

On Mission for God

Big Daddy Keas, University Baptist Church, Miami, Florida

1. In God's Church today, we don't see the world.
 - a. We fail to look at the people all over the world who are suffering and see only those who are in our lives.
 - b. We absorb blessings and fail to pour them back out on those who are in the gravest need.
 - c. God blessed Abram so that he could, in turn, bless others. **Genesis 12:1-3**
 - d. God does not give us blessings just for our enjoyment; He gives them because He has something for us to do with those blessings.

2. God has called each of us to be the hands that bless the lives of others.
 - a. A heart for God, a passion for Him, should lead us to a love for others and a desire to serve them. **Matthew 22:36-39**
 - b. Missions and service to others flows out of a passion and a love for God.

3. Solomon says, "Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things. Blessed be his glorious name forever. May the whole earth be filled with his glory! Amen and amen." That is the cry of missions. It's a prayer to spread God's glory. *May the whole earth be filled with Your glory.* **Psalm 72:18-19 (NIV)**
 - a. When you become passionate about God's glory that becomes your cry. And when you become passionate about God's glory, you become concerned about both physical poverty and spiritual poverty because both undermine God's glory.
 - b. God sets it up so that the impoverished will be freed from their poverty and be cared for. God's desire for the poor to be cared for *has not* changed. **Deuteronomy 15:1-18 ***
 - c. With so many people starving, and enough money to end it, what are you going to do about it? Start praying — today! Prayers make a difference!

4. Spiritual poverty is a lack of knowing God. Less than 33 percent of the world's population is Christian. How can the "whole earth be filled with His glory" if only one-third of the world knows His holy name?
 - a. Our hearts should break that God is deprived of those people's worship, because He alone is worthy of their praise. **
 - b. One day the entire population of every generation from Adam and Eve to the last person on earth will bow down and recognize Him as God, but would it not be great to see millions more honoring His name every day until the last day comes? **Psalm 67:3-4**
 - c. Open your heart today. Perhaps some of you have been feeling the call of the Lord to go and serve a full-time mission? Maybe you have the funds to donate to a mission? Maybe you're the person who has vacation time and wants to go on a mission trip? Pray about it! See where God would use you!

- d. Organize a Bible drive for poor countries. Take a meal to a family who has a newborn or is struggling financially or has recently had a tragedy happen. Start a prayer group with a few friends — there are *always* prayer needs. Don't get overwhelmed by what you *cannot* do; instead, focus on what you *can* do.
5. Not all are called to make the huge sacrifices, but if God has it on your heart, follow it! God already knows what He has in store for you if you heed His calling. He won't change His mind and say, "Don't go; it's too dangerous." We take big risks for the things that matter to us. ***
6. What stories would you and I have to tell in heaven one day if today we presented ourselves to God, we came before Him and presented our bodies, our lives as living sacrifices, saying, "Use me, oh, God, anytime, anywhere, any place, for anything for the spread of Your glory to the ends of the earth."

* If we were to divide this room in threes, which we might just do this. (Instruct one third of the congregation to stand.) I want you to look around the room right now. OK, now back at me. One third of the world is well-fed; one third of the world is underfed. And now look at them. One third of the world is starving. If this room represented all the people alive right now, that is how many would be starving. The UN calculates that we could provide food for every single person on earth with the money that we spent last year on perfume. You can be seated.

** Because God is so glorious, because He is so great, because He's so loving, because He's so wise, because He is so compassionate, because He is so merciful, because He is so graceful, because He is all those things and so much more, He alone deserves the praise of all the nations, of all the families, of all the peoples on earth. Do you understand this?

*** We take big risks for democracy, which I think we should. We take big risks for families, which I think we should. Then I say it's about time we start taking big risks for the King of kings and the Lord of lords!