

Departures  
Sorties / Salida

This year there have been, or will be, several short-term ministries in different geographic settings, where individuals from our church will be serving as ambassadors for Christ beyond our walls.

Ministries in Grenada and Germany have been used by the Lord as our people were involved in the “ministry of reconciliation” (2 Corinthians 5:18) and shared the “message of reconciliation” (5:19). The week of July 9-12 our teens will serve with AMF missionary Bill Campbell in the Kensington area of Philadelphia, working with children and other teens. Another team will be in Montana July 27 to August 5 to help the Yaak Community Church run a Vacation Bible School. These two ministry locations are about as diverse as one can imagine—inner city and rural. Is a Christian an ambassador merely by going somewhere? No.

Attitude more than location determines who is an ambassador for Christ. A person can be an ambassador for Christ in locations like Paradise, Parkesburg, Strasburg, Intercourse, Narvon, Christiana, or Kinzer without traveling to a distant location. In fact, there are 17 families who will do just that this summer, hosting 15 Child Evangelism Five-Day Clubs in their backyards. These families will be ambassadors for Christ just like those who go to inner city Philadelphia or rural Yaak, Montana.

What attitudes are displayed in an ambassador for Christ?

The life of C. T. Studd, a missionary to China, India, and Africa in the 19th and early 20th centuries, serves as a model. As one biographer, Norman Grubb, wrote,

[Studd’s] life stands as some rugged Gibraltar—a sign to all succeeding generations that it is worthwhile to lose all this world can offer and stake everything on the world to come. His life will be an eternal rebuke to easygoing Christianity. He has demonstrated what it means to follow Christ without counting the cost and without looking back.

This describes the attitude of *investment*. Studd

determined that his life’s goal was to do as Christ said: “Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven” (Matthew 6:19-21). An ambassador does not worry about holding on to what he has—time, treasure, or talents. For an ambassador, investing is not a sacrifice, it is a privileged stewardship.

*Perseverance* is another ambassador’s attitude we see in Studd. After having served in China and India, Studd returned home in poor health and penniless; he had given away his vast fortune for world missions. Yet the Lord had laid upon his heart that he was to be an ambassador for Christ in Central Africa. A doctor opposed this pioneer work, saying that Studd’s health was not good enough. A committee of supporters dropped his support. Yet his persistent response to such opposition was, “Gentlemen, God has called me to go, and I will blaze the trail, though my grave may only become a stepping stone that younger men may follow.” Contrary to the advice he received, in 1910 he set sail for Africa, where he served as an ambassador for Christ until his death in 1931. Such persistence yielded fruit even though he encountered weakness and sickness, losing most of his teeth and surviving several heart attacks.

A final attitude Studd possessed was the *joy* with which he served as an ambassador for his King. As he neared death, he sent home a letter that displayed his joy. He wrote,

As I believe I am now nearing my departure from this world, I have but a few things to rejoice in; they are these: 1. That God called me to China and I went in spite of utmost opposition from all my loved ones; 2. That I joyfully acted as Christ told the rich young man to act; 3. That I deliberately at the call of God, when alone on the Bibby liner in 1910, gave up my life for this work, which was to be henceforth not for the Sudan only, but for the whole unevangelized world.

He concluded, “My only joys therefore are that when God has given me a work to do, I have not refused it.” C.T. Studd thought of his service as an ambassador of Christ not as pain, but joyful privilege.

Christ wants ambassadors within and beyond the walls of Calvary Monument Bible Church. Are you manifesting the necessary attitudes of an ambassador, as demonstrated in C. T. Studd? These same attitudes were shown in the life of Jesus Christ, who served as an ambassador of God the Father to us on planet earth. May the Lord empower us to be the best ambassadors for Him that we can be.