"The command has been to ‘go,’ but we have stayed—in body, gifts, prayer and influence. He has asked us to be witnesses unto the uttermost parts of the earth. But 99% of Christians have kept puttering around in the homeland."
- Robert Savage

"While vast continents are shrouded in darkness the burden of proof lies upon you to show that the circumstances in which God has placed you were meant by God to keep you out of the foreign mission field."
- Ion Keith-Falconer

"I wasn't God's first choice for what I've done for China. I don't know who it was. It must have been a well-educated man. I don't know what happened. Perhaps he died. Perhaps he wasn't willing and God looked down and saw Gladys Aylward. And God said - "Well, she's willing."
- Gladys Aylward

"Brother, if you would enter that Province, you must go forward on your knees."
- J. Hudson Taylor

"The man looking at him with a smile that only half concealed his contempt, inquired, "Now Mr. Morrison do you really expect that you will make an impression on the idolatry of the Chinese Empire?" "No sir," said Morrison, "but I expect that God will."
- Robert Morrison

"Here am I. Send me."
- Isaiah

"And people who do not know the Lord ask why in the world we waste our lives as missionaries. They forget that they too are expending their lives and when the bubble has burst they will have nothing of eternal significance to show for the years they have wasted."
- Nate Saint, martyr

"Had I cared for the comments of people, I should never have been a missionary."
- C.T. Studd

"Young man, sit down: when God pleases to convert the heathen, he will do it without your aid or mine."
- said to a young William Carey (who, thankfully, did not listen)
"Oh, that I had a thousand lives, and a thousand bodies! All of them should be devoted to no other employment but to preach Christ to these degraded, despised, yet beloved mortals."
- Robert Moffat

"We must be global Christians with a global vision because our God is a global God."
- John Stott

"A tiny group of believers who have the gospel keep mumbling it over and over to themselves. Meanwhile, millions who have never heard it once fall into the flames of eternal hell without ever hearing the salvation story."
- K.P. Yohannan

"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 Zinzindorf

"God's work done in God's way will never lack God's supplies."
- J. Hudson Taylor

"He must increase, but I must decrease."
- John the Baptist

"If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him."
- C.T. Studd

"The greatest missionary is the Bible in the mother tongue. It needs no furlough and is never considered a foreigner."
- William Cameron Townsend

"The saddest thing one meets is a nominal Christian. I had not seen it in Japan where missions is younger. The church here is a "field full of wheat and tares."
- Amy Carmichael

"I used to think that prayer should have the first place and teaching the second. I now feel it would be truer to give prayer the first, second and third places and teaching the fourth."
- James O. Fraser

"It is just as proper, maybe even more so, to say Christ's global cause has a Church as to say Christ's Church has a global cause."
- David Bryant
"If you are sick, fast and pray; if the language is hard to learn, fast and pray; if the people will not hear you, fast and pray, if you have nothing to eat, fast and pray."
- Frederick Franson

"What are we here for, to have a good time with Christians or to save sinners?"
- Malla Moe

"I tell you, brethren, if mercies and if judgments do not convert you, God has no other arrows in His quiver."
- Robert Murray M'Cheyne

"It's amazing what can be accomplished if you don't worry about who gets the credit."
- Clarence W. Jones

"Two distinguishing marks of the early church were: 1) Poverty, and 2) Power."
- T.J. Bach

"Do not think me mad. It is not to make money that I believe a Christian should live. The noblest thing a man can do is, just humbly to receive, and then go amongst others and give."
- David Livingstone

"From my many years experience I can unhesitatingly say that the cross bears those who bear the cross."
- Sadhu Sundar Singh

"I pray that no missionary will ever be as lonely as I have been."
- Lottie Moon

"All my friends are but one, but He is all sufficient."
- William Carey

"How little chance the Holy Ghost has nowadays. The churches and missionary societies have so bound him in red tape that they practically ask Him to sit in a corner while they do the work themselves."
- C.T. Studd

"I have always believed that the Good Samaritan went across the road to the wounded man just because he wanted to."
- Wilfred Thomason Grenfell

"The more obstacles you have, the more opportunities there are for God to do something."
- Clarence W. Jones
"Expect great things from God. Attempt great things for God."
- William Carey

"God's part is to put forth power; our part is to put forth faith."
- Andrew A. Bonar

"All the resources of the Godhead are at our disposal!"
- Jonathan Goforth

"The Indian is making an amazing discovery, namely that Christianity and Jesus are not the same—that they may have Jesus without the system that has been built up around Him in the West."
- E. Stanley Jones

"This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come."
- Jesus

"All roads lead to the judgment seat of Christ."
- Keith Green

"Christians don't tell lies, they just go to church and sing them."
- A.W. Tozer

"I will lay my bones by the Ganges that India might know there is one who cares."
- Alexander Duff

"It will not do to say that you have no special call to go to China. With these facts before you and with the command of the Lord Jesus to go and preach the gospel to every creature, you need rather to ascertain whether you have a special call to stay at home."
- J. Hudson Taylor

"We talk of the second coming, half the world has never heard of the first."
- Oswald J. Smith

"God cannot lead you on the basis of facts that you do not know."
- David Bryant

"And thus I aspire to preach the gospel, not where Christ was already named so that I would not build on another man's foundation."
- Apostle Paul
"Why do we insist on building the largest and most impressive structures in our city when people on the other side of town are hungry, jobless and worshipping in storefronts?"
- K.P. Yohannan

"If every Christian is already considered a missionary, then all can stay put where they are, and nobody needs to get up and go anywhere to preach the gospel. But if our only concern is to witness where we are, how will people in unevangelized areas ever hear the gospel? The present uneven distribution of Christians and opportunities to hear the gospel of Christ will continue on unchanged."
- C. Gordon Olson

"I spent twenty years of my life trying to recruit people out of local churches and into missions structures so that they could be involved in fulfilling God's global mission. Now I have another idea. Let's take God's global mission and put it right in the middle of the local church!"
- George Miley

"Oh dear, I couldn't say that my church is alive and I wouldn't want to call it dead. I guess it's just walking in its sleep!"
- Church member

"When he landed in 1848 there were no Christians here; when he left in 1872 there were no heathen."
- said of John Geddie

"At the moment I put the bread and wine into those dark hands, once stained with the blood of cannibalism, now stretched out to receive and partake the emblems and seals of the Redeemer's love, I had a foretaste of the joy of glory that well nigh broke my heart to pieces. I shall never taste a deeper bliss, till I gaze on the glorified face of Jesus himself."
- John G. Paton

"Save others, snatching them out of the fire."
- Jude

"The evangelization of the world in this generation."
- Student Volunteer Movement Motto

"Missions is not the ultimate goal of the church. Worship is. Missions exists because worship doesn't."
- John Piper
"His authority on earth allows us to dare to go to all the nations. His authority in heaven gives us our only hope of success. And His presence with us leaves us no other choice."
- John Stott

"Today five out of six non-Christians in our world have no hope unless missionaries come to them and plant the church among them."
- David Bryant

"Tell the students to give up their small ambitions and come eastward to preach the gospel of Christ."
- Francis Xavier

"We who have Christ's eternal life need to throw away our own lives."
- George Verwer

"Some wish to live within the sound of a chapel bell, I want to run a rescue shop within a yard of Hell."
- C.T. Studd

"When I get to China, I will have no claim on any one for anything. My claim will be alone in God and I must learn before I leave England to move men through God by prayer alone"
- J. Hudson Taylor

"God has huge plans for the world today! He is not content to merely establish a handful of struggling churches among each tongue, tribe and nation. Even now He is preparing and empowering His Church to carry the seeds of revival to the uttermost ends of the earth."
- David Smithers

"The mark of a great church is not its seating capacity, but its sending capacity."
- Mike Stachura

"Answering a student's question, 'Will the heathen who have not heard the Gospel be saved?' thus, 'It is more a question with me whether we who have the Gospel and fail to give it to those who have not, can be saved.'"
- C.H. Spurgeon.

"There is something wonderfully misleading, full of hallucination and delusion in this business of missionary calls. With many of us it is not a missionary call at all that we are looking for; it is a shove. There are a great many of us who would never hear a call if it came."
- Robert Speer
"I have found that there are three stages in every great work of God; first, it is impossible, then it is difficult, then it is done."
- Hudson Taylor

"I love to live on the brink of eternity."
- David Brainerd

"The greatest tragedy to befall a person is to have sight but lack vision."
- Helen Keller

“Would that God would make hell so real to us that we cannot rest; heaven so real that we must have men there, Christ so real that our supreme motive and aim shall be to make the Man of Sorrows the Man of Joy by the conversion to him of many.”
- J. Hudson Taylor.

“Cannot the love of Christ carry the missionary where the slave trade carries the trader?”
- David Livingston

“Among many who sought to deter me, was one dear old Christian gentleman, whose crowning argument always was, "The cannibals! you will be eaten by cannibals!" At last I replied, "Mr. Dickson, you are advanced in years now, and your own prospect is soon to be laid in the grave, there to be eaten by worms; I confess to you, that if I can but live and die serving and honoring the Lord Jesus, it will make no difference to me whether I am eaten by cannibals or by worms."
- John Patton

“Life is pitiful, death so familiar, suffering and pain so common, yet I would not be anywhere else. Do not wish me out of this or in any way seek to get me out, for I will not be got out while this trial is on. These are my people, God has given them to me, and I will live or die for Him and His glory.”
- Gladys Aylward

“I had utterly abandoned myself to Him. Could any choice be as wonderful as His will? Could any place be safer than the center of His will? Did not he assure me by His very presence that His thoughts toward us are good, and not evil? Death to my own plans and desires was almost deliriously delightful. Everything was laid at His nail-scarred feet, life or death, health or illness, appreciation by others or misunderstanding, success or failure as measured by human standards. Only He himself mattered.”
- V. Raymond Edman

“I will open Africa to the gospel or die trying.”
- Rowland Bingham
“We did not come to China because missionary work here was either safe or easy, but because He has called us. We did not enter upon our present positions under a guarantee of human protection, but relying on the promise of His presence. The accidents of ease or difficulty, of apparent safety or danger, of man's approval or disapproval, in no wise affect our duty. Should circumstances arise involving us in what may seem special danger, we shall have grace, I trust, to manifest the depth and reality of our confidence in Him, and by faithfulness to our charge to prove that we are followers of the Good Shepherd who did not flee from death itself...
- J. Hudson Taylor

“If I had not felt certain that every additional trial was ordered by infinite love and mercy, I could not have survived my accumulated suffering.”
- Adoniram Judson

“Did you think that the missionary path was all glory? Than you have not read of God’s greatest Messenger to earth, who sat and wept over Jerusalem, crying out, ‘I would...but ye would not.’”
- Isobel Kuhn

“Here I am, Lord, send me; send me to the ends of the earth; send me to the rough, the savage pagans of the wilderness; send me from all that is called comfort in earth, or earthly comfort: send me to death itself, if it be but in Thy service and to promote Thy kingdom.”
- Frances Xavier

“I cared not where or how I lived, or what hardships I went through, so that I could but gain souls to Christ.”
- David Brainerd

“Lord, here in your precious Word I give myself, my husband, my children, and all that I have or ever shall posses, all to you. I will follow your will, even to China. Lord, open doors, and I will go and tell the Chinese of your great love. In time of need, supply for us; in time of sorrow, give us peace; in times of joy, send someone to share. Help me to never murmur nor complain. I love you Lord Jesus.”
- Tanna Collins

[This note comes from a page in Mrs. Collins’ Bible that was found at the scene of the airline crash in Tibet in which the entire family perished in 1994].

"I have but one candle of life to burn, and I would rather burn it out in a land filled with darkness than in a land flooded with light"
- John Keith Falconer
"God isn't looking for people of great faith, but for individuals ready to follow Him"
- Hudson Taylor

"The Great Commission is not an option to be considered; it is a command to be obeyed"
- Hudson Taylor

"If I had 1,000 lives, I'd give them all for China"
- Hudson Taylor

"The spirit of Christ is the spirit of missions. The nearer we get to Him, the more intensely missionary we become."
- Henry Martyn, missionary to India and Persia

"He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose"
- Jim Elliot, missionary martyr

"In the vast plain to the north I have sometimes seen, in the morning sun, the smoke of a thousand villages where no missionary has ever been"
- Robert Moffat, who inspired David Livingstone

"Lost people matter to God, and so they must matter to us."
- Keith Wright

"The Bible is not the basis of missions; missions is the basis of the Bible"
- Ralph Winter, U.S. Center for World Mission

"If you found a cure for cancer, wouldn't it be inconceivable to hide it from the rest of mankind? How much more inconceivable to keep silent the cure from the eternal wages of death."
- Dave Davidson

"If God calls you to be a missionary, don't stoop to be a king"
- Jordan Groom
  (variations of this also credited to G. K. Chesterson, Thomas Carlyle and Charles H. Spurgeon)

"World missions was on God's mind from the beginning."
- Dave Davidson

"Let my heart be broken with the things that break God's heart"
- Bob Pierce, World Vision founder

"No reserves. No retreats. No regrets"
- William Borden
"The reason some folks don't believe in missions is that the brand of religion they have isn't worth propagating."
- unknown

When James Calvert went out as a missionary to the cannibals of the Fiji Islands, the ship captain tried to turn him back. "You will lose your life and the lives of those with you if you go among such savages, he cried. To that, Calvert replied, "We died before we came here."

"Someone asked, 'Will the heathen who have never heard the Gospel be saved?' It is more a question with me whether we—who have the Gospel and fail to give it to those who have not—can be saved."
- Charles Spurgeon

"God uses men who are weak and feeble enough to lean on him."
- Hudson Taylor

"The gospel is only good news if it gets there in time"
- Carl F. H. Henry

"Our God of Grace often gives us a second chance, but there is no second chance to harvest a ripe crop."
- Kurt von Schleicher

"Missions is the overflow of our delight in God because missions is the overflow of God's delight in being God."
- John Piper

"You can give without loving. But you cannot love without giving."
- Amy Carmichael, missionary to India

"Only as the church fulfills her missionary obligation does she justify her existence."
- Unknown

"As long as there are millions destitute of the Word of God and knowledge of Jesus Christ, it will be impossible for me to devote time and energy to those who have both."
- J. L. Ewen

"The mission of the church is missions"

"Sympathy is no substitute for action."
- David Livingstone
"Not called!' did you say? Not heard the call,' I think you should say. Put your ear down to the Bible, and hear Him bid you go and pull sinners out of the fire of sin. Put your ear down to the burdened, agonized heart of humanity, and listen to its pitiful wail for help. Go stand by the gates of hell, and hear the damned entreat you to go to their father's house and bid their brothers and sisters and servants and masters not to come there. Then look Christ in the face -- whose mercy you have professed to obey -- and tell Him whether you will join heart and soul and body and circumstances in the march to publish His mercy to the world.
- William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army

"It is not in our choice to spread the gospel or not. It is our death if we do not."
- Peter Taylor Forsyth

"Never pity missionaries; envy them. They are where the real action is—where life and death, sin and grace, Heaven and Hell converge."
- Robert C. Shannon

"People who don't believe in missions have not read the New Testament. Right from the beginning Jesus said the field is the world. The early church took Him at His word and went East, West, North and South."
- J. Howard Edington

"It is possible for the most obscure person in a church, with a heart right toward God, to exercise as much power for the evangelization of the world, as it is for those who stand in the most prominent positions."
- John R. Mott

"In no other way can the believer become as fully involved with God's work, especially the work of world evangelism, as in intercessory prayer."– Dick Eastman, president of Every Home for Christ

"What's your dream and to what corner of the missions world will it take you?"
- Eleanor Roat, missions mobilizer

"We can reach our world, if we will. The greatest lack today is not people or funds. The greatest need is prayer."
- Wesley Duewel, head of OMS International

"Love is the root of missions; sacrifice is the fruit of missions"
- Roderick Davis

“God had only one Son and he made that Son a missionary.”
- David Livingstone
Theology and Missions

"Mission was, in the early stages, more than a mere function; it was a fundamental expression of the life of the church. The beginnings of a missionary theology are therefore also the beginnings of Christian theology as such."

"Unfortunately, evangelicals in mission still tend to proceed as though their major problems are methodological. They are not. They are theological. It would be to their everlasting credit if evangelicals would devote themselves, their organizations and their conferences to frequent and thorough studies of the Christian mission as set forth in the biblical text. By its very nature, biblical mission entails clear biblical priorities. When we set agendas in accordance with human preferences and interests, the idea that we either have, or obey, a Great Commission is belied. When we redefine mission so as to encompass anything and everything the church and believers actually do, or even ought to do, we surrender the distinctive priorities of the Christian mission and risk assignment of the word to the terminological dustbin. Rather than setting still newer agendas as some are already doing, evangelicals should first set the boundaries of evangelical mission."
- (David J. Hesselgrave, Evangelical Mission in 2001 and Beyond--Who Will set the Agenda?" Pre-publication of TWF article, email attachment, April 5, 2001).

"Mission is 'the mother of theology'."
- (Martin Kähler [1908]. Schriften zur Christologie und Mission. 1971:190; trans. David Bosch)

“Mission [is] understood as being derived from the very nature of God. It [is] thus put in the context of the doctrine of the Trinity, not of ecclesiology or soteriology. The classical doctrine of the missio Dei as God the Father sending the Son, and God the Father and the Son sending the Spirit [is] expanded to include yet another "movement": Father, Son, and Holy Spirit sending the church into the world.”

"Prayer should never be understood primarily in terms of power but rather as relating to God who is the source of all power. The difference between the two is significant. If prayer is understood as power, Christians will readily seek power words or rituals rather than personally relating to a sovereign God and waiting for him to act in his own time. Likewise, these understandings help us comprehend the nature of spiritual warfare. Spiritual warfare is not about fighting Satan; he has been defeated by the triumphal resurrection of Jesus Christ. Spiritual warfare rather is standing firm in Christ’s mighty power. It is accepting God’s victory through Christ by faith and allowing God’s redemptive power to work through Christ."
"Christianity had never been more itself, more consistent with Jesus and more evidently en route to its own future, than in the launching of the world mission."

"The gospel is never about everybody else; it is always about you, about me. The gospel is never truth in general; it's always a truth in specific. The gospel is never a commentary on ideas or cultures or conditions; it's always about actual persons, actual pains, actual troubles, actual sin; you, me; who you are and what you've done; who I am and what I've done."

"The gospels...are to be viewed not as writings produced by an historical impulse but as expressions of an ardent faith, written with the purpose of commending Jesus Christ to the Mediterranean world"
- (Fiorenza 1976:20)

"Western Church has made the mistake of girding the Eastern David in Saul's armor and putting Saul's sword into his hands"

"A church without a missions or a mission without the church are both contradictions. Such things do exist, but only as pseudostructures"
- (Carl E. Braaten. The Flaming Center. 1977:55)

"The church is the church only when it exists for others...The church must share in the secular problems of ordinary human life, not dominating, but helping and serving"
- (Dietrich Bonhoeffer; words written in prison in 1944)

"Just as one could not speak of the church without speaking of its mission, it was impossible to think of the church without thinking, in the same breath, of the world to which it is sent."
- (Bosch. Transforming Mission. 1991:377)

"The church's final word is not 'church' but the glory of the Father and the Son in the Spirit of liberty"

"The church is both the goal and the agent of world evangelization. Mission disengagement from the church is a biblical oxymoron" (Frank Severn. Mission societies: Are they biblical?)
- (Evangelical Missions Quarterly. 2000:321)
"Kingdom people seek first the Kingdom of God and its justice; church people often put church work above concerns of justice, mercy and truth. Church people think about how to get people into the church; Kingdom people think about how to get the church into the world. Church people worry that the world might change the church; Kingdom people work to see the church change the world."
- (Howard Snyder. Liberating the Church. 1983:11)

**Mission to the Poor**

These are the words of Jesus at the beginning of his ministry in his home synagogue in Nazareth: "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor"

"The church has given bread to the poor and has kept the bread of life for the middle class"

"As mission leaders, we have failed to foresee both the immensity of urban growth and the fact that most of the urban growth would be in squatter areas. The opportunity to save the cities from many traumas associated with this development, as well as the opportunity to establish a church in every squatter area that has formed, have been lost almost entirely"

"The propensity for the Western church to accept the agenda of aid organizations as focal to the Great Commission has seriously skewed mission. Mission to the middle class is seen as proclamation. To the poor it has become giving handouts or assisting in development as defined by Christianized humanitarian perspectives. It is far easier for churches to give thousands of dollars than to find one of their members who will walk into the slums for a decade."

"Challenges and opposition to biblical Christianity will grow more strident. There will be persecution physically as well as psychologically. Militant Islam and Hinduism specifically target evangelizing Christians in many parts of the two-thirds world. Sometimes the persecution is official, other times it is informal and in subtle ways"

"The blood of the martyrs is always the seed of the church."
- Tertullian
"Martyrdom and mission belong together. Martyrdom is especially at home on the mission field"
- (Hans von Campenhausen. Das Martyrium in der Mission, in Frohnes & Knorr. 1974:71)

“There are no closed countries if you do not expect to come back”
- (Larry Poston, Evangelical Missiological Society national meeting, Nov. 15, 2000)

"The church exists by missions like fire exists by burning."
- Emil Brunner

"Mission is the very lifeblood of the church. As the body cannot survive without blood, so the church cannot survive without mission. Without blood the body dies; without mission the church dies. As the physical body becomes weak without sufficient oxygen-carrying red blood cells, so the church becomes anemic if it does not express its faith. The church . . . establishes its rationale for being—its purpose for existing—while articulating its faith. An unexpressed faith withers. A Christian fellowship without mission loses its vitality. Mission is the force that gives the body of Christ vibrancy, purpose, and direction. When the church neglects its role as God’s agent for mission, it is actually neglecting its own lifeblood.”
- Gailyn Van Rheene

"In our lifetime wouldn't it be sad if we spent more time washing dishes or swatting flies or mowing the yard or watching television than praying for world missions."
- Dave Davidson

“Facebook proves the very fact that is it a lie that ‘we do not have enough time’ to be gathered for prayer in the name of world missions.”
- Unknown

"Prayer needs no passport, visa or work permit. There is no such thing as a 'closed country' as far as prayer is concerned...much of the history of mission could be written in terms of God moving in response to persistent prayer."
- Stephan Gaukroger