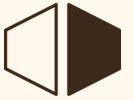


Get Involved

Cornerstone International

cimissions.org



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

– Hudson Taylor



Do you agree with Taylor? (quote above) Is he reading the Bible correctly?

Keith Green famously said, *"You don't need to hear a call, you are already called. In fact, if you don't go into all nations, you better be able to say to God, 'You called me to stay home, God, I know that as a fact.'"* Was Keith Green right?

On the one hand, John Wesley said: *"It is dangerous to depart from Scripture....most of the controversies which have disturbed the Church have arisen from people's wanting to be wise above what is written, not contented with what God has plainly revealed there."*

On the other hand, James, the brother of Jesus, reminds us *"Do not merely listen to the Word and so deceive yourselves; Do what it says."* (James 1:22) We don't need to add to Scripture, but we do need to obey it.

Do you know that there are more than 20 motivations given in Scripture for reaching the world with the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

Did you know that there are over 500 verses in Scripture that restate the promise that God gave Abram in Genesis 12, *"that he would be blessed in order to be a blessing to all peoples?"*

How can you and I practically engage with God's myriad promises to reach all nations?

How can we obey the relentless invitation for His followers to join Him at work?

Draw Near



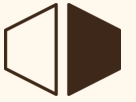
We **all** start at DRAW NEAR.

“Missions is practicing God's presence until
His passion compels us to obey.
- Ann Dunagan”

“The Spirit of Christ is the Spirit of missions. The nearer
we get to Jesus, the more intensely missionary we
become.
- Henry Martyn”

- 1 Ezekiel 47 tells us of the river *teeming with life* that flows from the throne of God with healing for the nations. As we draw close to Him, we are drawn into His current and purpose.
- 2 Missions is first and foremost for the pleasure of God, who wants all men and women to be relationally restored (Rev 7:9-10). Jesus' sacrifice makes the reconciliation possible (Rev 5:9-10). Warning: Don't cultivate a heart for missions and miss Jesus. You will have missed everything.
- 3 Unless we abide in Him, our lives will not bear fruit. (John 15)
- 4 "The Son of Man came into the world to seek and to save what was lost." (Luke 19:10) The Father sent the Spirit so that we might be equipped to do the same as our brother, Christ.

Prepare

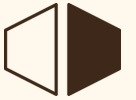


If you are still young or unsure of His leading, as you draw near, also PREPARE.

“ Failing to prepare is preparing to fail.
- John Wooden ”

- 1 Take the Perspectives Missions Course. I wish I could convince every Christian to take this amazing course and every pastor to promote it annually. It is a lot of work, but it is frequently life-changing. So very worth it. Find out more and find a class near you at www.perspectives.org.
- 2 Learn another language. Mandarin, Spanish, or Hindi will equip you to communicate with a huge portion of the world.
- 3 Develop a World Christian testimony. Find a partner or small group and do it together.
 - a) How did you become a follower of Jesus?
 - b) When did you first hear about Christ's heart for the world & His call for you to be a part?
 - c) How has aligning your life with God's heart for the world changed your Christian walk?

Pray



“

*Prayer does not fit us for the greater works;
prayer is the greater work.*

- Oswald Chambers

”

1 Set your watch alarm and pray daily for a few minutes at 9:37 AM/PM (Matthew 9:37) or at 10:02 AM/PM (Luke 10:02), asking the Lord of the Harvest to send more workers into the harvest. This was a command that Jesus gave His disciples long before He told them to GO.

2 Use a resource to help you focus.

Join a global prayer movement → www.prayercast.com

Get a free prayer map → www.Everyhome.org

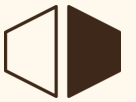
Use the book or app → www.operationworld.org

Download an app → www.Joshuaproject.net

Make a prayer list from the missionaries' bios on www.cimissions.org

3 Coordinate a weekly prayer time by phone or in person with two (or twenty) others to pray for the Lord of the Harvest to send more workers. *Can you imagine the impact on the globe if every one of us made this a priority?*

Give



“ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
- Jesus ”

“ Giving affirms Christ’s Lordship. It dethrones me and exalts Him.
- Randy Alcorn ”

1 Support a missionary who is making disciples. Walk with them over the years. I began supporting a missionary couple when I was in 6th grade and stayed with them until they were promoted to heaven. I added others as my capacity for earning grew. I believe it helped shape my heart. *Where do you invest - in this world or the next?*

2 Get to know your church's mission budget, help promote it, and help it grow. Help your church focus its financial resources on missionaries who are committed to reaching unreached people groups and on making disciples. Most of the dollars given to Christian ministries are spent in the United States. Be different. Invite others to join you. Relief work is valuable, and it tugs many hearts. But few are committed to making disciples.

3 Give to missionaries focusing on internationals living in the United States. Refugees and immigrants are all around from countries we cannot easily access with the Gospel. Here in our cities we can invite them into our lives, share the presence of Jesus in our hospitality and witness, and expect them to share Jesus with those they love back home.

I do not believe one can settle how much we ought to give. I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare.
- C.S. Lewis

4 **Participate in Faith Promise Giving.** Never heard of it? You are missing out!!

Making a Faith Promise is simply asking the Lord to give you an amount of money to trust Him to provide so you can pass it on to missions. You become the conduit for His extravagance.

It is not money you already have.

It is not tightening the financial belt or working it into the budget.

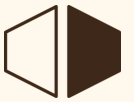
It is a faith exercise - one of the most exciting I have personally experienced in my walk with the Lord.

The pressure is all on Him. You do your best to hear from God and then watch for Him to provide in unexpected ways. If He does not provide, you do not need to "make it up" somehow. Just ask Him to help you learn to hear Him more clearly...or to see where He did provide and you may have missed it.

A helpful and easy read is [Faith Promise and Beyond](#) by Keith Brown. One fun fact is that the churches that participate in Faith Promise as a congregation historically tend to thrive. The little country church of 100 people that I grew up in gave hundreds of thousands of dollars to missions over my childhood through Faith Promise giving with no one of significant financial means among us.

5 Do a personal budget audit to see where your heart and treasure are being invested.

Send

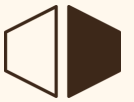


“ Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me,
even so I am sending you.
- Jesus ”

- 1 Join your church's mission committee...or start one if they do not have one!
- 2 Get to know a missionary and write them notes of encouragement. Sign up for their newsletter. Have your small group or Sunday School class join you. Meet with them by Zoom or Signal to visit and pray for one another.
- 3 In Acts 13, the Holy Spirit spoke to the church and told them to set apart Paul and Barnabas for the work to which He had called them. The church prayed and fasted and laid hands on them and sent them out. The world was never the same.

In 3 John 6-8, we are commanded to send those who go out for the sake of the Name in a manner worthy of God. Sending is important work. It goes beyond finances and prayer to the equipping and making sure nothing is lacking (3 John 5; Titus 3:13).
- 4 Become a Ropeholder! www.cimissions.org/rope-holders
- 5 Receive missionaries when they return. Be engaged in their stories and updates. Create space for visits, exposure, and rest.

Go

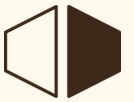


“ *Be a small part of the big thing that God is doing in the nations.* ”
- Chuck Lenhart

“ *If a commission by an earthly king can be considered an honor, how can a commission by a heavenly king be considered a sacrifice?* ”
- David Livingstone

- 1 Get healthy. Do the work of surrender in your own life. Cast down every idol that is more important to you than loving Him. Whatever is in you and has not been dealt with will rise to the surface in the crucible of missions.
- 2 Start now. Nothing magical happens when you get on a plane. *Who* you are is more important than *where* you are. At the same time, everyone you meet in your current life has access to the Bible and to other believers. Much of the world does not. Start where you are, but don't stop there.
- 3 Practice sharing your faith in Jesus with your neighbors and friends in a way that is natural.
- 4 Consider going to places where there is no Christian witness.
- 5 Go with a sending agency that is committed to equipping you, loving you, walking with you, and caring for you. They are a critical partner in your success and sustainability.

Welcome

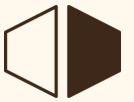


See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and His glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

- Isaiah 60:2,3

- 1 The nations are coming to our universities, to our cities, and more recently to our smaller towns and rural areas. The nations currently with the most people in the US are Mexico, India, China, the Dominican Republic, Vietnam, the Philippines, El Salvador, and Brazil. However, nearly every recognized country in the world, as well as many people groups that are without their own land, has representatives in our nation. We who were once strangers and aliens and have been grafted into the family of God, and have an opportunity we must not squander.
- 2 Google will help you find the immigrants in your community and the organizations that are working with them. In 2021-2022, 80,000 Afghans suddenly became refugees and were resettled in cities across the United States. Only .03% of Afghans identify as Christ followers. If you live in a resettlement city as I do, there is no shortage of need for friendship and integration assistance.
- 3 A few places where you might find people from other people groups to build friendships for the Gospel - ethnic restaurants, groceries and shops, soccer fields, playgrounds, HUD housing, non profits, places of worship, community colleges, city parks...

Mobilize



“ *Missions is not the 'ministry of choice' for a few hyperactive Christians in the church. Missions is the purpose of the church.* ”
- Robby Gallaty

“ *Suppose I had 1,000 college seniors in front of me who asked me where they ought to go to make a maximum contribution to Christ's global cause. What would I tell them? I would tell them all to stay home and mobilize. ALL of them.* ”
- Dr. Ralph Winter

1 Mobilizers recruit, train, connect, rally/inspire, coach, and spread mission awareness. Every Christian should be intentionally growing and helping others grow in their mission awareness. If you have already taken the Perspectives course, rally others to take it. If you have not taken it yet, make it a priority. Gather others to pray with you for missions. We need mobilizers writing mobilization songs for intergenerational worship, creating children's VBS curriculum, writing books, creating digital art, telling stories, and using the very gifts you have been given to mobilize the church for missions.

2 The statistics tell us that most people who become missionaries knew one when they were young. You can mobilize the next generation by introducing the children and youth in your sphere of influence to missionaries. My Father read aloud to us Lords of the Earth and Peace Child. It was once said of my parents that "a missionary could not go to Wilmore, KY, without eating at the Hamiltons!" In their 80s, they slowed down. But at least once a week, my dad would wander up to Asbury Inn and come home with a visiting missionary or international student.



Acts 1:8 records Jesus' words to his followers, "*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.*" To be Captain Obvious for a minute - none of us were there. We discovered Jesus Christ later. For you, where was it? Was it in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, or was it in the ends of the earth?

I'm an "ends of the earth guy" too. I came to Christ decades ago in Fountain City, IN. I am so grateful for those who obeyed the Great Commission long ago so I could know Christ. What kind of disciple would I be to let the Good News stop with me?

For Christ and the Nations,

Hal Hamilton

CI President

