



## Definitions: What is Missions? What is a Missionary?

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“Missions is the worldwide enterprise of making disciples of the nations that falls outside the normal outreach responsibilities of the local church.” *Church Missions Policy Handbook*, APMC, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition

“Missions is the method by which, through human agents, God extends his kingdom among men until it shall come to be universal.” W. O. Carver, *All the World in All the Word*

“Mission is the sending across cultural barriers by Christ through the church evangelists whose primary function is to make disciples of Jesus Christ by proclaiming the good news about Jesus.” Robert Reeves, *What the Bible Says About Missions*

Missions is “an enterprise devoted to proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ, and to persuading men to become His disciples and dependable, reproductive members of His Church.” Donald McGavran, *Understanding Church Growth*

“Mission is the intentional crossing of barriers from Church to non-church in word and deed for the sake of the proclamation of the Gospel.” Stephen Neill

Missions is “the intentional, sacrificial penetration of major human barriers...to plant communities of responsible disciples of Jesus Christ among groups of people where none have existed before.” David Bryant, *In the Gap*

“When a person is ‘sent out’ beyond the borders and influence of the local church to make disciples, that is missions.” Woody Phillips, *Let’s Define Missions*

“Missions is a specialized term. By it I mean the sending forth of authorized persons beyond the borders of the New Testament church and her immediate gospel influence to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ in gospel-destitute areas, to win converts from other faiths or non-faiths to Jesus Christ, and to establish functioning, multiplying local congregations who will bear the fruit of Christianity in that community and to that country.” George Peters, *A Biblical Theology of Missions*

“Missionaries are Christian workers who engage in cross-cultural ministries with evangelistic goals.”  
C. Peter Wagner, *Frontiers in Missionary Strategy*

Missionaries are “those who leave their home areas to take the gospel cross-culturally.” David Harley, *Preparing to Serve*

“A missionary is a prepared disciple whom God sends into the world with his resources to make disciples for his kingdom.” Ada Lum, *A Hitchhiker’s Guide to Missions*

A missionary is “a ministering agent, selected by God and His church, to communicate the gospel message across any and all cultural boundaries for the purpose of leading people to Christ and establishing them into viable fellowships that are also capable of reproducing themselves.” Ray Tallman, *Introduction to World Mission*

“A Christian missionary is a person whose passion is to make the Lord Jesus known to the whole world. I believe that ‘being a missionary’ in the truest sense of the word is taking the Gospel where it has never been before, or at least to a different culture or a different language group. A true missionary is someone who will risk everything for the sake of the lost of the world.” Keith Green

“Cross-cultural church planting missionaries are messengers sent by their respective churches to places where there is no Christian witness. They live an exemplary life and communicate the gospel in ways their new neighbors can understand. Their aim is to see conversions to Jesus Christ. They teach believers to obey all of Christ’s commandments. The final goal of their missionary activity is a body of obedient Christian disciples who are able to carry on the work of evangelism and discipleship among their own people and who are eager and able to reach other peoples also.” Robert W. Ferris, ed., *Establishing Ministry Training*, p. 33

Crossing barriers to provide access to the gospel. Scott White, Lake Avenue Congregational Church

Missions at College Church shall be defined as ministry which fulfills the Great Commission by proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ cross-culturally through evangelism, discipleship, Bible translation, church planting and church leadership development, giving priority to the least reached. We recognize the importance of meeting physical and educational needs when this serves the growth of the gospel. College Church, Wheaton, Bruce Wilson, September 11, 2007

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“When everything is mission, then nothing is mission.” Stephen Neill

**More Stuff** you need to know about  
**Doing Missions in Your Church**

