

## **A Missionary Heart: Abiding By the Stuff**

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## **A Missionary Heart: Abiding By the Stuff**

Dedicated to those whom God has chosen to stay behind and “abide by the stuff.”

### **Introduction:**

Missions is a subject near to the heart of God. Jesus urged His disciples, *“Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.”* (Matthew 9:38) The fields are *“white already to harvest”* (See John 4:35), but there are not enough laborers to gather in the grain. Because of this, much grain is lost. And the souls of men cry out, *“The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.”* (Jeremiah 8:20)

### **Types of Laborers for God’s Harvest**

God has two types of laborers for His harvest – those who go out into the fields and work, and those who stay at home and “hold the ropes.” Each Christian fits into one of those roles.

*“And David said unto his men, Gird ye on every man his sword. And they girded on every man his sword; and David also girded on his sword: and there went up after David about four hundred men; and two hundred abode by the stuff.”* (1 Samuel 25:13)

God has those who go out into the battle and those who “abide by the stuff.” 1 Samuel 30:24b says, *“As his part is that goeth down to the battle, so shall his part be that tarrieth by the stuff: they shall part alike.”*

Just as some of the men were too faint to follow David in the battle, some people, for various reasons, are unable to go out into the front lines in Christ’s work. But that does not mean they have no responsibilities. It simply means that their work is different. Those who remained behind in the physical battle had the duty of keeping “the stuff” so that it would not be stolen or damaged. In the same way, those that stay at home can help the missionaries on the front lines by “keeping their stuff.” When David went to battle, his men who stayed behind had the charge of protecting and maintaining the material goods while David and his men went to recover the people that the Amalekites had taken away. Those who “abide by the stuff” for missionaries can help them protect and maintain their material goods while the missionaries go to seek after souls that Satan has taken away.

### **Proper Priorities**

When David went to a physical battle to save the physical lives of the women and children who were taken captive, two thirds of his men went with him while one third stayed behind. When missionaries are sent out into the field to fight spiritual battles and seek for the deliverance of the souls of men, women, and children who are taken captive by Satan, one third or less go out into battle, while more than two thirds stay at home. Yet, there still is not enough money or resources for those who go out into the fight. Why?

We see that atheists and communists have the money they need for their agendas. Yet, there never seems to be enough money to do the Lord’s work. Perhaps the problem is that we have forgotten that

our Father owns all things – the cattle on a thousand hills, the wealth in every mine. Are we trying to give to the Lord's work from our own resources rather than depending on God's?

It is not hard for the Lord to accomplish His work and to save, whether there is much or whether there is little. But it is His work, and He has all the resources for it. If two thirds went out into the front lines, and one third of His people stayed behind to "abide by the stuff," how would the monetary and material needs be met? Perhaps, if the focus of our lives were for the furthering of God's work, God would do great and mighty things to provide all that is needed. All we have comes from Him. His hand is not shortened that it cannot provide. Perhaps we simply need to take God at His promise, "*<sup>9</sup>Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: <sup>10</sup>So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.*" (Proverbs 3:9,10) With almost all of God's commands, He also gives a promise of blessing for obedience to that command. Look how bountiful is the promise that comes with this one!

Although I do pray that this book will encourage many to have a burden for the Lord's work and to follow Him into the front lines of battle on the mission field, this book is dedicated to those whom God has chosen to stay behind and "abide by the stuff."

## *Chapter 1*

### **Developing a Missionary Heart**

You may be thinking, *I would like to develop a missionary heart, but I do not know how to go about it? How can I become a worker who can faithfully “abide by the stuff” for those who have gone out into the front lines?* Well, one of the best ways to develop a missionary heart is to take a look into God’s heart and learn of Him. God gave us a beautiful letter, in which He opens His heart to us. That letter is called the Bible. The study of the Bible as a “missionary book” will cause you to develop a missionary heart.

But how does one go about studying the Bible as a missionary book? Here are some practical tips:

#### **1. Understand Your Purpose**

There are three good reasons to study the Bible as a missionary book.

- a. To become a reliable worker, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed. (II Timothy 2:15)
- b. To be able to give to any person a reason of the hope that is within you. (I Peter 3:15)
- c. To be able to stand strong in the faith (I Corinthians 16:13; Hebrews 13:20,21; I Peter 5:6-11)

#### **2. Assemble a “Missionary Bible”**

##### **Tools needed:**

A Bible with extra blank pages and pages for notes:

or

A Bible and a small notebook

##### **Materials needed:**

###### **a. Missionary autographs:**

One way to gain a heart for missionaries is to ask missionaries to sign your Bible or notebook and write their favorite Bible verse or favorite quote. Look at the signature and remember it is the missionary’s own hand that wrote it. Look at the Bible verse or quote and remember that it reflects the missionary’s heart. This will help you in learning to think like a missionary and to pray for missionaries more specifically.

One suggestion would be to get five to ten missionary autographs. Have each missionary sign on a separate page. That way you can add other things to each missionary’s page later.

## b. Maps

How wide does God's love reach? "*God so loved the world.*" (John 3:16) The first map you will want to paste on one of your blank pages in the Bible or in the notebook is a map of the world. This will be a small map of course, but it will give you a broad picture of the greatness of God's love.

Next, you will want to collect individual maps. Remember the autographs you collected? Find maps of the countries, cities, or villages in which each of these missionaries works. Paste the corresponding map on the page with the missionary's autograph. The map represents an area of lost souls. It is an area where Satan has blinded the eyes of many people to whom God is reaching out in love. Look at the map and think, "This map represents souls for whom Christ died. I will pray for the missionary to be able to share the love of Jesus with these souls and for these souls to be saved." You likely will not know the names of people who live in the area represented by the map, but God does. He created and fashioned each one with His loving care.

## c. Charts giving facts and statistics

Find charts that give facts or statistics about the countries of the missionaries for whom you have chosen to pray. These charts may tell about the climate, the terrain, the number of people in the country, the languages, literacy rate, and so on. If you can find charts with missionary statistics, those are good as well. Add these to your notebook, or paste in the blank pages of your Bible.

## d. Missionary quotes

Make a collection of missionary quotes – from past and present missionaries

## e. Missionary Bible texts.

When a Bible text sticks out to you, jot it down in your Bible or notebook, with a little note as to what it means to you in regard to missions.

### 3. Discover God's Method of Missions

In learning about God's method of missions, there are several things to reflect upon. You can find some of these and study them as you read through the Gospels.

#### 1. Parallels between the life and work of Jesus and the life and work of modern missionaries

What kind of heart did Jesus have toward God?

##### a. Communication with God alone

Matthew 14:23

Mark 6:46

Luke 6:12

##### b. Communication with God in fellowship with others

Luke 9:28

Luke 11:1,2a

c. Asking the prayers of others when in hardship  
Matthew 26:38-41

What kind of heart did Jesus have toward others?

- a. Compassion for their spiritual needs – Matthew 9:36
- b. Compassion for their health needs – Matthew 14:14
- c. Compassion for their material needs – Matthew 15:32
- d. Burden for the lost and saved – prayer for the lost and saved  
John 11:41b,42  
John 17

2. Gospel teachings concerning Israel – read through the Gospels to find Christ’s heart for Israel

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3. Gospel teachings concerning Gentile nations – read through the Gospels to find Christ’s heart for the Gentiles

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4. Missionary faithfulness –

Examples:

- Barnabas
- John Mark – the one who quit but was restored
- Paul
- Silas
- Luke – missionary assistant and physician

5. Hardness and opposition in missionary service – the realization that every facet of ministry is spiritual in nature. Missionaries are always in a spiritual battle. There are only two viewpoints in life.

- a. Unsaved – everything is approached from a worldly viewpoint
- b. Saved – everything is approached from a “God” viewpoint – How does it look to God and how does it fit in God’s plan?



6. The personal call to missionary work

Examples to study:

Peter

Paul

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7. The role of the church in the calling and sending of missionaries

Acts 13:1-4

8. The development of the missionary

Examples to study:

Amos

Peter

Paul

John Mark

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8. Paul's aims and approach to ministry

What things were cultural?

What things are applicable to today?

9. Difficulties encountered by Paul in the work

Hunger

Thirst

Tiredness

Cold

Bad weather

Persecution

Opposition from countrymen

Opposition from relatives

Opposition from unsaved

Opposition from fellow believers

Hindrances by Satan

Hindrances by the Holy Ghost

10. Accomplishments seen by Paul and those who labored with him.



## **6. Examine Missionary Methods**

a. Think of the most successful missionaries you know in terms of those who have established strong works for Christ and whose work continues on the field even after they have left. Think of places where churches have been established that remain faithful when the missionary is gone, of works that are reproducing themselves.

Contact these missionaries. Ask them what their “secret” is and what are the best “methods” for missionary work.

b. Think of the various types of fields – Muslim nations, Communist nations, Jewish evangelism, reaching Mormons, reaching Jehovah’s Witnesses, reaching those bound in the darkness of Satanism, working with the homeless and those on drugs, reaching the fatherless and widows. There are others, but these are a few examples to help you get started.

Find godly missionaries in these various fields. Talk with these missionaries. Invite them over and spend time with them. Visit their fields if possible. Show genuine interest, and you will glean much helpful information.

## **7. Consider the Rewards of Missionary Work**

*“<sup>9</sup>After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; <sup>10</sup>And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.” (Revelation 7:9,10)*

## **8. Understand the Power Behind Missions**

Success in missions is not the result of people who are strong and brave and “never give up.” Success in missions is the result of a God who uplifts, sustains, and keeps in His almighty power.

Three keys to the Power of Missions are as follows:

The Holy Spirit

The Holy Bible

Holy hands lifted up in prayer – both the missionaries’ and those who intercede for them.

## Chapter 2

### Prevailing in Prayer for Missions

#### 1. Importance of prayer

##### a. Jesus' example

The greatest missionary and the one with the most intense work was Jesus Christ. He came *"to seek and to save that which was lost."* (Luke 19:10)

One of the characteristics of Christ's life was that He spent much time in communion with His Father. There was at least one occasion in which He spent the whole night in prayer (See Luke 6:12). On another occasion, He got up very early in the morning to go spend time alone in prayer. (See Mark 1:35)

Jesus prayed for Himself (Luke 22:41-43) and He prayed for His disciples (John 17). Jesus also prayed for the lost (John 11:41b,42) He prayed in fellowship with His disciples (Luke 9:28). He also taught His disciples to pray (Matthew 6:3-15). And, when He was facing great difficulty, Jesus longed very much to pray with His disciples (Matthew 26:38-41).

Jesus was very earnest in prayer, and God answered those earnest prayers:

John 11:41,42

Luke 22:41-43

##### b. Saints' examples

Enoch – Genesis 5:22-24

Joshua – Joshua 10:12-14

Elijah – James 5:17,18

Hannah – I Samuel chapters 1 and 2

Each of these individuals communed with God in prayer, and God answered their prayers. He showed Himself mighty unto them. When God's children pray, God will do great things.

Other Bible saints or modern day saints who prayed and received God's answers to prayer:

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## 2. God's Command to Pray

Jesus said, *"Men ought always to pray, and not to faint."* (Luke 18:1)

In prayer, one learns to trust the Lord and to taste His goodness (See Psalm 34:8). Believing in the goodness of the Lord is the key that helps one not to faint in one's prayer life. David said, *"I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living."* And then he went on to encourage, <sup>14</sup>*"Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD."* (Psalm 27:13,14)

God desires the Christian to *"Pray without ceasing"* (I Thessalonians 5:17). When you do, He will bring the reward in its season. (See Psalm 27:13,14; Isaiah 65:24; John 15:7, and John 16:23)

## 3. How to Pray

### a. Pray to the Father

*"And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you."* (John 16:23)

### b. Pray in Faith

*"And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive."* (Matthew 21:22)

*"Let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. <sup>7</sup>For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord."* (James 1:6,7)

*"And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him."* (I John 5:15)

### c. What to Pray

Praying for missionaries can be a challenge. It is not so hard to pray for them when they are home presenting their work and you can talk to them one on one. But, when they are on the field, it is harder. After all, they are many miles away, you cannot see them, you do not know that they are doing. It seems they are living in a completely different world. You may not hear from them for weeks at a time. When you do hear from them, what they are going through is so different from what you experience or understand. Sometimes they seem more like characters out of a story book than real people. But they are real people, and they are fighting real battles, and they need real prayer warriors at home. Here are a few ideas that may help you in knowing how to pray for the missionary.

How to intercede for the missionary.

1. One good way to find out how to pray for a missionary is to read his newsletters. In them the missionaries gives prayer requests and answers to prayer. There you will find specific requests, battles, praises, and victories.

## 2. Universal Requests

There are some needs that are common to all missionaries yet are very important. These would include the following:

- a. Open doors (Revelation 3:7,8; Colossians 4:3; II Thessalonians 3:1)
- b. Laborers (Matthew 9:36-38)
- c. Finances – “There will be no lack of this when God, not man, is depended upon to supply it.” (Belle M. Brain) (III John 1:2; Psalm 20:1-5; I Kings 8:44,45)

3. Another good way to pray for the missionary is to pray for him like you would pray for yourself.

Could you trip and fall and sprain an ankle? So can the missionary.

Could you have a car, bicycle, boat, or airplane accident? So can the missionary.

Do you sometimes get sick? So does the missionary.

Do you ever wake up tired and grouchy? So does the missionary.

Do you sometimes have trouble trusting and believing? So does the missionary.

Does it seem sometimes that your work for the Lord is useless and going nowhere? So it seems sometimes to the missionary.

Do you ever have trouble with your thought life? So does the missionary.

Do you ever find it hard to read your Bible or pray? So does the missionary.

Do you desire to draw closer to the Lord and just learn to rest in Him? So does the missionary.

Missionaries are just ordinary people with ordinary thoughts and emotions and ordinary troubles. But they serve an extraordinary God. And so do you! And that extraordinary God answers ordinary prayers.

## 4. Other thoughts on Prayer

### a. Quotes on prayer

There are a number of places to get quotes on prayer. Some can be found in books (such as the book Holding the Ropes by Belle M. Brain, © 1904 by Funk and Wagnalls Company). Quotes can also be found on various websites. You might also write down quotes you hear from your pastor, missionaries, or other preachers.

Here are a few quotes to get you started:

*These have been gathered from various places*

"The essence of prayer does not consist in asking God for something but in opening our hearts to God, in speaking with Him, and living with Him in perpetual communion. Prayer is continual abandonment to

God. Prayer does not mean asking God for all kinds of things we want; it is rather the desire for God Himself, the only Giver of Life, Prayer is not asking, but union with God. Prayer is not a painful effort to gain from God help in the varying needs of our lives. Prayer is the desire to possess God Himself, the Source of all life. The true spirit of prayer does not consist in asking for blessings, but in receiving Him who is the giver of all blessings, and in living a life of fellowship with Him." ~Sadhu Sundar Singh

"Shut the world out, withdraw from all worldly thoughts and occupations, and shut yourself in alone with God, to pray to Him in secret. Let this be your chief object in prayer, to realize the presence of your heavenly Father." ~Andrew Murray

"...[the] power of prayer can never be overrated. They who cannot serve God by preaching need not regret. If a man can but pray he can do anything. He who knows how to overcome with God in prayer has Heaven and earth at his disposal." ~Charles H. Spurgeon

"...True prayer is measured by weight, not by length. A single groan before God may have more fullness of prayer in it than a fine oration of great length." ~C. H. Spurgeon

"Don't pray when you feel like it. Have an appointment with the Lord and keep it. A man is powerful on his knees." ~Corrie ten Boom

"The one concern of the devil is to keep Christians from praying. He fears nothing from prayerless studies, prayerless work and prayerless religion. He laughs at our toil, mocks at our wisdom, but he trembles when we pray." ~Samuel Chadwick

"Prayer - secret, fervent, believing prayer - lies at the root of all personal godliness." ~William Carey

"Each time, before you intercede, be quiet first, and worship God in His glory. Think of what He can do, and how He delights to hear the prayers of His redeemed people. Think of your place and privilege in Christ, and expect great things!" ~Andrew Murray

"O Lord **give me Scotland, or I die.**" John Knox (*emphasis mine*)

"A visitor in the [A.B.] Simpson home once discovered the secret to Simpson's great ministry. He happened to get up early in the morning and heard a noise in Simpson's study. The door was ajar so peeking in **he discovered Simpson draped over a globe of the world sobbing as though his heart would break for the lost world.**" ~From an essay, *A.B. Simpson and the "Business" of Healing* (*emphasis mine*)

"No one is a firmer believer in the power of prayer than the devil; not that he practices it, but he suffers from it." ~Guy H. King

"Groanings which cannot be uttered are often prayers which cannot be refused." – Charles Spurgeon

"It is possible to move men, through God, by prayer alone." ~Hudson Taylor

## 5. "Secrets" of Prevailing Prayer

### a. Be specific

An example might be as follows:

"Lord, please bless the \_\_\_\_\_ family as they begin their Bible school this week. Help the people who come to school to be diligent in studying Your word and to learn more about You every day. Make them strong Christians who will love You and work for You."

Rather than:

"Lord, please bless the \_\_\_\_\_ family and help the young Christians there."

Or:

"Lord, please supply the transportation needs for the \_\_\_\_\_ family and help them to find the foods and medicines (or supplements) they need for good health while they work among the \_\_\_\_\_. Give them wisdom, health, and safety as they work there for You."

Rather than:

"Lord, please help the \_\_\_\_\_ family and provide for all their needs."

Or:

"Lord, please help the \_\_\_\_\_ family to get \$\_\_\_\_\_ that they need for their new \_\_\_\_\_ (could be church building, house, generator, car, bus, canoe, etc.) "

Rather than:

"Lord, please help the \_\_\_\_\_ family to get the money they need."

One good way to find out specific prayer requests is to read the missionary's newsletter. Often, he will describe various prayer requests and praises. Sometimes he will give the names of people to pray for. Occasionally, he may explain very specific needs.

Some missionaries do not describe their financial or material needs in their newsletters. You can find out what these are by contacting them and asking them.

### b. Agree together

#### 1. With a friend

Praying together can be such sweet fellowship. Perhaps you have a friend or family member who is also interested in missions. You could share some of the missionaries' special requests and agree together to set aside a certain time to pray for them. You will be amazed to see what God will do.



Jesus said, "Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. <sup>20</sup>For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." (Matthew 18:19,20)

## 2. As a group

### 3. In a prayer chain

A prayer chain offers a way to have many people continuing in prayer. A prayer chain can be started when there are special needs, or it may be continuous. The nice thing about a prayer chain is that someone can be praying at all times, but everyone need not be together and pray at the same time. It also provides a way to keep the needs of the missionaries constantly before the throne of grace.

## c. Expect Great Things

When you pray, pray believing that God will answer prayer and do great things. Ephesians 3:20,21 says, <sup>20</sup>*Now unto him that is **able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,*** <sup>21</sup>*Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen."*

In her book, Holding the Ropes, Belle M. Brain says, "It seems incredible to many that a prayer offered in New York can be instantaneously answered in Calcutta. Yet, with an omniscient, omnipresent God, distance is no hindrance. Through the divine telegraphy of prayer, which needs neither wire nor key, but simply a heart in tune with God, the remotest soul may be reached in an instant of time." (*Holding the Ropes*, p. 26, © 1904 by Funk and Wagnalls and Company)

God answers prayer in the morning,  
God answers prayer at noon;  
God answers prayer in the evening,  
So keep your heart in tune.  
~Anonymous

## 6. Importance of Praise

The importance of praise in missions cannot be underestimated. God is worthy of all praise because the ministry is His, He can oversee it and take care of it, and all victories come through Him. Here is a look at eight reasons why praise is important.

### a. God is all powerful

<sup>20</sup>*Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God; him shalt thou serve, and to him shalt thou cleave, and swear by his name.* <sup>21</sup>*He is thy praise, and he is thy God, that hath done for thee these great and terrible things, which thine eyes have seen."* (Deuteronomy 10:20,21)

The LORD is our God and we are His servants. He is our praise, for He does for us great things.

### b. God makes the work successful – See Deuteronomy 10:21 quoted above.

c. God is our God – the missionary’s God, your God – see verses quoted above.

We are all God’s servants. Both the missionary and the one “abiding by the stuff” serve the same all-powerful God!

d. God and His truth will be exalted in the heavens and among the nations

*“<sup>7</sup>My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed: I will sing and give praise. <sup>8</sup>Awake up, my glory; awake, psaltery and harp: I myself will awake early. <sup>9</sup>I will praise thee, O Lord, among the people: I will sing unto thee among the nations. <sup>10</sup>For thy mercy is great unto the heavens, and thy truth unto the clouds. <sup>11</sup>Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens: let thy glory be above all the earth.”* (Psalm 57:7-11)

e. God is the preserver of life

*“<sup>6</sup>Thou wilt prolong the king's life: and his years as many generations. <sup>7</sup>He shall abide before God for ever: O prepare mercy and truth, which may preserve him. <sup>8</sup>So will I sing praise unto thy name for ever, that I may daily perform my vows.”*

f. Praise to God is the source of gladness and sweet fellowship with Him

*“<sup>33</sup>I will sing unto the LORD as long as I live: I will sing praise to my God while I have my being. <sup>34</sup>My meditation of him shall be sweet: I will be glad in the LORD. <sup>35</sup>Let the sinners be consumed out of the earth, and let the wicked be no more. Bless thou the LORD, O my soul. Praise ye the LORD.”* (Psalm 104:33,34)

g. God delivers from wicked men

*“<sup>34</sup>O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever. <sup>35</sup>And say ye, Save us, O God of our salvation, and gather us together, and deliver us from the heathen, that we may give thanks to thy holy name, and glory in thy praise.”* (I Chronicles 16:34,35)

h. God is great above all others, above all of His creation, and above all the host of heaven. God is worshipped by the host of heaven. Nothing and no one is greater than God.

*“Stand up and bless the LORD your God for ever and ever: and blessed be thy glorious name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise. <sup>6</sup>Thou, even thou, art LORD alone; thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all things that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein, and thou preservest them all; and the host of heaven worshippeth thee.”* (Nehemiah 9:5b,6)

## **7. Practical Tools for Prayer**

Praying is work; but it is blessed work. Sometimes it can be easier to pray if you have some tools to help. Here are a few ideas.

- a. Maps
  - Map of the world
  - Map of the area or areas that God has particularly laid upon your heart
  - Pocket atlas
- b. Prayer cards and pictures
- c. Prayer letters
- d. A surrendered heart – II Samuel 24:24

## Chapter 3

### Music in Missions

“Music is wings, and the words are the body. As wings without a body are of no use, so music that does not help the words is of no avail from a spiritual standpoint.” Dr. A. F. Schauffer.

#### 1. Holy Music

Music is a beautiful creation of God. Music is a language – a language that God created to speak to every heart. God loves music, and He is the music of our soul. The Bible says that God is our song – see Exodus 15:2; Psalm 118:14; and Isaiah 12:2. God is not only our song, but God Himself sings. Zephaniah 3:17 says, “*The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing.*” Music is such a delight to the heart of God that He devoted an entire book of the Bible to music (actually two if you count the Song of Solomon). We call that book the Psalms. Some have referred to the Psalms as the “Hebrew Hymnbook.”

According to one child music expert, Connie Fortunato, children can recognize their own language by the time they are three days old. They can recognize a Mozart symphony by the age of six months. Mozart’s music is very organized. Therefore it makes a child more organized in thought. Good music helps children in their motor skills and emotional development.\*

If music has such an impact on a child’s physical, mental, and emotional development, what impact must it have on our hearts and souls? If well organized music helps one to be more organized in thought, would not then holy music help one to be more holy in thought? Music is a reflection of our perception of God. The type of sacred music we listen to or play reveals how we perceive God. The Bible says God is holy, majestic, all powerful, loving, joyful, our place of rest and refuge, burdened for all mankind, judge, justifier, and much more. Missions music, to be effective, must portray the attributes and character of God.

“The power of sacred song is immeasurably increased when ‘the hands that touch the organ keys and the voices that lead in singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs are at the disposal of the Holy Ghost and usable as His instruments.’” (pp. 44,45, [Holding the Ropes](#), by Belle M. Brain)

\*Thoughts based on notes from Frank Garlock’s “Language of Music Seminar”

#### 2. Music and God’s Heart for Missions

Missions is a godly endeavor, and the music of missions should be godly. There are so many good songs that give an accurate picture of God’s heart for missions. One excellent missions songbook is [Songs of Challenge](#) by New Tribes Mission.

Here is just one of the many wonderful and thought provoking songs that can be found in Volume 2 of the *Songs of Challenge* hymnbook.

## Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken

(1.) Jesus I my cross have taken,  
All to leave and follow Thee;  
Destitute, despised, forsaken,  
Thou from hence my all shalt be;  
Perish every fond ambition,  
All I've sought, and hoped, and known;  
Yet how rich is my condition,  
God and heaven are still my own!

(2.) Let the world despise and leave me,  
They have left my Savior too;  
Human hearts and looks deceive me;  
Thou art not, like man, untrue;  
And, while Thou shalt smile upon me,  
God of wisdom, love, and might;  
Foes may hate and friends may shun me;  
Show Thy face and all is bright.

(3.) Man may trouble and distress me,  
'Twill but drive me to Thy breast;  
Life with trials hard may press me,  
Heav'n will bring me sweeter rest.  
O 'tis not in grief to harm me,  
While Thy love is left to me;  
O 'twere not in joy to charm me,  
Were that joy unmixed with Thee.

(4.) Hasten on from grace to glory,  
Armed by faith and winged by prayer;  
Heav'n's eternal day's before me,  
God's own hand shall guide me there.  
Soon shall close my earthly mission,  
Swift shall pass my pilgrim days,  
Hope shall change to glad fruition,  
Faith to sight, and prayer to praise.

Words by Henry F. Lyte

Music: Leavitt's *The Christian Lyre*, 1831

Attributed to Wolfgang A. Mozart.

### 3. Music to bring peace and strength to the heart

Many a missionary has been encouraged and buoyed up by the ministering of a hymn to the soul. Over and over again, throughout her missionary days, Gladys Aylward was encouraged by hymns. She sang them as she tried to find her way through the howling winter of Siberia as she traveled to China. She sang them when bombs whistled around her and her beloved children during the Japanese invasion of China. She sang them with the children as they faced hunger, thirst, and weariness traveling many days over the mountains.

In 1836, as Marcus Whitman and his wife prepared to start on their long journey to Oregon, the song, "Yes, My Native Land, I Love Thee," was sung at their farewell service. Below are the words to this song. It seems such an appropriate song, as the Whitmans would give their lives in the Lord's work. As the hymn was sung, the congregation was overcome by emotion, but Mrs. Whitman continued singing "in clear, unwavering tones." (Story can be found in more detail on p. 53 of  *Holding the Ropes*  by Belle M. Brain)

#### **Yes, My Native Land, I Love Thee**

1. Yes, my native land, I love thee,  
All thy scenes I love them well;  
Friends, connections, happy country;  
Can I bid you all farewell;  
Can I leave you, Can I leave you,  
Far in heathen lands to dwell;  
(Repeat previous 2 lines)
2. Home! thy joys are passing lovely!  
Joys no stranger heart can tell!  
Happy home! 'tis sure I love thee!  
Can I, can I say farewell?  
Can I leave thee, can I leave thee,  
Far in heathen lands to dwell;  
(Repeat previous 2 lines)
3. Scenes of sacred peace and pleasure,  
Holy days and Sabbath bell.  
Richest, brightest, sweetest treasure!  
Can I say a last farewell?  
Can I leave you, Can I leave you,  
Far in heathen lands to dwell;  
(Repeat previous 2 lines)
4. Yes, I hasten from you gladly,  
From the scenes I loved so well!  
Far away, ye billows, bear me;  
Lovely, native land, farewell!  
Pleased I leave thee, Pleased I leave thee,  
Far in heathen lands to dwell;  
(Repeat previous 2 lines)

5. In the deserts let me labor,  
On the mountains let me tell  
How he died--the blessed Savior--  
To redeem a world from hell!  
Let me hasten, Let me hasten,  
Far in heathen lands to dwell;  
(Repeat previous 2 lines)

6. Bear me on, thou restless ocean;  
Let the winds my canvas swell--  
Heaves my heart with warm emotion,  
While I go far hence to dwell.  
Glad I leave thee, Glad I leave thee,  
Native land, Farewell! Farewell!  
(Repeat previous 2 lines)

The song can be found in the Hymnbook, *Southern Harmony*, hymn #328

Words by Baptist minister Dr. Samuel Francis Smith (*more about Dr. Smith's life and other hymns that he wrote can be found at the website [http://www.hymnary.org/person/Smith\\_SF](http://www.hymnary.org/person/Smith_SF).*)

Composer: William Walker

## *Chapter 4*

### **Creating Interest in Other Individuals**

#### **1. Keep a prayer list**

Think of others that might be willing to share the burdens of missionaries with you. Write their names down and pray for them regularly.

#### **2. Encourage others to encourage others**

Those who are called to “abide by the stuff” might be thought of as “missionary helpers.” Although they are not actually on the field, they play a vital role in the missionary’s work. Encourage each missionary helper to have a part in interesting at least one other person in missions.

Study the lives of missionaries

In order to interest others in missionary work, you must be familiar with missionaries and their work. A good way to learn about missionary work is to study missionaries. Here are some good questions to ask while doing your study.

What sent that particular missionary to the field?

What is their goal?

What keeps them on the field? If they are retired or no longer living, what kept them on the field during their time of service for the Lord?

You might even study missionaries who failed. What caused them to fail? Why did they become discouraged and give up? Think of missionaries on the field now. As a fellow helper “abiding by the stuff,” what can you do to lift up their hands and encourage their hearts so that they do not become discouraged and give up?

Suggested missionary lives to study --

#### **1. Missionaries of long ago**

Moravian missionaries (particularly the early days of Moravian missionary work)

James Chalmers – missionary to Papua New Guinea, martyr for Christ

Count Zinzendorf – he lost several children because of his stand for Christ; his wife became insane because of all the stress, strain, and loss. Count Zinzendorf experienced much heartache but remained faithful.

John G. Paton – missionary to the New Hebrides



## 2. Modern missionaries

Pick one or two missionaries to pray for and with whom you can correspond. Make it about them. Show genuine interest in them and take time to care. You will be amazed at what you will learn and at the friendship you develop with these brothers and/or sisters in Christ.

### 3. Encourage fellow missionary helpers to study the Bible as a missionary book

Some tips on how to study the Bible as a missionary book can be found in chapter 1 of this book, "Developing a missionary heart." Share with your fellow missionary helper the things you learned as the Lord developed in you a missionary heart.

### 4. Get to know missionaries

As each missionary helper gets to know various missionaries, his or her heart for missions will grow. Below are some practical suggestions for the missionary helper to learn more about the missionary God has laid on his heart and more about that missionary's field.

- a. Write a missionary paper
- b. Give to missions
- c. Read missionary newsletters
- d. Correspond with the missionaries
- e. Listen to sermons preached by the missionaries

### 5. Provide Printed Material

In order for others to be interested in missions, they need to know that there is a need, and they need to know the nature and enormity of the need. One way of getting this information to others is by way of printed material. In her book  Holding the Ropes , Belle M. Brain says, "Information has been the key of interest, unlocking hearts and pocketbooks, sending missionaries to the field, and causing money to pour into missionary treasures. It is a significant fact that the missionary society of Great Britain (the Church Missionary Society), which expends the largest sum on missionary printing, has also the largest income for missionary work." (p.90)

There are many good printed resources available, including a number of missionary books. A few books are listed here, and there are likely many others as well. A couple of good sources for finding missionary books are [ChristianBooks](#) and [Amazon.com](#).

Books:

High Adventure in Tibet by David V. Plymire

Peace Child by Don Richardson

And the Word Came with Power by Joanne Shetler and Patricia Purvis; highly recommended for those doing pioneer missionary work. Some read this with their children for their home school curriculum, but I would recommend not reading to young children as there may be some things in the book that are hard to understand or are frightening to them.

Evidence Not Seen by Darlene Deibler Rose

Born Out of Conflict: The Autobiography of Ben Song as told to Cliff Christians

Other books that might be helpful are books descriptive of foreign lands and peoples. [The Voice of the Martyrs](#) has a number of such books for both adults and children. They also have some missionary stories suitable for both children and adults.

Pamphlets or Tracts:

The Parable of the Orange Picker, also known as The Parable of the Orange Groves – available various places online such as [this pdf edition](#)

The Story of the Bamboo – available various places online, including [this site](#). Also, possibly available from The Christian Book Room.

## Chapter 5

### Understanding Individual Responsibility towards Missions and Missionaries – from children to adults

#### 1. Sparking Missionary Interest in the Home

##### a. Why kindle the flame of missionary interest in the home?

After our Lord Jesus had risen from the dead, He gave a special commission to the eleven disciples, “*Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.*” (Mark 16:15) This command has been passed down to every Christian of every generation. Godly parents can help their children understand that fulfilling this command can be very exciting. Dad, Mom, and the children can all work together to see this great commission fulfilled.

##### b. Why interest children in Missions?

Children will one day grow up. When they do, they will be needed to replace the workers that are presently on the field. It is important to impress upon them while they are young that it is their responsibility to reach the lost. “It is a solemn thought, freighted with no little responsibility, that from among the children in our homes to-day must come the great missionaries and missionary givers of tomorrow. Ere long these little ones, now so dependent upon our care, are to be entrusted with the money power of the Church, and upon them will rest the burdens of preaching Christ in all the earth.” (p. 79, Holding the Ropes, by Belle M. Brain)

At the New Orleans Missionary Conference in 1901, Mr. John R. Pepper of the International Sunday-school Lesson Committee declared, “I really believe that the heathen nations can be converted to the religion of Jesus Christ in one generation if the Church will but rear a generation to do the work... I am profoundly impressed with the fact that we will never have an irresistible, all-conquering line of royal givers of gold, silver, or selves, until we rear them, and the first lesson of this culture in real, honest heart-yearning for the salvation of the whole world must be received in the springs and fountains of early childhood, if we would see the largest yield therefrom.” (See p.75, Holding the Ropes, by Belle M. Brain)

That was over 100 years ago, and yet millions are still unreached. Parents may be very burdened for those who are unreached. They can pass this burden on to their children.

There are several reasons why it is important to interest children in missions.

##### 1. For their own good

a. It keeps the child’s mind occupied with the things of God so that he/she is not so attracted by the things of this world.

b. It builds good character

c. Children should be taught and influenced for missions when they are very young because that is when they are most easily molded

- d. It discourages self indulgence
- e. It teaches children to be selfless

Missions teaches the child to look “outside of self,” to think of the needs of others. “Thinking of others” must be established as a habit.

- 2. Because there is a cause and the child can be effective in the cause.
  - a. Praying

Children pray with simple faith. But even children may have a hard time praying if the missionary or the idea of missions is not real to them. Here are some ways to help them.

- 1. Show the child a picture of a missionary
  - 2. Tell the child one or two needs the missionary has
  - 3. Let them pray for these needs
- b. Teach them to give

Children love to give, and they can be great givers for the cause of missions. Here are some ideas to help them earn extra money to give.

- 1. Very small children

Very young children, as young as two years old, can learn to work. They can pick up their toys, pick up some things off the table, or even help clean. For some of the jobs, the child should work just because it teaches him or her good work ethic or good character. But, maybe one of the jobs can be special. Each time the child does this special job, such as putting his or her toys away, give the child a nickel. (*Note: you may wish to choose a different job, this is only an example.*) That nickel should be placed in a special box, jar, or piggy bank. By doing the job on a regular basis, the child can earn enough money to give a dollar a week to missions. Be sure that the nickel is given for the same job each time. That way the child knows he or she is doing that job especially to help missionaries. Also, he or she will learn that even the smallest tasks are done for Jesus and that they can be used for the good of others.

A dollar a week does not sound like much money. However, according to Gospel for Asia statistics, the average American Christian gives fifty cents a week to missions. With only a tiny bit of work each day, even a very young child can earn twice that much for missions. Also, if 1,000 children were involved in earning a dollar a week to give to missions, that would \$1,000 extra a week for missions! A little bit can add up to a lot.

## 2. Older children

Older children can also do work to earn money for missions. This work does not have to be one of his or her regular chores. Here are some ideas.

a. Extra jobs. Perhaps the child can find an extra job to do around the house. You can pay a small amount for that job.

b. Wash or walk the neighbor's dogs. Many people are glad to have help with their pets and will be happy to pay a child a small amount to help care for them.

c. Do a neighbor's dishes, housework, yard work, etc. If the neighborhood is friendly and safe, perhaps the child can go around to different houses and ask for odd jobs to do for a little money.

A child could find odd jobs to earn money for his or her self. There is nothing wrong with this. It is good for children to learn that work has value and that the things they like or want come at a cost. However, if the child's purpose for doing the odd jobs is specifically to earn money for missions, all of the money from those jobs should go to missions. If he or she set out to earn money to give to the Lord, that is where the money should go.

## 3. Other ways to give.

Perhaps it is impossible for a child to earn money. But the exciting thing is, that child can still give. Here are some simple but special ways he or she can give.

a. Write a letter or poem to send to a missionary

b. Make a card

c. Very small children can send a hand print or a foot print and the parents can write their name below it.

All these little gifts are special and will be cherished by the missionary.

## 2. Create a Missionary Atmosphere

One way to make missionaries, and the need to reach the lost, real to a child is to create a missionary atmosphere. There are several ways to do this.

a. Create a missionary room or a missionary corner

In the special "missionary station," you might place maps, pictures of people from other countries, games or clothes (if modest) from other countries, missionary stories and books, and so forth. Two very good missionary story books for children are Sylvia Goes to Spain and The Buffalo and the Bell. Though they are old books, they are exciting and captivating and show the child what it means to be a missionary or live on the mission field. These books are probably out of print, but you may be able to find them at Amazon, E-bay or other places that sell old books.

You might also find some illustrated missionary stories to read together and missionary songs to sing together. One good source of these items is [Bible Visuals International](#). They have an online store; their prices are good, and they often have special deals.

One fun idea for the “missionary room” or “missionary station” is to make a missionary museum. With a little research, collection of artifacts and maps, and the making of some crafts, games, and costumes, nice eye-catching displays can be made. Not only will the children learn a lot, but they can have fun giving guests a “tour” of their museum. Each display should be clearly labeled with attractive, easy to read posters and charts. Your children might even be able to think of ways to make some of the displays interactive. Perhaps you could make a CD of you and your children singing some missionary songs or some national anthems of the country or countries represented in the display. This CD can be played while visitors tour the museum.

1. Set aside a “missionary night.” On that night, choose a country. Wear clothes from that country and cook meals from that country. If time, play a game from that country. You might also be able to read a story about that country and look through pictures of people who live there. Talk about what it would be like to grow up in there. Tell your children why the people there need the gospel. Help them see the good things about the country and the lost condition of the people within it. Pray together for that country and/or for missionaries that work there. Pray for God to send more laborers to that country.

2. Set aside a daily prayer time to remember one country or missionary specifically in prayer. Let your children see a missionary card or a picture from the country for which you are praying. Share one special request or praise with your children or tell them one interesting fact about the country before you pray. This helps missions come alive and be real for them.

b. Adopt a missionary

Another way to make missions real to your children is to adopt a missionary. Perhaps your church supports some missionaries and you have their prayer card. Let us say they live in the Netherlands. Once every two years the missionary comes home for furlough. He and his family go on a whirlwind trip from church to church to present their work and possibly raise more support. They may stop at your church again for a Sunday of meetings, maybe even Sunday and Wednesday. You and your family see them come in and sit down. You see the dad preach and watch his missionary presentation. After church you might be able to shake hands with the family and talk with them about ten minutes or so. Then they are gone again for another two years.

While the missionary is at your church and you can see his presentation and hear him pour out his heart for the land to which God has called him, you are so excited. Your own heart becomes burdened for the people with whom he works. You look at his display, take a prayer card, write down names to pray for, and so forth. But what happens about a month or so after they are gone? It is not that you no longer care about their needs or lose the desire to pray for them. It is just that they no longer seem real. They seem like an acquaintance that you met a while ago and see now and then. His missionary letters are exciting, but you cannot really understand his needs, his trials, his sorrows, his joys. They seem far away to you, and likely to your children also. So, what can you do to keep this missionary and his family and ministry fresh and real in your minds and the minds of your children? You can adopt the missionary and his family.

How do you adopt a missionary?

1. Ask for pictures of their work
2. Ask them to tell you a story that you can share with your children
3. Find out their favorite verse and song. Why is it their favorite? Why is it special to them?
4. If the family has children, see if they want to be pen pals with your children.
5. Make a scrap book of the letters, pictures, and stories that the missionary or his family sends
6. Write to them regularly. Missionaries get lonely on the field. They love to get letters, emails, and cards. Be patient though. If the missionary family does not have email, it may take them a while to receive your correspondence. And it may take a while for their letters to get back to you. If you do not hear back from them, your letter may have gotten lost in the mail. Just try again!
7. Pray and praise together for the specific needs and blessings the missionary shares.

Adopting a missionary can be a fun, rewarding, and educational experience, not only for the child, but also for the whole family.

c. Create a Missionary Curriculum

If you homeschool your children, perhaps you might consider creating a homeschool missions curriculum. There are curriculums for many different things – science, history, art, home economics, social studies, and many more. But there are not many options for a curriculum on missions.

How would you go about putting together a missions curriculum? In the next chapter, “Studying to Be a Missionary,” there are many ideas that can be adapted for use in a child’s missions curriculum.

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If blossoms of the early spring  
Are double sweet and fair,  
Our budding youth to God we bring,  
And leave the off’ring there.

*Fourth verse of song #180 in Pentecostal Hymns One and Two Combined © 1894 by Henry Date*

## Chapter 6

### Studying to Be a Missionary

#### 1. Why study to be a missionary?

“Why study to be a missionary if I do not plan to go to the mission field?” you may wonder. There are several reasons to do so.

- a. It will increase your heart for missions, and it will help you better understand missionaries and missionary life.
- b. It will allow you to have material to use to impart a burden for missionaries to other people.
- c. It will help you to be able to create a heart for missions in your children.
- d. It will give you the opportunity to help prepare someone else to be a missionary.

#### 2. How to study to be a missionary

How should you go about it? Here are some ideas.

- a. Find a good missionary study course – or
- b. Develop your own missionary study course.

Developing your own missionary study course can be a challenge, but here are some pointers to get you started.

1. Begin with the Bible as your textbook. God’s heart for missions is all through the Bible and begins with the book of Genesis. As you study through the Bible, write down passages on missions. What is God’s heart for lost people? for new believers? for His people? How can God develop that same heart in you?

Two good passages for contemplation are John 3:16 and Psalm 2:8. John 3:16 is the wonderful story of how God **gave Christ to the world**. *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”* (John 3:16) In Psalm 2, God promises that He will **give the world to Christ**. *“<sup>7</sup>I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. <sup>8</sup>Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.”* One day *“The kingdoms of this world”* will *“become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.”* (See Revelation 11:15) Let us claim them now while the promise of salvation is extended in love with the knowledge that God gave Christ to the world, because one day Christ will claim them and will rule them with a rod of iron. None of the people of these nations need fear if their trust is in God because *“Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.”* (Psalm 2:12b) There is a blessed hope for **all** that trust in him.



In order to claim the people of this world for Christ, the missionary and his or her helper must have power from God. How can a missionary have power in his work? How can you have power as a missionary helper “abiding by the stuff?” Ephesians 6:10-20 is a key passage to study on this subject.

2. Collect materials on missions to study. Ask friends, pastors, and missionary friends for ideas. Many resources may be found online on such sites as Amazon or Ebay.

a. Missionary history  
b. Missionary literature and books  
c. Missionary biographies – books and recordings. Moody Bible institute has recordings for sale in a series called “Stories of Great Christians.” These are well done and very interesting and informative. These are available online at [this site](#). Or just search “Moody audio, Stories of Great Christians.”

d. Material on foreign lands

e. Maps

1. Maps of countries

2. Maps of cities and villages of particular interest

3. Learn to draw maps

4. Collect news clippings of areas of interest around the world.

5. Read missionary poems and learn missionary hymns. Study these together with the passages of Scripture upon which they are based.

6. Visit blogs of current missionaries, even missionaries of other denominations. You may not believe everything the way they do, but these blogs will help give a good understanding of culture, challenges, the types of personal needs missionaries face, conditions, and spiritual battles.

Read blogs of new missionaries on the field. New missionaries are usually studying culture and language and will put some of the interesting new facts they learned into their blog posts. They are also very excited about the work. Some new missionaries face major challenges their first term on the field. Read how they deal with these challenges and how God helps them.

The blogs of new missionaries show how difficult it is to begin life in another country, culture, and environment. Reading them gives a glimpse into the daily demands of missionary life.

Read blogs of veteran missionaries on the field. These blogs show the ongoing challenges, the exciting growth; the joy of seeing churches established and believers growing; in some cases, the frustrations of years of labor and little fruit; the feelings of failure after many years of hard work; the opposition, the maturing of believers, the dependence upon God and His strength and encouragement.

Take notes from these blogs and use them to build your curriculum and to share the burden of missionary needs with others.

## 7. Create an actual text book.

One idea is to make a textbook and a fill-in-the-blank style workbook to go with it. Write it as if taking readers on an imaginary journey to and from the mission field. In the textbook, include hymns and poems and the passages of Scripture on which they are based.

### a. Questions to included in the text book

To get you started, here are a couple questions that you might want to cover in your textbook and workbook. You may have other ideas as well.

1. What is the Great Commission? – Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 15:16; Luke 24:46-49;  
John 20:21  
To whom was the Great Commission given?  
How did Jesus say the Great Commission should be fulfilled?

2. Where are we to witness for Christ?  
Acts 1:8  
Luke 24:46-49  
Acts 5:42  
Acts 20:20

3. When are we to witness for Christ?  
II Timothy 4:2

### b. Subjects to include in the textbook

#### 1. Prayer

Devote a section of the textbook to prayer. Encourage students to set aside five to ten minutes for prayer four to five mornings a week for a specific missionary or field. Allow God to work in their hearts to give them the burden for a specific missionary or field.

Encourage students to pray daily for the world-wide spread of the Gospel and for God to send forth more laborers into the harvest field. *“The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few.”* (See Matthew 9:37,38)

#### 2. People

For hands on work and personal experience, have the student choose a “personal missionary” with whom to correspond. The student can make a special notebook or folder just for that missionary. In that notebook, he can keep track of the missionary’s prayer requests and praises, write down special dates like birthdays and anniversaries (even spiritual birthdays), and make a place in the notebook for “missionary gems.” These missionary gems could be the missionary’s motto. For example, one missionary family named the Hughes has a motto they use to help people remember to pray for them. It is short and simple, “Tie your shoes and pray for the Hughes.” It only takes about one minute to tie one’s shoes, but it is a good way to remember to pray for the Hughes! ☺ Other sayings by the

“personal missionary” can be added to the “missionary gems” section as well. This section helps the student see the heart of his or her missionary.

The student may even want to make a prayer notebook for their missionary, separate from their other notebook. A ring binder notebook would be good for this. In that prayer notebook, they could put copies of the missionary’s newsletters in order of when they were received. As the student reads through the newsletters, he or she can highlight the prayer requests and praises of the missionary. Use one color for highlighting the prayer requests and another color for highlighting the praises. The student may even want to use a third color for highlighting specific answers to prayer. This makes praying for the missionary very exciting as one sees how God has worked and answered prayer in the life and ministry He has given to this missionary.

### 3. Missionary Shelf

This part of the missionary study course would not be in the textbook because it just would not quite fit. 😊 If there is space in a student’s room, he or she can set aside a shelf just for the missionary and call it his “missionary shelf.” Ask the missionary for a curio or a souvenir. If making the curriculum for a child, see if you can get a toy from that mission field. The toy should be small because shipping costs from other countries to the USA are usually very high. Purchase a couple of picture frames and put pictures of the missionary, his country or village, people from the area where he works, and maybe even a picture of animals native to the country in which the missionary works.

### 4. Support

Include in the curriculum a section on support for the missionary or for missionary work in general. This is important because giving is an integral part of any missionary ministry. The missionary goes. He **gives** his time, abilities, effort, energy, health, and sometimes his life. Those who “abide by the stuff” must ask God to search their hearts and give them a burden and a desire to give as well. They can **give** of their time and also of their substance. Even if you can only give a little, a little is important. Even the giving of children in the amounts of a few cents each can be amazingly used of the Lord. Consider these statistics from around 1900.

Children of the American Board gave \$46,000 for the *Morning Star* (I believe this was a ship). This was all given in ten cent shares -- just a tiny amount for each child over a period of time, but it added up to much in God’s work.

In England, children gave \$29,000 for the *John Williams* and other ships.

Australian children gave \$25,000 to build John G. Paton’s missionary ship, the *Dayspring*.

“In 1902 the Sunday-schools of the Methodist Episcopal Church, North raised \$400,000 for missions, about one-third of the sum contributed by the entire denomination.” (p. 136, [Holding the Ropes](#), by Belle M. Brain) One can be fairly sure that the children did not possess one third of the available income. How much more we could do if our money were surrendered to God. He is the source of all our income, and He will only pour out blessings if we use it to honor Him.

*“<sup>9</sup>Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: <sup>10</sup>So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.” (Proverbs 3:9,10)*

K. P. Yohannan of Gospel for Asia gives the sad statistic that the average North American Christian gives only fifty cents per week to missions. Many Christians celebrate Christmas as Jesus' birthday. Yet, according to Gospel for Asia, statistics show that less than 1% of money spent at Christmas goes to the Lord's work. If it is Jesus' birthday, should He not be getting the biggest present?

a. Goal for giving

What is a good goal for giving to missions? First, it is important to consider that "Money cannot be hammered out of untouched hearts." As you prepare the curriculum, ask God to create in your students a giving heart. Ask Him to prepare them to give to the Lord's work what He wants them to give. Out of the individual's income, a tithe belongs to the Lord and should be given through the local church. Other offerings, including support for missionaries, should be above and beyond the tithe and will be given as the Lord places the joy of giving in a person's heart. Many churches have a missions program. To encourage the pastor and support the ministries of the local church, the student should also give through the church to missions. However, God may perhaps place in the student's heart a burden for sacrificial giving.

What is a good amount to start with for sacrificial giving?

The answer to this would be "whatever the Lord lays upon the student's heart." A minimum of \$5.00 per month to a specific missionary or ministry should be considered. What if the student is giving his tithe and missionary offering to the church and has no money left after that? Then he must pray. If God lays upon his heart to give a certain amount to a missionary or ministry, God will supply that certain amount.

Here is a thought to ponder. Why is it that atheists and communists seem to have sufficient money for their agendas, but Christians do not have enough for God's work? Our God owns all things. He owns the cattle on a thousand hills and the wealth in every mine. Perhaps we have forgotten from whence our resources come and are trying to depend upon our own efforts to give rather than upon God's resources.

b. Keys to giving

There are three keys that will open up the door to allow the student to give to God's work. These keys are prayer, faith, and work. Giving should be the result of a person's understanding of good stewardship. What does the Bible say about stewardship? Is the money we have our own? Has it been entrusted to our stewardship by God? What does that mean for us? This would be a good subject for the student to study in the Scriptures.

Have the student do a stewardship research project.

Find out how many Independent Baptist churches are in America. Approximately how many members are in these churches all together? Multiply the number of members by \$1.00 a week. How much money does it come to? Try to find out approximately how much these churches give to missions in a year. This would be a general amount for all of the churches combined. If each member of all the Independent Baptist churches gave only \$1.00 per week, how much missions money would that be in a year? Does the amount given match up to \$1.00 per member on average? If the average North American Christian is giving 50 cents per year to missions, imagine what could be done for the Lord's work if that amount were doubled.

c. Right motives for giving

“Appeals should be based on love to Christ and obedience to His command rather than on harrowing stories of suffering in heathen lands.” (p. 145, Holding the Ropes, by Belle M. Brain) Money should be given, not “raised.”

In an article that he wrote for the *Assembly Herald*, Mr. John Willis Baer said, “Money for the Lord’s work: shall we *give* it, or shall we *raise* it? When money is wanted, usually the first resort is not to ‘fasting and prayers but to festivals and fairs.’ This is *raising* money, not *giving* it. I appeal for a spirit of consecration which will compel us to *give* more and *raise* less. The net result in the end will be very much more money available for the Lord’s work.”

Some good passages to study in regard to missions giving include the following:

1. II Corinthians 9:7
2. II Corinthians 8:1-15
3. Matthew 12:41-44
4. Proverbs 3:9,10

Here are some questions the missions student might consider while studying through these passages.

1. How (in what spirit) should we give to missions? – List at least three things

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2. How much should we give to missions? – (II Corinthians 8:1-15 and Matthew 12:41- 44) List at least two principles

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3. Almost all of God’s commands are accompanied by a blessing or reward. What special blessing does God promise those who honour Him by giving to Him? (Proverbs 3:9,10)

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## 5. Study Missionaries of the Past and Present

One good way to study to be a missionary is to study the lives of missionaries. There are many who went before and set good and godly examples. And, there are many on the mission field today who continue to carry on that good work and example. Here are some practical ways for students to study missionaries.

a. Learn about at least one missionary “hero” of the past and what that missionary did to lay a foundation and pave the way for missionaries on the field today.

Examples:

James Chalmers – missionary to Papua New Guinea, martyred on the field

Robert Moffat – missionary to Africa

Hudson Taylor – missionary to China

b. Find five veteran missionaries alive today who served on their fields forty years or more. How were they able to stick to it? What made them stay? What did God do for them over those years?

c. Gain a basic understanding of missionary work in America’s early days

Examples:

John Eliot – first Bible translator and “Apostle to the Red Men.”

David Brainerd

Marcus Whitman and family

Bishop Francis Asbury – (Methodist Bishop in early America. He was an English preacher who worked here during the Revolutionary War. He was a tremendous example of faithfulness and endurance under affliction. Thought to consider – How did Bishop Francis Asbury demonstrate in his life the following verse, “*When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.*” (Proverbs 16:7))

d. Become familiar with Bible translators of the past

Examples:

Adoniram Judson to Burma

William Carey to India

John Eliot – missionary to native Americans and one of America’s first Bible translators

James C. Hepburn to Japan

Cornelius Van Dyck to Beirut, Syria – completed the translation of the Arabic Bible

e. Find five modern day missionaries that are third generation missionaries. What made them want to follow in their parents’ and grandparents’ footsteps?

f. Collect meaningful quotes from missionaries studied – both past and present

g. Ask ten people who their favorite missionary is and what they appreciate most about that missionary.

6. Final assignment (can be adjusted for young children)

Write a three page report on what this missions study has meant to you. In what ways has God spoken to you throughout this study? How can you apply the things God taught you through this study to your life? How can you use the things you learned to influence and encourage others?

## *Chapter 7*

### **Helping Missionaries in Practical Ways**

One very encouraging thing you can do as a “missionary helper abiding by the stuff” is to send packages of things your “adopted” missionary might need. Since this is “your” missionary, do not use the church’s money to send the box. Make it a ministry and sacrifice for the Lord and ask God to supply what you need to send it. A good goal would be to send the missionary at least two boxes per year. This does not sound like much, but sending boxes, particularly to other countries, is very expensive. If sending the box overseas, inquire about flat rate boxes. Sometimes it is cheaper to use flat rate boxes, other times it is not. That depends upon the country and sometimes upon what you are packing in the box. Use an ordinary cardboard box if you desire to send a larger one as the “large” flat rate boxes tend to be fairly small. The outside of the box should have no printing on it. If it does, either blacken in the writing with a permanent marker or cover the outside of the box with plain newsprint. Boxes should **not** be wrapped with wrapping paper or other fancy paper!

An important part of the package is the customs sticker or form that is attached to the package before shipping. Different countries have different requirements concerning the customs information. Be sure to find out their requirements. Also, different countries have different policies as to what can be sent into their country. It is best not to send items that missionaries can easily purchase in their country of service unless the item is much cheaper than they would normally pay for it. Even if you can get it and send it for less, the missionary may still have to pay duty on the item – up to 40% to 50% sometimes.

#### **1. Items to send**

Below are some ideas of items you might send your missionary. Also, check with the missionary to see if they have a list of special needs. Ask if there are any special shipping instructions.

##### a. Clothes

Find out the number of people in the family, clothing measurements for each, and hat and shoe sizes for each. Also, consider sending socks. It is hard to get socks on some mission fields.

##### b. Table cloths

Something inexpensive but pretty

c. Small toys or activity books or small craft kits for children or craft supplies such as crayons, markers, gel pens, paint brushes, and so forth

d. Jigsaw puzzles for adults and children

e. Bandages or other first aid supplies – include some fun little bandages for children

Find out what is needed on your missionary’s particular field. Some other ideas might be over the counter pain relievers such as acetaminophen, aspirin, and ibuprofen.

f. One subject notebooks

g. Writing pads

h. Beads



- i. Yarn (depending on the missionary and field)
- j. Harmonicas or recorders
- k. Scale bells for teaching music
- l. Handkerchiefs
- m. Clothing – particularly child and infant clothing

## **2. Shipping Tips**

- a. Do not send glass items to foreign fields. They most likely will not arrive whole.
- b. All containers with liquids should be wrapped in bubble wrap **and** placed inside a sealed plastic bag.
- c. Anything that can melt (like chocolate or other soft candies) should be placed inside a sealed plastic bag even if it is already inside a sealed package.
- d. Do not send wrapped presents. If you want to make it special, tie a ribbon around the present and attach a small card with the recipient's name and a short message
- e. Do not fill spaces with newspaper or other types of paper
- f. Fill corners and spaces with small clothing items – baby clothes, baby blankets, towels, wash cloths, socks, yarn, and so forth. Sometimes larger clothes can be used as well. Just roll them up to fit into extra spaces.
- g. As a general rule, do not send new items as missionaries may have to pay duty on them. Small things such as notebooks, crayons and markers and such are not usually a problem.
- h. To make the box extra special, send the missionary a monetary gift to cover the cost of duty fees – up to 40% to 50% of the value of the items included in the box

## **3. Send a “treat box”**

For an extra special gift once a year, send a “treat box” if you can. A treat box can be filled with items the missionary and family do not necessarily need, but items that would encourage them or cheer them up. Since it is a special gift box, be sure to send a monetary gift to cover any duty fees (see “h.” in above section). The items in the treat box can be for holidays, birthdays, “weary days,” “discouraging days,” “celebration days,” and “just for fun” days. Put items in clear, sealed plastic bags and label the bags with a permanent marker. Examples: “Suzy’s Birthday” or “Open on a Weary Day,” or “Open on a Celebration Day.”

Items to include in the treat box

- a. Little handwritten notes or greeting cards
- b. Doilies (handmade is special)
- c. Candy (hard candy is best if sending overseas)
- d. Embroidered handkerchiefs
- e. Puzzle books
- f. Activity books
- g. Coloring books for smaller children
- h. Activities or crafts that can be packed into small spaces
- i. Lip balm or lip gloss
- j. Craft supplies
- k. Rag dolls for small children
- l. Bendable toys
- m. Brain challenge games
- n. Pretty stationary
- o. Nice blank greeting cards
- p. Scented powder for girls (if they do not have allergies)
- q. Small, unbreakable toys
- r. Balloons
- s. Birthday candles
- t. Small party favors
- u. Small stuffed toys
- v. Pocket Bibles or New Testaments
- w. Any other small, fun or encouraging item

## *Conclusion*

Thank you so much for reading this short book and for opening your heart to allow God to create in you a missionary heart. I trust that this book has been an encouragement to you, has given you a look into missionary life and a burden for the peoples of the world, has drawn you closer to God, and has put a fire in your bones to serve the Lord Jesus and to hold up the hands of those serving where you cannot go.

May you experience many blessings in your work for the Lord as a “missionary helper abiding by the stuff”!