

## Best Missions Books of 2017

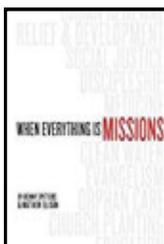


**Mobilizers recommend this year's "must reads"**

Our thanks to all who shared their favorite new missions books. Here are this year's picks for your personal benefit and to pass along to your team. If you voted for older titles or ones we had featured in prior years, we're sorry we weren't able to include your picks here. See our ['14](#), ['15](#) and ['16](#) lists.

### Missions Defined

These two books both won enthusiastic praise from several readers, and represent very different perspectives on the question of what is missions and where is missions today. Read together, they will challenge us to think about biblical foundations, historical applications, and today's missions context.



#### **When Everything Is Missions**

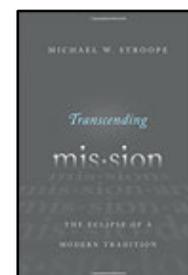
*Denny Spitters and Matthew Ellison*

Spitters and Ellison challenge the common declarations that "Everyone's a missionary" and "Everything we do is missions." They look for biblical guidelines, consider the role of the church, and focus on the implications.

#### **Transcending Mission: The Eclipse of a Modern Tradition**

*Michael Stroope*

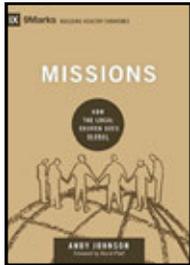
This book is more academic, and the reader will need to persevere to the last section to really benefit from Stroope's insights. He wrestles with the definition of missions and



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missionary, and highlights concerns with what he considers over-mobilization and under-transformation.

## Missions and the Church



### Missions: How the Local Church Goes Global

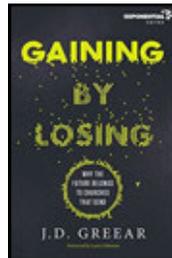
Andy Johnson

One in a series by 9Marks on building healthy churches, this small book is a great starter resource for churches that are just finding their way into missions.

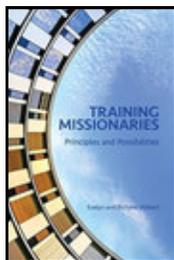
### Gaining by Losing

J.D. Greear

Greear is enthusiastic about sending church members out as disciplers to plant congregations across the US and around the world. As a local-church pastor himself, he has credibility to challenge other pastors to release their people to go.



## Missionary Preparation



### Training Missionaries

Evelyn and Richard Hibbert

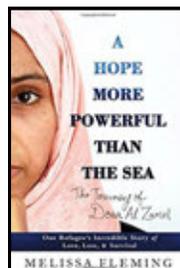
One reader commented, "This is the best cross-cultural training guide that has been written in the last decade." The book address four essential areas of missionary training and outlines how they can be addressed in a cross-cultural learning community.

## Biography

### A Hope More Powerful Than the Sea: One Refugee's Incredible Story of Love, Loss, and Survival

Melissa Fleming

This is a secular but powerfully moving story of one woman's incredible experiences as she struggled to escape the war in her native Syria. It's one of those stories you can't put down.

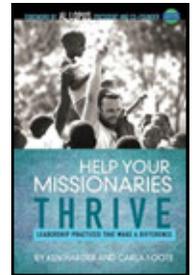


## Missionary Care

### Help Your Missionaries Thrive: Leadership Practices that Make a Difference

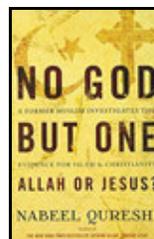
Ken Harder and Carla Foote

This book is designed primarily for those who lead missionaries on the field, but it addresses questions that will also help churches recognize and understand their workers' struggles. The book suggests a handful of key leadership practices that when implemented can help workers overcome these challenges and thrive.



## Muslim Evangelism

The missions community was saddened earlier this year by the death of Nabeel Qureshi. Both of his 2016 books were voted into the "best books" list by our readers.



### Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus and No God But One: Allah or Jesus?

Nabeel Qureshi

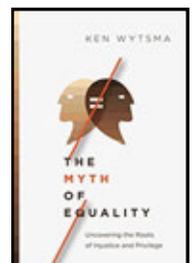
*Seeking Allah* describes Qureshi's journey from Islam to Christianity. One reader noted that their organization makes the book required reading for their teams engaging with Muslims because it reveals the barriers for Muslims to intellectually receive the gospel. Qureshi's last book, *No God But One*, provides further insight into the questions and objections that most Muslims face as they consider following Jesus. Includes a guide for small-group studies.

## Contemporary Issues

### The Myth of Equality: Uncovering the Roots of Injustice and Privilege

Ken Wytmsa

"This book gives the history of racism in America," wrote one reader, "calls out my own complicity in ignorance, and suggests concrete and godly responses without taking one political stance or another. It addresses race as a gospel issue and convicts without leaving the reader feeling helplessly mired in guilt."



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**Leadership**



**The Top Ten Leadership Conversations in the Bible**

Steve Moore

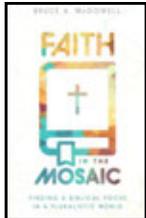
Moore has distilled, in a reflective and analytical way, 10 themes around critical leadership attributes. A reader commented, "I found it very practical and transferable."

**Editor's Additions**

While the "best books" choices above come from our readers, your editor couldn't help adding some that she was sorry didn't make the list.

**Living Out Faith in a Pluralistic Culture**

Two new books address the challenge of teaching believers to share their faith in a multi-faith context.



**Faith in the Mosaic: Finding a Biblical Focus in a Pluralistic World**

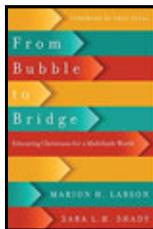
Bruce A McDowell

A missionary and missions pastor, McDowell has developed a biblical framework to answer, in accessible language, questions of the uniqueness of Christ, tolerance, reaction to religious violence, and much more. A great guide for a small-group study.

**From Bubble to Bridge: Educating Christians for a Multifaith World**

Marion H. Larson and Sara L. H. Shady

A more academic volume, this book offers encouragement and practical advice for believers who need to get out of their bubble and interact with neighbors of different faiths.



**Contemporary Church Issues**

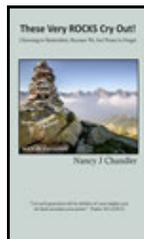
**Break Open the Sky: Saving Our Faith from a Culture of Fear / Stephan Bauman**

Bauman challenges the grip of fear and risk-avoidance that paralyzes the Western church today. Uncomfortably practical.



**Biography/Autobiography**

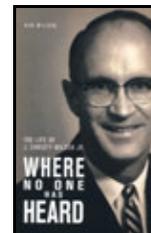
**These Very ROCKS Cry Out! Choosing to Remember because We Are Prone to Forget**  
Nancy Chandler



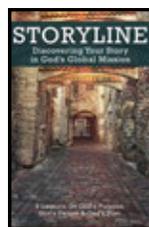
This warm autobiography shares life lessons learned as this woman served in missions around the world.

**Where No One Has Heard: The Life of J. Christy Wilson Jr. / Ken Wilson**

The story of a great but humble servant of God who pioneered missions in Afghanistan and influenced so many other 20<sup>th</sup> century workers.



**Missions Small Group Studies**



**STORYLINE: Discovering Your Story in God's Global Mission**

The Storyline team has developed this eight-lesson study focused on God's purpose, people and plan. A video can be downloaded for each lesson.

**Journey to the Nations: A Greater Vision for Your Greatest Mission / Sigmon**

A six-week study with application for those who send as well as those who go. Workbook style with online video suggestions.



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