



...together making a difference in Africa...

Thinking About Mission?

10 Ways to avoid becoming a missionary

A tongue-in-cheek look at some sure-fire ways to avoid becoming a missionary

1. **Ignore Jesus' request in John 4:35 that we take a long hard look at the fields.** Seeing the needs of people can be depressing and very unsettling. It could lead to genuine missionary concern. (John 4:35 "Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.")
2. **Focus your energies on socially legitimate targets.** Go after a bigger salary. Focus on getting a job promotion, a bigger home, a more luxurious car, or future financial security. Along the way, run up some big credit card debts.
3. **Get married to somebody who thinks the ["Great Commission"](#) is what your employer gives you after you make a big sale.** After marriage, embrace the socially accepted norms of settling down, establishing a respectable career trajectory and raising a picture-perfect family.
4. **Stay away from missionaries.** Their testimonies can be disturbing. The situations they describe will distract you from embracing whole-heartedly the materialistic lifestyle of your home country.
5. **If you happen to think about missions, restrict your attention to countries where it's impossible to openly do missionary work.** Think only about North Korea, Saudi Arabia, [China](#) and other closed countries. Forget the vast areas of our globe open to missionaries. Never listen to people talk about [creative access](#) countries!
6. **Think how bad a missionary you would be based on your own past failures.** It is unreasonable to expect you will ever be any better. Don't even think about [Moses](#), David, Jonah, Peter or Mark, all of whom overcame failures.
7. **Always imagine missionaries as talented, super-spiritual people who stand on lofty pedestals.** Maintaining this image of missionaries will heighten your own sense of inadequacy. Convincing yourself that [God](#) does not use *ordinary* people as missionaries will smother any guilt you may feel about refusing to even listen for a [call](#) from God.
8. **Agree with the people who tell you that you are indispensable where you are.** Listen when they tell you that your local church or home country can't do without you.
9. **Worry incessantly about money.**
10. **If you still feel you must go, go out right away without any preparation or training.** You'll soon be home again and no one can ever blame you for not trying!

Source: <http://home.snu.edu/~hculbert/> Inspired by Stewart Dinnen's list in: **How are you doing?** (Bromley: STL Books, 1984)