Chapter 6

Our Examples

Famous Names and Faces in World Missions

Throughout the years, simple men and women of God have dedicated their lives to sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. These famous missionaries and Christian world-changers can encourage and inspire us to fulfill God’s calling on our lives.

Ignatius

(35-107)

Ignatius was a friend of John the apostle and Polycarp. He served as the Bishop of Antioch, and was the first person to use the term “Catholic.” However, he never used this word for anything other than the body of born-again believers. In a letter he wrote to the Ephesians, he stated, “And pray ye without ceasing in behalf of other men. For there is in them hope of repentance that they may attain to God.” His heart for the Lord can be seen in these words, “I would rather die for Christ than rule the whole earth. Leave me to the beasts that I may by them be a partaker of God...welcome nails and cross, welcome broken bones, bruised body, welcome all diabolic torture, if I may but obtain the Lord Jesus Christ.” In A.D. 107, Ignatius was thrown to the lions and eaten alive for his Christian faith.
POLYCARP
(69-155)

Poycarp was born in the city of Smyrna and later became the bishop of that area. He was a disciple of the apostle John and a friend of Ignatius. Polycarp is known as the last survivor who had personally talked with eyewitnesses of Jesus. When he was a very old man, he was arrested and condemned to death. When commanded to renounce his faith in Christ, he replied, “Eighty-six years have I served Him, and He hath done me no wrong. How can I speak evil of my king who saved me?” Because of this stand for Christ, Polycarp was burned alive. According to tradition, his body would not burn, so he was killed with a sword and then burned.

ULFILAS
(311-381)

Ulfilas was one of the early missionaries of the Roman church. He was raised in a pagan environment by a mother who was believed to be Gothic and a Christian father who was taken captive by Gothic raiders.

For forty years, Ulfilas conducted evangelistic work in a Gothic barbarian tribe living outside the Roman Empire (the area of modern-day Romania). Rome at this time had combined church and state, and saw missionary work as a means of expanding the Roman Empire. Ulfilas however, was motivated by a heart to spread the Gospel, despite many hardships and persecution. He was one of the very first people to translate the Bible into another tongue, even developing his own alphabet for this unwritten Gothic language.

PATRICK
(389-461)

Patrick was born in Britain and is known as the first missionary to Ireland. From the time he was sixteen years old to age twenty-two, he was a captive in Ireland. Years later, he received a vision from God which called him back to that country. He returned to the heathen tribes of Ireland where he converted and baptized thousands of people. Tradition tells us that he used the Irish three-leaf clover to teach the unity of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Patrick, his father, and his grandfather were proud of the fact that they were accountable only to God. It was not until later that Catholic leadership declared him to be a saint, in an attempt to bring the country of Ireland under the authority of the Catholic church.
COLUMBA
(521-597)

Born in the country of Ireland, Columba was a Celtic missionary to the people of Scotland. As a young man, he studied at Celtic schools and became a priest. Beginning in his home country, Columba had a great evangelistic heart and is said to have established many churches and monasteries throughout Ireland.

Later, Columba traveled to Scotland with twelve others and established a monastery and ministry training center where evangelists were sent out of to preach the Gospel, build churches and to establish other monasteries. In addition, Columba was actively involved in translating the Scriptures. He died in the process of writing the Psalms, and was found dead on a Sunday morning before the altar of the church.

BONIFACE
(680-754)

Boniface is known as one of the most successful Catholic missionaries of Medieval Europe. He had a deep concern for the “un-Christianized pagans” and his travels took him to Holland, Rome, and Germany. In one place, he came against pagan worship by cutting down the tribes’ sacred tree (The Oak of the Thundergod).

Thousands of people saw that the Christian God was higher than their tree god, and were baptized.

The first part of his ministry was characterized by similar actions such as destroying pagan temples, shrines, and sacred stones. Later, his focus changed to the founding of churches and monasteries. He died in the country of Holland, in the process of preparation for a confirmation service for new converts.

FRANCIS OF ASSISI
(1181-1226)

Francis was born into a wealthy and worldly home. He later became a soldier. While at war he was taken as a prisoner for a year, an experience that changed his priorities.

After that, Francis gave himself to prayer and seeking God’s will. He devoted much of his finances to repair a church in Assisi, but since his father objected to this, he left home and took a vow of poverty. He dressed in a rough brown robe and traveled around Italy preaching.

Those who followed after him became known as friars. They lived like monks, except that they preached and did missionary work outside of the monasteries.
JOHN Wycliffe  
(1320-1384)

John Wycliffe was born in England where he preached the Gospel to the poor and the lost, instead of just to the influential and important. When asked “How must the Word of God be preached?” Wycliffe answered, “Appropriately, simply, directly, and from a devout, sincere heart.”

Later in his life, he was prohibited from preaching by the Bishop of London. Because of this, he devoted the rest of his life to his writing and to translating the Bible from Latin into English. Thirty-one years after his death, the Catholic church ordered that all of his books be burned, his bones dug up and burned, and his ashes scattered on the Thames River. Today, the largest Bible translation ministry, Wycliffe Bible Translators, is appropriately named after him.

JOHN HUSS  
(1369-1415)

John Huss was greatly affected by John Wycliffe’s teachings and translated some of his sermons into the Bohemian language. John Huss maintained that Christ, not Peter, was the head of the church, and because of this stand, was condemned to death as a heretic. Before he was burned at the stake, he declared, “In the truth of the gospel which I have written, taught, and preached, I die willingly and joyfully.” As the flames rose high around him, he sang, “Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God, have mercy on me.”

Through his godly life, his teachings, and his faithfulness even in death, he encouraged many people in their faith. Some credit Huss with beginning the Reformation.

MARTIN LUTHER  
(1483-1546)

Known as the great German reformer, Luther was actually born in Eisleben, Saxony. He became a priest and a monk and strove for true righteousness. After reading Romans 1:17, he discovered the importance of personal faith. From that time on, he became critical of many Catholic church practices, and in 1515 he attached his Ninety-five Theses (coming against the practice of indulgences) on the door of the church of Wittenberg. He was charged with heresy against the church, and was given a death warrant (known as the “Edict of Worms”), although it was never carried out. He later spent twenty years translating the New Testament into German.

Luther taught that 1) man is justified by faith alone, 2) every believer is a priest with direct access to God through Christ, and 3) the Bible (not tradition) is the sole source of faith and authority for the Christian.

Martin Luther was so sure of the soon return of Christ, that he did not see the importance of foreign missions. Later, other Lutherans realized the importance of missions, and became active in world evangelism.
FRANCIS XAVIER  
(1506-1552)

As one of the most famous early Jesuit missionaries, Francis Xavier was born of a Spanish noble family in a castle in Basque. He took a vow to poverty and celibacy and committed his life to spreading the Catholic faith. With less than twenty four hours warning, he was called to India to replace another Jesuit missionary.

During his missionary work, he concentrated on evangelizing children and emphasized the importance of baptism. He never mastered the language of the people, but had a heart to travel to many different places. "I want to go where there are out and out pagans," Xavier once said.¹

Along with his work in India he traveled to Japan, founding the Jesuit work there. Later, as a result of other Jesuits, there were approximately 300,000 professing Catholics in Japan. He later died on an island just off the coast of China.

ULRICH ZWINGLI  
(1484-1531)

Zwingli received his education in Switzerland and Austria and later became a priest in the Roman Catholic church. As a pastor in Zurich, Switzerland, he began to preach against many of the unscriptural practices of the church. In 1522, he made an open break with Rome after studying the writings of Martin Luther, and replaced the Roman mass with the first reformed communion service. He removed images, relics and organs from the church and centered his services around the preaching. He was one of the leaders of the Reformation, although he differed with Martin Luther on his view of Holy Communion. (Zwingli believed the elements were only symbolic whereas Luther believed they were literally the body and blood of Christ.) Zwingli believed in armed warfare, and died in a battle against the Catholic states with his sword in his hand. He is known as a man who defended the Bible over tradition.

JOHN CALVIN  
(1509-1564)

John Calvin was one of the leaders of the Reformation in France. Through his teachings on the doctrine of election, he discouraged some people from seeing the purpose of world evangelism because of the belief that God had already chosen whom he would save. Calvin was, however, the most missionary-minded leader of the Reformation. He sent dozens of evangelistic ministers back to his home in France along with four missionaries to evangelize the Indians of Brazil.

John Calvin was the founder of Calvinism and is known for his writing The Institutes of the Christian Religion.
JOHN ELIOT
(1604-1690)

John Eliot was born in England and educated at Cambridge University. As one of the first and probably the greatest missionaries to the American Indians, he is often referred to as an “apostle to the Indians.” Eliot was first a Congregational minister in a small frontier town called Roxbury, two miles outside of Boston. In 1644 at the age of 40, Eliot began to have a heart for the Indian people. He spent two years studying the Indian language and began to travel with a young Indian interpreter. Eliot began to conduct evangelistic meetings for the Indians, often giving out treats following the services. Once, as he shared the Gospel message one of the Indians responded with the question, “Why has no white man ever told us these things before?”

Because the new Indian believers were often isolated from their people, John Eliot set up a town of Christian Indians. By 1671, Eliot had gathered 1,100 Indians into fourteen “Praying Towns.” Desiring the Indians to grow spiritually, Eliot translated the Bible into their language. This effort was often criticized a “waste of time” because he could have been teaching the Indians English. Along with evangelism and Bible translation, John Eliot was known for his optimism, despite hardships, and his ability to get others involved in missions work.

COUNT ZINZENDORF
(1700-1760)

Nicolaus Ludwig Von Zinzendorf was born in the 1700s to a wealthy German family. As an adult, he once saw a painting of Christ with a crown of thorns and the inscription, “All this I did for you, what are you doing for me?” Count Zinzendorf was tremendously moved, and proceeded to found the Moravian church.

A tremendous spiritual revival began, and in 1727 the Moravians started an incredible prayer vigil that continued—uninterrupted—seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day, for over one hundred years! Through this prayer—combined with missionary evangelism—the Moravians took the message of Christianity throughout the world.

DAVID BRAINERD
(1718-1747?)

David Brainerd grew up in Haddam, Connecticut in a family of nine children. His father died when he was eight years old, and his mother died when he was fourteen. Despite this hard beginning, David began to study with an elderly minister and in 1742 he was offered missionary support by a Scotland mission society.

As Brainerd traveled to many American Indian tribes to preach the Gospel, he was initially discouraged by their poor response. However, he was eventually able to lead his Indian interpreter (and the Indian’s wife) to Christ, and from that time on he saw tremendous results in his ministry.
Throughout New Jersey, the Indians were very open to Christianity and would often come from miles away just to hear Brainerd preach. During the summer of 1745 (the time of the Great Awakening), revival began to break out among the Indians. As David Brainerd preached, “many of them were then much affected and appeared surprisingly tender, so that a few words about their souls’ concern would cause the tears to flow freely and produce many sobs and groans.” Brainerd had hoped to marry a young woman named Jerusa, but became sick with tuberculosis. Although she nursed him for nineteen months, David Brainerd died at the young age of 29. The following Valentine’s Day, Jerusa died of tuberculosis (which she had apparently contracted from him.) Although Brainerd’s missionary service lasted only five years, his work was very significant to the American Indians.

Despite opposition, Carey believed strongly in this need and wrote a small book entitled *An Enquiry into the Obligation of Christians to Use Means for the Conversion of the Heathen*. Soon afterward he preached a powerful message on missions. Using Isaiah 54:2-3 as his text, he challenged others to “expect great things from God...attempt great things for God.”

Because of his leadership, an English missionary society was founded. Soon afterwards Carey traveled to India to serve in missionary work. During his forty two years of ministry, he and his co-workers translated the entire Bible into twenty six languages and the New Testament or parts of it, into twenty five more. In addition, he developed several dictionaries in other languages, and was actively involved in evangelism.

**AN EXCERPT FROM WILLIAM CAREY’S BOOK**

*An Enquiry into the Obligation of Christians to Use Means for the Conversion of the Heathen*

“As our blessed Lord has required us to pray that his will be done on earth as it is in heaven, it becomes us not only to express our desires of that event by words, but to use every lawful method to spread the knowledge of his name. In order to do this, it is necessary that we should become, in some measure acquainted with the religious state of the world; and as this is an object we should be prompted to pursue not only by the gospel of our Redeemer, but even by the feelings of humanity, so an inclination to conscientious activity therein would form one of the strongest proofs that we are the subjects of grace, and partakers of that spirit of universal benevolence…which appear so eminent in the character of God himself.”

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**Teaching with God’s Heart for the World: Volume I**
ADONIRAM JUDSON (1788-1850)

Adoniram Judson was born in Massachusetts, the son of a minister. As a young adult, Judson was well-educated, and graduated valedictorian of Brown University in only three years. For a time, he rejected his Christian upbringing. However, after attending a seminary his father was involved in, he made a “solemn dedication” of himself to God. After reading a British missionary message, Adoniram vowed that he would be America’s first foreign missionary.

Adoniram and his wife, Nancy, first went to India, but were soon forced into Burma (where they had desired to go in the first place). He served overseas for 33 years, and completed the Bible in the Burmese language. Later, he built a Burmese-style “Zayat” (where the Burmese people could come and hear the Gospel in a relaxed atmosphere that was culturally acceptable).

During his mission experiences, Adoniram faced many hardships including the death of his wife, Nancy, and later, the death of his second wife, Sarah. During a war between Burma and Britain, he was accused of being a spy and was confined to a death prison where he lived for a year and a half.

NANCY (ANN) JUDSON (1780s-1826)

As a young woman, Nancy had a life-changing conversion and began to have a great burden for the unevangelized. Later when she left for India with her husband, Adoniram (only three days after the wedding), she said that she was not going because of “an attachment to an earthly object...” but because of an “obligation to God...” with “full conviction of its being a call.”

En route to Burma, Nancy experienced a stillbirth, and had to be carried off the ship. In Burma, she gave birth to little Baby Roger who died of a fever when he was only six months old.

During their ministry in Burma, Nancy and Adoniram lived among the Burmese people rather than enjoying the secluded atmosphere of the traditional missionary’s house. Nancy quickly learned the Burmese language as she spoke daily with the Burmese women.

When Adoniram was imprisoned, Nancy pleaded almost daily with the guards for his release. During this hard time, she gave birth to a third child, Maria. Soon afterwards, both Nancy and baby Maria died of a fever.

MARCUS & NARCISSA WHITMAN (Marcus: 1803(?)-1847, Narcissa: 1808-1847)

Marcus Whitman and Narcissa Prentiss were both influenced by a missionary named Samuel Parker to take the Gospel to the unreached American Indians of the west. At first Narcissa wanted to go alone, but the missions board would not take single women. Later, Marcus approached her about his missionary ambitions and the possibility of marriage.

Marcus went out first and returned home within a few months. Soon afterwards, Marcus and Narcissa were married, and the very next day they left for Missouri to
join a missionary expedition to Oregon.
Although the journey was very difficult, Narcissa loved the wilderness and was overwhelmed by the beauty of God's creation. At times, there were personal challenges (especially since Marcus Spaulding—who had previously proposed to Narcissa—was also a part of the expedition).

In Oregon, the Whitmans settled at Waialatpu to minister to a tribe called the Cayuse. There they were entirely on their own and became very busy building shelters and planting crops, along with medical work, language study and evangelism.

Sometimes Narcissa was so active in caring for all the visitors (including seven children whose parents had died on the journey) that she had little time for anything else. Others came to join the Whitmans, although at times this new "help" only seemed to cause more trouble and strife.

The Whitmans have been accused of trying to bring both Christianity and their own culture to the Oregon Indians, instead of presenting the Gospel in a way that was culturally understandable. In the end, the Indians were faced with terrible plague and although the Whitmans tried to help, the Indians believed that their medicine must have been filled with poison. In 1847, several Indians (whom the Whitmans knew well) came to the mission and massacred Marcus, Narcissa, and thirteen other men.

ROBERT MOFFAT
(1795-1856)

Robert Moffat was born in Scotland and is known as a patriarch of South African missions. As a child, his parents imparted to him a strong missionary zeal—as his mother read aloud stories of missionary heroes.

Moffat spent fifty-three years in Africa with only one furlough, despite the death of two of his sons in 1862. During this time he served as an evangelist, a Bible translator, an educator, an explorer and a diplomat. Despite his work, he is probably best known as the father-in-law of the great missionary explorer, David Livingstone. Actually, Moffat greatly encouraged Livingstone in African missions. "On a clear morning," he challenged Livingstone, "the smoke of a thousand villages could be seen where the name of Christ had never been heard."

Moffat's wife, Mary, died only months after their return to England. From that time on, Moffat continued to minister as a missionary spokesman.

DAVID LIVINGSTONE
(1813-1873)

Known as one of the greatest missionary-explorers of all time, David Livingstone was a man with a heart for Africa. He was born near Glasgow, Scotland, in humble surroundings. As a child, he worked in a textile mill from 6 A.M. to 8 P.M. Although he was raised in a church-going family, he did not come to Christ until he was a teenager. Motivated by the challenge of unreached villages, he joined Robert Moffat in his African mission.

Through the course of his life, Livingstone traveled 1400 miles into the interior of Africa, covering one-third of the continent. During this time he was maimed by a lion, attacked by fever and dysentery, and lost his first wife. Despite these hardships, Livingstone continued to share the Gospel, make scientific observations, and explore. He contributed more to African geography than any other individual.

In 1873, Livingstone died in Africa. The natives lovingly buried his heart near Lake Tanganyika and had his body sent back to his homeland of Scotland. His death sparked a great missionary fever throughout Europe.
WILLIAM BOOTH
(1829-1912)

Founder of The Salvation Army, General William Booth had a tremendous passion for the lost. He was born in England where he began reaching out to the poor and outcast with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In 1865, he and his wife, Catherine, founded The Salvation Army with an emphasis on street preaching, personal evangelism, and practical help for the poor. The purpose of The Salvation Army can best be summed up in Booth’s own words, “Go for souls, and go for the worst.”

Through his work, millions have professed faith in Christ. Today, this ministry continues to reach around the world with the same emphasis on help for the poor and the message of salvation through Christ.

CATHERINE BOOTH
(1829-1890)

In The Salvation Army, men and women have worked side-by-side in ministry from the very beginning. Catherine Booth was a woman intent on winning the lost to Christ, and stepped out boldly in ways that many women (even today) are hesitant to do. She assisted her husband in ministry, wrote six books and many pamphlets, and was the mother of eight children. These children took the Gospel to nations including India, France, Switzerland, and the United States. One of her daughters once said, “She was the light of our home, the inspiration of our childhood, the ideal of our ambitions, the responsibility of our confidences, the guardian angel of our souls.”

At her death, over 50,000 people flocked to London to honor the “Mother of the Salvation Army.” More than 36,000 attended her funeral, and even through her death, many people came to Christ.

HENRY M. STANLEY
(1841- ?)

As a newspaper correspondent for the New York Herald, Henry Stanley was sent out in 1871 to look for David Livingstone after he had not been heard from for a long period. After finding him, he greeted the missionary with the famous line, “Dr. Livingstone, I presume.” During their time together, he was so impressed with Livingstone, that he decided to continue in missionary work himself.

During his mission work in Africa, he led the king of the Buganda tribe (now a major tribe in Uganda) to Christ. At one time, he also wrote a passionate letter about the need for missions which inspired many more people to become missionaries.
HUDSON TAYLOR
(1832-1905)

James Hudson Taylor was born in Barnsby, England, the son of a Methodist minister. His father had desired to be a missionary to China but because he was unable to go, he prayed that his son would go in his place. At the young age of four, Hudson Taylor was known to have said, “When I am a man, I will be a missionary and go to China.” Although he was a weak and frail child, he did go to China in 1854 where he began his ministry working in a hospital. He married the daughter of another missionary, and is known for living, dressing, talking, and eating like the Chinese people he was ministering to.

Taylor later translated the Bible into the Ningpo dialect, and founded the China Inland Mission. In 1870, he lost his wife and two children to cholera. He later married again, and spent the rest of his life recruiting missionaries from England and North America. By his death, he had raised up 205 mission stations throughout China, 849 missionaries, and 125,000 witnessing Chinese Christians. He died in Changsha, China.

MARY SLESSOR
(1848-1915)

When Mary Slessor was a girl, her mother dreamed that Mary's brother, John, would become a missionary. He died, however, when Mary was twenty-five, and she determined to take his place.

Sparked by David Livingstone’s death, Mary Slessor went to Africa and set a new standard for women's missions. Up to that time, most single women missionaries would only stay at a missions base where it was safe...but not Mary! She wanted adventure and was willing to go where even men could not survive. Among other things, she supervised schools, traveled to remote villages, dispensed medication, and preached the gospel of Christ.

Throughout her missionary work, Mary lived and dressed like the African people. With her red hair, bare feet, and often scanty native clothing, other missionaries were often judgmental of her. Yet at her death, even her critics honored her as a great woman of God. She died in her simple mud hut in Africa.

AMY CARMICHAEL
(1867-1951)

Amy Carmichael was born in Northern Ireland to a wealthy family. When she was eighteen, her father died and being the eldest of seven children, Amy received much of the family responsibility.

In 1892, at the age of twenty-four, Amy received a “call to missions,” and soon left for Japan. Later she traveled to Ceylon. After returning home for a brief time, she set sail for India where she lived and ministered for fifty-five years without a furlough.

Amy Carmichael was best remembered for her life work of saving Indian children (especially girls) from being sold to Hindu men as temple prostitutes. After twelve years, she had one hundred thirty children in her care and many hundreds more had been rescued.
Because she never married, Amy founded a fellowship of single women called Sisters of the Common Life (a Protestant religious order not bound by vows).

During her life, Amy Carmichael wrote thirty-five books describing her years in India, and is remembered as one of the most beloved missionaries of all times.

Another missionary, Sherwood Eddy, said of Amy, “She was the most Christ-like character I have ever met... her life was most fragrant, the most joyfully sacrificial that I have ever known.”

Amy's last twenty years were spent as an invalid. She died in India at the age of eighty-three.

C.T. STUDD
(1870s-1931)

C.T. Studd was raised in a wealthy English family. His father enjoyed horseracing, but was dramatically converted at a D.L. Moody gospel crusade. After this conversion, C.T.'s father sold his horses and began holding Gospel meetings of his own, later leading all three of his sons to the Lord. Six years after his conversion, C.T. Studd went to a Moody campaign and committed his life to full-time missionary service. At that time, C.T. was attending Cambridge University, and was considered by many to be England's greatest cricketer.

During a missionary movement now known as the "student volunteers," C.T. Studd and six of his friends left for China as "The Cambridge Seven." There, he met his future wife, Pricilla, and continued his missionary work with opium addicts.

Throughout his life, C.T. Studd was often radical. When he received a large inheritance, he gave it all away, choosing to live by faith.

After leaving China, C.T. Studd traveled throughout Europe and the United States speaking about the need for missions, and raising hundreds of new missionary volunteers.

Later, he went to India for six years, ministering primarily to English speaking people. When he was fifty years old he felt called to Africa and the Belgium Congo.

During his time in Africa, C.T. Studd worked extremely hard eighteen hours a day. He lived as an African, and often expected those around him to make the same sacrifices. Only once during his eighteen years in Africa did he return to England (where his wife had remained).

Many aspects of Studd’s life were very controversial, including a missions pamphlet he wrote entitled “D.C.D.” (standing for “Don’t Care a Damn Except for Jesus and Souls”). In addition, he pushed himself so intensely in ministry that he began to take morphine for added energy. He became addicted to this drug, and as a result, the missionary organization he had founded (WEM Worldwide Evangelism Crusade—formerly Heart of Africa Missions) forced him to resign. In 1931, shortly after this, C.T. Studd died.

NATE SAINT, JIM ELLIOT, PETE FLEMING, ROGER YOUDERAIN
AND ED MCCULLY (Auca Masacre: 1956)

With Nate Saint as their Missionary Aviation Fellowship pilot, these five devoted young men devised a plan to share the Gospel with a very remote tribe in Ecuador called the Aucas. For several months, the missionaries airlifted gifts to the Aucas including clothing, knives, and lifesize pictures of themselves. Once, the Aucas sent back a gift of a live parrot and a smoked monkey.

Because of this gesture, the men decided it was time to land in Auca country instead of just dropping gifts. After one peaceful visit, the five missionaries landed on the Auca’s Palm Beach. All five were brutally killed with wooden spears, leaving behind five young widows. Time and Life magazines both reported the incident, and although many believed it was a tragic waste of young lives, many were encouraged to become missionaries. As Jim Elliot often said “He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep, to gain what he cannot lose.”

Teaching with God's Heart for the World: Volume I
**BROTHER ANDREW**  
*(God’s Smuggler)*

Brother Andrew is known today for his mission and Bible smuggling work through Open Doors ministry. For years, Brother Andrew has focused on areas of the world where the Gospel is forbidden, often defying government laws and authorities in order to fulfill God’s Great Commission. His theme has been that “It is better to obey God rather than men.”

As a young man, Brother Andrew served as a Dutch army commando and was known for his daring acts. While at war in Indonesia, he was shot in the ankle and had to be hospitalized. In the hospital, he read the Bible, and in 1950 he was converted. Immediately, God challenged him to become a missionary.

On a visit to Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia, he was tremendously moved by the scarcity of Bibles—which led to fifteen years of ministry to Eastern Europe. In the 1960s, he began to focus on the Far East, and in 1965 he began ministering in China.

Smuggling Bibles into closed countries is what Brother Andrew’s ministry Open Doors is best known for. Over the years, this type of illegal ministry has raised much controversy, as well as tremendous support. Despite opposition, literally millions of people have received God’s Word, and multitudes have come to Jesus Christ.

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**REINHARD BONNKE**  
*(Mass evangelism)*

For many years, this German-born missionary worked as a traditional African missionary, but was often frustrated because he was seeing so little fruit in his ministry. He kept having visions of a “blood-washed Africa” and mass-evangelism crusades. As he began to share what he believed was God’s calling, people criticized him claiming he was just full of pride and wanted attention. In prayer, Bonnke submitted this idea to the Lord and believed God responded by saying, “If you don’t do it, I’ll just have to find someone else.”

Since that time, Reinhard Bonnke has conducted mass evangelism crusades throughout the world, especially Africa. Often these city-wide crusades draw hundreds of thousands of people...sometimes up to 500,000. Many different Christian churches work together emphasizing salvation through the blood of Jesus, prayer for the sick, and turning from witchcraft.

Reinhard Bonnke is the founder of German-based *Christ for All Nations* and has authored several books including *Evangelism by Fire*.

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**DR. BILL BRIGHT**  
*(The JESUS Film)*

In 1947, Dr. Bill Bright (of *Campus Crusade for Christ*) received a vision from the Lord to produce a film on the life of Christ. Realizing that a large majority of the world’s unreached population cannot read, he thought how effective a movie about Jesus would be if it was created and then translated into many languages.

Although Bright did not have the money, God brought together producers and other professionals to make this dream become a reality. One couple financed the entire project.

The result of this vision is the JESUS film, currently in over 250 languages. It is one of the greatest soulwinning tools available today.

*Campus Crusade for Christ* has over 11,000 missionaries and national ministers working in 105 different countries around the world.
At the young age of nineteen, Bruce Olsen began his missionary work in Columbia. With no prior missionary experience and no financial or organizational backing, Olsen began his work with only a deep call from the Lord. Soon, he felt led to reach out to the Motilone Indians (a murderous jungle tribe) on the border of Venezuela and Columbia. Since 1961, he has lived and worked among these people learning their language and culture, translating the Bible; introducing newer methods of farming, health care, and education; and sharing the Gospel in ways that are culturally appropriate.

Although for years there seemed to be very few results from his work, in time he began seeing an incredible response. A great percentage of people from this tribe have now become Christians and some have even begun to evangelize nearby tribes.

Many times Olsen has faced discouragement, loneliness, sickness, disease, and hunger. At the beginning of his ministry, he almost died from an arrow wound, and in 1968, he was kidnapped by communist guerrillas and had to endure ten-months of torture and captivity.

Because of his work, Olsen has won the friendship of four presidents of Columbia, and has had the honor of appearing before the United Nations. His best-selling autobiography, *Bruchko*, has had a great effect on world missions.

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**DAVID YONGGI CHO**

*(Church Growth)*

Yonggi Cho was born into a Buddhist family in 1936 during the Japanese occupation of Korea. As a child, he was sick with tuberculosis and was converted to Jesus Christ when a Christian girl visited him.

In 1958, Cho began a simple “tent church” in war-torn Seoul, Korea. What began that first service has now grown into the largest church in the world. (Full Gospel Central Church consists of over 750,000 active members.) In addition, this church has sent out thousands of members to begin “daughter churches” in other locations, and has also sent out hundreds of full-time missionaries throughout the world. According to Cho, the most important purpose in church growth is missions.

Cho has ministered throughout the world on church growth and his “cell-church” ministry has been an example to many. However, Yonggi Cho believes his success is primarily a result of prayer. “I pray, and I obey,” he often says. His church owns a piece of property outside of Seoul called Prayer Mountain where members of his congregation pray and intercede around the clock.24

Today, South Korea (formerly a Buddhist country) is now largely Christian, and is home to ten of the twenty largest churches in the entire world.

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**RACHEL SAINT**

*(Bible Translator)*

Years before the Auca tragedy in Ecuador in which Rachel’s brother, Nate Saint, and four others were martyred, (see biographies of Nate Saint, Jim Elliot, Pete Fleming, Roger Youderain, and Ed McCully) Rachel worked with a young Auca woman and learned her tribal language. Some time after the massacre, this woman invited both Rachel and Elisabeth Elliot (wife of Jim Elliot who was also killed in the massacre) to come and live among these same people. Both Rachel and Elizabeth accepted this offer and were actively involved in translating the Bible into the Auca’s language. Today, Rachel Saint has become a name almost synonymous with “Bible translation.” She has served as one of the top spokeswomen for this important work, and has helped make this area of ministry more widely understood.
LOREN CUNNINGHAM
(YWAM)

As a young minister, Loren Cunningham had a vision of "waves of young people" moving across the continents to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ. When this dream was rejected by his denomination, he stepped out in faith and founded Youth With A Mission, a non-denominational, international missions ministry. Today, YWAM is one of the largest missionary organizations in the world with over 7,000 missionaries in 106 different countries. YWAM has founded The University of the Nations which has campuses around the globe, and has a mercy-ship ministry where medical professionals travel on ships to minister in different countries. YWAM's motto, is "To Know God...and to Make Him Known." YWAM effectively combines short-term/high-impact missions with long-term missionary work including discipleship training, and evangelism.25

ELISABETH ELLIOT
(Missionary and Author)

Since the Auca massacre of Jim Elliot (Elisabeth Elliot's first husband), Elisabeth has continued to have a strong heart for the Auca Indians. She has said she has no regrets about the events that led to her husband's death, and believes that "this was not a tragedy...God has a plan and a purpose in all things."26

At the invitation of her friend, Rachel Saint, Elisabeth (accompanied by her four-year-old daughter, Valerie) went to live and work among the Auca Indians. Together, they worked on translating the Bible for the very people who had killed their loved ones. Their courage and unfailing love for these remote people have inspired many in missionary work.

Elisabeth Elliot is probably best known for her beautiful and inspirational writing. Beginning with Through Gates of Splendor (sharing the story of the Auca massacre), she has written many books about world missions and family life, and her work continues to be an encouragement to many people.

LESTER SUMRALL
(still strong at age 80)

Lester Sumrall has been in worldwide evangelistic ministry for over 60 years, and has founded many overseas churches which are still growing strong. He has founded Harvest Bible College and LeSEA Broadcasting and authored over 100 books and teaching materials. At the age of 80, he began a program called "The End-Time Joseph Program to Feed the Hungry", which is a world-wide, pastor-to-pastor benevolence ministry.
Billy Graham was born in 1918 in Charlotte, North Carolina. He grew up on his father's farm and enjoyed baseball. At the age of fifteen, Billy attended an evangelistic crusade meeting of a man named Mordecai Ham, and felt the preacher was “looking right at him.” Later Billy Graham said, “I do remember a great sense of burden that I was a sinner before God...” After several meetings, Graham finally went forward during the altar call and gave his life to Christ. Later, he learned that one of the businessmen who had helped plan that crusade had prayed that God would raise up from Charlotte a man to preach throughout the world.

After Bible school, Billy Graham began preaching and holding evangelism crusades. Today, these massive city-wide crusades continue around the world, involving churches from all Christian backgrounds. Billy Graham also uses the TV and radio as tools for evangelism (with his Hour of Decision program), and has served as an advisor and friend of many recent U.S. presidents.

In 1955, at age twenty, Don Richardson responded to a very specific missionary call to a savage headhunting tribe in New Guinea.

Don and his wife, Carol, were assigned to the cannibalistic Sawi tribe and began to learn their language and culture. In the beginning, they were frustrated because this tribe idolized treachery. When they heard the story of the Gospel, they thought Judas—not Jesus—was the true hero. It was not until Don discovered an important part of their culture called the “peace child” that he learned how to share the Gospel with them.

The Sawis believed that if an enemy offered them a baby from their tribe, then the war could be over and the former enemy could be trusted. Don used this analogy to share about the birth of Christ and how Jesus was God’s peace child, the Sawis could finally understand the Gospel. Don has written a book entitled Peace Child which shares this moving story and Eternity in Their Hearts, a book encouraging missionaries to find redemptive analogies in the culture within which they are ministering.

Carol Richardson has served as a nurse, treating nearly 2,500 patients each month. The Richarsons have translated the New Testament into the Sawi language, and built a huge “Sawidome” (seating over 1,000 people) for Christian work.