

1. Introduction- Missions Month Slide (2-3 minutes)

Good morning/afternoon,

As we've been discussing over the last several weeks, August is Mission Month here at Cornerstone. This means that today, like every other weekend throughout August, our service will look a bit different. Today, with the help of some friends, I hope to encourage us as a church to become more mission-minded. This is actually my first time giving a message on missions, so it will be a new experience for all of us.

With missions at the forefront of our minds, we'll take this opportunity to hear from someone currently serving in missions while still working a "regular" job. This will help us broaden our understanding of how we can be involved in missions, even if we don't feel called to sell everything and move our families overseas. Additionally, I'll share at the end an opportunity for us as a church to be mission-minded right here in our own backyard.

With that said, I want to begin by sharing a passage of scripture that will serve as our key statement for today. We find it in Ephesians 5:15-17, which says, "¹⁵ Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is."

"Rebuke Our Slothful Ease"

As believers living in this world, we must not become content with our lives here, or we risk facing constant disappointment. Instead, we need to take Paul's words to the Ephesian church to heart and learn how to use our time redemptively, with the goal of advancing the Kingdom of God.

To give you an example of how we can do this, I'd like to introduce a couple from our church. Please join me in welcoming Mike and Jaelene Mulcahy as they come to share their experience in missionary work in Ghana.

2. Testimony by Mike & Jaelene- Photo Slide (10 minutes)

Introduction of Speakers

- Introduce Mike & Jaelene, giving a brief background on their involvement with short-term missions.

Testimony Sharing

- Mike & Jaelene share their experiences, challenges, and the impact of short-term missions on their lives.

"May We Heed Their Crying"

3. Brief Biography of David Brainerd (5-7 minutes)

- **Introduction to David Brainerd**

- David Brainerd was a missionary to the North American Indians, born in April 1718 in Haddam, Connecticut. His father, a legislator, died when David was just nine years old, and his mother passed away when he was only 14. Although he grew up attending church, David wasn't converted until he was 21. He then went on to study at Yale College, where he sought ordination to become a minister. This was during the time when prominent figures like George Whitefield and Jonathan Edwards were actively preaching.

- **Key Highlights of His Life and Work**

- Unfortunately, David's life was marked by recurring illness. Additionally, from his journal entries, we learn that David struggled with loneliness and depression. Jonathan Edwards, who was a mentor to David, closely walked with him through these struggles.
- As a young man, David's zeal sometimes got the better of him. He didn't graduate from Yale because he once claimed that one of his tutors "had no more grace than a chair." David and other students at Yale were concerned about the infiltration of progressive theology into their school. Although David repented for his words, he was never granted ordination.
- Despite his sickness and rejection, David didn't let these challenges stop him from responding to the call to become a missionary to the American Indians. Because of Brainerd's faithfulness to the gospel, hundreds of Housatonic and Iroquois Indians along the Delaware River were converted to Christianity. In fact, there is a memorial to David Brainerd just outside of Martin's Creek.
- Sadly, at the age of 29, David succumbed to his illnesses and passed away from tuberculosis in the home of his spiritual father, Jonathan Edwards. After knowing Christ for only eight years and serving as a missionary for just four, David Brainerd's race was run. Yet, in such a short time, his influence was monumental in shaping the missionary movement among believers in North America. Today, he is part of the great cloud of witnesses cheering us on as we run our own race.

- **Lessons from His Life**

- Brainerd once prayed, "Oh, that I might be a flaming fire in the service of the Lord. Here I am, Lord, send me; send me to the ends of the earth...send me away from all that is called earthly comfort; send me even to death itself if it be but in Thy service and to promote Thy kingdom."
- While we might not hold ourselves to the same exacting standards as David in his youthful zeal, I encourage us to reflect on whether even a

fraction of this passion resides in our own hearts. Can we say that we have such a love for Jesus and for the lost that we are willing to redeem the time, no matter how little or how much of it we have left, for the glory of our great God and the advancement of His kingdom?

"To Thee We Yield Our Powers"

4. Application & Invitation to "Love Thy Neighbor" (5 minutes)

- **Connecting the Message**
 - Link the testimonies and Brainerd's story to the importance of missions today. "Redeem the Time"
- **Invitation to Participate**
 - Introduce the "Love Thy Neighbor" event.
 - September 28th-29th @ MSC & SSC
 - Explain the vision and purpose of the event.
 - People Projects focused
 - Encourage and invite the congregation to get involved.
 - Go online or stop by the Next Steps Area.
- **Call to Action**
 - Provide specific ways to sign up or get more information.
 - Close with a prayer or a motivational challenge to the congregation to embrace the missional call.

"From Cowardice Defend Us"

5. Closing Prayer & Dismissal (2-3 minutes)

- **Prayer**
 - Offer a prayer that includes a focus on missions and outreach.
- **Final Words**
 - Dismiss the congregation with a word of encouragement or blessing.