

# The Call To Preach

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As a seventeen year old boy, I knew the Lord was showing me what he wanted me to do. My Pastor and other spiritual leaders in my life would often say, “the Lord’s called you to be a preacher”. I considered that to be vain speaking until one Saturday morning the Lord spoke to me. I remember waking up with 1 Corinthians 15:58 etched in my mind. Never before had I memorized this verse, I had only read it a couple times and heard it. However for some reason this verse was stuck in my mind. You see I wanted to be a businessman like my dad, to live my life the way I chose. Being a preacher was not on my to do list. There was however this verse stuck in my head that I could not get rid of. So I went to my preacher and asked him what it meant. He said to me, “be faithful in your labor for the Lord for a heavenly reward awaits you, unlike our earthly labor which yields earthly rewards which is vanity”.

Well after that experience I concluded that the Lord was asking me to stay faithful in the church and support my Pastor as a deacon and teacher. Deep down in my heart I knew there was something greater, but as long as no one knew what was in there they could not hold me accountable. Well so I thought. An old time preacher came visiting one day and he put his hand on my shoulder and said, “God’s gonna use you young man, don’t go chasing after the world”.

So I went back to my bible and read 1 Cor 15:58, and the word “always” popped out. “...be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord....” I knew what always meant, it didn’t mean sometimes, part-time or pass-time. It meant “always”.

There was only one vocation that would allow me to do that, and that was to be a preacher of God’s word, to proclaim the Gospel in season and out of season.

“Therefore my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord” 1 Cor 15:58. Call confirmed.

By God’s Grace  
Martin Chilando

# The Call To Missions

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As a business student at Pensacola Christian I happened to have a roommate who was a missions major. I asked him where he thought the Lord would have him to go. He said Africa. I quite could not figure out how he was going to survive in Africa when he screamed like a little girl every time he saw a spider. No sooner I opened my mouth and uttered those words, the Holy Spirit pounced on the opportunity and said, “Well, you’ve lived there before, you know the land, the people, the culture, why aren’t you going?”

I struggled with that thought for years. I was now newly wed and working in corporate America. One fall Sunday night we had a missionary to Paraguay present his work in our church. He said he was born and raised in Paraguay, educated in civil engineering in the States, he had received bible training in his local church here. God had blessed him with so much and God had given him the knowledge of His word. He had been struggling with the call to go back to his homeland as a missionary. One Sunday morning his pastor was preaching concerning those who have heard the gospel and rejected it, and used Luke 12:48.” For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required:...”

He said the Holy Spirit started working on him as He did on me. You see not every Zambian has the opportunity of such great bible training and influence. Not every Zambian has the opportunities and resources to further the gospel among the people as I had. Much was given me and much was required of me. I was different from everybody else, God had a specific task and I was the man for it. And this time I knew exactly what I needed to do – surrender.

Many would ask why I leave a salary and what seems as a steady life for the unknown? Well, all I know is, the Bible says in Luke 19:10, “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.” Jesus came with a heart of love for a lost and dying world. Just before His ascension to Heaven He looked to His disciples and said to them, “...Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you” (John 20:21)

It is for this reason that we believe the Lord would have us to take the gospel to the Zambian people. There are literally millions of Zambian nationals, who have never heard the message, that Jesus Saves, which most people take for granted. As a Zambian born American I am acquainted with the culture, which will allow us to break ground faster with the **seventy people groups** indigenous to Zambia. Both the need and the mandate are very clear. Jesus said, “...as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.” How will we fill that need and accomplish the mandate of world-wide evangelization unless, “they be sent”?

By God’s grace

Martin Chilando