

The Parkway Church exists to glorify God by making disciples of Jesus Christ who: delight in Him, display His love to one another, and declare Him to the world.

What is International Missions?

I. Missions is God's Work

It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it. (Isaiah 2:3)

And I [Jesus], when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself. (John 12:32)

II. Missions is Gospel Work

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19)

...for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations. (Luke 24:47)

You will be my witnesses...to the end of the earth. (Acts 1:8)

III. Missions is Ethnological Work

*“All nations” = πάντα τὰ ἔθνη (*panta ta ethnē*; Matthew 28:19)*

IV. Missions is Ecclesiological Work

A. Churches are the ordinary means of missions

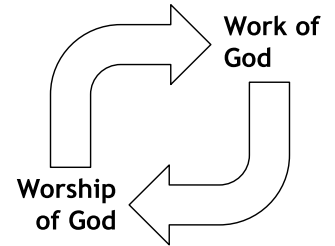
¹³ Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. ¹⁴ How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? ¹⁵ And how are they to preach unless they are sent? (Romans 10:13-15)

Salvation←Call on Jesus←Belief in Jesus←Hear about Jesus←Someone preaches Jesus←Someone is sent

¹ Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. ² While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”³ Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off. (Acts 13:1-3)

B. Churches are the earthly aim of missions

²⁰ But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Hellenists also, preaching the Lord Jesus. ²¹ And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number who believed turned to the Lord. ²² The report of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. ²⁶ and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church and taught a great many people. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians. (Acts 11:20-22, 26)



V. Missions is Eschatological Work

⁹ Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake...¹⁴ And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. (Matthew 24:9, 14)

⁹ 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,¹⁰ and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” (Revelation 7:9-10)

Why Should We Engage in International Missions? (N.O.W.)

I. Their Need: a desperate and universal condition

¹ You were dead in the trespasses and sins² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience;³ among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. (Ephesians 2:1-3)

⁹ ...All, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin,¹⁰ as it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one;¹¹ no one understands; no one seeks for God.¹² All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.” (Romans 3:9-12)

II. Our *Obedience*: a clear command

¹⁸ *All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.* ¹⁹ *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,* ²⁰ *teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.* (Matthew 28:18-20)

⁴⁴ *“Everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.”* ⁴⁵ *Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures,* ⁴⁶ *and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead,* ⁴⁷ *and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations.* (Luke 24:44-47)

You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. (Acts 1:8)

¹⁹ *In Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.* ²⁰ *Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.* (2 Corinthians 5:19-20)

III. God’s *Worth*: a glorious King

“Missions is not the ultimate goal of the church. Worship is. Missions exists because worship doesn’t. Worship is ultimate...Worship, therefore, is the fuel and goal of missions ...because we simply aim to bring the nations into the white-hot enjoyment of God’s glory.” - John Piper, Let the Nations Be Glad!

¹ *In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple.* ² *Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.* ³ *And one called to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!”* ⁴ *And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke.* ⁵ *And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!”* ⁶ *Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar.* ⁷ *And he touched my mouth and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.”* ⁸ *And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here I am! Send me.”* (Isaiah 6:1-8)

⁹ *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,* ¹⁰ *and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”* (Revelation 7:9-10)

How to Engage in International Missions

I. Study the Need

A. Theologically

- Biblical theology of sin
- Biblical theology of conversion

B. Practically

- JoshuaProject.net
- OperationWorld.org
- CIA World Factbook
- Missionary Biographies

II. Obey the Command

A. Evangelize Locally

B. Pray

³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸ therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” (Matthew 9:37-38)

C. Give

⁷ For they have gone out for the sake of the name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles. ⁸ Therefore we ought to support people like these, that we may be fellow workers for the truth. (3 John 7-8)

D. Go

Go therefore and make disciples... (Matthew 28:19)

III. Saturate your heart with God’s global glory

“Any work for God that has less than a passion for Jesus Christ as its motive will end in crushing heartbreak and discouragement.” (Oswald Chambers)

“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.” (Count Zinzendorf)

IV. Be passionate *and* wise. Missions engagement should be:

- A. Urgent, but slow**
- B. Strategic, but biblical**
- C. Personal, but ecclesiological**

Book Recommendations

- **Missiologies (Theology of Missions)**
 - *No Shortcut to Success*, Matt Rhodes
 - *How Can I Support International Missions?*, Mark Collins
 - *Missions*, Andy Johnson
 - *Let the Nations Be Glad!: The Supremacy of God in Missions*, John Piper
 - *A Vision for Missions*, Tom Wells
 - *Cross*, John Piper & David Mathis eds.
 - *Come & See: A History & Theology of Missions*, Justin Schell & Glen Scrivener
- **Missionary Biographies**
 - *To the Golden Shore*, Courtney Anderson (Adoniram Judson)
 - *John Paton* (autobiography)
 - *Peace Child*, Don Richardson (autobiography)
 - *Give me This Mountain*, Dr. Helen Roseveare (autobiography)
 - *Through Gates of Splendor*, Elisabeth Elliot (Jim & Elisabeth Elliot)
 - *When God Comes Calling*, Ted Fletcher (autobiography)
 - *Tortured for Christ*, Richard Wurmbrand (autobiography)