

“He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

~Luke 4:18b-19, NIV



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DateXXXX

Dear Sponsor,

I learned early in my life that a personal mission statement helps provide both clarity and purpose. It can help define who you are—how you live your life.

My faith in Jesus has certainly defined me and my life. His example and my desire to keep it central to my family and my work is part of my personal mission.

But what was Jesus’ mission? Did He go as far as to actually make a statement?

I believe He did.

During this special season, when we as Christians reflect on our faith, I find myself thinking even more about Jesus and His purpose for us and our world.

What must it have been like at the synagogue in Nazareth, where Jesus made what was perhaps His first statement about His identity as the Messiah?

In Luke 4, the Bible tells of Jesus reading from the scroll of Isaiah and declaring both who He was and why He had come—His mission statement.

He makes a proclamation that He has come to bring “good news to the poor,” a promise of salvation for anyone asking God’s forgiveness—especially for the “least of these” among us.

He refers to “recovery of sight for the blind,” and His compassionate determination to help the sick. He pledges to “release the oppressed,” a call for justice and freedom for anyone who had been wronged.

This was and is Jesus’ mission. And it became the mission of the first century Christians who followed Him.

My hope and prayer is that with all the good work that needs to be done in our world, Jesus’ mission becomes the mission of everyone today who celebrates His birth, His sacrifice, and His resurrection.

From my heart,

Rich Stearns, President

P.S. Thank you for allowing me to share a bit more about my personal faith this month. As always, I’m so grateful for sponsors like you who share your love with children in need.