

DR. JACOB YOUMANS



MISSIONAL
TOO

The Trip of a Lifetime

Second in the *Missional U* Series

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Introduction

Missional Too... What does this mean? It's not Missional *Two*... This book is more than a sequel to *Missional U*. It's a companion. If you have not read *Missional U*, you do not need to stop and go get it. You will not be lost or confused. But I must warn you – you will be challenged!

Your challenge, should you choose to accept it, is to live a missional life. Let me explain further. Live life as if it matters. Live life with purpose and intention. Live life... as a mission trip. I promise to quote *Mission: Impossible II* only once, but – “this isn't mission difficult, it's mission impossible.”¹ To truly live a missional life might seem impossible. But as a follower of Jesus, you know that nothing is impossible!

When you live a missional life, you will encounter different people and different cultures. And as Tim Chester says in his book *Unreached*, “It is often our encounter with culture that first reveals to us our own culture.”² When you live life as a mission trip, you learn who you really are – as you start to experience who God has dreamed you to be! This is one mission trip that is meant to last a lifetime.

The stories that follow are real, with real people, real lives, and real eternal significance. Despite some popular beliefs, hell is just as real as heaven. Living life as a mission trip is actually about a fuller heaven – more people coming into the true knowledge of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior! Thank you for signing up for this “course” to become better equipped to be missional too. Let's get started!

The Miracle



One of my favorite things about going to Apache is our lack of agenda. We want to serve however we can. All we really know for certain is the day we're arriving and the day we're leaving – and sometimes even those days can change! We never know what we will end up doing while we are there, or how God will use us. It's always an adventure! Sadly, I have seen so many well-meaning youth ministry folks come to the reservation with their preprogrammed agenda of how they will serve the Apache people – and inevitably one of two things happens. Either they get frustrated and never come back, or they quickly realize that they need to throw their agenda out the window and just dive in! Apache is a fantastic place to learn flexibility! (Or, it can be a very frustrating place to learn flexibility, depending on your perspective.)

In all the years we've been serving at Apache, we have done many different kinds of things to help out. There was the time we chopped wood for days on end because one of the little old ladies in the village didn't have any firewood and winter was coming. We were determined to get the job done for her, but inevitably we were not doing it quite right – so this eighty-year-old Apache woman picked up an axe and showed us how to *really* chop wood! She was quicker, stronger, and more efficient than most of the guys on our team! Over the years, we have painted countless buildings on the reservation – and I honestly believe that some of these buildings were

A Little Bit Bolder



Of all the mission trips I have participated in, I would have to say that the most personally impactful one was the opportunity to work with the persecuted underground church in North Africa. Now, before I begin this story, I should explain that I need to be intentionally vague about the people I worked with and the places we visited. Missionaries have been deported or even killed due to well-meaning church groups mentioning specifics about their locations and identities. For these missionaries, this is truly a life or death situation. While they are not afraid of death, they feel called to be wary so they can continue ministering to the people in spite of the dangerous risks involved.

On our last day in a North African country, our team was doing some prayer-walking around the city and then out to a pier that overlooked the beautiful area. I'm not sure if you've ever prayer-walked before – many people haven't – but it is very simple. We walk and we pray. We pray for who and what we see as we walk along. It's simple but also very profound and impacting. God reveals things about His plan constantly as you walk and pray. It's inspired by one of the shortest verses in the Bible – **“pray continually”** (1 Thessalonians 5:17). One of the local missionaries and I were praying, talking, and sharing our stories as we walked along.



“I’m Not a Strong Enough Christian”

I’ve actually heard this one quite a bit over the years. This excuse means different things to different people. Some people love to blame their lack of Bible knowledge, but often their worry is less tangible than that. What does “strong enough” even mean? Is there a measuring stick on which we must reach a certain level to be effective on a mission trip? Is it like the “you must be this tall to ride” sign at the entrance of a roller coaster at Disneyland? If you don’t measure up, you can’t go on the ride of a lifetime?

Jesus says, **“if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.”** (Matthew 17:20) Even the smallest amounts of faith enable you to do miraculous things for Jesus! And if you’re still thinking that you’re not a strong enough Christian, don’t forget that it’s not about you – it’s about Jesus working in you and through you! One of the most important things for you to remember when it comes to living life as a mission trip is that Jesus will do all the work – you just have to go!