

Q & A



A Just Mission *Laying Down Power and Embracing Mutuality*

September 27, 2022 | \$18, 208 pages, paperback | 978-1-5140-0367-1

Western mission often centers the senders, without as much understanding of the receivers' experiences. Weaving together theology and stories from diaspora groups, Ethiopian American mission practitioner Mekdes Haddis provides a postcolonial critique of Western mission, upending the white savior complex and arguing for a globally just approach.

The Future of the Mission Is in God's Hands

In what way does this book tie social justice and missions together?

Mekdes Haddis: *A Just Mission* is a book that holistically examines the injustice the Western mission movement has failed to see in its very monolithic lens. It serves as a guide to help raise self-awareness in areas of social justice, power dynamics, and theological discrepancies. It also gives a hopeful and clear solution to what a vibrant global mission movement can look like and who it needs to lead it.

What's distinctive about this approach is that it is not an academic book like most mission books. It is told from the perspective of someone who would typically be expected to be on the receiving end of the message, and it highlights the fact that I and those like me have something to give. The idea that social justice in the mission field is beyond rescuing sex-trafficking victims makes this book unique. It examines manmade problems that cause enormous pain in Black and Brown people's lives around the world.

From racism to proxy wars, *A Just Mission* encompasses the ability to make the gospel apply to any context and truly show the great power of God who is the Creator of all.

Tell us a little bit more about how your passions served as your motivations to write your first book.

Mekdes: I have a zeal for the body of Christ to live up to the calling to make disciples of all nations and do it with integrity and power. Every voice counts, but we must first be able to identify and include each voice that God has made to display his beauty in different cultures. Theology, culture, justice, and reconciliation all must play a role in shaping how the gospel is received in a vulnerable community.

My passion is to equip the next generation of Western Christians with truth and justice so they can be effective disciples who boldly live out their faith even if it causes persecution, which is part of counting the cost to follow Christ. I have the desire to empower and enrich the global church by addressing issues that matter to her. Issues of injustice and inequality can be solved if the Western church is properly informed and involved.

Which voices would you like to see added to the conversations about global missions?

Mekdes: There are many beautiful and brilliant voices that have shaped me and enriched my faith that I desire to see included in the larger conversation of the mission movement. Those voices are largely from the Global South, but they are currently completely left out of the conversation of missions in the West, which monopolizes the global mission strategy and narrative.

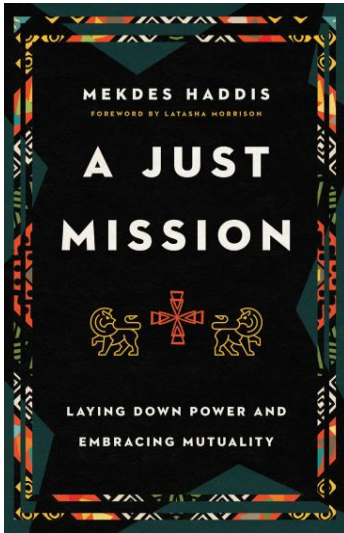


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What do you hope are some of the key takeaways for readers?

Mekdes: I wrote this book in hopes that it will lead people to think differently and challenge them to have a holistic awareness about the places in which they want to serve. In reading this book, I hope people will

- see the value of being in a multicultural discipleship relationship and how that grows into a life that's fully surrendered to missions.
- gain the awareness that God already resides in every culture and their role is to approach other cultures with humility and an expectation of learning, seeing what God is already doing.
- understand that they (Western Christians) are not the solution to the world's problems but that they can provide support in their respective lanes.
- accept the idea that mutuality of partnership looks different for every context and culture they enter, and that they must give the utmost respect and honor to the approach of local leaders.
- believe that the future of the mission is in God's hands and that he is moving through the diaspora community, which should further compel the Western church to focus on racial reconciliation for the sake of multiethnic churches that equip and send off diaspora Christians.



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BIO



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"Mekdes is the perfect person to talk about this complex subject in a restorative and redeeming manner. Her writing lifts up those who have been harmed but also creates a way forward for those who have done the harm to correct their mistakes. This book not only states the problem but provides the solutions that need to be considered to build a more inclusive missional movement. . . . A Just Mission is a much-needed book for the church to see the world through the lenses of reconciliation and justice."

—Latasha Morrison, founder of Be the Bridge, from the foreword

Elevating Diaspora Voices for Global Impact

Mekdes Haddis is the founder and executive coach of Just Missions, an online community for missionaries, mission professionals, and ministry leaders seeking a more just approach to global mission. It is a space that elevates diaspora voices and equips Western allies to become mutual partners for the work of the gospel. It aims to forge the path of leaving a relational legacy surrounded by a cloud of witnesses. As an executive coach, Mekdes is actively developing strategies to train individuals and organizations with a fresh look at missions for global impact.

She is also project director for an effort working on racial justice and reconciliation. Prior to these roles, she was a consultant and on staff with churches and nonprofit organizations in discipleship and outreach for over ten years.

Her writing has been featured in *Christianity Today* and *Faithfully Magazine*, as well as used by organizations such as the American Bible Society and YWAM.

Mekdes was born and raised in Ethiopia and moved to the United States in 2003 to pursue her studies. She has a BS in communications from Liberty University and a master's in organizational leadership from Columbia International University.



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