

God made the world, and he is passionate about the world. **God loved the world so much he gave his only Son for the world.** That is Passion. God loves the world so much he gave his dear Son Jesus to be born into the world and to die for the sins of the world. That is passion! **God our Saviour wants all people to be saved and ... he gave himself as a ransom for all people.** That is passion! **The Lord does not want anyone to perish but everyone to repent!** That is passion! God made you and he is passionate about you, and he wants you to spend eternity with him. God is passionate about every person he has made, and he wants every person to spend eternity with him.

What are you passionate about? What drives you? What are you seeking most in life? Maybe you just want a good job with a good wife or husband, and some good kids and a nice car, and some good friends, and a good retirement with an annual cruise, and a quick and easy death, and no worries about hell, but fingers crossed you go straight to heaven. Maybe that is what matters to you. But that is a wasted life. God wants more for you. The Reader's Digest told an all too common story of wasted lives. A couple retired early to spend their lives cruising around on their boat, collecting shells and playing softball. Now can you imagine how they will account for their one and only life on judgement day? "*We played softball and collected shells!*" How sad if our interests and passions are so small, so self centred, so centred on this passing world!

God calls us to share his passion for the world. **Seek the kingdom of God,** Jesus says. **Make sure you have a rich relationship with God.** Lk 12.21. **Go and proclaim the kingdom of God.** Lk 11.59. **Go and make disciples of all nations.** Matt.28:19. **Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to all creation.** Mk 16.15. **You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses... to the ends of the earth.** Acts 1.8. God's passion is to save all the people, all the nations of the earth, and he calls us to share that passion. He calls us to share that passion even if it means being persecuted like Jesus was, and suffering like Jesus did, and dying like Jesus did. Do you share this passion with Jesus? Remember the **Lord does not want anyone to perish, but everyone to repent:** Each of your children, your neighbours, your friends, everyone in Murray Bridge; everyone in Australia, and Vietnam, and China, and Iran, and Syria, every person and every nation on the earth. God commands us to tell every person and every nation the Good News of Jesus Christ, and **to snatch them from the fire of hell, and save them.** Jude 23.

When God called me to be a pastor 58 years ago on the farm at Culburra God gave me this passion to save the lost. Day and night that was my passion, even though it meant leaving the farm and going back to school for years. But by the time I left Seminary my passion had narrowed to being a country pastor in South Australia. But God had a bigger passion and he shared it with the leaders of the church and they sent me to NZ. How I praise God for that,

for it opened my eyes to the world. And from NZ he called me to Perth, and then to Adelaide, and only in my retirement to the country parishes of South Australia. First he needed to grow my passion for his Kingdom, from country to city, and from SA to NZ. And then when I thought I was comfortably settled back in country parishes in SA, came the biggest shock, and the most stretching call of all. August Fricke phoned up one day to ask if I would go to Vietnam to teach the Gospel there. Just when I thought I was retired in my 70s God called and gave me a new passion for the people of Vietnam.

What about you? What is God calling you to do? Where is God calling you to go? What little dreams is God calling you to give up, so that you can join God in his big dream of rescuing the world? What selfish passions is God calling you to sacrifice, so that you can join his mission to **preach the Gospel to the whole creation**? He may not be calling you to get a passport and go to Vietnam... but you can be sure he is calling you cross the street to your unbelieving neighbour. God may not be calling you to speak through an interpreter in Vietnam, but you can be sure he is calling you to intercede for the people of Vietnam. God may not be calling you to buy an airline ticket to go to overseas mission, but he could be calling you to give generously so somebody else can go.

Let me introduce you to ASIA FOCUS mission in Vietnam.

1. There are about 100 million people in Vietnam, 13 million in HCMC...
2. Vietnam is Communist, and therefore more or less anti Christian...
3. Vietnam is also Buddhist, and filled with idols...
4. About 10% of Vietnam is RC. As a result of French influence...
5. There is a growing Protestant church, including Lutheran...
6. There are many poor people, including in orphanages....
7. We go there chiefly to teach the Word of God, especially the Gospel...
8. We preach in their house churches...
9. We visit them and pray with and encourage them...
10. They are very faithful missionaries...
11. I have an ongoing ministry of encouragement to some via email & prayer...