



Why Global Mission? Ten Good Reasons

"Why engage in global mission, when there are so many needs all around us in our local community?"

Most of us have been asked this question and perhaps have struggled to answer it. Our nation grapples daily with issues of diversity, multiculturalism, migration, interreligious understanding and the lure of isolationism. Why are intercultural relationships so essential to our Christian discipleship? We have gathered ten quotes from our 2018 Global Mission Conference at the Virginia Theological Seminary, as well as from other sources, that will give you food for thought as you answer this question for yourself and others.



Ten Reasons to Engage in Global Mission:

1. *"No single part of the world contains a complete understanding of God - only together do we have it..."* - Pearson Nhayo, International Student at VTS
2. *"It takes the whole world to know the whole gospel"* - Max Warren, Gen. Secretary of the Church Missionary Society
3. *"We can never know fully who God is, we can never understand the mission of God, until and unless we are able to hear it from those in other contexts..."* - John Kafwanka, Director of Mission for the Anglican Communion Office
4. *"To reduce mission simply to a local or even national context is to isolate ourselves from the voice of God's grace across difference"* - Robert Heaney, Director of the Center for Anglican Communion Studies
5. *"We are looking at mission as pilgrimage - seeing Christ in the other"* - David Copley, Director of Global Partnerships and Mission Personnel
6. *"We go into mission to meet the other, where God is present. Not because there are needy people, or to plant a church, or to teach. But we go to meet Jesus there. Thinking we are missionaries, we become disciples. We go to meet God, who is already present in the other"* - Monica Vega, Missionary
7. *"The 'other' is part of our family that we do not already know"* - David Copley, Dir. of Global Partnerships and Mission Personnel
8. *"To know only one's own church, diocese or nation is to limit oneself to an incomplete revelation of the vast and varied witness of the full body of Christ - gifts that we all desperately need to receive from one another"* - Karen Hotte, Global Episcopal Mission Network
9. *"Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ...The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I don't need you!' And the head cannot say to the feet, 'I don't need you!'"* - Saint Paul
10. *"I have gifts you do not, and you have gifts I do not. We need one another to be fully human. We lose our strength if our diversity is taken away."* - John Kafwanka, Director of Mission for the Anglican Communion Office

These are just a few. Have you come across some good answers to this question? Share them with us at gemn@gemn.org!