

Missions Embracing God's Heart for the World

Definition of Missions:

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." —Acts 1:8

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Mt 28:18–20).

Clearly, since humanity's "fall" into sin (Genesis 3), God's desire has been to rescue and bless all peoples. God has a heart for the nations of the world! Carefully read and consider the following passages from Genesis to Revelation:

"I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and will give them all these lands, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed" (Genesis 26:4).

"May your ways be known throughout the earth, your saving power among people everywhere. May the nations praise you, O God. Yes, may all the nations praise you" (Psalm 67:2–3, nlt).

"God blesses us, that all the ends of the earth may fear Him" (Psalm 67:7, nasb).

"All the nations you have made will come and worship before you, Lord; they will bring glory to your name" (Psalm 86:9).

"Praise the lord, all nations; laud Him, all peoples!" (Psalm 117:1, nasb).

"This gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come" (Matthew 24:14).

"He said to me, 'Go, for I will send you far away to the Gentiles'" (Acts 22:21, esv).

"Is it not written: 'My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations'? But you have made it 'a den of robbers'" (Mark 11:17).

"Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took

him in his arms and praised God, saying: 'Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel'" (Luke 2:27–32).

"After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: 'Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb'" (Revelation 7:9–10).

World Missions: By the Numbers (as of 2020)

7,800,000,000	People in the world
865,000,000	Muslims with no gospel witness
550,000,000	Unreached Hindus
275,000,000	Buddhists who haven't heard of Christ
4,190,000	Full-time Christian workers
16,761	Distinct people groups
6,500	Languages in the world
900	Number of churches for every unreached people group in the world
105	People who die every minute (4410/6300/hr)
1	Life you have to give

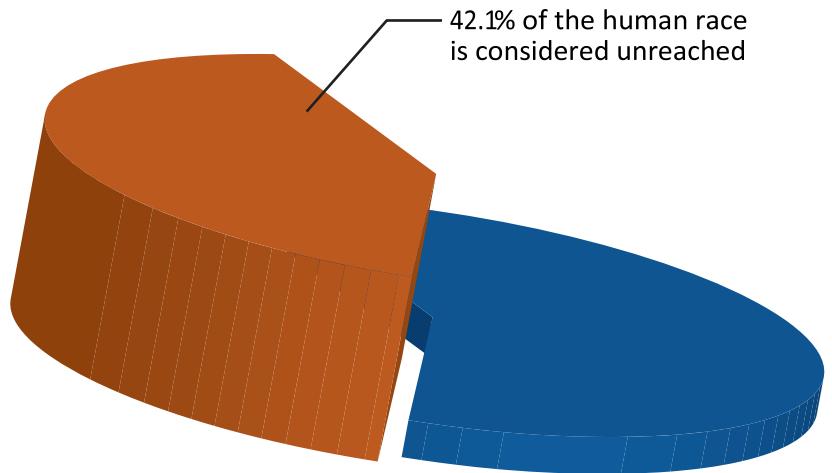
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There are two types of missions:

1. partner missions
2. pioneer missions

Partner missions would be the work of someone who is crossing cultural and language barriers to share the gospel within a people group that has already been reached, in partnership with the established church in that people group. This is the work of equipping and empowering the national church to reach and teach their own people.

The other type of missions work is **pioneer missions**. This is when a person or group is sharing the gospel with a people group that has not yet been reached with the gospel and there is no viable church. Roughly one-third of the world is still not reached with the gospel, so there is much work to be done in pioneer missions. There is much work to be done in partner missions as well – to continue training and teaching the growing church in the Global South.



How do we know that belief in Jesus is the only way to eternal life w/ God?
How do we discover what the real truth is about our destiny? Discovery.

The Conscience-- A universal sense of right and wrong (Romans 2:15)

Revelation—General—Creation (Ro 1:20); Special—Christ Jesus (Heb 1:2)

Unity—Christ-like love- (John 13:35); with the Father and Son (John 17:21)

The Bible— Approximately, 2,000/ 2,500 prophecies have been fulfilled perfectly.

History —No archeological discovery has ever contradicted the biblical narrative.

The Bible is a revelation and explanation of the existence of God and purpose of man. It is not just the all-time best seller, but the answer to the meaning of life. Furthermore, it's the only book where the author is with you when you read it.

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God" (2 Timothy 3:16).

And we are called to obey it...

"It ain't those parts of the Bible that I can't understand that bother me, it is the parts that I do understand." - Mark Twain

Prophecy	Old Testament Prediction	New Testament Fulfillment
1. Born in Bethlehem	Micah 5:2	Matthew 2:1
2. Born of a virgin	Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:18-23
3. David's lineage	Jeremiah 23:5	Revelation 22:16
4. Target of murder attempt	Jeremiah 31:15	Matthew 2:16-18
5. Betrayed by a friend	Psalms 41:9	John 13:18, 19, 26
6. Sold for 30 silver coins	Zechariah 11:12	Matthew 26:14-16
7. Crucified	Zechariah 12:10	John 19:16-18, 37
8. Lots cast for His clothes	Psalms 22:18	Matthew 27:35
9. No bones broken	Psalms 34:20	John 19:31-36
10. Buried in a rich man's tomb	Isaiah 53:9	Matthew 27:57-60
11. Year, day, hour of His death	Daniel 9:26, 27; Exodus 12:6	Matthew 27:45-50
12. Raised the third day	Hosea 6:2	Acts 10:38-40

What are the odds that Jesus could have fulfilled just eight of these prophecies by mere chance? Dr. Peter Stoner, former chairman of the departments of mathematics, astronomy, and engineering at Pasadena College in California, applied the principle of probability to this question.

The birth and life of our Lord Jesus Christ fulfills over 300 prophecies in the Old Testament about the coming of the Messiah. The odds of only eight of the major prophecies being fulfilled by just one single person is 1 in 10 to the 17th power, or 1,000,000,000,000,000 and 48 prophecies to be 1 in 10 to the 157th power. The estimated number of electrons in the universe is around 1 X 10 to the 79th power. Jesus is Lord ! [Peter Stoner, Science Speaks, Chicago: Moody Press, (1969)]

<https://www.newtestamentchristians.com/bible-study-resources/351-old-testament-prophecies-fulfilled-in-jesus-christ/e> alone? It simply couldn't have happened by chance!

Three questions every human needs to ask themselves:

1. Where did I come from? God created us in His image; we are not mere accidents without purpose. We are children of God (Galatians 3:26). Even better, as His children, we are precious to Him and He desires that we be with Him forever.
2. Why am I here? The Bible says our aims for life today should be to discover God's perfect will, repent from our sins and accept Jesus' offer of salvation from sin and hell, and to become more like Him each day. (Romans 8:29).
3. What does the future hold for me? You don't need to guess! Not only will you experience more peace and joy today, the Bible says Jesus will come very soon to take His people to the wonderful home He is preparing for them in heaven (John 14:1–3). In supreme joy and happiness, you will live forever in God's presence (Revelation 21:3, 4).

Ref: <https://www.amazingfacts.org/media-library/study-guide/e/4875/t/is-there-anything-left-you-can-trust->

Homework:

- 1) Memorize mission scriptures and TRUTH acrostic w/scriptures. Test each other!
- 2) Offer to serve on your church's missions committee, or on a long- or short-term mission's team.
- 3) Fast one meal/day a week. Use those meal times to pray for an unreached people group. Give the money that you would have spent on groceries that day to a missionary working to plant a church among an unreached people group.
- 4) Identify culturally diverse people who live in your neighborhood. Reach out to them by inviting them over for dinner, asking them to go on a picnic, etc. In short, pray that God will enable you to develop a redemptive relationship with your neighbors, classmates, workmates, etc.
- 5) Pray for an unreached people group everyday:
<https://joshuaproject.net/resources/prayer>

This brief self-assessment is meant to give you a general sense of where you should focus first in your journey of discipleship. Simply rank the thirty statements

below, from one to thirty (with one being the topic you most want to focus on, and thirty being the issue you feel the least need to wrestle with right now).

Know: Disciples learn. They get a handle on certain basic truths.

- _____ Learning the amazing good news of Jesus (Topic 1)
- _____ Establishing a relationship with God (Topic 2)
- _____ Knowing what it really means to be a new creature in Christ (Topic 3)
- _____ Being sure I am right with God—that I actually have eternal life (T4)
- _____ Following Jesus—the nuts and bolts (Topic 5)
- _____ Knowing the kind of life change that's possible for disciples (T6)
- _____ Understanding the mission of Jesus (Topic 7)
- _____ Answering common questions about the Bible (Topic 8)
- _____ Learning what God is really like (Topic 9)
- _____ Getting a clearer view of Jesus (Topic 10)
- _____ Hearing what the Bible says about the Holy Spirit (Topic 11)
- _____ Figuring out how church fits in to following Jesus (Topic 12)

Grow: Disciples change. They gradually become like Jesus.

- _____ Dealing with the struggle to love others (Topic 13)
- _____ Experiencing joy and peace in life (Topic 14)
- _____ Strengthening my relationships with others (Topic 15)
- _____ Understanding the rare traits of faithfulness/gentleness (Topic 16)
- _____ Battling temptation (Topic 17)
- _____ Knowing the truth about forgiveness (Topic 18)
- _____ Coping when life is one big struggle (Topic 19)
- _____ Keeping on when you feel like quitting (Topic 20)

Go: Disciples act. They engage in practices that can change the world.

- _____ Clearing up misconceptions about worship (Topic 21)
- _____ Dealing with a noisy, frantic, and jumbled life (Topic 22)
- _____ Digging into the Bible for yourself (Topic 23)
- _____ Building a richer prayer life (Topic 24)
- _____ Figuring out what God wants you to do (Topic 25)
- _____ Understanding fasting (Topic 26)
- _____ Hearing Jesus on money and giving (Topic 27)
- _____ Using your abilities to bless others (Topic 28)
- _____ Having spiritual conversations (Topic 29)
- _____ Making a global difference (Topic 30)