

## **Mission Motive and Heavenly Promise**

### **By Victor Beshir**

You ask me why in the eighteenth and nineteenth century tens of thousands of Americans and Europeans left the comfort of their homes to travel to every place on earth to spread the Gospel. Before they leave, they were well aware of the danger waiting for them. Half of them will die before reaching their destiny in Africa or Asia or Latin America; some would die in the sea, others by diseases, while others by wild animals or by people who will not accept the Gospel. Yet, they travelled, saying "good bye" to their families and friends knowing in their hearts that this could be the last greeting.

The history is full of such great mission movements, or martyrdom, or monastic movements, where people moved by a great power that overcame every love of comfort, money, family relationships, concern for health or even for life itself. Life on earth became not precious in the eyes of all of them. What was the reason? What is the motive?

The Spirit Who reveals the secrets of the hearts made it known to St. Paul, who in turn put it in the most eloquent words:

*"**For the love of Christ compels us**, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again" (2 Corinthians 5:14, 15).*

#### ***For the love of Christ compels us:***

This is the motive behind every missionary work, the love of Christ that compels us, a love that grows in the hearts slowly but surely.

His love grows with:

the more time we spend with Him,  
the more we open our hearts to receive His love,  
and the more we learn how to follow Him for Him alone,  
when every service is done for Him alone.

Then the heavenly time comes with

*"**the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit** who was given to us" (Romans 5:5).*

At this stage, the love of Christ will compel us, will surround us, following us wherever we go. The Arabic translation for this verse states "the love of Christ surrenders us." It is true. Once we reach that point, we strongly feel the second part of the above verse:

***"those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him."***

This is the beginning of dedicating life to Christ in any field He chooses for us. Missionary work starts here, evangelism starts here too. We live for Him and not for ourselves anymore. Everything in us or we have is For Him and for His service. Everything inside us declares that we belong to Him. Then the golden promise appears before our eyes, as it appeared before for millions who loved Him:

*"Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or parents or brothers or wife or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, <sup>30</sup> who shall not receive many times more in this present time, and in the age to come eternal life" (Luke 18:29, 30).*