



WOW: Word Of the Week

Unstoppable

January 29, 2025

Unstoppable! What do you think of? Bulldozers. Tornadoes. Hurricanes. Fires. The gospel? God's mission?

Is the gospel unstoppable? Can it be? Should it be? Is the problem God, the message, or us? An unstoppable mission focus begins early. How are our youth being encouraged to advance God's mission? Class coin boxes? Letters to missionaries? Social media with missionary kids? Knowing missionaries, engaging, listening to stories, helping with needs? From pre-school classes and upward, mission work is not out of reach for our youth. (And we need to think much more creatively—there are many possibilities besides mission trips.)

Mission captured my heart when I was invited to a mission dinner at which George Benson was the speaker. I thrilled to hear about mission work in faraway places. I was a sophomore in college (1967). I was able to make a delayed pledge, so I pledged \$100. The pledge could be paid after I graduated—still three years in the future. Jan and I graduated, arrived at our first church work, and in the fall we received a reminder in the mail about my \$100 pledge. The three years were up! By the way, \$100 was my weekly salary in 1970. That year, most of our Christmas funds went to mission work. Were we deprived? No, we were blessed! Mission stories and mission commitments can capture hearts forever.

How often do missionaries come to a church, and their major report is reserved for an adult class? They have little interaction with children or youth. The children and youth do not hear the thrilling stories! And too often, the adult class offering has to compete with other adult classes which continue to meet (for those who have already made up their mind that they do not want to hear about mission work!) Missed opportunities! Families hearing about missions, sharing prayer, enthusiasm, future dreams.

Mission is the heartbeat of the church, the DNA. God has made possible the salvation of the world, so that the nations can rejoice and sing and worship. Mission is constant—not a certain season or Sunday, not a trip, not a special periodic focus. Mission is who we are. God's eternal mission is at the center of our faith. Christians live and breathe God's purpose in their lives. Mission is ever-present in prayer, conversation, encouragement. God's mission is paramount. We pray for those who advance the gospel, for those desperately waiting to hear. We see harvest fields. We see mission through spiritual eyes—fulfilling God's spiritual, eternal purpose.

Mission means seizing the opportunity. Mission-thinking begins where you are. It begins with children, youth, young adults, older adults—you, your family, everyone. It begins right where we are. Mission grabs our attention, and little by little, we become part of an unstoppable force! Unstoppable, not because of us but because of our powerful God, the saving power of the gospel, our God who does through us more than we could ever ask or imagine. Mission is more caught than taught.

May we in our churches commit to being a generation raising up new generations, living in God's mission daily. This is not more teaching or training, more exciting experiences, more short-term missions where everyone comes home and goes back to business as usual. This is fire in the heart—unstoppable. The Commission is to us. Let us be disciples who go forth and make more disciples—everywhere we go. The mission field begins at the front door of the church building! Let us complete the mission of the King as we herald the return of the King!