

# Missions Sunday

Grace Fellowship Church | Dave Wernz | July 31, 2022

## I. What Is “Missions?”

Missions is cross-cultural ministry with unique challenges requiring special attention, resources, and effort. We reserve the title of “missionary” for the folks who are submitting themselves to those unusual pressures.

## II. Why Do We Send Missionaries?

God isn't interested in mere quantity of worship. God's ultimate goal is seeing His own glory reflected off a kaleidoscope of human diversity - every combination of language, culture, and background - knowing Him accurately and loving Him appropriately.

**Genesis 17:5** *“No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations.”*

**Isaiah 11:10-12** *“In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of Him shall the nations inquire, and His resting place shall be glorious. <sup>11</sup> In that day the Lord will extend His hand yet a second time to recover the remnant that remains of His people, from Assyria, from Egypt, from Pathros, from Cush, from Elam, from Shinar, from Hamath, and from the coastlands of the sea. <sup>12</sup> He will raise a signal for the nations and will assemble the banished of Israel, and gather the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.”*

**Revelation 7:9-12** *“After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, <sup>10</sup> and crying out with a loud voice, ‘Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!’ <sup>11</sup> And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, <sup>12</sup> saying, ‘Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.’”*

**Job 42:2** *“I know that You can do all things, and that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted.”*

## III. How Can We Participate In Global Missions?

A missionary has a specific job to do, but so does the sending church - and God's plan is to use both to accomplish His eternal purposes.

**Hebrews 10:23-25** *“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. <sup>24</sup> And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, <sup>25</sup> not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”*

**A. The Most Urgent and Critical Need In the Missions World Is Encouragement.**

We as a church deliberately, strategically, unapologetically, sent our missionaries behind enemy lines. They need a sending church who will consistently encourage - literally push courage into them - by reminding, illuminating, glorifying, and making much of Jesus for them. Sending missionaries without sufficient encouragement is not just dangerous, it's unbiblical.

**B. Your Missionary Encouragement Starter Kit:**

- 1. Subscribe To the Missionary Prayer Email** that goes out every Monday. It's detailed, specific, and best of all, it's automatic... Just go to [www.graceky.org](http://www.graceky.org) and click on the red Next Steps button in the bottom right corner.
- 2. Share How God Encouraged You Through the Bible.**
- 3. Support Them Monthly.** Your financial gifts help push back the darkness of discouragement as our missionaries faithfully wait for God to do what only God can do.

“Missions is not the ultimate goal of the church. Worship is. Missions exists because worship doesn't.”

- John Piper, Let the Nations Be Glad

**See Luke 15:3-10 | Luke 15:22-32**

**IV. Investment, Anticipation, and Surprise.**

- A. We should invest with the intent to celebrate.** Deliberate investment dovetails with the second ingredient:
- B. Anticipation.** The expectation of a joyous event is a fundamental part of the celebration!  
**See Matt 24:36-44**
- C. Surprise.** We want to cultivate a culture of celebration, of child-like wonder when faced with divine, miraculous, activities. Prayer focuses our investments into anticipation, and changes our hearts to love what God loves. It puts us in position to be surprised by God's activities and truly celebrate His accomplishments.

As a church we are working toward a culture of routine celebration by scheduling quarterly Missions Monday prayer meetings. *Go to [www.graceky.org](http://www.graceky.org) to register for our August 8 event. Please note that registration closes today.*

Still have questions? Shoot an email to [missions@graceky.org](mailto:missions@graceky.org).

**Let's not wait until Heaven to start celebrating what God is doing among the nations.**