

The Mystery of "Calling"

GOD IS THE CALLER

Most missionaries who succeed in funding are convinced they are called by God to serve Him in specific ways. But "Calling" in the Bible is a mysterious phenomenon.

Clarify your own call from God

If a prospective donor were to ask you the following questions, how would you answer them?

"Why have you joined the staff of your mission agency?"

"Couldn't you do mission work as a part of your conventional-income career?"

"Why don't you work in a church or mission agency that would pay your salary?"

"What do you actually do each day?"

Before you fill out the calling chart on the next page, consider what God has *not* called you to do. I am *not* called to:

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Complete this chart summarizing the “calling” of eight of God’s servants:

(Note: This study does not deal with a general or “salvation” call, but rather with an individual’s call to ministry.)

PEOPLE	MISSION	LENGTH OF MISSION	HOW WAS CALL GIVEN?	(CHECK ONE) PUBLIC/PRIVATE		CAREER CHANGE?	LOCATION CHANGE?	RESPONSE
MOSES Exodus 3:1-15 Exodus 4:1-8								
ELIJAH 1 Kings 19:9-18								
ISAIAH Isaiah 6:1-10								
JEREMIAH Jeremiah 1:4-10								
JONAH Jonah 1:1-3 Jonah 3:1-5								
MARY Luke 1:26-35								
BARNABAS Acts 13:1-5								
PETER John 21:15-23								
YOU 								

A. Your insights: _____

B. What was similar and different in how people were called?

SIMILARITIES

DIFFERENCES

C. Do you think a person's calling is for the rest of his or her life?

D. Is the calling to vocational ministry (so-called "full time" ministry) more important than the calling to work a conventional job?

E. Identify some **wrong reasons** to go into "full-time" ministry?

F. What is the official calling or mission of the agency you are part of? Write it out here:

- Does this calling statement motivate you? How?
- How does your agency's official calling relate to your personal calling to ministry?

G. Describe the vision or mission you have for *your life* as a believer - not your ministry calling, but your life calling?

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- H.** State the specific mission that God has given you for current ministry in 25 words or less.
(For example: *“To introduce students to Christ and disciple them to become laborers at the University of _____.”*)

MY MISSION:

Word Count _____

Re-read your mission statement aloud. Does it motivate you? Others? Action verbs used?

Personal Application: How will a clear calling from God impact your fundraising?
