

## Are You a Missing Link?

By Michael P. Horban

Dr. Charles Hurlburt once made the statement that God called enough men in every generation to evangelize the world in that generation. If that is the case, then there are many, many spiritual misfits in the world—Christians who are in wrong places.

Are you one of the missing links in God's plan? The churches are full of people who, at one time or another, felt the call to some special service for Christ. At the time they thought the cost too great, or their parents or friends pooh-poohed it, and they rebelled. Now they have lived, many of them, to count the cost of *not* obeying the voice of God. The greatest risk is *not* abandoning ourselves to God.

There are many Jonahs—those distinctly called of God who don't respond. They "rise up to flee." They miss the infinite joy of kingdom-advancing missionary Christianity.

Can I share with you a word from Jim Elliot, written in 1951, during his first missionary experience in Ecuador?

*You wonder why people choose fields away from the States when young people at home are drifting because no want wants to listen to their problems. I'll tell you why I left. It was because those Stateside young people have every opportunity to study, hear and understand the Word of God in their own language, and these Indians have no opportunity whatsoever. I have had to make a cross of two logs, and lie down on it, to show the Indians what it means to crucify a man. When there is that much ignorance over here, and so much knowledge and opportunity there, I have no question in my mind why God sent me here. Those whimpering Stateside young people will wake up on the Day of Judgment condemned to worse fates than these demon-fearing Indians, because, having a Bible, they were bored with it, while these never heard of such a thing as writing.*

Then Jim Elliot prayed, "God, I pray Thee, light these idle sticks of my life and may I burn for Thee. Consume my life, my God, for it is Thine. I seek not a long life, but a full one, like You, Lord Jesus."

On January 8, 1956, Jim Elliot and four other men were speared to death by some Auca Indians. The story is told in detail in the book *Through Gates of Splendor*. Jim's biography, *Shadow of the Almighty*, traces the preparation of his own soul for this assignment. He paid the price of loving Jesus.

In 1958, Jim's widow, Elisabeth, their daughter, Valerie and Rachel, a sister of Nate Saint, one of the other men killed with Jim, went to live with the Auca Indians. That's commitment. What should concern us is that 2.7 billion people alive today have never heard enough of the gospel to make a decision for salvation. This is why we must all become deeply involved in missions NOW! God is looking for a 100 percent commitment from us.

Open your heart to God's call to be either a **goer** or a **sender**. As you pray for God to "thrust out laborers into the harvest," He may ask you to be a sender. That call is just as legitimate and important as going. Don't take it lightly. Both are equally needed. The ultimate question is this: Will you be obedient to God's call on your life?

Michael P. Horban lives in Newmarket, Ontario. Reprinted with permission from the April 2007 issue of IPHC Experience. [www.iphcExperience.com](http://www.iphcExperience.com)