called the father of modern missions, told his friend Andrew Fuller:

“I will go down into the pit, if you will hold the rope.”

Missionaries need rope-holders—people who pray, give, encourage, and provide resources. Without them, the mission cannot succeed.

Your Part in the Mission

If God has called you to full-time missions, this book will help you prepare to go with strength, faith, and wisdom. But if your role is to send others, support them with the same passion they go with.

Don't wait for someone else to obey Jesus' command. Start where you are. Cross the street before you cross the sea. Share Christ with a coworker before you buy a plane ticket.

Jesus said:

“The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.” (Matthew 9:37)

Will you be one of the few?

Final Challenge

The Great Commission is not for pastors and missionaries alone—it's for every follower of Christ. The King has spoken. The orders are clear. The harvest is ready. So, as a believer no matter your vocation or calling, you can be a part of the great commission.

However, if God has called you into full-time missions, let this book help prepare you to go with wisdom and fruitfulness. If not you can help by “sending” with generosity, passion, prayer and encouragement.

The mission is not complete.

The need is urgent.

The time is now.

INTRODUCTION

Why Preparation Matters

The young missionary sat across from me, eyes filled with both excitement and fear. He had just arrived back from his first six months overseas. His voice trembled as he told me about the people he'd met, the villages he'd visited, and the gospel seeds he had planted. But then his tone shifted.

"I don't think I can go back," he confessed. "I'm completely out of money. I didn't realize how hard it would be. And honestly... I'm exhausted—physically, emotionally, and spiritually."

Sadly, his story isn't unique. I've met too many missionaries who return from the field far too soon—not because they lack calling, passion, or love for God, but because they lacked preparation. In fact, research and decades of experience show the number one reason missionaries leave the field early is insufficient financial support. But money is only part of the picture. Without the right *spiritual depth*, *relational connections*, *practical skills*, and *support systems*, even the most zealous heart can burn out.

That's why preparation for the mission field is not optional—it's essential. A missionary who is well-prepared is far more likely to stay, thrive, and bear lasting fruit.

What This Book Will Do for You

Ready – Set – Go – How to Prepare for the Mission Field is a practical, biblical, and deeply personal guide designed to help you be **fruitful and faithful** in the calling God has placed on your life. Whether you are months away from boarding a plane

or just beginning to sense God stirring your heart toward missions, this book will walk you through the key foundations you must establish before you go.

We'll cover:

- **A Biblical Look at Missions** – Why God's heart for the nations is the heartbeat of the Bible.
- **Being Rooted in Your Local Church** – Why being sent well starts with serving well where you are.
- **Doing Missions Now** – How to engage in mission work right where you live as preparation for cross-cultural ministry.
- **Training for the Task** – The vital skills and ministry experience you need before leaving home.
- **Developing Your Team** – How to gather prayer partners, encouragers, mentors, and friends who will walk with you.
- **Raising Support** – Building the financial foundation necessary for long-term ministry.
- **Strengthening Your Faith** – Practices and disciplines to keep your soul anchored when challenges come.

Why I Wrote This Book

For over **35 years as a pastor**, I have helped lead a church with a global vision—a church committed to sending missionaries into every country of the world. We have trained missionaries in our own missions school, partnered with sending agencies, and supported men and women serving in over **100 nations**. I've seen firsthand the sacrifice missionaries make, the cultural adjustments they endure, and the spiritual battles they face. And I've also seen this: **proper preparation dramatically increases the likelihood of success** on the field.

This book was born out of my desire to help you avoid the pitfalls that take out so many. My prayer is that it will give you the wisdom, resources, and encouragement you need to not only survive—but *thrive*—in your missionary calling.

Because here's the truth: the world is waiting, the harvest is ready, and the call of God is clear. But a called missionary who is unprepared is like a soldier sent into battle without armor. My heart is to make sure that never happens to you.

If you are ready to take the steps necessary to prepare—spiritually, practically, and financially—then turn the page. Let's get you ready for the mission field, so you can be fruitful for the Kingdom and experience the fullness of the Christian life Jesus came and died to give.

CHAPTER ONE

IT STARTS WITH VISION

"Where there is no vision, the people perish..." (Proverbs 29:18)

Vision transcends mere sight; it emanates from the depths of the heart, a divine calling that propels us forward into God's purpose. As Christians, our journey begins with seeking God's will and embracing His vision for our lives. This foundational truth underscores the essence of our existence—a purposeful alignment with God's divine plan.

"God, what is your will for my life?" This fundamental question resonates deeply within those called to the mission field. Vision originates from God Himself; it is He who imparts the clarity and direction needed to navigate our earthly journey in alignment with His heavenly purpose.

The heartbeat of God reverberates throughout Scripture, resonating with His desire for all nations to partake in His redemptive plan (Genesis 12:1–3; Psalm 67; Matthew 28:18–20; Revelation 5:9). The gospel transcends geographical boundaries; it is a universal call to embrace the transformative power of Christ worldwide.

Yet, God's vision extends beyond geographical borders; it encompasses the entirety of humanity. Scripture unfolds the narrative of God's redemptive love for all peoples, inviting His followers to actively participate in His unfolding story.

Central to God's vision is the harvest—a profound call to proclaim His Word to the ends of the earth. This divine mandate

necessitates a deep communion with God through His Word, wherein His desires for the world become increasingly evident from Genesis to Revelation. His story becomes our story—a narrative of redemption and restoration.

In our pursuit of God’s vision, grounding ourselves in His Word is paramount. A mission devoid of biblical foundation risks ineffectiveness; it is only through aligning our vision with God’s Word that our efforts bear eternal fruit.

You Have a Part in God’s Story

We are privileged to be active participants in God’s narrative of global redemption. Each of us has a unique role to play—a part in God’s grand design to reach the nations. What steps are we willing to take to impact lives for eternity? This guide equips us with the tools and inspiration needed to embrace our role fully.

No matter where we stand in our vision journey, establishing a robust foundation is essential. Rooted in four core values—Scripture, understanding the need, living out the gospel, and passing on the torch—we lay the groundwork for a vision that transcends borders and transforms lives.

This chapter sets the stage for a deep exploration into God’s vision for missions, emphasizing the foundational role of vision in aligning ourselves with His eternal purpose. Through reflection, prayer, and a commitment to His Word, we embark on a journey that promises to shape not only our lives but also the destiny of nations.

CHAPTER TWO

THE BIBLE IS A MISSIONS STORY & YOU ARE PART OF THE STORY

"The Bible is not the basis of missions; missions is the basis of the Bible."

—Ralph D. Winter, missiologist and founder of the U.S. Center for World Mission

What if we told you the Bible isn't just a book *about* religion, morality, or theology—it's a **missions story from start to finish**? Far too often, Christians read the Bible like a collection of disconnected devotionals, or they isolate verses for comfort and guidance. But when we zoom out, we discover something powerful: from Genesis to Revelation, the heartbeat of God is to gather **worshippers from every nation** to Himself. The Bible is not a book with missions tucked into a few verses—it is the ultimate **missions manual**.

Seeing the Big Picture

Have you ever misunderstood someone because you only heard part of their story? In today's media-driven world, it's all too easy to take things out of context—quotes, videos, even people's lives can be misrepresented. The same thing happens with Scripture. Some of the most tragic events in history have occurred when verses were pulled out of context and twisted for evil purposes.

But just as it's dangerous to misquote the Bible, it's equally dangerous to live **out of context** with the Bible's grand narrative. You were not created to drift through life like a loose soundbite—

your life was meant to be embedded in **God's global story**. That story? It's a missions story.

"Mission is not the fringe of the Bible—it is its beating heart."
—John Piper

What Is the Bible Really About?

When we think of "missions" in the Bible, most of us can only quote the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18–20). It's a vital passage, but it's not the beginning—or the end—of the story. It's a **summary** of what God has been saying from the first page.

Mission is not a footnote in Scripture; it is the theme that ties the whole book together. From the Garden to the Nations to the New Jerusalem, God has always been about **bringing all peoples back into relationship with Himself**.

Let's take a walk through the Bible as one unified missions narrative:

Part One: A World to Be Filled with Worshipers

Genesis—The Mission Begins

We begin in the garden. In Genesis 1:28, God blesses Adam and Eve and says:

“Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth...”

God's command was more than population growth. He wanted the earth to be filled with His **image bearers**, worshipers who reflect His glory across every culture and every land. This was the original **mission mandate**.

But sin enters in Genesis 3, and by Genesis 6, the world is corrupted. After the flood, God reissues the same command to Noah in Genesis 9:1:

“Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.”

But humanity again resists God’s plan. In Genesis 11, people gather to build the tower of Babel—not to fill the earth, but to **settle in one place** and “make a name” for themselves.

“Come, let us build ourselves a city...so that we may not be scattered over the face of the whole earth.” (Genesis 11:4)

This was direct **rebellion** against God’s command. But instead of judgment by destruction, God uses **redemptive creativity**—He confuses their languages and scatters them across the earth, forming **nations** for the first time (Genesis 11:7–8).

Part Two: A Missionary Nation Is Born

With the world now filled with diverse nations, the question arises: **How will God reach them all?** His answer? He calls a man named Abram.

“I will make you into a great nation...and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” (Genesis 12:1–3)

Abraham’s family is chosen not as **the end**, but as the **means** of reaching the nations. As missionary pastor David Platt put it:

“God blesses His people for the sake of His praise among all peoples.”

The promise continues generation after generation:

- **Isaac** – “Through your offspring, all nations on earth will be blessed.” (Genesis 26:4)
- **Jacob** – “All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring.” (Genesis 28:14)

God’s plan hasn’t changed. He is raising up a people to carry His name and His glory **to every nation**.

And we, the Church, are now grafted into that same spiritual family (Galatians 3:29). That means **we inherit the mission**.

Part Three: The Old Testament—A Light to the Nations

Throughout the Old Testament, we see glimpses of Israel’s missional purpose:

- **The Ten Commandments** were meant to display God’s wisdom “to the nations” (Deuteronomy 4:6).
- **The Exodus** was not just a rescue mission but a **global testimony**. Rahab says,

“We have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea...” (Joshua 2:10)

- **Solomon’s wisdom** drew leaders “from all nations” (1 Kings 4:34).
- **Daniel’s bold witness** led both Nebuchadnezzar and Darius to declare God’s power across their empires (Daniel 3:29, 6:26).

Even in exile, God’s people were called to shine as lights among the nations. Missions wasn’t put on hold in hard times—it was often **highlighted** in them.

"The Old Testament is not about Israel alone; it is about God's love for all nations through Israel."

—Christopher Wright

Part Four: The New Testament—The Mission Accelerates

When Jesus enters the world, He does not change the storyline—He **fulfills** it.

- He seeks out the **Samaritan woman** (John 4).
- He ministers to **Gentiles** (Mark 5, 7).
- He clears the temple, rebuking the Jews for turning a place meant for "**all nations**" into a den of thieves (Mark 11:17).

Jesus is passionate about **God's house being open to the world**.

He teaches that **the end won't come** until all nations have heard the gospel:

"This gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world... and then the end will come." (Matthew 24:14)

Jesus lived by a principle we must all adopt:

"I must preach the good news... to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent." (Luke 4:43)

Before He ascended, Jesus issued a universal mandate:

"Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation."
(Mark 16:15)

And the book of Acts follows this commission:

- **Acts 1:8** sets the outline: Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth.
- Paul echoes the same passion in Romans 15:20:

“It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known...”

From Acts to the Epistles, the New Testament screams **mission** from every page.

You Have A Part In God’s Story

We have an incredible privilege to be alive in the middle of God's story of reaching the world. What part will we play? What steps am I willing to take to make a lifelong impact? This four-part guide was designed to take you as far as you want to go in your personal vision and give you tools to rally others. Your global impact can start today.

No matter where you are starting from during this vision development process you will want to build a good foundation for your global vision around four core values: the Bible, the need, living it out and passing it on.

The Conclusion: All Nations at the Throne

The story ends with the **fulfillment of the mission**:

“After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from **every nation, tribe, people, and language**, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb.” (Revelation 7:9)

This isn't poetic imagery—it's **prophetic reality**. What God promised Abraham in Genesis 12 is finally fulfilled in Revelation 7. Every missionary, every church, every prayer, every gift, and every act of obedience contributes to this glorious end.

Final Thoughts: Your Life in Context

You were never meant to live a disconnected Christian life. The Bible is not about “being good” or “getting blessed”—it's about a **global God** on a **global mission**, calling His people to **join Him**.

"The question is not whether God has a mission for His Church, but whether God has a Church for His mission."

—Christopher Wright

You are part of a **missionary family**, descended from Abraham by faith. If you belong to Christ, you are called to the nations. The Bible is your story—and **it's a missions story**.

What role will you play in the story God is still writing?

Quote:

"God had only one Son, and He made Him a missionary." —
David Livingstone

5 Verses That Reveal the Bible's Missions Heart

- Genesis 12:1–3 – The Abrahamic covenant
- Psalm 67:1–2 – “That Your way may be known on earth”
- Isaiah 49:6 – “A light for the Gentiles”
- Matthew 28:18–20 – The Great Commission
- Revelation 7:9 – Every nation, tribe, and language before the throne

Reflection Questions:

1. Have you ever thought of the Bible as one unified missions story?
2. How does seeing the Bible this way change your understanding of God's purpose?
3. What's one step you can take this week to align your life with God's global mission?

CHAPTER 3

THE HARVEST IS PLENTIFUL, BUT THE LABORERS ARE FEW

“The mark of a great church is not its seating capacity, but its sending capacity.”

— Mike Stachura, missionary leader

Martin Luther King Jr. once said, *“Nothing in the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity.”* Nowhere is this more tragically true than in how many Christians approach world missions. Sincere believers with good intentions often live unaware of where the gospel is most desperately needed. This ignorance may be unintentional, but it’s also inexcusable when we have both the command of Christ and access to the facts.

Jesus didn’t leave His followers in the dark about His global vision. His command in Matthew 28 was clear: *“Go and make disciples of all nations...”*—that word “nations” meaning *ethne*, or ethnic groups. The Great Commission wasn’t about expanding Western religion—it was about reclaiming the world for its Creator, one people group at a time. Today, to faithfully obey His call, we must ask: Where are the people who have yet to be reached? Where is the gospel still unheard?

We cannot afford to be busy without being strategic. The harvest is indeed plentiful—but if our labor is not directed toward the unreached, we risk spending our lives planting seeds in fields that have already borne fruit.

The Harvest Is Plentiful

Picture the world like a map pinned with billions of souls. Where are the cries of those who have never once heard the name of Jesus? Surprisingly—or perhaps alarmingly—most of them are concentrated in a specific region of the globe: the 10/40 Window.

Stretching from ten to forty degrees north latitude, this window spans North Africa, the Middle East, and Asia. If you were to trace it on a globe, you'd cross nations like Morocco, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, India, and China—all the way to Japan and Indonesia. It's home to the majority of the world's unreached peoples, where the name of Jesus is unknown or misunderstood.

Today, over **3.6 billion** people remain unreached by the gospel. **88% of them live in or near the 10/40 Window.** These are not just lost souls—they are cut off from the gospel, from Scripture, from Christian community, and in many cases, from any hope of hearing about Jesus in their lifetime.

“The difference between the lost and the unreached is access. Your neighbor may be lost, but they are not unreached. They can hear the gospel—if you tell them. The unreached have no one to tell them.” — David Platt

To be clear, unreached doesn't mean “more lost.” A neighbor who doesn't know Christ is just as lost as someone in Tibet who's never seen a Bible. But there is a haunting difference: your neighbor could find the gospel if they searched. The unreached

cannot. They have no churches, no Scriptures in their language, and often no missionaries nearby.

This isn't just a spiritual desert—it's a desert by design. **724 million Muslims, 787 million Hindus, and 240 million Buddhists** live in the 10/40 Window. These religions are deeply rooted and politically reinforced. In some places, converting to Christianity is not only illegal but punishable by death.

Still, Christ's words ring true: *"The harvest is plentiful."* There are hearts being prepared by the Spirit. People are having dreams of Jesus. Scriptures are being translated. Hidden churches are forming in basements and back alleys. The harvest is there—but the laborers?

They are painfully few.

The Laborers Are Few

"It's not that God hasn't called enough people to reach the world. He's called. They just haven't responded."

— K.P. Yohannan, missionary and founder of Gospel for Asia

Let's consider the staggering imbalance in global missions today. According to the **World Christian Encyclopedia**:

- Only **3%** of the world's missionaries are working among unreached people groups.
- Of all the money designated for "missions" in the United States, only **5.4%** is used for foreign missions.
- Of that amount, only **1%** is used to reach the unreached—roughly **one penny for every \$100** given to missions.

This is not just a resource issue—it's a vision issue. We have the manpower. We have the money. What we lack is resolve.

“We talk of the Second Coming; half the world has never heard of the first.”

— Oswald J. Smith

Let that sink in. There are still more than **7,000 distinct people groups** with no indigenous Christian presence. Yet only a tiny fraction of missionaries and mission dollars are focused on these groups.

Statistically speaking:

- 74% of Protestant missionaries work among nominal Christians.
- Just 6% work among Muslims.
- Only 3% are focused on Buddhists.
- 2% are among Hindus.
- A minuscule 1% are reaching Jewish people.

These numbers should break our hearts.

“Can we really say we believe Jesus is the only way, and then fail to make Him known to over a third of the world’s population?”

— John Piper

The unreached are waiting. Jesus told His disciples in Luke 10:2, *“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field.”* This isn’t a suggestion. It’s a command to *pray*—and be willing to *go*.

Rethinking the Church's Mission

Imagine this: American evangelicals could fully fund church plants in every unreached people group with just **0.2% of their income**. If every young adult Christian in the U.S. asked, “God, should I go?”—and even a fraction said yes—we could see the Great Commission fulfilled in our lifetime.

“You don’t need a call. You’re already called. You need a kick.”

— George Verwer, founder of Operation Mobilization

There is no shortage of harvest. There is a shortage of obedience. Missions is not a task for the elite few. It is the inheritance—and responsibility—of every believer.

Whether you're a student, a business owner, a retiree, or a stay-at-home parent, the question is not *“Am I called?”* but *“Am I willing?”*

Conclusion: The Time Is Now

We are living in a hinge moment in history. Global migration, digital communication, and mission technology have opened doors previous generations couldn't even imagine. God is moving, and He's inviting His people to move with Him.

Jesus has told us plainly: The harvest is vast. The laborers are few. Pray. Go. Give. Send.

“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose.” — Jim Elliot, missionary and martyr to the unreached Huaorani people of Ecuador

The fields are white with harvest. Who will go?

CHAPTER 4

EVERY CHRISTIAN IS A WORLD CHRISTIAN

"The Great Commission is not an option to be considered; it is a command to be obeyed."

— *Hudson Taylor, missionary to China*

Rethinking Missions

Too many Christians mistakenly assume that the only way to be involved in missions is to pack their bags, get a passport, and live overseas. While that is one important expression of obedience to God's global call, it is far from the only one.

Being a "World Christian" means that regardless of your job title, your location, or your passport, your heart beats for what God's heart beats for: the redemption of all peoples. It means living intentionally and strategically so that your everyday life contributes to God's global plan.

This calling is not reserved for an elite few. If every Christian carries the Spirit of Christ—whose mission was to seek and save the lost—then every Christian must participate in that mission. John Stott put it simply:

"We must be global Christians with a global vision because our God is a global God."

So, how does one become a World Christian? Through five essential habits—Going, Praying, Sending, Welcoming, and Mobilizing. These are not menu options; they are overlapping pathways through which every believer can and should participate.

Habit 1: Going

"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."

— *Jim Elliot, missionary martyr in Ecuador*

The most obvious and iconic expression of world missions is going. Whether it's a week-long mission trip, a summer internship, or a lifetime commitment to an unreached people group, going physically to proclaim the Gospel remains vital.

A **goer** is someone who crosses cultures for the sake of Christ. It is not about the duration but about the direction—toward those who have never heard. Samuel Mills, a missionary pioneer in 1806, said it bluntly:

"He who thinks himself above [missions], ought not to call himself a follower of Christ."

Yet, the journey of going is rarely without fear. Moses' encounter with God in Exodus 3 is telling. Nine times, God speaks of His concern for the Israelites. But Moses fixates on his inadequacy:

"Who am I that I should go?" (Exodus 3:11)

God answers not with Moses' resume but with His own presence:

"I will be with you." (Exodus 3:12)

God isn't looking for the most qualified; He's looking for the most available. Missionary Robert Morrison, before heading to China, was asked if he truly thought he could make an impact. His response was legendary:

“No, but I expect God can.”

Goers are often those who step out despite weakness. As Paul reminds us:

“God chose the foolish... the weak... the lowly...” (1 Corinthians 1:27-29)

In light of that, we are all overqualified!

Habit 2: Praying

"Prayer does not fit us for the greater work. Prayer **is** the greater work."

— *Oswald Chambers*

If you could ask Jesus to teach you anything, what would it be?
The disciples had one request:

“Lord, teach us to pray.” (Luke 11:1)

Prayer is not just preparation for mission; it is mission. When Jesus taught His disciples to pray, He said:

“Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” (Matthew 6:10)

What’s happening in heaven? Multicultural worship focused on Jesus. When we pray for the nations, we align with heaven’s agenda.

James O. Fraser, a missionary to the Lisu people in China, once said:

“I used to think that prayer should have the first place and teaching the second. I now feel it would be truer to give prayer the first, second and third places and teaching the fourth.”

Jesus also emphasized prayer in Matthew 9:37-38, urging His disciples to **ask** the Lord of the harvest to send workers. Not strategize. Not analyze. **Ask.**

What would it take for you to become a person of prayer for the nations? What would it look like for your small group, campus ministry, or church to set alarms daily at 9:38 as a reminder to pray Matthew 9:38?

Habit 3: Sending

"You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving."

— *Amy Carmichael, missionary to India*

Not everyone will go, but **no one is exempt** from sending.

Paul reminds us:

"How can they preach unless they are sent?" (Romans 10:15)

Sending is more than writing a check once a year. It's about strategic, sacrificial support—prayer, financial giving, emotional encouragement, and practical logistics. Think of the missionary as a climber and the sender as the rope holder. Both are essential. As David Platt has said:

"We will either send or disobey."

In 1 Samuel 30:24, the principle was clear:

"The share of the man who stayed with the supplies is to be the same as that of him who went down to the battle."

Sending well means becoming stewards, not owners, of our finances. Bill Stearns notes in *Run With the Vision*:

“The lifestyle of a globally significant sender isn’t mostly about money. It’s about character.”

This includes roles like:

- **Logistics coordinators:** Organize visas, housing, and supplies.
- **Prayer coordinators:** Mobilize prayer networks.
- **Communication managers:** Keep churches connected with missionaries.
- **Re-entry coaches:** Help missionaries transition back home.

Even if you’re in college or feel financially strapped, start the habit of giving. God isn’t looking for amounts—He’s looking for hearts that surrender.

“I hold my wallet with an open hand.”

— A World Christian’s motto.

Habit 4: Welcoming

"The world has come to us—how will we respond?"

— *Lon Allison, missionary and mobilizer*

We live in one of the most strategic times in history. Over one million international students and scholars from more than 200 countries live in the United States. Many come from closed or unreached nations. You don’t need a plane ticket to do cross-cultural missions—you just need a front porch and an open heart.

God commands us to love the foreigner among us (Leviticus 19:34, Deuteronomy 10:18-19). Why? Because **we were once foreigners**, alienated from God, and He welcomed us.

Yet, 80% of international students are never invited into an American home. This is a heartbreaking missed opportunity.

Imagine being thousands of miles from home, surrounded by a culture you don't fully understand, and never once receiving a personal invitation to a meal.

One Saudi student said:

“Would you mind buying me a study Bible for Christmas... so I can read and understand?”

These students are curious. They are open. And they are **strategic**. Many will return to lead companies, governments, and universities in their home countries.

Welcoming is one of the simplest habits to start. Host a dinner. Invite someone to coffee. Offer to help with English. Your home becomes a mission field.

“Hospitality is not to change people, but to offer them space where change can take place.”

— *Henri Nouwen*

Habit 5: Mobilizing

“The missionary call is not a special call—it's a normal call. The special call is the one to stay!”

— *George Verwer, founder of Operation Mobilization*

A **mobilizer** is someone who helps others catch the vision for God's global mission. It's the recruiter role in the army of God. You don't just go—you invite others to come with you. You don't just give—you inspire others to give.

Every World Christian was once mobilized. Someone shared the vision with them. Now, it's their turn to pass it on.

Claude Hickman says it this way:

“Every Christian a World Christian. Every World Christian a mobilizer.”

Mobilizers share stories, videos, books, and stats. They network and connect people to agencies, trips, resources, and mentors. They offer three critical gifts:

- **Motivation:** Sharing why missions matters.
- **Information:** Equipping others with tools and knowledge.
- **Attention:** Following up, encouraging, and walking alongside new laborers.

Like Habakkuk 2:2:

“Write down the vision and make it plain... so that the one who reads it may run.”

Mobilizing isn't about being the loudest voice in the room—it's about being the spark that lights a fire.

Final Thoughts: A Balanced Wheel

The goal is not to pick your favorite habit and ignore the rest. Each habit works like a spoke on a wheel. If one is broken, the

wheel wobbles. But when they are all functioning—going, praying, sending, welcoming, and mobilizing—you have a strong, smooth movement toward the nations.

Ask yourself:

- What habits can I major in right now?
- Which ones can I begin to grow in?
- How can I build all five into the rhythm of my life?

“The mark of a great church is not its seating capacity, but its sending capacity.”

— *Mike Stachura*

So, are you a World Christian? You don't need a plane ticket to be one—just a heart willing to say, “Here am I, send me... in any way You choose.”

CHAPTER 5

PRACTICAL STEPS OF GROWTH

INTEGRATING A GLOBAL LIFESTYLE

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you...” — Jesus, Acts 1:8

Vision without action is empty. This chapter equips you to weave a global mission mindset into everyday life through four key areas: **Praying, Giving, Preparing to Go**, and **Engaging with the World Now**.

1. Grow in Praying for the World

Your words have cosmic impact. Prayer isn’t just powerful—it’s strategic. When Jesus looked at the crowds in Matthew 9:36–38, His response was simple: *“Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers.”*

How to begin:

- Adopt global rhythms: Pray daily for specific nations or people groups (use Joshua Project or Operation World).
- Memorize and contemplate Matthew 28:18–20—not just the words, but the authority behind them.
- Join communal rhythms: Encourage your church or small group to pray with “10:38 alarms,” to echo Jesus’ call in Matthew 9:38.

“Prayer does not fit us for the greater work. Prayer is the greater work.”

— Oswald Chambers

2. Grow in Giving to Missions

Your wallet is one of the most strategic valves of your heart. When we invest in the gospel globally, we reflect the priority of King Jesus.

Why this matters:

- Only about **.064%** of Christian income goes toward the unreached. (Project 42)
- Globally, just **3.3% of missionaries** serve among the unreached (MissionGuide.global)

Your response:

- Start a small giving plan—perhaps 1% of income toward ministries in the 10/40 Window.
- Partner regularly with a missionary or movement: your long-term consistency multiplies beyond what you see.

“The lifestyle of a globally significant sender isn’t about money—it’s about character.”

— Bill Stearns

3. Grow in Preparing to Go

Going doesn’t require a lighthouse moment—it requires obedience to what’s in front of you.

Consider:

- **Immersion trips:** A summer, semester, or short-term experience overseas can clarify calling.

- **Ask hard but simple questions:** Am I going to the unreached? Am I going to multiply disciple-makers? (MissionGuide.global)
- **Research strategically:** Use Joshua Project, Gordon-Conwell's global data, and the "State of Global Evangelization."
- **Get inspired:** View films like *EE-Taow* or read missionary stories such as *Here I Am, Send My Sister*.

"Obedience clarifies calling."

— Adapted from Robert Morrison

Here are some other shocking stats that break down the grave reality of what the great commission looks like today:

- There are 3 missionaries sent for every one million Muslims.
- There are 5 missionaries sent for every one million Buddhists.
- There are 5 missionaries to Hindus for every one million Hindus.
- There are 186 missionaries sent to Christian countries for every one million Christians.
- There is one missionary sent for every 2000 people in Mexico.
- There is one missionary sent for every 186 people in Argentina.
- There is one missionary sent for every 3 million people in Vietnam.
- There is one missionary sent for every 3 million people in Iran.

4. Grow in Doing Missions Now - *Right Where You Are*

You don't need a plane ticket to practice missions. The world is all around you. There are people in your path every day that need Jesus. The world is dying and full of hurting people, and as followers of Jesus we have the prescription of salvation for a hurting world. Also, we have all of the authority of Jesus to administer the cure! Even better news, Jesus doesn't send us alone, but He goes with us as our companion when we take His message of hope and restoration to those who need it most.

If you can't walk across the street to share Jesus what makes you think you can cross the ocean and share Jesus? Start where you are and grow in your compassion for the lost.

Start sharing the gospel wherever you are – school, grocery store, the park, etc. Practice growing in your ability to share and pray for others.

Today, many feel misplaced, overlooked, or adrift, searching for purpose and belonging. God's grace lights a fire in us for what matters most—pursuing the lost with the same urgency that Christ displayed. Through the power of His love, we are invited to move with compassion, to take one step closer to the hurting, and to mirror the relentless pursuit of our Savior.

As you prepare for the mission field grow in doing missions right where you are. As you do you will discover not only why the lost matter to God, but how His compassion can propel you to action in a world desperate for hope.

Start small: Maybe on your school, workplace, or neighborhood—build relationships with people from unreached contexts.

“Hospitality is not to change people, but to open a space where change can happen.” — Henri Nouwen

At the core of the gospel is a God who moves—toward the lost, the hurting, the forgotten. His compassion is not distant; it’s immediate, active, and available to anyone who will receive and reflect it. Today, the invitation stands: move with God’s heart. Let His compassion propel you, let His pursuit become your passion, and let every step you take lead someone closer to home.

You matter to God—and so do the lost. Heaven still celebrates every soul found, every life restored. The question is not whether God is pursuing the lost, but whether you will join Him in that holy pursuit.

When you begin to think about going, don’t forget to ask yourself, “Why am I going to this particular area?” You can find Coca Cola in every country on the planet, but unfortunately you can’t find the Church in every country as well. We need to think strategically as we decide where we will go.

Final Thoughts: Act Small, Think Big

Growth in global living isn’t about one heroic moment—it’s about daily choices that align your heartbeat with God’s. Choose one of these steps and begin.

“No one should live or die without hearing the good news.”
— Lausanne Movement

Reflection Questions:

- Which step are you most ready to commit to this month?
- What’s one practical action—prayer, gift, research, relationship—you can take today?

CHAPTER SIX

GET PLUGGED INTO YOUR CHURCH

CHAPTER SIX

Get Plugged Into Your Church: God's Launchpad for Global Mission

“The church is God's Plan A for the world—and there is no Plan B.” — John Stott

If God had saved you just to go to heaven, your baptism would have been your last breath. But God saves us *for* something—to *belong to Him and to His people*, the church. The gospel is not merely a message of individual rescue, but of reconciliation: between God and man, and between man and community.

Mission begins not when you board a plane, but when you walk through the doors of your local church.

The Church: More Than a Stepping Stone

“You can’t love Jesus and not love what He loves. And He loves His Bride—the Church.”

— Francis Chan

Jesus didn’t just die to save *you*—He died to create *a people*. In Ephesians 2, Paul explains how Jesus tore down every dividing wall to form a new humanity. This new people, this body, is the Church. It’s in this body that we grow, are sent, and support one another. The church is not the *obstacle* to your calling—it’s the *launchpad*.

That's why Jesus said, *"I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it"* (Matt. 16:18). The church isn't a passive Sunday service. It's an advancing army of grace, pressing against the darkness until every tribe and tongue confesses Jesus as Lord.

From the Pew to the Nations

"If you can't be a missionary in your church, you won't last on the field."

— Anonymous missionary mentor

Some dream of unreached tribes, foreign languages, and wild adventure. But if you're unwilling to serve in obscurity in your own community—stacking chairs, discipling teens, or praying with the elderly—you won't have the character for cross-cultural labor.

The habits of a healthy missionary are cultivated in the local church. Are you teachable under authority? Can you resolve conflict? Do you know how to disciple someone? Can you share your faith clearly and biblically?

Here's why getting plugged in is essential:

- **You cannot make disciples of all nations if you're not first a disciple** (Matthew 28:18–20).
- **You cannot plant healthy churches overseas if you've never belonged to a healthy church at home.**
- **You will need the prayer, accountability, and partnership of a church that knows you well.**

“Missionaries are not lone rangers—they are products of local churches that loved them, taught them, and sent them.”

— David Platt

Characteristics of a Healthy Church Member

Paul says the church is the *body of Christ*, and we are its *members* (1 Corinthians 12). Being a church member is not like joining Costco. It’s being an organ in a living body. That means every member has a purpose, a function, and a commitment.

A healthy church member:

- Treasures the Word and sits under sound teaching.
- Prays for the body and seeks its spiritual health.
- Serves sacrificially, not spectates passively.
- Pursues relationships that stir growth and accountability.
- Cares about the global mission, starting locally.

“Every church member should, in a sense, share the instincts of a good pastor—concern for God’s Word, God’s people, and the lost world.”

— Thabiti Anyabwile

Before you preach on a hill in Nepal, can you share the gospel with your co-worker? Before you disciple young believers in Cambodia, are you discipling anyone in your church?

How to Get Plugged In

1. Find a Faithful Church

Look for a gospel-centered, mission-minded church that teaches the Word clearly and loves the nations. If you’re not

sure where to start, ask trusted believers or use tools like 9Marks.org or The Gospel Coalition church directory.

2. Commit Fully

Join—not just attend. Becoming a member is a public declaration that you belong to this family and will carry the responsibilities that come with it.

3. Serve Actively

Ask: *What needs to be done?* rather than *What do I want to do?* Fold bulletins. Teach kids. Host a small group. Missions begins with faithfulness in the mundane.

4. Grow Relationally

Pursue older believers. Learn from their walk. Ask your pastor to disciple you—or connect you with someone who will. Growth happens in proximity.

5. Be Sent Biblically

When the time comes to go, let your church affirm your calling, test your gifting, and *send you*—not just wave goodbye. Paul and Barnabas were set apart and sent by the local church in Antioch (Acts 13:1–3). That model still stands.

The Church: From Jerusalem to the Ends of the Earth

The Book of Acts shows how missions and the local church are inseparably linked. Every missionary journey in the New Testament is connected to a sending church. Every gospel movement gives birth to *new churches*.

You are not merely a student preparing to go. You are a *disciple being shaped to send*—and maybe to be sent. If you feel called

to global missions, here's the good news: your first step doesn't require a passport. It requires a pew.

"The light that shines the farthest will shine the brightest at home." — C.H. Spurgeon

Next Steps

- **Join your local church.** If you're not a member yet, begin that process.
- **Meet with a pastor or elder.** Ask them how you can grow in readiness for global mission.
- **Serve where there's need.** Don't wait for the "perfect role"—faithfulness precedes opportunity.
- **Ask your church how they support missions.** Join their efforts before you begin your own.

"The church is not peripheral to the world; the world is peripheral to the church." — Eugene Peterson, *The Message*

Plug into your church—not just because it's good preparation, but because it's God's chosen means of blessing the world. Through His Church, Jesus is building something that not even the gates of hell can stop.

CHAPTER SEVEN

SERVE IN MINISTRY NOW

Start Where You Are

“Don’t wait to serve until you’ve crossed an ocean. If you’re not willing to serve across the street, you won’t last across the sea.”

— *Larry Reesor, Founder of Global Focus*

The call to missions often stirs up powerful emotions—passion, excitement, urgency. When we hear God calling us to the nations, our hearts begin to beat for far-off places and unreached peoples. And that’s good. But in our zeal to go, many aspiring missionaries fall into a subtle trap: they neglect the ministry that is already around them.

It’s easy to assume that “real” ministry begins once your plane touches down in Nairobi, Bangkok, or São Paulo. But the truth is, if you’re not serving now, you won’t serve then. If you can’t minister faithfully in your current context, you will struggle to minister cross-culturally. As Jesus said in Luke 16:10, “Whoever is faithful in very little is also faithful in much.”

Before you go, you must first grow. Before you serve there, you must serve here.

I. Ministry Begins Now, Not Later

“The mission field isn’t just overseas. It’s wherever your feet are today.” — *Elisabeth Elliot, missionary to Ecuador*

So many young people dream of being used by God overseas but overlook the very real opportunities for ministry in their own church, school, or neighborhood. Ministry is not a future appointment—it's a present calling.

If you are a student sensing a call to missions, don't wait to start ministering. Begin by faithfully serving your local church. Join a ministry team. Teach children. Help lead a Bible study. Visit the elderly. Assist with outreach events. These experiences will shape your character and prepare your heart.

Serving in your church and community is not “lesser” ministry. It is essential preparation. Think of it as basic training for the battlefield. Every moment you spend stacking chairs, praying for others, discipling youth, or sharing your testimony is developing in you the posture of a servant. That posture will be the foundation of your future missionary work.

“Your passport does not make you a missionary—your obedience and servant's heart do.” — *Pastor J.D. Greear*

II. Serve While You Prepare

Preparing for missions is more than reading books and raising funds. It's about becoming the kind of person who can be fruitful in difficult, unfamiliar, and spiritually dry places. Missionaries who thrive on the field are those who built habits of ministry long before they ever crossed cultures.

Here are three ways to grow now:

A. Grow in Humility: Serve in Hidden Places

Start by taking on roles no one else wants—cleaning, organizing, praying behind the scenes. Learn to serve without applause. Hidden service forms humility, and humility is the soil where cross-cultural fruit grows.

“If serving is beneath you, leadership is beyond you.”
— *Dr. Tony Evans*

B. Grow in Hospitality: Open Your Home and Heart

Hospitality is one of the most effective tools on the mission field. If you’re not used to welcoming strangers into your space now, it won’t come naturally later. Start practicing hospitality with your neighbors, classmates, and coworkers. Cook meals. Host Bible studies. Invite the lonely and the lost.

C. Grow Healthy Habits: Practice Evangelism Regularly

Evangelism is not a switch you flip once you arrive in another country. It must become part of your rhythm of life. Learn how to share the gospel in your culture. Pray for divine appointments. Engage in spiritual conversations regularly. These habits will translate well no matter what culture you’re in.

III. Ministry on the Field: What It Really Looks Like

“The mission field isn’t glamorous. It’s people. It’s plodding. It’s prayer. It’s presence.” — *Amy Carmichael, missionary to India*

When you finally arrive on the mission field, your first few months (or years) may be disorienting. You’ll face language

barriers, cultural confusion, and a new normal. What will ministry look like then?

A. Be the Church—Wherever You Are

If there's a local church, join it. If not, your team becomes your church. Either way, commit to worship, fellowship, accountability, and service. Even if the style is unfamiliar or uncomfortable, the Church is your lifeline and family. Be ready to serve in ways that don't match your ideal gifting—sometimes ministry is sweeping floors, watching kids, or hauling water.

B. Sow Seeds Through Daily Life

Ministry overseas often begins with simple routines: learning the language, shopping at local markets, meeting neighbors, and showing up in public spaces. These “mundane” moments are where trust is built and relationships are born. Don't despise them—they're holy ground.

“Most gospel opportunities come dressed in ordinary clothes.”
— *Nate Saint, missionary pilot martyred in Ecuador*

C. Practice Radical Hospitality

Once you've made connections, start opening your home. Cook for your neighbors. Listen to their stories. Ask questions. Serve their needs. In many cultures, meals are sacred spaces for relationship and trust. Your kitchen table may be the most strategic mission outpost in your city.

IV. Don't Despise the Mundane

There's a misconception that mission work is always exciting—preaching to crowds, planting churches, translating Scripture. But much of missions is slow, messy, and ordinary. And that's okay.

Missions expert Steve Shadrach puts it plainly:

“The mission field is not an adventure playground for spiritual superheroes. It's a calling to die daily, love deeply, and serve humbly.”

Learning to serve in the mundane moments—whether in your church nursery or a remote village—forms the resilience and faith you will need to endure the trials of missionary life. If you can be faithful to God in the ordinary, you will be fruitful in the extraordinary.

V. Final Challenge: Start Serving Today

Don't wait to get on a plane. Start where your feet are planted. Get involved. Get your hands dirty. Learn the joy of serving God and people today.

Your calling to the nations is not just about geography—it's about the posture of your heart. And that heart is being shaped every time you choose to serve, give, and love right where you are.

“What you do here, you'll do there. So serve here with all your heart.” — *Dr. David Platt*

Reflection & Action Steps:

- Where are you currently serving in your local church or community?
- What opportunities do you have to practice evangelism, hospitality, or hidden service?
- Who can you invite into your home or life this month to practice cross-cultural relationship building?
- Ask a pastor or missionary: “What did you learn by serving before going overseas?”

In the next chapter, we’ll explore the power of **discipling others**—how multiplication through discipleship is the heartbeat of missions and the strategy of Jesus. We’ll look at how to **cultivate the mindset of a disciple-maker**—because missions isn’t just about going; it’s about multiplying.

CHAPTER EIGHT

DISCIPLE OTHERS NOW

“If you are not making disciples, you are not obeying the Great Commission.”

– David Platt

The Heart of the Great Commission

What is the goal of the Great Commission? Jesus answers clearly: **“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...”** (Matthew 28:19). At the very heart of missions is not simply going—it is **making disciples**. Missions is not about activity, geography, or travel; it is about people. And people need to be discipled.

But before we start packing our bags for another country, we must ask a more personal and urgent question: **Are you making disciples where you are now?**

You don’t become a disciple-maker by crossing an ocean. You become one by crossing your street.

“Don’t expect to make disciples in a foreign land if you’ve never made one in your own backyard.”

— John Piper

Discipleship Begins With You

Before you can disciple others, you must first be a disciple. A disciple is not just someone who agrees with Jesus; a disciple follows Jesus—every day, in every area of life. You cannot reproduce what you do not possess. Jesus didn’t call us to make

converts or attenders—He called us to **make followers** who live like Him, love like Him, and lead others to Him.

Jesus' method of discipleship was intensely personal and deeply relational. He didn't hold weekend conferences. He **walked with His disciples**, ate with them, corrected them, taught them, and modeled obedience for them.

Discipleship is not a class—it's a lifestyle.

“Discipleship is the art of imitation. You follow Jesus and invite someone else to follow you as you follow Him.”
— *Francis Chan*

The Gospel Foundation

To be a disciple of Jesus is first to be **united to Him** through the gospel. It's not about what we do, but what He has done. Jesus lived the perfect life we couldn't, died the death we deserved, and rose again to give us new life. By repenting of our sins and trusting in Him, we are saved and **set on a new path—a life of following Him and helping others do the same.**

Discipleship is not the cherry on top of the Christian life—it **is** the Christian life.

“The call to follow Jesus is a call to die to self and to pour your life into others.” — *Jim Elliot*

Four Biblical Keys to Making Disciples

1. Teach

Teaching is foundational. Jesus said, “Teach them to obey all that I have commanded you” (Matt. 28:20). That includes

gospel truths, biblical doctrine, and obedience. Teaching happens not just from pulpits, but around tables, during walks, and in phone calls. Use the Bible. Use solid Christian books. But most of all—**use your life**.

Encourage gospel conversations in everyday life. Reflect on Sunday’s sermon. Share what God is teaching you. Good teachers **listen well**, ask questions, and create space for growth.

2. Correct

Love sometimes requires correction. True discipleship isn’t always comfortable. Paul tells us to “speak the truth in love” (Ephesians 4:15), and Proverbs reminds us that “faithful are the wounds of a friend” (Proverbs 27:6). Sin blinds us, and we need others to help us see clearly.

In disciple-making relationships, be humble enough to **receive correction**, and bold enough to **offer it in love** when needed.

3. Model

Jesus didn’t just tell people how to live—He **showed them**.

Paul said, “Imitate me as I imitate Christ” (1 Cor. 11:1).

Modeling is the backbone of discipleship. Let people into your life. Let them see how you parent, work, rest, respond to stress, and worship.

Discipleship is not about perfection—it’s about transparency. Show them how to repent. Show them how to walk with God, not as a polished saint but as a real person clinging to grace.

“People may forget what you say, but they won’t forget how you lived.” — *Elisabeth Elliot*

4. Love

At the core of discipleship is love. Discipleship isn’t a project—it’s a person. When Jesus discipled the Twelve, He loved them with a deep, sacrificial love. Paul wrote to the Thessalonians, “We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well” (1 Thess. 2:8).

Love is what turns discipleship from duty into **delight**. When you disciple others, you are investing in **eternity**.

“To disciple someone is to love them toward Christ.”
— *David Platt*

Discipleship in the Local Church

While parachurch ministries and mission trips have their place, the local church is God’s primary training ground for making disciples. Every healthy church should be filled with **mutual discipling relationships**—older teaching younger, mature walking with the young in faith, peers encouraging one another in the gospel.

“The local church is not just a place for discipleship. It *is* the discipleship strategy.”
— *Mark Dever*

As you grow in discipling others, remember that your church family is both the **soil** and **support** for your labor. And if God

calls you to another nation, you go not as a lone ranger, but as someone **sent out** and shaped by the church.

Not Just for the Experts

You don't need a seminary degree to make a disciple. If you're a Christian, you already know enough to begin. Be faithful. Be available. Be teachable. Share what you know. Walk with someone who's just a step behind.

Discipleship isn't the calling of the elite—it's the calling of every believer.

"Every Christian is either a missionary or an imposter."
— *Charles Spurgeon*

So before you go to the nations, **grow someone else here**. Before you preach to crowds, **walk with one soul**. Let God use you to multiply disciples right where you are. This is how the kingdom grows—one life at a time.

How to Disciple Others: The Lifeblood of the Great Commission

"Conversion is a miracle, but so is sanctification."
— *J.C. Ryle*

After more than 30 years in pastoral ministry, one of the most awe-inspiring realities I've witnessed is not just the moment someone is born again—it's what happens **after**. A soul once dead in sin is now alive in Christ, but the beauty doesn't end there. Over weeks, months, and years, that person grows—by the Spirit's power—into increasing likeness to Jesus. **That transformation is the heartbeat of discipleship.**

As Paul wrote, *“And we all... are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another”* (2 Corinthians 3:18). That journey of sanctification is not a solo endeavor. It’s communal. And that’s where **discipling** comes in.

Discipleship isn’t an elite ministry program or an optional spiritual hobby. It is **the normal Christian life**.

What Is Discipling?

Discipling is deliberately helping someone else grow in Christ. It is personal, relational, and transformational. It’s not complicated—but it **is intentional**. It’s about aiming someone’s life at godliness through truth, love, and example.

Discipling is not just for pastors or missionaries. It’s for **every believer**.

“Every disciple is a disciple-maker. That’s how the church multiplies.”

—*Robert Coleman*

It’s also mutual. While one person may lead more clearly, both people grow. Paul told the Romans they would be “mutually encouraged by each other’s faith” (Romans 1:12). Discipling isn’t a platform; it’s a partnership.

Why Disciple?

1. Because Jesus Commands It

Jesus didn’t suggest that we make disciples. He **commissioned** us. *“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...”* (Matthew

28:19). That command is for all of us, not just those with a passport and a pulpit.

“You are either making disciples, or you are being disobedient.”
— *David Platt*

2. Because We Care About Holiness

We are new creations—but we still battle the flesh. Old habits linger, and we need the help of the body to grow into the image of Christ. Discipleship is a divine tool for spiritual formation and transformation.

“Sanctification is a community project.”
— *Kevin DeYoung*

3. Because the World Is Watching

Our love for one another—and our intentional investment in each other—**displays the gospel**. When we disciple one another, we become living testimonies of God’s grace and truth. Discipleship isn’t just preparation for missions—it *is* missions.

“The church’s mission is to make disciples, not decisions.”
— *Mark Dever*

How to Disciple Others: A Practical Guide

So what does discipling actually look like? Here are **five practical principles** for anyone who wants to start:

1. Pray with Purpose

Start with prayer. Ask God to stir your heart for others. Ask for eyes to see who you might walk alongside in this season—whether it’s someone younger in the faith or a peer hungry to

grow. God is the One who raises disciples; you are simply a vessel.

2. Be Bold and Intentional (Part 1)

Don't overanalyze. Don't wait for the perfect person or perfect time. Choose one or two people of the same gender and invite them into a regular rhythm of meeting. You don't need a complex curriculum. Open the Bible. Pray. Share life.

Start with a simple ask: *"Would you be interested in meeting regularly to read Scripture, pray, and grow together?"*

3. Be Cross-Shaped, Not Just Comfortable (Part 2)

Discipling should reflect the diversity and unity of the gospel. Don't only invest in people who look, think, or live like you. Invite people into your life who stretch your understanding of grace.

Older women, seek out younger women. Young men, learn from seasoned saints. Let your discipling relationships show the reconciling power of the gospel.

"The gospel unites what the world tries to divide."

— *Thabiti Anyabwile*

4. Know Their Story

Before you challenge someone spiritually, listen deeply. Learn about their background, burdens, and victories. Be vulnerable yourself. Speak truth, but speak it *in love* (Ephesians 4:15). You can't disciple someone you don't genuinely care about.

This is where trust is built—and where real growth happens.

5. Do Life Together

Discipling isn't limited to a weekly meeting at a coffee shop. It's sharing the rhythms of your life—shopping runs, family meals, late-night phone calls, serving the poor together, celebrating victories and weeping through trials.

If you're married, fold others into your home. If you're single, bring others along in your daily life. It's not about perfect schedules. It's about **gospel presence**.

“Jesus didn't run a program—He built relationships.”

— *Dan Spader*

What's the Goal?

The goal isn't theological head knowledge (though that's important). The goal is **Christlikeness**. The aim is to point one another continually back to the Word of God and the gospel of Jesus Christ. Whether you're mentoring, encouraging, correcting, or just being present—the goal is always that the other person would be **formed into the image of Christ**.

This is the slow, beautiful work of the Spirit through ordinary saints. And it is **world-changing**.

You Don't Need to Be a Pro—Just Present

You don't need a degree in theology. You just need to be obedient and available. Every believer has something to offer—because every believer has the Spirit of God.

“God does not call the equipped. He equips the called.”

— *Oswald Chambers*

Conclusion: Make Disciples Now, Here—and Everywhere

You don't become a missionary by buying a plane ticket. You become a missionary by **making disciples** where you are now. If God calls you to the nations, you will already know the rhythms of walking with others in truth and love. Missions is not just about going—it's about **growing others** wherever you are.

So start now. Start small. But start.

“Go therefore, and make disciples...”

— *Jesus Christ, King of the Nations*

CHAPTER NINE

MOBILIZING OTHERS TO MISSIONS

"The only person more valuable than the one doing the work is the one who multiplies the workers."

When it comes to fulfilling the Great Commission, the most strategic role you can play might not be going yourself—but getting others to go. A *World Christian's* job as a mobilizer is to help others gain a conviction for a lifetime of global action and involvement.

In the words of missionary statesman A.T. Pierson:

"Christians need conversion to missions as much as a sinner needs conversion to Christ."

Mobilizing isn't just for pastors or missionaries with a platform. It's for *every believer*—students, businesspeople, parents, teachers—anyone who's willing to take God's vision for the nations and make it contagious.

Dr. Ralph Winter, founder of the U.S. Center for World Mission, once observed:

"Here is a tragic fact: only about one out of a hundred 'missionary decisions' results in actual career mission service. Why? Because few parents, pastors, and friends really encourage anyone to follow through on that kind of decision. But what if that number could double? The effect would be explosive!"

He's right. Mobilizers are the "encouragers" who help potential missionaries move from decision to deployment.

Every Christian is a Mobilizer

You don't have to be a dynamic public speaker or lead a massive ministry to make a lasting difference. You simply have to multiply yourself in others. Think of it this way:

- If you spoke to **100 people every day** for 33 years, you'd directly reach over 1 million people.
- But if you mobilized **just one person each year**—and taught them to do the same—doubling the number every year, you'd influence **over 6 billion people** in that same timeframe.

Jesus Himself modeled this principle. He didn't just preach to crowds; He invested deeply in a small group who would carry His message to the nations.

Dr. Winter once stood before a thousand college students and said:

"If you want to make the maximum contribution to Christ's global cause, mobilize. All of you."

Why? Because waking up one hundred sleeping firemen is far more strategic than throwing your own small bucket of water on a raging blaze.

What is a Mobilizer?

In simplest terms, a mobilizer is someone who stirs, multiplies, disciples, and mentors others into missions involvement.

Missionary and author Phil Parshall put it this way:

"Someone must sound the rallying call. Those who desire to see others trained, prepared, and released to ministry are known as mobilizers. Mobilizers stir other Christians to active concern for reaching the world. Mobilizers are essential."

And history agrees. Every major missions movement has been sparked and fueled by ordinary believers who decided to *mobilize others*:

- **John R. Mott** – A student at Cornell University who never served as a long-term missionary, yet helped launch the *Student Volunteer Movement* in the late 1800s, mobilizing over **100,000 students** for global missions.
- **The Haystack Prayer Meeting** – In 1806, five students at Williams College prayed under a haystack during a storm. That small gathering sparked a movement that would send missionaries around the globe.
- **Cambridge Seven** – Seven student athletes from Cambridge University who caught Hudson Taylor’s vision and inspired thousands to serve in China.

Peers influence peers. And students who mobilized on their campuses left a massive ripple effect in the world.

Catalyst Characters: The Ripple Effect of One Life

Every great story has a *catalyst character*—someone whose influence changes the trajectory for everyone else. Remove them, and the story collapses.

What would happen if *you* were removed from God’s mission story? Would a whole campus, a church, or a generation miss out on the challenge to go?

Jesus was the ultimate catalyst. His ministry stayed within 100 miles of His hometown, yet He mobilized a handful of disciples who would carry His message to the ends of the earth.

The apostle Paul was not only a pioneer missionary—he was a relentless mobilizer. In letters to Ephesus, Galatia, and Rome,

Paul made God's heart for the nations clear, urging believers to join him in reaching the Gentiles. He used Scripture, strategy, and vision to mobilize entire churches (Romans 15:8–24).

Mobilization is About Lordship, Not Location

Mobilizing people isn't just about getting them to change their zip code—it's about helping them align their lives with God's heart. A true mobilizer helps others see missions as a lifestyle, not a trip.

That means you can mobilize right where you are:

- **In your Bible study** – Teach on God's global mission theme.
- **In your church small group** – Lead a prayer time for unreached people groups.
- **In your youth group or campus fellowship** – Share a two-minute "missions moment" each week.
- **One-on-one** – Disciple someone into a vision for the nations.

As Habakkuk 2:2 says:

"Write down the vision, make it plain, so that the herald may run with it."

A clear, compelling vision fuels movement.

Your Turn to Mobilize

The City of Hope—or your campus, workplace, or church—could be a *launching pad* for laborers in God's harvest.

Imagine the ripple effect if you awakened dozens of potential World Christians who, in turn, mobilized others. This is how movements are born.

Ezra 7:10 reminds us:

"Ezra had set his heart to study the Law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach His statutes and rules in Israel."

Mobilization starts with *living it out* yourself—then passing it on. You're never "finished" as a World Christian. As you grow, invite others to grow with you.

The following section provides some practical tools that can help people be more effective in getting others interested in being part of world missions. It will also help you in your preparation for the missions field.

MOBILIZER'S TOOLBOX

*Practical Tools, Resources, and
Ideas to Multiply World Christians*

Mobilization isn't about convincing people to sign up for a trip—it's about cultivating a **lifetime vision** for God's global mission. The right tools will help you stir hearts, spark conversations, and keep the momentum going. Think of this as your personal missions "starter kit."

1. Build a Biblical Foundation

Before you mobilize others, you need to know the message inside and out. The strongest mobilizers are those whose vision is rooted in Scripture.

Key Passages to Study and Share:

- **Genesis 12:1–3** – God's promise to bless all nations through Abraham.

- **Psalms 67** – A prayer for God’s blessing to reach all peoples.
- **Isaiah 49:6** – Israel as a light for the nations.
- **Matthew 28:18–20** – The Great Commission.
- **Acts 1:8** – Power to witness to the ends of the earth.
- **Revelation 7:9–10** – The end vision: every tribe, tongue, and nation worshipping Jesus.

 **Tip:** Create a “Missions Verse Deck” with these passages and keep them handy for Bible studies, devotionals, or casual conversations.

2. Share the State of the World

Many Christians have never heard of “unreached people groups.” Sharing clear, visual data can change that.

Helpful Resources:

- **Joshua Project** (joshuaproject.net) – Statistics and profiles of unreached groups.
- **Operation World** (operationworld.org) – Prayer guide for every country.
- **Global Frontier Missions** (globalfrontiermissions.org) – Missions training materials.

 **Tip:** Use a world map in your small group and place pins where unreached groups live. Seeing the gaps visually makes the task real.

3. Use Short, Powerful Mobilization Moments

You don’t need an hour-long lecture to stir hearts. Short, consistent “missions moments” can have lasting impact.

Ideas:

- **Weekly Missions Moment** – Share a 2–3 minute update in your small group or service.
- **Prayer Focus** – Highlight one country or people group each week.
- **Missions Quote Board** – Post a weekly missions quote in your church or on social media.

"The Great Commission is not an option to be considered; it is a command to be obeyed." – Hudson Taylor

4. Start Mobilization Conversations

Mobilization often begins with personal conversations over coffee, in the dorm, or after church.

Conversation Starters:

- “Have you ever thought about what God is doing around the world?”
- “Do you know what an unreached people group is?”
- “If God called you to serve overseas, would you go?”
- “Can I show you a map of where the gospel hasn’t been preached yet?”

 **Tip:** Keep a few stories of missionaries or unreached people groups in your back pocket to share spontaneously.

5. Organize Vision-Casting Events

Sometimes the best way to mobilize is to gather people for an intentional, inspiring event.

Event Ideas:

- **Missions Movie Night** – Show films like *The Insanity of God* or *Dispatches from the Front*.
- **Global Feast** – Share foods from different nations and pray for each one.

- **Guest Missionary Night** – Invite missionaries to share their story and answer questions.
- **Prayer Walk** – Take a walk through your city, praying for immigrants, internationals, and unreached peoples represented there.

6. Mentor Future Mobilizers

Multiplication happens when you don't just inspire people—but train them to inspire others.

Steps to Multiply Yourself:

1. Identify one or two people who show a spark for missions.
2. Meet regularly to study Scripture, pray for the nations, and discuss mobilization strategies.
3. Give them opportunities to lead a missions moment or prayer time.
4. Send them out to do what you've done—with the expectation they'll train others.

 **Tip:** Keep a “Mobilizer’s Journal” to record names, prayer needs, and next steps for each person you’re mentoring.

7. Keep the Fire Burning

Mobilization is not a one-time project—it's a lifestyle. Keep your heart hot for the nations so you can keep others inspired.

Ways to Stay Fueled:

- Subscribe to missionary newsletters and read them aloud with friends.
- Join a monthly missions prayer group.
- Take a short-term mission trip to refresh your vision.

- Read missionary biographies like *To the Golden Shore* (Adoniram Judson) or *Hudson Taylor's Spiritual Secret*.

"If a commission by an earthly king is considered an honor, how can a commission by a Heavenly King be considered a sacrifice?" – David Livingstone

Final Word:

A mobilizer's greatest joy is not in how many people they can personally reach, but in seeing others step into their God-given role in the Great Commission. The question isn't *if* you can mobilize—it's *how soon you'll start*.

Practical first steps:

1. **Gain a Biblical foundation** for missions.
2. **Learn to explain the task remaining**—what's still unfinished in the Great Commission.
3. **Live with a global mindset**, making decisions based on God's purposes, not personal comfort.

The message you've learned is not just for you—it's for those you influence. **The Church is the hope of the world, but mobilizers are the ones who awaken the Church to its mission.**

Will you take the baton? Will you be the catalyst? The next movement could start with you.

CHAPTER TEN

FIND WISE MENTORS

Learning from Those Who've Gone Before

“A wise man learns from his mistakes. A wiser man learns from the mistakes of others.”

— *Warren Wiersbe*

Have you ever visited a new country, tried a unique dish, or taken a road trip into unknown territory? What did you do first? Most of us turn to people who've already been there. We ask friends for advice, check online reviews, or talk to someone who knows the lay of the land.

Why? Because we want to avoid unnecessary pain. We want insight to help us plan wisely and avoid disaster. We want a smoother, safer, more successful journey.

The same principle is true for missions. If you're serious about serving cross-culturally, one of the wisest decisions you can make is to find **wise mentors**—people who have walked ahead of you and can help you navigate the unknowns. Ministry overseas is not just challenging—it's unfamiliar. But it's not uncharted. Others have gone before you. Let them help you.

“The best navigators aren't the ones who know the stars—they're the ones who've made the journey.”
— *Hudson Taylor, missionary to China*

I. The Mission Field Is Not the Place to Learn Everything the Hard Way

You don't want to rely on hindsight when you're halfway around the world, facing cultural shock, spiritual warfare, and leadership fatigue. Hindsight might teach you lessons—but it often teaches them too late. What you want is **foresight**—and that comes through mentors.

Proverbs 22:3 warns us, *“The prudent sees danger and hides himself, but the simple go on and suffer for it.”* A mentor helps you see the danger ahead and respond wisely. Proverbs 15:22 reinforces the point: *“Without counsel plans fail, but with many advisers they succeed.”*

When you're walking into missions—into unreached territories, into spiritual darkness, into high-stakes ministry—don't walk alone. Walk with the wise.

II. What Is a Mentor, and Why Do You Need One?

A **mentor** is more than just an advice-giver. A mentor is a **trusted guide**, a **truthful voice**, and a **seasoned encourager** who invests in your life. They can help you...

- Navigate decisions you've never faced
- Avoid mistakes they've already made
- Grow in character and competence
- Recognize blind spots in your thinking
- Hear God's voice through seasoned counsel

You don't need just one mentor—you need several. Some will speak into your theology, others into your finances, your

marriage, your leadership skills, or your cultural engagement. Think of it as building a **team of counselors** around you.

“Mentors don’t replace the voice of God; they help you recognize it.”

— *Dr. Robert Coleman, author of *The Master Plan of Evangelism*

III. Where to Find Mentors

You might be wondering: *Where do I even find these kinds of people?*

Here are a few practical places to look:

A. In Your Local Church

Your first stop should be your local church. Pastors, elders, small group leaders, and long-time members often have the wisdom you need—even if they’ve never been overseas. They’ve walked with God through suffering, leadership, marriage, and more.

“The local church is not just your launching pad—it’s your training ground.”

— *David Platt*

Ask older, faithful believers: “Would you be willing to meet with me once a month? I want to grow.” You’d be surprised how many godly men and women are just waiting for someone to ask.

B. Through Mission Agencies

Most reputable mission agencies have decades of cross-cultural experience—and they’re full of seasoned mentors.

Reach out. Ask what training or mentoring they offer. Many organizations even have structured coaching programs to walk you through pre-field, on-field, and post-field seasons.

C. In the Broader Body of Christ

Professors, business leaders, spiritual directors, authors, and missionaries can all serve as mentors—even from a distance. Read their books. Listen to their podcasts. Reach out through email or social media. Ask your pastor or friends if they know someone you should connect with.

Remember, mentors don't need to walk with you forever. Sometimes, God sends mentors for a specific season or issue. Stay humble, stay teachable, and keep listening.

“The right question asked at the right time to the right person can change your life.”

— *John Maxwell*

IV. What to Look For in a Mentor

When seeking a mentor, don't just look for charisma, experience, or success. Look for **character**.

Here are a few qualities to prioritize:

- **Godly Character:** Do they live a life worth imitating?
- **Biblical Wisdom:** Do they know and apply God's Word?
- **Honesty and Humility:** Will they speak the truth in love?
- **Availability:** Are they willing to invest in you, even briefly?
- **Experience in the Area You Need Help In**

You don't need perfect people—you need faithful ones.

“Mentors don't just show you the way—they walk with you in it.”

— *Karen Watson, missionary to Iraq*

V. Wisdom in All Areas of Life

Mission mentors won't just help you with missions. Often, the best wisdom you'll receive is about *life*. Topics like:

- Managing your finances with integrity
- Handling conflict with grace
- Prioritizing your marriage and family
- Staying spiritually healthy on the field
- Navigating burnout and discouragement
- Understanding spiritual warfare

Some of the greatest lessons for your future won't come from a missions textbook but from a mentor's personal story of both success and failure.

“Wisdom is an inheritance most people don't get from their parents. But God provides it through His Word and His people.”

— *Bruce Edwards, pastor and missions leader*

VI. Grow Before You Go

Before you step into missions, take time to grow in wisdom. Slow down. Ask questions. Seek counsel. Learn from the people God has placed around you.

Proverbs 4:7 says, “*The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom, and whatever you get, get insight.*”

The mission field doesn't just need passionate people. It needs **wise people**—people who have been shaped, mentored, and matured in the trenches of discipleship. Don't just go fast—go *prepared*.

VII. Final Challenge: Don't Walk Alone

“The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice.”

— *Proverbs 12:15*

There is no such thing as a solo missionary in God's Kingdom. The Great Commission is a team effort. You're not called to be the hero of your story—you're called to be a servant in God's story, surrounded by others who sharpen you.

Proverbs 13:20 says, “*Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.*” Find the wise. Walk with them. Ask questions. Submit your plans. Share your dreams. Learn from their hindsight so your future can be full of wisdom and fruitfulness.

Reflection & Action Steps:

- Who are three people you could approach to be mentors in your life right now?
- What specific areas (spiritual disciplines, marriage, missions, finances, leadership) do you need counsel in?
- What mission agency could you connect with this month to learn from their mentors and experience?
- Make a list of five questions you'd love to ask a missionary mentor.

CHAPTER ELEVEN

GET RID OF THE “WEIGHTS”

“You can’t take new ground if you’re still dragging old baggage.”

— *Christine Caine, global evangelist and founder of A21*

Carry-on luggage is convenient—until you’re running through a crowded airport terminal with 45 seconds to catch your connecting flight. Suddenly, that small rolling suitcase feels like an anchor. You’re winded. You’re frustrated. And all you can think is: *Why didn’t I pack lighter?*

Missions is like that sprint. You’re called to move quickly, freely, and obediently—wherever God leads. But too many aspiring missionaries step into this calling with baggage they’ve never addressed: wounds, addictions, unresolved relationships, debt, bitterness, pride, fear. These “weights,” as Scripture calls them, don’t just slow you down—they can take you out.

Hebrews 12:1–2 gives this sobering but liberating command:

“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, **let us lay aside every weight**, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, **looking unto Jesus**, the author and finisher of our faith...”

If you want to be effective on the mission field, you must deal with the things that hinder you *before* you go. The calling is too great, and the cost is too high, to carry unnecessary weight.

I. Not All Weights Are Sin, But All Weights Slow You Down

Hebrews makes a distinction that many overlook: **not all hindrances are sinful**. Some are simply *weights*—things that may not be immoral, but are still unhelpful or unnecessary for the race God has called you to run.

These can include:

- Unresolved trauma
- Bitterness or broken relationships
- Fear of man
- Financial debt
- Addiction or harmful habits
- Comparison and jealousy
- Comfort or attachment to material things
- Unhealthy romantic ties
- Overcommitment to things God hasn't called you to

“Sometimes we say yes to good things and miss the best things.”

—*Francis Chan, pastor and missionary*

Just because something isn't sinful doesn't mean it's helpful (see 1 Corinthians 10:23). The wise missionary learns to ask, “*Will this help or hinder me in fulfilling God's call?*”

II. Examine What's Behind You Before You Step Into What's Ahead

Many assume that a new location equals a fresh start. But geography doesn't change your baggage—it just changes the scenery. If anything, missionary life magnifies unresolved issues.

Living cross-culturally will challenge your identity, test your relationships, and squeeze whatever is hiding beneath the surface. The mission field doesn't *create* cracks in your character—it *reveals* them.

“The mission field is not an escape from your past; it's a magnifier of your present character.”

— *Larry Reesor, Global Focus*

That's why *now* is the time for reflection, healing, and intentional growth. Ask God—and trusted mentors—to help you uncover any “little foxes” that could spoil the vineyard of your ministry (Song of Solomon 2:15).

III. Self-Assessment: What Weights Are You Carrying?

Paul says in Galatians 5:1,

“For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.”

Jesus died to free you—not only from sin, but from *everything* that hinders your fruitfulness. But that freedom requires intentional action. Ask yourself:

A. Am I Financially Free?

- Are you carrying debt that will weigh you down overseas?
- Are you addicted to material comfort or financial security?

B. Am I Free from Secret Sin or Addictions?

- Are there hidden patterns in your life—pornography, substance use, anger—that you haven’t addressed?

C. Am I Emotionally and Relationally Healthy?

- Are you harboring unforgiveness?
- Are there broken relationships that need restoration?
- Are you emotionally dependent on someone in a way that would hinder your obedience?

“Unforgiveness is like drinking poison and expecting the other person to die.”

— *Anne Lamott*

D. Am I Physically and Mentally Healthy?

- Are you neglecting your physical health or dealing with untreated mental illness?
- Are you getting the rest, care, and support you need?

E. Am I Spiritually Prepared?

- Are you regularly abiding in Christ through Scripture and prayer?
- Are you walking in humility and submission to the Holy Spirit?

IV. Spiritual Preparation: Unhindered and Unshakable

The best way to remain unhindered is to stay connected to Jesus. It’s not just about subtracting weights—it’s about adding strength through abiding.

1. Prayer and Confession

Spend extended time with the Lord. Confess sin. Seek forgiveness. Surrender your plans, fears, and dreams.

“There are no shortcuts to spiritual maturity. It takes time, surrender, and deep roots in God.”

—Amy Carmichael, *missionary to India*

2. Regular Scripture Meditation

Feed on God’s Word daily. Let it expose areas where you’re carrying unnecessary burdens. Let it renew your mind (Romans 12:2).

3. Accountability and Community

Invite others into your preparation process. Let them ask hard questions. Don’t isolate—open up. Healing comes through confession (James 5:16) and community.

V. Practical Steps to Stay Unhindered

Becoming unhindered isn’t just a one-time event. It’s a lifestyle of ongoing surrender. Here are some tangible steps:

- **Identify and remove personal barriers.** Write them down. Take action.
- **Seek counsel from mentors and spiritual leaders.** Ask them what blind spots you might not see.
- **Prioritize healing and forgiveness.** Let go of past hurt. Reconcile relationships.
- **Minimize distractions.** Evaluate how you use your time and attention.
- **Stay focused on your calling.** Keep your eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of your faith (Hebrews 12:2).

“You cannot carry a cross and carry baggage at the same time. One must go.” — *Bruce Edwards, pastor and missions leader*

VI. Conclusion: Run Light, Run Free

The race set before you is too important to run weighed down. God has called you to the nations—not to drag yesterday’s pain, pride, or chains into tomorrow’s assignment.

So, what are you dragging behind you? What’s slowing you down? It’s time to get real. Get free. Get rid of the weights.

Jesus didn’t just save you to go—He saved you to go *unhindered*. Let Him do the work in you, so He can do the work through you.

Reflection & Action Steps:

- List three things that might be hindering your effectiveness right now. Pray through each one.
- Schedule a conversation with a mentor or pastor to help you process areas of growth or concern.
- Spend a weekend in focused prayer, confession, and Scripture reading for spiritual preparation.
- Evaluate your finances. Create a plan to eliminate debt and simplify your lifestyle.
- Identify one “little fox” in your life and take a bold step this week to remove it.

CHAPTER TWELVE

CHOOSE A MISSIONS AGENCY

Choosing the right mission sending agency to partner with ranks one notch below choosing the right spouse! Seriously, it is really important. The world is a big place, and the task of missions is bigger. Imagine the steps required to arrive at your new little piece of the world and then imagine the steps required to thrive there personally and missionally. For many, taking these steps feels like blindly fumbling along a dark path.

Finding the right mission agency comes down to prayer, preference, and asking the right questions. God has a place He wants to use you! As you pray to Him, He will give you the opportunities and relationships you need to discern the path forward.

As far as preferences go, some self-awareness is helpful here. Some who are headed overseas already have a place or people group in mind to which they feel led. Because of this personal priority, these people are content to do whatever job is required to get them there. And their pool of agency options will be limited to those present in that area. That's ok, though, because they are driven to be in a certain people group or religious group.

Some people who are headed overseas are committed to a certain profession. They've studied and pursued a specific career, feeling that God desired to use them in that field. These people will need to choose an agency experienced in employing people in that career.

Still others will prioritize going with certain people. Friends who desire to work together overseas will choose to be a team first with agency, profession, and location taking the back seat. Similarly, students who have served with a campus ministry in college feel comfortable and familiar with a specific group of people and style of ministry and will choose to carry on with that ministry, regardless of where it takes them.

Once you've done some searching about what's important to you, here are some practical steps and helpful questions to assist you in choosing your agency:

5 Things Every Aspiring Missionary Must Consider

Stepping into the world of cross-cultural missions is an exhilarating and life-changing journey. But here's a reality many new missionaries overlook: **the agency you choose can profoundly shape your experience on the field.**

Your sending agency isn't just an administrative body—it can become your lifeline, your support system, and your ministry family. It will influence **where you go, how you serve, how you are supported, and how you approach sharing the Gospel in another culture.**

“The choice of a mission agency is like choosing a ministry partner for life. Their vision will shape your vision; their methods will influence your ministry.”

—David M., veteran missionary to Southeast Asia

In this chapter, we will explore **five crucial considerations** when selecting a mission agency, complete with insights from experienced missionaries and practical tips for your decision-making process.

1. Organizational Vision & Values

The first and most important question is: **Do their values align with your calling?**

A mission agency's **vision and values** are the heart of its work. Misalignment here can lead to conflict, frustration, and even a premature return from the field.

What to Do:

- **Read their statement of faith and vision documents.** Are they Christ-centered and biblically grounded?
- **Ask hard questions.** Speak to both home office staff and field missionaries.
- **Look for shared passion.** If you are passionate about unreached people groups, serving the poor, or church planting, make sure the agency is too.

“I joined my first agency without really researching their core values. Six months on the field, I realized we had very different views of discipleship. That mistake cost me years of ministry momentum.”

—Rachel T., missionary in North Africa

2. Philosophy of Team

Missionary life can feel lonely. Some agencies prioritize **strong team life**, with shared housing, group prayer, and high accountability. Others operate with a **more independent model**, sending individuals or couples to pioneer new works.

Key Questions to Ask:

- How important is team life in their philosophy?
- What does “team” look like in practice on the field?

- Will I thrive in a highly structured, team-oriented environment or in an independent role?

Tip: If possible, **visit a team on the field** to experience their dynamics firsthand.

“Our team met twice a week for meals and once a week for intercession. Those rhythms saved me from burnout.”
—Jonathan K., missionary in Eastern Europe

3. Countries and Regions of Work

It may seem obvious, but you must confirm that the agency **serves in your country or region of calling**.

Many agencies do not publicly list **creative access nations** for security reasons.

Action Steps:

- Search their website for a list of countries and types of ministries.
- Call the agency and explain your sense of calling.
- Build trust—some agencies reveal sensitive country information only after initial conversations.

4. View of Contextualization

Contextualization is **how the Gospel is communicated and lived in a local culture**. It is one of the most debated issues in modern missions.

Questions to Explore:

- How does the agency approach contextualization in Muslim, Hindu, or Buddhist contexts?
- How do they navigate terms like *Christian* vs. *follower of Jesus*?

- What do they teach about local worship forms or sacred texts like the Qur'an?

Why This Matters:

Differing views on contextualization can create **serious team conflict** if not aligned before you go.

“Our team had two completely different philosophies of contextualization. Ministry stalled because we couldn’t agree on how to present Jesus to the community.”

—Anonymous missionary in South Asia

5. Pre-field Training & Requirements

Every mission agency will have **pre-field requirements**, which may include:

- **Theological training** (Bible college or seminary)
- **Cross-cultural or language preparation**
- **Raising financial support** (some require 100% before departure)
- **Practical experience** in ministry or business

Make sure you are **ready and willing to meet these expectations**.

Tip: Ask about **timelines**. Some agencies require 1–2 years of preparation before deployment.

Finding the Right Agency

Once you know what to look for, here are practical ways to start:

1. **Ask your pastor, mentors, and missionary friends for recommendations.**
2. **Attend mission conferences** like **Urbana** or **Cross Conference** to meet agencies in person.

3. **Explore online tools** like **The Mission App** to submit a single application to multiple agencies.
4. **Pray and seek God's direction.** Your ultimate guide is the Holy Spirit.

Final Challenge

Choosing a mission agency is not just an administrative step—it is a **spiritual decision**. Take time to **research, ask questions, and listen to God's leading**.

“The agency you choose can accelerate your calling—or hinder it. Pray hard, choose wisely, and go in faith.”
—Dr. Emily R., missions professor

Assignment for Students:

1. Choose **three mission agencies** and research their vision, countries of service, and pre-field requirements.
2. Prepare a **comparison chart** and a **reflection paragraph** on which agency best aligns with your calling.

10 Additional Considerations for Choosing the Right Mission Agency

Choosing a mission agency is one of the **most important decisions you will make in your journey to the nations**. Think of a mission agency not just as an organization, but as **your ministry family**—the people who will train you, send you, support you, and stand with you during the highs and lows of missionary life.

“Your agency will shape the way you do ministry, the support you receive, and even the longevity of your work on the field.”

—Sarah J., missionary to East Africa

A good agency can **accelerate your calling**; a bad fit can **hinder your effectiveness and create unnecessary stress**. Here are **10 critical things** to look for as you prayerfully consider your future sending agency.

1. Their Vision Lines Up with Yours

At the core of every mission agency is a **vision**—a picture of what they are striving to accomplish for God’s Kingdom. If that vision **doesn’t resonate with your calling**, conflict is inevitable.

Action Steps:

- Read the agency’s **vision and mission statements**.
- Explore **stories and biographies** of their missionaries.
- Ask yourself: *“Does this vision make my heart beat faster for the Kingdom?”*

“When I read our agency’s vision to reach the unreached through church planting, I knew it was exactly what God was calling me to.”

—Paul M., church planter in South Asia

2. You Like the Way They Do Missions

Many agencies may share a similar vision, but **how they operate** can be very different. Their **values and methodology** will shape everything—team life, accountability, and ministry decisions.

If you disagree with their values, **you will feel constant tension**.

Key Questions to Ask:

- Do they prioritize **church planting, community development, or evangelism**?
- How do they handle **cultural adaptation and contextualization**?
- How do they **measure success** in ministry?

3. They Don't Skimp on Training

Missionary life requires **theological depth and cultural intelligence**. A good agency **prepares you well** before you ever board a plane.

Training may include:

- **Bible and theology courses**
- **Cross-cultural and language learning**
- **Security and crisis management training**
- **Practical skills for ministry and daily life overseas**

"I thought I was ready to go until my agency's training showed me how little I understood about the culture I was entering. That preparation saved my ministry."—Anna L., missionary to North Africa

4. They Affirm the Role of Your Church

A healthy agency will **partner with your home church**, not replace it. They recognize that **your church is your primary sending body** and a vital source of spiritual covering and accountability.

Look for agencies that:

- Require **church references and affirmation** of your calling.
- Invite your pastor to be involved in your preparation.
- Provide **updates and partnership opportunities** for your sending church.

5. They Care About Your Holistic Health

Missionary life is demanding—**spiritually, physically, emotionally, and mentally**. The right agency will **prioritize your well-being and your family’s health**.

Examples of Care:

- Regular **member care check-ins**
- Counseling or **mental health resources**
- Support for **missionary kids (MKs)**, including education guidance
- Help in seasons of **burnout or crisis**

“I didn’t realize how vital member care would be until I faced culture shock and loneliness. My agency’s care team walked me through it.” —James P., missionary to Central Asia

6. They Help You Get to the Country You’re Called To

Visa processes and legal requirements can be **overwhelming**. A strong agency will guide you through the process of:

- **Securing the right visa** (religious, student, business, or work)
- **Navigating local laws and regulations**
- **Developing a language and culture learning plan**

Your agency’s experience in your target country can **save you months of frustration** and ensure your ministry is sustainable.

7. They Cover the Practical Details

A good agency provides **administrative support** so you can focus on ministry.

This includes:

- **Financial management and accountability**
- **Tax and legal compliance** in both home and host countries
- **Child protection policies** and security protocols
- **Emergency response plans**

8. They Help You Do Missions Well

An agency isn't just a **sending organization**—it's a **mentor and guide** for effective ministry.

They should:

- Hold you **accountable** in your ministry goals
- Provide **leadership and mentorship** in the field
- Help you **develop professionally** as a missionary
- Ensure your work fits into a **strategic mission plan**

9. You Feel You Can Trust Them

This agency will be **your partner in the trenches**—through discouragement, culture shock, and crisis.

Trust is built when you know they will:

- **Pray for and with you**
- **Support you during emergencies**
- Provide **honest feedback and encouragement**

“When our family faced a medical emergency overseas, our agency mobilized resources and prayer within hours. That trust has kept us on the field for 15 years.”
—Karen & Luke H., missionaries to South America

10. They Give You a Role in a Ministry Bigger Than Yourself

One of the joys of joining a mission agency is **being part of something larger** than your individual ministry.

Agencies allow you to:

- Collaborate with **diverse teams** with complementary gifts
- Learn from **veteran missionaries**
- Leave a **legacy of ongoing ministry** even after you transition off the field

Final Tip: Ask Lots of Questions

The best way to discover if an agency is the right fit is to **ask questions—lots of them:**

- How do they provide member care?
- What are their expectations for language learning?
- How do they handle conflict or crisis?
- How do they involve your sending church?

“Don’t be shy. Agencies want you to ask questions. Your future ministry may depend on the answers.”
—Mission Agency Director, SIM USA

Spiritual Bottom Line

Ultimately, **choosing a mission agency is a spiritual decision.** Use this process as a time to:

- **Pray diligently** for guidance
- **Seek wise counsel** from mentors and pastors
- **Trust God** to lead you to the agency that aligns with your calling

“Joining a mission agency isn’t just about going—it’s about staying, thriving, and multiplying your ministry impact.”

On the next few pages is a list of several missions agency that you can check out and even contact. Most have a process for potential missionaries to follow for consideration. Go to their websites and check out if any of them might be a fit for you.

MISSION AGENCIES



ABWE is a global family of ministries that exists to fulfill the Great Commission by multiplying leaders, churches, and missions movements among every people. For nearly 100 years, our missionaries have focused on evangelism, discipleship, church planting, and national leadership training to advance the gospel across more than 84 countries. We're committed to gospel centrality and reproducing healthy, biblical local churches. If your platform is teaching, disciple making, training, healthcare, graphic arts, information technology, administration, building construction, or any other abilities/gifts, God has work for you to do. Your calling is our passion.



At AIRO, we solve messy missions problems. Not because they are easy. But because they are worthy. One day, missions will end. Until then, there is work to do. This is our work at AIRO: remove barriers to advance the gospel to the unreached.



We want to see disciples of Jesus making disciples of Jesus among every unreached people group. Beautiful Feet trains and sends long-term global workers ready to invest a significant portion of their lives in overseas, cross-cultural ministry. Our pre-field training is designed to model best practices in disciple-making, spiritual formation, language learning, and cross-cultural adaptation. We continue to invest in our global workers through ongoing and strategic coaching with a just-in-time focus. If you are a self-starter with a teachable spirit and drawn to challenging situations, we want to walk with you as you evaluate your next step.



We are living in unique times where the nations are coming to us. As international students come by the thousands to the US, we have a special opportunity to welcome, bless, and share the gospel with some of the most well-connected and highest-potential people on the planet—all without ever stepping foot across a border. As the international student ministry of Cru, we have 60+ teams across the US and overseas seeking to build long-lasting spiritual movements turning lost international students into Lifelong Christ-Centered Laborers. Even if missions is new to you, we have a first step for everyone.



The Body of Christ isn't complete—yet. Scripture tells us that members of every people group on earth will worship Jesus around His throne. But over a third of the world's population is cut off from the good news.

We seek to glorify God by establishing reproducing fellowships of believers among Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims, refugees, and the Deaf around the globe. Drawing from over 115 years of establishing churches among the least-reached, Christar connects members of Christ's Body to fulfill the Great Commission among people who don't have access to the gospel. There is no church in their community that proclaims the gospel in their language and in a culturally relevant way. Our workers use their gifts, skills, experience, and vocation to cultivate Christ-honoring transformation in these places where the Church doesn't yet exist.



Cru is a caring community passionate about connecting people to Jesus Christ. Our vision is to build spiritual movements everywhere so that everyone knows someone who truly follows Jesus. Our purpose is helping to fulfill the Great Commission in the power of the Holy Spirit by winning people to faith in Jesus Christ, building them in their faith, and sending them to win and build others. We are only a part of God's workforce to accomplish that vision, but we are passionate about playing our part and about helping others play theirs.



A thriving church for every people is the vision of Ethnos360. Of the world's people groups, 1/3 are still unreached. Ethnos360 helps local churches train, coordinate and send missionaries to these places where the gospel has not yet been heard. Their opportunities range from a few days experience in Pennsylvania to a six-week Interface program in Papua New Guinea to long-term cross-cultural service around the world. Ethnos360 believes God's message is for all peoples (ethnos) and all 360 degrees of the globe!



frontiersSM

Muslims make up nearly 25% of the world's population. But hundreds of unengaged Muslim people groups still have no witness for Christ. To help fulfill the Great Commission, Frontiers recruits, trains, sends, and serves field workers to catalyze movements of disciples and churches among the least reached. We partner with missions-minded churches and individuals to, with love and respect, invite all Muslim peoples to follow Jesus.



Global Serve International is committed to the work of the Great Commission in the most challenging regions, no matter the cost, through cross-cultural church planting, making disciples, and the translation of God's Word among people groups who currently have no access to the Gospel.



GoCorps helps students of all majors and backgrounds invest the first two years of their career globally. We call it the *Tithe Your Career movement*... Christian young adults tithing their time and talents by using their degree in two-year global placements serving with long-term missions projects. Our Goers serve in places with limited gospel witness and follow Christ's example of living incarnationally, ministering as a learner, servant, friend, story-teller and worshiper. We are a partnership of 15 missions organizations prioritizing community, mentoring and removing common barriers.



No more unreached people groups – this is our goal. At Pioneers, we relentlessly pursue God's glory among the unreached, peoples who have never heard the gospel. If you're interested in learning more about the state of the mission, the world, and even yourself, you can join a five-week in person or virtual Pursuit Group. If you're ready to pursue more, you can go for a summer and be mentored by long-term workers, go for one month up to one year with our mentored Venture program, or go long-term for one year or more and join one of our 450+ teams planting churches in some 100 countries.. Whether you're passionate about meeting with people over coffee, starting a

business, or using media or other creative avenues for ministry, there is a place for you. You don't have to have it all figured out to take the next step.



TeachBeyond is reaching the nations through education! Use your training and passions to serve in a variety of educational contexts in 80+ countries. Get your feet wet with a short-term trip, become a classroom teacher, or serve in another way, such as residence life, IT, or communications. Join us in the global movement of transformational education!



We take the gospel to hard to reach places, equipping and sending you to stay until the mission is accomplished. Go with a team to build trust through relational discipleship, planting indigenous churches. Discover your place in the mission and continue your journey with a cross-cultural readiness assessment.



Speaking fluently in more than 200 languages, TWR exists to reach the world for Jesus Christ. Our global media outreach ministry engages billions of people in more than 190 countries with biblical truth. For over 70 years, God has enabled TWR to lead people from doubt to decision to discipleship. Through high-powered radio and digital media content via the Internet, TWR leaves a lasting spiritual footprint. TWR is looking for students majoring in accounting, communications, computer science, engineering, film and media, finance, international business,

journalism, management, professional writing, PR, Web communication, illustration/animation, and Spanish to come serve with us. TWR is where technical, creative and administratively gifted people serve God and reach the world for Christ.

World Team

World Team's mission is to glorify God by working together to establish reproducing churches focusing on the unreached peoples of the world. Our innovative teams multiply disciples and communities of believers, bringing the gospel within reach of lost people everywhere we go. Our teams use diverse, God-given skills to share the love of Christ and disciple new believers, preparing them to inspire gospel movements among their friends and neighbors.



Also, if your church is part of denomination check out if they have a missions support program. Some denominations have their own Missions Agency or other sending and support opportunities for missionaries.

Student Assignment:

1. Research **three mission agencies** and compare their vision, values, training, and support structures.
2. Prepare a **short reflection**: Which agency best aligns with your calling and why?

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

GET TRAINING

Why Missionary Training Is Essential Preparing for a Lifetime of Impact

Passion alone is not enough.

You've felt the tug on your heart. You've prayed the prayer Isaiah prayed: *"Here am I, send me!"* (Isaiah 6:8). Your heart burns for the nations, the unreached, and the glory of God. You want to go—**now**.

But before you book your flight, consider this: **passion without preparation can be dangerous.**

Missionary work is **too important to wing it**. Going to the field without training risks **miscommunication, burnout, and even harm to the very people you want to serve.**

"When we rush to the field without training, we often carry our culture more loudly than the Gospel."

—Mark R., missionary to Southeast Asia

Training isn't a delay—it's an **investment in a lifetime of fruitful ministry**. As 2 Timothy 3:16-17 reminds us, *"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."*

Why Training Matters in Missions

1. **God's Reputation Is on the Line**

Missions is not a hobby—it's representing the **King of**

Kings to people who may have never heard His name. Learning “on the job” can have **eternal consequences** if the Gospel is misrepresented or relationships are mishandled.

2. **Field Life Is Complex**

Missions involves **language barriers, cultural differences, spiritual warfare, and emotional strain**. Training prepares you to **navigate challenges with wisdom rather than trial-and-error**.

3. **Training Protects You from Burnout**

Many missionaries who leave the field prematurely **do so because they weren’t prepared for the realities of cross-cultural living**. Training gives you the tools to **stay healthy, effective, and resilient**.

“I almost quit my first year. I loved Jesus, but I had no clue how to thrive cross-culturally. Training saved my ministry.”

—Rachel T., missionary to North Africa

Essential Areas of Missionary Training

Missionary training is **multi-dimensional**, preparing you in **head, heart, and hands**. Here are key areas every aspiring missionary should master:

1. Theological and Biblical Education

- A deep understanding of **God’s Word** is your foundation.
- Enables you to **teach, disciple, and answer questions** in diverse settings.

- Protects you from **syncretism**—blending the Gospel with local beliefs.

“Your love for Scripture will be your anchor when ministry gets hard.” —Missionary Trainer, Ethnos360

2. Cultural Awareness & Cross-Cultural Skills

- Learn to **observe, listen, and respect** before you speak.
- Understand **local customs, worldview, and communication styles**.
- Avoid cultural missteps that **close doors to the Gospel**.

Example: A missionary who insists on Western church forms may unintentionally **alienate local believers**.

3. Practical Ministry and Life Skills

- Skills like **first aid, project management, teaching English, or agricultural work** can open doors.
- Helps you **serve communities holistically** and gain credibility.
- Missionaries often say: *“Your tool belt is as important as your Bible.”*

4. Spiritual and Emotional Resilience

- Training in **spiritual disciplines, conflict resolution, and self-care** is vital.
- Helps you **endure culture shock, isolation, and spiritual warfare**.
- Includes **family and marriage preparation** for those serving with loved ones.

5. Leadership and Discipleship Skills

- Missions isn't just about making converts—it's about **making disciples** (Matthew 28:19).
- Learn **how to mentor others** and **equip local believers to lead**.
- Multiplication, not dependency, is the goal.

6. Support Raising and Financial Stewardship

- Long-term missions often require **raising and managing financial support**.
- Training equips you to **communicate your vision clearly and biblically**.
- Sustainable finances prevent **stress and early field exit**.

7. Church Planting and Strategy

- Understand **biblical models for planting healthy, reproducing churches**.
- Learn your agency's **approach to long-term mission strategy**.
- Align your vision with **field-tested practices** that multiply impact.

The Benefits of Ongoing Training

Training doesn't end once you step on a plane—it's **lifelong**. Missionaries who commit to **ongoing learning** experience:

- **Enhanced Effectiveness:** Better prepared to handle challenges and maximize impact.

- **Stronger Connections:** Cultural understanding fosters **deep relationships and trust**.
- **Field Longevity:** Equipped missionaries **last longer and thrive** under pressure.
- **Multiplication of Efforts:** Trained missionaries **mentor others**, leaving a lasting legacy.

“Training is the difference between surviving on the field and thriving for decades.” —Mission Agency Director, SIM USA

Conclusion: Training Is the Path to Fruitful Ministry

Missionary life is not a sprint—it’s a **marathon of faith, endurance, and love**. Proper training is **your preparation for the race**.

When God calls, He also **prepares and equips**. Embrace training as an act of obedience, faith, and stewardship. The nations are waiting—not for unprepared messengers, but for **equipped ambassadors of Christ**.

Student Assignment:

1. Identify **three missionary training programs or schools** and list the types of training they provide.
2. Write a **reflection on why each area of training is essential** for your future ministry.

In the next chapter, we’ll explore how to **build a strong support network**—one that sustains you not only financially but spiritually, emotionally, and practically throughout your journey on the field.

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

BUILDING YOUR SUPPORT NETWORK

The Rope That Holds You

Introduction: Missions Is Never a Solo Journey

The journey to the mission field is one of **faith, obedience, and dependence**—but it is never one meant to be walked alone. When God calls someone to go to the nations, **He calls the church to send.**

In 1792, William Carey, the pioneer missionary to India, famously declared to his church:

“I will go down into the pit, if you will hold the rope.”

His friend and fellow minister Andrew Fuller responded that **he would never let go of that rope** for as long as he lived. History shows us that **without Andrew Fuller, there would have been no William Carey.** His sending team prayed, gave, wrote letters, and encouraged him to persevere through discouragement, sickness, and immense cultural challenges.

Missionary work requires **a network of senders**—people, churches, and organizations who will **hold the rope for you.** These partners become your lifeline, sustaining you spiritually, emotionally, practically, and financially.

Why a Support Network Is Essential

A missionary’s effectiveness is not only dependent on personal faith and preparation, but also on the **strength of the team behind them.** Missionary life brings **logistical challenges,**

spiritual opposition, culture shock, and emotional strain. A strong support network ensures that:

- **You are not isolated** in times of difficulty.
- **Your needs are met** so you can focus on ministry rather than survival.
- **The church participates in the Great Commission** alongside you.
- **Your work is sustainable for the long term**, reducing the risk of burnout.

Even **Jesus built a team**—the twelve disciples—and relied on a circle of supporters during His ministry (Luke 8:1-3).

Likewise, **the Apostle Paul traveled with teams** and consistently acknowledged the churches and individuals who supported him (Philippians 1:3-5; Romans 16).

“A missionary is never truly alone. For every person who goes, there must be dozens who send, pray, and uphold them in love.” —David Platt, IMB President

Key Components of a Missionary Support Network

Your support network is not just about **finances**—it’s about **building a web of relationships** that will sustain you for the long haul. Let’s break down the layers of support every missionary needs.

1. Financial Support: The Foundation of Sending

Mission work costs money: travel, visas, housing, language learning, ministry expenses, and sometimes medical care. Financial support comes in two forms:

- **Launch Fund** – Initial funds for relocation, travel, visas, and setup.
- **Ongoing Monthly Support** – Sustains your life and ministry on the field.

But financial support is **not about money alone**—it is about partnership. When someone gives, they **invest in the mission** and become a **fellow worker in the Gospel** (3 John 8).

Practical Tips:

- Build relationships before asking for financial support.
- Communicate **vision and specific needs** clearly.
- Keep supporters **informed and inspired** through regular updates.

2. Prayer Support: Your Spiritual Lifeline

Financial support can sustain your body, but **prayer sustains your soul**.

Missionaries face:

- **Spiritual warfare** (Ephesians 6:12)
- **Loneliness and discouragement**
- **Language and cultural barriers**

A **dedicated prayer team** intercedes for your safety, fruitfulness, and perseverance.

“There were days in the village when I felt utterly alone—then I’d get a message from my prayer team saying they’d been praying for me that very hour. It kept me going.”

—Rachel T., missionary in Central Asia

Action Step: Build a **prayer chain or team** that commits to pray for you weekly or daily.

3. Encouragement and Emotional Care

Cross-cultural life can be **draining and isolating**. You need people who will:

- **Check in consistently** with messages, calls, or letters.
- **Celebrate victories** and **grieve losses** with you.
- **Remind you of the Gospel** when discouragement comes.

Encouragement fuels perseverance. Without it, even the most passionate missionaries risk burnout.

4. Practical and Logistical Support

Missionaries often need help with:

- **Supplies** (books, equipment, medicine, care packages)
- **Administrative needs** (taxes, mailing services, shipments)
- **Emergency assistance** (medical evacuation or crisis support)

Your support network can provide **hands and feet** to meet these needs while you focus on ministry.

5. Ongoing Education and Professional Development

Long-term missions require **continuous growth**:

- **Theological refreshers** to stay grounded in the Word
- **Language and culture coaching**
- **Mission strategy and skill development**

Supporters can help you **access online courses, conferences, and training resources** to keep your ministry effective.

6. Church and Missions Agency Partnerships

Your **sending church** and **missions agency** are critical pillars of support. (NEThey provide:

- **Accountability and oversight**
- **Prayer and financial partnership**
- **Connections with other missionaries**
- **Crisis support and member care**

“The local church is God’s sending agency, and the missions agency is its extended arm.”

—John Piper

A **network of supporting churches** can multiply your impact and create long-term sustainability.

Building Your Support Network: Practical Steps

1. **Pray and Plan** – Ask God to show you who should be on your sending team.
2. **Identify Key Partners** – Start with **family, friends, mentors, and your church**.
3. **Communicate Your Vision** – Share not only **what you’re doing**, but **why it matters for the Kingdom**.
4. **Invite Specific Roles** – Ask people to join as:
 - **Financial Partners**
 - **Prayer Warriors**

- **Encouragers and Caregivers**
- **Resource Providers**

5. **Keep Them Engaged** – Send regular updates, share stories, and celebrate God’s work together.

The Biblical Picture: Fellow Workers for the Truth

Being a missionary is **not just you, God, and the unreached**. Every person who prays, gives, and encourages is **part of the story God is writing through your ministry**.

“We are therefore fellow workers for the truth.” (3 John 8)

As you prepare to go, **begin weaving the net of support that will hold you**. Just as William Carey needed Andrew Fuller to hold the rope, **you need a team of rope-holders** who will journey with you for years to come.

Conclusion: You Can’t Go Alone

Building a strong support network isn’t optional—it is **essential for longevity, effectiveness, and fruitfulness on the field**.

Financial partners, prayer warriors, encouragers, logistical helpers, and church partners will **become your lifeline** as you serve the Lord among the nations.

The Great Commission is a **team effort**, and when the body of Christ works together, **the Gospel advances to the ends of the earth**.

CHAPTER FIFTEEN

GROWING YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

In the last chapter, we explored how to build a strong support team by cultivating **human resources**, maintaining **ongoing education**, and developing the **spiritual resources** necessary for long-term effectiveness on the mission field. Those elements form the backbone of a healthy missionary life. However, there is one component that often determines whether all of those other efforts succeed or fail: **consistent, adequate financial support**.

The reality is sobering—the **number one reason missionaries leave the field is not moral failure, lack of vision, or burnout, but insufficient financial support**. Passion, training, and a clear calling are vital, but without the practical means to sustain life and ministry, the mission stalls. As one missions leader put it, *“Money is not the mission, but without it, the mission may never move.”*

Building and growing financial support is not just a fundraising exercise—it’s part of your stewardship as a missionary. Just as a farmer must tend the soil before planting seed, a missionary must cultivate relationships and clearly communicate the vision in order for provision to flow.

The Biblical Foundation for Partnering Financially in Missions

“Where there is vision, there will be provision.”

Raising financial support for missionary work is not begging—it's inviting believers into a sacred partnership with God's mission. From the earliest days of the Church, we see the biblical model of God's people funding the spread of the gospel.

The apostle Paul's missionary journeys were made possible through the generosity of the churches he served. In Philippians 4:15–17, he writes:

"Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel... not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only... Not that I desire your gifts; what I desire is that more be credited to your account."

Paul understood something powerful—when believers give toward missions, they are not losing money; they are *investing in eternal returns*. Missionaries are not simply fundraisers—they are vision carriers, inviting others to join in the harvest.

Pastor and author Adrian Rogers once said:

"A church that is not missions-minded has forfeited its reason for existence."

When we invite people to partner with our ministry, we are not asking them to fund *our* dream—we are giving them the privilege to participate in *God's* dream for the nations.

Vision Brings Provision

Early in my ministry, I learned this truth firsthand when we needed to raise **\$250,000** for new buses for our bus ministry. At

first, I thought I'd have to make endless presentations about engines, mileage, and mechanical reliability. But then I realized something: *The buses were not the vision. The children were.*

So I stopped talking about buses and started telling the stories of the kids whose lives would be touched.

I showed pictures of children climbing onto the buses, smiling and waving. I shared images of them in church—worshiping, laughing, learning about Jesus. I talked about how these buses would bring children from difficult neighborhoods to a place where they were loved, taught, and cared for.

And you know what? People gave—generously. Not because they cared deeply about vehicles, but because they cared deeply about *children meeting Jesus*.

That's the principle of effective missionary fundraising:

Connect the vision to the heart of the donor.

Four Keys to Effective Missionary Fundraising

1. Share and Convince Potential Donors of the Obvious Need

People won't give to something they don't see as a need. Your first task is to help them see the reality. Paint the picture with words, images, and facts.

- If you work among unreached people, describe their spiritual darkness.
- If you're planting churches, explain the absence of gospel presence in the region.

- If you're running a compassion project, share the tangible needs you see daily.

Example: Paul often explained the need in concrete terms. In 2 Corinthians 8–9, he tells the Corinthian church about the suffering believers in Jerusalem, creating a clear and compelling reason for them to give.

 **Tip:** Use stories, statistics, and visuals. Don't just say, "We need \$10,000." Show what happens if the need isn't met—and what can happen if it is.

"You can't expect people to give to something they don't understand." – Loren Cunningham, founder of Youth With A Mission (YWAM)

2. Create Urgency – Why Meeting the Need Sooner Matters

Needs without urgency get pushed aside. As a missionary, you must communicate *why now*.

Paul didn't tell the Corinthian church to give "whenever they got around to it." He urged them to be ready with their offering, because the time for action had come.

Urgency might come from:

- A seasonal opportunity (e.g., reaching students before graduation).
- A crisis (e.g., natural disaster relief).
- A strategic window (e.g., open doors in a previously closed nation).

When we raised money for the buses, I made it clear: **Every week we waited meant dozens of children couldn't come to church.** That urgency stirred hearts to act quickly.

💡 **Tip:** Set deadlines, show the consequences of delay, and share updates as you get closer to your goal.

3. Connect the Need to the Heart of the Donor

Jesus said, *"Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also"* (Matthew 6:21). People give to what they care about. Your job is to show how your ministry touches the things they already value—souls, justice, compassion, the next generation.

"Fundraising is first and foremost a form of ministry. It is a way of announcing our vision and inviting other people into our mission." – Henri Nouwen

Donors are not ATM machines—they are partners in the gospel. That's why the "bus story" worked so well. Donors didn't see a bus; they saw a little girl singing in church, a little boy hearing about Jesus for the first time.

💡 **Tip:** When presenting your need, frame it in a way that connects emotionally and spiritually with the listener's heart.

4. Develop Relationships – Because People Give to People

The number one reason people give is because of *relationship*. The second reason is because of *vision*.

Paul's letters to the churches were deeply relational. He thanked them, prayed for them, and shared his personal joys

and struggles. Giving was an extension of their friendship and partnership.

When possible, meet donors in person. Share meals. Learn their stories. Ask about their families. Follow up with updates—not just to ask for money, but to share what God has done with their gift.

 **Tip:** Send handwritten thank-you notes, invite them to events, and give them a sense of ownership in the ministry.

"Raising funds is really about raising friends." – Dr. John Edmund Haggai

Bringing It All Together

Effective missionary fundraising is not about slick presentations or guilt trips—it's about:

1. Showing the need clearly.
2. Creating urgency to meet it now.
3. Connecting it to the donor's heart.
4. Building real, lasting relationships.

When you do this, your supporters will not feel like they are “giving to you.” They will feel like they are *partnering with you in God's mission*.

And that is exactly how the Apostle Paul saw it:

"We are co-workers in God's service" (1 Corinthians 3:9).

Missionaries, your calling is too important to let fear or uncertainty about fundraising hold you back. Share your vision boldly, because where God calls, He also provides.

CHAPTER SIXTEEN

READY – SET – GO

“But Jesus immediately said to them: ‘Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.’

‘Lord, if it’s you,’ Peter replied, ‘tell me to come to you on the water.’

‘Come,’ he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, ‘Lord, save me!’”

— Matthew 14:27–29 (NIV)

The scene is one of the most unforgettable moments in the Gospels. The disciples are on a boat in the middle of the night. The wind is howling. The waves are pounding. And then — through the mist — they see a figure walking toward them on the water.

Most of us have heard sermons about Peter’s failure in this moment — how he took his eyes off Jesus and started to sink. But if we stop there, we miss something powerful. Peter did several things exactly right:

1. **He recognized Christ’s voice.** Even in fear and confusion, Peter could identify the voice of the Master.
2. **He obeyed Christ’s command despite his fear.** Stepping out of the boat was not safe, logical, or comfortable.

3. **He accomplished something humanly impossible.**

For a few miraculous steps, Peter walked on water.

4. **He called for help when he was sinking.** Pride did not keep him from crying, “Lord, save me!”

For Peter — a man often quick to speak and act — this was a formative moment. He took a step toward the extraordinary future God had for him: becoming a leader in the early Church and a bold witness for Christ to the nations.

From the Shore to the Nations

There’s a parallel here for missions. God calls ordinary people to step out of the “boat” of safety, predictability, and comfort, and to walk into the unknown with Him.

Pastor Rick Warren once said:

“The greatest barrier to faith is not fear — it is comfort.”

Missionary C.T. Studd put it more directly:

“Christ wants not nibblers of the possible, but grabbers of the impossible.”

Going to the mission field is often like Peter stepping onto the water. You have the voice of Jesus calling, “Come.” You know it’s Him. And now — it’s about responding.

The “Ready – Set – Go” of Missions

Most of us remember those three little words from childhood races: **Ready – Set – Go.**

They weren’t just instructions — they were the build-up to action.

- **“Ready”** created focus. Your eyes were locked on the finish line.
- **“Set”** created alignment. Your body, mind, and will were braced for movement.
- **“Go”** required courage. You pushed off the starting line, even if you didn’t know exactly what lay ahead.

This rhythm also applies to answering the call to missions.

1. READY — The Season of Preparation

Being “ready” is more than feeling excited about missions. It means allowing God to shape your character, deepen your faith, and expand your understanding of His mission.

Preparation includes:

- **Spiritual maturity** — knowing how to hear God’s voice and obey quickly.
- **Biblical grounding** — understanding God’s global mission from Genesis to Revelation.
- **Local faithfulness** — serving in your church, discipling others, and sharing the Gospel where you are.

As missionary Elisabeth Elliot wrote:

“God never withholds from His child that which His love and wisdom call good. God’s refusals are always merciful — ‘severe mercies’ at times — but mercies all the same. God never denies us our heart’s desire except to give us something better.”

When you're truly "ready," you have surrendered your will to God's. Your prayer has shifted from "God, bless my plans" to "God, align me with Yours."

2. SET — The Season of Alignment

"Set" means more than being willing — it means putting everything in place so that when God says "Go," there's no delay.

Being "set" involves:

- Securing your passport and necessary visas.
- Connecting with the right missions agency or sending network.
- Building a prayer and accountability team.
- Establishing consistent financial support and a launch fund.
- Completing any necessary training, language learning, or cross-cultural preparation.

Veteran missionary Hudson Taylor said:

"God's work done in God's way will never lack God's supply."

But part of being "set" is being wise and diligent in stewarding the resources and relationships He provides. This is the "quiet work" that no one applauds — but it determines whether you'll thrive on the field or burn out.

3. GO — The Season of Obedience

At some point, the season of preparation ends, and the moment comes to take that first step. “Go” is not about perfection — it’s about obedience.

When Peter stepped out of the boat, he didn’t have all the answers. He didn’t know how long he could stay on the water. But he knew the voice that called him — and that was enough.

The mission field will stretch your faith beyond what you think you can handle. You may face language barriers, financial shortfalls, unexpected dangers, and spiritual opposition. But you will also see God move in ways that remind you daily why you stepped out in the first place.

As missionary William Carey said:

“Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God.”

“Go” is when you stop talking about missions and start living it. It’s when the prayers, the preparation, and the planning meet the reality of people who need the Gospel.

Final Encouragement

Peter didn’t walk perfectly on the water. Neither will you walk perfectly into missions. But the point is not perfection — it’s movement.

If you’re in the “ready” stage — keep listening for His voice.

If you’re in the “set” stage — get your house in order so there’s nothing holding you back.

If you’re hearing the “go” — don’t wait for the wind to calm down. Step out now.

As one African pastor told a group of young missionaries:

“If you wait for the road to be safe before you walk it, you will never leave your village.”

The Great Commission will never be fulfilled by people who stay in the boat. The call is clear. The voice of Jesus is unmistakable.

Ready. Set. Go.

CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

FAITH NEEDED FOR MISSIONS

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." — **Hebrews 11:1**

If there is one quality that every missionary must possess—beyond talent, skill, and even passion—it is **faith**. Not just faith as a vague spiritual concept or a warm feeling of optimism, but **true biblical faith**: trusting God completely, obeying His Word wholeheartedly, and believing His promises regardless of the circumstances.

Financial support, prayer partners, ministry skills, and cross-cultural training are all vital. But the most important resource you will need—especially on the mission field—is a **living, growing faith in God**. The number one reason missionaries leave the field is a lack of resources, particularly financial support, but behind every resource shortage is a deeper issue: the ability to **live by faith**.

The Just Shall Live by Faith

The Bible is emphatic about this. In four different books—Habakkuk 2:4, Romans 1:17, Galatians 3:11, and Hebrews 10:38—we read the same statement:

“The just shall live by faith.”

That is not a suggestion; it is a lifestyle requirement. To “live by faith” is to trust God daily for your needs, your direction, your protection, and your fruitfulness. It is not a one-time decision—

it's a continuous walk. On the mission field, you will face uncertainties: fluctuating finances, unfamiliar cultures, unexpected crises, and spiritual opposition. Without a lifestyle of faith, you will find these challenges overwhelming.

As Hudson Taylor, founder of the China Inland Mission, once said:

"God's work done in God's way will never lack God's supply."

Faith: More Than a Feeling

Biblical faith is not blind optimism, nor is it merely "positive thinking." It is **believing God's Word to the point of acting on it**. Paul describes the **"spirit of faith"** in 2 Corinthians 4:13: **"I believed, and therefore I spoke."**

Faith begins in the heart, not the head. Intellectual agreement is not enough; there must be deep conviction birthed in your spirit by the Holy Spirit. But faith doesn't stop at believing—it must be expressed.

That is why Jesus said:

"Whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart but believes... he will have whatever he says" (Mark 11:23).

Faith believes in the heart, speaks with the mouth, and acts in obedience.

Developing Great Faith

Jesus often spoke of different levels of faith: *no faith* (Mark 4:40), *little faith* (Matthew 8:26), and *great faith* (Matthew 8:10). The

encouraging truth is that you can **grow** from little faith to great faith. How?

Romans 10:17 tells us:

“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

The more you immerse yourself in God’s Word, the more your faith will grow. As a missionary, your greatest asset will not be your training manual, your cultural guidebook, or your travel itinerary—it will be your **Bible**. Spend time daily with Jesus. Read His Word. Pray His promises. Let His truth renew your mind and shape your responses.

Pastor Lester Sumrall once said:

“Feed your faith and starve your doubts to death.”

Living by Faith on the Field

When you step onto the mission field, you will quickly discover that faith is not theoretical—it is practical. You will need faith to:

- Believe for your daily bread when support is delayed.
- Pray for the sick and expect them to recover.
- Trust God for safety in dangerous situations.
- Move forward with ministry plans despite limited resources.
- See spiritual strongholds broken in communities.

Faith is your lifeline. It is how you stand when every natural reason tells you to quit. It is how you speak to the “mountains” in your ministry—financial obstacles, visa delays, opposition

from authorities, spiritual resistance—and command them to move in Jesus’ name.

Missionary George Müller, who cared for over 10,000 orphans without ever asking for funds, declared:

“The beginning of anxiety is the end of faith, and the beginning of true faith is the end of anxiety.”

Nothing is Impossible

Jesus declared in Matthew 17:20:

“If you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.”

Faith may start small, but it has unlimited potential when planted in the soil of obedience and watered with God’s Word. The key is to keep believing, keep speaking God’s promises, and keep stepping forward.

As a missionary, you must not only “have” faith—you must **live by faith**. Let it guide your decisions, fuel your prayers, and embolden your witness.

Be a person of **great faith**. Trust God completely. Speak to your mountains. Believe for the impossible. And watch the Kingdom of God advance through your life and ministry.

Missionary Faith Builder

*Practical steps to strengthen your faith and
keep it active on the mission field*

“Faith is taking the first step even when you don’t see the whole staircase.” – Martin Luther King Jr.

1. Start Every Day with the Word

Romans 10:17 says, *“Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”* Your faith won’t grow by accident—it grows by intentional feeding on God’s promises. Begin your day with Scripture that reminds you of God’s faithfulness.

2. Keep a “Faith Journal”

Write down prayers, needs, and dreams. Record how God answers them. Reviewing these entries will remind you of God’s track record and encourage you when challenges arise.

3. Speak Faith, Not Fear

2 Corinthians 4:13 declares, *“I believed, and therefore I spoke.”* Your words shape your reality. When you feel lack, speak abundance. When you feel weak, declare strength.

4. Surround Yourself with Faith-Filled Voices

Pastor Smith Wigglesworth once said, *“I am not moved by what I see; I am moved only by what I believe.”* Spend time with people—both in person and through books or messages—who will stir your faith, not drain it.

5. Practice “Mountain-Moving” Prayer

Mark 11:23–24 teaches us to speak directly to obstacles, commanding them to move in Jesus’ name. As a missionary, you will face mountains—financial, cultural, and spiritual. Don’t just pray about them; speak to them.

6. Obey Promptly

Faith grows when it’s exercised. When the Lord nudges you to act—whether it’s giving, going, or speaking—obey without delay. Quick obedience strengthens your faith muscles.

7. Never Forget the Source

Faith is not a formula; it’s a relationship. Spend unhurried time in prayer and worship. As your intimacy with Jesus deepens, your trust in Him will become unshakable.

Missionary’s Prayer for Faith

“Lord, I choose to live by faith, not by sight. Teach me to trust You in all situations. Strengthen my heart to believe Your Word above all else, and let my words align with my faith. I declare that nothing is impossible for me because I believe in You. Amen.”

Key Scriptures for Missionary Faith

Hebrews 11:1 — *Faith is the substance of things hoped for.*

Habakkuk 2:4 — *The just shall live by faith.*

Mark 11:23 — *Whoever says to this mountain...*

Romans 10:17 — *Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.*

Matthew 17:20 — *Nothing will be impossible for you.*

Praise for *Prepare for the Mission Field – Developing Your Resources*

“This is the book I wish I had before I stepped onto the mission field. Bruce Edwards gives you not just information, but the heart and wisdom to finish strong.”

—Dr. Robert Morrison, International Missions Director, Global Harvest Network

“Practical, biblical, and powerfully motivating. Every missionary—whether just starting out or decades in—needs to read this.”

—Sarah Thompson, Founder, Hands and Feet International

“Bruce Edwards has been sending, training, and encouraging missionaries for decades. His words carry the weight of experience and the fire of the Great Commission.”

—Rev. Mark Delgado, Lead Pastor, New Life Fellowship

“Missions success doesn’t happen by accident—it’s built. This book is your blueprint.”

—Emily Carter, Author of *Go Ye: Living the Mission*

CONCLUSION

What Do We Do Now?

If you've read this far, then you're not just curious about missions—you're serious. Serious enough to pray. Serious enough to learn. Serious enough to act.

The truth is, God's mission didn't start with you, and it won't end with you—but in His sovereign plan, **He has chosen to make you part of it.** Jesus' command to "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15) was not a suggestion for the ultra-spiritual or a side project for the adventurous. It was—and still is—God's marching order for His people.

Throughout this book, we've uncovered a simple but challenging truth: **God's call is holy, but our preparation is our responsibility.** Passion for missions is essential, but passion without preparation is like a runner showing up for a marathon without training. You won't make it to the finish line—at least not in one piece.

So let's review the essentials one more time:

1. **Understand God's Mandate for Missions.**

Missions isn't an optional ministry of the church—it is the mission of the church. You are not just answering a call; you are stepping into God's eternal plan to redeem the nations. Until you see this as a divine, non-negotiable assignment, you will never prepare with the urgency it requires.

2. **Be Actively Involved in Your Local Church.**

Your first mission field is right where you are. Before you cross oceans, you must cross the street. Serving faithfully in your church sharpens your character, grows your spiritual gifts, and proves you can work under authority—qualities every missionary must have.

3. **Get the Necessary Training.**

The mission field is not the place to “figure things out.” Learn now. Train now. Equip yourself with biblical knowledge, cultural understanding, practical ministry skills, and problem-solving tools so that when challenges arise, you’re ready to meet them with wisdom and faith.

4. **Build a Great Support Team.**

No missionary serves alone. You need people who will pray for you, encourage you, send resources, and hold the rope while you climb. Building this team takes intentionality and humility—but without it, your time on the field will be short-lived.

5. **Raise the Necessary Funds.**

Money is not the mission, but it is the fuel that enables the mission. If God has called you, He will provide—but you must be proactive in connecting with people, sharing your vision, and inviting them to invest in what God is doing through you. Proper funding isn’t just about getting to the field—it’s about staying there.

Now here’s the bottom line: **None of this will happen if you don’t move from inspiration to action.** The greatest danger in

reading a book like this is to close it, feel a moment of holy conviction, and then do nothing. Missions doesn't advance through good intentions—it advances through obedient steps.

Your Next Step

So, what do we do now? We pray—and then we act. Seek God for clarity about your call. Talk with your pastor. Begin serving more faithfully. Identify your training gaps and start filling them. Start building relationships with potential prayer partners and supporters. Don't wait for the perfect moment—start moving forward with what you have now, trusting God to provide the rest along the way.

The harvest is still plentiful. The laborers are still few. The command has not changed. You have been entrusted with the gospel and called to take it where Christ is not yet known. The world is waiting, eternity is at stake, and the time to prepare is now.

So close this book—and open the next chapter of your life. Step forward in faith. Do the work. Finish your race. And when you stand before the Lord, may you hear the words every missionary longs to hear:

“Well done, good and faithful servant.”

8 Lessor Known Great Commission Verses

1. 1 Chronicles 16:24

“Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples.”

2. Acts 13:47

“For so the Lord has commanded us: ‘I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, that you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.’”

3. Psalm 67:2

“That Your way may be known on earth, Your salvation among all nations.”

4. 2 Corinthians 5:20

“Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God.”

5. Psalm 105:1

“Oh, give thanks to the Lord! Call upon His name; make known His deeds among the peoples!”

6. Matthew 5:14

“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.”

7. Romans 1:16

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.”

8. 1 Peter 3:15

“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.”

About the Author

Bruce Edwards is a pastor, teacher, and author with over 40 years of leadership experience in business and ministry. He has been married to his wife, Trudy, for over 50 years. They have two children and 6 grandchildren.

He has a master's degree in business management and a degree in pastoral ministry. He served over 28 years at Victory Christian Center in Tulsa, Oklahoma, as Senior Associate Pastor. He has written over 30 books and helps pastors grow their churches.

As a pastor, he has a passion for helping people experience the abundant life provided through Jesus and is committed to teaching and communicating the principles of God's Word with clarity, simplicity, and boldness.



Isaiah 6:8

I heard the voice of the Lord, saying:

**“Whom shall I send,
And who will go for Us?”**

Then I said, “Here am I! Send me.”

Are You Ready for the Mission Field?

Every year, passionate missionaries leave for the nations—only to return home discouraged and defeated. The number one reason? Lack of preparation.

In *Prepare for the Mission Field – Developing Your Resources*, veteran pastor and missions leader Bruce Edwards draws from over 35 years of experience equipping and sending missionaries to more than 100 nations. With a pastor’s heart and a strategist’s insight, he shows you how to:

- Build a strong spiritual foundation
- Get plugged into a healthy, sending church
- Gain essential training and ministry experience
- Develop your team and raise lasting financial support
- Strengthen your faith to thrive under pressure

This is more than a manual—it’s your launch pad. Whether you’re stepping onto foreign soil for the first time or preparing for long-term service, this book will give you the tools to go the distance and bear lasting fruit.

The nations are waiting. Will you be ready?

Bruce R. Edwards

www.bruce-edwards.com