

THE MIND OF A MISSIONARY

What Global Kingdom Workers Tell Us About Thriving on Mission Today



DAVID JOANNES

Foreword by **NIK RIPKEN**, author of *THE INSANITY OF GOD*

CHAPTER-BY-CHAPTER SUMMARY

www.themindofamissionary.com

*You are an integral part of God's global plan.
He created you for greatness; He designed you
to display the glories of His Kingdom on the earth.*

The Mind of a Missionary: What Global Kingdom Workers Tell Us About Thriving on Mission Today by David Joannes takes you on an odyssey from first-century ministry to present-day outreach, and connects your passion to God's global missions narrative.

In *The Mind of a Missionary*, David Joannes challenges you to find your role in God's glorious Kingdom narrative. He draws upon history, psychology, life experience, and powerful storytelling to reshape your perception of God's unique plan for your life.

You will learn about the motivations, expectations, risks, and rewards in the missionary venture. In each chapter, a missionary "guide" shows you how to thrive on mission today. The lives of Jim & Elisabeth Elliot, C. T. Studd, Nikolaus Zinzendorf, Robert Moffat, Jackie Pullinger, David Eubank, Nik & Ruth Ripken, William Carey, Hudson Taylor, Amy Carmichael, Don Richardson, and Heidi Baker merge with modern-day global Kingdom workers serving around the world.

In The Mind of a Missionary, you will learn about the

*intrinsic & external motivations of cross-cultural missionaries
felt inner & outer expectations of the missions call
numerous complex risks that a missionary faces
glorious rewards that come from missional service*

You will find out how to

*thrive in ministry with altruistic motivations
overcome the obstacles that seek to defeat you
dare the impossible to advance the Kingdom of God
maximize your role in the Great Commission*

About the author

David Joannes is the Founder/CEO of Within Reach Global and the author of *The Space Between Memories*, *The Mind of a Missionary*, and *Gospel Privilege* (). He has been involved in cross-cultural missionary work for over 20 years, and now oversees a growing number of foreign and indigenous missionary staff at Within Reach Global, headquartered in Chiang Mai, Thailand. David is fluent in Mandarin Chinese and proficient in Tagalog and Thai. David lives in Chiang Mai, Thailand, with his wife and two daughters.

JIM & ELISABETH ELLIOT

THE MIND OF A MISSIONARY BY DAVID JOANNES
SECTION ONE: MOTIVATIONS
CHAPTER ONE: COMPASSION FOR THE LOST



In *The Mind of a Missionary*, section one: Motivations, chapter one: Compassion for the Lost, you will witness the power of God on display through the martyrdom of five missionary men whose sacrifice transformed an entire people group. You will be inspired as you watch Elisabeth Elliot bring the Gospel to the very men who murdered her husband. You will read about intrinsic and extrinsic motivation, a mind controlled by the Spirit, and how compassion for the lost is a major drive of modern-day missionaries.

The world is full of desperate brokenness and hopeless need. If we desire to see long-term impact, our missionary endeavors require less superficial barnstorms and more strategically focused efforts.

Five days before the fateful hour when the sting of tragedy would be felt around the world on January 8, 1956, a Piper PA-14 airplane circled the jungles of eastern Ecuador. The humid atmosphere threatened rain from low-lying clouds. Above the thick fog, the yellow propeller plane soared in sunlight, casting its ominous shadow over a blanket of mist.

Patches between the fog revealed the serpentine Curaray River that snaked across the landscape below, splitting the thick overgrowth with its zigzagging trickle. Twenty-eight-year-old Jim Elliot surveyed the verdant rain forest in search for primitive villages: the hutted homes of the Huaorani tribespeople. This unreached people group was the focus of Elliot and his band of brothers who sought to evangelize the tribe. Their missional attempt was called Operation Auca.

Role in *The Mind of a Missionary*: *The Elliots (and the Ecuador Five) show a strong compassion for the lost through their radical commitment to reach the Huaorani people of Ecuador. They appear in section one: Motivations, chapter one: Compassion for the Lost.*

Dates: October 8, 1927—January 8, 1956 (Jim);
December 21, 1926—June 15, 2015 (Elisabeth)

Location of missions work: Ecuador

Known for: *Jim Elliot was an evangelical Christian who was one of five missionaries killed while participating in Operation Auca, an attempt to evangelize the Huaorani people of Ecuador. Elisabeth Elliot was a Christian author and speaker. Her first husband, Jim Elliot, was killed in 1956 while attempting to make missionary contact with the Auca of eastern Ecuador.*

Fellow missionaries, Ed McCully, Roger Youderian, Pete Fleming, and their pilot, Nate Saint, accompanied Jim Elliot. The “Ecuador Five,” as they came to be known, had already made contact with the Huaorani tribe (also called the “Auca,” a pejorative word meaning “savage”). This group of Ecuadorian indigenous people were considered violent and dangerous to outsiders. For weeks, Elliot and his counterparts announced their aerial presence by loudspeaker, calling out, “I like you! I like you!” They passed out gifts (trousers, shirts, machetes, cooked fish, packets of peanuts, two squirrels, one parrot, two bananas, and a smoked monkey tail, amongst other things) in hopes that the stone-age Auca would come to welcome their regular visits.

In every age and from every corner of the earth, people are desperately in need of a hero. They are looking for a man whose motives are altruistic or a woman whose purposes dwarf the status quo. People need an invitation into a heroic story, one which identifies a necessary ambition, reveals the obstacles that keep them from achieving that ambition, and helps them overcome those hindrances.

We continue the story by exploring the mindset controlled by the Spirit of God. We look at the intrinsic and extrinsic motivations in the human mind—how an innate, altruistic drive contrasts with external forces. Edward Deci’s Self-determination theory comes into play, as do the works of Daniel H. Pink and Dr. Caroline Leaf. We look at the scriptural basis of compassion for the lost in global missions motivation. We see Jesus’ example of radical compassion and hear Paul’s encouragement to walk by the Spirit. The thoughts of missionaries like Amy Carmichael, James Calvert, and the Ecuador Five blend with the opinions of modern-day global Kingdom workers.

Only when our spirits are aligned with God’s deepest desires do we cease struggling, surrender to His will, and thrive in the purpose He created us for.

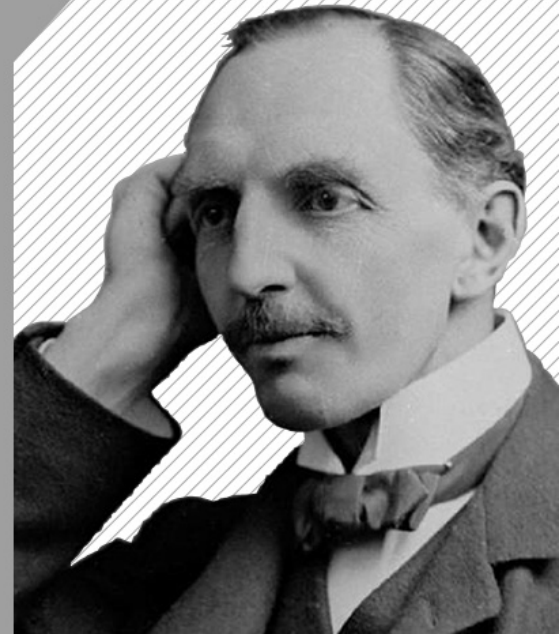
We were made to worship, and worship is more than Sunday morning singing. It is our whole selves surrendered to God’s will. Our active participation in His work is simply the outcome of a life abandoned to the service of God.

The narrative continues by revealing how the underlying motivation of compassion for the lost compels missionaries to take the Gospel to places it has never gone before. Chapter one of *The Mind of a Missionary* compels you to draw near to the heart of Christ so that you too might thrive on mission today with an altruistic compassion for the world.

The love of God compels us to trust His sovereignty, dare the impossible, and walk in the power of the Holy Spirit.

C. T. STUDD

THE MIND OF A MISSIONARY BY DAVID JOANNES
SECTION ONE: MOTIVATIONS
CHAPTER TWO: OBEDIENCE TO THE COMMANDS OF CHRIST



In *The Mind of a Missionary*, section one: Motivations, chapter two: Obedience to the Commands of Christ, you will be encouraged to find that obedience to the commands of Christ not only brings blessing to your life but changes the landscape of the world as well. You will also be amazed to find that today's generation shares a surprising number of values that the Missionary Generation (1860-1882) had in their day. The Cambridge Seven inspired tens of thousands of people to follow their examples of radical obedience to the commands of Christ. They make up a small part of the great cloud of missionary witnesses of the past, and the baton has been bequeathed to succeeding generations. Now, it is your time to wholeheartedly pursue the heart of Christ and publicize His name both in your context and in the nations of the earth.

In the summer of 1883, a lone figure knelt to pray in his small study in the inner courtyard of a Chinese residence in Shanxi, China. Thirty-one-year-old Dr. Harold Schofield, a member of the China Inland Mission pioneered by Hudson Taylor, was the first Protestant missionary allowed to penetrate the interior of China. He prayed for "men of culture, education, and distinguished gifts, intellectual as well as spiritual" to come to the mission field.

One cannot underestimate the integral value of each member of the body of Christ. Some men and women played a visible role while others were seemingly tiny cogs in the missionary machine. Each one helped transform China's landscape through their willing obedience to the commands of Christ.

Role in The Mind of a Missionary:

Compelled by the Great Commission call, C. T. Studd abandons earthly fame and fortune to publicize the name of Jesus on the foreign field. He appears in section one: Motivations, chapter two: Obedience to the Commands of Christ.

Dates: December 2, 1860—July 16, 1931

Location of missions work: China, India, and Central Africa

Known for: C. T. Studd was a British cricketer and missionary, and one of the Cambridge Seven who pioneered new regions for the Gospel in China, India, and Central Africa.

On March 18, 1885, The Cambridge Seven landed in Shanghai, China. The young men were met by China Inland Mission founder, Hudson Taylor, who had landed in China before their arrival to arrange for their travel inland at once.

In May, the seven men reached Taiyuan, the capital of Shanxi Province, and found themselves in the home of Dr. Harold Schofield. Nearly two years earlier, he had been called away from earthly service, and now they stood where his work had been laid down. They were the living answer to his many solitary prayers.

In the small study in Shanxi where Dr. Schofield prayed for men of influence to give themselves to the missionary cause, The Cambridge Seven now stood with China Inland Mission founder, Hudson Taylor. God's providence was evident in this monumental moment. Elicited by the single thread of prayer, the initial weaves of a glorious tapestry had now commenced.

Common sense states that we ought to stay put; that we dare not venture into the insanity of obedience. But this kind of "common sense" might be better described as a "widely held misunderstanding" by the ignoble and ordinary.

We are too easily captivated by the contemporary and so steeped in a myopic perspective of current events that we tend to overlook the overarching theme of God's global vision. The present moment seduces us into a short-term narrative that separates our experience from the broader plot. We fail to see ourselves as an integral character in God's grand drama.

Obedience is less of an aggrandizing accomplishment than it is a series of decisions to walk in the will of the Lord. Obedience is a succession of small, willful steps in pursuit of the Master's footprints.

In the second chapter of *The Mind of a Missionary* you will see the divine sequence of events that led to one of the greatest missions breakthroughs in China. The obedience of a handful of men also sparked a spiritual awakening in the Western world. You will recognize that only by surrendering your life to the will of God will transformation occur.

When we are truly enamored by the goodness of God, willing obedience naturally follows. The true Christian finds deep joy in telling others about what God has done in her life.

NIKOLAUS ZINZENDORF

THE MIND OF A MISSIONARY BY DAVID JOANNES
SECTION ONE: MOTIVATIONS
CHAPTER THREE: PASSION FOR THE GLORY OF GOD



In *The Mind of a Missionary*, section one: Motivations, chapter three: Passion for the Glory of God, you come to understand the quintessential motivator in the missionary mind: God's glory. His glory undergirds your compassion for the lost and your obedience to the commands of Christ. You will see that not everyone is called to be a missionary, but all are called to play their part in God's global mandate. You will learn how a negative shift in missions occurred and how our understanding of God's Kingdom has led to lethargy and lack of concern for the Great Commission. In the end, you will be inspired to pursue the glory of God as He empowers you to see His Kingdom come to the earth.

The emphasis of God's glory must be the core of missionary work. Without it, missionary labor gradually turns into drudgery. This, then, leads to exhaustion and often to the abandonment of the missions call. Love for the lost is not enough. Even the act of obedience devoid of God's glory can sour the hearts and minds of global Kingdom workers. Everything is a hard toil without God's sustaining supernatural empowerment of glory.

Role in *The Mind of a Missionary*: Nikolaus Zinzendorf valued the glory of God above all else. His fervent passion for a Heavenly Kingdom paved the way for the missionary enterprise. He appears in section one: Motivations, chapter three: Passion for the Glory of God.

Dates: May 26, 1700—May 9, 1760

Location of missions work: Worldwide

Known for: Nikolaus Zinzendorf was a German religious and social reformer, bishop of the Moravian Church, founder of the Herrnhuter Brüdergemeine, Christian mission pioneer, and a major figure of 18th-century Protestantism.

Ocean blue and the sapphire sky met on the line of the distant horizon as the ship was readied to set sail from Copenhagen. On October 8, 1732, Johann Leonhard Dober and David Nitschmann, the first Moravian missionaries (sent by Nikolaus Zinzendorf), commenced their two-month voyage to the West Indies. They stood on deck as the

families were there weeping. Many questioned the wisdom of their missionary task. The two young men might never return; still they were willing to sell themselves into slavery if it was the only way to reach the slaves. As the ship set sail, the gap widened between land and sea. The hawsers curled around the posts on the pier, and the young men linked arms. They gazed back at their well-wishers, lifted their hands as if in a sacred pledge, and called out to their friends on shore, “May the Lamb that was slain receive the reward of His suffering!”

This clarion call was to become the cry of Moravian missions. Their zeal was unquenchable. Nothing was more important than giving their lives to the representation and the declaration of God’s glory to the ends of the earth. For His authority on earth allows us to dare to go to all nations. His authority in heaven gives us our only hope of success. And His presence with us leaves us no other choice.

When our primary goal is to glorify God, it follows that we make Him known in the earth.

When we glorify God, we are attuned to His heart. It is inevitable, then, that when we worship the Living God, we feel a deep sense of satisfaction. God delights to share His joy with His children.

The Moravian missionary movement led by Nikolaus Zinzendorf was one of the most remarkable Christian movements in history. Within thirty years, the church sent hundreds of missionaries to many parts of the world. Their reach went far and wide, from the Caribbean to North and South America, the Arctic, Africa, and to the Far East.

They held firmly to the belief that every member was a minister and every disciple a disciple-maker. The Great Commission was not for the chosen few but a command to be obeyed by all. There were to be no spectators in the church. Each individual was convinced that they were invited to be involved in God’s grand global mission.

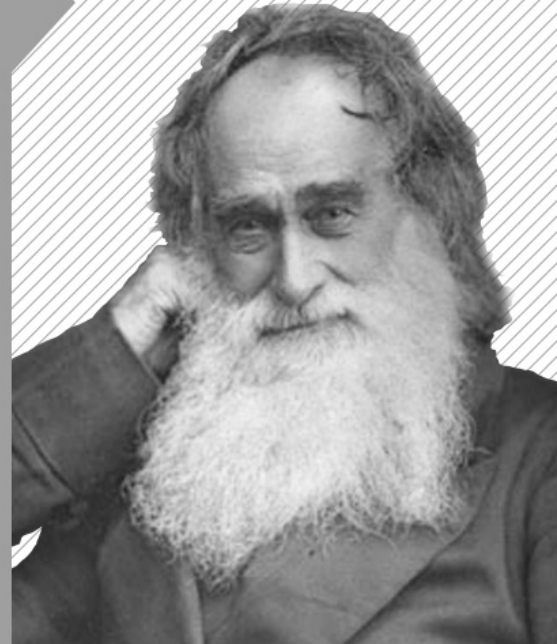
We are busy with religious activity for Christ, devoid of relational intimacy with Him. Like Martha, we forget to join Mary at the feet of Jesus. After all, this is the one thing that Jesus desires above all else—that we love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength and, in turn, love our neighbor as ourselves.

In chapter three of *The Mind of a Missionary*, you will see that as you make God’s glory central in your missional efforts, the power of the Holy Spirit will use you in ways you thought impossible.

God does not involve us in ministry and mission because He needs us. He involves us in ministry and mission because He loves us.

ROBERT MOFFAT

THE MIND OF A MISSIONARY BY DAVID JOANNES
SECTION TWO: EXPECTATIONS
CHAPTER FOUR: THE INTERNAL MONOLOGUE



In *The Mind of a Missionary*, section two: Expectations, chapter four: The Internal Monologue, you learn how to overcome the disparaging internal monologue in your mind. You recognize that the “great missionaries” of the past dealt with the same mind battles you encounter today. Your mind can be renewed; you have the mind of Christ! You will read how God used Robert Moffat to transform an entire continent. Not only do the “menace in your ears” seek to derail your missional calling, they also want to tear you away from your Heavenly Father. The voices speak not only of the personal expectations they have of themselves and of their ministries, but they also tell of identity. Who are you, really? they query. You are defined by your responsibilities and duties, callings and tendencies. Are you really a son or daughter of the King before you are a missionary? These are their challenging thoughts, and Paul encourages you to “demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.” You will learn how to overcome the negative internal monologue by the the Holy Spirit’s power.

It is easy to lock into a loop of negative thoughts. The mind is, after all, a serious battlefield. Every success emerges from this staging point; every failure is the fruit of the mind’s health.

The floorboards creaked sullenly as Moffat leaned forward in his chair. He squinted, his deep, doleful eyes taking in the moment, his sight converging upon the scattered ramshackle homes bejeweled in the distant valley. Leisure sunlight

Role in The Mind of a Missionary:

Throughout his missionary career, Robert Moffat battled his negative inner monologue. He found strength to overcome as he recognized the Holy Spirit’s empowerment and understood his identity in Christ. He appears in section two: Expectations, chapter four: The Internal Monologue.

Dates: December 21, 1795—August 9, 1883

Location of missions work: South Africa

Known for: Robert Moffat was a Scottish Congregationalist missionary to Africa, father-in-law of David Livingstone, and first translator of the Bible into Setswana.

warmed the terrain, and the man fixated on the thin wisps of smoke rising slowly then vanishing above foreign homes.

With a sudden burst of compassionate sentiment, tears streaked down Moffat's cheekbones, pooling in his white, timeworn beard. He recognized it again; he caught another glimpse of the spiritual reality that he long understood but had so grown accustomed to, even often overlooked. Villages without Christ, without God, and without hope in the world, he pondered, weeping at the thought of it.

This moment—this quiet valley layered with mist and slow sunrise and the smoke of a thousand villages—would become the catalyst of his missionary campaigns. Uncharted regions remained untouched by the presence of the Gospel, and he could not stand idly by. From his adopted home in South Africa to the North and East, Robert Moffat would champion the cause of Christ. He would pioneer new territory and trailblaze new routes for numerous succeeding missionaries. His simple yet profound platitudes would have an immense effect on those who heard him speak about the unreached peoples among whom he served.

This striking conflict between an altruistic drive to make a difference in the world and the negative internal monologue of the carnal man circuit the thoughts of every cross-cultural missionary. Their minds are ever a battlefield between good and evil. The voice they believe determines the future they will experience.

Robert Moffat paved the way for missionary service in Africa. He overcame the disparaging thoughts of failure lurking in his mind and propelled countless people to foreign fields. During a series of meetings in Great Britain, he was exhausted from the previous week of meetings; he took to the stage and silently surveyed the congregation. In attendance that night was a young man named David Livingstone, whose life goals were about to be rearranged by the Spirit of God. With hushed timbre, Moffat opened his message with a portrait of his life in South Africa. "Many a morning have I stood on the porch of my house, surveying the landscape," he began. "In the vast plain to the north, I have seen, at different times, the smoke of a thousand villages—villages whose people are without Christ, without God, and without hope in the world."

The inner critic seeks to derail positive assessments of a ministry's value, skew the whole plot, and create frustration and doubt.

For a missionary who was far more conscious than anyone else could be of his deficiencies, Moffat could never have imagined the impact his words would have. These opening words depicting the great imbalance of global missions pricked the heart of twenty-five-year old David Livingstone. He felt as if Moffat spoke directly to him, his poignant words resounding in his mind: "The smoke of a thousand villages... The smoke of a thousand villages." Later, God used David Livingstone in remarkable ways to open new doors for the Gospel in Africa.

Today, people are fatigued by a wide array of divisive social issues. Unlike generations past, we are constantly bombarded with topics like education, civil rights, poverty, terrorism, pollution, ineffective government, immigration,

racism, and climate change. Christians are left with little energy to think about the state of global missions. In fact, oftentimes thoughts about the Kingdom of God are not even forefront in our minds.

In chapter four of *The Mind of a Missionary*, you will find that the menacing murmur of the inner monologue can be overcome. Unwarranted expectations inundate the missionary mind. Moffat was no stranger to this conundrum. He recognized his inadequacies and hurled himself upon the strength of God. His willing obedience led to Livingstone's call to Africa, which opened the continent to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Popular culture cannot command our compliance; the world's manmade patterns cannot impose our subservience. The chatter of the inner critic is quelled when we set our minds on Christ.

JACKIE PULLINGER

THE MIND OF A MISSIONARY BY DAVID JOANNES
SECTION TWO: EXPECTATIONS
CHAPTER FIVE: SOCIAL INFLUENCE



In *The Mind of a Missionary*, section two: Expectations, chapter five: Social Influence, you will be challenged to deviate from socially accepted norms and thrive in your missional calling. You will learn about normative social influence, conformity, and groupthink, and how society expects you to remain in the status quo. The Asch conformity test reveals how common it is to give in to social pressure, even when we know we ought not conform. Paul urges us not “to conform to the pattern of this world, but be “be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” Jackie Pullinger’s countercultural ministry to street sleepers, prostitutes, pimps, and drug addicts in the Walled City of Hong Kong will broaden your horizons. You will be encouraged to go forth as missional warriors and noble maidens to slay the dragons that ensnare unfortunate souls.

Only by a cross does the world truly change and the only way to the cross is by nonconformity.

Jackie’s first visit to the Kowloon Walled City brought her through a narrow gap between outside shops where she started down “a slime-covered passageway.” “I will never forget the darkness and the smell—a fetid smell of rotten foodstuffs, excrement, offal, and general rubbish. The darkness was startling after the glaring sunlight outside.”

She strode gingerly through the dank, labyrinthine corridors so as not to puncture her foot on the shattered glass or one of the many discarded needles. Splatters of blood lined the damp floor and mingled with human feces. She continued through the maze of walkways. She passed a plastic flower factory on her right; on her left, an old prostitute huddled at the threshold of a darkened doorway. Aged, ugly, and no longer able to turn tricks, she employed several child prostitutes, one of whom Jackie determined to be mentally handicapped. She walked on, head down, in case

Role in *The Mind of a Missionary*: Jackie Pullinger deviated from social expectations, took on the dragon of the Walled City in Hong Kong, and left an eternal mark on Asia’s landscape. She appears in section two: Expectations, chapter five: Social Influence.

Dates: 1944—present

Location of missions work: Hong Kong

Known for: Jackie Pullinger is a British Protestant Christian charismatic missionary to Hong Kong and founder of the St Stephen’s Society. She has been ministering among drug addicts in Hong Kong since 1966.

someone chose to empty their chamber pot from an overhead window. Her eyes grew wide at each appalling sight in the multi-storied slum: an illegal dog restaurant, pornographic film-show house, gambling dens, and dingy corners crowded with heroin addicts.

Jesus called us to deviate from what culture generally accepts as normal. He commissioned us as His righteous deviants to declare the praises of a God who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.

Jackie Pullinger spent years pursuing the unruly dragon in the City of Darkness. Her initial presence seemed laughable. *What can one young woman accomplish?* the dragon must have thought. But days turned to weeks and months to years, and the unassuming warrior would not cease her efforts. The dragon thrashed inside the Walled City, stunned and enraged by his pursuer. His body coiled; his claws loosened their clutches on his prized possessions. The fire-breathing monster's tail writhed and flailed, tearing against the walls of his lair. The cracks became fractures; a breach had been made. Rays of light streamed into the heart of the city, and the dragon's eyes dilated. His seething shrieks could be heard for miles. The dragon's kingdom was about to cave in on itself.

Nonconformity to the ways of the world does not infer that we oppose every aspect of our cultural context. Jesus did not arbitrarily push against the current of His culture like a resentful zealot. Instead, He swam against the cultural streams that did not align with God's Kingdom values. Culture in and of itself glorifies God just as a painting glorifies its painter. Every culture is a masterpiece stamped with the unique features of its Creator. God affirms, strengthens, and perfects the parts of culture that are already in line with His, and converts the elements that are not.

God is not looking for mindless gears in the missionary machine, but passionate lovers who seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness. He is not looking for "payback" from His people in the form of reluctant obedience. God is relational above all else; His love propels and sustains His followers.

Day by day, the world seeks to usher you deeper along the currents of pop culture; it attempts to skew your perspective of Kingdom values and merge them with an earthly *modus operandi*. But the *vox populi* is not the voice of God; the opinions of the majority do not necessarily reflect the values of the Kingdom. As a Christian in the state of "not of, but sent into" the world, you confront this culture clash round-the-clock. Thankfully, God enables you to overcome the world's influence by the power of His Spirit; He gives you the mind of Christ and sends you into the earth to shine the light of His glory.

Jackie Pullinger paid little heed to the generally accepted social norms; the righteous deviant overstepped boundaries to be the light of the world in dismal surroundings. Instead of skirting around the unfortunate victims, she paused for people like a good Samaritan. In chapter five of *The Mind of a Missionary*, you will recognize that God calls you to display His glory in the dark places of the earth. Only the radical go forth to fight against the darkness, slay dragons, and return with the fortunes of war. So onward, missional warriors! Advance, noble maidens! There are other dragons to be slayed.

DAVE EUBANK

THE MIND OF A MISSIONARY BY DAVID JOANNES
SECTION TWO: EXPECTATIONS
CHAPTER SIX: A POSTURE OF EXPECTANCY



In *The Mind of a Missionary*, section two: Expectations, chapter six: A Posture of Expectancy, you will learn the difference between an “expectation” and “expectancy”—seemingly similar words with strikingly contrasted definitions. David Eubank is a prime example of a posture of expectancy. He and his family, the founders of Free Burma Rangers, live on the edge; they serve in war-torn conflict areas around the world. But despite the great stress and difficulty, they posture on the promises of God. In this way, they have come to experience “a new normalcy” in missional service. You are God’s first and only choice to make His name known in the nations; He has no backup plan. He chooses to use weak and unassuming vessels to display His glory. For, as Paul writes, “when I am weak, then I am strong.”

Expectancy is full of hope. It trusts the results to God. It requires an open mind and gives room for the Holy Spirit to accomplish His purposes as He sees fit. When we posture ourselves in expectancy, rather than cling to expectations, we set ourselves up for unlimited possibility.

David Eubank’s jaw was chiseled for military service. Cut square and clean-shaven in the manner Hollywood depicts soldiers or war, symmetrical lines crease his cheeks when pulled back in half smile. His cunning grin reveals a youthful mirth; his hazel pupils glint with pleasure. His favorite, army-green Free Burma Rangers cap covers his receding hairline, shading the wrinkles on his brow. He appears both pensive and playful. The God-fearing military man exudes

Role in The Mind of a Missionary: *David Eubank runs head first into war-torn regions and conflict areas. Regardless of the trying circumstances, he sets his sights on the promises of God, knowing that his Heavenly Father will accomplish His work in His time and in His way. He appears in section two: Expectations, chapter six: A Posture of Expectancy.*

Dates: 1959—present

Location of missions work: Myanmar (formerly Burma), Iraq, and Sudan

Known for: *David Eubank is the director and founder of Free Burma Rangers, a multiethnic humanitarian service movement working to bring help, hope, and love to people in the conflict zones of Burma, Iraq, and Sudan. He is a former commander in the U. S. Military who now serves as a missionary in war-torn regions of the earth.*

optimism. His presence is commanding, but not in a conceited, militant manner. Eubank's personality is the perfect mix of masculinity and modesty.

Are we truly sold out and radically committed to God's global plan? Do we actively seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness? Are we willing to allow God access to every part of our hearts and minds? If we really want to thrive on mission, we must allow God to redefine our definition of the normal Christian life.

On January 16, 2018, my family and I ran into Eubank at the United States consulate in Chiang Mai, Thailand. For thirty minutes, I stood speechless as David relayed the details of their work in Iraq. His account filled with words like "AK-47s" and "RPGs," "enemy fire," "dead bodies," and "near-death escapes." He told me about his rescue of a five-year-old girl with pink pigtails. "I saw about seventy dead bodies strewn all over the ground," he said, "women, children, guys in wheelchairs—all shot dead." In the center of the horrific scene, he saw movement. A little girl peeked out from underneath a black burqa. "Jesus, help me," I whispered under my breath," he told me, and he ran headfirst into ISIS gunfire. Smoke dropped by Allied Forces and firepower from Iraqi soldiers gave him the cover he needed. Buried in rubble, the little girl hid under her dead mother's burqa for two days until her rescue on June 2, 2017. "As I began to run, I thought, 'If I die today trying to save this child, my wife and kids will understand.'" He said he did it simply for love. "I remembered the scripture that says, 'Greater love...'" David closed his eyes, paused, and choked back his tears. "...has no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends."

The missionary mind brims with ambition, is built based on belief, and resides in the realm of reliance. It hopes to make headway among the bruised and broken and witness God's rule and reign in the earth. The catch is that Kingdom workers must cast aside conjecture and relinquish assumed notions of success. Our vision is finite; God's perspective is eternal. We perceive a small part of the puzzle; God fits each piece into perfect harmony. We are bound by space and time; God sees the entire panorama from beginning to end.

Dangerous territory called for extreme measures. But Eubank made his intentions clear: "We exist to free the oppressed," he said. "We stand for human dignity, justice, and reconciliation. We bring help, hope, and love to people of all faiths and ethnicities in the conflict areas. I'd rather do something than just talk about it."

God's global plan will be accomplished. Every knee will one day bow before His breathtaking might, but most likely not in the manner we presently imagine.

In chapter six of *The Mind of a Missionary* you will be encouraged to rest in the promises of God despite your circumstances. David Eubank and his family are an incredible example of people postured in expectancy on the truth

of God's word. His Kingdom will be established on the earth and He desires to use you to accomplish His glorious global plan.

Your circumstances may look different on the exterior, but the crux of the matter remains the same: when you are weak, then you are strong. This notion runs counter to human comprehension. Nevertheless, God rigged the world in such a way that His might manifests through human deficiency.

NIK & RUTH RIPKEN

THE MIND OF A MISSIONARY BY DAVID JOANNES
SECTION THREE: RISKS
CHAPTER SEVEN: PHYSICAL CHALLENGES



In *The Mind of a Missionary*, section three: Risks, chapter seven: Physical Challenges, your compassion for global Kingdom workers will soar as you read about the difficulties of the foreign mission field. They cross into an alien culture, navigate unfamiliar customs, and seek to influence people by using a foreign language. They must raise funds for their work, safeguard themselves from physical fatigue, and deal with homesickness. They adapt to a new language, culture, and climate, deal with food allergies, digestive troubles, pollution, bizarre insects, chaotic traffic, and bumpy buses. Serious illness, substandard medical care, and risk of violence can all create substantial stress. You will read about missionary attrition and be surprised how many missionaries leave the field each year. But you will also be encouraged by the lives of Nik and Ruth Ripken, who after experiencing incredible difficulties, plodded forward to take the Gospel where it had never gone before. Their missional fervor ended up transforming the world as they continue to advocate for believers undergoing persecution today. You will find that the physical challenges of missional living pale in comparison to the eternal dwelling place that God is preparing for you.

Role in The Mind of a Missionary: *Nik & Ruth Ripken felt the blow of tragedy as death came to their home while on the mission field. Doubts about their calling and future lingered, but they determined to set their minds on Jesus. The Physical challenges they encountered did not compare with the glories that were to come. They appear in section three: Risks, chapter seven: Physical Challenges.*

Location of missions work: *South Africa, Kenya, Somalia, and worldwide*

Known for: *Nik Ripken is the world's leading expert on the persecuted church in Muslim contexts. He is a missions veteran of 30 years, having served primarily in North Africa and the Middle East. Nik & Ruth have done extensive research on the persecuted church and on Muslim background believers in approximately 72 countries.*

If you want to thrive on mission, you will suffer setbacks and face physical, emotional, and spiritual challenges. You will have to die to yourself so that the life of Christ might be evident in you. By embracing the reality that in a fallen world bad things happen to good people, you will discover that the path to victory lies not in your own power, but in the power of God in and through you.

Emaciated mothers scratched at the dry earth with nothing but bony fingers and broken sticks. Ripken wondered what they were doing. Shivers went down his spine when he realized the horrific reality. “Out of that hard, unforgiving ground,” he said, “they were gouging out graves deep enough to gently lay a child’s dead body and cover it with rocks.” Words failed him. He watched in utter disbelief. “Hell” was the only relevant description of such a torturous misery.

“The Bible doesn’t describe hell in great detail [and] Scripture does not ever pinpoint its precise location,” Nik later wrote. “Many theologians contend that the worst thing to be endured in hell is eternal separation from God. I had only been in [the country] for a few days. Yet I had already seen enough of evil and its effects to decide that this place felt like total separation from God. It seemed to be a complete disconnect from all that was good in the universe.”

God glories to dispatch His people into the depths of a fallen world where suffering is the standard system. He revels not in the affliction of His people but in their potential to overcome the kingdom of darkness. He equips His sons for battle and qualifies His daughters for combat. The Holy Spirit is an ever-present help in time of trouble. He beckons believers to follow Him into the darkness that His light might shine through them, illuminating the atmosphere with His glory.

Jesus commanded His followers to go. He promised the empowerment of the Holy Spirit to share the good news with every tribe, people, and nation. God loves to include His people in His global missions mandate. He desires that every individual might have the opportunity to hear of His unconditional love; that none should perish but that all should come to repentance. And His instrument of choice to accomplish this challenging task: weak and unassuming misfits; broken jars of clay.

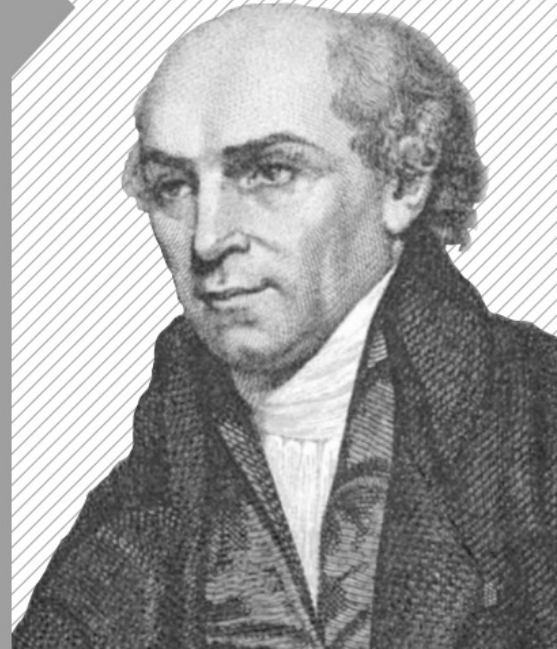
If we want to thrive amidst the physical challenges of life, our prayer must be, “Lord, protect us from harm but not from the lessons we need to learn.” We utter this kind of prayer when we realize that we are sojourners awaiting our eternal dwelling place. We are in the world but not of it. The earth is not our home; we look forward to a Heavenly Kingdom.

As you set your sights on eternity the things of the world fade into obscurity. Thriving on mission today is possible. God gives you the promise of His presence; He walks beside you, guiding your every step along the journey. In chapter seven of *The Mind of a Missionary*, you will be stirred to pursue your Heavenly calling with joyful obedience. There will be setbacks, but your future is secure.

How dare we forsake the chance to preach about Jesus’ resurrection power openly! Believers in persecution are presently proclaiming this truth, undeterred by the inevitable negative repercussions.

WILLIAM CAREY

THE MIND OF A MISSIONARY BY DAVID JOANNES
SECTION THREE: RISKS
CHAPTER EIGHT: EMOTIONAL STRUGGLES



In *The Mind of a Missionary*, section three: Risks, chapter eight: Emotional Struggles, you will read about William Carey, “the Father of Modern Missions,” and the emotional struggles he encountered on the mission field. His wife, Dorothy, dealt with psychological delusions during a large part of her missionary life. Global Kingdom workers add their narratives to this chapter as they share their modern-day difficulties of cross-cultural service. Through the Holmes and Rahe Stress Scale, you will learn about the high stress levels missionaries face—nearly three times the typical “danger level.” In the end, you will find that God’s promises remain; that those who go forth to proclaim the name of Jesus in foreign lands can overcome emotional struggles. Those who remain at home to give witness of God’s Kingdom can thrive on mission by learning the secrets of global Kingdom workers.

The promise of Jesus’s presence was given in the context of the Great Commission, that Christians living and operating on mission might thrive both in ministry and in personal satisfaction.

In April 1793, Carey uprooted his family from all their familiarities in England. Dorothy was pregnant with their fourth son at the time and so refused to leave England. She had never been more than a few miles away from home. Now she was pressured with the arduous task of international travel by ship to Calcutta. Not long before they were to set sail to India, Dorothy conceded and reluctantly boarded the ship.

Subjected to new and unforeseen tropical diseases, Dorothy’s health deteriorated as she struggled with bleeding. Then the family sustained a bitter blow on October 11, 1794, when their five-year-old son, Peter, died. In the next three

Role in The Mind of a Missionary: *William Carey, known as the “Father of Modern Missions,” dealt with emotional struggles during a large portion of his missionary career. His wife suffered from mental delusions and he tried to do the will of God amid home difficulties. His faithful plodding led to the opening of a new missions era. He appears in section three: Risks, chapter eight: Emotional Struggles.*

Dates: August 17, 1761—June 9, 1834

Location of missions work: India

Known for: *William Carey, known as “the Father of Modern Missions” was a British Christian missionary, Particular Baptist minister, translator, social reformer, and cultural anthropologist who founded the Serampore College and the Serampore University, the first degree-awarding university in India.*

months, the unimaginable ensued. Shortly before March 1795, Dorothy passed beyond the nebulous border between sound rationality and mental insanity. For the remaining twelve years of her life, she was to remain bound in the devastating grip of psychosis.

God, in His wisdom, chooses to use weak and unassuming misfits to accomplish His mission to redeem mankind. To the human mind, this choice seems illogical and counterintuitive, and even a bit nonsensical at times. But He has no plan B; we are His instruments of choice.

In 1787, William Carey suggested that Jesus' command to go into all the world with the Gospel was a charge fit for every Christian present. Surprised by such a radical notion at the time, one man responded with a harsh rebuke: "Young man, sit down!" he quipped. "You are an enthusiast. When God pleases to convert the heathen, he'll do it without consulting you or me." But the young enthusiast's missions zeal burned all the more, and the fiery passion he possessed would be felt around the world.

The missionary task is a unique and often misunderstood endeavor. The role of a missionary must not be elevated above the task of every Christ-follower. The charge that Jesus gave to His disciples was the same—"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations." Some are called to their respective "Jerusalem's," some to the "Judea's," others to the Samaria's," and others to "the ends of the earth."

The temptation to domesticate the Gospel is prevalent in every generation. Church leaders at the time did not comprehend their role in the Great Commission. They left the ends of the earth to God, unaware that men are God's means of proclaiming His message.

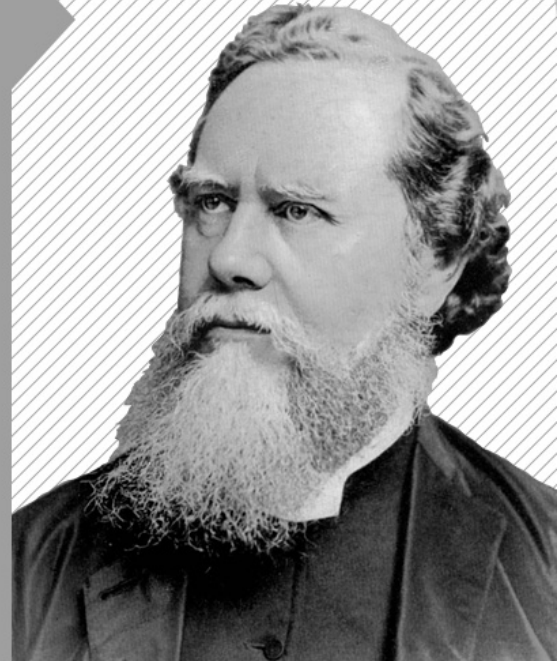
Antagonistic toward this mindset, the flame of Carey's missionary fervor provoked his parishioners toward radical compassion for the lost and obedience to the commands of Christ. "Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God," he said.

In chapter eight of *The Mind of a Missionary*, you will find that regardless of the physical, emotional, or spiritual hurdles you encounter, God can and will use you to expand His Kingdom on the earth.

God desires that none should perish but that all should come to repentance. The modern missionary movement has its shortcomings, and the vessels through whom He uses to display His glory are cracked jars of clay. Yet God sits enthroned in heaven, confident that His redemptive plan will succeed. He is certain that every tribe will one day stand before His throne, clothed in white robes with palm branches in their hands, and cry out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

HUDSON TAYLOR

THE MIND OF A MISSIONARY BY DAVID JOANNES
SECTION THREE: RISKS
CHAPTER NINE: SPIRITUAL HURDLES



In *The Mind of a Missionary*, section three: Risks, chapter nine: Spiritual Hurdles, you will see the heroism of global Kingdom workers, but understand that they are mere men and women like you. They are not the Church's "special forces" but unassuming believers who said "yes" to God. You will learn how to combat territorial spirits, understand the subtle workings of the enemy, and find out how to overcome spiritual attacks upon your missional efforts. You will be inspired to become a student of culture, becoming "all things to all men." Your Source is Jesus; His power never runs dry. When your heart and mind link to His Spirit, seemingly impossible doors open to you, ushering you into joy and ministry breakthrough.

Hudson Taylor commenced his journey to the Orient on September 19, 1853. Taylor was twenty-one-years-old when he boarded the *Dumphries*, the ship secured for him by the Committee of the Chinese Evangelisation Society, under whose auspices he was going to China. The journey was an arduous one. Over five months later, on March 1, 1854, the ship finally arrived in Shanghai, China, where he was immediately faced with civil war, throwing his first year there into turmoil.

Hudson Taylor arrived in Shanghai in 1854 during a time of great turmoil and civil unrest. The spiritual forces of darkness poised against bearers of the Gospel in hopes that China would forever remain in darkness. The Taiping Rebellion, waged from 1850 to 1864, ranks as one of the bloodiest wars in human history. Casualties of war are estimated at twenty to seventy million, with millions more displaced.

When each member of the body of Christ operates in their God-given talents, beautiful things happen. The lost are located, the ill get well, the violated experience victory, and the broken become beacons of hope in the world.

Role in The Mind of a Missionary: *Hudson Taylor is one of the most well-known and beloved historic missionaries. In many ways, his pioneering in China led to the explosive Church growth of present-day China. He faced incredible spiritual obstacles and attacks, but set his sights on the Kingdom of God. Despite the many sacrifices he made, God used the man to blaze new trails for the Gospel message. He appears in section three: Risks, chapter nine: Spiritual Hurdles.*

Dates: May 21, 1832—June 3, 1905

Location of missions work: China

Known for: *James Hudson Taylor was a British Protestant Christian missionary to China and founder of the China Inland Mission.*

On June 25, 1865, Hudson Taylor founded the China Inland Mission. Months later in October, and with his wife Maria's help, he published China's Spiritual Need and Claims, which revealed the country's urgent necessity of the Gospel message. In the hearts of its readers birthed a missions flame, and more recruits committed to return to China with the Taylors in 1866. Prior to their departure, Maria bore three more children: Herbert, Frederick, and Samuel. So, on May 26 of the same year, Hudson and Maria, their four young children, and sixteen of the China Inland Mission's first global Kingdom workers departed London for the Orient.

Many men and women are searching for a hero; God is looking for men and women willing to live heroic lives. We marvel at courageous acts; God seeks to empower us with His Holy Spirit that even greater works might be accomplished. We are enamored by daring escapades; Christ calls us simply to be witnesses of His Kingdom on earth.

It should be stated clearly that missionaries are not better Christians than those who stay at home. Each member of the body of Christ has a specific role to play, and every one of these roles is necessary. The missions venture requires that some go and some stay behind. Those who go seek to advance the Kingdom of God where it is not; those who stay at home hold the ropes in prayer and support, shining the light of Jesus in their local context. Many Christians worldwide share the missionary's heart for the advancement of God's Kingdom in the earth. Their faithful prayers often open doors for the overseas missionary to walk through unhindered. But the blessing goes both ways. The home Church experiences spiritual benefits while extended family abroad witnesses breakthrough. The richness of God's spiritual outpouring cannot be contained within geographical coordinates. The soldiers who go out to battle and those who remain back to guard the supplies all share in the spoils of war.

With God, nothing is impossible. We admit that we believe this reality, but do our actions state otherwise? Man's impossibilities are the avenues through which God proves Himself mighty. These impossibilities become simple difficulties. Then, through the working of the Holy Spirit in and through us, God accomplishes His Kingdom purposes in ways we never thought possible.

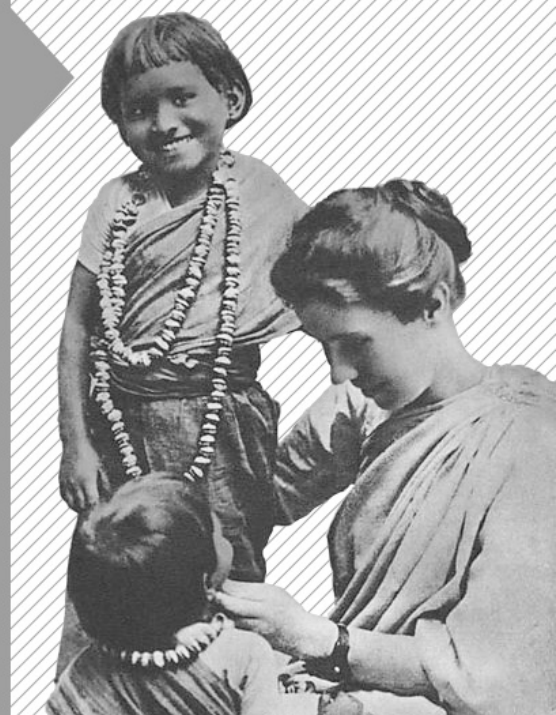
Hudson Taylor's missionary career was marked with difficulty and, consequently, great success. He said, "I have found that there are three stages in every great work of God. First, it is impossible, then it is difficult, then it is done." Regardless of the physical, emotional, or spiritual struggles he encountered, God stood by his side. Confident that his identity tucked into Christ, he paved the way for the Gospel message to transform China.

It is in the secret place of prayer and sensitivity to the Holy Spirit that God wields broken vessels into glorious instruments that He can use.

Seemingly daunting dangers pepper the mission fields of the earth. Global Kingdom workers count the physical, emotional, and spiritual risks they will indubitably face when going to serve abroad. But in chapter nine of *The Mind of a Missionary*, you will see that intimacy with God through prayer bolsters the Christian mind. You come to realize that in the light of eternity, the risks you take are no risk at all. Those whose minds focus on a Heavenly Kingdom know that there is no safer place than in the center of God's will.

AMY CARMICHAEL

THE MIND OF A MISSIONARY BY DAVID JOANNES
SECTION FOUR: REWARDS
CHAPTER TEN: JOY ON THE JOURNEY



In *The Mind of a Missionary*, section four: Rewards, chapter ten: Joy on the Journey, you see how God desires to infuse joy into your missional efforts. Without the gift of joy, ministry is drudgery at best. Through the life of Amy Carmichael, you will see an example of fervent toil tinged with joy. This propelled Amy to impact an entire nation. Joy is a reward for Christians who take part in God's global mandate. Life's struggles are boundless but the joy of the Lord is your strength. You will see the Divine sequence of events that God is arranging in the background. Jubilation awaits your arrival to the feet of Jesus; in His presence is joy everlasting. This is not theory. You will see this reality in the life of Amy Carmichael and realize that God gives you the promise of joy as well.

On October 11, 1895, Amy Carmichael sailed for India. She left Britain at the age of twenty-seven, never to set foot again on British soil. "Of the blistering days before I sailed and of the goodbye I will say nothing," Amy Carmichael wrote of her departure to India. "We shall all be together soon in the Father's Country. Such days will seem worthwhile There."

Yes, dear Christian, there is a price for obeying the commands of Christ, but the rewards far outweigh the expense. For at the feet of Jesus is joy everlasting.

Her family and friends lined the shore to see her off. Tearful farewells rose from the depths of each one's heart and passed between parted lips. Amy's mother wept. Slowly, the ship departed the dock, and the gap between land and sea widened. "God bless you all!" Amy called to her well-wishers; they echoed blessings back to her. The rudder churned the ocean below; swirling eddies formed on the water's surface. The sounds of the sea mixed with the crowd's refrain as their unified voices broke into song: "Crown Him, crown Him, crown Him Lord of All!" The distance between ship

Role in The Mind of a Missionary: *Amy Carmichael confronted the trafficking of young children in the temples of India. Her joyous toil awakened hearts to the Kingdom of God and subsequently played a powerful role in the abolishment of temple sex slaves. She reveals the joy of the journey that God delights to bestow on His children. She appears in section four: Rewards, chapter ten: Joy on the Journey.*

Dates: *December 16, 1867—January 18, 1951*

Location of missions work: *India*

Known for: *Amy Wilson Carmichael was a Protestant Christian missionary in India, who opened an orphanage and founded a mission in Dohnavur. She served in India for 55 years without furlough and wrote many books about the missionary work there.*

and land swallowed the sound of song. Amy gazed back at the people, the coastline, the city, and the mountains. Everything became vague—a blurred memory of her homeland. Overhead, seagulls cried.

Physically frail yet mentally alert, twenty-two-year-old Amy landed on Indian soil on November 9, 1895. Illness immediately greeted her already weakened frame. She contacted dengue fever, a dangerous and often fatal virus that causes a skin rash, joint pains, fever, and headaches. The illness laid her low for a period, but her focus remained on things above.

Joy is found in the lines within a chapter, the pauses between a play, and the interludes of a performance. Inevitable difficulties mark the drama, but the show must go on until the culmination of the plot. In the messy middle, better a merry heart than an anxious mind. The joy of the Lord is your strength today, here in the halfway moments, ever available for those who choose to accept it.

Amy immediately gravitated toward the women and children, of whom the latter she wrote seemed to live “in a land where childhood ends almost as soon it begins.” Their hollow eyes beckoned her help. Perhaps the cry she heard on January 14, 1892—“Come over and help us”—issued from the hearts of these little ones. Here now she stood on Indian soil as a ministry budded, ever so subtly at first, that would initiate a far-reaching, transformative effect.

One of the principal keys to thriving on mission is to draw near to the Lord of joy. Cast off the fog and mist and dreariness! A gloomy disposition not only dishonors our happy God but steals our strength in the process. Joy hoists up the heavy-hearted to exhibit the good news of the Gospel; it compels us to steal into the dark regions of the enemy’s territory, spread the glorious light of salvation, and reclaim those bound by Satan.

God does not want global goers to be mindless gears in the missions machine. A missional fervor devoid of relational intimacy is not His ultimate goal. God invites every believer into the joy of partnership with Him. The Great Commission enterprise is not comprised of commonplace Christian cogs, but integral, God-ordained components in the body of Christ.

We need trailblazers who hack new passageways in the wilderness; who do not go where the path may lead, but go instead where there is no path to leave a trail. This apostolic anointing invigorates the weary, inspiring courage from inaction. The pioneer we need is bored by the status quo and motivated by an intrinsic drive to make God’s glory known in the earth. Christian pioneers encourage us to be all that God called us to be.

There are no commonplace Christian cogs in the Great Commission enterprise. Every Christ-follower is an integral, God-ordained component in His divine plot. God puts each puzzle piece in place to construct the timeless masterpiece of His story. True missional beginnings commence at the feet of Jesus and continue by His sustaining grace. And in the assembling process of divinely intertwined sequences, an unearthly joy undergirds our every step.

God thinks highly of His children, esteems our uniqueness, and values our individuality. Every spiritual gift matters; every missional offering carries importance. Every citizen of God's Kingdom is significant.

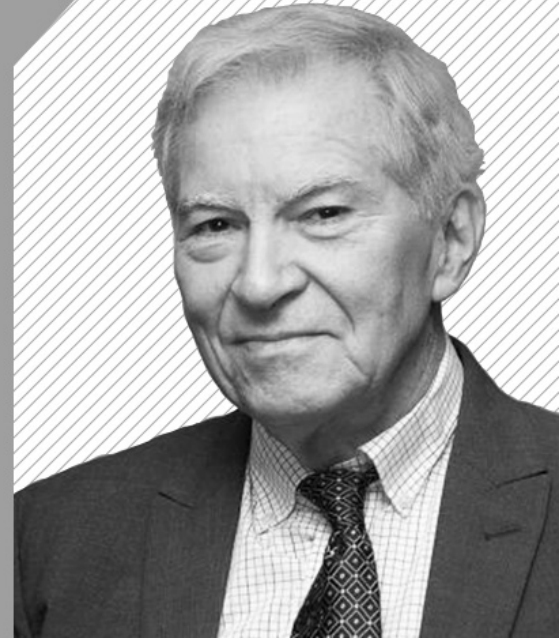
In our moments of uncertainty and confusion, God delights to lead us into our destiny. In chapter ten of *The Mind of a Missionary*, you will see that God reveals each step as it comes, guiding us along an unfamiliar path. Our only choice is to cling to His promises, draw closer to Him, and seek not His wonders but know His ways.

Amy Carmichael was one of the female missionaries who transformed the world of missions. The frontier advanced on the stepping stones of missionary graves, paving the way for modern-day ministers. Through Amy's example, you will realize that God grants you the gift of joy as well that you might thrive on mission today.

Make no mistake about it: grief is a two-sided coin. Behind the facade of sorrow, gladness grows—ever so slowly at first—until the bloom undergoes a complete transmutation. In His mercy, God injects joy into our pain. Godly gladness is, after all, the gift through which we find strength amid strain and struggle.

DON RICHARDSON

THE MIND OF A MISSIONARY BY DAVID JOANNES
SECTION FOUR: REWARDS
CHAPTER ELEVEN: BREAKTHROUGH IN MINISTRY



In *The Mind of a Missionary*, section four: Rewards, chapter eleven: Breakthrough in Ministry, your perception about culture will change as you see through the eyes of Don Richardson. Sometimes you witness the fallen aspects of social behavior and wonder if God is in the midst of a people or community. But when you recognize the fingerprints of God on culture—what Don Richardson calls “redemptive analogy”—you find that beauty is under the surface. Your task is to present Kingdom values in a manner that is relevant to your listeners. Culture often seems at odds with the Kingdom of God. But every culture carries a certain facet of God’s glory. As you learn to become a student of culture and grow ever closer to the heart of Jesus, He empowers you to witness breakthrough in your missional efforts. Through the example of Don Richardson’s missionary service, you will see that Kingdom breakthrough is available to you as well.

Reports of the treacherous terrain, cruel climate, and bloodthirsty inhabitants pricked up Richardson’s ears. Twenty-two feet of rainfall descended each year over the region. The mosquito-infested swamps mushroomed with malaria. Giant crocodiles, poisonous snakes, and blood-sucking leeches were of less concern than the cannibalistic headhunters. But Richardson welcomed the invitation to serve in the tough field. After two days of waiting on God in prayer, the Richardsons gave their answer: “Yes, we are happy to go to one of the tribes in the south!” they said. “How soon can we leave?”

Role in The Mind of a Missionary: Don Richardson was a student of culture. Though he readily recognized the fallen aspects of the social milieu, he looked for the fingerprints of God in culture. He espied a powerfully relevant manner of sharing the Gospel message to a cannibal-headhunting tribe, and witnessed the growth of God’s Kingdom through his efforts. He appears in section four: Rewards, chapter eleven: Breakthrough in Ministry.

Dates: 1935—present

Location of missions work: Western New Guinea, Indonesia

Known for: Don Richardson is a Canadian Christian missionary, teacher, author and international speaker who worked among the tribal people of Western New Guinea, Indonesia.

Satan understands the conclusion of God’s narrative, often more than we do. He knows his end; his days are marked. Compelled to establish the Kingdom of God where it is still unknown, Christ’s followers advance confidently into the shadowlands, certain that the victory is theirs.

On May 19, 1962, Don, Carol, and six-month-old Stephen soared over the mighty ranges of Mount Wilhelmina, awed as they suddenly dropped from altitudes of fifteen-thousand feet down to sea level. God's fingerprints evidenced in the panorama, proof that His presence predated their arrival. Their hearts thumped with nervous enthusiasm. Somewhere below, in the shimmering stretch of emerald grasslands, graceful palms, and dense sago thickets, they were to build a home and live among a cannibal-headhunter tribe.

The wilderness of the locale seemed to taunt Richardson. Something in the mood of the place seemed to mock, "I am not like your tame, manageable Canadian homeland. I am tangled." The canoe drifted past the twisted vines and sago thorns that lined the dense banks, skirting death adders and taipans, leeches and crocodiles. The taunting whispers continued: "Your idealism means nothing here. Your Christian Gospel has never scrupled the conscience of my children. You think you love them, but wait until you know them, if you can ever know them!" Don was not worried for his safety, but thoughts about his family coursed through his mind. The region thronged with malaria and dysentery, filariasis and hepatitis. "Think again, before you commit yourself to certain disillusionment!" the voices seemed to continue. "Can't you see I am no place for your wife? I am no place for your son. I am no place for you."

Publicizing the name of Jesus to elicit worshippers from every nation, tribe, people, and language is no easy task. The reward of ministry breakthrough will not transpire without daring risk and steadfast missionary grit.

The villages of Kamur and Haenam had previously been at war. They tried to forget the grievances of the past—the trickery and treachery, murder and cannibalism between them—but soon hostility broke out. A steady release of arrows arced overhead, slicing the ground near the Richardson's thatch box dwelling. "Carol," Don shouted, "Keep Stephen away from the windows!"

Amidst the din that surrounded him, a voice seemed to whisper, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God." Richardson dashed from behind the hut onto the battleground. He urged the Sawi to stop fighting. The Sawi tribesmen glistened with perspiration and rage. Warpaint streaked across their faces; with clamped fists, they clenched swords and spears. "Making peace is not a simple thing," they said. "We shed each other's blood, devour each other's flesh, cut off heads, and save skulls as trophies. When these things have happened, making peace is not the simple thing you seem to think it should be." It seemed there was no means of conflict resolution.

Contextualization is not only the task of the global Kingdom worker. We are all called to present the Gospel in a culturally relevant way, thus highlighting and not diminishing its potency.

Don Richardson found a key to the Sawi's salvation. Embedded in their culture was the value for peace as seen through the "peace child." As he utilized this means of sharing the Gospel message, great breakthrough came to his missionary efforts.

Our job as believers is to give witness of God's glory in a culturally relevant manner; to unearth the cultural compasses that speak to the hearts and minds of our hearers.

On June 23, 2012, fifty-year-old Steve Richardson boarded a propeller plane bound for Kamur Village on the southern tip of New Guinea. His destination: the same Sawi settlement where his parents had taken him as a seven-month-old baby. Steve's two brothers, Shannon and Paul, joined him on the journey. Their seventy-seven-year-old father, Don Richardson, boarded the plane with them. "It's been fifty years since that day," Steve said, referring to the time Hato met the Peace Child, Jesus. His words kick off the riveting narrative in a documentary entitled *Never the Same*. "We are very anxious to see how the Sawi are doing."

You must cultivate your awareness of the spiritual, social, and cultural milieu around you. Culture is alive and ever-changing; like fermenting wine, it breathes. It cannot remain for too long in old wineskins; it threatens to burst apart at the seams. The present age is pregnant with potential, necessitating new wineskins and an unconventional modus operandi for mission.

The Christian worldview penetrated every facet of Sawi culture; they are now an evangelistic witness to former enemy communities. In June 2012, the Sawi of Kamur invited two thousand people from thirty-seven villages representing five neighboring tribes to join them in celebration. Don officiated a mass wedding ceremony for 102 couples and dedicated 130 new babies to the Lord. The same day, 325 Sawi joined a public baptism. Fifteen groups of twenty-five new believers each waded into the river, closed their eyes, and lifted their hands in prayer; Don personally baptized fifteen people. Joshua Project, a research initiative that highlights ethnic peoples worldwide, now estimates the Sawi Christian population at eighty-five percent.

Do you wish to witness the transformative power of the Gospel through your missional efforts? You must become a student of culture and a master of metamorphosis. You must meet people where they are and thus prove your concern for them. The age-old proverb rings true today: People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care.

As Christians, our task is to help shed light on the splendor of God's original intention: His salvation available to every nation, tribe, people, and language. In chapter eleven of *The Mind of a Missionary*, you will see that this is not merely the job of foreign missionaries. Global Kingdom workers tell us that every member of the body of Christ is a minister. If we serve a God who bestows upon His creation a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair, it follows that His people do likewise.

HEIDI BAKER

THE MIND OF A MISSIONARY BY DAVID JOANNES
SECTION FOUR: REWARDS
CHAPTER TWELVE: THE KINGDOM OF GOD ON EARTH



In *The Mind of a Missionary*, section four: Rewards, chapter twelve: The Kingdom of God on Earth, you will come face to face with the upside-down Kingdom of God. Contrary to popular understanding, His Kingdom values humility and meekness; by going lower, you grow higher; by becoming nothing, you become the vessel of God's choosing. Jesus' central message was about the Kingdom of God. Surprisingly, many professing Christians understand little about this concept. You will see the "now" and "not yet" aspects of this Kingdom on the earth, and find how the Spirit of God moves in and through your life. You will see that light was made for darkness. When you step forth into precarious spots, the Kingdom of God goes with you. Jesus reminds you not to worry about the things of the world; His presence brings the promise of joy and peace. Your missional efforts succeed when you value the presence of God. For all ministry fruitfulness begins in intimacy with Christ.

One day, Rolland Baker read about the war raging in Mozambique in TIME Magazine. Flipping through the issue, he shocked to see images of kids' bodies scattered and lifeless in the African dirt. Their corpses laid silent; flies alighted on their soft eyelashes. He saw scores of women and children scavenging through mountains of garbage in search for their next meal. White smoke billowed up from bombed-out refugee camps and ramshackle huts. Military vehicles parked on distant plains while emaciated mothers skirted live landmines. He set the magazine on the table and said, "Heidi, do you want a real mission field?" She scanned the images and immediately responded, "Let's go there!"

Role in The Mind of a Missionary: *Heidi Baker's uncanny ability to sense the presence of God's Spirit led to many manifestations of the Kingdom of God on the earth. She knows that all fruitfulness comes through intimacy. She faced serious threats and grave difficulties, but as she set her mind on things above, God opened new doors of ministry. Tens of thousands of people have been impacted through her life because of the simple adoration for Jesus that marks her life and ministry. She appears in section four: Rewards, chapter twelve: The Kingdom of God on Earth.*

Dates: August 29, 1959—present

Location of missions work: Indonesia, Hong Kong, and Mozambique

Known for: *Heidi Baker is a Christian missionary, itinerant speaker, and the CEO of Iris Global, a Christian humanitarian organization. She is the author of several books on Christian spirituality.*

Christian missions is essentially a relocation plan to a realm outside our own. God rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of His beloved Son. Our primary task is to populate Heaven, not by might nor by power, but through the influence of His Spirit.

Two days after their arrival in 1995, the Bakers accepted charge of a dilapidated orphanage with eighty children. Food was scarce, living quarters stark, and medical care all but absent. Physical and sexual abuse were common; a significant proportion of the children were infected with STDs. The situation seemed impossible if not for God's Divine intervention.

Surrounded by such overwhelming need, Heidi daily sought help from the Lord. Naturally speaking, she had little to offer. The Spirit of God alone could reveal the Heavenly glory required to penetrate a nation. "The Kingdom looks like one smiling child at a time until nations are full of people who are passionate lovers of God," she said. "The love of God manifested through you is what people really need. You must become so close to His very heartbeat that you can feel what others feel. This is how we will reach the world." Despite story after story of extreme neglect, Heidi noticed Jesus in the faces of the orphaned children. The ministry took in more street kids; after one year, the orphanage grew to three-hundred-twenty.

As ambassadors of Christ, we must emulate our Master's meekness. As the advance emissaries of God's Kingdom, our missional efforts must mark with humility. This present-tense reality points to His glorious future reign.

God lavishly poured out His Spirit. Mozambican boys and girls prophesied, young men saw visions, and old folks dreamt of God's Kingdom coming to Africa. Heidi daily made her way to some of the most miserable spots in the city in search of the unloved and overlooked. Her countercultural outreach led her to a massive dump on the outskirts of the town where crowds of people scavenged mountains of trash for a meager living. Here she witnessed blind eyes receive sight and deaf ears hear. Throngs of people found freedom from mental illness, leprosy, and sicknesses of every sort. It seemed that God had reserved the supernatural for the physically famished and the spiritually starved.

I believe it is crucial that we understand Jesus' central message of the Kingdom of God; that we recognize the "now" and "not yet" realities of Heaven. Jesus said that "it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom." Though we have yet to experience the consummation of Christ's earthly rule, He gives us glimpses of His glory, graciously granting us access to the supernatural realm.

In our experience of the "now" and "not yet" Kingdom, God's tangible presence on the earth is the ultimate Christian aim. He sits on the throne of our hearts, establishing His reign wherever our feet may tread. And when we give God

permission to light our lives like candles in the dark, the world cannot help but recognize the Presence that we so evidently value.

The constraints of space and time do not bind the Kingdom of God; He accomplishes His will on His terms. Questioning God's timeline is a futile endeavor. He allows the answer to tarry that we might come to value His presence more than the desired results of our missional efforts. Oftentimes, the answer God gives looks nothing like the solution we expected.

The nature of His true Kingdom is unequivocally characterized by humility. It does not come with signs and portents and the overthrow of earthly kingdoms, but is instead revealed in an unobtrusive, seemingly weak Servant who willfully goes to the cross. The tables then turn; His upside-down Kingdom flips the world on end. The suffering and death Jesus encountered at Calvary accomplished the decisive victory of God's Kingdom. This Kingdom is now present at every corner of the earth; God's complete and total reign will consummate at the second coming of Christ.

Somehow, in some way, play your part in God's master plan. Don't be foolish by collecting the stuff that moth and rust destroy. Don't cling to the things of the world; busy yourself with the Father's business. Be wise and win souls. Make disciples. Raise up a generation to serve the Lord.

Do you desire to thrive on mission today? in chapter twelve of *The Mind of a Missionary*, you realize that by becoming nothing, you become God's instrument of choice to make His name known on the earth. Jesus reveals the secret to dispelling doubt and anxiety in your missional efforts through His well-known words: "But seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

Do you want to experience the fullness of God's Kingdom in and through your life? The mind of Christ is the ultimate key to unlocking the power of Heaven on the earth. Countless souls wait in the balance. God cheers you on, daily seeking to conform you to the image of His Son. So walk in this transformative attitude and orientation toward life.