

Mission Quotes

together everywhere

Together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ
1 Corinthians 1:2

- an African chief speaking to missionary David Livingstone

"All my forefathers have passed away into darkness without knowing anything of what was to befall them; how is it that your forefathers knowing all these things, did not send word to my forefathers sooner?"

- Randy Alcorn

"The opportunities for using our financial resources to spread the gospel and strengthen the church all over the world are greater than they've ever been. As God raised up Esther for just such a time as hers, I'm convinced he's raise us up, with all our wealth, to help fulfill the great commission. The question is, what are we doing with that money? Our job is to make sure it gets to his intended recipients."

- Roland Allen

"Missionary zeal does not grow out of intellectual beliefs, nor out of theological arguments, but out of love."

- Brother Andrew

- "There are no closed doors to the gospel - provided that, once you get inside, you don't care if you ever come out."
- "Don't complain to yourselves that you can't go to the mission field! Thank God for bringing the mission field to you!"

- Gladys Aylward

"I wasn't God's first choice for what I've done for China, I don't know who it was. It must have been a man, well-educated man. I don't know what happened. Perhaps he died. Perhaps he wasn't willing, and God looked down and saw Gladys Aylward and God said - "Well, she's willing."

- Art Beals

"Christ's commission is for the *whole* church to take the *whole* gospel to the *whole* world! Every member is called to participate in mission; therefore, we need to provide a broad range of opportunities.

- Henry Blackaby

"His purpose for the church was to continue what He began with Israel. God wants to redeem a lost world."

- Ron Blue

"We witness because we worship and we worship by our witness." "Because we love the Lord we reach out in world missions. Worship is the driving force. True worship yields world missions. Missions is simply the evidence of worship in action." "Worship launches mission outreach, and worship is the outcome of this outreach as new believers join in honoring our Lord." "Our assignment is big. We are called to join in the chorus of nature to proclaim the glory of God in all the earth, to point the peoples of the world to their creator ..."

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- Dietrich Bonhoeffer (martyred German pastor)

"Our hearts have room for only one all-embracing devotion, and we can cleave to only one Lord."

- William Booth (founder of the Salvation Army)

- "Most Christian ministries would like to send their recruits to Bible college for five years. I would like to send our recruits to hell for five minutes. That would do more than anything else to prepare them for a lifetime of compassionate ministry."
- "'Not called!' did you say? 'Not heard the call,' I think you should say. Put your ear down to the Bible, and hear Him bid you go and pull sinners out of the fire of sin. Put your ear down to the burdened, agonized heart of humanity, and listen to its pitiful wail for help. Go stand by the gates of hell, and hear the damned entreat you to go to their father's house and bid their brothers and sisters and servants and masters not to come there. Then look Christ in the face - whose mercy you have professed to obey - and tell Him whether you will join heart and soul and body and circumstances in the march to publish His mercy to the world."

- William Borden

- "No reserves. No retreats. No regrets."
- "If ten men are carrying a log — nine of them on the little end and one at the heavy end — and want to help, which end will you lift on?" (reflecting on the numbers of Christian workers in the U.S. as compared to those among unreached peoples in China.)

- David Bosch

"If the Church is 'in Christ,' she is involved in mission. Her whole existence then has a missionary character. Her conduct as well as her words will convince the unbelievers and put their ignorance and stupidity to silence."

- David Brainerd

"All my desire was the conversion of the heathen . . . I cared not where or how I lived, or what hardships I went through, so that I could but gain souls to Christ. I declare, now I am dying, I would not have spent my life otherwise for the whole world."

- P.F. Bresee

"We are debtors to every man to give him the gospel in the same measure in which we have received it."

- William Carey (the Father of Modern Missions)

- "I went to India as a missionary to save England from spiritual collapse."
- "If it be the duty of all men to believe the Gospel...then it be the duty of those who are entrusted with the Gospel to endeavor to make it known among all nations."
- "To know the will of God, we need an open Bible and an open map."
- "Is not the commission of our Lord still binding upon us? Can we not do more than now we are doing?"

- Amy Carmichael, missionary to India

- "From subtle love of softening things, from easy choices, weakenings ... from all that dims Thy Calvary, O Lamb of God, deliver me."
- "You can give without loving. But you cannot love without giving."

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- Dave Davidson

- “If you found a cure for cancer, wouldn't it be inconceivable to hide it from the rest of mankind? How much more inconceivable to keep silent the cure from the eternal wages of death.”
- “In our lifetime, wouldn't it be sad if we spent more time washing dishes or swatting flies or mowing the yard or watching television than praying for world missions?”
- “World missions was on God's mind from the beginning.”

- Katie Davis

“People from my first home say I'm brave. They tell me I'm strong. They pat me on the back and say, 'Way to go. Good job.' But the truth is, I am not really very brave; I am not really very strong; and I am not doing anything spectacular. I am simply doing what God has called me to do as a person who follows Him. He said to feed His sheep and He said to care for 'the least of these,' so that's what I'm doing, with the help of a lot of people who make it possible and in the company of those who make my life worth living.”

- Roderick Davis

“Love is the root of missions; sacrifice is the fruit of missions.”

- Dr. A.C. Dixon

“When we rely upon organization, we get what organization can do; when we rely upon education, we get what education can do; when we rely upon eloquence, we get what eloquence can do. And so on. But when we rely upon prayer, we get what God can do.”

- Wesley Duewel

“We can reach our world, if we will. The greatest lack today is not people or funds. The greatest need is prayer.”

- Ann Dunagan, *The Mission-Minded Family*

- “Missions is practicing God's presence until His passion compels us to obey.”
- “God's mission for the family is expanding God's family.”

- Dick Eastman, *president of Every Home for Christ (formerly World Literature Crusade)*

“In no other way can the believer become as fully involved with God's work, especially the work of world evangelism, as in intercessory prayer.”

- J. Howard Edington

“People who don't believe in missions have not read the New Testament. Right from the beginning Jesus said the field is the world. The early church took Him at His word and went East, West, North and South.”

- Elizabeth Elliot

“God's command 'Go ye, and preach the gospel to every creature' was the categorical imperative. The question of personal safety was wholly irrelevant.”

- Jim Elliot (*Missionary martyr, Ecuador - 1956*)

“He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose.”

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- Ted Engstrom, World Vision

“A congregation that is not deeply and earnestly involved in the worldwide proclamation of the gospel does not understand the nature of salvation.”

- J. L. Ewen

“As long as there are millions destitute of the Word of God and knowledge of Jesus Christ, it will be impossible for me to devote time and energy to those who have both.”

- John Keith Falconer

“I have but one candle of life to burn, and I would rather burn it out in a land filled with darkness than in a land flooded with light.”

- Howard L. Foltz

“I believe all Christians and all congregations are to be involved in ministry in their locality, in their nation, in neighboring nations, and on the spiritual frontiers of this earth. And I believe this ministry is to happen simultaneously – we don’t have to win everyone at home before we step out of our own neighborhoods.”

- Peter Taylor Forsyth

“It is not in our choice to spread the gospel or not. It is our death if we do not.”

- Randy Frazee

- “Jesus himself gave us the mission to ‘make disciples’ of people and to obey his entire teachings.”
- “What the church urgently needs to do is establish the biblical mission of seeing Christ formed in individuals as the foundational mission of biblical community.”
- “... the common mission is to see individuals become fully developing followers of Christ.”

- Louie Giglio

“There is a ripple effect to the gospel that’s inevitable. There’s a ripple effect to true grace. It doesn’t lead us to only sit and contemplate what happened to us. It leads us to proclaim what’s happened to us—and what can happen to anybody and everybody on the planet.”

- Keith Green

“This generation of Christians is responsible for this generation of souls on the earth!”

- Jordan Grooms

“If God calls you to be a missionary, don’t stoop to be a king.”

- Nina Gunter

“If you take missions out of the Bible, you won’t have anything left but the covers.”

- Thomas Hale – missionary to Nepal

“The biggest hindrance to the missionary task is self. Self that refuses to die. Self that refuses to sacrifice. Self that refuses to give. Self that refuses to go.”

- Steve Hawthorne (Founder/Director of WayMakers and Perspectives author)

“People pursuing a God-given vision live with strategic intent. The vision virtually captures the mind. They no

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longer dream about what could happen. They become convinced that certain things must happen. They make choices as if each day held abiding value. They are not driven by obligation. They live in the dignity and liberty of knowing they give their utmost for God's purposes."

- Carl F. H. Henry

"The gospel is only good news if it gets there in time."

- Eddy Ho

- "Since God is a missionary God, God's people are a missionary people."
- "God was the first ever missionary when in Genesis 3:8 he went out in search of two sinners who had rebelled against Him in order to bring them back into fellowship with Him."

- J. Stuart Holden

"'Go ye' is as much a part of Christ's Gospel as 'Come unto Me.'" You are not even a Christian until you have honestly faced your responsibility in regard to the carrying of the Gospel to the ends of the earth."

- Patrick Johnstone

"The whole purpose of creation, the existence of the universe and of history is that those who believe in him should become an Eternal Companion to his Son as his Bride and to share his throne and authority. That Bride is to come from every part of the human race."

J. Herbert Kane

"God is a missionary God. The Bible is a missionary book. The Gospel is a missionary message. The church is a missionary institution. And when the church ceases to be missionary minded, it has denied its faith and betrayed its trust."

- Isobel Kuhn, missionary to China and Thailand

"I believe that in each generation God has called enough men and women to evangelize all the yet unreached tribes of the earth. It is not God who does not call. It is man who will not respond!"

- Bill Lawrence

"No pastor is fully obedient to Christ if he does not lead his church to pursue the Great Commission by making disciples both locally and around the world."

- C.S. Lewis

"The opposite of love is not hate, it's indifference."

- David Livingstone, missionary to Africa

- "If a commission by an earthly king is considered a honor, how can a commission by a Heavenly King be considered a sacrifice?"
- "Christ alone can save the world, but Christ cannot save the world alone."
- "God had an only Son and He made Him a missionary."
- "Sympathy is no substitute for action."

- Eric Liddell (MK, Olympic champion and missionary to China)

"Circumstances may appear to wreck our lives and God's plans, but God is not helpless among the ruins. Our

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broken lives are not lost or useless. God's love is still working. He comes in and takes the calamity and uses it victoriously, working out His wonderful plan of love."

- Ron Luce

"This generation is waiting for the challenge that will demand their all. They are waiting to find something they can pour their lives into - something to sink their teeth into. They have become disillusioned with both the secular world and the Christian world. Our greatest natural resources - the vision and energy of a whole generation of youth - are being squandered. We must show them a Christianity that will answer their cry for a meaningful life. It is time to call them to give their lives away to a cause greater than themselves. We need to let them know there is a Christ to live for and a cause worth dying for."

- Aubrey Malphurs

"The church's mission is the Great Commission."

- F.E. Marsh

"The will of God — nothing less, nothing more, nothing else."

- Henry Martyn

"The spirit of Christ is the spirit of missions. The nearer we get to Him, the more intensely missionary we become."

- Floyd McClung

"Too many people want the fruit of Paul's ministry without paying the price that Paul paid. He died. He died to everything. He died daily He was crucified with Christ ... I challenge you to pray this prayer: 'Lord, be ruthless with me in revealing my selfish ambition and my lack of willingness to die to myself.' I guarantee that He will answer your prayer – and quickly."

- Malla Moe

"What are we here for - to have a good time with the Christians or to save sinners?"

- Pat Morley

"If the Great Commission is true, our plans are not too big; they are too small."

- Dwight L. Moody

"God sends no one away empty except those who are full of themselves."

- John R. Mott

- "The worldwide proclamation of the Gospel awaits accomplishment by a generation which shall have the obedience, courage, and determination to attempt the task."
- "It is possible for the most obscure person in a church, with a heart right toward God, to exercise as much power for the evangelization of the world, as it is for those who stand in the most prominent positions."

- Leslie Newbiggin

"The Church, wherever it is, is not only Christ's witness to its own people and nation, but also the home-base for a mission to the ends of the earth."

- Overseas Missionary Fellowship (formerly, the China Inland Mission)

Six Exhortations for "Green" Missionaries:

1. Fear God and you need not fear man.
2. Never lose your confidence in the Gospel.
3. Believe God.
4. Be ready to preach, pray, or die at a moment's notice.
5. It is an honor to suffer dishonor, disgrace, or discomfort for His sake.
6. Learn to look at each situation from God's perspective.

Ross Paterson

"On a dangerous seacoast where shipwrecks often occur, there was once a crude little life-saving station. The building was just a hut, and there was only one boat. But the few devoted members kept a constant watch over the sea, and with no thought for themselves went out day and night tirelessly searching for the lost. Some of those who were saved, and various others in the surrounding area, wanted to become associated with the station and give their time and money and effort for the support of its work. New boats were bought and new crews trained. The little life-saving station grew.

Some of the members of the life-saving were unhappy that the building was so crude and poorly equipped. They felt that a more comfortable place should be provided as the first refuge of those saved from the sea. They replaced the emergency cots with beds and put better furniture in the enlarged building.

Now the life-saving station became a popular gathering place for its members, and they decorated it as sort of a club. Fewer members were now interested in going to sea on life-saving missions, so they hired lifeboat crews to do this work. The life-saving motif still prevailed in this club's decoration, and there was a liturgical lifeboat in the room where the club initiations were held.

About this time a large ship was wrecked off the coast, and the hired crews brought in boatloads of cold, wet and half-drowned people. They were dirty and sick and some had black skin and some had yellow skin. The beautiful new club was in chaos. So the property committee immediately had a shower house built outside the club where victims of shipwrecks could be cleaned up before coming inside.

At the next meeting, there was a split in the club membership. Most of the members wanted to stop the club's life-saving activities as being unpleasant and a hindrance to the normal social life of the club. Some members insisted upon life-saving as their primary purpose and pointed out that they were still called a life-saving station. But they were finally voted down and told that if they wanted to save lives of all the various kinds of people who were shipwrecked in those waters, they could begin their own life-saving station down the coast. So they did just that.

As the years went by, the new station experienced the same changes that had occurred in the old. It evolved into a club, and yet another `spin-off` life saving station was founded. History continued to repeat itself, and if you visit the sea coast today, you will find a number of exclusive clubs along the shore. Shipwrecks are frequent in those waters, but most of the people drown."

- George W. Peters

"God is a God of missions. He wills missions. He commands missions. He demands missions. He made missions possible through His Son. He made missions actual in sending the Holy Spirit."

- Dr. Bob Pierce, World Vision Founder

- "When considering the needs of missions, don't fail to do something just because you can't do everything. Others have done so much with so little, while we have done so little with so much."
- " Let my heart be broken with the things that break God's heart."

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- Arthur T. Pierson

"If missions languish, it is because the whole life of godliness is feeble. The command to go everywhere and preach to everybody is not obeyed until the will is lost by self-surrender in the will of God. Living, praying, giving and going will always be found together."

- John Piper

- "We cut off the power of the cause of missions when we give it a place in our churches and in our hearts that belongs only to worship. If the pursuit of man's good is not ordered below the pursuit of God's glory in the priorities of the church and the affections of the heart, man will not be well served and God will not be honored."
- "Go, send, or disobey."
- "God is pursuing with omnipotent passion a worldwide purpose of gathering joyful worshipers for Himself from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. He has an inexhaustible enthusiasm for the supremacy of His name among the nations. Therefore, let us bring our affections into line with His, and, for the sake of His name, let us renounce the quest for worldly comforts and join His global purpose."
- "Missions is the overflow of our delight in God because missions is the overflow of God's delight in being God."
- "To belong to Jesus is to embrace the nations with Him."
- "All the money needed to send and support an army of self-sacrificing, joy-spreading ambassadors is already in the church."
- "Missions is not the ultimate goal of the church. Worship is. Missions exists because worship doesn't."
- "I am wired by nature to love the same toys that the world loves. I start to fit in. I start to love what others love. I start to call earth "home." Before you know it, I am calling luxuries "needs" and using my money just the way unbelievers do. I begin to forget the war. I don't think much about people perishing. Missions and unreached people drop out of my mind. I stop dreaming about the triumphs of grace. I sink into a secular mind-set that looks first to what man can do, not what God can do. It is a terrible sickness. And I thank God for those who have forced me again and again toward a wartime mind-set."
- "God is calling us to live for the sake of Christ and to do that through suffering. Christ chose suffering; it didn't just happen to Him. He chose it as the way to create and perfect the church. Now He calls us to choose suffering. That is, He calls us to take up our cross and follow Him on the Calvary road and deny ourselves and make sacrifices for the sake of ministering to the church and presenting His sufferings to the world."

Nate Saint, missionary martyr

"People who do not know the Lord ask why in the world we waste our lives as missionaries. They forget that they too are expending their lives ... and when the bubble has burst, they will have nothing of eternal significance to show for the years they have wasted."

-Robert Savage, Latin American Mission

"The command has been to 'go,' but we have stayed — in body, gifts, prayer and influence. He has asked us to be witnesses unto the uttermost parts of the earth ... but 99% of Christians have kept pattering around in the homeland."

- Kurt von Schleicher

"Our God of Grace often gives us a second chance, but there is no second chance to harvest a ripe crop."

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- Robert C. Shannon

“Never pity missionaries; envy them. They are where the real action is—where life and death, sin and grace, Heaven and Hell converge.”

- David Shibley, (The Missions Addiction)

- “God is not calling us to win the world and, in the process, lose our families. But I have known those who so enshrined family life and were so protective of ‘quality time’ that the children never saw in their parents the kind of consuming love that made their parent’s faith attractive to them. Some have lost their children, not because they weren’t at their soccer games or didn’t take family vacations, but because they never transmitted a loyalty to Jesus that went deep enough to interrupt personal preferences.”
- “God did not make a mistake when He chose you to bear Christ’s name at this hinge of history. He knew exactly whom He wanted to carry the light of the gospel in the twenty-first century. He wanted you.”

- A.B. Simpson

“Prayer is the mighty engine that is to move the missionary work.”

- Amanda Berry Smith

“To stay here and disobey God—I can’t afford to take the consequence. I would rather go and obey God than to stay here and know that I disobeyed.”

- Oswald J. Smith

- “No one has the right to hear the gospel twice, while there remains someone who has not heard it once.”
- “If God wills the evangelization of the world, and you refuse to support missions, then you are opposed to the will of God.”
- “We talk of the Second Coming; half the world has never heard of the first.”
- “Any church that is not seriously involved in helping fulfill the Great Commission has forfeited its biblical right to exist.”
- The mission of the church is missions.”
- “You must go or send a substitute.”
- “The church that does not evangelize will fossilize.”
- “You can’t take it with you, but you can send it on ahead.”

- Robert Speer, leader in Student Volunteer Movement

- “The evangelization of the world depends first upon a revival of prayer. Deeper than the need for workers; deeper far than the need for money; deep down at the bottom of our spiritual lives, is the need for the forgotten secret of prevailing, worldwide prayer.”
- “There is nothing in the world or the Church— except the church’s disobedience— to render the evangelization of the world in this generation an impossibility.”

- Charles Spurgeon

“Someone asked, Will the heathen who have never heard the Gospel be saved? It is more a question with me whether we — who have the Gospel and fail to give it to those who have not — can be saved.”

- Mike Stachura

“The mark of a great church is not its seating capacity, but its sending capacity.”

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- James S. Stewart

“The concern for world evangelization is not something tacked on to a man’s personal Christianity, which he may take or leave as he chooses. It is rooted in the character of the God who has come to us in Christ Jesus. Thus, it can never be the province of a few enthusiasts, a sideline or a specialty of those who happen to have a bent that way. It is the distinctive mark of being a Christian.”

- John Stott

- “We must be global Christians with a global vision because our God is a global God.”
- “Why is it that some Christians cross land and sea, continents and cultures, as missionaries? What on earth impels them? It is not in order to commend a civilization, an institution or an ideology, but rather a person, Jesus Christ, whom they believe to be unique.”

- C.T. Studd

- “Some wish to live within the sound of a chapel bell; I wish to run a rescue mission within a yard of hell.”
- “If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him.”
- “Christ wants not nibblers of the possible, but grabbers of the impossible.”

-Bill M. Sullivan

“The evangelization of the world waits not on the readiness of God but on the obedience of Christians.”

- James Hudson Taylor

“We have given too much attention to methods, and to machinery, and to resources, and too little to the Source of Power, the filling of the Holy Ghost.”

- Hudson Taylor, missionary to China

- "God's work done in God's way will never lack God's supply."
- "God isn't looking for people of great faith, but for individuals ready to follow Him."
- “The Great Commission is not an option to be considered; it is a command to be obeyed.”
- “If I had 1,000 lives, I’d give them all for China.”
- “God uses men who are weak and feeble enough to lean on him.”

- Mendell Taylor

“The Church must send or the church will end.”

Timothy C. Tennent in Christianity at the Religious Roundtable

“The creeds of historic Christianity are not bunkers in which to hide; they are the basis for a global proclamation. The incarnation is the greatest example of God’s initiative to enter into our context. Jesus did not enter some vague history, but a particular history at a particular time. Likewise, Christians must fully engage with the particular challenges and contexts to which God has called us. The way forward is to embrace our convictions regarding the truthfulness and uniqueness of the Christian gospel while fully engaging in honest, open interactions with members of other religious traditions.”

- R. A. Toreey, Congregational evangelist and pastor

“The man or woman at home who prays often has as much to do with the effectiveness of the missionary on the field, and consequently with the results of his or her labors, as the missionary.”

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- Unknown

- “Only as the church fulfills her missionary obligation does she justify her existence.”
- “Missions is not the ‘ministry of choice’ for a few hyperactive Christians in the church. Missions is the purpose of the church.”
- “The average pastor views his church as a local church with a missions program; while he ought to realize that if he is in fact pastoring a church, it is to be a global church with a missions purpose.”
- “The reason some folks don’t believe in missions is that the brand of religion they have isn’t worth propagating.”
- “The true greatness of any church is not how many it seats but how many it sends!”
- “The best remedy for a sick church is to put it on a missionary diet.”

- Rick Warren

“I define ‘successful’ as fulfilling the Great Commission. Any church that is not obeying the Great Commissions is failing its purpose, no matter what else it does.”

- Isaac Watts

“Am I a soldier of the cross? A follower of the Lamb? And shall I fear to own His cause or blush to speak His name?”

- Ralph Winter (Founder of the United States Center for World Mission)

- “If we in the West insist on keeping our blessing instead of sharing it, then we will, like other nations before us, have to lose our blessing for the nations to receive it.”
- “Evangelism is a church growing where it is: Missions is a church growing where it isn’t.”
- “The Bible is not the basis of missions; missions is the basis of the Bible.”

- Keith Wright

“Lost people matter to God, and so they must matter to us.”

- N. T. Wright

“...left to ourselves we lapse into a kind of collusion with entropy, acquiescing in the general belief that things may be getting worse but that there's nothing much we can do about them. And we are wrong. Our task in the present...is to live as resurrection people in between Easter and the final day, with our Christian life, corporate and individual, in both worship and mission, as a sign of the first and a foretaste of the second.”

- K.P. Yohannan, founder of Gospel for Asia Bible Society

“Believers who have the gospel keep mumbling it over and over to themselves. Meanwhile, millions who have never heard it once fall into the flames of eternal hell without ever hearing the salvation story.”

- Samuel Zwemer

“The history of missions is the history of answered prayer.”

- Count Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf

“I have but one passion: It is He, it is He alone. The world is the field and the field is the world; and henceforth that country shall be my home where I can be most used in winning souls for Christ.”