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GPS



# NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

**Volume 6**

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**World Missions...**  
Reaching the World for Christ



*international ministry supernatural  
prophetic generation*

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## TEACHER'S GUIDE



1. We congratulate you for accepting the challenge of discipling new believers using *New Life in Christ* as your guide. The results of this study can produce eternal fruit.

2. It is important to understand that discipleship is much more than studying the lessons in *New Life in Christ*. Discipleship implies a life change for the disciple.

This manual is just an initial aid for growth. The students will need God's continued help to change their attitudes, character, ways of thinking, habits, etc.

3. It is of utmost importance that students develop habits like daily Bible reading, prayer, Scripture memorization, and fellowship with other believers in Christ.

4. Help students cultivate the habit of prayer. Teach them by praying together with them.

5. This manual may be used in many different ways. In most cases, you will study one lesson a week, encouraging the student to do all the parts of each lesson, including the side columns.

6. Prepare well for each session. As the teacher, you should be familiar with the content and key concepts of each lesson.

Your preparation should include prayer for your own heart as well as for your students.

7. Let the Bible always be your authority in answering the questions in these lessons. The students should look up each Bible passage by themselves and try to answer the questions based on what the Bible says.

Some new believers need a brief orientation on how to find references in their Bibles.

8. At the beginning of each lesson, take time to review the previous memory verse and ask how the daily Bible study is going. Focus on encouragement for students who have not completed assignments and beware of sending messages that might be perceived as scolding.

9. Encourage the students to answer the questions in their own words. Avoid copying the Bible word for word. Using their own words will help them to analyze the meaning of the text being studied.

10. Avoid preaching. Use questions to discover what the students understand and to stimulate active participation.

11. Try to have the students think about the practical implications for their lives. Help them to understand specific, practical applications.



Each lesson has sections marked by a STOP sign. These are designed for the students to stop and think about the implications of the lesson for their lives. Take time to meditate on these sections.

The assignments in the columns at the side of each lesson are also designed for this purpose. Make use of them.

12. Be sensitive to what God is doing in each student's life. Take time out of each session to answer any questions they might have. Be sensitive to issues in their personal lives they might be struggling with.

13. Keep in mind that there are times when it is not possible to get to every question in the lesson because of time limitations. In these cases, choose the most important questions to discuss.

14. Try not to let your sessions get too long. Keep an eye on your audience's attention span.

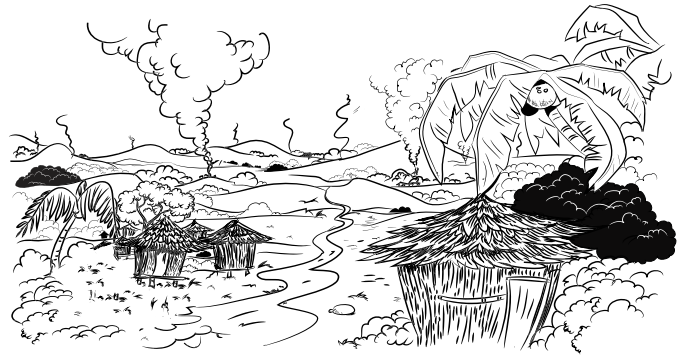


*But you will  
receive power  
when the Holy  
Spirit comes on you;  
and you will be my witnesses  
in Jerusalem, and in all Judea  
and Samaria, and to the ends  
of the earth.” Acts 1:8*

# Step 1

## The challenge of world missions

*Untold millions are still untold. John Wesley*



*In the vast plain to the north I have sometimes seen, in the morning sun, the smoke of a thousand villages where no missionary has ever been. Robert Moffat, missionary to Africa*

### THE GREAT COMMISSION

1. Matthew 28:18-20, known as the Great Commission, is key for every Christian. Jot down the commandments you find in this passage. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. According to this passage, how far do we need to go? \_\_\_\_\_
3. It's difficult to leave family and comforts to go to faraway people that might not want to hear the gospel. What authority and support will missionaries who accept the challenge have? Matthew 28:18  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What did Christ promise when he commanded us to go to the ends of the world? Matthew 28:20 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. Our authority to preach in places opposed to the gospel comes from none other than Christ himself, Creator of all things, who gave his life and rose from the dead. Not only that, he promises to always be at our side wherever we go.
5. What command did Jesus give his disciples after promising to give them the power of the Holy Spirit? Acts 1:8 \_\_\_\_\_
6. Jesus commanded them to testify in \_\_\_\_\_, and all \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ and to \_\_\_\_\_. The command to make disciples of **all** nations, taking the gospel to the **ends of the earth**, is abundantly clear. In this passage we see a progression from Jerusalem, where they were located, to the surrounding province of Judea, then to the neighboring province of Samaria, and finally to the ends of the earth. How far were they able to spread the gospel during the first century?  
\_\_\_\_\_

The first disciples preached the good news, not only in their own provinces, but also throughout the known world. Even so, they didn't reach the whole earth. They left that job to believers who would follow them. Since then, the message has come to our countries, thanks to faithful believers who took Christ's command seriously. They were the first missionaries, yet there is still need for many more.

7. What is a missionary? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*A **missionary** is a disciple, sent by God and his church, who crosses boundaries of geography, culture, religion, language and world view, in order to evangelize, establish, and build the church in an integral manner. From Misiones Mundiales, p.19 by William Taylor and Eugenio Campos.*

## THE URGENCY: A WORLD WITHOUT CHRIST

On every continent there are millions who have never heard a clear presentation of the gospel, especially in Asia and Africa, where Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, and animism\* reign. There are other places like Europe, which in the past received the gospel with joy, but today is characterized by materialism and the belief that God is not relevant to modern times.

\* Animism is a belief systems held by many indigenous people throughout the world. There are many different expressions, but all believe that spirits dwell in material things like the sun, mountains, trees, animals, etc. Animists communicate with and sacrifice to spirits, sometimes through witch doctors or mediums, who are said to have spiritual powers.

8. What is the condition of someone without Christ? Ephesians 2:1-2 \_\_\_\_\_

They are not free. Instead they are controlled by the world and the devil ("the ruler of the kingdom of the air"). They live in disobedience, chaos, and fear. When all is said and done, it does not matter if they are tribal people living in the jungle or highly sophisticated professionals in a city. Without Christ they are lost. World missions involves reaching these multitudes who are without Christ.



9. In light of what you have studied, meditate on and discuss the following:

- "The souls that die today will not be able to hear tomorrow." Anonymous
- "We talk of the Second Coming; half the world has never heard of the first." Oswald J. Smith
- "The gospel is only good news if it gets there in time." Carl F. Henry
- "Oh, that I had a thousand lives and a thousand bodies! All of them should be devoted to no other employment but to preach Christ to these degraded, despised, yet beloved mortals." Robert Moffat, missionary to Africa

10. Thinking about the quotes above, explain why world missions is so important.

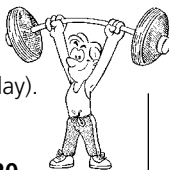
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\_\_\_\_\_

### GROWING STRONGER

Read Acts 1-7

(one chapter per day).



Memorize Matthew 28:19-20

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. NIV

Go therefore go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. NKJV

11. In Romans 1:16 Paul said he was not ashamed of the gospel because it is the \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ to all who believe. What is in play in world missions is the **salvation** of lost people. In other words their **eternal destiny** is at stake.

12. What motivates a missionary? Missions pioneer Hudson Taylor said the following about his motivation to go in 1853 to China, a distant place which was hostile to the gospel:



Hudson Taylor

"Would that God would make hell so real to us that we cannot rest, heaven so real that we must have men there, Christ so real that our supreme motive and aim shall be to make the Man of Sorrows the Man of Joy by the conversion to him of many."

 What do you feel after studying this lesson? \_\_\_\_\_

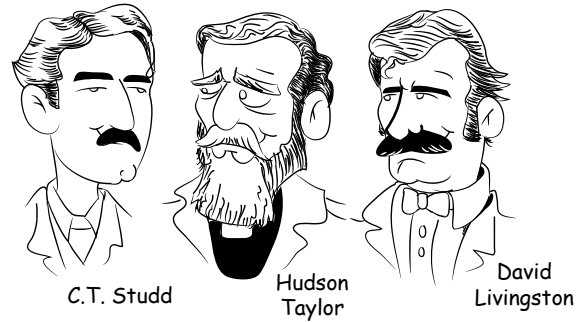
Would it be possible for **you** to form part of this movement? \_\_\_\_\_

Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

**This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. 1 Timothy 2:3-4**

## Step 2

# Missions pioneers



### THE APOSTLE PAUL - Missionary to the Gentiles

1. What does Acts 13:1-3 say about the calling and sending of Paul and Barnabas?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. In Acts 26:12-18 Paul, while a prisoner, gave his personal testimony before King Agrippa. How did he explain his calling? v. 16 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What job was Paul given in v. 17-18? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Can we say this is the job assigned to all missionaries? \_\_\_\_\_

These verses define what is at stake. Without Christ we live in darkness, controlled by Satan and condemned. We don't realize it because we are blinded to the eternal consequences of our situation until Christ opens our eyes.

4. Paul was never intimidated by people, not even the king. How did he take advantage of his audience with the king? Acts 26:26-29 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Why did he speak to the king this way, and with such confidence? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. What happened in Iconium is typical of Paul's ministry. See Acts 14:1-7. How did the people respond? v. 1 \_\_\_\_\_

What happened next? v. 2 \_\_\_\_\_

How did they face the opposition? v. 3 \_\_\_\_\_

How did the people react? v. 4-5 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What did Paul do? v. 6-7 \_\_\_\_\_

The same thing happened in Lystra, yet worse. Paul was stoned and left for dead (v. 19-20). Even so, what did Paul do after such drastic opposition?

Acts 14:21-23 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In each place many believed, but then came opposition to his preaching. Yet, Paul and his companions continued ministering and in each place left new believers who formed a church. When they passed through Lystra, Iconium, and

#### IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE FIRST MISSIONARIES

The book of Acts is a missions manual because it recounts the "Acts of the Apostles" as they took the gospel throughout the known world.

To understand what pioneer missions is all about, read from Acts 13 to the end of the book to follow the life of Paul.

Next, reread the whole book of Acts to review the missionary work of the Apostles.



#### GROWING STRONGER

##### Read Acts 8-14

(one chapter per day)

##### Memorize Acts 26:18

*...to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith... NIV*

*... to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith... NKJV*



Antioch, they didn't complain about the injustices they suffered. Neither were they intimidated. Rather their concern was to encourage, exhort, teach new believers, and appoint elders in each church. The goal is the same today: to establish self-sustaining churches with mature leaders whose final authority is God's word.

7. What lessons can we learn from Paul's life? \_\_\_\_\_

## PIONEERS IN MODERN TIMES

In these lessons we quote some of the early missionary pioneers who left their homelands and went to distant places where no one had ever preached the gospel. They were true heroes of the faith, courageous in suffering yet victorious. One of them, C.T. Studd came from a wealthy family. In 1883 he was acclaimed as one of the best athletes in England. He was popular and privileged.



C.T. Studd

to Africa, where he was a pioneer in the evangelization of the Congo. He died at the age of 70 after years of serving the unreached. His life produced more for eternity in those distant lands than a privileged life in England ever could. Studd expressed great passion for souls when he said:

*"Some wish to live within the sound of church and chapel bell. I want to run a rescue shop within a yard of hell."*

*"How could I spend the best years of my life in living for the honours of this world, when thousands of souls are perishing every day?"*

Yet, at the height of his fame, he responded to God's calling. He renounced his fortune and went to China, India, and finally

8. God might not call you to go as far away as Studd, yet the Great Commission is for every believer. What are you doing with your life that will produce fruit for eternity? Are you evangelizing someone? Are you discipling someone? Who? \_\_\_\_\_

Try using the *New Life in Christ* books to do this. Download free copies at [www.NewLifeDiscipleship.com](http://www.NewLifeDiscipleship.com)

Do you feel that perhaps God is calling you to something bigger? \_\_\_\_\_

## WISDOM FROM THE PIONEERS (meditate on and discuss)

- *"God had an only Son and He made Him a missionary."* David Livingstone, missionary to Africa.
- *"The Great Commission is not an option to be considered; it is a command to be obeyed."* Hudson Taylor, missionary to China



*"You are a Christian because somebody cared. Now it's your turn"* Warren Wiersbe  
Who shared the gospel with you? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever thanked God for those, who with faith and sacrifice, brought the gospel to your country and your community? \_\_\_\_\_ Take a moment to do it now.

## PASSING THE TORCH (a new movement)

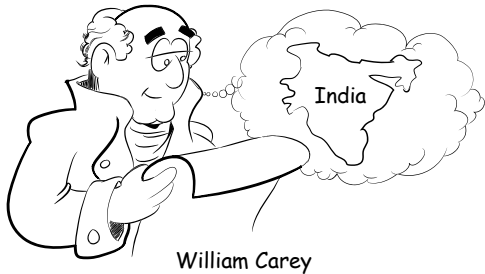
Previously the majority of missionaries in the modern age came from Europe or North America. They went to Asia, Latin America, and Africa, at times under hard conditions and without the comforts of their homelands. They worked to evangelize, disciple, plant churches, train leaders, translate the Bible, establish schools, other community projects, and much more.

Now, there is a new awakening around the world in Latin America, Africa, and Asia. God is raising up believers from countries that were formerly considered the "mission field" to join the missionary movement. They form an army that is already on the move, yet there is still the need for many more workers. Here is the testimony of a Brazilian missionary explaining what motivated him to work far away from

his native land.

*"God has called me to a country in crisis, lacking what is most important: Jesus Christ. The economic crisis is only a shadow of what the people suffer for lack of God. It is a small country on a big continent with few opportunities and many challenges.*

*My vocation is to love these people. My work is to proclaim Jesus while the fruit I see motivates me to continue on. Their religious traditions are just a lot of empty repetition. The gospel on the other hand nourishes and satisfies. We must not cease proclaiming the wonders of Jesus. We have seen souls saved and lives changed. We praise our God, the one who continues to bless our lives and ministry.*



William Carey

## Step 3

# The father of modern missions

### A PIONEER IN THE MODERN ERA

William Carey, born in 1761, was a shoemaker from humble beginnings. Today he is known as the father of modern missions. He grew up in a traditional church in England, but in his youth, through the testimony of a friend he became a strong follower of Jesus Christ. His study of Scripture led him to the firm conviction that every believer had the obligation to be part of taking the gospel to the whole world.

Although this is obvious to many today, in Carey's time the church did not see the needs of the world beyond its walls. There were no agencies to send missionaries. On one occasion while he was exhorting pastors to become interested in missions one of them said:

*"Young man, sit down; when God pleases to convert the heathen, he will do it without your aid and mine."*

In answer to the idea that world evangelization was something that God would do without human messengers Carey said. *"If it be the duty of all men to believe the Gospel ... then it be the duty of those who are entrusted with the Gospel to endeavor to make it known among all nations."*

Faced with indifference and opposition, he would not give up. On one occasion he expressed his convictions when he said, **"Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God."** For Carey this was not just a phrase to inspire others, but a daring way to live his life on a daily basis.

Despite opposition and with little support, in 1792 he went to India, a five month journey. There he would work for the rest of his life, never to return to England, his native country.

In India he faced many obstacles: sicknesses, poverty, opposition to his work by the English authorities that governed India, and the deaths of his son and wife. We don't know how he survived facing such tragedies, but he never gave up. His friends said: "What Carey starts, he always finishes."

Seven years passed without seeing a single convert, but in 1800, while he was translating the Bible into Bengali, he saw the first Indian come to Christ. This brother was later used greatly to reach others.

Carey had an incredible capacity to learn languages. He learned Greek, Hebrew, and Latin and dedicated himself to learn and translate the Bible into many languages spoken in India, beginning with Bengali. When he died, he had trans-

lated the Bible or portions of the Bible into approximately 40 different languages. With great sacrifice he started a print shop to publish these translations. One time a fire destroyed many of his translations; he had no remaining copies. Faced with this tragedy, he did not give up, but began again.

The educated people looked down on him because he was only a shoemaker, but when they needed a professor of languages (Bengali and Sanskrit) at a university in Calcutta, they offered him the job. He was the most qualified, even though he did not have a college degree. He taught there for 30 years, and his salary was used to support the work of Bible translation.

He always fought for justice for the oppressed in his adopted country. He fought to eliminate the practice of "sati," the cruel custom of burning widows alive with the bodies of their dead husbands.

Today in the train station at Serampore where Carey worked there are two statues, one of the famous Mahatma Gandhi and the other of William Carey. He was known as the "Friend of India." He founded 26 churches, 126 rural schools, and the College of Serampore, higher education for Indians.

Before he died in 1834 he said, "I do not have a single unsatisfied desire."

Years later, the Hindu Mahatma Gandhi, said; *"If Christians would really live according to the teachings of Christ, as found in the Bible, all of India would be Christian today."*

### A WORTHY EXAMPLE TO FOLLOW

1. What was the attitude of some when Carey spoke of the obligation to take the gospel to all nations?

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2. Are there believers today with this same indifference regarding the need to reach the world?  
Yes  No

3. What arguments are given today as excuses for not going nor supporting those who go?

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**LIVES THAT INSPIRE**



The biographies of the early missionaries serve as inspiration. Find books or do an internet search to learn more about those listed below.

- Hudson Taylor
- Jim Elliot
- Nate Saint
- William Carey
- Robert Moffat
- C.T. Studd
- Amy Carmichael
- Mary Slessor
- David Livingstone
- John Wesley
- Francisco Pensotti



**GROWING STRONGER**  
Read Acts 15-21

**Memorize Acts 1:8**



*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. NIV*

*But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. NKJV*

4. Carey was only a shoemaker without formal training, but God used him for a work that required much study and intellect: the translation of the Bible. Do you believe that God can use people like him today? Yes  No   
In your opinion, what are some of the requirements to be a missionary?

5. What qualities do you see in Carey that helped him face the difficulties he encountered in India? \_\_\_\_\_

6. Some have said that for Carey the cause of Christ was so important that in comparison, the sacrifices required were not important. Do you agree? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

Think about the following: *“The only right a Christian has is the right to give up his rights” Oswald Chambers*

7. Must all missionaries suffer what Carey and other pioneers suffered or are things different today? Is the work of the pioneers the same as that done by missionaries today? \_\_\_\_\_

For most there are not as many difficulties, but even today some are called to go to areas resistant to the gospel, where the work is very difficult. The truth is that God uses all sorts of people today as missionaries. There are very few like Carey, yet God will use anyone who says, *“Here I am Lord. Send me.”*

8. Carey’s theme was *“Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God.”* How would your life be different today if you were to live like that?

9. What are some “great things” that you are expecting from God today? \_\_\_\_\_

10. Why is it that some like Carey can have so much faith, when for the majority of people it seems impossible? \_\_\_\_\_

11. If you aren’t expecting anything great, will you attempt anything great? Yes  No   
If you do not attempt anything great, will you see anything great? Yes  No   
If you do not have big goals, are you willing to set some today? Yes  No



Perhaps up until now your faith has been weak, yet Christ continues to be the one who will never leave us nor forsake us. Write down something great that you expect from God beginning today? \_\_\_\_\_



## Step 4 How will they hear?

*"Never remain with your arms crossed when the Savior of the world died with his open."* José Luis Prieto



### WHAT IS NEEDED FOR THE SALVATION OF THE NATIONS?

1. Romans 10:13-15 explains the "why" of missions. Here we can see a logical progression that leads to salvation. Paul declared, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Read the passage paying special attention to the use of the word "how" which points to a chain of events necessary to be saved.

v. 14 How can they call on the one in whom they have not \_\_\_\_\_, and how can they believe in the one of whom they have not \_\_\_\_\_. And how can they hear without \_\_\_\_\_.

Here we arrive at the heart of missions. To call on the Lord they must believe, and to believe they must hear, and to hear there must be someone to preach to them. A person cannot become a Christian if they live in ignorance, believing in superstitions, lies, and human traditions.

They will never hear the truth if there is not someone to share the Word with them. The sovereign God could have chosen any method to spread the gospel, by means of angels or a voice from heaven, yet he decided to use people to preach.

2. From what you learned in Step 1, to whom has God given the privilege to share the Word? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Romans 10:15 continues the progression, "How will they preach unless they are \_\_\_\_\_?" Who sends the missionaries?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Two elements in the sending of missionaries (Acts 13:1-3):

- **God** calls them and sends them.
- **The church** sends them, commissioning, encouraging, praying, and supporting them with finances and more.

4. How are those who announce good news described in Romans 10:15b \_\_\_\_\_

It's interesting how **feet** are mentioned. A missionary is one whose feet take them to far away places. We have to **go** because the lost will not come to us; in fact, the majority are indifferent or resistant. For that reason we have to meet them where they are, learning their language, culture and win their confidence. Missions is a transcultural activity.

#### MISSIONS AND THE GREAT COMMISSION

Matthew 28:18-20

- **We have authority** to carry the message. The one who commissioned us was Jesus, who has all authority in heaven and earth. No person, government, religion, nor even Satan can take away this authority.
- **The goal is to make disciples**, men and women who follow Christ in every step they take.
- **The message is for all nations.** That is where lost souls are. No country or people can be excluded because they are too far away, or too difficult, or because we don't understand or like their culture.
- **We must go.** They will never hear unless we go. We cannot reach the world unless we go beyond our borders and comfort zones.
- **By baptism** the new believer gives testimony that he is leaving his old life and traditions to follow Christ.
- **Teaching:** New believers need follow up. The goal is not just to fill their heads, but to teach them how to follow God's commands.
- **We are never alone.** Christ will be with us everyday, in every place, even to the ends of the world.

## THE CALL

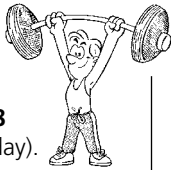


*"Not called!" did you say?*

*"Not heard the call," I think you should say.*

*Put your ear down to the Bible, and hear Him bid you go and pull sinners out of the fire of sin. Put your ear down to the burdened, agonized heart of humanity, and listen to its pitiful wail for help. Go stand by the gates of hell, and hear the damned entreat you to go to their father's house and bid their brothers and sisters and servants and masters not to come there. Then look Christ in the face — whose mercy you have professed to obey — and tell Him whether you will join heart and soul and body and circumstances in the march to publish His mercy to the world." William Booth*

## GROWING STRONGER



**Read Acts 22-28**  
(one chapter per day).

**Memorize Romans 10:14-15**

*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? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news! NIV*

*How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace Who bring glad tidings of good things! NKJV*

5. What are the two things mentioned in Romans 10:17 that are necessary to have a faith that leads to salvation? \_\_\_\_\_

Not only is it necessary to hear, but they must hear the **Word of God**. Every missionary, no matter what their activities must clearly declare the message of the Bible (the gospel). It is the Bible that God uses to produce saving faith, not our words, arguments, or talents.

Ephesians 6:17 calls the Bible the **sword of the Spirit**. The Bible is a both an offensive and a defensive weapon. It protects us. It also has supernatural power to attack Satan's forces who direct cultural and worldly traditions that have blinded people and left them in darkness. It touches the heart.

6. In light of what you have seen in Romans 10, what do you think about the following quote by John Piper? *"Go, send, or disobey."* Is he right? Is there another option besides going, sending, or disobeying? \_\_\_\_\_

At the end of the book of Acts, the whole world had not yet been evangelized. It is our turn to continue on to the end. In this volume we will see how God calls some to go to distant lands and others to stay home to support those who go and the cause of world missions.

*On the previous page you will see a summary of the Great Commission that Christ left for us. Take time to study it with care.*

7. In Matthew 9:36-37 Jesus had compassion of the multitudes because they were harassed, helpless, and scattered like \_\_\_\_\_. He said that the \_\_\_\_\_ was great but the workers \_\_\_\_\_. Ask the Lord of the harvest to \_\_\_\_\_.

8. In your opinion, if there is abundant harvest, why are there so few workers? Write down at least four reasons why there are so few missionaries to reach the world for Christ.



\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

It would seem like many believers today are blind, living in their own worlds without seeing, or caring to see the needs of a world without Christ. But the situation does not have to continue this way. God is calling workers who are courageous and willing to go. We are all responsible for world missions. Some go as missionaries (either short term or long term). Others hold them up in prayer, support them financially, and encourage the missionaries in the field.

In the next lesson we will look at some of the reasons for the lack of workers and see what the Bible says about them.



## Step 5

# Why aren't there more missionaries?

### WHAT SOME SAY

There are many reasons for the lack of interest in world missions and the lack of missionaries, but perhaps some of the most common are represented by these comments that we often hear:

- Others will do the work.
- I'm a simple person without any special abilities. I am not a preacher and am a bit timid. I don't qualify.
- I don't think I could learn a foreign language and adapt to another culture.
- I don't think I could live with so many discomforts. I'm afraid of insects, disease, and new types of food.
- I'm interested but don't know how to help. The work is so great that it seems impossible.
- I'm too old; send someone younger.
- There is not enough money. Missionaries never seem to have enough. There is just not enough support in the churches.
- There is too much to do in our own community for us to be sending our people and resources so far away.
- The unreached peoples like the Muslims are so hardened. They don't permit the preaching of the gospel.
- I would like to support a missionary, but I must give all my offering to my church. There is none left for missions.

### HOW TO ANSWER THOSE WHO SAY...

1. **"Others will do the work."** If everyone thought that way, who would go? How would they hear? \_\_\_\_\_

Think about and discuss:

- *"What part of the word go don't you understand?" Robert Suhonen*
- *"We should not ask, What is wrong with the world? for that diagnosis has already been given. Rather, we should ask, What has happened to the salt and light?" John Stott*
- *"You must go or send a substitute." Oswald J. Smith What did he mean when he said "send a substitute"?"*

2. **"There is too much to do in our own community for us to be sending our people and resources so far away."**

How would you answer this objection in the light of Acts 1:8? Can we justify ignoring the rest of the world?

The command still stands today. It's not a question of whether we should support ministries here or over there. Our job includes both things.

- If the first Christian thought that way, the gospel would never have arrived in our countries.
- Can we expect blessing in our local ministry if we refuse to recognize our part in reaching the whole world? Why? \_\_\_\_\_
- *"If you have a vision to reach your neighborhood, your town, or even all of North America, Rejoice! You're seeing God's heart for 5% of the world's population...Stand up with an expanded vision of God's whole heart for the uttermost parts of the world, and get to know the rest of your God." Bob Sjogren*

## TO INVESTIGATE

What are the beliefs of the following religions? Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism. Investigate and prepare a summary on a separate sheet.



## GROWING STRONGER

**Read Acts 1-7 again.**  
(one chapter per day).

### Memorize Philippians 4:19

*And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus. NIV*

*And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. NKJV*

### 3. ***"It requires special talent to be a missionary; and I don't think I qualify. I'm just an ordinary person and timid. I can't preach or evangelize?"***

Moses expressed this same attitude in Exodus 3:11-12. *"Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"* How did God respond to his worries? v.12 \_\_\_\_\_

What does 2 Corinthians 4:7 say about our limitations? \_\_\_\_\_

**Think about the following:** *"God uses men who are weak and feeble enough to lean on him."* Hudson Taylor

What special talents are needed to be a missionary? \_\_\_\_\_

God can use anyone. What is required is not talent, but faith, the fear of God, submission, and love for people. Furthermore, not all missionaries spend their time preaching; there are unlimited opportunities like building, medicine, teaching, administration, and much more.

#### **Think about and discuss:**

- *"God does not call the qualified. He qualifies all whom He calls."* A. W. Tozer
- *Hudson Taylor, while interviewing a person who only had one leg, asked him why he wanted to be a missionary to China with such a disability. The man responded. "Because those with two legs won't go." He was accepted and sent to China.*

### 4. ***"There's no money for missions. It's too hard to raise the support needed to go."***

*"I can do all this through him who gives me strength"* (Philippians 4:13). This verse is commonly used to confirm the power of God in our lives without realizing that in its context Paul was speaking about money. He affirmed, *"I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want."* v. 12.

Taking into account that Paul was a missionary writing to believers who sent him financial support, what does Philippians 4:19 promise? \_\_\_\_\_

This promise is for the missionary and also for those who support missionaries. Although many have difficulties raising support, God has been faithful to those who trust and wait on him to provide. Don't doubt, believe this promise, not the lie that says, *"There isn't money for missions."* Satan wants to lull believers and churches into believing that there won't be enough for their own expenses if they give to missions. Even if it causes great sacrifice, God will provide all their needs according to his generous grace.

#### **Think about and discuss:**

- *"The will of God will never lead you where the grace of God cannot keep you."* Jim Elliot
- *"Depend on it. God's work done in God's way will never lack God's supply. He is too wise a God to frustrate His purposes for lack of funds..."* Hudson Taylor
- *"People say, 'Lord, increase our faith.' It is not great faith you need but faith in a great God"* Hudson Taylor

### 5. ***"We should only give to our own church."*** What did Paul think about offerings to missionaries?

Philippians 4:15-19 \_\_\_\_\_

Encourage your church to give to missions like the believers in Philippi.

### 6. ***"I'm too old to go"*** One of the most effective missionaries the author of this book knows left for Africa after the age of 50. Another went at the age of 70. Both continue bearing much fruit.



## Step 6 Possible or impossible?

*Expect great things from God;  
attempt great things for God. - William Carey*

### AN IMPOSSIBLE TASK?

Many believe that being a missionary is too hard, that it is just sacrifice and suffering. They believe that it is important and worthwhile as long as others do it. They say things like:

- *"I could never live with so many hardships, or adapt to a new culture, or learn another language. I am afraid of insects, diseases and new foods."*
- *"The unreached peoples such as the Muslims are too resistant. In many places they prohibit the preaching of the gospel."*

Probably Paul and the other apostles didn't like the hardships either; traveling to far away places, eating strange food, dealing with people of different cultures with hard hearts, suffering mistreatment, and being imprisoned or beaten, but even so they continued on.

1. Acts 5 tells an exciting story of the early days when Peter and John were jailed for preaching the gospel (v. 17-19). After being released from jail by an angel they refused to be intimidated and continued preaching (v. 20-21). How did they answer the authorities who commanded them to stop preaching?

Acts 5:28-29 \_\_\_\_\_

2. Read Acts 5:40-41. After being beaten and threatened, Peter and John went out \_\_\_\_\_ because they had been counted worthy of suffering for Christ. Later, did they stop preaching? What did they do? v. 42

\_\_\_\_\_

3. In Step 2 we see what happened when Paul preached in Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe (Acts 14). At first many were converted, but then came opposition from the religious traditionalists and Paul had to leave for the next city. What would Paul say about the difficulties on the mission field today?

2 Timothy 1:8 \_\_\_\_\_

2 Timothy 1:12 \_\_\_\_\_

2 Timothy 2:3 \_\_\_\_\_



4. What motivated Paul to continue on even under severe persecution?

2 Timothy 2:9 \_\_\_\_\_

2 Timothy 2:10 \_\_\_\_\_

Who were "the elect?" \_\_\_\_\_



*It's true there is opposition to the gospel but think about the following:  
"One man with God is always a majority." John Knox*



*It is not a question of how difficult the work is, but rather if God is sovereign or not. We should ask: "How big is our God?"*

*Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts. The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Psalms 46:6-7*

**THE PRINCIPAL WORLD RELIGIONS**

According to a 2010 study by the Pew Forum (based on a world population of 6.9 billion), there are the following:

**Christians** 2,173,180,000 or 31% of the world population.

- 50% Catholics
- 37% Protestant
- 12% Orthodox

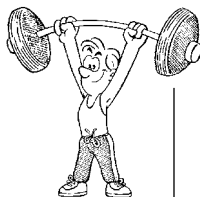
**Muslims** 1,598,510,000 or 23% of the world population.

- 87-90% Sunni,
- 10-13% Shi'a.

**No religion** 1,126,500,000 16% of the world population. These are atheist, agnostics or those who do not identify with any religion.

**Hindus** 1,033,080,000 or 15% of the world population. The vast majority live in India.

**Buddhists** 487,540,000 or 7% of the world population. Half of these live in China.



**GROWING STRONGER**

**Read Acts 8-14 once more**

**Memorize Acts 5:29**

*We must obey God rather than human beings! NIV*

*We ought to obey God rather than men. NKJV*

**DO YOU HAVE TO BE A "SUPER" CHRISTIAN TO BE A MISSIONARY?**

Although it requires sacrifice, modern missionary life is not as hard or dramatic as in the days of the pioneers. Daily life for many is similar to the everyday life in their countries of origin. Not all, but the majority of missionaries live in cities, in normal houses, doing normal things.

Any ability they had at home can be used by God on the mission field. Typical ministries today are varied, for example:

- |   |                          |                                       |
|---|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Evangelism  | Bible translation        | Men's and women's ministries          |
| Discipleship  | Youth ministry           | Office and computer work              |
| Teaching  | Video production         | Computer tech support                 |
| Preaching   | Children's ministry      | Ministry to inmates or addicts        |
| Hospitality   | Graphic design           | Doctors and Health workers            |
| Administration  | Teaching missionary kids | Music and artistic work               |
| Teaching languages  | Christian education      | Literature (writing and distribution) |
| Construction, Mechanics, Electrical work                      |                          | Community welfare projects            |
| Ministering to victims of domestic violence or the sex trade. |                          |                                       |

5. What would you say to someone who says: *"I'm interested, but the task is so overwhelming. Will I be able to make a difference? It seems impossible."*

---

6. Who is responsible to touch the heart of unbelievers? \_\_\_\_\_

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God has not called us to save the world but to preach the gospel and let the Holy Spirit do the work of convincing them. What's my job? I'm to be faithful and leave the results in his hands.

**IT'S DIFFICULT... BUT WORTH IT**

It is difficult but not too difficult. Being a missionary involves a struggle to adapt to a new culture, learn a new language, and eat new things. After serving many years in Latin America, one missionary said:

*We were able to meet people very different than ourselves but very special. They showed us love and we loved them. Special friendships were formed that still exist today. But above all, we were able to see the hand of God changing lives, sometimes radically. There were many trials, yet even more blessings.*

*Yes it was difficult, but it was also a great adventure. We spent sleepless nights due to mosquitos, but not that many. On occasions we were given food we had never tried before, but how could we complain when they gave us the best they had with so much love? How delicious were the mangos, papayas, pastries, and tamales. We are grateful for what God allowed us to experience. You can look at new things with fear or with a spirit of adventure. In our home country we would have never seen a sea turtle laying her eggs, or fallen asleep in a hammock listening to howler monkeys.*

The testimonies of many missionaries could be summed up in Paul's words:

*"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen." Ephesians 3:20-21*



## Step 7

# The challenge of unreached people groups

Although a significant part of the world's population identify as Christian, only 25% of these are evangelicals who trust in Christ as their one and only and sufficient, Savior. What implications does this have

for the country you live in? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

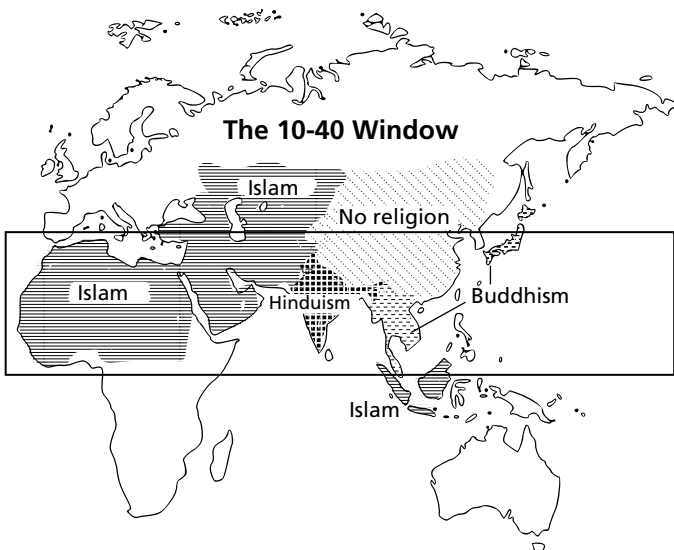
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### ACCESS

On a worldwide level, how many people have access to the gospel? In many places unbelievers have access to the gospel in the sense that there are churches, Bibles, and believers who share the gospel. If they want to know, these are ways for them to hear the gospel. But in 2013 about 41% of the world did not have access to the gospel. This means that there are no Bibles or sufficient Christian presence to give effective testimony.

### UNREACHED PEOPLES: THE 10-40 WINDOW

Although the whole world still needs the gospel, there are some areas that are almost completely unevangelized. There is an area of the world between 10 and 40 degrees north latitude called the 10-40 Window. It could be considered a belt of resistance whose inhabitants have not heard or have not responded to the gospel. Many



countries in the 10-40 Window prohibit the preaching of the gospel, and there is great persecution of Christians. In 2013 there were at least 2 billion people in the window without sufficient knowledge to make a decision for Christ.

Approximately two thirds of the world's population lives in the 10-40 Window. This is the home of the majority of the world's Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists and those without religion, such as the many atheists in China. There are also groups of Jews and animists. It is an area of great poverty and poor living standards.

Even though it is resistant to the gospel, it is an area of great opportunity for those brave enough to go and share Christ. Generally in these areas workers do not operate openly as "missionaries" but rather they seek ways to serve people and take advantage of opportunities to model and share their faith.

### BIBLE TRANSLATION

There are many groups dedicated to Bible translation. Here are some statistics gathered by the Wycliffe Global Alliance in 2015:

- There are approximately **7,000 languages in the world**.
- **Portions** of the Bible (one or more books) exist in over 1,045 languages. 2,932 languages have some Scripture.
- **New Testaments** exist in 1,333 languages (663 million people have the New Testament in their own languages).
- **The whole Bible** exists in 554 languages yet 1.5 billion people do not yet have the full Bible in their first language.
- 4.9 billion people have a Bible in their mother tongue.
- The *Jesus film*, exists in 1,370 different languages.

These statistics should encourage us when we think of the thousands of people who have dedicated their lives to Bible translation. At the same time they challenge us to finish the work so that all people can have a Bible in their mother tongue.

- There are 2,267 languages in more than 130 countries where Bible translation is under way.
- 180 million people speaking approximately 1,800 languages still need a Bible translation.



Have you thanked God for the Bible you have in your native tongue? Not only do we have a Bible, we have many different translations in English. Do you appreciate your Bible? What part does it play in your daily life?

---

### OUR PART

What should our attitude be towards the overwhelming challenge of unreached peoples? \_\_\_\_\_

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It would be easy to become discouraged when we see the size of the job that remains. But remember, your aren't responsible to reach the whole world, you are responsible to participate in world missions in some way. Each of us has a part to contribute so don't be intimidated by the size of the task. Just ask God: What part do you want me to play in reaching the world?

### PASSING THE TORCH

The nations can be divided into two blocks: The Global North and the Global South.

**The Global North:** Europe, North America, Australia, and New Zealand comprise the block of nations that have traditionally sent the most missionaries in modern times.

**The Global South:** Africa, Latin America, Asia, the Caribbean, and the South Pacific Islands. Formerly called, the Third World, they include countries that mostly received missionaries, and were considered "the mission field."

William Taylor calls the present phase of missions the "missionary movement from all nations to all nations."<sup>\*</sup> Why? There is an awakening in the Global South, which in growing numbers is sending missionaries to places like the 10-40 window, to lesser reached regions or to their own countries. Today, missionaries come from all over the world, not just the North.

As you can see in the following graphic, the number of missionaries from the South is growing year by year to such an extent that it has passed or soon will the number who come from the North. These numbers should encourage us greatly.

Number of missionaries from the Global North and South (Workers serving long term)					
	1980	1988	1990	1995	2012 (estimates)
North	60,120	82,270	88,286	108,270	125,000
South	15,050	38,360	48,884	89,160	135,000
Total	75,170	120,630	137,170	197,430	260,000

Taken from *Misiones Mundiales* (Estudios CLASE), p. 81, William Taylor y Eugenio Campos, SETECA.

\* p. 76, *Misiones Mundiales*.

Read 2 Timothy 2:2. How are we seeing this fulfilled in missions today? \_\_\_\_\_

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The following graphic gives numbers by region from the Global South. Which regions are sending more missionaries?

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Numbers of missionaries sent from the Global South					
	1980	%	1988	%	2012
Asia	6,048	45	17,299	48	?
Africa	5,689	43	14,989	42	?
Latin America	1,127	9	3,026	8	?
Oceania	374	3	610	2	?
Total	13,238	100	35,924	100	Incomplete data

Taken from *Misiones Mundiales* (Estudios CLASE), p. 82

It's true that Asia and Africa send more missionaries, but taking into account the percentages of each region in relation to the world population the numbers change. For example:

**Asia**, with 60% of the world's population sends 45% of the missionaries.

**Africa**, with only 15.5% of the world's population sends 43% of the missionaries.

**Latin America**, with 8.6% of the world's population sends 8% of the missionaries.

**Oceania**, with .5% of the world's population sends 2% of the missionaries.

These statistics should not be misunderstood. They show a great awakening in the Global South, but the task at hand is still enormous. Christians must not relax due to past achievement, instead, these statistics should move us to join in the great movement of world evangelization.

What does Christ command in Matthew 9:36-38?

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*Prayer: Lord, show me what my part is in your plan for world missions. I'm listening and ready to obey as you lead me.*

**Read Acts 15-21 again** (one chapter per day)

**Memorize Psalms 96:3**

*Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples. NIV*

*Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples. NKJV*



# Praying for your missionaries



"Wherever God is going to do something new, he first puts his people to pray" (Charles Spurgeon). We all know we should pray for our missionaries, but how? Below is a guide to help pray for your missionaries during the week, praying for different things each day. Make a photocopy of this sheet to carry in your Bible to help your pray. The book *Operation World* is also a useful guide.

## Day 1 Health and protection

- Protection of the missionary and his possessions.
- Health and protection against sickness, that they might have energy and power.
- An adequate diet, wisdom, and the discipline to eat well, and care for their health, weight, exercise, etc.
- For adjustment to the conditions and the climates where they live.
- Access to medical attention.
- Political stability where they work.

## Day 2 Spiritual life

- For a daily walk by faith in grace, trusting in God's power moment by moment.
- Daily surrender of their bodies as instruments of righteousness.
- That their study of the Bible might be regular and fresh.
- Understanding of the Word and the ability to apply it to the situation in which they live and minister.
- Power in spiritual warfare. Alertness to the spiritual dangers where they live. Wisdom in the use of their authority in Christ to confront spiritual opposition.
- Protection from temptation; maintaining purity, discipline, and self control.
- Faithfulness to God, persevering in difficulties.
- That their lives might be examples worthy of following.

## Day 3 Emotional life

- Encouragement, positive attitudes, and healthy thinking.
- Control over their emotions, tongue, etc.
- Victory over loneliness, depression, and anger.
- Companionship and mutual support among those on the field.
- Willingness to forgive those who offend them and willingness to ask for forgiveness when they hurt others.
- That they might experience the fruit of the Spirit.

## Day 4 Family life

- That their love for their spouse might grow. That they might dedicate the time necessary for a healthy marriage.
- Open and honest communication with their spouse and children. That they might listen more than they speak.
- That their family might be an example to others.
- That their children might adapt well to the culture where they minister (language, friendships etc.) That their children might adapt when they return to their parents' home countries. (They did not grow up in this culture and often find it difficult to feel at home and make friends.)
- Family time for fun, vacations, outings, etc.
- For the children's education and funds to pay for them.

## Day 5 Ministry

- For more workers willing to go to the field.
- Love and compassion for others.
- Open doors for ministry and preparation of the hearts of those who hear.
- Faith and courage to minister when facing opposition.
- Ability to make friendships with unbelievers.
- Faithfulness to the Bible as their final authority in everything.
- Continual dependence on the power of the Spirit rather than their own abilities.
- Humility to adopt the spirit of a servant.
- Liberty to minister, and protection against persecution or a hostile government.
- Good use of their time and resources.
- Ability to establish and accomplish goals.
- That their disciples might be capable of training others and take on positions of leadership.

## Day 6 Cultural adjustment

- Ability to learn the local language, customs, and culture. Sensitivity to cultural differences.
- Sensitivity to the needs of the people around them.
- Good relationship with the authorities and the local population.
- Flexibility.

## Relationships with other missionaries and believers

- A spirit of cooperation, without jealousy or pride.
- Mutual care for one another as members of God's family.
- Wisdom to confront others in love when necessary.
- Gracious treatment when others fall short.

## Day 7 Finances

- Provision of their monthly support.
- Open doors to present the needs of their ministry to their churches and supporters. That they would have pastors with a heart for missions.
- That those who have pledged support will be faithful to their commitments.
- Ability to communicate well with supporters. That their prayers letters might be informative, frank, interesting, and inspirational as they glorify God. For the ability to present well done letters, presentations, and videos, etc.
- Funds for projects, equipment, travel, and ministry tools.

# What is God doing today?

Testimonies from the field.



## From West Africa

Why do we work in this African country? The people are friendly and warm yet live under harsh traditions that take away all hope. Daily they seek God and the way to paradise but doubt that they will ever arrive there. They perform the rites of their religion yet afterward go out to lie and cheat. There is much fear, little love, and even less liberty. The women and children especially suffer.

It is as if they were suffocating, gasping for air, yet never able to get enough to fill their lungs. The other day I spoke with a new believer who was being pressured by his family to abandon his faith. Even so he was full of conviction, hope, and peace because now he had assurance of eternal life. This is why we work here.

## Called to Central America

When I finished college I began to question the plans I had set for my life. I wanted to be a marine biologist but was uncertain, feeling that perhaps God had something more. It was as if God was asking me, *What will be left at the end of your life? Will there be fruit that will last for eternity.*

After speaking with my pastor, God led me to enter seminary instead of going on to post-graduate studies in biology. During my years in seminary, God led me to my wife and our missionary career. I am thankful for being called to missions because we have witnessed over and over the power of God's word to change many lives for all eternity.

The first years on the field were not easy. When people go to the mission field, they expect to see great things, but sometimes the visible fruit is less than expected. It is easy to become disillusioned and even fall into depression.

I was training small groups of lay leaders but wanted to see more dramatic results. I felt that we had not accomplished very much, but when difficult times came to our country, it was these same leaders who stood firm when many pastors had to flee the country.

One of the most humble of our students later planted many small churches, and today there are more than a dozen pastors whom this brother won and disciplined serving in ministry. God multiplies our feeble efforts.

## From East Africa

What motivates me to be a missionary? First Timothy 2:3-4 says *"This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth."* One singer has said, don't stop dreaming because when you dream you imitate God who has special plans

for you. His dream is that all might be saved and know the truth.

God has called all of his children to be missionaries no matter where they live. A missionary is the believer who has understood, embraced, and lives to fulfill God's plan that all might be saved. The goal of world missions is to follow his will, no matter what the cost will be.

This encourages me to continue when trials come or when someone asks me why I left all behind, to serve in Africa, as if that was a crazy thing to do. It might seem foolish to some, but I am what I am because God never wavers in his desire that all might be saved. There is still much to do. Many need to hear and my job is to continue to shine for Christ so that they too may come to understand the truth of the gospel. One day his plan will be fulfilled when his children stand before him for all eternity.



## It's never too late

I was only 7 years old when I heard the story of the death of Jesus, and I decided with joy to give myself to him. Two years later I met some missionaries and prayed: *"Lord, when I am older I will be a missionary like them."* The years went by, yet I never forgot my promise. Deep inside me was the desire to know the Lord and obey him.

When I was 13, I began to work with children and later with youth. The years passed, and I married and became a leader and worked to plant a new church. I was studying theology in a church with an emphasis on missions and planning to go to the mission field. It was then that my husband left me, and I was left with my young children.

One day my new pastors were visiting me at home and upon entering they said, *"How is our missionary doing?"* Their words moved me, and I began to cry as I told them of my call to missions and my frustration since no one seemed to understand me, and I could not see how I could ever fulfill my call.

When my pastor asked where I wished to serve the Lord, I told him, *"The Lord called me to Africa many years ago and gave me a vision of how I would serve him overseas. So it was after two years of preparation I was finally able to leave for Mali in West Africa at the age of 51. God is faithful and always keeps his promises. "It is never too early or never too late for God to act. It is in his time..."*



Pray

Be in touch with missionaries on the field.



Give

## Step 8 How should I begin?

Can I have a part in world missions now, even if I cannot go? Of course! This manual is written to motivate and inspire you. If you accept the challenge, how can you begin? Below are some ideas along with a list of resources to help point you in the right direction.

### WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

- **Pray** for the missionaries that you know. Find out what their needs are. Pray for a vision for missions in your church and amongst its leaders, that God might call more workers. You could begin a group to pray for missions.
- **Support** a missionary with your offerings, or by writing, encouraging, sending e-mails, or calls by WhatsApp, Messenger, etc.
- **Go** to the field, either as a short-term (weeks) or long term (years) missionary.



1. Referring to India as a gold mine with souls to be saved, William Carey told the believers in his native England, ***"I will go down, but remember that you must hold the rope."***

What did he mean? \_\_\_\_\_

We have two options: Descend into the mine by going to the field or hold the rope so that others may go. It is a tragedy that many who feel the call to missions and are willing to give their lives don't receive the support of other believers. Instead many even try to discourage them. Many are prepared to go yet never leave because of a lack of financial or prayer support.

### BECOMING A FAN

Imagine that your country's team was going to Soccer's World Cup and that one of the team's star players was a member of your church. How would you treat him? How would your church feel towards him?

If this player needed funds to travel to the games, what would you do? Of course you would support him. You would be a fan, feeling like part of the team. In the same way we should feel that we are part of God's team for world evangelism.

*Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples. Psalms 96:3*

From the magazine *Vamos*, Dec 2013

2. How about you? How do you think God is urging you to participate, beginning today? \_\_\_\_\_

Will you accept the challenge?  Praying  Giving  Going  Something else \_\_\_\_\_

### HOW TO BEGIN

- **Be informed.** Get in contact with missionaries, missions agencies, and other missions-minded believers.
- **Participate in missions seminars, conferences and courses.** Take the course called "Perspectives."

## TO DO

Buy a world map to put up in your home or church as a reminder of the needs of the world.

Begin to learn about the different regions of the world.

Post Bible verses related to missions your home where you will see them often.

Speak with your pastor about a mini missions conference and inviting a missionary or someone familiar with missions.

Is there a missionary or missions project that interests you and is in need of financial support? You could send them a one-time gift or begin monthly support.

Do you know missionaries on the field? Send them a message of encouragement. At the same time, ask them for prayer requests so you can pray more specifically for them.

Invite a missionary or missionary agency to your church to present their vision and ministry.

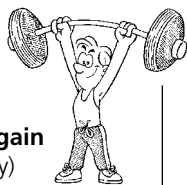
## GROWING STRONGER

**Read Acts 22-28 again**  
(one chapter per day)

**Memorize Luke 24:47**

*... and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. NIV*

*... and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. NKJV*

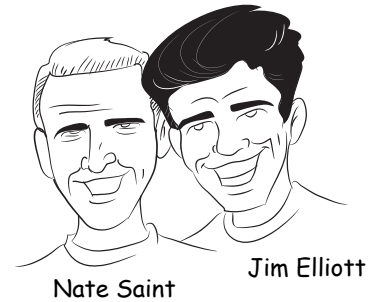


- **Read about missions.** There are many books related to missions available. Missionary biographies especially will challenge you and build your faith as you read how God has worked in the lives of missionaries to reach the world. One of the books that has had an important impact is *Through Gates of Splendor* by Elizabeth Elliot. Read the biographies of men and women pioneers like Hudson Taylor, William Carey, C.T. Studd, David Livingston, Amy Carmichael, Isabel Kuhn, Jim Elliot, Mary Slessor, and many more. Look on the internet for missionary biographies.
- The book *Operation World* will give you ideas about how to pray for the world and for specific countries.
- **Search the internet for Missions resources”** to find a wealth of information. There are many websites that are designed to lead you to resources related to missions.
- **Speak with your pastor and others** about your interest in missions.
- **Become informed about the needs of the world.** For example:
  - Where are the most needy areas of the world where the gospel has not reached?
  - What are the beliefs of the major world regions like Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Animism, etc.?
- **Seek out people from other countries and ethnic groups** who are living in your own country. Befriend them, invite them to dinner, and visit them in their homes.
- **Seek ways to minister to needy people in your community** such as prisoners, the poor, addicts, women and children who are at risk of abuse, the homeless, etc.
- **Participate in short term-missions trips.**
- **Pray for and communicate with missionaries** to encourage them. Ask to receive their prayer updates.
- **Support a missionary or missionary family with special offerings or monthly support.** Pray for them each time you send your offering.
- **Prepare yourself for service.** Think about the possibility of entering a Bible school or seminary where you can become better equipped.
- **Are you ready for spiritual warfare?** The last thing Satan wants is for the gospel to go to the ends of the earth. Our battle is not against flesh and blood but against the spiritual forces of evil. This battle is everywhere but is often greater on the mission field. Study up on the armor of God and use it daily (Eph. 6:10-18).
- **Become active in your local church.** Seek a ministry, discovering and developing your spiritual gifts. Learn to think evangelistically, always looking for ways to share the gospel with those you meet.
- **Find a mentor** who can help you in your Christian life and your search for God’s will regarding missions.

## Step 9

# Only one life

*Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only  
what's done for Christ will last. C.T. Studd*  
C.T. Studd



- *"I have but one candle of life to burn, and I would rather burn it out in a land filled with darkness than in a land flooded with light." John Keith Falconer*
- *"... if I had a thousand lives, China should have them. No! Not China, but Christ." Hudson Taylor*
- *"One individual life may be of priceless value to God's purposes, and yours may be that life." Oswald Chambers*
- *"You can't take it with you, but you can send it on ahead. Deposit your treasure in heaven in the form of offerings to missions." Oswald J. Smith*

1. Thinking about the quotes above, What subject do they speak of? What do they communicate?

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2. Is there anything more important than investing your life in something that will last for eternity?

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3. Have you thought about what you would like to do with your life. What goals do you have?

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### WHEN DYING ISN'T REALLY DYING

The history of missions has seen great men and women of faith that gave all for the cause of Christ. One of them, Jim Elliot, was a missionary who, together with four other missionaries, lost his life at the hands of an indigenous group, the Aucas, in the jungles of Ecuador in 1956. The news of their deaths moved people around the world. They died young, but was the sacrifice worth it? Did their lives count for anything? What did they accomplish?

4. Previously Elliot expressed his feelings when he said, ***"He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose."*** What do you think he was trying to say with these words?

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5. Give examples of, "what we cannot keep." \_\_\_\_\_

"that which we cannot lose." \_\_\_\_\_

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6. What does 2 Cor. 4:16-18 say to support what Elliot said? \_\_\_\_\_

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Jim Elliot, just like the apostle Paul, knew how to be content because he set his sights on that which would last for all eternity. Everything else was secondary.

7. Were their deaths a waste of five lives, without any purpose? \_\_\_\_\_

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## Another martyr

Nate Saint, who also lost his life alongside Elliot, had previously said: *“And people who do not know the Lord ask why in the world we waste our lives as missionaries. They forget that they too are expending their lives... and when the bubble has burst they will have nothing of eternal significance to show for the years they have wasted.”*

## After the massacre

Where was God who had said, “Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.” (1 Peter 5:7)? At first glance the deaths of the five missionaries was a senseless tragedy, but later God’s powerful hand was seen. Jim’s widow Elizabeth, along with her daughter and Nate Saint’s sister, went to live among the Wuaorani (previously known as Aucas). With the passing of time, The Wuaorani accepted the gospel, including those who had killed the five missionaries. The Bible was translated into their language and a church was established.

Elizabeth Elliot later wrote a book called *Through Gates of Splendor* about the lives of the five missionaries. That book had a huge influence on believers around the world, inspiring thousands to give their lives to missionary service. The martyrs gave their lives, but as a result thousands have heard the gospel. Each of the martyrs only had a single life, but the impact of that life was eternal.

*“When it comes time to die, make sure that all you have to do is die” Jim Elliot*

## Another life that produced eternal fruit

Elliot’s brother described Jim as a “A brilliant meteorite, flashing across the sky.” Jim had a short life, yet one which greatly impacted the world.

In contrast, his brother Bert served faithfully as a missionary in Peru for 62 long years, founding more than 150 churches. Bert was a faithful and humble servant always ready to serve others. He never gained the fame of his brother Jim, but his influence was enormous in Peru.

The measure of a life is not how long it lasts, but rather if it’s given for the will of God. A faithful servant is one who keeps on giving his life day after day to the service of God and others. A missionary has one single life and will probably never be famous. Yet that life, invested with humility in faraway lands, will impact the world for eternity.

### ¿How will you use your one and only life?



*“God always gives his best to those who leave the choice with him.” Jim Elliot.*

*“Give me 100 men who hate nothing but sin and love God with all their hearts and I will shake the world for Christ!” John Wesley*

*“The salvation of men ought to be the chief desire and aim of every Christian.” David Livingstone*

*“The will of God will never lead you where the grace of God cannot keep you.” Jim Elliot*

## THE CHALLENGE OF FAITH AND GOD’S POWER IN MISSIONS

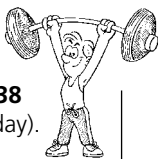
Perhaps reading these stories makes you feel very small. You might say, *“But I’m not like the apostle Paul or Jim Elliot.”* You might feel intimidated by the magnitude of the task and say *“It’s impossible, what can I do?”* We only have one life, but when that life is deposited in God’s hands, it can have an enormous influence on our world.

Another missionary whose life also had global impact was Hudson Taylor, who pioneered the evangelization of the interior of China. He was a man of faith which meant he tried things that others said were impossible.

He said *“There are three stages to every great work of God; first it is impossible, then it is difficult, then it is done.”*

*“People say, ‘Lord, increase our faith.’ It is not great faith you need but faith in a great God ...The Lord will provide. Let us see to it that we keep God before our eyes.”*

### GROWING STRONGER



Read Psalms 32-38  
(one chapter per day).

### Memorize Isaiah 41:13

*For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you. NIV*

*For I, the Lord your God, will hold your right hand, Saying to you, ‘Fear not, I will help you. NKJV*

8. What do you think he would say to us today about challenges in the life of a missionary? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



How can these quotes motivate you to take steps of faith towards involvement in world missions?

9. Meditate on and discuss these words of a Muslim man: *“When I read the gospel it fills me with joy. The life and teachings of Jesus are marvelous, really marvelous. But... please show me Christians who are ready to follow Jesus’ path.”*

## Step 10 Rewards



*For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. Habakkuk 2:14*

### BEING A MISSIONARY IS MORE THAN SACRIFICE

1. Although the missionary life includes sacrifice, it also brings joy and contentment. We've read about the lives of missionaries like Jim Elliot, Hudson Taylor, David Livingston, William Carey, and others. What do you think they would have said if someone had asked them if their sacrifices as missionaries were worth it?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Preaching the gospel is worth it. What does it do in those who hear?

Acts 26:18 \_\_\_\_\_

John 1:12 \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 8:1 \_\_\_\_\_

Missionaries take light and life to those who live in darkness. ***Could there be a better way to invest your life? Is there a better way to find contentment?***

3. Paul not only had the satisfaction of seeing the Thessalonians come to Christ, but he saw something else. What was it? 1 Thessalonians 1:8 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Disciples continue on beyond conversion; they share the gospel with others.

4. One reason his missionary work brought contentment and joy to Paul was because of the special relationship he had with these brothers and fellow workers. How did he feel towards those who responded to his message?

1 Thessalonians 2:7-8 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Philippians 1:3-5 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Read Philippians 3:7-10 and comment on whether he felt that the sacrifices of the ministry were worth it. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. How did Paul feel about those who had labored with him in ministry?

Colossians 4:7, 9, 14 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

He had the privilege of serving with coworkers whom he loved like Tychicus, Onesimus, and Luke. He called Timothy his dear (beloved) son (2 Timothy 1:2)

### SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Few people take time to think about the purpose of their lives. We all have plans for our futures, but often they are limited only to material things or short-term plans. Take time to think about and meditate on the following passages:

*"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'"*  
Matthew 25:23

*Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.*  
2 Cor. 9:6



### GROWING STRONGER

**Read Psalm 39-45**  
(one chapter per day)

**Memorize Psalm 46:10**

*Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.*

NIV and NKJV

7. When reading Acts 20:23-24, do you get the idea that Paul was reluctant to serve as a missionary? Did he complain about the injustices of his situation? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Although the work in Africa was extremely difficult, David Livingston said, *"I'd rather be in the heart of Africa in the will of God, than on the throne of England, out of the will of God."*  
 What is the difference between the reward that Livingston sought and the rewards the world offers?  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?**

7. What did Habakkuk prophesy about the future? \_\_\_\_\_
8. How do you feel when you think that at the beginning of eternity, there could be souls from distant lands who came to Christ because of your testimony or the testimony of a missionary you support?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_



Imagine your joy, after supporting your missionaries and praying for the people they mention in their letters, to one day meet these same people in Glory.



Will there be people in heaven as the result of your life? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

9. Daniel 7:13-14 describes the coming of Christ at the end of history. What does it say about Christ and about the nations? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

10. Who will reign together with Christ? Daniel 7:27 \_\_\_\_\_

It must be understood that at a future time things will change. The nations will be destroyed (Daniel 2:44) and replaced by Christ's eternal kingdom whose reign will extend over the whole earth. This should motivate us to take the Word unto the ends of the earth so people will be prepared for Christ's coming. It will also motivate us to know that we are part of something as big as the gospel. We're on the winning team.

10. Ultimately, what is in play when someone responds to the call to make disciples of all nations?  
 Revelation 20:15 \_\_\_\_\_

*Paul sums it up well when he says in 2 Corinthians 2:14-16, "But thanks be to God, who always leads us as captives in Christ's triumphal procession and uses us to spread the aroma of the knowledge of him everywhere. For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. To the one we are an aroma that brings death; to the other, an aroma that brings life. And who is equal to such a task?"*



Write or call a missionary on the field asking them about the blessings and satisfaction of serving as a missionary.

# Certificate

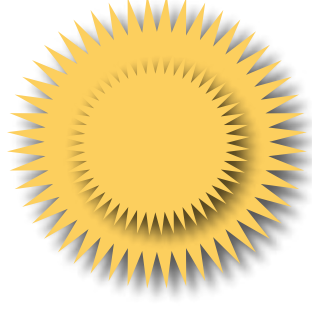
This certificate is presented to

\_\_\_\_\_ who has satisfactorily completed all the lessons of the course

## **New Life in Christ, Volume 6**

World Missions...  
Reaching the World for Christ

*"...to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me." Acts 26:18*



\_\_\_\_\_  
Teacher

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date