



## Finish What You Start

A while back I heard from someone that for every 100 young people who surrender to missions only six go to Bible college. From there only four graduate and go to the field. Three of those four come home after the first term. Only one in the 100 who surrendered goes back for the second term. I can't prove that those statements are true, but if they are—Wow! Think about that, only a few really finish what they start.

The truth is that we can apply this to any area of life. Very few people finish what they start. When I was in Argentina, there were crazy amounts of people that would enter in the local university to study to become lawyers, accountants, medical professionals, or whatever. By the second year the number decrease by half. By the third year there would be even fewer, and ultimately only a handful of those who started actually graduated. All of us could mention examples of how people quit and don't follow through, and the sad reality is that this same mindset exists in the ministry just as much as it does in the secular world.

While we should be very careful not to look at another's situation with a judgmental attitude, we should be wise, try to learn some things, and strive with all our might to finish what we start. Remember that serving God almost always guarantees the devil's attacks. Let's set our hearts and minds on finishing what we start. Next time you're tempted to quit, remember the following:

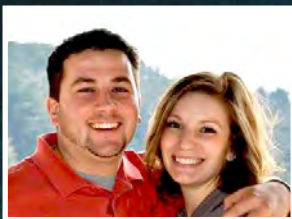
1. **Remember *Who* called you and put you where you are.** If I am serving where I am serving out of my own strength, I probably will quit. If I am convinced that God put me where I am, I can run back to that truth as often as I need to (which can be quite often when dealing with bad days, criticism, and doubts.)
2. **Remember there is a cause.** Whether the goal is to get the people saved, build the church, prepare the workers, raise the money to get there, or whatever it may be to you personally, there really is a cause and something worth the finishing of what you are doing. Sometimes re-visiting the real purpose of why you are doing what you are doing will be a encouragement and reason to keep going.
3. **Remember others have invested in you.** Between parents, pastors, friends, and mentors there are a lot of people who have helped you get where you are. All of us can mention names and tell stories of how we have been helped and how others have greatly invested in our lives. Finish what was started to honor and show appreciation to the many people God has placed in your life, to those who have helped you get where you are.
4. **There really are rewards.** There is nothing, in my opinion, compared to seeing someone serve the Lord whom you have personally helped. As Paul said in I Thessalonians 2:19-20, those he won to the Lord and saw growing in Him are his hope, joy, crown and glory.

There is a sense of satisfaction when we accomplish something—when a church is started, when we finish deputation, when we see someone saved, when we see God call a man to preach. Finish the job friend because there are both earthly and heavenly rewards.

Here to serve,

Jeff Bush  
General Director, Vision Baptist Missions

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## Past Pioneers in Missions

“If a commission by an earthly king is considered an honor, how can a commission by a Heavenly King be considered a sacrifice?”

Edward de los Reyes was saved at the age of 14, and after he graduated from high school, God gave him the desire to become a missionary. He has already spent a total of 8 months in China training under the ministry of veteran missionary Jake Taube. During his time in China, Edward was able to share the Gospel, bring individuals to church, start weekly Bible studies, and personally see Chinese individuals saved, baptized, and discipled.

Edward continued preparing for the mission field by training under the leadership of Vision Baptist Church in Alpharetta, GA. Over the past two and a half years, he has served as the church's music director, as well as a Sunday School teacher. Edward has taught multiple discipleship classes, planned church events and conferences, and personally seen individuals saved, baptized, and discipled. He is now eager to get to China as a church planting missionary and has just started deputation!



If you would like to partner with Edward on his journey to China, you can email him at [esdelosreyes@gmail.com](mailto:esdelosreyes@gmail.com) or call him at 301-641-6274

In 2004, a group of young missionaries headed to the field held a camp for college age students interested in foreign missions. God blessed that camp in a such an incredible way, and the decisions made that week are still impacting the world today, as alumni are now serving as missionaries and church leaders all over the globe.

This camp expanded over the years and added on a middle school and high school track, giving young people and college students alike exposure to missionaries and missions training.

This year, we will be holding the Our Generation Camp at Sand Mountain Bible Camp in Trenton, GA. We are blessed to have over a dozen missionaries families join us to serve as keynote speakers and counselors and to spend time with the students. We believe this unique equation makes for an awesome week with maximum impact on the life of teenagers and college students. For more information or to register, visit [www.visionmissions.com/events/camp/](http://www.visionmissions.com/events/camp/)

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