

answering the call

Pastor Jim Seymour Shares About His Call to Missions

When I reflect on my life journey, I am utterly amazed at God's grace and mercy extended to me. As a teenager I had no spiritual inclinations. My first love was playing football. Having fun with my friends was a close second. It was while I was home in Bridgeport, Connecticut after my first year in College, that I heard the Gospel at a tent set up by the city in Seaside Park. I wandered in to see who the entertainment was that week. To my surprise it was Billy Graham's brother-in-law Leighton Ford, and an interracial choir from North Carolina called the New Directions. Hearing the good news about Jesus Christ preached for the very first time captured my heart. The next evening I went back with my best friend and we gave our hearts to the Lord. That was June 21st, 1971, and I've never looked back.

I left college after my sophomore year and responded to the call of God by enrolling at Zion Bible Institute in East Providence, Rhode Island. One morning a missionary was the featured speaker at chapel. As he talked of God's call on his life I heard the Lord speaking to my heart about responding to Jesus' great commission. As I was kneeling there at the altar, I opened my Bible and it fell to a page in the gospel of Luke, "the harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few." Then and there I promised God that I would go wherever He wanted to send me.

God answered my prayer, and from 1976 until 1979 was spent with my wife Dawn as missionaries in Alaska, and then from there, twelve years in Zimbabwe, Africa, 1980 - 1992. Over the years I have had the joy of ministering in many countries in Africa, as well as in India, and Latin America, sharing the life changing message, that Jesus Christ is Lord! Today, both of my daughters are alive and serve the Lord on the Continent of Africa.

What began in a tent in Bridgeport continues to be the tipping point in my life. Because of it, many have heard the good news that our world needs more than ever before.

Jim Seymour

