

STUDY PACK 1

WHAT IS MISSIONS? (Notes taken from Stinnett Ballew)

"If you found a cure for cancer, wouldn't it be inconceivable to hide it from the rest of mankind? How much more inconceivable to keep silent the cure from the eternal wages of death?"
~ Dave Davidson

"If God calls you to be a missionary, don't stoop to be a king." ~ Jordan Groom

"World missions was on God's mind from the beginning." ~ Dave Davidson

"Let my heart be broken with the things that break God's heart." ~ Bob Pierce, World Vision founder

"No reserves. No retreats. No regrets." ~ William Borden

I. WHAT IS MISSIONS?

Missions mean _____.
To the hungry and homeless, a Mission is a place where they can get a free meal to eat and a bed to sleep in for the night. To the average person when missions are mentioned they are reminded of the pictures they have seen on the television showing a small child from a third-world country with its stomach protruding because of malnutrition.

When Missions is mentioned to those of us who know the Scriptures, we think of World Evangelization. *Missions is someone going somewhere to tell someone about the Lord Jesus Christ and His saving grace.* The word Missions means *to be sent to a particular place for a particular purpose.*

World Missions is a team effort involving _____, _____, and _____. Scriptural Missions first involves God calling families or individuals out of the local churches to leave their home area and go somewhere else to preach the Gospel and start churches as the Lord instructed us in Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15-16 and Acts 1:8. Missions involves the local church sending forth those people whom God calls out of it. Missions also involves the sending church and the supporting churches standing with the missionaries with their prayers and financial support.

II. WHO IS A MISSIONARY?

In one sense every Christian is to be a Missionary and every sinner is a Mission field. Someone has said, "_____."
In the Scriptural sense, a Missionary is a person who is sent out by _____

_____ to some particular place in the world, for the purpose of carrying out the Great Commission.

In the New Testament Jesus sent out the twelve and later He sent out the seventy. The first occasion of the Church sending out Missionaries is recorded in Acts 13:1-4. The Church at Jerusalem failed in carrying out the commission given to them in Acts 1:8, so God then spoke to the Church at Antioch and they sent out Barnabas and Saul.

III. WHY DO MISSIONS CONTINUE?

_____, Malachi 3:6, Hebrews 13:8. The _____ has not changed, Romans 1:16. The _____ has not changed, Ephesians 2:1. So the need for the Gospel remains as great as ever. God still loves sinners too much to let them go to Hell without sending someone to go preach the Gospel to them.

IV. WHERE IS THE MISSION FIELD?

Usually when we think of Missions fields we think of other countries. We usually speak of foreign Missions. In Matthew 13:38, the Lord Jesus said, "**The field is the world.**" In John 4:35, He tells us to "**Lift up your eyes and look on the fields.**" Looking from God's prospective He sees only _____. Man looks at Missions and sees three fields. There is a mission field on the street where you live. There is a mission field across the States, and then thirdly, there are many mission fields across the seas.

V. WHAT IS A MISSIONS CONFERENCE?

A Missions Conference could be described as a series of meetings set aside for the purpose of teaching and preaching on Missions so that God may place the burden of missions in a greater way upon the heart of the people. Usually there will be a main speaker who will preach and teach Missions. Also, there will usually be Missionaries present to share testimonies and slide presentations of their burden. Denominational mission programs have moved the burden of Missions from the heart of the Church to the headquarters of the denomination. God is using Mission Conferences to bring the burden of missions back to the membership of the local churches.

VI. HOW MAY I GET INVOLVED IN THE WORK OF MISSIONS?

There are three great needs today in Missions Work. First, _____ -*Somebody* has got to get a hold of God. Secondly, _____ -*Somebody* has got to go. Thirdly, _____ -*Somebody* has got to give. God would have ALL OF US to PRAY and to GIVE, and God would have SOME of us to GO. There will be other questions that will arise in the course of our study and we will endeavor by the help of the Holy Spirit and Word of God to answer them. Before I close

this section, let me give you this simple motto. "*Missions displays the _____
_____. Missions determines the _____,
and Missions delivers _____.*"

VIII. PASTOR'S RESPONSIBILITY

"To the pastor belongs the privilege and the responsibility of solving the foreign missionary problem. Until the pastors of our churches wake up to the truth of this proposition, and the foreign work becomes a passion in their own hearts and consciences, our Boards may do what they can by ways of devising forward movements or organizing new methods for raising money from the churches, yet the chariot wheels of missions will drive heavily.

"Every pastor holds his office under Christ's commission, and can only fulfill it when, as a missionary bishop, he counts the whole world his fold. The pastor of the smallest church has the power to make his influence felt around the world. No pastor is worthy of his office who does not put himself into sympathy with the magnificent breadth of the Great Commission and draw inspiration and zeal from its world-wide sweep.

"The pastor is not only an instructor, but the leader of his congregation. He must not only care for their souls but direct their activities. If there are churches that do not give and do not pray for foreign missions, it is because they have pastors who are falling short of the command of Christ. I feel almost warranted in saying that, as no congregation can long resist the enthusiastic pastor, so, on the other hand, a congregation can hardly rise above cold indifference or lack of conviction regarding missions on the part of the pastor."

~ Dr. Pentecost ~