



# Why Go to the mission field

## *Some Bad Reasons to Go to a Foreign Mission Field*

**The local people over there will be so happy when I come to help them.**

You are setting yourself up for disappointment. Nobody is waiting for you or your message. What they are waiting for is money, free handouts, free aid, and free food. And if you do bring things that appeal to the flesh, they will not be able to discern if your message is spiritually sound. When someone

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else then appears with more pleasant things than you have, the poor local people will quickly shift their attention away from you, even if the other is bringing unsound teaching. Actually reaching the hearts of the people is best done when your work is not mixed with “stuff”. That means it is a long, uphill climb to truly reach their hearts and to achieve fruit that remains.

**It would be so good for my status in my Christian life if I can chalk up some time ‘on the field’.**

You sound like a business person moving up the career ladder! Do you really think God is impressed with things like that? Are you eagerly looking for seats in the high places and greetings at the market like the Pharisees? Jesus Christ has told us that the first would be last, that the way down is the way up. So please don't strike out in missions work like this.

**My parents and the elders are really urging me to go.**

This alone will never work for you if you don't go in accordance with God's plans. There will be circumstances enough to fully turn you off. How sad it would be to then come back totally disillusioned and sour, even spilling your ill feelings here and there. You will need much more than the urging of others to go.

**It'll make me strong and help me to deny worldly lusts.**

Wrong again. Boot camps and mission training schools will at best expose your glaring faults, but going to the mission field long term will not improve or remove these weak areas. If you go anyhow, you could easily become one of those who are constantly craving for the leeks and garlic of western society. It will make you chafe at the bit of simplicity, meagerness, restricted food choices, and cramped living circumstances. If you cannot master these problems at home while the going is smooth, they will bring you to ruin on the field.



## Some Good Things to Do Before Going to a Mission Field

### Give up all

If you cannot get rid of your personal, prized possessions before you go, you will inexorably be pulled back once the going gets rough. We are to be the salt of the earth, but not a pillar of salt. Are you able to look ahead? Plowing in God's field only does what it should if there are no strings attached. You cannot be bound by "things" in God's Kingdom. Everything stored up for a rainy day will immediately capture your thoughts when the rain comes, and it will. This is not only valid for a foreign field, by the way.

### Relinquish your rights

A typical first-world person is busily getting his or her life in order for the secure retirement he thinks he deserves. That means finding a good job, starting to save money, and building a nice house. All of these things do not fit with foreign missions (or with local missions). You will be far too busy making your future secure if you keep your eye on these activities. Why not find a simple job that allows you to take time off to serve the Lord, massively put all money you have left on your heavenly

bank account, and rent or perhaps buy a cheap, functional, unimpressive house? Others may tell you that that kind of house is only found in seedy neighborhoods. Reckon with the fact that houses on the mission field are like that too.



### Do some major weeding

The Lord Jesus told us which factors choke a life and make it fruitless: riches and the cares of this life. He could hardly have better described our existence in first world countries.

So let God's weed eater loose in your life! Make very sure you are not reckoned among the rich in any sense and step away from all stuff that brings worries and stress in your life, such as:

*Where can I find really nice clothes?* Don't even try. Reduce your requirements and the amount of clothes you have. If you really need something, humble yourself and go to a thrift store first. Or if you are a sister who cannot sew or find proper dresses there, organize a church thrift sale and buy all you need!

*Hope nobody dents or scratches my new vehicle.* Get rid of it and find something ten years old that will also serve you well.

*My personal gadgets are expensive and hard to maintain.* Where does Jesus tell you to follow the majority? Why are MP3 players, Ipods, Ipads, internet

phones, multi-megapixel cameras, and fast computers 'must haves'?

*I'm trying hard to keep up with the young people at our fellowship.* When will you step away from all the social frills in life? Don't wait until you go to a foreign country or you will pine away there. If you are worried now about becoming a social outcast, then by all means don't go. But if you really want to serve the Lord, start now to disconnect right where you are and spend more time in God's Word. It will make things much easier later on.

Engage yourself in missions work in Jerusalem or Judea

There are sick, sordid, and sad people everywhere. There is no reason to wait until you are on the mission field! Make yourself available for work in your own area. Go tracting, open air campaigning, nursing-home singing,



or visiting sick and elderly neighbors. Find the places nobody else wants to go to and get involved. It will bring you great joy as soon as you get used to the unpleasant smells, sights and sounds. (That is what it is like on the mission field, too.) If our Lord sees you busy in your own environment, He just might surprise you with a request to work for Him in Samaria or even the uttermost parts of the earth!

-Klaas Kouwen