

Great Missionaries

Introduction:

1. Missionary: "One who is sent on a mission, person sent by ecclesiastical authority to labor for the propagation of the faith in a place where it has no _____ organization." The word missionary comes from Latin, not Greek. The word is not found in the English Bible. The biblical office of a missionary would be related to apostle, one who is sent, and _____, one who brings good news (Ephesians 4:11).

"Fruit springs out of death. Selfishness is always solitary. It is our lives poured out in sacrifice that abound in blessing. The names that are honored in history are the names that stand over graves where self was buried, long before the body died." Missionary Charles Cowman

2. What is a great missionary? How do we judge, or should we? "Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God" (1 Corinthians 4:5).

- a. We might compare missionary heroes to _____ heroes. A few are recognized for their bravery, but there are probably many, many more that are just as brave as the Medal of Honor recipients, but no one survived to report their acts of heroism.
- b. If no books are written about most missionaries; their greatness remains unknown to future generations until the _____ of Christ. Missionary heroes will be recognized and rewarded by the One keeps the books!

"Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is" (1 Cor. 3:13).

- c. Some may have a reputation as a great missionary, such as David Livingston, but others, who recognize him as a great explorer, question if he was a missionary at all. "Famous" and "great" might not be _____ terms.
 - 1) Some are recognized as great because their money has bought people and results.
 - 2) Some missionary greatness is due to letters and pictures from the field and _____ told back home.
 - 3) A long-time missionary, Brother T, tells some amazing stories of conversations with people on his field. A BBTI graduate working in the same country who knows Bro. T said that Bro. T cannot even order a meal in a restaurant in the language of the country.
- e. Some might have been great missionaries, but they didn't live long enough to become great:
 - 1) Some have died in highway accidents while traveling on deputation or in shipwrecks or plane crashes on the way to the field.
 - 2) Some have died trying to contact remote, hostile tribes.
 - a) Dave Bacon, Bob Dye, Cecil Dye, George Hosbach, and Eldon Hunter died in

Bolivia in 1943 trying to reach the Ayoré Indians. (*God Planted Five Seeds* by Jean Dye Johnson)

- b) Jim Elliot, Nate Saint, Ed McCully, Peter Fleming, and Roger Youderian died in 1956 in _____ trying to reach the Waodani Indians. (*Through Gates of Splendor* by Elisabeth Elliot)

“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.” — Nate Saint

- c) Stanley Dale and Phil Masteres were martyred by the Yali people of Irian Jaya on September 25, 1968. (*Lord of the Earth* by Don Richardson)
- d) Charles Wesco was in Cameroon only twelve days when he was murdered. He left a wife and _____ children.
- e) William Whiting Borden (1887-19143) was a philanthropist and millionaire Christian missionary candidate who died in Egypt before reaching his chosen field. He gave up his right to the Bordon Company to be a missionary.

3. Today we have *missionaries* to the prisons, nursing homes, and printing ministries. We have law missionaries and construction missionaries. There are missionaries to our military. Sometimes church-planting preachers receive missionary support and are called church-planting missionaries. These are all, no doubt, ministries worthy of church support. But they sometimes receive their support from the mission fund, and this limits the amount that could be used to send missionaries to _____. “...these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone” (Matt. 23:23b). There is no law or authority that controls how we use the word *missionary*, or how a church spends its missionary resources.

4. For our study, we will consider those who have primarily ministered to people of a different language or culture, especially on a foreign field. Many great humanitarian works have been done on foreign fields, but we want to focus on those who have followed the evangelism and _____ - _____ pattern of Matt. 28:19-20.

5. It is not necessary to be from the United Kingdom or America or of the Caucasian race. to be a missionary.

- a. The first missionary sent from America was George Liele (1750-182), a freed _____ who went to Jamaica. Before going to the mission field, he preached in Savannah, Georgia, and won Andrew Bryan (1737–1812) to Christ. Bryan was the former slave of Jonathan Bryan who became the pastor of the first American Negro Baptist church. Like many other slaves, Liele sided with the British in the Revolutionary War, as did his master, Henry Sharp, who set Liele free in 1778. In order to be evacuated with other royalists and British troops, Liele obtained a loan and accepted the status of indentured servant to pay the passage for himself, his wife, and his four children on a ship bound for Jamaica. Landing there in January 1783, he soon repaid the debt and secured permission to preach to the slaves on the island.
- b. The first single woman missionary was Betsey Stockton (c. 1798–1865).

She was a freed slave from Princeton, NJ. She went to Hawaii in 1822. Stockton learned the Hawaiian language and established a school in Maui where she taught English, Latin, History, and Algebra. Stockton left Hawaii in 1825, returning to the mainland where she was assigned to teach Native American children in Canada. She spent the final years of her life teaching black children in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Betsy Stockton died in her hometown of Princeton, New Jersey, in October 1865.

c. Lott Cary (1780-1828)

He was the first African American missionary to _____. He was a Baptist minister and lay physician. He went to Sierra Leone in 1821. To survive, Cary and the others worked as farm laborers while they awaited support from home. Lott Cary only served in Liberia for approximately eight years. His dream of seeing the gospel spread throughout Africa did not happen in his lifetime. But because of his efforts, Liberia is a free nation today. Cary became the acting governor of Liberia in 1826 but was killed in an accidental explosion that occurred when he and some other men were preparing cartridges to defend their colony from native tribes. In his final sermon to his congregation in America, he said, "I am about to leave you and expect to see your faces no more. I long to preach to the poor Africans the way of life and salvation. I don't know what may befall me, whether I may find a grave in the ocean, or among the savage men, or more savage wild beasts on the coast of Africa: nor am I _____ what may become of me. I feel it is my duty to go."

6. Today countries like the _____ are sending many more missionaries to other countries than is the United States.
7. Great missionaries in the New Testament:
 - a. Unofficial missionaries were sent out by the *Saul's Missionary Scattering Board*. (Acts 8:1-4; 11:19).
 - b. Phillip, the deacon who became the evangelist, was a Jew that ministered to the Samaritans and then to a Gentile proselyte (Acts 8).
 - c. Simon Peter was the first _____ - _____ missionary to the Gentiles (Acts 10).
 - a. Then his ministry was to the Jews.
 - b. Peter got into trouble by going to a place where he perhaps should not have gone (Galatians 2:11-14).
 - d. The Apostle Paul was probably the greatest missionary (Acts 9).
 - a. Saul of Tarsus, a fanatical Jew, became Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles.
 - b. Paul had trouble when he left the Gentile ministry to return to Jerusalem (Acts 21).
 - e. Barnabas was a great missionary (Acts 13).
 - 1) He is first known as a giver (Acts 4:36-37). (Don't expect to be a great missionary if you are not a _____ _____ to missions).
 - 2) He was a servant.
 - 1) He introduced Saul of Tarsus to the Apostles (Acts 9:27).
 - 2) He was sent by the Jerusalem church to help organize the Antioch church (Acts 11:22).
 - 3) He was trusted to handle money (Acts 11:30). (If you are dishonest with money,

please get out of the ministry; try _____).

- 4) He went to Tarsus and brought Saul to Antioch (Acts 11:25).
- 5) He was a faithful church member and teacher (Acts 13:1).
- 6) Then God chose him to be a foreign missionary (Acts 13:2).
- 7) He had an inter-personal conflict with his missionary partner (or was Paul his boss?) but he did not _____ (Acts 15:36-39).

8, You don't have to be Baptist to be a great missionary.

a. The Moravians.

They split from the Roman church in 1457 and were the first _____. In 1728, Count Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf (1700-1760) and groups of people started meeting together to pray. Even the very first time they met, there was talk of being missionaries in different countries. The Moravians guarded their hours of prayer with their life. This movement of prayer lasted for _____. Missionary service was envied by the Moravians. Zinzendorf encouraged single men to go to the mission field. [Preachers today do not *urge* young men to go to the mission field, they say, "*Wait, and if God is calling you, then surrender.*"] The missionaries went through strict questioning. If they failed, then they were not allowed to go on to the next stage. Those who had been accepted as potential missionaries cast lots in order to see who would go to the mission field. Those who were not chosen were often times disappointed. The Moravian missionaries went to extremes in order to reach others with the Gospel. Once, twenty-nine missionaries sold themselves into _____. Though St. Thomas, part of the US Virgin Islands, was a Christian nation, none of the slaves knew who Jesus was. In 1739, a slave put his ear on the church door. His master got angry and cut off his ear. Twenty-two out of the twenty-nine missionaries died during their time at St. Thomas. In 1739, Zinzendorf went to St. Thomas to see the work. Convinced he was going to meet the same fate of the twenty-two missionaries, Zinzendorf preached his last message to the Moravian community. When he got to St. Thomas, Zinzendorf freed the missionaries who had been put in jail for preaching the Good News to slaves. Through their incarceration, many slaves had the chance to hear the Good News for the first time. If there was a church already set up in the area the missionaries were working in, the converts would become part that denomination. The Moravian community sent out two _____ missionaries in ten countries before Zinzendorf's death in 1760. The Moravians were self-sufficient. The only funds they received were enough for them to get to the port of departure and get on the ship. When they got to the mission field, they took up jobs, such as being an artisan, in order to fund their work. One of the most effective ways the Moravians reached people was through Bible translation. The Moravians were excellent in learning new languages. When they learned the language, they translated the Bible and hymns into it. John Wesley went to Georgia as an _____ missionary and was saved under the influence of Moravian Peter Bohler.