



GLOBAL MISSIONS

IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION 2

THE GREAT COMMISSION 3

FULFILLING THE COMMISSION 4

CHURCH MISSIONS TEAM 5

MISSIONS TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES 8

FAITH PROMISE 10

PROMOTIONAL IDEAS 14

 MISSIONS TREASURY 14

 MISSIONS CONFERENCE 15

 INTERNATIONAL BUFFET OR BANQUET 20

 MISSIONS SUNDAY 22

 PRAYING FOR MISSIONARIES 24

 MISSIONARY VISITS 25

 MISSIONS TRIPS 28

 FUNDRAISERS 30

CONTRIBUTING CHURCHES 36



GLOBAL MISSIONS

IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

INTRODUCTION

This booklet deals with ways in which each church in the UPCI fellowship can make a difference on the foreign missions field by organizing and developing a foreign missions ministry within the local church. Although it will deal specifically with foreign missions, it could easily be adapted to be a missions ministry and include home missions as well.

As you study this booklet, please keep in mind that we are giving you many ideas from a number of sources, any of which can be adapted to the unique needs and operation of your church. This booklet is intended to spark ideas in your imagination and serve as a helpful tool to your missions ministry.

Foreign Missions Division
United Pentecostal Church International



Note: You will see this church icon throughout the booklet. The icon denotes thoughts and ideas directly from pastors within the UPCI fellowship.



GLOBAL MISSIONS

IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

THE GREAT COMMISSION

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost” (Matthew 28:19).

We refer to this verse of Scripture as the Great Commission, but it is also a great commandment. The “go ye” that came straight from the mouth of Jesus was not a suggestion during a one-on-one conversation. It was not discussed casually one day over lunch. Quite the contrary. Jesus made an appointment with the disciples to meet them at a certain place, at a certain time, and with one distinct message—Go, teach, baptize.

But the Lord didn’t stop there. He also told the disciples where they were to go—all nations. Quite a task for eleven men, wouldn’t you say? But as we know, Jesus intended the directive not only for the eleven but also for each believer thereafter. The Full Life Study Bible states well the spirit of The Great Commission. *“Go . . . Teach . . . Baptizing. These words are Christ’s Great Commission to His followers of every generation. They state the goal, responsibility, and commissioning of the church’s missionary task. . . . This task includes the primary responsibility of sending forth missionaries into every nation.”*



“My wife says the reason our church responds so well to missions is because it is a passion of mine and they know it. Missions support is our greatest emphasis. It is taught at our church that missions participation is not optional. The Great Commission must always be the challenge of any local congregation. We believe that our support of doctrinally sound missionaries is the wisest way to fulfill the Great Commission of the church.”

NOTES



GLOBAL MISSIONS

IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

FULFILLING THE COMMISSION

So, we know what to do. But the real question is how do we do it? Well, obviously we can't all go to the foreign mission field. But there is something we can and very definitely should do.

The United Pentecostal Church International is doing a great job of fulfilling the “going” portion of the Commission with approximately 150 commissioned missionary families and approximately 175 AIM families that are preaching the gospel in 168 nations of the world. They have answered the call to “go.” These dedicated missionaries give up living within easy reach of their families, live without some of the modern, North American conveniences and sacrifice watching their grandchildren grow into adults, all for the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

No, we can't all go, but certainly we can all have a part in the sending of those missionaries to the field. We can support missionaries with our finances as God blesses and provides. We can pray daily for our missionaries, for their protection as well as for a great harvest of souls. In this way, we play a part in bringing each soul into the kingdom.

When we make our Faith Promise pledge, God goes with us and provides the finance. When we pray for missionaries, God directs our prayers as needed. When fulfilling the Great Commission, He promises He will be with us always. (See Matthew 28:20.)

NOTES



GLOBAL MISSIONS

IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

CHURCH MISSIONS TEAM

Just as a church has a youth committee, ladies ministry, and Sunday school department, it should also have a foreign missions team. Please understand that your pastor should be “in the know” of any plans, strategies, ideas and formulation of programs or choosing of team members for this to work successfully. After gaining your pastor’s input, advice and agreement, then moving forward is a guaranteed success.



“My feeling is you get what you promote.”

MISSION STATEMENT

The Missions Team shall make the church aware of its need to be an active part of the Great Commission. It shall encourage the church to pray, to give, to send, and in every way to claim ownership to taking the gospel to those outside of North America. It shall form and maintain a relationship with its foreign missionary partners.

TEAM MEMBERS

The number of members on the Missions Team will vary with the size and operation of each church. As to who should be chosen as members, there are certain qualifications that should apply to all members. Each member should have a burden for the lost at home and overseas. He or she should be an active, faithful, and prayerful member of the church, demonstrating a cooperative and willing spirit.

NOTES



GLOBAL MISSIONS

IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

MEMBERSHIP SKILLS AND TALENTS

There are certain skills and talents that would be beneficial to the Missions Team. The Team needs a **leader**, coordinator, or director. (Within the Foreign Missions Division office, we use the term “local church missions director.”) The director should be chosen by the pastor as he or she will have the heartbeat of the local church and a burden for souls at home and abroad. The director should be well respected by church members and have a command of leadership coupled with a passion and drive for soulwinning. Perhaps there are one or two who have already displayed such a burden. It is most helpful if the missions director has **organizational abilities**. If he does not, then another member must do so and will likely serve as the missions director’s right arm. It is helpful if one member has the ability to design ads and flyers and is **artistic**. One very important member is a **prayer warrior** with a burden for souls who can organize and distribute missionary prayer needs.

Married members are more effective when they serve with their spouses, giving them the benefit of working together at home on projects. Be sure to include one person from the **youth** group who has shown an interest in missions, maybe having taken a Youth on Missions trip or something similar. Another member could come from the **singles** group. Cover a wide variety of ages in your team membership.

The choosing of team members can be done in several ways, but the most effective is allowing the missions director to choose his team members with, of course, the pastor’s approval. For the most part the missions director knows with whom he can work well.

Before choosing members, determine how often your team will meet so you can give each candidate an idea of time involved. If you have a specific duty in mind for that person, sketch out a brief job description in advance, enabling them to make the best decision.

NOTES

GLOBAL MISSIONS

IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

LENGTH OF TEAM MEMBER SERVICE

A one-year term of serving on the team may be too brief. A term of two or three years would be more productive, staggering the terms so that you will always have a few experienced members serving.

THANK YOU, MISSIONS TEAM!

Some churches and pastors are so grateful for the effort of their Missions Team and its results that they treat the Team to an annual dinner or banquet as a token of appreciation.



NOTES



GLOBAL MISSIONS

IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

MISSIONS TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES

Below is a list of potential responsibilities of the Missions Team. Every church has its own method of operating, so these are simply guidelines to use as appropriate and as needed.

1. Meet monthly or as needed to plan missions promotions strategy and to fulfill the team's commitments.
2. Prepare an annual missions budget and administer missions funds, being accountable to the pastor.
3. Suggest commitments for the support of new missionary partners and missions projects and report same to the pastor for final determination.
4. Review annually the support given to missionaries and suggest changes as necessary to the pastor.
5. Understand the Faith Promise concept and be able to explain it.
6. Be responsible for planning and conducting an annual missions conference and receiving Faith Promises.
7. Establish a monthly missions Sunday to present missionary revival reports, news and prayer needs to the congregation and remind them of their Faith Promises.

NOTES

GLOBAL MISSIONS

IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

8. Appoint one team member to communicate with missionary partners to maintain a link with the church for prayer for the missionary and as encouragement to both the missionary and church.
9. Maintain a missions bulletin board.
10. Bless missionary partners with cards and monetary gifts on their birthdays, anniversaries and at Christmas.
11. Be available to assist the pastor with scheduling or entertaining missionary speakers if needed.
12. Create innovative methods to keep missions before the church.
13. Encourage missions-related activities in all departments of the church.
14. Plan fundraisers for special projects as needed.



NOTES

GLOBAL MISSIONS





IN THE LOCAL CHURCH







FAITH PROMISE

(See also Promotional Ideas, Missions Convention.)

What is Faith Promise? Faith Promise is:

-  a scriptural plan of giving based upon the apostolic method. (See I Corinthians 16:1-2; II Corinthians 8:1-5; 8:10, 9:7-10.)
-  a spiritual covenant between the donor and God. Unlike a pledge which is based on the ability of the donor, Faith Promise is based on the ability of God to provide.
-  an agreement that as God provides, the donor will give a specific amount monthly or weekly to the missionary offering of the local church.
-  a spiritual experience that requires the exercise of good stewardship and faith in God.

Does Faith Promise work? Faith Promise does indeed work as it:

-  is based upon a scriptural precedent.
-  involves the essential elements of faith in God and personal commitment to the Great Commission.
-  leads to consistent individual involvement. Every man, woman, boy and girl can and should do something.
-  ensures an increasing return. Based upon the law of sowing and reaping, one can expect a harvest in proportion to his investment. (See II Corinthians 9:6; Luke 6:38.)



NOTES



GLOBAL MISSIONS

IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

Faith Promise giving incorporates the dynamics of faith, love, commitment, consistency, and the sure promises of God. It cannot fail.

Here's how it will work at your church.

The week before your Faith Promise commitment service, include in your Sunday bulletin an explanation of Faith Promise. This gives your congregation a jump start for understanding the concept. Also well before your FP service, obtain enough FP commitment cards for each church member that will make a commitment. (FMD provides both the inserts and commitment cards free of charge. To order, contact FMDpromo@upci.org.)

Once the FP representative has explained the concept during your commitment service, distribute the commitment cards to the congregation. Each member or family should have taken the time to pray about what God wants them to pledge. Not what they think they can afford, but what God has impressed upon them to give. A Faith Promise pledge is between the individual and God. They have placed their faith in God to provide the funds for their commitment.

Now collect the Faith Promise commitment cards and have your Missions Team total them while the service continues. Once totaled, let the pastor know how much was committed monthly and yearly. Before service is dismissed, he will announce to the congregation what God has done, and rejoicing will follow!

NOTES



GLOBAL MISSIONS

IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

From this point forward, on each missions Sunday, the congregation will pay their Faith Promise commitments which in turn will fund the church's missions treasury. From this treasury the Missions Team or pastor will know how much the church can commit to monthly Partners In Missions pledges for individual missionaries and for other missions promotion throughout the year.

For more about how Faith Promise works and to find representatives available to present Faith Promise at your church, go to FaithPromiseWorks.com.



“Once a year in April we conduct a Faith Promise weekend. It is from this annual event that our missions budget is raised. Beginning about a month and a half to two months from the Faith Promise weekend, the service is announced. The blessing of Faith Promise to our local church and its blessing to individual families is stressed during these announcements. Faith Promise is explained and the congregation is encouraged to begin praying about what their family will do for missions in the coming year. These announcements are used to inform new ones that are just assimilating themselves with our church and also to encourage members that may have lagged in their commitment or have not participated at all. Beginning a month out, video clips, usually from Prism, will be shown in each Sunday morning service followed by an announcement of the Faith Promise weekend coming up. The weekend is concluded with each family bringing their commitment to the altar at the end of the Sunday night service. The cards are gathered and prayer is made over them.”

NOTES

GLOBAL MISSIONS

IN THE LOCAL CHURCH



“Since we already have FP in action, we take any surplus that is in the account at missions conference time and put it toward whatever projects are being presented. Then we start over again building it up throughout the year for the next year’s projects.”



“Faith Promise Tally (calculation done on platform, amounts shown on screen – excitement builds as amount grows).”



“Our church had been a strong foreign missions giving church for years. But when I saw other churches so mightily blessed after using the Faith Promise plan of giving, I wanted the same blessing for our church. When we presented Faith Promise, all areas of the church giving increased considerably, and it became an even stronger foreign missions giving church. Giving increased in all departments of the church by 250% over a thirty month period. Revival came like never before with 124 baptized in Jesus’ name and 108 receiving the Holy Ghost. Sunday school attendance increased over 100% in just three years.”

FAITH PROMISE WORKS!

NOTES



GLOBAL MISSIONS

IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

PROMOTIONAL IDEAS

We have gathered ideas for promoting missions at home from various churches throughout the fellowship. We encourage you to try these ideas in your own church, and we hope that they may spark other ideas in your imagination as well. May God bless you as you fulfill the “go ye” in your church!

MISSIONS TREASURY

Some churches allow their missions director or church treasurer to have control over the missions treasury with final approval by the pastor. Other pastors prefer to have hands on in this area. Choose whatever works best for your church.

Your Faith Promise commitments are the foundation of your missions treasury. This is why designating a missions Sunday and consistently placing a reminder of FP commitments before the church is vital to the success of your missions ministry. Do not designate all of the FP commitments to PIM pledges. A general rule of thumb is to set aside 70-75% of your FP commitments for the purpose of pledging PIMs. Every pastor should have the answer for this as each church will differ in allocating their funds. From the missions treasury, you should have ample funds for monthly PIM pledges, honoraria for visiting missionaries, expenses of your missions conference and possibly promotional expenses.



“All of the monthly Faith Promise commitment is not committed to PIMs. We allow for funds to accumulate so that from time to time we can give larger sums to projects that various missionaries have.”

NOTES

GLOBAL MISSIONS

IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

MISSIONS CONFERENCE

Many of our churches have found the benefits of holding a missions conference to be more than worth the effort of organizing the weekend. This is an annual event that can encompass one or more days of activities. The typical conference includes at least two services; one service where a missionary presents his burden and a second service where Faith Promises are made by the congregation. Included here are various elements that can be used to make a missions conference weekend a great success. The one element that you do not want to omit is the Faith Promise commitment service. (See section on Faith Promise.)

The length of the conference usually varies from one to three days. In many churches the missions conference is a time that the congregation enjoys planning for and eagerly looks forward to each year. Form a missions conference committee to plan your conference, making sure you include some creative members. Have the pastor send out a letter to the membership about the missions conference. Start advertising weeks in advance with small bits of information, building each week with more and more information to spark interest, until eventually the church family is excited and eager for the conference to begin. Utilize every means of media available to you, including bulletin, screen and pulpit announcements, banners, pew pockets, group email, etc.



"We always have a vision for the year for our church, and we relate the vision for the year to our missions program."



"We combine our missions conference with our annual anniversary services, believing that as we celebrate the past, we must prepare for our future. Missions is the key to our moving forward."



NOTES

GLOBAL MISSIONS

IN THE LOCAL CHURCH



“About two months prior to our missions conference, our missions secretary and I would choose a theme for the conference. We would ask the congregation to guess what the theme was. There would be clues each week in the bulletin, in the announcements or on the bulletin board. It created excitement. The one who guessed it correctly was given a prize.”



“We feel that the best way to promote missions is to get our people personally connected to the missionaries in some way. With the desire to get our church personally connected to our missionaries, our missions team came up with the missions conference theme for this year, iConnect.”



If your church has never had a missions conference, it may be best to start with just a two-service conference held on Sunday. The morning service could include special singing, Sunday school classes dressed in foreign costumes marching into the sanctuary and an FMD representative to present the Faith Promise giving concept. Keep the missions spirit going by having an international potluck after morning worship. Take an hour's break and gather back into the sanctuary for an early evening service where a foreign missionary takes thirty minutes to present his burden and show his presentation, have special singing and have the missionary or FMD representative preach. Finally, take up the Faith Promise commitments and celebrate with the church family the total amount pledged. It can be a festive and exciting day!

NOTES



GLOBAL MISSIONS

IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

Some churches have expanded the missions conference to include the entire weekend. One pastor uses two consecutive Sundays for his missions conference. Elements of the weekend may include a Friday night special missionary speaker, a concert focused on soulwinning or a special video presentation. On Saturday afternoon, host an international fair with booths representing different mission fields assigned to youth and adult groups or even Sunday school classes. Within the booths, highlight missionaries, artifacts, national dress, food, culture, etc. Finally, end the day with an international buffet or banquet featuring various foods from around the world or focus on foods from just one or two foreign countries. Get everyone involved and make it a fun event. End the evening by presenting your visiting missionary family with a gift and having special prayer for the family. Continue the conference on Sunday as mentioned above.



“We always have a missions theme for the weekend. We decorate our sanctuary with flags and pictures of people from all over the world. We have a children’s penny march, and they dress up like people from different nations of the world. We’ve included missions reports from various missionaries, have missionaries that are on the field speak to us via video recording and always have a foreign missions representative as the main speaker. We have the service at a set, consistent time each year. In the service we take up Faith Promise pledges for the next twelve months and have a one-time special projects offering that we designate for various missions-related efforts both locally and globally. Though we tweak the routine of the missions-focused weekend occasionally, the consistency of it and pushing the offering not just annually but monthly with a designated Sunday in the month has helped to build our foreign missions offering.”

NOTES

GLOBAL MISSIONS

IN THE LOCAL CHURCH



“The Sunday services are mission-themed with songs, drama, and video. We often have a children’s choir sing as a way to involve our children in missions. Sunday night is reserved for the commitment of finances, allowing the speaker to challenge us to embrace the cause of missions with our pocket books. The amount of each commitment is read and tallied while the congregation is standing at the altar amid rejoicing as they see God work.”



“Our yearly missions conference is held the first Sunday of February. We usually try to get a missionary to speak or someone from the Missions Division from headquarters. We have videos of some of our missionaries to show, or a drama, or a choir song with missions theme. We start the service with a flag ceremony – US flag and flags of countries that some of our church people have served under as AIMers or missionaries. We also pass out to the congregation a flyer that has all the missionaries that we support for that year. We also ask anyone that would like to join our Harvest Prayer Warrior group for the next year to fill out a card with their name and e-mail address or mailing address.”



“We endeavor to always have one or two foreign or home missionaries and/or a Foreign or Home Missions official as our special guest ministers. One year we had the Tupelo Children’s Mansion children with us. It was phenomenal.”




“Our Saturday missions conference events have included things like an international dinner at a local (Indian, Korean, Mediterranean) restaurant where our church people can come and spend some casual time with our guest missionaries and

NOTES

GLOBAL MISSIONS

IN THE LOCAL CHURCH



also eat some international food. Other Saturday events have also included prayer walks, handing out bottled water with our church logo on it at local ball parks, working at the Habitat for Humanity facility or food banks, and hosting international food bazaars. One idea that has worked well for us and is now a part of our missions conference schedule is hosting a casual missions dinner for our missionary guests, pastoral staff and the missions team. This event is used to help us get to know our missionaries on a personal level, and lets them present their field and ministry to us before we get to the Sunday services.”



“We generally incorporate our children’s ministry at some point in the Sunday service worship time to encourage family participation. We’ve had them march in holding flags of the world and/or international dolls. Since we live in a unique area of the country with so many people from all around the globe attending our church, we invite our people to come dressed in their national dress on missions conference Sunday. During one of the worship songs, all those who have worn their national dress are invited to come to the platform and help us worship. This makes for a colorful and exciting display of all the various nations represented in our church! Last year, our Minister of Music invited our Spanish ministry band to play and lead worship during our mission conference.”



“As each classroom exits the platform, they stop and pour their offering for missions into a Red Flyer wagon with a posted sign that says ‘wheels for missions.’ Their part of the Sunday program is held during the first thirty minutes of the service and the later part of the service is conducted by the visiting missionary.”

NOTES

GLOBAL MISSIONS

IN THE LOCAL CHURCH



“We always involve the Sunday school children. They raise money for months previous to the conference saving bottles or whatever they could do to make money. Then we let them put a roof on a building of a church in some country or something they specifically could call their own project. One year we built a church in Africa. The missions director and my wife built a building out of cardboard, and as the children saved their money, they would have it exchanged for \$1 and \$2 bills (at that time Canada had both of those bills and they were different colors). They shingled the church walls with \$1 bills and shingled the roof with \$2 bills. The children thought that was awesome.”

INTERNATIONAL BUFFET OR BANQUET

An international dinner can be a great highlight of a missions conference. If you are just beginning an organized missions ministry in your church, you may want to begin with a foreign potluck dinner between services on Sunday. However, churches that already have an organized missions ministry have progressed to an international buffet or a catered dinner on Friday or Saturday evening. Some churches have coupled the dinner with an international fair or market with decorated booths offering samples of ethnic foods. Some churches also use the international fair as an outreach event and invite the community. Let your imagination flow with this one. Determine what would bring your church family out on an off-church night. Remember that you want them to be excited about missions and their missions involvement and plan accordingly.



“On Saturday night we have an international banquet with various international dishes being made. The room is decorated in a missions theme; placemats are made with the pictures and names of the missionaries we support. During the ban-

NOTES

GLOBAL MISSIONS

IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

quet we ask them to pray for the missionary that is pictured on their placemat. Our speaker for the weekend speaks during the banquet usually with testimonies of miracles or great moves of God that have taken place on the mission field.”



“Occasionally we will have a Saturday international themed dinner, with several nations being represented by their menu, their dress, and music playing softly in the booth. It is set up like a food court with everyone purchasing what they want and eating in the common area of the dining hall.”



“About five years ago, we started including a dessert contest in which the winner is announced at the banquet...and then all the desserts are served at the banquet. This promo has brought many visitors entering the contest and has resulted in a lot of fun.”



“Our Sunday school classes have each been assigned one of the six regions as well as Home Missions. At Saturday’s fair, we rent conference booths that are set up on our gym floor, and our classes decorate these booths in such a way that an atmosphere of a street fair is conveyed. They have been collecting ethnic items for several years, and they use the monthly missionary newsletters with pictures to create a display honoring the missionaries serving their region. The booths are both beautiful and informative. They prepare a finger food ethnic to their regions and serve it to the attendees as they tour the booths. We allow thirty to forty-five minutes for our guests to tour the booths and sample the various finger foods. This timeframe prevents congestion in the booth and allows adequate time to view all seven booths. Fried rice, Mexican wedding cookies, Belgian chocolate, fruit, fruit

NOTES



GLOBAL MISSIONS

IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

punch and hot dogs are just a few of the different foods we have sampled. Approximately forty-five minutes into the evening, the booths are closed down and the dinner is set out buffet style so attendees can sit down, eat and fellowship with each other. We allow approximately forty-five minutes for dinner; then the choir director presents a short song or skit that leads into the introduction of our guest missionary who speaks for approximately thirty minutes.”



“At our banquet we have entertainment, always involving the youth. And it is at the banquet that the Missions Team presents their vision and goals for the upcoming year. This is also tied to our theme of the conference. Our banquet has grown to about 250 attendees.”

MISSIONS SUNDAY

Keep everyone's missions burden alive by designating one Sunday each month as missions Sunday. Many churches designate the first Sunday of the month. In the morning service, allow a five to ten minute update given by the Missions Team, relating recent revival reports or a poignant missions story, and a report of how God provided a church member's FP commitment, and remind everyone of their pledge of prayer as well as their Faith Promise commitment. FMD produces an annual DVD called Prism which includes many short film clips that could be used for this segment of promotion. (Order at fmdpromo@upci.org.) You can also check out our web site, www.foreign-missions.com, for all kinds of publications, news updates, missionary newsletters, missionary profiles and much more.

Advertise missions Sunday with announcements the week before (“Next Sunday Is Missions Sunday!), banners in the foyer and prayer room, international flags on the platform or lining the church driveway.

NOTES

GLOBAL MISSIONS

IN THE LOCAL CHURCH



“The first Sunday of the month is designated as Faith Promise Sunday. This is the Sunday the congregation is encouraged to bring their Faith Promise commitment. Prior to the offering being taken, comments will be made about the church’s involvement in missions and the way that it has blessed the church. Thanks will be given for the congregation’s faithfulness to the cause of world missions. Sometimes a video clip will be shown to emphasize the work that is being accomplished through their giving.”



“To foster better personal connections with our missionaries, we will be doing live Skype sessions with various missionaries throughout our conference weekend. We also plan following this up and staying ‘connected’ with our supported missionaries by trying to Skype with a different missionary each missions Sunday throughout the year.”



“We have a local church missions director. She uses FMD resources found online. We also have a missions Sunday. I give her about ten minutes in the service to highlight, celebrate and make the direct connection from our dollars to the global harvest. For us the key is consistent reminders. We do this by celebrating what is happening through FMD. Also, by having three to five missionaries per year plus our annual conference.”



“One thing we do encourage is for people to bring in their testimonies of how God has blessed them because of their commitments. These are then collected and shared with the congregation. One idea would be to video the testimonies and play them at the next commitment service the following year to build faith and excitement.”

NOTES



GLOBAL MISSIONS

IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

PRAYING FOR MISSIONARIES

The prayer room is a great place to focus on missionary needs and the saving of souls around the globe. Every prayer room should have a foreign missionary map on the wall. The room can be divided into the six regions of the world and a group assigned to pray particularly for that area of the world. Brochures with guidelines for praying for missionaries, missionary kids and national ministers can be downloaded from World Network of Prayer at WNOP.org. Here are just a few prayer points.

Prayer Focus

- the health, safety and anointing of each missionary family
- each mission field for great revival and growth
- those nations where we have not yet established a church
- Bible schools, students and teachers
- missionary kids
- national ministers and pastors



“Our prayer room is enhanced with a missions focus on the world. There are changing displays of specific fields that highlight the field and missionary. Our Children’s Prayer Directors focus on praying for our missionaries with our children.”



“We list several missionaries in our bulletin each week for special prayer.”



“We have divided our church family into the six regions of foreign missions. When

NOTES

GLOBAL MISSIONS

IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

there is a prayer emergency somewhere in the world, we have a prayer team for that specific region. We contact the main leader of the specific region who activates his prayer team and focuses on the emergency.”



“Sometimes we will have directed prayer concerning some situations with our missionaries. We may have a video of a missionary that we recently hosted or that was in the area and we were able to video. We will pass out our Harvest Prayer Warrior card for that month. This card (in color) contains the name and country of a missionary along with their picture for each day of the month. We ask that our HPW pray each day for each missionary. We have also contacted our missionaries by e-mail before the first of the month and asked them if they have any specific prayer requests for the month. We e-mail this to our HPW group or make paper copies for those who don’t have access to email. We get a very good response from our missionaries with these requests. This year we have 110 church members who are on the Harvest Prayer Warrior list.”



MISSIONARY VISITS

We encourage each church to have at least one missionary service per quarter, four missionaries per year. Your district foreign missions director has a schedule of when missionaries are coming into the district or a listing can also be found on our web site. Some missionaries travel with a trailer and others will need overnight accommodations.

NOTES

GLOBAL MISSIONS

IN THE LOCAL CHURCH



“Having missionary services keeps a focus on missions. We have on average at least six to eight missionary services per year.”

The purpose of missionaries traveling among our churches in North America is twofold. First, to share his or her burden with the church, to inform the church of what God is doing on the mission field and to establish a connection between the local church and their mission field. Second, to gain monthly financial support through the Partners In Missions program. The missionary will ask the pastor for a new PIM pledge or an increase to an existing PIM pledge. The missionary may also present one or two projects to the church that vary from shipping expense to generators to motorcycles. Everything you can do to help the missionary will get him to the mission field that much quicker.



Think out of the box when hosting a missionary. Certainly let him speak in your service, but maybe the missionary wife could speak to your adult women’s Sunday school class as well. Some missionary teens can speak to their peers in classroom situations and share what it’s like living on the mission field. Maybe your men’s ministry is meeting Saturday morning. Ask a missionary in the area to speak to the group. Perhaps a young missionary couple is experienced in youth outreach. Ask them to minister to your young people on a Friday night; invite a neighboring church youth group to join yours. Missionaries are able to do so much more than show their presentation.

NOTES



GLOBAL MISSIONS

IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

We have heard of every hospitality imaginable being extended to our missionaries. If feasible, go beyond the normal service offering, and surprise them with something unusual! Here are just a few ideas.

- Fruit or snack basket for their motel room or trailer.
- If your area is particularly known for making or growing something, fill a gift bag with several items.
- A shower from church members or restaurant or fuel gift cards for mom and dad and Wal-Mart gift cards for the missionary kids (MKs).
- Include the MKs in whatever youth activity is going on while they are in the area.
- Pastor's wife treats the missionary wife to a shopping trip for new clothes.
- Take them fishing or boating.
- Pay for new glasses for anyone in the missionary family.
- Give them one or two nights of lodging in a resort when they have no services.
- Babysit the MKs so mom and dad can have a date night.
- Send the family to Six Flags.
- If they are in a travel trailer, give them gift cards for the local grocery.
- Fill their gas tank.




“When a missionary visits the church and they are taken on as a PIM, the congregation is told that the missionary will be supported because of their Faith Promise giving. Even when a missionary is hosted and is not in a regular service and we have taken them on as a PIM, in the next service a comment will be made about the church being able to help because of the church’s Faith Promise giving.”


NOTES

GLOBAL MISSIONS

IN THE LOCAL CHURCH



“Oftentimes when missionaries are travelling through our city, there is no opportunity to have them at a service as it is not on a Wednesday or Sunday. However, so that missionary does not lose funds by having to host themselves, we will put them up at a hotel in our city and give them an honorarium.”



“The more recent format we have tried for a missionary service is simply an ‘interview service.’ We pull a couch and chair set onto the platform and have one of the pastors conduct a casual interview with the missionary family about the work in their country . . . what life is like, favorite food from that country, etc. People also will text in questions from their phones to the platform which also are asked of the missionaries. Our people have absolutely loved this format, especially with missionaries from our province whom they know already.”

MISSIONS TRIPS

A trip to the mission field is a great way to encourage burdens in foreign missions ministry in your church members. Nothing promotes a burden for missions like experiencing a church service in a grass hut on an island in the Pacific, passing out tracks on a Dublin street corner or witnessing a Guatemalan Indian receiving the Holy Ghost. It has been said that you will never be the same once you have visited a mission field.

- Church Group Missions Trip – Whether your church is just starting a missions ministry or has been supporting foreign missions for years, give serious consideration to taking a group from your church to the mission field. Contact several missionaries to see what kind of help they need. The needs of the mission field are vast.

NOTES



GLOBAL MISSIONS

IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

For instance, they may need an evangelistic team to prayer walk and have street meetings to establish a preaching point in a city with no church. Or maybe they need a construction team to build a church building. Perhaps they need someone to preach a crusade that could bring along several experienced altar workers. Taking a group from your church will alter their lives forever and expand their burden for missions as nothing else will. You will need to determine the type of workers you need and the expenses involved. Covering expenses can be done in several ways, each worker pays his or her own expenses, the church funds the trip, fundraising is done or possibly a combination of these will work best.

- Youth Group Trips – The UPCI's International Youth Division sponsors the AYC (Apostolic Youth Corps), traveling to various mission fields and assisting missionaries with street evangelism, singing, altar work, crusades, etc. Some districts plan Youth on Missions trips within the district along these same lines. Some churches have taken a youth group or choir on a missions trip with the same objectives. Again, check with several missionaries to find out their needs, available lodging, expenses, etc. It takes a lot of organization, working out of details and prayer, but it is worth every moment of effort to see the change it will make in your young people.
- Pastoral Trips – Every pastor and his wife should make at least one trip to the field. This is the only way to get a feeling for what foreign missions truly is and what missionaries actually do. If you have missionary friends, contact them to see if they have need of a special speaker any time in the future. Offer to bring one or two young preachers with you who are willing to put their shoulders to the wheel

NOTES

GLOBAL MISSIONS

IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

for a week of preaching, outreach, altar work and any type of soul-winning. Some districts organize Pastors on Missions trips. If your district has not yet organized a trip, talk to your district superintendent and offer to research a viable trip for your district. While on the trip, be sure to arrange a live phone call from the field back to the church during service time so your congregation can “be there” with you.



“Personally, making trips at least once a year to a mission field allows me to involve the church in praying for those trips. I make sure that they understand that while Pastor is making the trip, he is an extension of them.”



“We also try and take a missions trip at least every other year (our goal is one trip every year). This provides a great opportunity for our members to connect personally with the missionary they may support financially through the year. We do not have a church fundraising event for these missions trips, but members can donate to those going on a missions trip through the church website.”

FUNDRAISERS

If you want to raise funds for missionary projects, you already know what type of fundraiser works best in your church and city. However, here are a few ideas we have gathered.

- Barbeques are always great fundraisers. They are a lot of work if done well, but they also serve as an outreach tool. Have a receptacle where they can sign up for a home Bible study.

NOTES



GLOBAL MISSIONS

IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

- Gift Basket Sale. Have church members donate items for gift baskets amounting to \$15-\$20 per basket. They provide the gift items, you provide the baskets (used baskets are fine) and the filler, cellophane wrap and bow (take from the profits of the sale). Have a team assemble the baskets. Display them in the church vestibule for two weeks along with a silent bidding sheet for each, giving the church family two Wednesdays and two Sundays to bid. Put a minimum bid at the top of each bidding sheet. Distribute sold baskets the second Sunday night and collect payment. Consider doing this a few weeks before Mothers' Day and advertise it as gifts for him/her for Fathers' and Mothers' Days. Categories for baskets could include:
 - Car Wash – Various car washing and interior cleaning products in a plastic bucket
 - Happy Birthday Boy or Girl – Coloring books, stickers activity books, Barney DVD, gift card to McDonald's
 - Body Beautiful – Lotions, body spray, bath/shower gel, bath salts, body scrubber
 - Home Spa – Bath/shower gel, bath salts, bubble bath, candles, magazines, soft music CD
 - Gift Wrap – Flat & rolled gift wrap, ribbon, bows, gift card enclosures, scotch tape
 - Movie Night – DVD, popcorn, liter of soda, brownie mix, Jujubes, Milk Duds
 - Baby Shower – Socks, shoes, booties, onesies, hair bows, powder, lotion
 - Gardening – Seed packets/bulbs, pot, tools, gloves, potting soil
 - Bookworm – Christian novels, biographies, mystery novels
 - Tea/Coffee Party – Tea/coffee cups, tea bags/specialty coffees, flavored spoons, cookies, scones, paper doilies, napkins
 - Stationery – All types of note cards, greeting cards, stationery, pens, pencils, note pads

NOTES



GLOBAL MISSIONS

IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

- 4th of July – Fireworks, decorations, paper plates, plastic utensils, napkins
 - Scents – Candles, creams, lotions, room deodorizers, anything that smells good
 - Chocoholic Basket
 - Spaghetti Dinner – Pasta, sauce, bread, garlic salt, grated Parmesan cheese
 - Rainy Day for Her – Puzzle books, magazines, chick-flick DVD
 - Rainy Day for Him – Crossword puzzle book, car/sports magazines, mystery novel, war/sports DVD
 - Rainy Day for Kids – Jigsaw puzzle, coloring books, crayons, markers, work books, cartoon DVD
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- Bake sales seem to work everywhere. For a smaller profit, have a Sunday morning bake sale at your church. If you are looking for a larger profit, have the bake sale on Saturday at Wal-Mart.
 - Valentine Cake Sale. Bake one-layer cakes in heart-shaped pans. Decorate with icing and Valentine candies. Place in window bakery boxes that have been decorated with Valentine stickers.
 - Some restaurants will give part of their profit to the church on a particular date and time to anyone who brings along a flyer that you have made and distributed. Advertise it in your church as “Church Fellowship Night at Burger Buddy” or wherever. It brings in extra business for the restaurant and is a great fundraiser with little effort.
 - Manage a fireworks stand.

NOTES



GLOBAL MISSIONS

IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

- A great fundraiser, although a lot of work, is a garage sale held at the church. Everything is donated so it's almost pure profit, and the church family is happy to empty their basements! Advertising is key; you can't do too much.
- Dinner To Go. Make up a menu of an entrée, salad, vegetable, roll and dessert. Make the entrée something that the church already knows you do well or a dish that most won't take the time to make themselves. Have church ladies donate the desserts, making them something easy to package, such as brownies, cookies, or sweet breads. Hand out order forms (pricing for two or four meals) with menus about two weeks ahead of time, place them in the bulletin and leave a stack in the vestibule. On Saturday evening, package the meals in to-go containers for your customers to pick up after Sunday morning service. The idea is that they can buy a reasonable meal conveniently at church, take it home and heat up the entrée and vegetable with a minimal amount of effort.
- Typically fundraisers that pit one group against the other foster more participation with better results, for instance, women against the men against the youth.
- Dinner Auction. Have the ladies of the church prepare a dinner and sell dinner tickets inside and outside the church family. Have local businesses donate new merchandise or certificates for services. Church members can donate "like new" items and services, including a specialty homemade cake, an oil change, a house cleaning, four hours of manual labor, two teens to rake leaves or mow the grass, three hours of babysitting, etc. The evening of the dinner auction, display the auction items on tables along with a bidding sheet next to each one. One half hour before dinner, guests may bid on as many items as they choose

NOTES

GLOBAL MISSIONS

IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

and increase any existing bids. Announce that the bidding closes at a certain time, say by the end of the meal. After dinner, close the bidding, collect the bidding sheets and announce the highest bidders.

- Easter (or any time) Treats. Coat large (bread stick style) pretzel sticks with melted chocolate about half way up the stick. Roll in candy sprinkles or nuts. Variations: mix peanut butter and powdered sugar, press around pretzel then dip in chocolate; use white chocolate and add flavorings. Do the same thing with chocolate sandwich cookies; you can also make suckers of them. Sell them at church or at a community bake sale.



"We have done a couple of major types of fundraisers where we challenged the church to help us go over the top. The theme was sending a rocket to the moon, the moon being our pre-set goal. We raised over \$18,000 in five weeks. Another theme was paying off our mortgage. It was just a good 'everybody get behind it' working fund drive. Lots of promo every week, with updates of our progress. We paid off \$54,000 in ten weeks."



"Our three year old class holds a Little Mr. and Miss Lighthouse contest with the winner receiving a trophy and a crown."



"Kiss a Pig fundraiser. Congregation donates for the one they want to kiss a pig. (Jars set up with a photo of each fundraiser.)"



"Valentine's or Christmas Baskets." (See Gift Basket Sale above.)



"I try to break down fundraising into manageable chunks and also put a face on it. For instance, someone may not give \$100 if you ask for \$100, but they would buy

NOTES

GLOBAL MISSIONS

IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

five chairs for a foreign Bible school or Sunday school class at \$20 apiece.”

“One of our students sets up a booth during the Ladies Ministries annual Christmas Bazaar and Flea Market and sells homemade crafts and various items. He also sells homemade snacks at his mother’s garage sale. The sale is preceded with a classified ad in the local newspaper announcing the garage sale and the purpose of the proceeds.”

“One year the 9-year-old class made a mile long ribbon with quarters.”

“We’ve held a chili cook off contest between the church departments that was very popular.”



NOTES



GLOBAL MISSIONS

IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

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