

I am a missionary

As a young man in my late teens I had one thing in mind, to pursue a professional sports career and take care of number one, me.

Then my life was turned the right way up — A turned my life over to Jesus Christ, and as the saying goes, “The rest is history.”

Isaiah 60:1-2

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

2 For behold, darkness will cover the earth and deep darkness the peoples;

But the LORD will rise upon you and His glory will appear upon you.

Firstly — What does the darkness look like?

- People trapped in and held captive by doctrines of demons carrying out cruel practices driven by fear.
- Human sacrifice still takes place in parts of the world.
- Witch doctors demand human sacrifice to appease their gods.
 - For rain
 - For wealth etc
- Blood is required by the gods for an untimely death in a village — often it is a new born sacrificed.
- Disable women and children are killed for their organs
- Trafficking of children for the sex trade. A poor family is promised employment for their daughter only to discover later she was forced into prostitution.
- A man is infected with Aids through his own perverse sexual preferences and actions. He has been told that sex with a virgin girl, the younger the better, a baby, will cure his aids.
- Human trafficking and slavery still exists today — An estimated 40 millions slaves today
- Cambodia is listed 9th of the top 10 nations where slavery exists. (North Korea is #1)
- Infant mortality continues to be a big problem in many regions throughout Vietnam. And many other parts of the world.
- Whole communities are trapped in poverty, alcoholism, drug addiction, low or no education and major family problems.

The only hope for mankind is the Good News of the Kingdom of God

Oswald J Smith — “If God wills the evangelisation of the world, and you refuse to support missions, then you are opposed to the will of God”. (The Challenge of Missions - page 125)

★ We have the resources — We must use them

Returning to our opening text

Isaiah 60:1-2

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

2 For behold, darkness will cover the earth and deep darkness the peoples;

But the LORD will rise upon you and His glory will appear upon you.

Blessed to be a blessing

2 Corinthians 4:7

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves;

★ Jesus is telling us to go

Matthew 28:18-20

And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

★ One quick observation — "even to the end of the age." The mission has not changed and neither has the mission finished.

Missions is about loving what Jesus loves — people — every nation

Revelation 7:9-10 (TPT)

After this I looked, and behold, right in front of me I saw a vast multitude of people—an enormous multitude so huge that no one could count—made up of victorious ones from every nation, tribe, people group, and language. They were all in glistening white robes, standing before the throne and before the Lamb with palm branches in their hands. 10 And they shouted out with a passionate voice:

"Salvation belongs to our God seated on the throne and to the Lamb!"

Spirit filled believers are missionary candidates

Acts 1:8 (TPT)

But I promise you this—the Holy Spirit will come upon you and you will be filled with power. And you will be my messengers to Jerusalem, throughout Judea, the distant provinces—even to the remotest places on earth!"

- ★ From the night I was filled with the Holy Spirit I began to dream about preaching the Gospel in the nations of the world.
- ★ Missions is not just about an evangelist going to a foreign land and preaching to a crowd.
 - That is certainly a part, but not the whole

Mission work is about ‘servant messengers’ who come alongside the national church;

- First to learn from them
 - Find out how we can best serve them
 - Serve the local church
 - Help them reach their nation for Christ
- ★ Beyond Here International (<https://beyondhere.org.au>)
Serving Jesus Christ, to make Him known through preaching and teaching the Good News of the Kingdom of God in the power of the Holy Spirit. Making disciples, training and raising leaders, planting and multiplying churches.

All our partners are involved in a variety of amazing and impactful ministries, lives are being touched and transformed and a nation is being transformed, one life at a time.

★ ***Various types of missionaries:***

Each one functions in the grace gifting the Lord has bestowed on them.

- Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers

Ephesians 4:11-12 (TPT)

And he has appointed some with grace to be apostles, and some with grace to be prophets, and some with grace to be evangelists, and some with grace to be pastors, and some with grace to be teachers. 12 And their calling is to nurture and prepare all the holy believers to do their own works of ministry, and as they do this they will enlarge and build up the body of Christ.

We must raise up the next generation of leaders

- ★ Ordinary people doing extraordinary works
 - Medical — Doctors, Nurses
 - Relief Workers
 - School Teachers
 - Bible Teachers
 - Mechanics
 - Trade and Business People

- ★ ***Short and long term missionary opportunities abound and needing someone like you to obey the call of God and go!***

Seize the moment

Colossians 4:17 (NASB)

Say to Archippus, "Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it."

- You must take the initiative
- Too many people are waiting for a convenient time
- Have you heard the call
- You must be proactive
- Don't complain there are no opportunities
- Take a step of faith
- Pray - Plan - Prepare - Go - Pray

"I'd rather die doing something, than live doing nothing" (A nurse heading to Ukraine - Chanel Nine A Current Affair April 16, 2022)

Redemption is the only pathway to transformation

- ★ Whatever path one chooses the end goal must always be the same — to reach the unreached with the Gospel of the Kingdom of God.

Luke 4:18-19

**THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME,
BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR.
HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES,
AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND,
TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED,
19 TO PROCLAIM THE FAVORABLE YEAR OF THE LORD.**

A united missionary army

The apostle Paul writing to the Romans

Romans 10:11

For the Scripture says, "WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED."

- ★ Do we believe that? Yes

Romans 10:13

For "WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED."

★ Do we believe that? Yes

Then missions must be our priority

If we believe we must go or send another

Romans 10:14-15 (TPT)

But how can people call on him for help if they've not yet believed? And how can they believe in one they've not yet heard of? And how can they hear the message of life if there is no one there to proclaim it? 15 And how can the message be proclaimed if messengers have yet to be sent? That's why the Scriptures say: How welcome is the arrival of those proclaiming the joyful news of peace and of good things to come!

It's true that most believers will not actually go to a foreign land as a missionary. However that does not stop all of us from being involved in missions.

Young people and older ones who hear the call of God and follow their dream to serve Jesus in the nations of the world, they all need us to stand with them.

★ Everybody needs a dream maker

★ You may not be able to go, but you can help someone else to go

★ Sometime ago one of our faithful supporters wrote this....

"I am happy to support you because you go where I cannot"

★ When we give to missions we become a partner with those preaching the Gospel

3 John 1:8 (TPT)

Therefore we ought to support such men, so that we may be fellow workers with the truth.

★ You can be impactful with a little imagination and dedication

- Offerings
- Organise a fund raiser with friends
- Sell unwanted goods/belongings
- A part time job

★ An inspiring example

2 Corinthians 8:2 (TPT)

For even during a season of severe difficulty and tremendous suffering, they became even more filled with joy. From the depths of their extreme

poverty, super-abundant joy overflowed into an act of extravagant generosity.

2 Corinthians 8:4 (TPT)

They actually begged us for the privilege of sharing in this ministry of giving to God's holy people who are living in poverty.

We can be a church with a missions program or we can become a true missions church

★ The last church we led, a third of our churches budget went to missions.

Matthew 24:14

This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.

An end-time missionary church hastening the return of Jesus

- A church that is dedicated to raising and sending missionaries
- A church that generously supports missionaries and mission work
- A church that is more obsessed with the needs of others than our own
- A church that believes we can see nations transformed in Jesus name

Appendix

Pray for missionaries

Ephesians 6:19-20 (TPT)

And pray also that God's revelation would be released through me every time I preach the wonderful mystery of the hope-filled gospel. 20 Yes, pray that I may preach the wonderful news of God's kingdom with bold freedom at every opportunity. Even though I am chained as a prisoner, I am his ambassador.

Colossians 4:2-3 (TPT)

Be faithful to pray as intercessors who are fully alert and giving thanks to God. 3 And please pray for me, that God will open a door of opportunity for us to preach the revelation of the mystery of Christ, for whose sake I am imprisoned.

1 Thessalonians 5:25 (TPT)

Now, beloved ones, pray for us.

Pray for believers in other nations

Colossians 1:3-4

We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, 4 since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints;

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12 (TPT)

With this in mind, we constantly pray that our God will empower you to live worthy of all that he has invited you to experience. And we pray that by his power all the pleasures of goodness and all works inspired by faith would fill you completely. 12 By doing this the name of our Lord Jesus will be glorified in you, and you will be glorified in him, by the marvelous grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Missionary Support**Philippians 4:15-19 (TPT)**

For I want you to know that the Philippian church was the only church that supported me in the beginning as I went out to preach the gospel. You were the only church that sowed into me financially, 16 and when I was in Thessalonica, you supported me for well over a year.

17 I mention this not because I'm requesting a gift, but so that the fruit of your generosity may bring you an abundant reward. 18 I now have all I need—more than enough—I'm abundantly satisfied! For I've received the gift you sent by Epaphroditus and viewed it as a sweet sacrifice, perfumed with the fragrance of your faithfulness, which is so pleasing to God!

19 I am convinced that my God will fully satisfy every need you have, for I have seen the abundant riches of glory revealed to me through the Anointed One, Jesus Christ!

Romans 15:24 (TPT)

So on my way to Spain I hope to visit you as I pass through Rome. And after I have enjoyed fellowship with you for a while, I hope that you would help me financially on my journey.

Titus 3:13-14

Diligently help Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way so that nothing is lacking for them. 14 Our people must also learn to engage in good deeds to meet pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful.

3 John 1:5-8

Beloved, you are acting faithfully in whatever you accomplish for the brethren, and especially when they are strangers; 6 and they have testified to your love before the church. You will do well to send them on their way in a manner worthy of God. 7 For they went out for the sake of the Name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles. 8 Therefore we ought to support such men, so that we may be fellow workers with the truth.

Offerings for the poor

Romans 15:26 (TPT)

I am pleased to inform you that the believers of Macedonia and Greece have made a generous contribution for the poor among the holy believers in Jerusalem.

Proverbs 11:24-25 (TPT)

Generosity brings prosperity, but withholding from charity brings poverty.

25 Those who live to bless others will have blessings heaped upon them, and the one who pours out his life to pour out blessings will be saturated with favor.