

What is an Advocate?

ad·vo·cate

/ noun / a person who publicly supports or recommends a particular cause or policy

/ verb / publicly recommend or support

From a mission standpoint, an advocate is someone who wants to support or recommend world missions. Here at Within Reach Global, we view advocates as individuals who are willing to use their gifts, skills and talents in order to help further the Great Commission – especially when it comes to unreached people groups in the 10/40 Window.

Why Become an Advocate?

It has been preached in pulpits all over the world plenty of times: When it comes to missions, some are called to **Go**. Some are called to **Send**. Some are called to **Give**.

Which category do you belong to?

You may not know yet. Or you may already fit into one or more (or all!) of those categories.

The point is that as Christians, we need to become involved in missions one way or another.

The reason is that there are still over 2,000,000,000 people who have never heard the name Jesus before. There are over 6,000 unreached people groups and 3,000 unengaged (no one reaching them) people groups. Every individual matters to God, but so many have slipped off our radar, unnoticed and forgotten. Like Deng, a Yao man on the China/Vietnam border. Like Monica, a Kemu girl who has no idea of what Jesus did for her. Like Lin, a farmer who still offers blood sacrifices to appease the gods and bless his crops.

No matter where you fit into those three categories, you can become an advocate. You can get involved. You can be God's hands and feet wherever you are. You have been given specific gifts, skills and talents that was meant to proclaim the Name of Christ to the ends of the earth.

You were created for such a time as this.

And what better way to use what God has given you – right here, right now – than to use it to fulfill the Great Commission?

Your art, your writing, your cooking, your knitting, your athletic skills, your friendliness, your dazzling smile, your photography – whatever talent you have received from God – can be used to help reach the unreached. Please. Use it.

I Want to be an Advocate! Uhhh... How exactly?

BE CREATIVE. We serve the Master of all Creativity. The Original Artist. The Great Creator. The Author and Perfecter.

There are so many ways to do this beyond just the traditional missions banquet dinner or committing to a monthly offering to missions. Not that banquets and offerings don't help, but we believe that we should be free to explore outside the box and try something that will excite us, that will make our bones come alive and make an adventure out of advocating missions.

Now, you may be thinking, "Yeah... that sounds great and all... inspiring stuff. But what do I do?!"

OK, fine. Here are a couple of suggestions:

Build a Tribe

No need for wigwams and teepees, though feel free to create a chant or a celebratory dance of your own if you feel like it.

The idea?

Talk about missions. Gather a group of people who have a heart for missions. Come together. Regularly pray for the unreached. Influence others to give as you have given, to send and go as you might have already did.

Brainstorm ideas and organize activities that will help the unreached. You don't have to be alone in this.

Maybe you love knitting. Start a knitting club and send those sweaters and mittens to an orphanage in China. Maybe your knitting will eventually snowball to other sowing methods and at some point, become a fashion line, whose proceeds support missionary organizations working with the unreached (*cough* Within Reach Global *cough*). Who's to say that can't happen when we serve a God who turns water into wine? Knit away! Build friendships and grow your network while you're at it.

Raise Awareness

The point of advocacy is this: to spread the news. To let people know what the 10/40 Window is. To let them know that there are still people out there who is wondering what a Jesus is. Is it a carbonated drink?

You may be thinking, "Well, there's already plenty of information on the internet. Why do I have to do something? Can't people just google "unreached people groups," "1040 window," or "missions"? Can't people just read the Within Reach Global website?"

(We know, right?! Can't they?)

But kidding and shameless plugging aside, no matter how much has already been said or done, as long as there are still unreached people groups in this world, *what has been said, what has been done is still not enough.*

You have been given a unique skill set within your own specific sphere of influence. You may have 50 Facebook friends/Twitter followers. Or you may have 500. Or 5000. Let them know. There are people in this world that only you were given the power to reach.

And you can reach them in your very own unique way.

Draw up a funny comic that talks about the unreached. Start making paintings and put it on an art gallery. Write a short story about a little girl in Laos who looked at the heavens and wondered whether or not there was someone out there making the stars chase the sun and coaxing the sun to swallow up the night. Write about her need for someone to tell her about Christ.

Travel to countries where Christians are persecuted and start filming a documentary about them. (If you think that's too much, someone already did that.)

The whole point is that the world needs you to...

Do Something

Listen to the Holy Spirit. Listen to the Creator Who wants to bless you with creativity. Receive in faith, then act on it.

Faith without action is dead.

You can't afford to be dead while you're still alive. It's a complete waste.

So get involved. Think outside the box. Ask God to give you ideas and align you with people who can help you execute those plans.

Because all of this? Missions... advocacy... creativity... your role in all of it... All of this stems from the heart of God.

Seek and you will find. Knock and the door will be opened. Ask and you will receive.

It's already in His heart to order your steps and show you what to do. Let Him.

Be an Advocate for the Unreached.