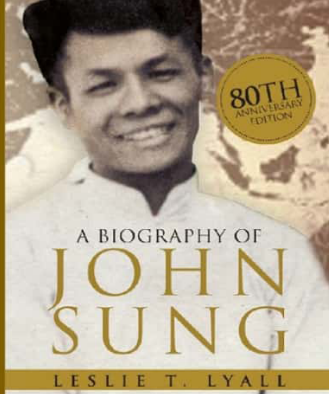




WHAT DO MISSIONARIES AND TRUE PASTORS DO?



WEEKLY
CHRISTIAN
FOCUS

JOHN SUNG The Chinese John The Baptist Leading Early 20th-Century Chinese Evangelist

INTRODUCTION:

well, what DO they actually do, or should be doing?
In a sense, we are all missionaries since we became Christians. We are all "sent with a message", that's what the word "apostle" means! So I hope you will feel encouraged as you read this special photo and text compilation this month. Please, pray for those who give their full time to missions and pastoral work. Without all of us, God's work cannot go on! The list I've made below contains just a few things that came to mind about "What missionaries and pastors do?" You may be able to think of many points! God bless you! We are praying for you!

in Peking

1. They bear witness.

Missionaries bear witness to others, either on a one-to-one basis or in small groups and in large masses. They must be full of the Word of God and pray first to be effective!

2. They share the Word of God: A sower went out to sow - the seed is the Word of God. Missionaries must be willing to obey God in order to be in a position to sow the seed that will change individuals and nations! Mark 4: 3 Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow. Mark 4:14 The sower sows the Word.

3. They lead Bible studies: Missionaries lead valuable

the milk and the meat of the Word of God. They diligently follow the verse: Acts 20: 28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you bishops, **to feed the church of God, which He purchased with His own blood.**

4. They establish churches and congregations: Pioneer missionaries often follow the New Testament pattern of planting churches. They go into a city and win souls and organize them into a meeting of the fellowship. Even though these are sometimes weak in the beginning, great oaks often come from such small acorns.

5. They plan: We need to plan, which really means to hear from God very carefully, give Him our ear and then put His plans into action. **A missionary is "God's man (or woman) in God's place to do God's work for God's glory".**

6. They pray and are prayer warriors: Nothing is accomplished without prayer. Has your life reached a critical point? Pray and God will change everything. Prayer can storm the gates of hell, open new fields for the gospel and win souls, heal the sick



Photo: Christmas celebration in a church

Bible studies to share both

and raise the dead. Without prayer, no such things can happen.

7. They love: "Ask God for His love, or you will never make it - in your marriage or as a missionary". God is love. We do not have this love, but He can give it to us supernaturally if we are open. John 13:35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another.

8. They are a community.

They meet together, they work together. Hebrews 10:25 ...and do not forsake our assemblies, as is the custom of some; but exhort one another, and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.



Photo: Elisabeth and Ruth, they co – "row " (they work together) in China!

9. They are broken by the Lord: without breaking us, the Lord can never fully use us. But most of us like to stay the way we are. The great evangelist Raymond Richey once asked, "Why doesn't God have more leaders? - Because He can't "break them fast enough". God's dealings with us can come in a variety of ways: Relationship problems, slander, false accusations, financial difficulties, health issues, rejection by others, persecution, death of a loved one, etc.

10. They are pioneers:

pioneers must be willing to leave everything behind and go to new places, they often leave their loved ones and follow the Word of God that has led them directly to a specific place to do God's will.

11. They have vision, faith, initiative and courage: without these four qualities we can never be successful for Jesus. Do you have them? If not, ask God to give them to you, and like wisdom, He will give them to you!

12. They believe in the impossible: Like Abraham and everyone God has ever used, they expect to see the Word of God fulfilled. In spite of the natural sense that denies every step of the way. What faith claims is true. Romans 4:20-22 For he (Abraham) did not doubt the promise of God through unbelief, but was strong in faith, giving glory to God. And knew full well that what God promises, he is able to do. Therefore it was counted to him for righteousness.

13 They overcome the world:

1 John 5:4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. - **We must know that there is nothing that the world has to offer that is better than God and His will for our lives.** We want to be good soil that bears fruit a hundredfold. And not a soil that is suffocated by the worries of everyday life and its temporary pleasures. All true missionaries and pastors and Christians rise above it all and recognize the empty shells of

the devil for what they are - nothing!

14 They are of one blood and one race. Christians are perhaps the only truly non-racist religion in the world. We are all of one blood through the blood of Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, neither Japanese nor African, Chinese or white man! We are all God's children in Christ Jesus, and race or human culture should play a small role in our lives if we truly love Him.



Photo: Pastor Cassidy and Sister Ruth. Pastor Cassidy and his lovely wife, Felicity from Nigeria have always shown a wonderful example of love and giving.

15 They overcome discouragement and depression: If there is anything that the devil and his spiritual world want to plague pastors and missionaries, and their wives with, and indeed all Christians, it is the same demonic afflictions of the world - Depression, discouragement, defeat, despair and fear and torment. We can resist and overcome all this by reading the Word of God, by prayer with others, by worship and through praise. Jesus said, "In the world you will have tribulation,

but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world!" Please, pray for all Christian servants to resist this spiritual attack of the enemy and to overcome him so that he will not hinder their missions and communities.

16 They 'become one', in a sense, with the country where they live, and adapt to its culture to a certain extent, food and way of life.



Photo : Missionaries adopt local customs.

They eat local food, sometimes they wear local clothes, speak the local language. All this and more, if they want to be successful and really want to win souls.

17. They visit the elderly: the elderly are some of the most neglected people in our societies. I once lead a Hindu woman to the Lord in North India in her garden! She was 80 years old, and afterwards said with joy: "I have been waiting all my life to hear this message!"



Photo: An older Grandmother from Peru.

18 They love children and sing to them and lead them to Christ!



Photo: Sister Elisabeth and John sing gospel songs for children in rural China.

encouragement. Put the Word first and the Lord will always give you time to do the other things. **Neglect the Word of God and soon you will**

wonder what the truth is in this confusing world!



Photo: Elisabeth and P. teach the children to sing and dance .

19 They study the Word of God themselves. We cannot pass it on to others without first filling ourselves! Only the Word of God and Jesus can give us spiritual strength, power and

20 They love Jesus dearly.

I remember the first time I begun spending more time in communion with Him, it was a real revelation for me and the rest of the day seemed so different and victorious!

Although I couldn't always maintain that level, the teachings the Lord had for me made a big impression on me and have stayed with me to this day. Matthew 22: 37 And Jesus said to him, "You shall worship your Lord God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." Mat 22:38 This is the first and greatest commandment.

21 They open schools and hospitals:

What large and successful hospitals or institutions or schools were not originally founded by a Christian? Very few, of course, is the answer! The western secular and politically correct world wants to deny us our heritage as Christian nations who have accomplished so much with their religion and faith in Jesus Christ. But God knows, and this work of schools and hospitals continues uninterrupted around the world, thank God.

22 They praise the LORD with all their heart!

Psalms 111: 1 Praise the Lord. I praise the Lord with all my heart in the council of the pi-

ous and the congregation.

When all seems dark, praise the Lord aloud in your spirit, that really kills the devil's attacks, he can't stand the praise and will flee from it. Try it today and you will see.



Photo: Pastors Mike and Boma in Belgium

23 Sometimes they are forced to accept secular jobs for visa or financial reasons.



Photo: Brother Jerry with some of his students in North China. All of them heard the word

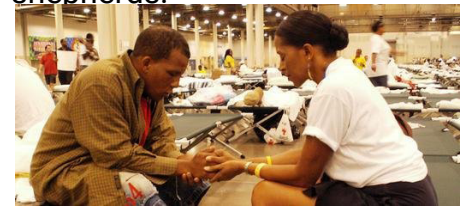
here, and one was saved and filled with the Holy Spirit.

24 They have children and try to bring them up in the discipline and admonition of the



Lord.

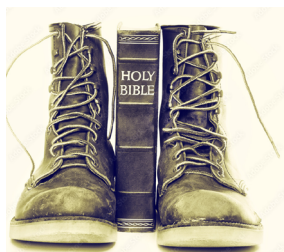
Photo: Missionaries not only live in challenging areas, but also bring their children with them exactly where they are. The children often speak the language of the mission countries and occasionally they even become pastors and shepherds.





► AND HE SAID UNTO
THEM, GO YE INTO ALL
THE WORLD, AND PREACH
THE GOSPEL TO EVERY
CREATURE

MARK 16:15



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WHAT IS THE WEEKLY CHRISTIAN FOCUS? (WCF)

The WCF are weekly articles written on a wide variety of topics, primarily with a Biblical foundation and viewpoint. They also deal with many of the spiritual and physical things that are happening in the world today.

The majority are serious or fascinating and also have some element of humour in some of them! They are written by Jerry Finch for the most part and graphic designed by

Andreas Ortiz in his own unique and inspiring way!

These articles are not your usual half a page Christian devotional, but rather are usually 4 to 8 pages long and also often contain supporting links to other articles or videos on the internet for deeper research.

These articles are getting such a good reception globally, that they are also being translated into other languages! We thank God! Our goal as a ministry is to glorify God and point people to the Word of God which can be applied to every aspect of our lives in our relationship with Him and others and with the world in general.

These are both exciting and challenging times we live in, and the WCF tends to keep up with what is going on in every sense, spiritually and mentally and Biblically. If you are new to the Weekly Christian Focus we can tell you that anyone can also subscribe and receive their first free 8 weekly articles by email, simply email us (see below.)

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Our love in Jesus, Jerry and Andreas and the WCF TEAM

