

THE WORLD IS OUR MISSION

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This is a play in simple verse which is ideal for a Missions Sunday or Missions conference. It can be portrayed by adults or young people and even children—or perhaps even better, a combination of all three. Each player enters and recites one stanza and carries or wears something appropriate, as indicated. After each stanza, the player steps to an allotted place so that by the end they are all lined up across the stage. While the others speak, those who have already given their recitation look intently at the speaker. During each stanza an appropriate photo/picture can be shown on the big screen. It should be a still picture so that it does not distract too much from the recitation.

It is really important that every player knows the lines perfectly and that they speak boldly, confidently, clearly and with plenty of expression. Voices must be projected strongly so that even in the back row people can hear easily.

Before each stanza, a few bars of appropriate introductory music can be played either live or through the PA system e.g. sporting music before stanza two. This is optional and will vary according to changing musical trends.

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Music: Plaintive instrumental version of 'Amazing Grace' (e.g. violin solo or bagpipes or simple organ keyboard melody).

Player #1 enters carrying a map and a travel bag.

The world is our mission – this is our theme;

The world is our mission – this is my dream, (short pause)

I dream of the nations, their people, their wealth,

Their joys and their sorrows, their sickness, their health.

Their beliefs and religions, resources and lands,

Their beaches and mountains and parched desert sands.

But mostly I dream of their needs and their woes,

Their pluses and losses, their friends and their foes,

Their need of a Saviour to lift them from shame,

And transform their lives by the power of His Name.

Player #2 carries sporting gear and wears sporting attire.

The world is our mission – this is our theme,
The world is our mission – this is my dream. (short pause)
I love my own country and all of its ways,
I'm happy to live here the rest of my days,
The weather's fantastic, there's sun and there's surf
And cricket and footy and fruit of the earth;
My friends and my family are always around
To help me stay safe with my feet on the ground (short pause)
But the nations are calling no matter the cost;
I can't sleep at night for concern for the lost.

Player #3 carries a brief case and wears business clothes.

The world is our mission – this is our theme,
The world is our mission – this is my dream. (short pause)
I love my career and the challenge it brings—
The thrill of succeeding that gives my heart wings—
I rise in the morning and greet the new day
With anticipation of joy, not dismay;
Then I think of the millions whose income is less
Than the money I earn in ten minutes, I guess;
And I wonder how long my material gain
Can keep me from acting to loosen their chains.

Player #4 carries a bulging shopping bag with a box of Panadol or similar easily accessible at the top of the bag.

The world is our mission – this is our theme,
The world is our mission – this is my dream. (short pause)
I'm grateful to God that my health is OK,
I have breath in my lungs, I have bread for each day;
And if I'm unwell with a pain or an ache
I know that there's always a pill I can take; (extracts pain reliever from bag and shows audience)

(The next four lines need to evoke sorrow in the listeners – the lines need to be said carefully and emotionally. Stress the 30K etc)

But in parts of this world there are children who die—

Thirty thousand each day—and there's no reason why
They should perish in pain, through humanity's greed,
Without the good food and clean water they need.

Player #5 carries a guitar or tambourine or similar.

The world is our mission – this is our theme,
The world is our mission – this is my dream. (short pause)
I love to sing praises and worship the Lord,
To lift my hands high and to play the right chord;
Although I am still in the prime of my youth
I relish the preaching of biblical truth;
I shout 'Hallelujah!' when Jesus is preached
For I know that the kingdom of darkness is breached; (short pause)
But how can I simply enjoy what I have
When the lost have no hope and their end is the grave?

Player #6 has a Bible (that looks like a Bible) in hand

The world is our mission – this is our theme,
The world is our mission – this is my dream. (short pause)
It's easy to think that it's not my concern,
That suffering and pain I can casually spurn;
But the love of the Lord leaves me under constraint
And I cannot ignore their heart-rending complaint;
The darkness of sin puts them under a pall
No hope... no joy... only sorrow and gall;
Christ died for their sins and rose up for their right,
If I do not tell them, their day is still night;

Player #7 carries a lantern or large torch.

The world is our mission – this is our theme,
The world is our mission – this is my dream. (short pause)
I must pray, I must give, I must go if I can.
For this world is in darkness, the light's in my hand.
The good news of Christ is the power of God
To offer salvation to all through his blood

But how shall they trust him if they cannot see
The freedom he gives from a dark destiny?
The Lord is the light of this sad, gloomy world
And I'll never relax if they never are told.

Player #8 has a large wooden cross.

The world is our mission – this is our theme,
The world is our mission – this is my dream. (short pause)
My parents worked hard so I'd earn a degree,
Get on in the world and live prosperously;
If I throw it all in for the sick and the poor
They'll never forgive me – they'll show me the door.
It will cost all I have, my possessions and goods,
I'll lose valued friends, I'll be misunderstood; (short pause)
But my heart cannot rest with the cry of the lost,
I must follow Jesus and take up His cross;

All in line across stage, say first two lines together. Then each recites an individual line. All players need to know both their lines and their cues so everything flows smoothly. Also, there needs to be a sense of the dramatic in these lines—they must be spoken exultantly. Then all recite the last two lines together.

The world is our mission – this is our theme,
The world is our mission – this is my dream.

#1

Let's step out in faith and in love to succeed

#2

In preaching by Spirit and Word and in deed;

#3

To make new disciples wherever we can

#4

From people of every nation and land.

#5

The gospel's the power of the Lord to redeem

#6

And liberate all who will put faith in him;

#7

To shatter the kingdom of death and despair

#8

And bring them the love that will answer their prayer.

#1 and #5

The thief, Jesus said, came to steal... kill... destroy;

#2 and #6

But Christ died to bless us with fullness of joy.

#3 and #7

Yet millions today will be buried in grief

#4 and #8

No hope of redemption, no chance of relief,

All recite the last four lines slowly, spreading arms with palms open while doing so.

The Saviour made clear his explicit commands;

Their hope and their destiny lie in our hands.

The world is our mission – this is our theme,

The world is our mission – this is our dream.

Music ('Amazing Grace') begins again. All stand like statues. Music stays soft while off stage voice reads Matthew 28:18-20.

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. [19] Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, [20] teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Music rises in volume. Then changes to a live performance by singers or a DVD rendition of an appropriate song about missions.