

A number of years ago, I was having a conversation with a faithful church member regarding a special Missions emphasis I was planning. Her comment to me was, *“Missions just isn’t my thing.”* I, as graciously as I could, tried to convince her that *“missions”* was everybody’s *“thing.”* I’m not sure she left convinced.

That encounter resurfaced in my brain as I read the following statement from missiologist C. Peter Wagner: *“Once you decide to ask Jesus Christ to take control of your life, involvement in world missions is no longer optional.”* Is that simply an over-the-top comment or is he correct?

I believe that the Great Commission (Acts 1:8) was given to all believers. I believe the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:37-39) was given to all believers. And I believe that the pattern given in Romans 10:13-15 provides the rationale: *“For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent?”* The logic here is airtight. More importantly, it’s also authoritative.

The late John Stott famously declared, *“Our God is a missionary God.”* It would stand to reason that His people should be missionary people. Are we? How that works itself out in our lives and in our churches will differ due to many factors. It begins with not viewing missions as a peripheral thing, or an add-on. Mission is not to be compartmentalized but infused into all we do as followers of our Blessed Redeemer. May each of us, each of our churches, and ABCOM always keep mission a priority. May it always be our *“thing.”*

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