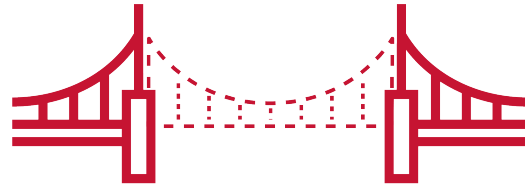


October 18, 2020



# BRIDGE THE GAP

missions month 2020

**"SHOULD I STAY OR SHOULD I GO?"**

Ben Stokes, *Missions Pastor*

**MAIN POINT:** God's redemptive plan is a sent people that gathers together as a representation of Jesus' body, equipped with the Holy Spirit to in turn send out disciples to all peoples for the glory of God.

**DEFINITION:** Missions is the total redemptive purpose of God to establish His kingdom. –Avery Willis

**Acts 13:1-3** *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. <sup>2</sup> While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." <sup>3</sup> Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.*

## I. THE MISSIONARY'S STARTING LINE

**TRUTH:** Every missionary set apart by the Holy Spirit for the work of the Holy Spirit finds their starting line in the community of the church.

The kind of churches that God uses to cultivate missionaries:

1. Multicultural Church
2. A Missional Church

**DEFINITION:** Missional is the word we use to describe a disciple of Jesus who is living a life shaped by God's mission.

3. A Spirit-led Church
4. A Praying Church
5. A Sending Church

**DEFINITION:** Sender is someone who deems their most important contribution to world evangelization to be staying in their home country and living in such a way as to support most effectively the maximum number of “goers” as they are able. – World Indigenous Missions

## II. THE CHARACTERISTICS OF A MISSIONARY

1. Missionaries are not perfect people with a perfect past.
2. Missionaries come in all ages.
3. Missionaries treasure Christ.
4. Missionaries are Spirit-led.
5. Missionaries live a missional life.
6. Missionaries take risks.

**TRUTH:** The greatest adventure a believer will experience is found in the risk they take for God.

7. Missionaries live with urgency.

## III. THE WORK/PRACTICE OF A MISSIONARY

**DEFINITION:** A missionary is a disciple of Jesus set apart by the Holy Spirit and sent out from the church, crossing geographical, cultural, and/or linguistic barriers to spread the gospel and make disciples.

## IV. THE NECESSITY OF MISSIONARIES

**TRUTH:** Global missions is not an optional program for the church; it is the very purpose of Christianity.

## V. CONCLUSION

**QUOTE:** You have three choices as a believer: you can be a goer, a sender, or disobedient.  
– John Piper

**QUESTION:** Are you a goer or a sender?