## "Outreach Isn't Optional"

Written by Justin Johnson | AMS

There's a mission field right outside your door. You don't have to fly across the globe or have a seminary degree to be a missionary– you just need to have a heart that beats for people and a willingness to be used by God.

In a world overwhelmed by digital noise, face-to-face connection is becoming rare. Real conversations are harder to come by. We live in a time where people are quick to type and slow to talk, where sharing a post feels easier than sharing our faith. But Jesus didn't call us to safe, silent Christianity. He called us to bold, living, breathing faith. He didn't say, "Stay where you are and be comfortable." He said, "Go."

And "go" means movement. It means reaching out. It means stepping into the discomfort of real conversations and being willing to love people where they are—even if it's messy. Outreach isn't just a church program or a weekend event. It's a lifestyle. It's opening our eyes to the people around us —at the grocery store, in the school pick-up line, across the office—and asking God, "Who needs hope today?"

Here's the good news: you don't have to have all the answers. You don't have to preach a three-point sermon. You just need to be available. Because what people need most isn't our perfection—it's our presence. They need to see the light of Christ in how we listen, how we serve, how we forgive, and how we love without an agenda.

The truth is, time is short. People are hurting. And if we wait for someone else to step in, we might miss the divine appointment God had for us. There's a gentle but urgent call as we step into summer-don't sit on the sidelines. God has placed you exactly where you are for a reason. Be salt. Be light. Be love in action.



Let's be the kind of Church that doesn't just invite people to come—we go to them. Let's make the first move. Let's risk awkward moments for the sake of eternal ones. Because when you live boldly and love deeply, people start to ask, "What's different about you?" And when they do, don't shrink back. Lean in, smile, and say, "Let me tell you about Jesus."

-Justin