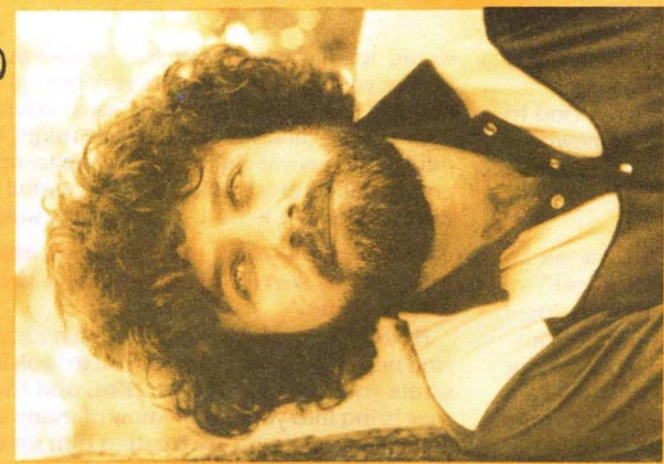


# Keith Green's Final Message



Why YOU  
Should  
Go To The  
MISSION  
FIELD

It is true that in past generations a foreign missionary had to make almost a lifetime commitment before he could go to the field. Then in most cases, he had to go to college for at least four years, and then seminary for two to four years **before** he could even begin his missions training and service. But today there are missionary organizations that have short-term programs for people who want to receive training and find out what serving God in other countries is like. These programs last from a few weeks to a few years in length. So now there is an opportunity to "take a look" before making a much longer commitment.

**14) "But God wants me to stay in this country and prosper. The reason the rest of the world is so poor and unconverted is because their heathen religions and idolatry have caused them to live in ignorance and poverty, without God's blessing."**

This has to be **THE** most selfish reasoning I've ever heard of not going—and I've heard it! **Of course** they live in ignorance and poverty, that's just the very reason you **should** go—to bring the **enlightenment** that comes from knowing the truth about Jesus, and to bring them the **true riches** of knowing Christ. If you don't believe that the reason God has blessed you with abundance in this country is so you can be a blessing to others—then you have never understood the Gospel of Jesus Christ! "Freely you received, freely give." (Matt. 10:8)

**15) "I'm just not ready to make that kind of a sacrifice and commitment."**

Ah! That's just the point. That's probably the underlying reason for almost every one of the above objections. In fact, you might just as well have said, "I'm not **willing**." You need to decide whether or not you are a disciple of Jesus—that is the question. If you **are** His disciple, then **you are not your own...you have been bought with a price.**" (1 Cor. 6:19-20) And if you truly love Him, then you will not feel bondage, you will feel incredible excitement at being chosen to represent Him in the world! To be a servant of Jesus Christ, an ambassador, a missionary, is the **highest** calling a man or woman can attain to!

Now what are you waiting for??

## WHAT SHALL I DO?

**BE AVAILABLE**—Abandon yourself to God and to His call on your life. Tell Him you will go anywhere and do anything that He shows you as His will for you.

**BE INFORMED**—Don't hide behind ignorance. Gather all the information you can so you can pray and seek the Lord intelligently. Subscribe to missions publications and make it a priority to know what's going on in the world. If you know where the needs are, it will be easier for you to meet some of them.

**BE INSPIRED**—Check out our booklist and get hold of some inspiring biographies of Christian missionaries. You'll find out that most "missionary greats" are just common people who decided to let their love for God and their love for the lost overrule their own desires in life—allowing God to use them in bold and wonderful ways.

**EXPECT AN OPEN DOOR**—Expect God to give you an opportunity to fully serve Him through this new information you are exposing yourself to. Then when He opens the door—walk through it!

**If you would like a list of Christian organizations with short and long-term missionary programs, just write us and we will be glad to send it to you.**

## MISSIONS BOOKLIST

The following is a suggested list of excellent books that will help you to learn more about missions—the need, the burden, the lifestyle, and the ministry. Check with your local bookstore—they can order them for you if they don't have them in stock.

**ANointed FOR BURIAL**—The story of a young American couple from Dallas that the Lord sent to Phnom Penh, Cambodia, while the city was falling to the communist forces of Pol Pot. They held crusades while the city was being bombed and shelled and experienced a remarkable revival among the Christians of the fledgling Church in Cambodia. They miraculously escaped on the very last plane out of the country just before the terrible persecution that was to follow.

—by Todd and DeAnn Burke; Logos.

**BRUCHKO**—The remarkable story of Bruce Olson. As a 19-year-old American boy, he followed the call of the Lord against incredible odds into the jungles of Venezuela. Near death after being shot with an arrow, he recovered and, all alone, without the help of any missionary society, he evangelized the savage Motilone Indians.

—by Bruce Olson; Creation House.

**PEACE CHILD**—The contemporary story of a man who went into a tribe of stone-age cannibals whose source of tribal pride was seeing "who could be the most treacherous." Don Richardson and his family lived an incredible adventure among these people and brought them to know and love the true Peace Child.

—by Don Richardson; Regal.

**OPERATION WORLD—A Handbook For World Intercession**—As well as describing the economic and religious status of each nation, this book tells you what is currently being done to bring these people to Christ. It is an effective prayer tool since it is full of statistics and specific prayer requests for each nation.

—by P.J. Johnstone; Send The Light Publications.

**THE GENERAL NEXT TO GOD**—The moving and exciting story of William and Catherine Booth and the founding of the Salvation Army in the slums of England.

—by Richard Collier; Fontana.

**THROUGH GATES OF SPLENDOR**—The story of Jim Elliot from Portland, Oregon, who was one of the five martyrs killed by the Auca Indians (1956) in the jungles of Ecuador. This story will grip your heart and change the way you personally live.

—by Elisabeth Elliot; Spire.

**ETERNITY IN THEIR HEARTS**—This book gives a remarkable insight into the vast opportunities of world evangelism. It shows many factual instances of groups of people who, through their ancient folklore, are totally prepared to receive the Gospel. They are literally waiting for and expecting God to show up. All they need is someone to lead them to the truth.

—by Don Richardson; Regal.

**HUDSON TAYLOR'S SPIRITUAL SECRET**—Hudson Taylor was the pioneer of modern faith missions. His life is an incredible adventure as we follow the story of the founding of the China Inland Mission in the 1800s.

—by Dr. & Mrs. Howard Taylor; Moody Press.

**KEY TO THE MISSIONARY PROBLEM**—Although written as a response to the Missions Conference of 1901, this summons to action for missions is as burning and contemporary as when first issued. This is a book of great intensity, which sounds forth a rousing and solemn call to new activity, fresh consecration, and more abundant prayer for the cause of missions.

—by Andrew Murray; Christian Literature Crusade.

**GOD'S SMUGGLER**—The exciting, true account of one man's dedication to Christ, and burden to bring God's Word to those behind the "closed doors" of the Iron Curtain.

—by Brother Andrew; Spire.

"Why YOU Should Go To The Mission Field" was reprinted from an article in *The Last Days Magazine*, a colorfully illustrated publication filled with challenging articles, ministry opportunities, and more!

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## An Introduction By Melody Green

I want to encourage you to read the following article by Keith with an open heart. It was completed only a few days before Keith and two of our children, Josiah and Bethany, went home to be with Jesus in a fatal plane crash. The following message was a real expression of the fresh burden the Lord had put on his heart. As Keith explains, this is so much more than "just another article." It was something that the Lord had put burning in Keith's heart and was to be his new emphasis of message to Christians—especially those Christians in America.

I know that most of you are aware of the fact that Keith's message, almost from the start of his ministry, was "get right with God!" He wasn't very shy about preaching it, and I know that because of his boldness, many hearts opened up to the Holy Spirit's conviction and the reality of God. Keith so wanted to see every Christian totally sold out to the Lord—not lukewarm or half-hearted—but as he put it in one of his last concerts, **bananas for Jesus!**

I believe the vision for missions is a completion of Keith's message for Christians to really be right with God. The question is this—once you are right... then what? Do you just sit around in your "rightness," or do you seek God's direction to see how and where you can be used most effectively for the Kingdom of God? What the world is dying for is hundreds and thousands of believers who are determined to see the lost find out who their Creator is before they stand before Him on that great and awesome day.

I know it would be Keith's greatest desire (aside from the salvation of the lost) for you to take this matter seriously before the throne of God. If you will lay all your personal goals at the foot of the cross, and ask Jesus what He wants you to do with your life, then I know Keith's burden from the Lord will be born in the hearts of many of you—and carried to the ends of the earth!

—Melody

## Part I: The Call Of The Lord A Biblical Look At The Missions Call

I recently returned from visiting some overseas missionary bases, and I must say that since returning, my life has not been quite the same. The vision and goals of our ministry have suddenly changed. The Lord definitely did something to my heart on that trip. Besides showing me how small my vision had been, He began to give me a great burden to see the ranks of His army in the field swell!

One of the greatest things God opened my eyes to was how tremendously evangelized my own country was, while the rest of the world was barely being reached. As I traveled from country to country, I thought of the millions of people I was passing through who needed to have the Gospel of Jesus shown to them in a real way—and yet there was hardly anyone there to reach them.

As I visited each mission base, I spoke with different missionaries, and picked up various pieces of literature that told the story of what was being done in different parts of the world to expand the Kingdom of God. As I read the statistics, I was shocked—I really had never known how little the need was being met!

When I returned home, I got hold of some of the leaders of different missionary organizations and set up some meetings to find out more about what was being done to fill the need. After these meetings, I decided to do a study of God's Word (to see what He had to say about reaching the lost in other countries), and I also read through some more of the missions literature I had been given.

This article is the result of that study, and also a burning desire in my heart to see **100,000** young people released to the mission field over the next five years!

So... why should you go to the mission field?

**1) Because Jesus has told you to go.**

"Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to all creation." (Mark 16:15)

With these words, Jesus made it clear **exactly** what His disciples were to do—they were to spread His teachings in His name, preaching salvation unto the ends of the earth. (Rom. 10:18) If you consider yourself a "believer," then you **must** consider yourself a "disciple" of Jesus—no less called and chosen than the very first 12 apostles. There are no such things as "1st class" Christians and "2nd class" Christians—**every** believer is called to spread the Good News about Jesus to those who have not yet heard. Jesus' command is definite and clear—it is His great mandate, His "Great Commission" to the soldiers in His holy army. We **must** go, because our great General has commanded us to go.

**2) You should go because the need is so great.**

"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore, beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest." (Matt. 9:37-38)

Ever since Jesus first spoke these compassionate words, the supply of workers in the fields of soul-harvest has always been horribly low. But today the need is the greatest it has ever been in the history of mankind. **Remember, Hell is not just for the weekend!** More people are alive today, and more souls are at stake, than the total number of people who have ever lived on the face of the earth in all of human history! This simply means that we can populate either Heaven or Hell by our obedience or our

laziness. There are over 2,700,000,000 people who have **never heard the Gospel** at all, and there are only 5,000 to 7,000 missionaries worldwide, working directly with these totally unreached groups of people.<sup>1</sup> That means there is approximately **one** missionary for every 450,000 of these people! There are over 16,000 different and distinct cultures and people-groups—even whole countries, where not **one single church** is in existence.<sup>2</sup> There are 7,010 distinct living languages, and 5,199 of them still have no Bible or Scripture translations available in their own language!<sup>3</sup> Do these figures move you at all? Does it matter to you that an estimated 80,000 unsaved people die every day (approximately 3,333 every hour... 55 people **every single minute!**) to face the judgment seat of Christ?<sup>4</sup>

**3) You should go because so few Christians are obeying the call, making the need even greater!**

"Faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the Word of Christ... how shall they hear without a preacher?" (Rom. 10:17,14)

Right now **worldwide** there are only 85,000 workers on the mission field—working mainly among those who have heard the Gospel before.<sup>5</sup> This figure includes missionaries from all over the world of every nationality. When you compare this number with the amount of Americans selling Avon or Amway products, it is staggering. Just in America alone there are 435,000 Avon sales-people<sup>6</sup> (with 1,280,000 worldwide), and over 750,000 Amway products distributors<sup>7</sup> (with over a million worldwide)! Do you realize that these two companies combined have 14 times more representatives in the United States alone than the Church of Jesus Christ has in the whole world outside of America?

And what about the Christian representatives we do have in the world? Only 9% of the world's population speaks English, and yet 94% of **all ordained preachers** in the whole world minister to the 9% who speak English. And 96% of **all** Christian finances are spent in the United States on 6% of the world's population. Only 4% of all Christian money is spent on missionary efforts to reach the other 94% of the world's population! There are over 1,000,000 full-time Christian workers in the United States; while one half of the world's population (3 major groups—Moslem, Hindu, and Chinese), 2,200,000,000 people, have only 2,417 full-time Christian workers.<sup>8</sup> As you can see by these figures, something is definitely wrong. While we in America have approximately one worker for every 230 people—those who have never heard the Gospel even once have one worker for every 450,000 souls! **Please forgive us, Jesus, for being too timid to obey You and reach out into all the world like You have commanded us to!**

1) *Once Around Jericho* by Roberta Winter; William Carey Library Publishing.

2) *Ibid.*

3) *World Christian Encyclopedia* by David Barrett.

4) *In The Gap. What It Means To Be A World Christian* by Dave Bryant; pg. 121.

5) U.S. Center for World Mission (USCWM), Pasadena, CA.

6) Avon Annual Report ©1981.

7) Amway Corporate Compendium ©1982.

8) USCWM, Pasadena, CA.

## What Is A Missionary?

A Christian missionary is a person whose passion is to make the Lord Jesus known to the whole world. They are completely under the command of King Jesus, and they will go anywhere, under any circumstances, for no pay, with poor living conditions and food, even though no one ever notices. They know that their Sovereign is watching every minute, and that is the only reward and joy they seek.

We see in the Bible that all Christians should continually be seeking every opportunity to lead the unsaved to Christ no matter where they are, for this is the privilege of every believer. But I believe that too many people use the word "missionary" too lightly—it's a term that has become misused in our everyday "Christian vocabulary." Too many justify their not obeying the call of the Lord to go to the front lines of the battlefield, by saying they are "missionaries where they are." I believe that "being a missionary" in the truest sense of the word is taking the Gospel **where it has never been before**, or at least to a different culture or a different language group. A true missionary is someone who will risk **everything** for the sake of the lost of this world.

Of course, as in every battle, not everyone can be on the front lines, for there are many things that are needed to aid those who are. But you must be clearly called by the Lord to stay away from those front lines before you can be assured that you are in the will of God. It is obviously true that many Christians are called to reach out to the lost in the ghettos, redlight districts, and homosexual communities in their own areas. And there are always those faithful wives and mothers who diligently let Christ be known to their doctors, plumbers, and P.T.A. groups. These things bless God's heart, there's no doubt about it. Someone who loves Jesus should always be ministering His love no matter where they are. But every Christian should always be willing, ready, and "on-call" to leave everything at the command of their General, and go to a different "battlefield" to war against the king of darkness, bringing healing and light to "free the captives."

The goal of a true missionary is to please and glorify their God by delivering the whole world into His hands and under His rule. It doesn't matter where they are stationed, for they are always at home in their Father's arms, no matter what the landscape or the language may be. They are only "aliens and strangers" (1 Peter 2:11), and they are not concerned with trivial things like location or comfort. They are God's soldiers, perhaps hidden to our eyes, but always evident to His. Please, seek Him to see if you might be privileged to take the Gospel to those who have never heard it.



**4) You should go because God gives special anointing and grace to those who leave their own land, people, and culture to do God's will and spread the Gospel.**

"And the Lord said to Abram, 'Go forth from your country and from your relatives, and from your father's house... and I will bless you and make your name great; and so you shall also be a blessing; and I will bless those that bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'" (Genesis 12:1-3)

Abram (later to be renamed Abraham by God) is only one of the many people in the Bible who God used mightily only **after** he left his own people, his own land, and his own culture. Look at the travels and ministries of people like Jacob and Moses—both of whom had to go into other lands to learn from God and be used by Him.

No matter where you look in the Bible, God always gave a great anointing and blessing to those who served Him in a foreign land. Look at Joseph and Daniel. They were the only two men in the Bible who God raised up as successful, secular officials in **foreign and heathen cultures**—and they remained faithful witnesses and servants of God to the very end, and often at the risk of their very lives!

What about Jonah? He was a good example of someone who didn't want to go to the mission field and preach to heathens! Stubborn, rebellious, and selfish—and yet God "made him an offer he couldn't refuse." (I pray that God would freely move like that in all our lives, "helping" us to make the right decisions about **going**.)

And then there's the apostle Paul—who had such a burden for his own people and country, Israel. Oh, how he would have loved a ministry among the Jews! But what did God say? "Go! For I will send you far away to the Gentiles." (Acts 22:21) That's what God commanded, and "go" he did. Never was there a missionary like Paul. Take a look at II Corinthians 11 if you'd like to see a list of his qualifications: beatings, imprisonments, stonings, mobs, shipwrecks, the list goes on and on—and so did Paul, obeying his Master who bought him.

From Noah to Abraham, from Moses to Jonah, from Daniel to Paul, God has always given special blessing to those who, leaving the comforts of home and relatives, cross the boundaries of their little worlds to bring God's message and blessing to the nations.

Remember Jesus' words about this subject, "A prophet is not without honor **except** in his home town." (Matt. 13:57)

**5) You should go because America (and some other western nations) is literally drenched with the Gospel, while most other countries and cultures of the world do not have any continual, relevant witness at all.**

"And thus I aspired to preach the Gospel, not where Christ was already named, that I might not build upon another man's foundation; but as it is written, 'They that had no news of Him shall see, and they who have not heard shall understand.'" (Rom. 15:20-21)

It is so true that we here in America are continually bombarded with Christian witness and ministry. Almost at every turn there's a billboard or a bumpersticker proclaiming something about Jesus. Turn the dial on your radio at any time of the day or night, and you've got non-stop preaching. There are several Christian satellite and cable networks. And there are over 250 different Christian magazines and publications. In most cities there's a church on almost every corner. I am not trying to say that this is all bad—a lot of it is good, winning many souls to Jesus—but as I've traveled overseas, it is hard for me to believe that it is God's will for there to be so much Gospel preaching and literature available here, while there is comparatively little or even **none** in many places outside of this country.

The world is going to Hell on every continent! **Is it God's fault that so few are hearing the Gospel—or is it the Church's?** Aren't we who love Jesus accountable to reach our generation with the Gospel? A friend of mine has written, "This generation of Christians is responsible for this generation of sinners." If this is true, then each of us must take a good, long look at our lives and priorities—finding out where God would have us begin to get ready to go!

**6) You should go because, as Oswald J. Smith said, "No one has the right to hear the Gospel twice, while there remains someone who has not heard it once."**

"But if our Gospel be hidden, it is hidden to them that are lost: in whom the god of this world has blinded the minds of them which believe not, that they might not see the light of the Gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God." (II Cor. 4:3-4)

Has it occurred to you that Jesus wants **every creature** to hear the Gospel? If you had 20 children to feed and plenty of food to feed them all with, do you think it would be right to give 3 of the children 10 meals, 7 children only 1 meal, and the remaining nothing—causing them to die of starvation? That's exactly what we're doing with the Gospel in the world today!

Because we believers are so deaf to God's call to go into all nations, we keep most of God's resources to ourselves! We keep feeding and reaching the **same people** over and over again. I am not saying there should be no Gospel preached in America, I am saying that there needs to be a spreading out of the soldiers of God, to fight the enemy where his **greatest** strongholds are—"where Christ is not already named"!

**7) You should go because the time is short. More and more countries are closing their doors to missionaries and the Gospel, and we must go now.**

"We must work the works of Him who sent Me, as long as it is day; night is coming, when no man can work." (John 9:4)

I constantly hear of country after country where missionaries used to be welcome, but now the doors are closed to them entering. Though it is true that many Christians can still go to be subtle witnesses as doctors, teachers, engineers, etc., the Gospel can no longer be openly preached in many lands.

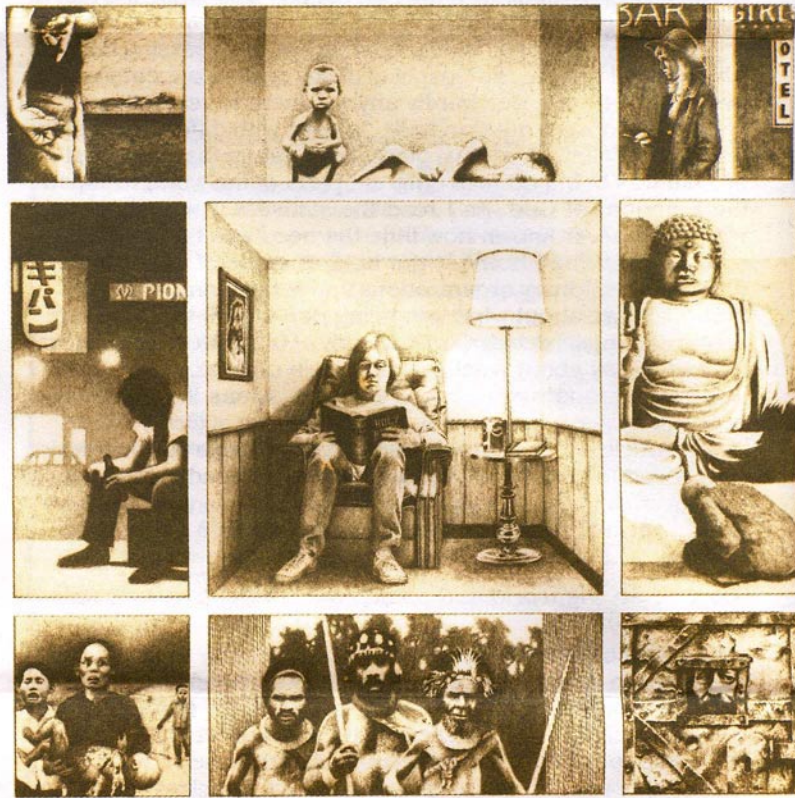
Although there are still vast areas of the world wide open for foreign evangelism, such as western Europe, parts of Asia, and most of the Pacific (Japan, South Korea, Singapore, etc.), there are many other countries where it is illegal to hold a street meeting or pass out Gospel literature. We need to sense the urgency of this hour, and obey God by reaching out to those lost in the darkness "while it is still day."

**8) You should go because the Holy Spirit is speaking to Christian leadership all over the world that it is God's desire for there to be a great final missionary thrust with the Gospel before the end of the age. It is His desire that every people should have the Gospel preached to them, and that the Gospel should be published in every nation and in every language. And unless YOU get involved personally, there is no hope of that ever happening in our generation!**

"... And you shall be my witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth." (Acts 1:8) "And this Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a witness to all the nations, and then the end shall come." (Matt. 24:14) "The Lord is... patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance." (II Peter 3:9)

Is there any doubt in your mind that God wants everyone to be saved? If you believe this, and you really love Jesus, then **WHY** are you so timid about getting involved in this great thrust to bring the Gospel to **all** the nations? Do you think that while you're reading this, God isn't grieved that His Church is being so lazy and disobedient about fulfilling His commission? He knows that **you** agree with the Scriptures, and He's listening to every excuse you're turning over in your mind like, "Yes, I know that more people need to go... but He just couldn't mean **ME!** I'm... I'm just not the 'missionary-type'..."

In Part 2 of "Why YOU Should Go To The Mission Field," we will see what "type" of Christian you really are...



**Part II: The Most Commonly Heard Excuses**

**T**he following objections are just a few of the many that Christian groups and missionary societies constantly hear from prospective recruits for the mission field. Although many may merely be excuses, we have heard them spoken so many times as serious statements from well-meaning Christians in response to the question, "Why don't you get trained to go into full-time Christian service in a foreign country?"

**1) "But I'm not called."**

You don't know how many people I've met who have said to me, "Keith, I agree that more people need to go to the mission field, but I've never heard God tell **me** to go."

Well, the truth is that God has **already** told you to go in His Word. In fact, He **commands** you to go... "Go **ye** into **all** the world, and

preach the Gospel to **every** creature." (Mark 16:15) That's right... **YOU ARE CALLED!**

In fact, if you don't go, you need a specific calling from God to stay home. Has God definitely told you **not** to "go" somewhere outside your country to preach the Gospel? If He hasn't, then you'd better start praying **WHERE** to go, instead of **IF** you should go—for again, **you're already called!**

**2) "But God needs people to stay here to be a witness to those lost in America. There's enough need right here!"**

It is true that God has called some people to stay right where they are to be witnesses for Jesus in their daily lives and professions. But again, God is merciful **and** just. Since America has only about 5% of the world's population, then only about 5% of the believers would really be called to stay in this country as a witness (that's only about 1 out of 20) while the rest of us should go into the parts of the world where there are almost 0% believers. (In Albania, for instance, there are only "a handful" of known believers in the whole country of 2.7 million people—less than 1/2 of 1/1000th percent!!!)<sup>9</sup>

**3) "But God needs people to stay home and financially support those ministries and missionaries who are already all over the world. In fact, my church is already supporting some missionaries with my tithes and offerings."**

You should never have to worry about there not being enough Christians staying home to support missionaries! There will always be enough people around who will not answer the call to go—who will stay home and gladly just send a check (instead of themselves) to reach the lost. After all, nothing is easier to give than money (except nothing!).

This does not mean that everyone who stays home is selfish and disobedient. As I've already said, there are some who know they are definitely called to stay, and they are doing exactly what God would have them do here, while they greatly support other ministries. I'm just saying that there will always be plenty of people around to financially support the pitifully few who answer the call and obey God.

**4) "But my family and friends would frown upon me going."**

"He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me..." (Matt. 10:37)

God is very clear about whose approval we should seek. It's shocking to me how even Christian parents react when their children say that they'd like to go for training as a full-time Christian worker. "A missionary! Are you crazy?!" It's as if they've announced they'd like to be a thief or a prostitute.

It is true that God wants us to honor our parents and love our friends, but He has also made it clear in His Word that this honor and love must not exceed our love and obedience to Him and His calling on our lives. We should always try our best to explain God's call to our families, lovingly and patiently, but the bottom line must be that we will obey Christ **no matter what the cost**. We should always try to get our family's understanding and blessing when God makes our ministry clear to us, but we must also always be ready to leave "houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or farms" for His sake "and for the Gospel's sake." (Mark 10:29)

**5) "But I need to stay here and lead my relatives to the Lord first. If I go somewhere else, how can they get saved?"**

There once was a man who wanted to follow and obey Jesus, but he said to Him, "Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father." Jesus' answer to him was, "Follow me; and allow the dead to bury their own dead." (Matt. 8:21-22)

This may sound cruel of Jesus not to allow the man to have a funeral for his dead father—but most likely, the man's father had not died yet. The phrase "wait until I bury my father" was sometimes used to say "wait until my father has died." What he was really saying was, "I'd like to follow You now, but You see, my parents wouldn't understand. Please wait until after they've died, and then I'll be more than glad to follow You!"

Jesus' answer was appropriate... "allow the dead to bury their own dead." In other words, "allow the unbelievers to take care of themselves, and **follow Me!**" Jesus doesn't want us to throw our usefulness away because our relatives are not yet saved. The greatest witness they can see is you fully obeying the call of God on your life. Jesus didn't want this man's father to be buried—He wanted the young man to follow Him, and then maybe even the man's father would come to know Him too. Obedience is truly greater than sacrifice (I Samuel 15:22)—when we obey God, **He** takes care of **all** our other obligations. (Matt. 6:33)

**6) "But I need to get an education first."**

I don't believe that God wants every Christian to go to college just because, "Well, **everyone** goes to college now, unless they're too dumb!" You shouldn't go to college unless God has definitely called you to go. Just like everything else in our Christian lives, **He's** the Master, we're the servants. **He's** the General, we're the soldiers. If you're **really** a Christian, you're at the beck and command of the King. If you're not at His command, then you're **really** not a Christian.

Yes, God **does** call some people to go to college. Sometimes it's to get training for a ministry calling He's made clear to them. For instance, if you know what country you're called to, perhaps God

would lead you to learn the language and culture somewhat before you go (although the very best place to learn is within the country itself—it's a definite "crash course"!).

Of course, another reason God might lead you to college is to minister to people right there on the campus—as well as to mature emotionally and spiritually. But be careful! Make sure you're there in direct obedience to God, or else you're wasting your time—and **His**.

**7) "But I need to get married first, and then maybe my mate will want to serve God full-time on the field, rather than me going alone."**

Nothing could be a more foolish reason for putting off obeying God now. God does not want you to look for a husband or wife, He wants you to be married to **Him**, and trust Him for any mate He may bring into your life. I know of many single Christians serving Jesus overseas who are trusting Him for everything. And some of the most beautiful stories of God's grace I've ever heard are told by couples who went to the mission field single, and then God led them to marry another whose heart was also fully devoted to serving Him there. Remember, "Your Father knows what you need **before** you ask Him." (Matt. 6:8) Trust Him!

**8) "But I have a family to support. God doesn't want me to neglect them, does He?"**

The Word of God says, "Seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you." (Matt. 6:33) If you can trust God for your needs, you can certainly trust Him for your family's needs. You would never be foolishly "neglecting" your family's needs by obeying God's call to go. God will show you the way. I know of so many families—some with many children—who are on the field right now, trusting God for their needs while they minister in His name. I have never heard of ONE occurrence where God didn't meet the needs of one of His servants and their families. As King David said...

"I have been young, and now I am old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, or his descendants begging bread. All day long he is gracious and lends; and his descendants are a blessing." (Psalm 37:25-26)

**9) "But the mission field is dangerous. God would not have me put myself or my family in danger of disease or native hostilities, would He?"**

"Why is the Lord bringing us into this land, to fall by the sword? Our wives and our little ones will become plunder; would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?" (Numbers 14:3)

It is all a matter of our priorities—do we look at the temporary or the eternal in making our choices? It's true that you will probably be in more physical danger on the mission field than you would be in the suburbs of America, but that is part of the cost that we need to count when it comes to serving God. The question should not be, "Will I be kept safe wherever I go?" but rather, "What is on the Lord's heart for me to do?"

If Jesus decided to go the way of least pain, He would have never gone to the cross. There is no place of greater blessing for you than in the center of God's will. You must stop to count the cost, but remember one thing—the **privilege** of serving God always outweighs the **price!** "If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake and the Gospel's shall save it." (Mark 8:34-35)

**10) "Although in the past most countries freely allowed foreign missionaries to come, most people in other lands now resent them. Why should I go where I'm not welcomed?"**

Did you welcome the Gospel before you were saved? The Word says that we should save some, "snatching them out of the fire." (Jude 23) Some people just don't want to be saved! That's exactly why we need to go to them. The more unwelcomed, the better. If they resent Americans, then you have an opportunity to show them that Christian Americans can be humble with the love of Jesus in their hearts. For the Word says, "He who is wise wins souls." (Proverbs 11:30)

**11) "But I could not afford to get the training, and raise the necessary finances to place myself (or my family) on the field."**

Don't worry, God'll help raise the money you need. Wherever God guides, He supplies—even if it means helping you get a job! Problems and worries about finances are usually only a surface excuse when it comes to obeying God to go. In your heart you **know** He'll make a way for you!

**12) "But I don't have any special talents or abilities that would qualify me to be a missionary."**

Then you're **just the person** God is looking for! Sure God can use nurses, teachers, accountants, and mechanics on the field, but it always blesses God to greatly use the one who seemingly has nothing to offer. It is **this** person who has the opportunity of purely representing Jesus in the endless "common" tasks that are part of the daily life of a missionary. "When I am weak, **then** I am strong." (II Cor. 12:10; also see I Cor. 1:26-31)

**13) "But how could I commit myself for years and years to go to the field without having a chance to see what it would be like?"**

<sup>9</sup> Operation World by P.J. Johnstone; STL Publications, 1980; pg. 91.