



MARCH MISSION MONTH

BUILDING GOD'S WORLD MISSION IN CHRIST'S LOCAL CHURCH

RESOURCES AND IDEAS FOR MINISTRY WORKERS AND MISSION SUPPORT GROUPS TO CREATE A PROGRAM TO BUILD THE WORLDWIDE MISSION FOCUS AND ENGAGEMENT OF YOUR CHURCH MEMBERS

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For further resources, visit the CMS website: www.cms.org.au

LOCAL CHURCH: GLOBAL MISSION

The enterprise of world mission through CMS involves four parties working together – the missionaries, partner churches and supporters, CMS staff, and the receiving organisation with whom the missionary works. Each of these parties forms an essential part of the whole.

CMS extends the vision of the local church, helping the church connect with God's work across the world. John Bales, CMS NSW General Secretary says, "We need to see the local church as the powerhouse of mission and the agency as the channel for churches to express their global vision."

Therefore, as well as resourcing missionaries to do their work, we seek to resource local churches, so as to help you build a strong and effective partnership with your missionaries and their ministry.

BUILDING AN EFFECTIVE WORLD MISSION PROGRAM

An effective world mission program:

- connects your members to the work of God's gospel across the globe,
- focuses their attention away from themselves to a world in need of salvation, and
- builds a servant heartedness that will act to support and be involved in God's mission, both locally and, through your link missionaries, globally.

The aim of this resource is to help you build an effective mission program in your church, and especially to engage your members in mission through a focussed mission month that is part of that larger mission program. We hope you may run this during March as part of our CMS March Mission Month – however, if this does not suit your church, then another month will work just as well.

PLAN FOR THE YEAR

A mission week or month will only be effective if it is part of a larger program. People will become convinced that world mission should be on their agenda, when they see it on the church's agenda. This may be as simple as regular prayer for your link missionaries in church services, and quarterly 3 minute 'mission spots' focussing on a particular missionary to introduce them to new members of your church. Or it may be a larger program incorporating a number of the ideas you'll find in this document. CMS has two important principles which can be useful for you as you develop your program:

- 'Begin in a small way' – you do not have to do everything straight away, what is important is that you do begin.
- 'Under God, all will depend on the type of people sent forth' – the most important thing you can do is to choose the right people to help you develop your program. They may be a staff members or church members who have gifts in engaging others in ministry.

CMS has resources to help you develop a full year mission program. Read 'Getting Started' in our mission month resource section at www.cms.org.au/marchmissionmonth.

PLANNING A MISSION MONTH

The aim of a mission month/fortnight/week is to take people to a new level of engagement in world mission and the ministry of your link missionaries. This will involve both profiling world mission in services, special events and home groups, and giving people the opportunity to actively grow their connection with your link missionaries.

Each year CMS creates a theme to help focus supporters attention on world mission. In 2011 this theme is: **“One Life, One Mission”**. Building your program around this theme will help you maintain focus on your program through the month. You will see the theme reflected in a number of the resources throughout this document.

The resources in this document and on the CMS webpage are designed to plug into your program, and reduce your preparation workload.

SAMPLE MISSION WEEK PROGRAM

Sunday 1:

Sermon: Luke 9.51–10.2 One Life, One Mission
No Turning Back

Items: Introduce ‘world mission week’
2 min profile of each link missionary
(DVD or PPT missionary profile)

Prayer: Detailed prayer for link missionaries and their locations

Kids Ministry: Paul the missionary

Mid Week 1:

Home Groups: Play a CMS DVD about a link missionary who they will adopt – write an email/letter to the missionary.

International Dinner: (Sat night?) – arrange Skype call with missionary/s.

Sunday 2:

Sermon: Luke 11.1–13, One Life, One Mission:
Praying for God’s sake

Items: People given opportunity to sign up to receive prayer letters, financially support missionaries (brochures available from missioned@cms.org.au)

Kids Ministry: Our Link Missionary (special collection for a book gift for misso kids)

SAMPLE MARCH MISSION MONTH PROGRAM

Pre–Mission Month: Meet with home group leaders to prepare them for ‘mission month’ – encourage them to ‘adopt’ a link missionary.

Sunday 1:

Sermon: Luke 9.51–10.2 One Life, One Mission, No Turning Back

Items: Introduce ‘world mission month’
4 min profile of a link missionary (DVD or PowerPoint missionary profile)

Prayer: Detailed prayer for 1 link missionary
Prayer for a country/region

Kids Ministry: Paul the missionary

Mid Week 1:

Home Groups: Do 4 week video Bible studies on Luke 9–11 – available from CMS.

Research a link missionary who they will ‘adopt’, play a CMS DVD about a link missionaries ministry.

Church Prayer Meeting: Focus prayer meeting on praying for your link missionaries and their locations

Sunday 2 & 3:

Sermon: Luke 101–23 One Life, One Mission: The Harvest of God

Luke 10.25–37 One Life, One Mission: Integral Discipleship

Items: 4 min profile of link missionary/location
People given opportunity to sign up to receive prayer letters, financially support missionaries (brochures available from missioned@cms.org.au)

Kids Ministry: Our Link Missionary (special collection for a book gift for misso kids)

Mid Week 2:

International Dinner for all Home Groups – arrange Skype call with a link missionary

Mid Week 3:

Home Groups: Write an email/letter to their adopted link missionary

Sunday 4:

Sermon: Luke 11.1–13, One Life, One Mission: Praying for God’s sake

Kids Ministry: Give CMS Kid’s Prayer diaries to each family

Mission Festival (afternoon/evening): invite mission societies to provide a display, have 30 min seminars, festival picnic lunch or dinner...

IDEAS FOR SUNDAY SERVICES

SERMON SERIES AND OUTLINES

4 WEEK SERMON SERIES

LUKE 9–11 RADICAL DISCIPLESHIP

1. Luke 9.51–10.2 No Turning Back
2. Luke 10.1–23 The Harvest of God
3. Luke 10.25–37 Integral Discipleship
4. Luke 11.1–13 Praying for God's sake

PHILIPPIANS: ONE LIFE, ONE MISSION

1. Philippians 1.1–30 Gospel Partnerships: Many Lives, One Mission
2. Philippians 2.1–18 Jesus' Life and Death: One Life, One Mission
3. Philippians 2.19–30 People sent in Mission: One Life given to One Mission
4. Philippians 4.10–20 Sharing financially in gospel ministry: Many Lives given to One Mission

SERMON OUTLINES: RADICAL DISCIPLESHIP

Luke 9.51–10.2 No Turning Back

1. People of the way (9.51)
2. Zap 'em (9.52–56)
3. No turning back (9.57–62)
4. Into the harvest (10.1–2)

Luke 10.25–37 Integral Discipleship

1. A rude interruption (10.25)
2. Seeking eternal life (10.25–29)
3. Shocking goodness (10.30–35)
4. Go and do likewise (10.36–37)

Luke 10.1–23 The Harvest of God

1. The harvest of God (10.1–4)
2. Mission: the great divider (10.5–16)
3. The joy of the disciples (10.17–20)
4. The joy of Jesus (10.21–23)

Luke 11.1–13 Praying for God's sake

1. The importance of 'honour'
2. Teach us to pray: the model (11.1–4)
3. Teach us to pray: the parable (11.5–8)
4. Teach us to pray: the application (11.9–13)

AUDIO/VISUAL RESOURCES

CMS–NSW has many missionary and other DVDs and PowerPoint resources that can be used in Sunday services and home groups.

Many of the DVDs can be viewed online at: www.vimeo.com/cmsnsw or www.youtube.com/user/CMSAustralia
PowerPoint missionary profiles can be obtained by emailing: missioned@cms.org.au

ITEMS

Below are some ideas for special items to include in your services:

- 3–4 minute update on a link missionary
- record a telephone conversation with your missionary during the week and replay on the Sunday
- 3–4 minute update on the location where your missionary/s live
- Skype your missionary during the service (make sure you have given them the questions beforehand)
- Prepare a 'care package' list and ask people to bring items the following Sunday

PRAYER

See Prayer for Church Services on page 4

PRAYER FOR CHURCH SERVICES

ALL MISSIONARIES

O Lord, pour out your grace upon all who are called to be fellow workers with you, so that through their witness, Christ may be lifted up in every land and all people drawn to him. In times of loneliness and despair, cheer them with your presence; in times of disappointment, give them patience; in difficulties and dangers, uphold and protect them; in success, keep them humble in heart and in failure, strengthen them to persevere. Enable them to be joyful in spirit, radiant in life and steadfast in hope, that they may know joy and peace in serving you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SENDING OUT MISSIONARIES

Lord of the harvest, by the gifts of your Holy Spirit you have equipped your people to serve you throughout the world. Send out an increasing number of missionaries to build up your church locally and to take your gospel to all nations. Give us ears to hear your call, and to respond appropriately to it. Make us faithful and joyful in your service. This we ask through Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world. Amen.

MISSIONARIES LIVING IN 'DIFFICULT' AREAS

Prince of Peace, we commit to your love and protection those who have gone from this land to where there is political unrest. Be their shield and defender, we pray, where they are surrounded by injustices in those countries. Give them your inner peace and the confidence of knowing your love for them. Especially we pray for those families with children. We ask that you will protect their children from physical, psychological, and spiritual injuries. Protect their emotions and give them inner peace in the midst of violence around them. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

PEOPLE TO LOOK TO CHRIST IN FAITH

Lord Jesus, may you be lifted up in every culture, among every people, so that people everywhere may hear of what you have done and place their trust in you. May they look to you in faith and worship, and be released from sin's deadly hold as they come into your new birth to eternal life. Hear our prayer, Lord Jesus, in accordance with your will. Amen.

THE FINANCIAL NEEDS OF CMS

Gracious heavenly Father we pray for the financial needs of CMS. Thank you for those who currently give as an expression of generosity. We ask that you would raise up many more individuals and churches to give to meet the needs of CMS missionaries. We ask this in the name of your Son Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

PRAYER FOR CMS

God of love, whose will it is that everyone should be saved, bless the Church Missionary Society and those who have gone out in its fellowship to preach, to teach and to heal. Guard, guide and use them; raise up more people in your worldwide church to pray and to work, to care and to understand, to give to you and to go for you, that your church may grow, your will be done, your kingdom come, and your glory be revealed: through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

For more prayers go to 'Keep on Praying' at www.cms.org.au/marchmissionmonth

THANK GOD

- For enquirers speaking with CMS about missionary service and for those who are currently training at St Andrew's Hall
- For missionaries sharing God's word with students around the globe (particularly through the national university student movements)
- For those engaged in theological education and training teachers, youth workers, pastors and evangelists who will share the gospel of Jesus Christ among their own people
- For missionaries working in caring and development work, for the many who are cared for and for the opportunities given to speak of the love of Christ
- For the faithful and regular giving from CMS members and supporters around NSW/ACT
- For the many people of all ages who serve CMS by volunteering in the office, at events and children's camps

FOR PRAYER

- For God to raise up many more people to apply and train for missionary service with CMS this year. That people from your church would consider their role in missionary service
- For CMS members to continually commit to supporting missionaries prayerfully, pastorally and financially
- For missionaries working in difficult locations and where the gospel is under threat. Especially pray for those in nations experiencing political, racial and religious tensions
- For the children and young people who attend CMS annual camps, that they would grow in their commitment to Christ and their understanding of his global mission
- For the care of the many new missionaries that CMS send out each year, and the adjustments of those returning to Australia.

IDEAS FOR MID WEEK GROUPS

BIBLE STUDIES

ONE LIFE, ONE MISSION: RADICAL DISCIPLESHIP

A series of 4 video Bible Studies on Luke 9–11 based on Michael Raiter's Summer School 2010 talks are available from CMS by emailing: missioned@cms.org.au

GOD'S MISSION AND OURS

A series of 9 Bible studies following the 9 chapters of the CMS book, 'God's Mission and Ours'.

The Bible studies are available at: www.cms.org.au/missionmonth.

The book can be purchased from CMS–NSW. Contact Mission Education on 9267 3711 or missioned@cms.org.au

PRAYER

If you have families in your group, obtain the CMS 'Pray Around the World' prayer diary, and pray for a different location each time you meet.

Ask a member of your group to become your 'missionary coordinator', who brings up-to-date news and prayer points for your missionaries.

Adopt one of your church's link missionaries, pray for them, and build a relationship through email or telephone conversations.

CARE

Write a common email, letter to your adopted link missionary.

Organise a 'care package' to send to your link missionary. See 'Care Package Checklist and Template' under www.cms.org.au/missionmonth.

Have a theme night on the country in which your adopted missionary works: provide food from that country, a quiz to help people get to know the country better, learn some common greetings that you could use when writing to your missionary, look up the 'Operation World' book to find out about gospel ministry in the country...

Send birthday cards to each member of the family.

EVENTS

Go to a CMS regional event, or take a group to CMS Summer School for a day or for the week.

IDEAS FOR CHILDRENS MINISTRIES

1. Get copies of 'CMS Pray Around the World' (see p. 8) and focus on adapt the games and ideas to your Kids ministry program. Let parents know about 'Pray Around the World' and encourage them to use it with their children.
2. Obtain 'Davo's Missionary Toolbox' DVD which contains short videos suitable for kids programs. Contact: missioned@cms.org.au
3. Look out for the new QuizWorx Mission Resource kit that will soon be produced with input from CMS.
4. Play the 'Pack Your Bags' simulation game available under "Children's Ministry" at www.cms.org.au/missionmonth.
5. If it's the right time of year, advertise the Camp Milimani, the CMS camp for school year 3-6 children, held in the spring school holidays each year.

IDEAS FOR YOUTH MINISTRIES

1. Get of the CMS 'Beyond' magazine for high school age youth for each member of your youth group. Do the Bible Study in that edition.
2. Look out for the new QuizWorx Mission Resource kit that will soon be produced with input from CMS.
3. Play the 'Lingo Leap' or Pack Your Bags' simulation games available under "Children's Ministry" at www.cms.org.au/missionmonth.
4. If it's the right time of year, advertise the Camp MMM, the CMS camp for high school aged young people, held in the winter school holidays each year.

RESOURCES

There are many resources on the CMS website to help you plan and carry out your mission month/week. You can find them at: www.cms.org.au/marchmissionmonth:

- **Ideas for Supporting Mission in Your Church:** A booklet that provides a range of helpful ideas for building the relationship with your link missionary as a church.
- **Supper Ideas:** A selection of recipes to make your 'international dinner' a multi-cultural delight.
- **Care Package Checklist and Template:** All you need to create a 'care package' to send to your link missionaries.
- **Keep on Praying:** A booklet of prayers and prayer ideas to give depth to your prayers for missionaries.
- **Checkpoint Winter 06, Care on Home Assignment:** Good, practical ideas for ways your church can care for your link missionary while they are on home assignment.
- **Prayer Breakfast:** Tips on how to run a prayer breakfast
- **Getting Started:** Advice on how to build a mission support program for your church
- **Mission Policy:** A draft mission policy document to provide a solid foundation for mission support in your church

There are several other resources available on the website at www.cms.org.au/resources, and new ones are added regularly.

PUBLICATIONS

Mission Education can provide printed resources to help build the mission awareness of your church.

'CMS PRAYER DIARY' AND 'PRAY AROUND THE WORLD'

The 'CMS Prayer Diary' enables people to see the breadth of mission carried out by CMS missionaries across the world. By becoming members of CMS, people can also receive up-to-date daily prayer points for the missionaries.

'Pray Around the World' provides a monthly focus on mission work in different areas of our world that is especially focussed for families which children in Infants/Primary School. A great way to introduce families in your church to the work of mission.

'CHECKPOINT'

Each edition of our quarterly 'Checkpoint' magazine focuses on a different aspect of mission. Encourage your church members to become members of CMS to receive the magazine. Sample copies are available from Mission Education, 02 9267 3711, missioned@cms.org.au, or can be viewed at: www.cms.org.au/resources/publications/

'GLOBAL VISION'

Global Vision is our biannual magazine for church members. Register with Mission Education to receive copies for your church or ask for available back copies. Each edition provides practical ideas for your church and members to be engaged in world mission. You can see 'Global Vision' on line at: <http://www.cms.org.au/globalvision>

COURSES

Is your church ready to Go Global?

Going Global is a short course of 6 sessions run by CMS that will help your church or home group understand God's plan for mission throughout the Bible and what that looks like today. The course can be customised by your church to suit your particular needs for length and content. The current sessions include:

- The Gospel for every nation: God's plan of salvation from Genesis to Revelation
- The How and Why of Global Mission: missionaries talk about why they have gone and how they work in countries across the world
- Partnership in the Gospel: How to be effective partners with your link missionaries
- Sharing Christ with people from different cultures in your community: Learn from experienced people how to share the gospel with people from the various cultural groups in your community (usually 2 sessions covering different cultures)
- Good Reasons and Poor Excuses: How do you know if you should go in mission, and what do you need to do to get ready if you do?

Contact us if you are interested in running a course at your church missioned@cms.org.au.

