



# Training in Missions

**A**s years of training and sending missionaries pass, I am keenly aware that youth who desire to serve on mission fields need more training. Many times prospective missionaries ask me, “What books should I read to prepare for future mission work?” I want to take a few minutes and share with you some counsel along these lines.

- **Self-denial:** We live in soft America. Because of this, missionaries in training must begin their training in self-denial. You will be doing this twenty times a day on the field. There are many ways you can practice this foundational quality. You must learn to eat foods that taste different. You must learn to get up in the morning and feed yourself spiritually. You must learn to keep on going when you get sick. You must learn to deny yourself in many areas of life.
- **Bible knowledge:** You must be in the Bible continually. You should be working your way through the entire Bible on a regular basis. Several times a year should be the norm. Secondly, go through a Bible survey book to get a grasp of each book in the Bible. In Bible schools, a Bible survey course is the first thing each student does. I recommend J Sidlow Baxter’s *Explore the Book*. All of our children go through this survey book at age 16.
- **Missionary biographies:** I believe that to read biographies of missionaries is to study missions by practical examples. This is very important. Reading books like this will cause you to place yourself in the shoes of many different missionaries. This is training for real life situations in your future. You should be reading them all the time. Following are a list of many biographies, but I want to highlight two. The two volume set of Hudson Taylor’s life and mission is a must read. You will gain much insight into what real mission life will be like and about methods of missions. All of our missionaries have read this set. The other one, *From Jerusalem to Irian Jaya* by Ruth Tucker, is a biographical history of Christian missions. It covers 2,000 years with over one hundred short biographies of missionaries.
- **Missiology:** I encourage all students to get a grasp of the theology and methodology of missions. What does the Bible say about missions and methods? These are questions that need to be answered in the students mind long before they reach a mission field. I recommend George W. Peters book, *A*

*Biblical Theology of Missions*. This book is solid Bible theology. Every student must work their way through this book, even if they have to use a dictionary to help them. Another important work is *The Indigenous Church* by Melvin Hodges.

- **Mission awareness:** Jesus commanded us to lift up our eyes and look at the fields waiting to be harvested. We must have information in order to do this. Every student should have *Operation World* by Patrick Johnstone. This book is a valuable tool for prayer and also for information. Where do you go after you have prepared? This book will give you lots of options to pray about.
- **Missionary inspiration:** I have made a separate category for books that challenge, convict, and inspire. We all need this from time to time. First and foremost in this group is L E Maxwell's book, *World Missions Total War*. This book is worth its weight in gold. I mean this sincerely. I have never read a book on missions that so convicted me yet stirred me on in my vision as this one has. The other one I would encourage you to read is by Oswald J Smith, *The Challenge of Missions*. All of Isobel Kuhn's books are also excellent.
- **Missions to Muslims:** This is my last category. Muslims are one of the largest groups of unreached peoples on earth. One billion people are represented here. We must prepare to reach them or they will soon reach us, or our children. *Answering Islam* by Norman Gieser is a good book to help you to become aware of who these dear people are. The other book I recommend is *Reaching Muslims for Christ* by William J. Saal. This is also an entry-level book on Islam.

These words are meant to be helpful counsel from years of experience. You will find below, a longer list of recommended books for further study.

—Bro. Denny

## Book List

### Biographies

*Bruchko* by Bruce Olson

*C.T. Studd* By Norman Grubb

*From Jerusalem to Irian Jaya* by Ruth Tucker

*Himalayan Heartbeat* by Ken Anderson

*Hudson Taylor Biographies* by Howard Taylor (biography and missiology)

*I Dared to Call Him Father* by Bilquis Sheikh (This is an autobiography dealing with Islam)

*In the Arena* by Isobel Kuhn

*J. Hudson Taylor: Man in Christ* by Roger Steer

*Let Me Die in Ireland* by David Bercott

*Mountain Rain* by Eileen Crossman

*Though Lions Roar* by Mary Beth Lagerborg

*Torn Veil* by Thelma Sangster

## **Inspirational**

*Challenge of Missions* by Oswald J. Smith  
*Green Leaf in Drought* by Isobel Khun  
*Key to Missionary Problem* by Andrew Murray  
*Let the Nations Be Glad!* By John Piper  
*Nests Above the Abyss* by Isobel Kuhn  
*Second-Mile People* by Isobel Kuhn  
*Whom God Has Joined* by Isobel Kuhn  
*World Missions: Total War* by L. E. Maxwell

## **Missiology**

*Biblical Theology of Missions* by George W. Peters  
*Eternity in Their Hearts* by Don Richardson (story form)  
*Lords of the Earth* by Don Richardson (story form)  
*Peace Child* by Don Richardson (story form)  
*Ministering Cross-Culturally* by Sherwood Lingenfelter

## **Informative**

*Dictionary of World Missions* (definitions, biographies, etc)  
*Operation World* by Patrick Johnstone

## **Money**

*African Friends and Money Matters* by David Maranz (cultural guide on money matters)  
*When Charity Destroys Dignity* by Glenn Schwartz (book on the right use of money)

## **Other**

*Answering Islam* by Norman Gieser (entry level book on Islam)  
*Have We No Rights?* by Mabel Williamson (deals with self denial on the mission field)  
*Hudson Taylor's Spiritual Secret* by Hudson Taylor (deals with deeper spiritual issues)  
*Indigenous Church* by Melvin Hodges (study in missionary methods)  
*Reaching Muslims for Christ* by William J. Saal  
*Serving As Senders* by Niel Pirollo (about supporting missionaries)  
*So Send I You* by Oswald Chambers (deep challenging thoughts on missions)

Editor's note:

These books may be purchased from Home Fires Publishers at [www.homefirespub.com](http://www.homefirespub.com)