

Getting Totally Involved in Missions

Mark 16:15

We hear of missions-minded churches that have a great missions program. Bible Baptist Church, does not have a missions program. We ARE a missions program! Missions is our sole purpose for existence.

Our example in missions is the Lord Jesus Christ, who came from heaven to planet earth to save us (John 3:16). His mission was to make a way for us to be restored to fellowship with God and thereby go to heaven. As the song by Squire Parsons says, When I could not go to Him, He came to me! Being in the form of God, He came in the likeness of men, and became obedient to the cross, even to the death of the cross.

Once Jesus made a way for us to be saved by His death, burial and resurrection, He commissioned His followers to carry out His mission (Mk. 16:15). Jesus said before ascending back to heaven

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.
(Acts 1:8)

We should take a lesson from Coca-Cola. Coke is almost everywhere. How did it get there? Its motto: THINK GLOBALLY, BUT ACT LOCALLY. What this slogan is to Coke, the Great Commission is to the church.

However, the early church at Jerusalem was slow in taking the gospel outside the city limits. The church at Jerusalem had (1) The **Multitude** (2) the **Might** (3) the **Message**, but that it did not have MISSIONS. Therefore, the Lord allowed persecution to scatter the church to do what He wanted it to do (read Acts 8:1, 4).

The mission of the church is the evangelization of the world. When God loved, He loved the world. When the Father gave His Son, He gave His Son for the world. When the Son died, He died for the world. God's vision is the world.

If the business of Bible Baptist Church is not God's business, then our church has no business being in business!

Let's look at three areas we must be involved in missions:

I. Missions must start in the HEAD.

➤ The head is where our thinking takes place. The purpose of a mission's conference is to educate you on what the Bible says about missions. The Bible is the menu for our mission's conference.

A. You must RECOGNIZE the truth. The truth is

1. All men are born lost, dead in sin, and condemned to hell (Rom. 3:23).
2. The Gospel of Christ is the only means that will save the lost (Rom. 1:16).
3. Every Christian is responsible to get the Gospel to the LOST. God has *"committed to us the word of reconciliation... we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God"* (2 Cor. 5:19-20).

B. You must RECEIVE the truth (Mt. 13:23). We must have a **teachable spirit**. Your **attitude** in this conference should be, God has something to say to me and I will attend and listen. As Samuel prayed, *"Speak, Lord; for thy servant heareth"* (1 Sam. 3:10).

1. Receive the truth readily (Acts 17:11).
2. Receive the truth gladly (Acts 2:41).

C. You must RESPOND to the truth.

1. Be submission (Acts 2:41).
2. Be obedience. *"Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall **observe it with my whole heart.**"* (Ps. 119:34).

II. Missions must go to the HEART.

➤ Once you have the mind to receive it, then must go to our heart. This is also true of salvation. Some know the truth in their heads, but have never trusted Christ in their heart.

- ➡ The heart is our **seat of emotions**. As you apply God's Word to our heart you will feel what you truly believe. The Word of God begins to instill faith (Rom. 10:17).

I know we do not go by our feelings. Faith *will* affect how you feel, but how you feel should not affect our faith. As the song by Craig Edwards says, I know we're not saved by feelings, but it feels good!

- A. There will be a **PASSION** for missions.
1. The more you know about missions and our missionaries, the stronger you will feel about it.
 2. You will become passionate about it. The **definition** of passion is an intense, driving, or overcoming feeling, or conviction.
- B. There will be a **COMPASSION** in missions. It is impossible to have compassion and remain complacent or indifferent. Compassion **MOVES** someone to do something — to take action!

Jude 22-23 *And of some have **compassion, making a difference...** pulling them out of the fire*

1. The **key to compassion** is **SEEING** the need. Jeremiah wrote, "Mine eye affecteth mine heart" (Lam. 3:51). Jesus **SAW** *the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd*" (Mt. 9:36). "And Jesus went forth, and **saw** a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick." (Mt. 14:14)
2. How's our vision of missions? Are you seeing as Jesus sees? As Mike Otto's song says, Let me see this world, dear Lord; As though I were looking through Your eyes.

Former Michigan State football coach Duff Daughert tells about a winning field goal kicked by Dave Kaiser against UCLA many years ago. The game was in Los Angeles and the field goal gave Michigan State a 17-14 victory.

As Kaiser came back to the bench, Coach Daughert said: "Nice kick, Dave. But I noticed you didn't watch the ball after you kicked it. How come?"

Kaiser replied, "I was watching the referee to see how he would call it. You see, I forgot my contact lenses back at the hotel. I couldn't even see the goal posts!"

That's our problem. We're not seeing God's goal posts. Multitudes who are lost and need the Gospel. Remember, "*Where there is no vision, the people perish.*" (Prov. 29:18)

III. Missions must continue with the HANDS.

- ➡ When the head is right about missions, and the heart is right about missions, then the hands will be right.

Hands symbolize action. We work with our hands. We talk with our hands. We minister with our hands. We fight with our hands. We use our hands to sign contracts. We write checks. We play a musical instrument. We use our hands to show joy or disgust. The touch of a hand can communicate one's feelings.

Your hands reveal something about you (Job 37:7): Dishpan hands. The carpenter's hands. The mechanic's hands. Someone noted, the position of the hands is symbolic of the position of the heart.

- A. A raised hand can indicate a **willingness to volunteer**. A raised hand says, "I understand what is being asked and feel strong enough about it to be involved. That is what this mission's conference will be looking for. Volunteers!"
- B. Raised hands also indicate **surrender**. Come out with your hands up! To be involved in missions means surrendering your will to God's will.
 - ➡ To raise your hand you may need to **let go** of something you are holding on to. If you continue to hold on to whatever it is, it will weigh your hands down and keep you from raising them in surrender.

Abraham had to let go of his kindred and home in Ur of the Caldees to go where God wanted him (Gen. 12:1-5).

Moses had to let go of the treasures of Egypt (Heb. 11:24-27).

Elisha had to let go of his oxen and plow (2 Kings 19:19-20).

Peter and John had to let go of their fishing nets to follow Jesus (Mt. 4:20).

Matthew had to leave his receipt of custom (Mt. 10:10).

Lyle and Janet Tremblay had to let go of well paying jobs and a beautiful home in Lakeba to go to the mission field of China.

Are you holding on to something that is keeping you from serving God? It may be (fill in the blanks).

SUMMATION: We have an assignment from God. Now is not the time to celebrate. The *Times-Reporter* of New Philadelphia, Ohio, reported in September, 1985 a celebration of a New Orleans municipal pool.

The party around the pool was held to celebrate the first summer in memory without a drowning at the New Orleans city pool. In honor of the occasion, 200 people gathered, including 100 certified lifeguards.

As the party was breaking up and the police began to clear the pool, the police found a full dressed body in the deep end. The police tried to revive Jerome Mood, 31, but it was too late. He drowned surrounded by 100 lifeguards as the police celebrated their successful season.

We Christians are the world's spiritual lifeguards. Let's make sure we are doing all we can to save those who are drowning in the sea of sin!

At the conclusion of our mission's conference you will be called on to respond in some way. If you have truly learned the truth about missions, you will have a passion to do something about it. You will either be willing to go, or be willing to send the Gospel with your prayers and your money.