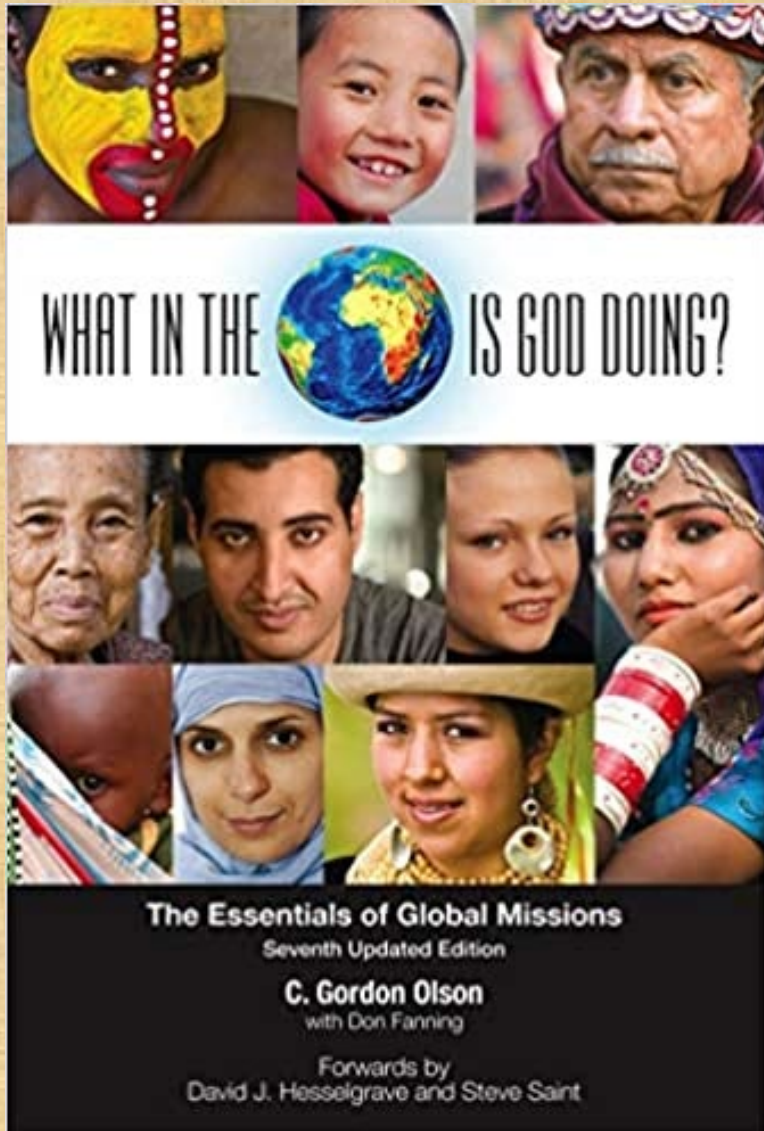


# What is missions?

- Missions is usually defined as doing ministry in a culture foreign to your own.
- A missionary is not someone with a spiritual gift called “missionary,” but is someone using his spiritual gift away from home.
- A missionary may be an evangelist, pastor, teacher, or anyone else who desires to serve the Lord away from his home base.

# What? Send missionaries to evangelize



“Missions are the whole task, endeavor, and program of the Church of Jesus Christ to reach out across geographical and/or cultural boundaries by sending missionaries to evangelize people who have never heard or who have little opportunity to hear the saving gospel.”

~C. Gordon Olson, *What in the World is God Doing? The Essentials of Global Missions: An Introductory Guide*. Page 13

# What? Send missionaries to train and equip

“Missions ... the sending forth of authorized persons beyond the borders of the NT church ... 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 the country.”

~George W. Peters, *A Biblical Theology of Missions*. Page 11





# **A Biblical Theology of Missions**

*George W. Peters*

- In 1962 Peters became Professor of Missiology at Dallas Theological Seminary, where he served for 14 years as head of the mission department. He served until 1976.
- Peters saw the Bible as an inherently missionary book from start to finish and believed that mission itself is based primarily in the character of God. Even without a direct command from Christ, mission flows from the heart of God and his Spirit as a missionary Spirit.

- Peters distinguished between what he termed the centripetal pattern of the Old Testament and the centrifugal pattern in the New. The general pattern of the Old Testament was that Israel should attract the nations. In the New Testament, the people of God are sent out in a more centrifugal pattern as in the Great Commission statements.
- Peters' contribution to evangelical missiology lies primarily in his observation of a continuous thread of universality in God's concern for the nations throughout the Old and New Testaments.

Where? To regions where God's Word is not accurately proclaimed

- Missions is the biblical ministry that takes God's Word (gospel and basic doctrine) to people who live in geographical regions and cultures where it is not known or not accurately proclaimed. "Regions beyond" were Paul's words in 2 Corinthians 10:16.

## 2 Corinthians 10:16

“to preach the gospel in the **regions beyond** you, *and* not to boast in another man’s sphere of accomplishment.”

- **Strong's 5238 ὑπερέκεινα** huperekeina
- **Meaning:** beyond: the regions lying beyond the country of one’s residence



# Purpose of Missions

1. Proclaim the good news that eternal salvation is a free gift to all who will believe in Jesus Christ as savior.
2. Teach the new believers Bible doctrine for spiritual growth and training for their own ministry.
3. Implement the indigenous principle: Native people ministering to their own people in their own language in their own culture.



# Lay the foundation, build on it, repeat

1. After the missionary has
  - Laid down the gospel foundation
  - Taught doctrine to the new believers
  - Trained local spiritual leaders
  - Helped them form local churches
  - Passed the ministry to local leaders
2. He will then repeat this process with other people (pattern in Acts 13–20).

# Local church base

1. Missionaries must have a local church base.  
Missionary work falters without a strong local church base.
2. The local church should first provide for its pastor, then for missionaries.
3. Missionaries should be sent out from a home local church and be supported by that church and possibly by other churches that are likeminded.

- “We are called to proclaim His great Salvation and rescue the captives.... But we are busy spending 33 billion a year in diet products for ourselves or for our overweight cats. We are busy redecorating our temporal housing, We are spending every evening for our own pleasure, and every spare dollar for our own retirement. And somehow, the unreached in their life and death eternal struggle, slip our minds and concern.... we never get around to being serious about Jesus and his command to take the good news to them.”

~ John Willis Zumwalt, “Passion for the Heart of God”



# Opposition to missions

1. Liberals oppose missions because they do not believe that faith in Jesus Christ is the only way to eternal life.
2. Post modernists oppose missions because they believe that all cultures and beliefs are equal and Christians ought not to impose the biblical gospel on others.
3. Some Christians oppose missions because they are preoccupied with themselves and their own little world and missions might require some change in values.



4. Some religions and denominations do not engage in missionary activity because they think that it is unnecessary. They think that God will save those He wants to save without any help from people.
5. Some theologies (liberation theology, black theology, feminist theology, et al) teach that social ills must first be remedied, and only then can there be true evangelism.