Why Send Missionaries When There Are So Many Unbelievers At Home?

I've had well-meaning people sincerely ask me why we should send missionaries to other countries when there are so many lost people in our own neighborhoods. Here are three reasons we still need to invest in sending missionaries.

**Access**

Sadly, it's true that there are millions of unbelievers in the United States and Canada, but there are also millions of believers in the US and Canada who can easily tell them about the Lord.

Furthermore, a person in the US or Canada can hear the news of Jesus through 24/7 Christian radio, television, and online. We have access to Christian bookstores, magazines, free Bibles in hotel rooms, and churches on nearly every corner. A seeker in the US or Canada can easily find the Truth.

But there are millions of people in the world who couldn't tell you anything about who Jesus is or what He did. And they have no one to tell them and no way to hear. It is estimated that in some areas of the world, there is only one Christian worker (a pastor, lay leader, missionary, etc.) for every one million people. These people have no way to hear the gospel unless someone from outside their world goes to them with the message.
To paraphrase Oswald Smith, the founder of The People's Church in Toronto, Canada, "How can we justify allowing someone to hear and reject the gospel multiple times when there are so many who have never had the opportunity to hear it even once?"

**We Don’t Have To Choose**

It's very true that we have many lost in our own neighborhoods, but it doesn't cost a dime for Christians to reach their neighbors. We don't have to stop supporting overseas missions to reach them. We simply need to mobilize the church to be the church. We can reach our neighbors and still send missionaries to other nations. There's no reason to consider this an either/or decision.

**Obedience**

Jesus told us to go locally and to the ends of the earth. (Acts 1:8) He did not give us the liberty to pick one or the other. That should be all the reason we need to support missions "in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

If the apostles had waited until all Jerusalem and Judea and Samaria had heard the gospel before they reached out to the ends of the earth it's quite possible that today neither you nor I would have had the opportunity to hear.

**Because he came for all, we must go to all.**

‘Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’ How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent?  
- Romans 10:13-15

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations...
- Matthew 28:18-19