

Commission To Every Nation: How People Just Like You Are Blessing the Nations by Richard Malm, Ore Publishing, Kerrville, TX, 2017. (85 quotes selected by Doug Nichols.)

1. Differences.

One of the most important things a missionary learns when ministering in another culture is that different isn't necessarily right or wrong – it's just different. [page xi]

2. Each Organization Functions Differently for God's Use.

The truth is I have a profound respect for all the great mission organizations that do it differently than we do. A hammer and a screwdriver are totally different because they have different functions. Churches and mission agencies are like that. Each was forged by the Master to accomplish a different job. [page xii]

3. Excuses before God.

We can all find reasons to believe God could never do miraculous things through us. It's hard to list our disqualifications; I'm not smart enough, I'm not good enough, I've tried before and failed. I come from a bad background. I'm the wrong gender or the wrong race, born in the wrong place and at the wrong time in history. I'm not attractive. I don't have a charismatic personality. I have too many health problems. I never get any breaks. I've messed my life up too much. I've been messed up too much by others. I'm damaged goods. I don't have the proper education, experience or credentials. I'm too old. I'm too young. Blah, blah, blah, blah. [page xiii]

4. Why God Wants You.

What if those natural disqualifiers are actually why God wants to use you? What if God is looking for people who know they don't have what it takes? What if He allowed those weaknesses and placed you in that imperfect family so He could do amazing things through you that He could then boast about throughout the ages? [page xiii]

5. God's Design of You.

1 Corinthians 1:26-30 gives us a checklist of qualifications God is looking for. Do you fit any of these: not wise, not influential, no special heritage, foolish, weak, humble, looked down on, counted as nothing? If any of these describe you, then you're qualified to get into God's toolbox and let Him use you for the purpose He designed and created you. [page xiii]

6. God's Jigsaw Puzzle.

A 10,000-piece puzzle is not complete if even a tiny piece is missing. And that missing piece, no matter how insignificant, stands out and mars the entire picture. Your piece is

necessary. You are necessary. You are needed. Without your piece, the picture God is crafting is not complete. [page xiv]

7. Need to Do My Part.

My piece may seem small in the plans of God's heart but the picture's not finished till I do my part. – Rick Malm [page xv]

8. Use of Humble Instruments.

God is not looking for extraordinary characters as His instruments, but He is looking for humble instruments through whom He can be honored throughout the ages. –A.B. Simpson, Founder of the Christian & Missionary Alliance. [page xv]

9. From and For God.

William Carey, the father of modern missions, put it this way: “Expect great things *from* God. Attempt great things *for* God.” [page 7]

10. Christ's No Plan B.

Surely Jesus should have gone to the temple school and conducted interviews to find His disciples. He could have found the most brilliant, talented communicators and scholars of His day. They were right there, gathered in Jerusalem, willing and wanting to serve God.

He was picking men for the most challenging and crucial mission ever committed to man. There was no plan B. They absolutely had to succeed.

We're so familiar with the story that it loses its shock value, but for literally the most important task of all time, God didn't choose a single Bible scholar. He didn't choose a single theologian. He didn't chose a single qualified person.

He chose “ignorant and unlearned fishermen.” He chose a low-level government employee. He chose a political radical. He chose the “foolish things to shame the wise.” He chose Mr. Below Average. [page 8]

11. God Uses Ordinary People to Accomplish Extraordinary Work.

God did choose an outstanding man to be Israel's first king. The Bible says there was not a better man in all Israel than Saul. But Saul failed miserably. Then God chose David, who was such an unlikely pick that even David's own father overlooked him. God prefers a good-hearted David to a good-looking Saul.

That's why I totally reject the idea that the “average person” is unqualified and inadequate. I firmly believe God uses ordinary people to accomplish extraordinary work. [page 8]

12. God Is Able.

When I judge someone as unable, I'm really saying God's not able. When I judge myself as unable, I declare the same lie. I'm saying God's not able. But God wants to prove us wrong. He wants to prove that He's able to accomplish amazing things, even through you and me.

The Lord loves to take the below average, incapable, unqualified person and do remarkable things through him ... because it demonstrates that He is able. [page 9]

13. Faith Requires Action.

Faith requires action. Do what you can, and watch God do what only He can do. This is all about Him bringing honor to Himself by accomplishing extraordinary things through very ordinary people. [page 10]

14. My Inadequacy.

Father, I feel so inadequate. And I'm glad I do. Cause Lord, if I were adequate, I'd have no need of you. – Unknown [page 11]

15. Nobodies Exalting Somebody.

Missionaries are very human folks ... simply a bunch of nobodies trying to exalt Somebody. – Jim Elliot, Missionary Martyr to Ecuador [page 11]

16. Don't Stay Unschooled.

It's true God used "unschooled, ordinary" fishermen, but the two men who wrote the majority of the New Testament—Paul and Luke—were both highly educated. There's no shame in being "unschooled," but we shouldn't take pride in staying that way, either.

Unschooled Peter tells us we shouldn't stay ignorant – "make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge." [page 13]

17. Hunger and Getting to Work.

When I first started raising support to go to Guatemala, I probably would have never had the courage to share our needs with anyone, but Proverbs 16:26 was looming on the horizon. It says (and I'm paraphrasing), "Hunger is a good thing because it motivates the worker to get to work." If I didn't "get to work" asking folks to join our support team, I was going to quickly be motivated by three hungry kids and a wife. [page 19]

18. God Leads through the Impossible.

When you face that sort of impossibility—and if you haven't already, you will—it's important to realize this is God's modus operandi: just the way He likes to do things.

Sometimes it will look like the wall you face is due to your own bad planning. That's what Israel said to Moses, "Why did you bring us out here?" But it was not God, not Moses, Who led them into a hopeless situation trapped on the shores of the Red Sea. [page 21]

19. Hardship.

Hardship often prepares an ordinary person for an extraordinary destiny. – C.S. Lewis, British novelist, poet, and Christian apologist. [page 24]

20. Weakness and Feebleness.

God uses men who are weak and feeble enough to lean on Him. – Hudson Taylor, Missionary to China and Founder of the China Inland Mission. [page 24]

21. Light and Momentary Troubles.

Of course there were struggles and frustrations. We regularly had to deal with governmental bureaucracy. I'm convinced the anti-Christ runs immigration offices around the world. There was police corruption—which, once you learned the system, can actually work to your benefit. Some of the areas where we worked were unsafe places to travel at night—sometimes even during the day—due to the Communist-backed insurgents who set up roadblocks and collected a "war tax." They could be very persuasive in convincing you to pay your fair share (aka, all you had with you at the time).

Then there were random protests, riots, shootings, and robberies. In six years we were robbed, swindled, or broken into six times. When we compared notes with other missionaries, we discovered we were right on track—the average missionary experienced one crime a year.

But there was grace that carried us through even these "light and momentary troubles." [page 27]

22. God Uses Pain.

God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks to us in our conscience but shouts in our pain: It is His megaphone to rouse a dead world. –C.S. Lewis, British novelist, poet, and Christian apologist. [page 35]

23. God's Agenda.

Often the interruptions of our agenda are God's insertions of His agenda. – Rick Malm [page 47]

24. God's Guidance.

God guides, despite our uncertainties and our vagueness, even through our failings and mistakes... He leads us step by step, from event to event. Only afterwards, as we look back over the way we have come... do we experience the feeling of having been led without knowing it, the feeling that God has mysteriously guided us. – Paul Tournier, Swiss author and physician. [page 47]

25. CTEN's Voluntary Tithe.

[The Christian CPA] He was referring to my desire to charge no “Administrative fee” for T.E.A.M. Missionaries [changed later to CTEN]. Instead I wanted to send 100% of the donated funds to the missionary. Then, like a church that's dependent upon the tithes of its members, I felt we should let the missionaries pray and voluntarily send back to the mission the percentage they felt God said they should give. The voluntary “tithe” would fund the mission to serve all of us—myself included, since I was going to continue to raise full support for my family. [page 50]

26. What to Give, Not Reluctantly or under Compulsion.

Following wise and godly counsel is a Biblical principle, but there are other Biblical principles as well. The idea of giving “what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion” was a Biblical principle that worked for the church. Could it work for a parachurch organization? [page 54]

27. Daring Mighty Things.

President Theodore Roosevelt spoke of these “poor spirits” when he said: “Far better is it to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs, even though checkered by failure...than to rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy nor suffer much, because they live in a gray twilight that knows not victory nor defeat.” [pages 55-56]

28. Following God to Failure.

We can afford to follow Him to failure. Faith dares to fail. – A.W. Tozer. [page 59]

29. CTEN's Membership in ECFA.

Note: Commission To Every Nation complies with the seven standards of responsible stewardship put forth by the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA) of which CTEN is a member and, as per US tax codes, it retains full discretion and control over all gifts given to the mission. [page 59]

30. Can Work Hard. Place for Me in Missions?

But my sure-fire-yes candidates who were disappearing in a cloud of dust had brought another couple with them that evening. The husband, a quiet guy, timidly interjected a question.

“I’m not very smart, but I can work hard. Is there a place for me in missions?”

I’m pretty sure it took a lot of courage for him to ask that question. Ellis and Betty were simple, quiet folks. The closest thing they had to missionary experience was visiting Oklahoma. Other than that, they’d never been out of Texas. (Texans understand that visiting Oklahoma counts as foreign missions experience.) [page 62]

31. Policies as Barriers.

People come from such unique situations and circumstances that even reasonable barriers can become unreasonable and eliminate great people. Obviously we need policies. But policies can easily replace common sense and initiative.

Policies tend to shut down thinking. If I do something contrary to policy, I can be reprimanded. But, if I’m following company policy, even if what I do is clearly boneheaded, I’m safe.

Policies should be where we start thinking, not where we stop thinking. When we hit a policy roadblock, we need to apply some common sense and spirit-empowered wisdom. We also need to apply some faith. [page 64]

32. Policies Written in Sand, not Stone.

So, while we normally look to see how someone has been serving in his or her local church, that’s not a barrier that would keep someone from going with Commission To Every Nation. And we approach all our policies with the same “written in sand not written in stone” attitude. [page 65]

33. Doing Unique Things with Unique People.

Individual consideration, common sense, and above all, listening to the Spirit of the Lord, must of first priority. If it’s evident someone is responding to the Lord’s command to go, then we need to do everything we can to help them go. Our unique, one-of-a-kind God loves to do unique things with unique people. [page 65]

34. Default Answer of “Yes”.

So policies are where we start thinking, not where we stop thinking, and our default answer is “Yes!” Our goal is to minimize barriers and maximize workers in response to the heart cry of Jesus. “...Pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask Him to send more workers into his fields.”

That's why we have only two primary qualifications—a letter of recommendation and a letter of invitation. [pages 66-67]

35. Subservient to Common Sense and Vision.

There is a place for reasonable policies and procedures, but they must always remain subservient to common sense and fulfilling the vision for which the Lord brought the organization into existence. God formed T.E.A.M. Missions (later Commission To Every Nation) to send a team to bless the nations. If we ever begin to limit that purpose, God will establish another agency that will fully obey and fulfill His dream.

Our default must remain, “Yes.” [page 67]

36. Weak Men Doing Great Things for God.

All God's giants have been weak men who did great things for God because they reckoned on God being with them. – Hudson Taylor, Missionary to China and Founder of the China Inland Mission. [page 70]

37. God Growing CTEN (formerly T.E.A.M Missions).

Within two years, T.E.A.M. Missions had grown to ten missionary families. I couldn't understand it. I wasn't doing anything to make it grow.

How were these people hearing about us? This was before websites and internet marketing. We didn't have a U.S. phone number that people could call. We weren't doing anything to find new missionaries to join the team.

But God was sending folks our way who wanted to go into the mission field. Some had hit roadblocks. Some were already serving, but a God-inspired change in ministry focus left them without a mission agency to partner with them.

One couple had been sent by their home church, so when the church experienced a painful split, it could no longer help them administratively, but it was still behind them spiritually. Their letter, mailed from the Philippines, miraculously reached our home in Guatemala. I could sense their pain as I read, “It's lonely being out here on our own. Can we join T.E.A.M. Missions?” [page 73]

38. Encouraging Willing Missionaries.

The Marines used to say they were “the few, the proud.” That's a great slogan for the Marines, but it's a lousy one for God's kingdom. We should be doing all we can to encourage the weaker-but-willing missionaries instead of trying to crush them. The job of world evangelism is far too big to be left to “the few.” We need the Marines (speaking metaphorically), but we also need the Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Merchant

Marines, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, Brownies and all who are willing to go. My point is, there is a place for you! [page 75]

39. When a Missionary Is Asking for Help He Is Saying ...

I've discovered that when a missionary is asking for help, he is saying some important things.

A missionary who's asking is saying, "God has given me a vision bigger than I can accomplish on my own."

A missionary who's asking is saying, "You can be part of this great adventure and share in the joy and excitement."

A missionary who's asking is saying, "By sharing with me in the planting, you will also get to share with me in the reward of the harvest."

A missionary who's asking is saying, "There are bigger mountains to climb and wider rivers to cross. The job is huge, but together we can get it done."

A missionary who's asking is inviting others to join him by laying up treasure in heaven by investing in blessing the nations.

It's when a missionary stops asking that we need to be concerned. Have they listened to false accusations, given up, or given in to discouragement? To avoid the humility required to ask, have they decided to pare down the Lord's dream and settle for what they can do in their own strength and with their own resources?

If one of the most powerful men of the Old Testament, Moses, needed Aaron and Hur to hold up his arms so another spiritual giant, Joshua, could win the battle, then surely the battle we're engaged in will require others to stand with us and help us lift the load. [page 81]

40. Go Together.

If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together. – African Proverb [page 83]

41. Treating Missionaries as Adults.

Treating CTEN missionaries like responsible adults has been a core philosophy from the start. They can pray and hear from God. They can make decisions for themselves about budgets, lifestyles, when they leave, where they live, who they're going to serve and how they can most effectively accomplish the Lord's purpose. If a missionary can't hear from God on these basic issues, why in the world would we send them to represent Him among the nations? [page 86]

42. Missionaries Deciding What's Best for Them.

I've had seasoned missionaries get teary eyed when I told them CTEN would treat them like adults who would decide for themselves how to best care for their family and how to most effectively reach their area. Many had suffered from cookie cutter , one size-fits-all rules that just didn't fit their unique situation or ministry. [page 86]

43. Needing People of Obedience.

I'm not saying we intentionally send underfunded missionaries, take foolish risks, or make it harder that it has to be. I'm saying we need to be people of obedience, even if doesn't make sense. [page 88]

44. No More Barriers to Obey.

A dream I have for Commission To Every Nation (and I believe it's a dream from the heart of God) is that when the next William Carey or Gladys Aylward hears God say, "Go," they won't have to battle endless barriers to obey. I dream they'll find a team at CTEN that will cheer them on, encourage them, and let them know they can do this—because God is able to make them stand. [pages 88-89]

45. Scary to Treat People as Adults.

To be honest, it's scary to treat people like "full grown adults." As much as we encourage, counsel, and yes, probably even nag, there will always be those who don't behave like we think they should. Some won't fully learn the language. Some won't adequately communicate with us or donors. Some won't save for emergencies, retirement, or other predictable needs. Some will take foolish risks thinking it is "faith."

Something inside us wants to assume responsibility for them--to legislate what we consider responsible behavior. It would be easier to treat our missionaries like immature kids and make important life decisions for them. We could make sure they don't do anything risky. We could make sure they're fully funded and are saving for furlough, insurance, retirement, and for any and all possible contingencies. We would lessen our liabilities for any "foolish" choices they make. [page 90]

46. What God Wants to Do IN a Missionary.

I'm convinced God's goal in sending missionaries is often more about what He wants to do *in* the missionary than what He wants to do *through* the missionary. Just as God used Paul's mission experience to teach him important lessons about contentment and depending on God's strength, I believe God still uses missions as a refiner's furnace for the missionary.

In fact, is it possible that our service here on Earth is more about God changing us than about us changing the world? It sure seems to work that way. [page 90]

47. I'm Not Very Smart But ...

Then one day, Ellis came to me with a problem.

“So many of the people—even the Christians—live in fear because they don't understand what God has done for them. I want to teach the Bible.”

He realized the Bible knowledge he had acquired while attending a good Bible teaching church in the US for many years made him more knowledgeable about Scripture than most of the pastors in the area—none of whom had any formal Bible training and many of whom had no more than a sixth grade education.

“Well, let's pray Ellis, and see what God does.”

Some weeks later, I heard from him. He was thrilled as he told me the story. “A few nights ago, I heard a knock at my side door. It was one of the pastors. When I invited him in, he asked me if I would teach him the Bible.”

Wow. God was fulfilling the dreams of a simple guy who “wasn't very smart, but could work hard” and blessing a local pastor at the same time. Ellis continued, “I asked him where in the Bible he would like to start studying. I suggested the book of Romans.”

“*Whoa!*” I thought. “Romans is filled with some of the deepest theology and most profound thoughts of the entire New Testament. Would Ellis be able to pull this off?”

Ellis was still very excitedly telling the story. “I asked him, ‘Before we start, do you have any questions about the book of Romans?’ The pastor thought for a moment and then asked me, ‘Who wrote it?’ We've been studying together every day for over a month now.”

No matter where you are in your walk with the Lord, there's always someone who knows less than you that you can teach. There's always someone who needs help where you have a skill. There's always someone who can be encouraged by hearing what God's done in your life. And there's always someone who can teach and help you. [page 93]

48. God Uses Ordinary People to Accomplish the Extraordinary.

Talk about impact. Who knows how many lives Ellis and Betty touched because they stepped out to do what God put in front of them. They had a massive impact in the area, and for God's kingdom.

I was humbled and amazed when I saw what God did through them. But in the years since, I've seen it happen again and again with hundreds of other ordinary people. *God uses ordinary people to accomplish the extraordinary.* It's not just a cute slogan for Commission To Every Nation. It's God's heart for His people, and He dramatically illustrated just what He means by it through our first missionary couple. [page 94]

49. Hear the Call.

“Not called!” did you say? “Not heard the call,” I think you should say. Put your ear down to the Bible, and hear Him bid you go. – William Booth, Founder of the Salvation Army [page 95]

50. Unselfishly and Lovingly Care for Souls Around Me.

Let me consider the poor, and the Lord will consider me. Let me look after little children, and the Lord will treat me as His child. Let me feed His flock, and He will feed me. Let me water His garden, and He will make a watered garden of my soul.

I may care about myself until I grow morbid; I may watch over my own feelings till I feel nothing; and I may lament my own weakness until I grow almost too weak to lament. It will be far more profitable for me to become unselfish and out of love to my Lord Jesus begin to care for the souls of those around me.” – A.B. Simpson, Founder of Christian and Missionary Alliance [page 95]

51. Administration Raise Its Own Support.

The one thing we did have going for us was an unlimited salary package. We could pay as much as they could raise. That’s right. We felt the Associate Director should raise his or her own support, just like we did and like we expected of missionaries. [page 97]

52. Making Up for Deficiencies.

And Scott confirmed an important lesson about the Lord’s method of using ordinary people to do amazing things. To make up for our deficiencies, He will send people along to help. [page 101]

53. Obedience Enabled God’s Dream for Others.

That’s one of the most beautiful things about how God uses ordinary people. God doesn’t bless in a vacuum. Our obedience has a ripple effect sending out blessing and fulfillment into the lives of others as well.

Many times my eyes have filled with tears during one of our orientations as I look out over a room filled with excited missionaries, many preparing to go for the first time and many only able to because Commission To Every Nation believed in them. Tears of joy and awe have run down my cheeks as I’ve realized that my simple act of obedience is enabling others to fulfill the dream God has for them—to go, to serve, and to bless the nations. [page 101]

54. Obedience Starts a Tsunami of Blessing.

Like a pebble dropped in a quiet lake, an act of obedience sends out ripples that, instead of getting smaller, actually build to produce tsunami waves of blessing that

reverberate for generations. Your choice to obey--or disobey—will produce incalculable results. Obedience sets in motion a generational avalanche of blessing for us, our children, our children’s children, and countless others.

He is a faithful God who keeps his covenant for a thousand generations and lavishes His unfailing love on those who love Him and obey His commands. [page 103]

55. “It Might Have Been.”

For all sad words of tongue and pen, the saddest are these, “It might have been.”—John Greenleaf Whittier [page 103]

56. Getting Out of God’s Way.

The essence of surrender is getting out of God’s way so that He can do in us what He also wants to do through us.—A. W. Tozer [page 107]

57. Trust and Obey.

But we never can prove the delights of His love until all on the altar we lay; for the favor He shows, for the joy He bestows, are for them who will trust and obey.

Trust and obey, for there’s no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.—John H. Sammis, American Minister, Hymnist, and Bible teacher. [page 107]

58. How to Survive Discouragement

Discouragement is part of the normal Christian experience. Elijah suffered discouragement. David suffered discouragement. Jeremiah and other Old Testament prophets had intense times of discouragement.

Contrary to popular Christian folklore, God *will* give you more than you can handle. Jesus was overwhelmed to the point of death. Paul experienced more than he could endure and explained why God allows it. [pages 110-111]

59. Serving Where You Are.

I’ve known some who were so anxious to be the point man that they refused to help others when they had the chance. They wouldn’t touch the menial tasks because they were waiting to be called to lead the pack. But it’s important to serve where you are, doing what you can, no matter how insignificant the task seems. [page 113]

60. Ordinary People Empowered by an Extraordinary God.

In February 1999, T.E.A.M. Missions became Commission To Every Nation.

With a new name and new offices, God had established a solid foundation for CTEN. I didn’t know it, but He was going to continue to send a steady stream of people our

way—people who had a dream God had planted in their hearts. People who needed a team to stand with them to fulfill that dream. Ordinary people empowered by an extraordinary God to go and bless the nations. [page 115]

61. Faith in a Great God.

You do not need a great faith, but faith in a great God. –Hudson Taylor, Missionary to China and Founder of the China Inland Mission. [page 117]

62. God Will Supply.

God's work done in God's way will never lack God's supply. –Hudson Taylor, Missionary to China and Founder of the China Inland Mission. [page 117]

63. Epic Testimonies Require Epic Tests.

His ways are certainly not our ways, are they? In our minds we calculate what God's going to do, how He's going to come through for us. But, instead, things sometimes go from bad to worse. It's easy to feel like the fellow who said, "They told me to cheer up, things could be worse. So, I cheered up and sure enough, things got worse." [page 122]

64. Trusting God with an Anchor if Drowning.

Obedience is terrifying. But I decided a long time ago that if I'm drowning and God throws me an anchor, I'll grab the anchor. I'd rather go down trusting Him than to stay afloat on my own. If God takes us to the bottom, it's better to be there with Him than on the surface without Him. [page 123]

65. Missionaries First.

Jack and Carol [Rothenflue] heard the invitation. They stepped into the terror of self-abandoned obedience. They stepped into the joy of seeing God do amazing things through them. Jack developed the pastoral care program far beyond what I imagined, and created the pattern that would be followed by others who would join CTEN as full time pastoral care couples.

Due to a large part to Jack and Carol's influence, every department of Commission To Every Nation—Administration, Finance, Publications, even Building Oversight-sees missionary care as part of their job description. Printing newsletters, depositing checks, answering the phones, changing light bulbs-they are all done for the purpose of serving the frontline missionaries. Jack and Carol had an amazing impact. [page 125]

66. A Team with God's Vision for CTEN.

CTEN USA and CTEN Canada now had great leadership and a growing team of missionaries. When God first started talking to me about establishing a mission agency, He had said He would send a team. He said that team would help fulfill the promise He

made to His friend Abraham: that through Abraham's seed, the Lord Jesus, all nations would be blessed. That was beginning to happen.

Around the world, 24/7, 365 days a year, CTEN missionaries were blessing the nations. In scores of different ways, they were sharing the glorious news of God's offer of salvation through Jesus. [page 128]

67. Christ Owns Us.

Jesus did not die just to save us but to own us. He came not only to free us from sin but to enslave us to Himself. – John MacArthur [page 129]

68. Submission and Obedience.

To do what's right, even if you don't feel like it, is not hypocritical, it's virtuous. It's called submission. It's called obedience. – Rick Malm [page 129]

69. Professional Mission Stuff.

As I tried to figure out why her comment produced such a weird sensation, I had a startling revelation. I'm not really "into" missions. I want to see Jesus established as Lord in the United States as much as in Uganda, in Cambodia as much as in Canada. I get as excited about someone coming to the Lord in St. Paul, Minnesota, as in Sao Paulo, Brazil. People are people and the gospel is the gospel. I don't really care about nationality, color of skin, culture or language. We all need Jesus!

I'm not interested in pondering the three waves of missions or a what the next wave will be. I really don't care to explore "the anthropological implications of incarnational ministry upon evangelistic effectiveness in developing nations." I can barely say it! In fact, I avoid conventions where mission leaders are going to talk strategy and philosophy. I just can't get into all that professional missions stuff. [page 133]

70. The Path to a Fulfilling Life.

By now you know that I'm not "Mr. Extremely Talented." I'm not "Mr. Dynamic Leader," or "Mr. Gifted Visionary." I'm just an ordinary guy. But I serve an extraordinary God. And here's the real secret I want to share with you.

Because there is nothing special about me, you can be sure that what God has done in my life, He wants to do in yours, too. No, I'm not talking about starting a mission agency. (Unless He tells you the world needs another mom and pop mission agency.) What He wants to do is fulfill the dreams He has placed in you—dreams that you might not even be aware of right now. [page 134-135]

71. Hindrances to God's Doing Great Things.

God is often slow to do great things through us because we are slow to allow Him to do great things in us. – Rick Malm [page 136]

72. What Is Done for Christ Will Last.

Only one life, twill soon be past, only what's done for Christ will last. – C.T. Studd [page 136]

73. Missionaries Around the Globe Blessing the Nations.

Today Commission to Every Nation and it hundreds of missionaries are doing what seemed like an impossible dream a few decades ago when God started breaking into my quiet times. Twenty-four hours a day, somewhere in the world, a CTEN missionary is serving, giving, touching lives with the message of God's kingdom. We're a part of a great force of missionaries and mission agencies fulfilling the promise to Abraham and blessing the nations. [page 137]

74. You Can't Out Give God.

In fact, I've never been able to sacrifice for the Lord. I've tried. But every time I give something away or lay something down, He responds by giving back so much more—often in ways I never anticipated. Every time I give to the Lord, I come out ahead.

I've found all of God's blessings are like love—the more you give it away, the more it comes back to you, and the more you possess. Perhaps He's asking you to love more, to trust more, to take a walk on the waves and see what He will do as you leave your cage of comfort and begin to sacrificially store even more treasure in heaven. [page 139]

75. Don't Be Afraid to Trust and Obey.

Our lavishly generous God has designed it so that you will share in the reward of the missionary's work.

Don't be afraid to trust Him. Don't be afraid to obey Him. Don't hold back in the safety of the boat if God is inviting you to join Him in walking on the waves of His miraculous power. He is the God who is able to make you stand. [page 140]

76. Choices Will Make You.

You are free to make your choices but keep in mind as you do that once you make those choices, those choices will make you. – Richard Malm [page 143]

77. Nothing Grows in a Comfort Zone.

Comfort zones are nice places but nothing ever grows there. – Unknown. [page 143]

78. Hearing the Gospel Even Once.

To paraphrase Oswald Smith, the founder of The People's Church in Toronto, Canada, "How can we justify allowing someone to hear and reject the gospel multiple times when there are so many who have never had the opportunity to hear it even once?" [page 146]

79. We Don't Have to Choose.

It's very true that we have many lost in our own neighborhoods, but it doesn't cost a dime for Christians in America to reach their neighbors. We don't have supporting overseas missions to reach them. We can reach our neighbors and still send missionaries to other nations. There's no reason to consider this an either/or decision. [page 146]

80. Obedience.

Jesus told us to go locally and to the ends of the earth. (Acts 1:8) He did not give us the liberty to pick one or the other. That should be all the reason we need to support missions "in Jerusalem **and** in all Judea, **and** in Samaria **and** unto the uttermost part of the earth."

If the apostles had waited until all Jerusalem and Judea and Samaria had heard the gospel before they reached out to the ends of the earth it's quite possible that today neither you or I would have had the opportunity to know Jesus. [page 146]

81. No Preaching Unless One Is Sent.

'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.' How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? (Romans 10:13-15, NIV). [page 147]

82. Foreigners Often Have an In.

Foreigners often have a "platform" that locals do not. My Spanish teacher lamented how he repeatedly had shared the gospel with people he knew, and they would not listen. Then a "gringo" with horrid Spanish would stumble through a gospel presentation and his friends would accept Jesus. [page 150]

83. The Importance of the Gospel.

A Kachiquel Mayan man I met told how he came to the Lord because a group of white people visited his remote village. Even as a boy he thought, "Why would these rich, white people come to my poor village? What they have must be very important for them to come all this way to give it us." He listened and believed. [page 150]

84. Making a Disciple of All.

The command is not just to make converts among those who have never heard. It is to make disciples of all nations. [page 154]

85. Gladys Aylward's Speech.

When I went to China I had never seen a Chinese person. I didn't even know where China was. To me it was just a black dot on the map somewhere. And I'm afraid I had a terrific shock when I got there to find how large it was. I only knew that little, green island of England, and now before me stretched that great, huge, wonderful and beautiful land with its teeming millions of aching and hungry hearts. I truly believe He asked me to go.

You see one day He walked along and crossed my path and He said, "come," and I went. And He said, "You can't do anything, you know. I'll do it through you."

And I remember going home when I felt God was calling me to go to China and saying to my father, "You know dad, I would like to go to China." And my father, rather a silent sort of man, but pretty straight, and he sat there and said, "And what do you think you are going to do?"

And I said, "I don't know."

"Well, you're not a nurse are you?"

"No, I'm not."

"Well you can't nurse anybody."

"No," I said, "I can't."

"And you can't teach anything can you?"

"No," I said, "I can't."

And then he suddenly swung around and looked at me and said, "O, God, get out," he said, "All you can do is talk."

And I remember turning back and going outside the kitchen door and standing in that little passage at the bottom of the stairs and having and ...well ... having a little weep. He didn't understand, bless him, because you see God hadn't called him. He had called me.

And, then, suddenly, in the middle of my tears. There came this: "Well, isn't that it?"

And so standing there I said, “O Lord, well, he said talk. Well all right then, I’ll talk. And I’ll talk and I’ll talk and I’ll talk and I’ll talk and I’ll just keep on talking but it will be for You.”

Nobody, least of all my dear father, dreamed of how true his words were going to become. Almost from that very moment God put words into my mouth and I’ve talked solidly ever since. – Gladys Aylward, missionary to China and Taiwan. [pages 162-163]