

HOW INDIVIDUAL CHRISTIANS CAN BE INVOLVED IN MISSIONS

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‘If Jesus Christ is God and died for me; then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him’. (C. T. Studd).

Understanding Missions

In Matthew 28:18-20, the Lord Jesus Christ, in His last words to His disciples before He ascended into Heaven was for them to go and make disciples of all nations... This is what is referred to as ‘The Great Commission’. The urgency to obey this command is equally relevant today as it was during the time it was given to them. There are no alternate ways around it. It is either you are responding to this command by obeying it or you are not.

Let us take time to understand a few terminologies:

- **MISSIO DEI**

Mission Dei is God’s mission, that is, God’s self-revelation as the One who loves the world, God’s involvement in and with the world, the nature and activity of God, which embraces both the church and the world, and in which the church is privileged to participate (Bosch, 2011).

- **MISSION**

Mission is the loving work of God to bring humankind to Himself as the Church. It is, therefore, God’s overall plan for the redemption of humankind and for the world itself at every level. Missions involve any activity Christians are involved in for world evangelization (Bosch, 2011).

From the simple definition of missions, as has been stated above, missions can be understood as any activity that humans are involved with to obey the Great Commission for God to be glorified among all people groups.

In the Great Commission, Jesus commands us to go into all nations. By this implication, we are to be world Christians. David Bryant outlines that to become a world Christian;

- 1. You need to catch a vision:** To catch a vision is to see God’s worldwide **purpose** in Christ (John 3:16, 1 Timothy 2:1-4, Luke 4: 18, Matthew 1: 21). It also means to see a world full of **possibilities** through Christ which deals with beginning to see a world full of **people** without Christ; your world-sized part with Christ.
- 2. You need to keep a world vision:** Be a world Christian; **Join** with other world Christians; **Plan** to obey the vision.
- 3. You need to obey a world vision:** Obey as you regularly **build** your vision; obey as you **reach out** directly in love; obey as you **give** your vision to other Christians; obey as you **pray** your vision back to God.

A good examination of the life of Christ reveals that He did not only meet the spiritual needs of the people but He also met their Physical and material needs (Luke 4: 18-19). Practically, there are varying roles we are to play as coworkers in the mission of God. **FIND YOUR ROLE!**

PRAY! GIVE! GO!

The key areas all believers are called to partake in the work of mission can be summed up in these three areas; Pray, give, go.

PRAY: Matthew 9:38 “Pray to the owner of the harvest that He will send out workers to gather in His harvest”. The role you may be called to play in the missions harvest field would be to focus mainly on prayer. Praying for the Lord to send out workers into His harvest. The question is **will you remain faithful in this role?** In a story told, a missionary and his wife changed the myopic view of some young men into a global world view through a prayer meeting that was referred to as **“The Hour That Changed The World”**. During this meeting, the map of the world was brought and

the issues happening around the various nations were highlighted and prayed for. It is reported that the prayer was interesting because the missionaries would take time to search on the news for things happening around the world and this would become the topic for prayer. It impacted the young men who were involved and currently, each of them is serving in differing ways in the missions calling. Do not take your role to pray for granted, it is changing the lives of people around the world. May your prayers shift from focusing all the time on your personal needs to that of the Lord sending more labourers into His harvest. Your role to pray is so much needed today than ever. **Will you remain faithful in this?**

GIVE: The Gospel is not only for the mind and spirit but also for the body. In Romans 15: 18-19, Paul stated that he fully preached the Gospel in words and deed. Preaching of the Gospel should be backed by a genuine concern for the plight of the people we preach to. James 2:18 sums it all up: Show me your faith without works, and I by my works will show you my faith. This explains why taking seriously and playing your role of giving is undoubtedly very crucial in missions. Play this role faithfully by giving cheerfully your finances and other gifts in kind. Many areas around the world have experienced wars that have left them in deplorable states. Many are running to seek help from places where their soul would be sold out into perpetual torment because you are yet to respond to understand that finding and playing your role of giving will snatch them from selling their souls into eternal damnation. **Do not relent! Find and play your role today!**

GO: This has to do with responding to be on the field in person; to reach out directly in love. It also means directly proclaiming Christ Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit, that men shall come to put their trust in God through Him, to accept Him as their Saviour and Lord, and serve Him as their King in the Fellowship of the church. Romans 10: 14 puts it this way: “How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? If you refuse to ‘Go’, then people will not be able to call on the name of the Lord for salvation. “This generation of Christians is responsible for this generation of souls on the earth” (Keith Green).

Many reasons including geographic barriers,

linguistic barriers, political barriers, cultural barriers, and many more, inhibit responding to the call to ‘GO’. Nevertheless, today, the Lord is calling you to respond to this role with urgency in your heart. **Will You Respond And Remain Faithful In This Role?**

In addition to the challenge for individual Christians to respond to the call to pray, give and go, churches should nurture, and encourage individuals who will play these roles in the advancement of mission. One of the core mandates of the church is to **“send”** which involves believers going to areas with the greatest need, giving to support those who are going and for meeting felt needs, and to pray to the Lord of the harvest to bring in the **“increase”** (1 Corinthians 3: 6).

Serving with your Profession

There should a paradigm shift from seeing your profession as a means of making money for sustaining yourself and your family to seeing it as an opportunity to bring God glory among the nations. This simply is referred to as ‘marketplace ministry’. “And He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again” (2 Corinthians 2:15). Whatever your involvement or career, bringing God glory must be your utmost desire.

“One effect of this was to give workers in all trade genuine equality before God and genuine importance in the life of the community. No menial work was in itself beneath the dignity of prophet, priest, or king. God chose an obscure shepherd boy as king and an unheralded carpenter as Messiah” Paul S. Minear. Martin Luther King puts it this way: “Our whole life should be nothing but praise to God. Even if the Lord would return tomorrow, I would still plant a sapling today”. Work is a call of God upon an individual’s life. It becomes the sphere through which a Christian serves Christ and His kingdom. It is the occupation - the principal business of one’s life - through which one occupies territory or a sphere of influence (Luke 19:13) for Jesus Christ.

Three things are required to connect our work to the kingdom of God: being motivated by Christ, using the methods of Christ, and having the mind of Christ. First, our work must be motivated by Christ. We are to serve him because he first served

us. We are to love others because he first loved us. Our occupation to serve Christ and his kingdom stems from a thankful heart for who God is, for the free grace that he has given, and because he is working in the world to advance his kingdom. It's not enough simply to be motivated by Christ. Our methods should also reflect his methods. Sometimes one might think that this means we are just to do what we do professionally, while it is good to do excellent and professional work, we can do the wrong things professionally. As Francis Schaeffer has said, "We are to do the Lord's work in the Lord's way, and not the Lord's work in the world's way." We need to do the right things well. Third, we are to have the mind of Christ to establish the context for our work. Paul has reminded us to "take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ" (2 Cor. 10:5). This means more than bringing all of our religious or ethical thoughts captive to Christ. We are to bring all thoughts captive to Christ. Our work is to be done within the moral and metaphysical framework of a biblical worldview, within the context of the kingdom of God.

You may be a petty trader, a student, an IT specialist, a carpenter, an engineer, a healthcare provider, a teacher, an agriculturist, a florist, a beautician, a tailor, a carpenter, and many more. Never underestimate the power of Christ to use your profession as the 'boat' that He sits in to reach out to others with His love and salvation. Seek out opportunities to serve in a missions agency and wherever you find yourself (Miller, 2002). **Will You Play This Role Faithfully?**

'Welcoming'

'Behaving in a polite or friendly way to a guest or new arrival', and this context, welcoming them in Ghana. In Matthew 25:35-41, emphasizing on verse 38, the Lord Jesus Christ admonishes us to be polite and welcome strangers. Currently, in Ghana, this need is inevitable. Many foreign nationals are trooping into the University campuses to study. Examples of such include Nigerian students, Chinese students, students from Ivory Coast, etc. Many are seeking to come in. At the University of Ghana, international students from California come in almost every academic year. Personally, after a missions trip to the Central African Republic, most of the university students we encountered later got in touch with me to make inquiries for them

at the university because they wanted to come and start all their degree all over again in Ghana or to do a professional course or to learn the English Language. Similarly, the people who hosted us on one of such mission trips in Togo, messaged me to make inquiries about a sports (football) academy in Ghana for her twenty(20) year old nephew who wished to come to Ghana to study so badly. The list is unending.

Instead of spending so much money to travel to the various countries to reach out to them, **the mission field has now come to Ghana, right where we are. Will you find and respond to this role?**

CONCLUSION: The invitation to find your role lingers. Find your role 'to Pray', find your role 'to Give', and find your role 'to GO'. Serve with your profession and welcome the strangers in our midst by showing them God's love and proclaiming Christ to them. Do not relent! Tomorrow might be too late. We are coworkers in fulfilling one purpose when we find and perform our roles with all diligence. **DO SO NOW! MAY WHAT BREAKS THE LORD'S HEART BE THAT WHICH BREAKS YOUR HEART.**

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