



Reckless Abandon: A Modern-Day Gospel Pioneer's Exploits Among the Most Difficult to Reach Peoples

David Sitton

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David Sitton was barely a man when he left surfing and partying to live in Papua New Guinea, a faraway, perilous land. Leaving Texas with a Bible, a suitcase (and a surfboard), he took the gospel into cannibalistic areas to people who had never heard the name of Jesus. For thirty-four years God has used him to help train missionaries, spread the gospel and establish dozens of churches in remote regions. Through this book, experience the amazing things God did as David recklessly abandoned his will to the will of God.

Reckless Abandon: A Modern-Day Gospel Pioneer's Exploits Among the Most Difficult to Reach Peoples Details

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Josh says

Reckless Abandon, by David Sitton, is a memoir of a frontier missionary. In it, Sitton takes the reader with him as he blazes a trail to people who have never even heard the message of the Gospel, many who have never even seen a white man. This book is an engrossing read and I would not be surprised that if you sat down to read it that you did not arise until three or four hours later after completing it.

The most endearing part of this book is what I perceive to be the most endearing part of David Sitton, his ever-present focus on the Gospel of the crucified and resurrected Messiah, the Gospel of our King Jesus. All throughout the book, as Sitton tells of dangerous encounters with hostile tribes, predators stalking his home, hardships limiting his work in an area, theological convictions causing intramural persecution, or the tribulation of speaking in front of thousands of pastors, Sitton is consistent in his Gospel focus and persistent in his efforts to proclaim the Gospel message.

This is a book that God will use in the life of anyone who reads it, primarily because of how saturated it is with the Word of God. In it you will encounter the Holy Spirit working mightily in the lives of many people, and you will see the opposition that is faced when the Gospel message goes forth. It will encourage the believer to know that, while our mission may not be cannibalistic tribal chiefs who throw coconuts at us and threaten our life, the opposition found within them is the same opposition we find in our agnostic co-worker or our “I’m a good person” neighbor or our religious, “Christian” relative.

This is a book that brings the reality of what it means to be a Christian to the forefront of our thinking. Our culture has indoctrinated us with health and wealth prosperity teaching (or the evangelical form of it, the “God’s ultimate desire is for you to be happy” gospel). For so many, throughout history and throughout the world today, to follow Jesus is what Bonhoeffer equated to a “call to come and die.” For most of us in the West, this call is simply a spiritual one. Very real, but not bleeding into our physical safety and comfort to a great degree. But for many still, this “call to come and die” is a literal, physical call that will cost them their property, their safety, and ultimately their physical life.

Throughout this book, I found myself getting angry. I found myself weeping in misery and weeping in joy. I was sad, mad, but ultimately greatly encouraged (that the Gospel will go forth to the ends of the earth) and challenged (because God has blessed me and every believer with the burden/opportunity to be the one to take it). It is not just the frontier missionary who has been called to live a life of reckless abandon, but everyone who claims the blood of Jesus as his righteousness and bears the name Christian

Mat Rueter says

Let my love flow from you
Let it spill over to all you think

You are precious in my eyes
Love others because I love you
Look towards me and let go

Mike says

Inspiring challenge to not put personal safety over the salvation of souls. David Sitton's desire to bring the gospel to unreached people is relentless. He chronicles his experiences in Papua New Guinea and Mexico. Many times his life was in danger, once ducking and dodging a machete wielding man.

The only reason I did not give it five stars is that the writing is not that great. If some of the stories were written with more detail and more skillfully communicated the drama of the situations this could have been a missionary classic.

Jennifer McMaster says

I really enjoyed the story of David Sitton's work with unreached people in Papua, New Guinea. His willingness to bring the Gospel at the risk of his own life and to bear beatings and other persecutions is inspiring in a world where Christians care far too much for our own comfort. Sitton's theology is sound and he was able to see God's power among the demonic forces with which the natives conspired. This is a great book for parents to read to or have their older children read to encourage them to be mission-minded.

Dylan Brobst says

A great story of transformation and how God uses us when we feel inadequate to accomplish amazing things for His kingdom. I know the author.

Breanna says

This book is about a Papua New Guinea Missionary. It talks about his life before he decided to go and his experiences while he was in Papua New Guinea. The book empowers others to be outwardly strong in their faith. It speaks to everyone to take what they believe in and follow their heart. It also speaks to taking advantage of every situation. This book talks mostly about speaking to others about Jesus, which I felt inspired me to love more deeply and tell people about Jesus.

Angelyn Vaughan says

I love that the stories in this autobiography are peppered with simple but important missions theory. His personal account is fascinating and encouraging, but Sitton goes beyond telling inspiring stories and challenges the reader to action. He doesn't just want us to like missions or become missionaries, but to

become the right kind of missionaries that will most effectively bring the word of Christ to the unreached. Sitton isn't a professional writer, but he is definitely an authority on his subject and I enjoyed his straightforward approach. The book could be improved by better organization or smoother transitions from point to point. Regardless, I'm eager to read "To Every Tribe with Jesus."

Jeanie says

A great book on missions. Very radical and there is no sugar coating but only pure truth of the Gospel. Starting with David's early life and what drew him to Christ and to the mission field. A surprising turn when faced with pre-destination theology. A great book to read on that is one that I am currently reading by RC Sproul Chosen by God. David's stand and faith is inspiring and refreshing. He shares also his stragedy in missions which one story told by about a tribe that over generations knew the story of Babel. It was interesting how David was attuned and shared with the tribe what had happened and the tribe received it. It has many disappointments however, the disappointments always turned into opportunties for the Gospel to go forth. Jesus is worth it. Something this reader needs to be reminded.

Andrew says

. . . unless you want to be challenged, encouraged, convicted, and moved to rejoicing in a great God with great plans for his people! I can't remember how I saw this book, but I bought it on my Kindle and now I'll be buying a copy for our church library as well as a copy for a guy I know is thinking about missions as vocation. Sitton, while theologically orthodox, is probably clinically insane for the way he throws himself into the maelstrom of pioneer church planting. His Paul-like abandonment of safety and comfort for the unpredictability of risking his life to bring the gospel into tribal areas of Papua New Guinea and Mexico will blow you away and probably leave you a bit unsatisfied with your comfortable, respectable, small-God-big-Man lifestyle. I know it did that to me. Oh to live with the reckless abandon Sitton speaks of! BUY. THIS. BOOK.

Andrew Barlow says

A great little account of David Sitton's journeys as a pioneer church planter. Inspiring and to the point.

Jon says

A great little biography of the way David Sitton has been on mission to the least-reached peoples of the world, particularly in PNG and Mexico. It is an overview of his ministry and passion for seeing people everywhere know Jesus.

Mike Knox says

It is my conviction as a mission leader, rather than encouraging this generation of young believers to pad their IRA retirement accounts, we should be pointing them towards packing their own coffins with a few belongings as they set sail for the strongholds of Satan in the 10 / 40 Window countries. (201)

Matt Pitts says

We've heard the stories of the great missionaries of past generations, men like William Carey and Adoniram Judson. But what about the missionaries of today? Where are the stories of the men and women who are going into the most difficult places with the gospel of Jesus? Well, here is one of those stories.

I first heard about David Sitton through a Desiring God Pastor's Conference. He is a consistently courageous, no-holds-barred gospel pioneer who has worked among some of the most difficult people in Papua New Guinea and Mexico. His story is compelling (I read most of the book in less than 24 hours) and will likely continue to be told beyond his own generation.

If you're looking for some fuel to put on the fire of your passion for missions, grab a copy of this book and let the fire grow!

Lee Cook says

An amazing book that testifies of our amazing God!

Pete Williamson says

I have found that the best missionary auto-/biographies are the ones that leave me restless with where I am and challenge me to think about where God might send me...this is one of those books. Read at your own risk!
