

When You Engage in Missions ALL YEAR

Where your **treasure** is, there your **heart** will be also. *Luke 12:34*
 Therefore, make room for missions in your church calendar, church budget, and church focus.

Forced choices:

- You grew up going to church.
- Your early/first church settings had a strong missions emphasis.
- You remember meeting a missionary before the age of 18.
- You ever had a call to BE a missionary.
- You've been on a missions trip at some point.

As missions leaders / missions influencers think more comprehensively for the church:

WHAT	WHEN
EXPOSURE	YEARLY
EDUCATION	MONTHLY
EXPERIENCE	WEEKLY
ENGAGEMENT	DAILY

EXPOSURE: Introducing missions to people, talking about it, making it more of a familiar concept. In many ways, all of these WHATs are exposure. Meeting I.W.s is excellent exposure. Exposure helps to break down barriers of ignorance and offense. (George and Viva)

EDUCATION: This moves more into the scriptural foundations. I will borrow from the 4 sections of the *Perspective* class: biblical, historical, cultural, strategic. Direct and indirect teaching and reading on missions is essential.

EXPERIENCE: In this, we are talking about short-term missions globally and locally, real and simulated. The more people can immerse themselves in situations and/or scenarios, the more they apt to truly and deeply relate.

ENGAGEMENT: While every one of these is exposure, the main goal is engagement. Engagement is more than experience. Engagement implies commitment and investment. Truly, this where those classic expressions of PRAY. GIVE, GO, SEND come into play.

There are levels of engagement as well.

- Some will engage at a DUTY level.
- Some will engage at a RELATIONAL level.
- Some will engage at a CONVICTION level.

YEARLY

- January: begin or promote a missions education class (*Perspectives, All. Missions*)
- February: designate an intentional family-friendly prayer emphasis (*Weds on the World*)
- March: host or promote a missions training (*collaborative with other churches, Dist. event*)
- April: spring missions weekend (*invite in a retired, short-term international worker*)
- May: receive a Great Commission Fund love offering
- June: short-term missions trip from your congregation (*local or global*)
- July: attend Bible & Missionary Conference at Beulah Beach
- August: send CD 100 members from your church to the retreat (*don't have any? Recruit!*)
- September: launch a missions commitment (*missions brochure, signature challenge, etc.*)
- October: fall missions conference
- November: focus on missions for kids (*connect Operation Christmas Child better*)
- December: host "Christmas with a Missionary" (*have an I.W. family in to bless*)

What else can you think of that is ALREADY a part of your church's yearly calendar?

What could you suggest to the church leadership to add to your church's yearly calendar?

MONTHLY

- Monthly missions moment during Sunday morning (stories you know, use website)
- One Wednesday night prayer meeting dedicated to prayer for missions
- Monthly / every other month missions team meetings
- Special monthly offerings (e.g. Pennies for Poland, Mug Dump for Missionary Wheels)
- Monthly / quarterly changes or adaptations to foyer displays
- A month every quarter or half that focuses on the nations (e.g. Pathways)
- Elder meeting prayer for God to raise up missionaries and direct church partnerships
- Give direction for Small Groups & Sunday School classes to adopt a missionary or pray

What else can you think of that is ALREADY a part of your church's monthly calendar?

What could you suggest to the church leadership to add to your church's monthly calendar?

WEEKLY

- In the bulletin and on cycling announcements on screen
 - Prayer requests for missionaries
 - Announcements about missions events
 - Great Commission Fund Giving (challenge to start at \$10/week)
- Weekly church emails
 - Missionary prayer requests
 - Announcements about missions events
- Worship Music that focuses on God's heart for the nations
- Sermon illustrations from the lives of missionaries, of missionary endeavors, of culturally-different forms of Christianity that we can learn from, etc.
- Children's Worship - prayer and learning about missionaries
- Video calls with International Workers during Sunday morning service
- Special International Worker guests (who don't necessarily preach, but share an update)
- Commissioning teams and individuals to cross-cultural ministry
- Opportunities to sign up for prayer letters on Sunday morning / write letters to I.W.s
- Staff meetings and other weekly meetings not otherwise mentioned - encouraging prayer for and updates about missions in their areas of ministry
- Prayer requests email to include requests from connection & partner missionaries

What else can you think of that is ALREADY a part of your church's weekly calendar?

What could you suggest to the church leadership to add to your church's weekly calendar?

DAILY

- Look and listen for missions in Scripture.
- Pray for I.W.s you know... and missions efforts in general.
- Live ON MISSION with Jesus daily.
- Live sacrificially and with a missions-fulfillment priority.

Other principles to consider . . .

- Missions engagement is for leadership AND non-leaders.
Some of you are leaders in your church, others of you hold no official position. Yet the missions engagement of your church will be fueled by both leaders and non-leaders alike.
- Appoint and empower an identified missions team and missions team leader.
This may look different in different contexts. The missions team will be the primary promoters and encouragers of missions engagement for your church. However . . .
- Ultimately, the whole church should be the missions team!
The missions team is the one ministry team that EVERYONE in your church should be on! As a church, we should be ALL IN, ALL THE TIME. Encourage this larger participation.
- Think about “missions” not being separate but rather integrated into other church ministries.
All of our ministries can and will help fulfill the missions mandate of Christ. Not every ministry endeavor is missions, but your church’s ministry can be saturated with missions. Not every person is a missionary, but every Christian can be engaged in missions.
- Encourage PERSONAL connection, as well as CORPORATE connection with missions / I.W.s.
It will be so much more effective if people are making personal connections by receiving prayer emails or taking a prayer card on their own or as families.
- Consider limiting connections and expanding commitment.
It’s not feasible to try and keep up with all of our I.W.s. Prayerfully choose a variety of Alliance workers (old/young, single/married, medical/church planting, outgoing/reserved).
- Consider forging a partnership with an I.W., a field, or a national sister church.
Partnerships take our missions to deeper relational and missional connectedness.

NewLife Missions Connections

Historical development

Missions ABCs (1998-2003)

Early on, it just so happened that we had several connections to people whose names started with many of the first letters of the alphabet. We made a brochure called “NewLife Missions ABCs”:

- A church in Poland
- Bensons- Haiti
- Cooks- Cote d’Ivoire (NOT Ben and Krista)
- Duecks- Mali (originally, that’s where they started)
- Ed and Julie Mangham- Jordan
- Faith Promise- giving to the Great Commission
- Gifford- Olive Gifford, Koutiala Hospital
- Hardway- CRU
- Isaan- unreached people group in Thailand
- Japan- Don and Hazel Schaeffer

Connected to Every Continent (2004-2008)

We eventually realized that the ABCs was getting to be too much, and started to get hard to remember. Plus, some of the ABCs people retired, moved home, or went to other ministries. We shifted focus and said that we wanted a key connection on every continent.

- North America: Hardways, Bakers (both with Cru)
- South and Central America: Bensons (Haiti), Marshalls (Uruguay)
- Europe: Christian Fellowship Church (Poland)
- Africa: Duecks (Guinea), Cooks (Cote d’Ivoire)
- Middle East: Manghams (Jordan)
- Asia: Shaeffers (Japan)

Connected on Every Continent with Different Types of Ministries (2009-2015)

We then wanted to connect not only with a location, but with various types of ministries that might interest more people. The types of ministries were identified as:

- Church planting: Marshalls, Duecks, Manghams, Schaeffers
- Medical: Jessica Schaeffer, Duecks
- Work/building: Haiti
- Higher education: Cooks
- Sex slave trade rescue: Remember Nhu
- Church-to-church relationship: Radom
- Outreach to Muslims: Martins (Jordan), Carters (Kurdistan)

Most recently, we’ve combined some of these ideas, but basically had a Missions Connections brochure highlighting “ALLIANCE” missions and “NON-ALLIANCE” missions (for “Ends of the Earth” and “Samaria”)

At one point, we tried to form 2-3 central partnerships. Originally, those were to be 1) Poland, 2) Haiti, 3) Guinea. Then, we considered *Remember Nhu* a partnering relationship, as well as Katherine and Ben and Krista Cook, since they came out of NewLife.

WHAT MAKES THE MOST SENSE NOW? Possible questions:

- **Should we maintain some of our long-term relationships? If so, which ones and how?**
- **Should we re-focus in new ways?**
- **What are the most strategic commitments we could make as a church?**
- **How can we communicate and acknowledge connections that are more personal to NewLifers?**

Missions Connection Ideas

For Small Groups

Since we are a Christian & Missionary Alliance Church, a strong commitment to fulfilling the Great Commission characterizes who we are. We desire to see this lived out at all levels of life: large group, individual... and SMALL GROUPS!

Each Small Group is asked to develop a missions connection specific to their Small Group, so that we can ensure that all our missionary partnerships are being covered in prayer. We know that you are swamped with leading your groups. Our intention is not to burden you with more, but simply to keep NewLifers tied into our global relationships and responsibility.

Below is a list of ideas to help you along in your support of missions in you groups. Please add to the list as your group comes up with other ideas!

FIRST: we would encourage you to select a person or couple to be the spearhead for your missions connection. This will do 3 things: 1) relieve you of one more responsibility, 2) better ensure that your group will indeed pray for missionaries (sometimes SG leaders focus on other things), 3) it will share ministry responsibilities in your group with others.

WE ASK THAT...

- ❖ Every group member receives a prayer card for your specific connection.
- ❖ You pray specifically for your missionary when you meet (use the specific prayer requests and updates from their e-mails).
- ❖ Encourage your group members to get on the missionary's e-mail contact list (or pass out hard copies for those who might not have e-mail/internet capabilities).
- ❖ Use the "How to Pray for a Missionary" tools (see attached).

IN ADDITION, YOU MAY CONSIDER...

- ❖ Writing notes of encouragement and support that don't require a personal response.
- ❖ Sending a care package a year, include a picture of your group.
- ❖ Reporting to the congregation on your missionary.
- ❖ Hosting your missionary when they are home.
- ❖ Praying about going on a missions trip as a group.

NewLife Global Missions
C-o-n-n-e-c-t-i-o-n-s



Haiti
Greg & Cathie Benson



Japan
Don & Hazel Schaeffer



Jordan
Trey & Tabitha Martin
Ben & Krista Cook



Kurdistan
Mark & Kirsten Carter
Josh & Hannah Hoobler



Mali– Koutiala Hospital
Jessica Schaeffer



Poland (city of Radom)
Christian Fellowship



Russia
Katherine Graumlich



Senegal
JD & Emily Dueck



Uruguay
Peter & Laura Marshall