

# Lesson 2: Doing Missions

mentoring women and next generation girls

how beautiful are  
the feet of them . . .

## DARING DAUGHTERS

& dirty feet



With Ann Dunagan & Friends



## Lesson 2

**Our Daring Daughters Theme:**  
**DOING MISSIONS**

**This week's E-Course Audio Guest:**  
**ANNA LEIGH DUNAGAN**  
Newlywed and co-founder of  
Gospel Projects International

**Key thought:**  
*"Sympathy is no substitute for action." –  
David Livingstone*

During this E-Course lesson, we are focusing on **DOING MISSIONS** and looking at God's Great Commission.

**WHAT** is the "Great Commission," **WHERE** is it found in the Bible, and **WHY** should we have a heart for both local and global missions and for sharing the Gospel with people who don't know Jesus?

- [Listen to your Lesson 2a audio on mp3 –29 minutes](#)
- [Listen to your Lesson 2b audio on mp3 – 29 minutes](#)

### Can you answer the 5 BIG MISSION QUESTIONS?

1. Is there still a need for world missions today?
2. Why go overseas when we have so many needs in our own country?
3. Why go to remote foreign tribes? Wouldn't they be "better off" just left as they are?
4. Aren't all cultures equally valid? Why should we try to "change" other people's cultures?
5. Are the lost really lost?

**Do you know where to find God’s “Great Commission”? God’s heart to go to all nations with His love is found all throughout the Bible!**

**Here are examples of God’s Great Commission  
in all 4 Gospels and in the Book of Acts:**

Matthew 28:19

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Mark 16:15

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Luke 24:47-48

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John 20:21

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Acts 1:8

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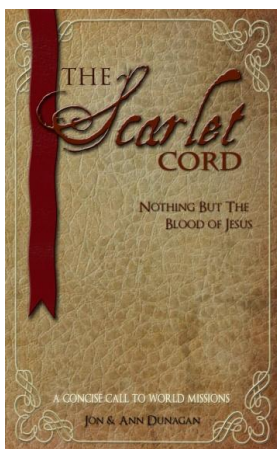
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To help you answer some BIG questions about world missions, here is a FREE excerpt from our family’s new book:

***The Scarlet Cord: Nothing but the Blood of Jesus***, A Concise Call to World Missions, By Jon & Ann Dunagan - <http://harvestministry.org/the-scarlet-cord>



### 5 Big Questions about World Missions

For many Christians, “missions” is, at best, a necessary responsibility. For hundreds of years the church has always “supported the missionaries,” and so tradition continues—yet often without God’s heart and passion or even a compelling purpose to win the lost to faith in Jesus Christ.

No wonder then, when many of us think of a missionary, strange images come to mind!

You may picture some young adventurer—clad in khaki safari clothes—trudging through the jungles with a machete. Perhaps you imagine him (or her) meeting a group of dark-skinned natives, dancing around mud huts and a raging fire, all moving to the beat of a pounding tribal drum.

Or maybe your only view of a missionary is of some strange older couple, in outdated clothing, presenting never-ending blurry slides or a shaky home video for some “special” Sunday evening service. Completing this picture are uninspiring stories of terrible food and awful living conditions, ending with a dreaded drawn-out plea for money. Perhaps it’s time, for the sake of the lost, to change our pictures of missions today.

### Big Question #1:

#### Is there still a need for world missions today?

The word mission brings to mind definitions such as goal, vision, and purpose. As Christians, what is God’s purpose for our lives? What are His goals and vision?

- **Our primary calling** . . . is to know and love the Lord. But if that were all, God could have taken us to heaven the moment we received Jesus Christ.
- **Our primary mission** . . . is to glorify God in and through our lives and to help make God’s way of salvation known throughout the earth.

With our primary mission clearly in view, we can see the need to help proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ and obey God’s words to “Go into all the world.”

We need to ask ourselves if we really believe the Bible is the true and inspired Word of God.

Do we honestly believe people must be saved, or “born again,” as Jesus said in John 3:3, and can we comprehend the eternal reality of heaven and hell? If we do, these beliefs should radically impact our lives.

Think for a moment about how different your life would be if you were born in a land isolated from the Gospel and filled with extreme poverty and disease.

What would it be like if you were born in an area where praying to an idol or giving homage to an ancestor was your only hope? What if constant fear of evil spirits consumed your life? Wouldn’t you want someone to share God’s life-giving message with you? We have received God’s light, but it is not just for us. We are called to shine God’s light in the darkness.



For those of us who live in developed countries, we need to realize how much God has blessed us:

- **We are blessed!** Every day we enjoy clean, hot running water—without a thought.
- **We are blessed!** Our typical meals include many ingredients from around the world: fruit from California and the Polynesian islands, olive oil from Italy and the Middle East, and coffee from Columbia (just try looking at your food labels for a few days). We eat better than the ancient kings!
- **We are blessed!** Most of us, with a few quick calls to a travel agency and a credit company could likely travel next month to any destination in the world, if we really wanted to (not that we're advocating debt, but if reaching people is a top priority, budgets can be made to accommodate).

God has given us the greatest “Good News” of all time and a job description to “Get this news out!” He has given us an abundance of resources to accomplish the task and a challenge that,

**“To whom much is given, from him much will be required.”**

—Luke 12:48

### Big Question #2:

#### Why go overseas when we have so many needs in our own country?

Missionary evangelist Oswald J. Smith answered this question with another: “Why should anyone hear the Gospel twice before everyone has heard it once?” We do have needs, but ours pale in comparison, according to the *World Christian Encyclopedia*:

- **The missions need:** In North America there are more than one million full-time Christian workers (one full-time Christian leader for every 230 people), while in many places there is only one missionary for every 500,000 people!
- **The missions need:** Since the invention of the printing press in 1450, 85 percent of all Bibles ever printed have been printed in English—yet only 9 percent of the world speaks English as a primary language! About 80 percent of the world's people have never owned a Bible, yet in the United States, there is an average of four Bibles in each household!
- **The missions need:** Many of us hear the Gospel repeatedly, while approximately 1.6 billion people are still waiting for their first opportunity to hear.
- **The missions need:** Even among Christian missionaries, only 15 percent of mission finances are used for Gospel work among “unreached” people. *Revolution in World Missions* states that nearly 80 percent of missionaries are involved primarily in social work, not in proclaiming the Gospel, winning souls, or establishing churches. For heaven's sake—literally—what did Jesus call us to do?

### Big Question #3:

#### **Aren't all cultures equally valid?**

#### **Why should we try to "change" other people's cultures?**

The core issue of this question stems from a false application of "multiculturalism"—one that is politically correct, educationally encouraged, and sounds nice. But leaving people trapped in sin and isolated from God's hope of salvation isn't the "considerate" option.

As Christians, we bring the cross-cultural, life-changing message of Jesus Christ and His forgiveness for sin. Our purpose is not to propagate our personal cultural standards, but to present the Gospel in a redeeming yet culturally sensitive way to all people. Eliminating the uniqueness of international culture is not the purpose of Christian missionary work; at times, however, sinful elements of a particular culture may need to change.

Years ago, we had an interview with an outstanding Christian teenager who attended a public high school. This young man led a lunchtime Bible Club and worship time that grew to reach 250 of his fellow classmates. He was writing a school research paper on Christian missionary work; and specifically, he was trying to support his thesis that "modern missionaries do not attempt to 'change' foreign cultures."

We understood this young man's heart. This teenager was trying to explain how today's Christian missionaries are different—more culturally appreciative and sensitive—than some of the old-time colonial missionaries (who attempted to expand all aspects of Western civilization throughout the world). But we still disagreed with his conclusion.

We asked this young man a pointed question. "But don't you try to 'change the culture' of the people you are trying to reach? Just look at the typical 'culture' of the teens in your high school before they come to Jesus Christ! Look at the way they dress! Listen to their music, their foul language, and the way they address their teachers! What about the videos they watch and the movies they sneak into? What about typical teenagers involved in sexual impurity or the girls who have had abortions? Aren't all of these a part of teen 'culture'?"

We went on to explain to him, "Culture is life!" When you share Jesus Christ in your high school, of course you don't want your friends to stop being teenagers—that's who they are! But you do want Jesus Christ to totally transform the way they live and the way they make their decisions!"

Around the world, societies that have developed isolated from God's laws and the Gospel are filled with sinful cultural elements:

- **tribal hatred, ancestral worship, and idolatry**
- **immoral sex, adultery, and prostitution**
- **drug addiction, drunkenness, and witchcraft**
- **abuse and neglect of women and children**

As Christians, our job is to bring the light of Jesus to every precious culture. Through His Word and His Holy Spirit, God will show people the changes they need to make to redeem their cultures back to Him.

### Big Question #4:

**Why go to remote foreign tribes?**

**Wouldn't they be "better off" just left as they are?**

Our answer to that question is a loud "No! No! No!" The unreached are never better off without Jesus Christ! Often we are blinded to this fact by a movie-world version of a "tropical native paradise." Some influential films and books portray remote tribes living in "peaceful bliss and harmony" until some "big, bad missionary" comes on the scene.

But this paradise is only an illusion! By God's grace, our family has personally ministered in over 70 nations on all seven continents--from remote villages to crowded inner cities. Throughout these missionary travels, we have never seen this "tropical native paradise."

At times, the land and beaches are beautiful and people may be warm and friendly; yet lives without God are always filled with misery.

- **In the Philippines** . . . we remember walking through a squatter's village and seeing streams of human waste flowing openly down a path. We were horrified to watch a group of children toss a bucket of garbage into an already dirty river, jump into the middle of it, and start throwing the garbage on each other. These poor children were just playing, oblivious to the filth and potential for disease. Although yes, it was tropical, it was so far from God's Garden of Eden!
- **In Central America** . . . we saw people crawl on bloody bare knees in penance for their sins. We sadly watched as crowds of poor, devoted people surrendered large sums of money just to carry a religious icon. These people were desperate for God's forgiveness, but as we looked into their faces, we saw no joy.
- **In Uganda** . . . we once ministered to a people group who actually worshipped a large tree. This particular tribe of people was aware of their sins and even the need for the shedding of innocent blood; yet their religion gave them no hope. They blindly offered animal sacrifices to this tree, and as we were told, at times, even human sacrifices of their young children.
- **In Tanzania** . . . one morning, we were in a remote city when we heard some terrifying news. Radical Muslims had bombed the city grounds where our mission team was scheduled to sing, preach, and show the JESUS film. In the process, these terrorists had destroyed a primary school—instantly killing eight children and seriously wounding eighty others (many who eventually died)—all to protest the message of Christianity.
- **Across the globe and through history** . . . twisted religious beliefs (such as the Hindu reverence of the cow and the rat) have caused self-inflicted food shortages and starvation. Many people groups are bound by fear, controlled by witchcraft, or filled with tribal hatred.



All over the world, individuals without Christ are separated from God by sin and are destined to spend eternity even further separated from Him— unless they hear and respond to God’s Good News! But our Lord Jesus came to destroy this barrier of sin. On the cross, He surrendered His perfect life and sacrificed His sinless blood so that all people could have access to God’s eternal life in heaven.

The entire message of the Bible can be summarized in words, which we all likely know by heart:

**“For God so loved the world that He gave  
His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him  
should not perish but have everlasting life.”**

—John 3:16

This is the Gospel message, and our mission is to share it! We must share the blessings God has given to us; we must share our time, our talents, and our finances; and most of all, we must share our faith!

### **Big Question #5:** **Are the lost really lost?**

In the movie, *Anne of Avonlea*, our family enjoys a scene where two elderly friends, Marilla Cuthbert and Rachel Lynde, are knitting together on the front porch of Anne’s house, Green Gables.

As Mrs. Lynde refers to some “heatheness” murder trials from a Boston newspaper, she declares, “Can you imagine that new minister, going on about how he doesn’t believe that all the heathen will be eternally lost? The idea! If they won’t be, all the money we’ve been sending to the foreign missions will be completely wasted, that’s what!”

It’s a simple excerpt, but a big issue.

As Christians, what we believe about the spiritual and eternal condition of the “lost” and the “heathen” greatly affects our attitude toward world missions.

The word “heathen” is now considered an outdated term, with negative and politically incorrect connotations; yet this word’s meaning delves deep into our core theology of world missions. The term refers not only to people who are unsaved but specifically to “unreached people who have never heard the Gospel.”

Is our true motivation for world missions to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with those who have yet to hear it, or do we merely want poor people to live a better life? What makes God’s calling to reach the world any different than a government assistance program or a secular benevolence outreach?

The core distinction is our belief about the lost and especially our convictions about these people who have never heard the Gospel.

Are these lost people *really* lost, or does God have an “alternative way” for them to be saved? The question makes us very uneasy and very uncomfortable. We wonder, “How could a good God send people to hell just because they’ve never heard the Gospel?”

It seems so unfair.

But to answer this question, we need to look beyond what we think and what we feel about fairness to what we can know from the Bible, God’s Word.

First of all, people are not separated from God because they have never heard the Gospel; people are separated from God because of sin. This sin includes both the sins we ourselves commit and the “sin nature” that has been passed down to all humanity ever since Adam and Eve’s fall in the Garden of Eden.

When Jesus died on the cross, He paid the penalty price for both our sins (our transgressions) and our human sin nature and evil tendencies (our iniquities).

**“He was wounded for our transgressions,  
He was bruised for our iniquities.”**

**--Isaiah 53:5**

The lost in foreign countries are not innocent. They have sinned and will be judged before our absolutely perfect holy God. We can trust God to judge righteously, and we can trust what He has shown us in His Word.

The Bible tells us, “For all have sinned...” (Romans 3:23) and deep down, everyone knows it.

Even without any knowledge of God’s laws and the Gospel message, a person inwardly knows that he or she has done wrong things. Every person has violated the inborn, God-placed convictions of his or her own conscience (although some have become so calloused that they no longer feel remorse or guilt). This inborn realization of sin is one reason why much of humanity is so religious. Around the world, people are desperately trying to do something about their sin (even if they are merely trying to ignore God’s existence!).

So are those without the Good News *really* lost, or can a person’s “ignorance” of the Gospel exempt him or her from the consequences of sin? Consider the second alternative: If total ignorance (of the message of God’s salvation through Jesus Christ) was an alternative way to heaven, why wouldn’t it be best to keep everyone ignorant? With this reasoning, if everyone was ignorant, then everyone could be spared! Why not take it a step further and destroy all Bibles and eliminate evangelism? Then the entire world could be “saved” through this “guaranteed-ignorance exemption.”

But obviously, this is not God’s way.

If before the Gospel came everyone was “ignorant” (but on their way to heaven), and after the Gospel came everyone would have “knowledge” of God’s salvation (but then could be condemned to hell), then wouldn’t the Good News message actually be Very Bad News to a previously unreached people group?

But Jesus Christ knew—more than any of us could ever know—that salvation through His perfect blood was (and is) mankind’s only hope. On the night before He was crucified, in Gethsemane, Jesus desperately cried to His Father, “If it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.”

But it was not possible.

If there was any other way for mankind to be saved, then why did God allow Jesus to go to the cross? It is because there was (and is) no other way.

Without God’s salvation—on His terms, and only through the saving blood of His Son—the “lost” are desperately and completely lost.

Only the blood of Jesus Christ can take away (or bring remission for) sin and pay the mercy-price before God (or make atonement) for the consequences of sin.

This fact led Jesus to the cross. This fact motivated early missionaries to leave their homelands with no hope of return. This fact was a passionate force behind the sacrificial giving of previous generations. And today, this fact motivates many Christians for world missions.

The fact is, without Jesus, the lost are lost.

The “heathen” must hear. This fact should compel us to our knees, and draw us to the nations.

Is it fair? No.

Is it fair that Jesus had to die in our place? No.

Is it fair that we sit in our churches week after week, and year after year . . . when multitudes have never once heard that Jesus even came?

Is it fair that we sit on our padded pews, critiquing our pastor’s polished sermons, while 1.6 billion people have never heard even one rugged Gospel message?

No. It is not fair.

But God is totally good and holy and just. He has never been “obligated” to save the heathen and He was not “obligated” to save us!

It is only because of God’s great grace that He offers us His salvation, and because of God’s great love that He passionately urges and compels us to proclaim His salvation—God’s great news!

The Great Commission  
is not an option to consider;  
it is a command to be obeyed.

—Hudson Taylor

**Questions for Mentoring:**

**MISSION brainstorming:**

What are ideas of some things that we can DO, right now, for missions?

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**Who do we know who is DOING something for MISSIONS?**

Think of missionaries you know, or missionaries who your church supports, or people who are actively expanding the Kingdom of God.

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- 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
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- 3. \_\_\_\_\_  
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- 4. \_\_\_\_\_  
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How can you help them, support them, pray for them, or encourage them?

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**7 for Heaven:** Write down the names of 7 people you know who need Jesus. Think of relatives, friends, neighbors, or even the person you see at the gas station. Begin to pray for these people, specifically by name, and pray for boldness and compassion to care for their eternal salvation.

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