Missions Conference Ideas & Resources

Get out of the saltshaker and into the world!
*Local, Regional, Global* … touching one life at a time.

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**Our Great Commission**

Matthew 28:18-20

And Jesus came and spoke unto them, saying,
All authority is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,

Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the age.

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**Our Great Opportunity**

Luke 12:48

… For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required; and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.

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**Our Great Challenge**

Matthew 9:36-38

But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they were faint, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.

Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few.

Pray ye, therefore, the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest.
Planning the First/Next Missions Conference

PURPOSE: Think about and document why you want to hold a conference. Review this purpose and update as needed so that your conference always has a clear connection with your vision and mission.

PRIORITY: Missions is part of the core purpose of the church not a program or a project for a few. The conference is a good time to reinforce this priority.

EVALUATE: Use the conference planning time to review what was done last year (or this year immediately following the conference) and make improvements. “Did it work?” “Do these activities support our purpose?” “Did we do what we said we would do?”

INCLUSIVE: Involve everyone! Every department, every program should have missions as part of their purpose.

YEAR ROUND: Plan/initiate activities that will be done throughout the year. Ask each department for activities. Set measurable goals. (e.g. track number of outreach contacts by individual members each week, pray for missions every 4th Sunday, contact a missionary once per month, hold a witnessing event once per month).

CROSS CULTURAL: Provide exposure to cross cultural ministries and workers. Include missionaries in a variety of activities. Allow interactive times. Reduce expenses and increase contact by having members host missionary guests in their home (meals and/or overnight).

BE CREATIVE: Visit other conferences and get ideas from others! But feel free to be different from them or even different from what’s always been done.

ACTION: Challenge members to commit to some action as a result of the conference, whether big or small. Getting information is good, but doing is what makes the difference.
**Missions Committee**

You may decide sooner or later that it will be helpful to have a world missions committee to help plan and direct activities.

**People** you may want to include:
- Those who have a heart for outreach and missions
- People doing outreach
- Visionary/motivator
- Implementer – someone who gets things done
- Someone with cross-cultural experience or who is willing to go soon
- Representatives for other key groups such as Sunday School, Missionary

**Activities** they might be responsible for:
- Plan the annual conference
- Look for cross-cultural projects and opportunities
- Develop guidelines for selecting ministries and missionaries to support
- Recruit and increase involvement in outreach
- Educate the church on missions
- Manage the missions budget

**Possible Conference Topics**

Bible Translation – Is it still needed?
Church Planting
Challenges on the Mission Field
Communicating with Missionaries
Giving to Missions
History of African-Americans in Missions
History of Missions
How is Mission Work Supported?
Importance of Language
Mission Agencies – How do they work? Are they biblical?
Missions for All Ages – how to involve youth
Perspectives Class – What is it? Is it for me?
Praying for missionaries & missions
Serving Locally
Surrendering to the Call
Spirit Led for Missions
Strategies on the Mission Field
“Tentmaking” – what, why, how?
Where are the greatest needs for the gospel (most unreached)?
?? Ask your congregation to submit questions – this is a great way to select topics
Short-Term Ministry Forum

A short-term missions trip is a great way to help, learn, confirm God’s calling. Some ideas for a special session to increase involvement:

- Special presenters: one or two sponsors of short-term trips
- Invite local people who have participated in short-term trips
- Info on how short-term ministries work (how long, what they do …)
- Invite those considering short-term service to attend
- Special prayer for God’s direction
- Accountability/encouragement partners for commitments

The Missions Conference Program or Bulletin – Ideas for content:

- Biblical basis for mission
- Your church’s mission statement and or vision for missions
- A message from the pastor
- Schedule of events
- Biographical sketch and/or contact info for visiting/supported missionaries
- Prayer needs for missionaries (possibly in a separate handout)
- Highlights of outreach work the church is doing w/ name of coordinator in case someone wants to be a part
- Names and contact info for coordinators for the missions conference event
- Pullout commitment card to document pledge to pray, give, participate etc.
- Place for notes
- PRE-Conference bulletin: list needs and ask for volunteers – involve everyone!

Missions in Action – Sign up!

Local/Regional:
- Food bank, Meals on wheels
- Big Brother, Big Sister
- Child Evangelism Fellowship – 5-Day Club sign up to host or for training to lead
- Faith Crusade volunteers
- Habitat for Humanity
- SAFY – Foster parent sign up
- Sponsor several children to go to a Christian camp for next summer

Global:
- Operation Christmas Child - Shoe Box Project
- Adopt a World Vision child
- Select a missionary to pray for or support
- Samaritan’s Feet project
- Sign up for info on short term trips
• Get a sister church or adopt a region

**Ongoing Activities for Your Church**

**At least once per month …**

- Pray for Mission.
- Establish a time of prayer for mission and outreach in you church’s worship service.
- Get up and GO! Sponsor an activity or visits to reach the community.

**Adopt-a-Missionary**

- Pray weekly
- Send a note, email, or letter monthly
- Mail a small care package quarterly

**Missionaries for Mission Day**

- Have at least one person involved in cross cultural missions as a key participant or speaker in the Mission Day program
- Invite a local outreach ministry to share about their work.
- Have a special time of prayer for your mission guests and their work. Get members to pray for them throughout the year.

**Other Suggestions and Ideas**

- Include a space for mission giving on regular envelopes or provide special mission envelopes
- Include missions information in the bulletin each month and include needs in prayer time
- Have an international day where everyone dresses us in the traditional dress of a country
- Decorate your sanctuary with flags from around the world for your Mission Day or International Day activity. Let the youth march in with the flags.
- Host a Perspectives class at your church
- Have key persons visit at least one missions conference at another church during the year.
- Sponsor someone from the church to take a short-term trip
Mission Speakers/Teachers

Bill and Joy Boerop  
World Thrust International  
3545 Cruse Road, Suite 309-B  
Lawrenceville, GA 30044-3162  
Phone 770-923-5215  Fax 770-923-3933  
info@worldthrust.com  www.worldthrust.com  
Helping the church fulfill the Great Commission. Glorifying God through serving as a catalyst, helping pastors and church leaders worldwide to lead their local churches to embrace a more effective involvement in the evangelization of the world.

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Richard@themissionsociety.org  www.themissionsociety.org  
Formerly missions pastor at New Birth, Atlanta; doing research on African-Americans in missions

Rev. Glenn Mason  
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CARVER INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS  
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PO Box 92543  
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Phone: 770-484-0610  Fax: 770-484-0615  
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Former missionary to Liberia; conference speaker; mobilizer

Dr. Marcia R. Miles  
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Jacksonville, FL 32247  
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training@gotonations.com  www.gotonations.com  
Native of Alabama; mobilizer
**Rev. Phillip Nelson**  
Ministries Network Consultant, Church Mobilization  
SIM USA  
P.O. Box 7900  
Charlotte, NC 28241-7900  
704-587-1437 or 800-521-6449  
phillip.nelson@sim.org  
www.sim.org  
Many years of pastoral experience; missions conference speaker; can help with conference planning; mobilizer

**Rev. & Mrs. Ken & Mervina Sharpe**  
Founders of Mission Revival Christian Ministries  
P.O. Box 37034  
769 Southdale RDE  
London, ONT NGE 3130  
519-686-0040  
Former Missionaries to Nigeria

**Min. Jim Sutherland**  
Director of Reconciliation Ministries Network  
5608 Bradford Ave  
Chattanooga, TN 37409-2211  
jim@rmni.org  
www.rmni.org  
423-822-1091; Cell 423-331-1199  
Conducts short ministry trips; helps with mission conference planning

**Finding Foreign Missionaries (furlough and deputation)**

**Wycliffe Bible Translators**  
Especially Kevin and Gertrude Nicholas  
gertrude_nicholas@wycliffe.org  
kevin_nicholas@wycliffe.org

**Myra Smith**  
KM 170 Casa El Canja #1  
Chiquimula, Chiquimula,  
Guatemala, C.A.  
Email Address: angeldaniel@wmotw.com  
Website: http://www.wmotw.com  
Missionary to Guatemala – contact for schedule

**World Gospel Mission**  
Especially Dr. Michael and Kay Johnson  
michael.johnson@wgm.org
See also mission agencies noted below under *Coordinators of Short-term Mission Trips*. They can assist in locating missionaries who can support your conference through speaking, teaching, displays and other activities.

**Coordinators of Short-Term Mission Trips**

Want to serve in a needy area of the world but don’t know how to get started? Never fear … help is here! These organizations have led many short-term teams in the past and will be glad to assist you!

**ACMC (Advancing Churches in Missions Commitment—a ministry of Pioneers)**
10123 William Carey Drive
Orlando, FL  32832
800-755-7284
info@acmc.org  http://www.acmc.org/

**Carver International Mission**
Vision Tour
PO Box 92543
Atlanta GA 30314
770-484-0610  Fax: 770-484-0615
carverfm@aol.com

**Global Focus**
POB 1058
Acworth, GA  30101
770-529-8610
contact.info@globalfocus.info
http://www.globalfocus.info/gfsite/main.php

**NBC Foreign Mission Board**
“Missions Understanding” Program
P.O. Box 15783
Philadelphia, PA 19103
215-735-7868  Fax 215-735-1721  Toll Free 866-494-7140

**New Tribes Mission**
1000 E. First St.
Sanford, FL 32771
407-323-3430
www.ntm.org  short-term mission trips:

**OMS International**
Butch McPherson, Southeast Regional Director
PO Box 240544
Montgomery, AL 36124
Emmaus43@charter.net
334-277-7101

Simon’s Branch Inc.
Shirley H. Fitz-Ritson, Ph. D, Executive Director
P.O. Box 548, Stone Mountain, GA 30086
770-413-0063
shfitz2@bellsouth.net  www.SimonsBranch.org

SIM USA
P.O. Box 7900; Charlotte, NC 28241-7900
800-421-6449
www.sim.org
Other activities & ideas:
International foods or luncheon
Invite international students to share about their country
Decorate with flags, artifacts, bright colors
Have missionaries lodge with members to allow more time for fellowship
Have a dinner with intentional one-on-one time with missionaries
  • Seat one missionary at each table, let them answer questions from the MC
Have small group meetings where missionaries share their needs and people pray
Prayer breakfast – could be a special session to encourage the missionaries
Find things you can give to help the missionary or ministry
Don’t forget the kids! Have special age appropriate sessions for the youth
Provide display area for ministries (include refreshments to encourage mingling)
Provide bags for people to collect info from the displays (maybe have small gifts in them)
Invite an international choir or music group as a highlight
Missions related games/ice breakers/puzzles/trivia
Have a “missions bowl” as a fun way to recap/review what was learned

For Additional Info Contact:

If you have any questions please don’t hesitate to get in touch!

Name        Jim Sutherland
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Phone        423-822-1091
Email:       Jim@RMNI.org
Website:     www.RMNI.org

May God bless you as you seek to follow His heart and His will.

Revelation 7:9-10 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

10 And cried with a loud voice, saying Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

This excellent resource was prepared by an African American missionary whose name cannot be revealed due to the sensitivity of her ministry. We’ll call her “Johnson Alabama”.