

# RESOURCES FOR GIVING MISSIONS A HIGH PROFILE IN YOUR CHURCH, YOUTH GROUP & SUNDAY SCHOOL

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## **A. INTRODUCTION: Giving Missions a higher profile in your church, youth group and Sunday School**

- In every church service or group activity, make time for a missions spot, mission prayers or mission activity. **HAVE MISSIONS ON THE WEEKLY ROSTER.** Appoint a missions co-ordinator or small committee (perhaps made up of one person from each important group in the parish). They will be the provider of missionary information, videos, prayer and praise points, prayer letters; arranging displays, servicing a missions library, handing out missionary organisation publications to all groups, obtaining missionary visitors, organising fundraisers and Mission Aid Group collections; enthuser and liason between minister and leaders of all church groups with regard to mission activity.
- Missions spots should be short, punchy, relational. Organised ahead of time to be quick, efficient, different, personal, educational, prompting participation. Involving everyone in the going, the doing, the rejoicing. We want to encourage participants rather than spectators.
- Involve as many people from the congregation as possible in up-front missionary activity - in plays, presentations, reading missionary prayer letters, praying, fundraising. We want all to understand that mission is the normal activity of the church and that if we neglect missions education, support and participation, we miss out on an exciting adventure of faith and we are disobeying the command of Christ. **WE WANT THEM TO CATCH THE 'WORLD FOR CHRIST' VISION.**

## **B. TRY THESE IDEAS IN YOUTH GROUP ACTIVITIES**

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- **MISSION SPOTS** - followed by discussion of the issues and ideas of how the group could contribute to solving any problems.
- **GAMES** which help us learn something about missions and a missionary's life (see sheets)
- **MISSIONARY PLAYS** and **VIDEOS**
- **SONGS** which emphasise involvement in gospel action rather than the 'feel good' type.
- **USE 'FUN' THINGS AS DISCUSSION STARTERS**, e.g. Song: 'Please don't send me to Africa' or poem 'Steadfast Lady Missionaries'
- **TELL MISSIONARY STORIES.** Have available a good missionary library.
- **TAKE THEM TO REGIONAL MISSIONARY MEETINGS OR FUN NIGHTS.**
- **INVITE MISSIONARY SPEAKERS** who will give interactive presentations. Avoid the 'talking head' style of meeting.

- Encourage them to ATTEND SUMMER SCHOOL with other young people or go as leaders to CAMP MILIMANI OR CAMP MMM.
- IN PRAYER TIMES – list concrete things to pray and praise for.
- INVOLVE them in supporting missions, specific projects or individual missionaries, by raising money - walkathons, bike rides, car washes, fasts, slave auctions or collecting goods.

### C. IN SUNDAY SCHOOL OR CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Remember that we short-change our children if we deny them the adventure of participating in and supporting the missionary activity of the church. IN ALL THESE ACTIVITIES, we want to give the children the opportunity to learn, to pray and to give, thereby taking part in the GOSPEL ACTION of missions, and to understand:

- a) That Jesus asks all Christians to go into the world and tell others about Him, and to do what He did - heal the sick, care for the poor, teach people that God loves them and give them the Word of God.
- b) Missionaries are ordinary Christians, often doing the same jobs as they do in Australia, who go overseas to work for Jesus and share their skills, to do what Jesus did. All Christians at home need to pray for them, support them financially.
- c) Being involved in missions and missionary activity means that we see God working in the lives of people TODAY, not just in the stories we learn about in the Bible. This is a great adventure and we all want to take part.

#### TRY THESE IDEAS:

1. Have a short missions spot every week while the whole group is assembled, before they go off to separate groups. Organise a roster of teachers so that each month a different person takes the missions spot out the front for that month. Get some sort of fun hat (perhaps a pith helmet and explain to the children that missionaries used to wear these in India and Africa, but nowadays they wear ordinary clothes like you and me), or a bright cloak or badge, something to identify the person as the 'missions' person for introducing the missions spot.
2. Think about the kind of missions support you want the children to be involved in (check with your Rector) and have a specially decorated box for collecting either money or goods (see list for MAG- Mission Aid Group) EVERY WEEK.
3. Use the CMS Prayer Diary and choose a different country each month. Include the other missionary societies which you/your church support, e.g. Leprosy Mission, Bible Society, etc.
4. Use the material CMS and the other societies produce to make overhead transparencies, charts, maps, etc. Contrasting charts are fun. Use big sheets of butcher's paper and put pictures of how we live and do things next to pictures of missionaries and people living and working in other countries. Get children to come out and put crosses or ticks against the pictures of what the missionary can or cannot use in the country you are talking about.
5. Use short missionary plays (or make them up) about the jobs missionaries do, the conditions under which they work and nationals live (scarce water, food, lack of modern conveniences) dangers they may face. In the plays, concentrate on WHAT the missionary does, HOW he/she shares skills with locals, HOW the missionary works using scarce resources and different language and how they TRUST THE LORD for the provision of their needs and for enabling them to do the job, HOW our gifts and goods help in the task.

6. At the end of the missions spot, PRAY for one of the missionaries mentioned in the Prayer Diary who fits the situation you are dealing with that day. Write out simple prayers, so that some of the children can come to the microphone out the front to pray.
7. If, for example, CMS TANZANIA is the Mission and Country for the Month, use the information from the CMS Prayer Diary, the pictures from the current CMS Calendar and CheckPoint magazine, and talk about one particular person and their job. For example: OHT map of Africa, explain where Tanzania is. Dress someone up as a doctor. Tell them about Steve Bradford working at Berega hospital, who read Jungle Doctor books when he was 11. (Hold a Jungle Doctor book or comic up and ask "Who has read one of these?). Steve decided to be a Jungle Doctor when he grew up and now he is. Get the children to suggest what it would be like working in a hospital where they did not have much equipment but lots of sick people. How would Dr Steve Bradford be 'doing what Jesus did' while he is working in Africa?

## D. A MISSIONARY PRAYER & ACTION GROUP IN YOUR CHURCH

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### THE AIMS FOR THE GROUP COULD BE TO:

- Educate the church family in the needs of missionaries, missionary societies and the unevangelised world.
- Promote attendance at courses such as Perspectives on the World Christian Movement , to enthuse church members about missions and gospel outreach generally. This course can be run at your own church and is highly recommended.
- Organise the writing of letters, sending of cards and gifts to link missionaries.
- Collect goods for MAG (the CMS NSW Mission Aid Group) to send to Tanzania.
- Raise money for specific mission or missionary needs.
- Arrange accommodation for church members at CMS Summer School each January and promote participation in this event throughout the church.
- Organise missionary prayer times in the parish to specifically pray for missions and missionaries OR circulate easy-to-use brief prayer notes to all Bible Study groups in the church.
- Organise special missionary ‘spots’ at all children’s events, services, Sunday School and youth groups so that the children in the parish grow up with a missionary vision. Books such as “You Can Change the World” are useful for leaders in this respect and take very little preparation time.

### ORGANISE A MISSIONARY EVENT FOR YOUR CHURCH:

- A family activity held on a night and at a time to suit people with families and early Sunday commitments, e.g. Saturday evening in the Church Hall from 5 – 8 p.m or 6 – 9 p.m.
- Pot luck shared meal with everyone bringing easy to serve and heat food.
- Have some family-type games/activities for the whole family to join in, which teach aspects of missionary work ( e.g. jigsaws of maps from Prayer Diary, quizzes, games listed in these sheets).
- Invite missionary speakers, have videos or use kits put out by the various missionary societies.
- Include a prayer time using prayer requests sent by missionaries.

ALL MEETINGS to be ‘kid friendly’ but expect the children to be present at information and prayer sessions to a reasonable degree, so that crèche work is kept to an essential minimum.

# E. GAMES

TO HELP US LEARN SOMETHING ABOUT MISSIONS AND A MISSIONARY'S LIFE:

## □□□□□□□ MISSIONARIES & MOSQUITOES

Introduce by brief discussion about missionary assignments, places where the missionary may face dangers to health or welfare, which may hinder the work, working as a team. As the game progresses, person running the game can input information about countries, missionary work, needs on the field, etc.

Two teams.

2 chalk or masking tape lines - one across each end of hall. 1 volley ball. Designate one member of the batting team (a good runner) "Missionary Doctor", label him/her and give medical kit to carry.

Team 1: Missionaries:

Punch ball to start. Ball must go between two chalk lines. Try to run to area behind chalk line at back of hall(country of assignment) and then return without being hit by ball thrown below knees by mosquitoes.

Team 2: Mosquitoes

Catch or pick up ball when punched. Cannot run with ball or baulk runner. Try to hit missionary running to country of assignment or returning home. IF HIT, missionary must sit down where they are hit. Aim is to try and stop missionaries reaching country of assignment or returning to base

Missionary Doctor:

This person is part of the missionary team. He/she may run to rescue any member hit and take them to country of assignment or back to home base (whichever is closest). Missionary Doctor may also be hit by mosquitoes and then another member of missionary team will have to undertake rescues.

When each member of the first team of missionaries has had a hit, change sides. The team which scores most home runs wins.

## **Game 2. MISSIONARIES NEEDED AROUND THE WORLD**

This is a good game to get rid of energy at the beginning of a meeting with younger children. Introduce by talking about the need for people who love Jesus to go to other countries to tell people about Him, to take jobs which help the people in those countries and work for God there.

Designate 4 walls around hall as countries (e.g. Nepal, Africa, South America, Indonesia). Children line up against one wall, leader calls out "Missionaries are needed in South America", children all run to touch that wall, last couple are out. Warn children not to run over one another. When leader calls out "Missionaries are needed around the world" children have to run and touch four walls. Keep children running until only one left.

## **Game 3. TEAM (Together Everyone Achieves More)**

Complete silence and don't look at what your neighbour is doing. One minute look at diagram on OHT. Draw as much as you remember. After about two minutes, quick flash again. Now compare with a partner and fill in more. Then four people together. Appreciate their skills. No bagging. In building a team to work together we have to take everyone's ideas, appreciate their skills and their personalities and gifts. Don't be too proud to accept help. Show appreciation and gratitude for others' contribution.

#### **Game 4. MISSIONARY SCALPS**

This is a good game to play outside, but also okay in a hall.

Introduce by brief discussion about how missionaries are recruited by various missionary societies and what the needs are on different fields.

Set up 3 mission stations for a country (e.g. Tanzania) in the hall or grounds with signs on the walls (e.g. "Berega Hospital" "Dodoma Mission School" "Kongwa Bible College")

Assign a home staff member to each (label them). All the rest are labelled with a missionary job (e.g. 'essentials' such as Doctor, nurse, teacher, theological lecturer, then 'desirables' to fit many different stations e.g. builder, plumber, electrician, secretary, nurse, business manager, pilot, architect, etc. to suit number of people playing game.

All tagged people (except home staff) have a 'scalp' (piece of material) tucked into belt at back. When whistle goes, home staff are in base, others in middle area. Home staff go out to catch mission personnel - by capturing their scalp. When caught - go to appropriate base. Capture essential personnel first - then go for whoever else you can. Team with most number of recruits wins. When all missionary personnel are in bases, each group look up Matthew 28:18-20 and find out what Jesus promises to people who go into the world as missionaries.

#### **Game 5. WHAT'S IN THE MISSIONARY'S BAG?**

Pencil and paper for each person. Items set out on table, covered over with cloth. Introduce by brief discourse on how many items we use frequently at home are not available in other countries, so missionaries have to pack carefully before leaving home. Explain rules: Complete silence so you can concentrate and remember. One minute to look when cloth is removed. Then items will be covered over again while you write down as many items as you can. After a few minutes, another 50 second look. Swap papers and mark off. As the leader holds up each item, say why it is important.

Here's the suggested contents of the Missionary's Bag:

1. Passport
2. Health Certificate - vaccinations.
3. Malaria tablets - start before you leave Australia.
4. Mosquito net
5. Driving Licence
6. Toilet paper
7. Bible (ordinary person, doing ordinary job, but overseas telling people about Jesus. Teach from Bible and use for personal devotions)
8. Towel
9. Soap (hygiene extremely important)
10. Matches
11. Map of country (may not have enough local language to ask directions)
12. Water filter (take great care about what you eat and drink. Important to stay healthy)
13. Cup (must have own. Local people may be too poor to have extras)
14. Plate
15. Cutlery (knife, fork, spoon)
16. Torch (may not be any electricity)
17. Candle (may not be able to get replacement batteries)
18. Medical kit (a long way from medical care. Own needles and syringes - AIDS, Hep C, etc)
19. Hat
20. Camper's Knife
21. Screwdriver
22. Nails and screws
23. Rope
24. Pegs
25. Sewing Kit
26. Radio/Cassette Player
27. Gospel Cassette (Good News in language of people)
28. Airletters (paper and envelopes - to keep contact with people at home)
29. Music Cassette
30. US Dollars (or local currency)

# MISSIONARY SPOT 1: NEPAL

**AIM:** To help the children understand that missionaries share their skills in a variety of ways on the mission field.

To encourage the children to pray for five CMS missionaries currently working in Nepal.

**EQUIPMENT:** Cards which picture jobs which modern missionaries do.

5 A4 cards, each with a letter N - E - P - A - L on the back of each card write the missionary's job description.

Props to dress 5 children as missionaries (Secretary/Administration, Hospitality/Home making, Doctor, Engineer, Bible Teacher or School Teacher). Arrange beforehand with some helpers to be ready to dress the children.

Map of the World

Four short prayers for missionaries typed on card so children can read them.

1. One by one display the job cards, explaining that missionaries are ordinary people who go overseas to do an ordinary job and share their skills and at the same time tell people about Jesus.
2. Ask five children to volunteer to dress up as missionaries. When dressed, these children stand facing the group, holding the letter cards with the letter facing the group but the letters in mixed order (e.g. L-N-A-E-P), the job description towards themselves.
3. Tell the others that they will have to guess two things: Which country the missionaries work in and what job they do.
4. Once the country name is sorted satisfactorily with prompting from the group show where Nepal is on the world map, then ask the children to guess the job descriptions from the way the volunteers are dressed.
5. Give brief talk about Nepal, the difficulties missionaries and local Christians face, e.g. many Christians are in prison for their faith; people are not allowed to encourage others to change their faith; life can be very difficult for those who do (other details from CMS Prayer Diary).
6. Ask four children who can read to come forward to lead in prayer for the missionaries whose work has been mentioned today and for the Christians in Nepal. Provide some printed prayers and ask some children to pray freely in the group.

## MISSION SPOT 2: THE PATCHWORK QUILT

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**AIM:** To demonstrate that every member of every congregation can play a part in missions activity.

**EQUIPMENT:** A patchwork quilt or a crochet rug with squares of many colours

1. Hold up quilt and talk about how it was made, who contributed materials and squares, how some showed others how to crochet or sew, how some sewed all the squares together, how it will be used and valued when it reaches Tanzania.
2. This quilt is a mosaic of involvement - a concerted, loving effort by many people to care for

someone half a world away in the name of Jesus.

3. It is a good example of how we can work together to spread the good news of Jesus - everyone contributing something to the completed work.
4. Over the last few years we have been praying and working for Tanzania. Recently we have received GOOD NEWS of answered prayer. In one small village in Tanzania, many Muslims accepted Christ and they are now studying the scriptures with the missionaries. Also, two Tanzanian hospital workers at a nearby mission hospital accepted the Lord. Also, one young Sikh man at the mission school in Dodoma became a Christian and is now attending a Bible study with other young men at the missionary doctor's home.

So let us praise the Lord for answered prayer.

## MISSION SPOT 3: IS ANYTHING TOO HARD FOR THE LORD?

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AIM: To encourage realistic, but risk-taking, prayer for missions.

EQUIPMENT: OHP, OHT pictures of Berlin Wall, piece of Berlin wall.

1. Gen 18:14 Sarah was disbelieving God's promise to Abraham that Sarah would have a son when both Abraham and Sarah were well past child bearing age. The Lord said "Is anything too hard for the Lord?"

2. We all know that God did give them a son. There are many examples of the Lord acting in seemingly impossible situations recorded in scripture:

- a) The Hebrews being released from slavery in Egypt
- b) The walls of Jericho coming tumbling down
- c) David's triumph over Goliath
- d) Nehemiah rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem
- e) Peter being released from prison
- f) Saul, persecutor and murderer of Christians, becoming a follower of Jesus and a missionary.

3. We may tend to think "that was OK in those days - it doesn't happen now" but we have heard of many miracles and answers to prayer happening in this congregation.

4. At the end of the second World War, the victorious allies divided Germany into four parts. Great Britain, the US and France occupied the west part of Germany, and the Communist Soviets the east. The capital city, BERLIN, geographically located in East Germany, was also divided into four sectors occupied by those same powers. In 1948 the Soviet Union cut off all rail, water and highway routes to West Germany.

5. Because so many people from the communist occupied East Germany tried to escape into West Germany (and freedom) through the allied sectors of Berlin, in 1961 the communists built a barrier through Berlin that we call the Berlin Wall.

At least two metres high, very thick, barbed wire all around, mines laid near the wall, guards and guard posts with lights along its entire length. Many East Germans lost their lives by trying to climb over, tunnel under, or pass through the checkpoints of this wall.

6. Over the years, as the communist grip on Eastern Europe became stronger, and repression of the Church became more intense, Christians worldwide prayed for the downfall of Communism. I was one of them. But as I prayed, it seemed a very big ask. Bronwyn and I had gone through Checkpoint Charlie into East Berlin, we had been in a bus that had been minutely searched by aggressively unfriendly communist guards, mirrors slid under the bus, all our passports taken, all passengers carefully scrutinised. IT WAS VERY SCARY!

7. Still, we prayed for the fall of communism and for the Berlin Wall to come down, but I felt that "THIS WAS A TOUGH ONE".

8. Christians held all night prayer vigils and candle light marches, praying that atheistic communism would be defeated.

9. IS ANYTHING TOO HARD FOR THE LORD? In 1989, 28 years after the Berlin wall went up, the wall was opened. People held Wall parties - danced and sang on the wall which had been the scene of so many horrible and senseless deaths. And they attacked the wall with sledge hammers, farm machinery, hand hammers - anything to knock it down. My son Andrew was in Berlin with a Youth With a Mission team at that time. He went to wall parties - this is his souvenir (SHOW)- it gave him great satisfaction to BANG it off the wall.

10. This is evidence of a modern miracle, a reminder to me that in our prayers for missions - breaking down the walls of darkness, prejudice, unbelief, witchcraft, Satanism, our own selfish absorption in our own lives - we must be risk-takers and ask BIG THINGS of our mighty God - for the extension of his kingdom.

*Nothing is too hard for the Lord - remember the Berlin Wall.*

Our young people will come and pray:

1. Loving Father, we thank and praise you that you are a mighty God and that no structure or institution or belief of man can stop you from working, so we pray that we might be conscious of your might and power and step out in faith and action in our lives to be workers together with you for your kingdom. We pray in Jesus' name, AMEN.
2. Lord, we pray that you will release our nation from the darkness of atheism, materialism and self-indulgence that engulfs us. Please help us to be so sensitive to your presence and your power that we bow in humble obedience to your will in our lives. Send us out to serve you faithfully, we pray, Amen.

## MISSIONS SPOT 4: THE HOLY HUDDLE

AIM: To think about how our 'holy huddle' protects, nurtures and restores those of our fellowship facing the harsh realities of life.

EQUIPMENT: TV, Video "The Art of Landscape", OHP, OHT Emperor Penguins, OHT diagram of huddle

1. Before running the video, read

"Emperor penguins live in the extremely low temperature of the Antarctic ice shelf. These animals are the largest of all penguins and remain huddled together on the ice during the Antarctic winter, holding the incubating egg, and then the newly hatched chick, on their feet.

The scenes of these penguins and their 'huddling' behaviour seem to me to give a good picture of the Church - sometimes jokingly referred to as 'the holy huddle'. As we view the video, observe the behaviour of these penguins and then think of ourselves, as the disciples of Jesus, and how we go about our work of sharing our faith, fellowshiping with other Christians and caring for new Christians and our 'front line' workers."

2. Run Video

3. Comments: (wait until one minute passes)

- a) The huddle, keeping one another warm and protected, backs to wind, gradually moving forward.
- b) Nurturing, protecting, feeding the new Christian.
- c) Travelling many kilometres over difficult terrain.
- d) Some ski and slide, some walk, I expect according to age, what load has to be carried, males carry egg and then the newly hatched chick, females find the food.
- e) Visit each other, socialise.
- f) The young spread their wings and enjoy the sun

g) They are carefully cared for in safety until they are mature enough to take their own place in the huddle.

#### 4. OHT diagram of penguins in the huddle

**In times when a blizzard blows, the penguins huddle together for warmth and safety.**

**They take turns on the side from which the harshest weather is coming, then move around to the side and back of the huddle, gradually moving into the warm middle to be refreshed and energised until it is time to take the harsh wind again. As they retire, others take their place.**

We need to think about our Christian brothers and sisters whomay be feeling the harsh force of life at the moment and need our support and help. Perhaps you are glad that you are part of a loving Christian fellowship, or perhaps you might be angry, bewildered, unhappy, sad, disappointed that your brothers and sisters in your 'holy huddle' or the wider church, have not come forward to share your load. Our missionaries may feel the same.

Today, as you remember this video and the beautiful music of Pachelbel, I would like you to say to yourself:

\* How do I nurture, protect and care for those on the front line of our church's mission?

\* How do I communicate my needs to my brothers and sisters in Christ so they can embrace and protect me in the holy huddle?

*AND THEN TAKE SOME ACTION ON YOUR ANSWERS.*

## **MISSIONS SPOT 5: BALLS**

**AIM:** To promote the concept of members of our congregation becoming 'World Christians'.

**EQUIPMENT:** 4 BALLS - 1. Smiley Face - God loves you  
2. Dolphin, stars or new age symbol  
3& 4. World Map

We are all grateful recipients of God's grace towards us.

We are all familiar with this smiley face - Smile - God loves you. Because of this we carry around within us a joy and peace and the presence of Jesus in our daily lives.

Furthrmore we all live in beautiful Gerringong and enjoy the good life of sun, sand, sea, security and rich fellowship with other Christians - and dolphins!

However, we also live in a world that does not enjoy these blessings and we may be tempted to forget Jesus' command to "Seek first the kingdom of God" - just enjoying what God has given us and forgetting about another command of Jesus - Go into all the world and preach the Gospel.

These balls remind us that we need to become "World Christians" - those who see their part in God's plan for the salvation of the whole world - not just our little part here.

So, our prayers today ask the Lord to help us 'catch' the vision of a world that needs Jesus. Praying we will be faithful in ordering our lives, so that our TOP PRIORITY will be God's kingdom, rather than our own selfish desires.

#### PRAYERS:

\* Heavenly Father, we thank you that we know that you love us and because of this we can smile and have the presence of Jesus in our lives every day. We thank you, too, that we live in such a beautiful part of the world and that you supply all our needs. Help us, we pray, to order our lives in such a way that we put your kingdom first and to be sensitive to the needs of those who do not know of your love. We ask this in Jesus' name, AMEN.

\* Dear Lord, we pray for people in your world who live without knowing you and who live in places where there is war, poverty and disease. Please speak to the hearts and minds of Christians everywhere so that we will all be active in proclaiming the good news of salvation and helping others in areas of need. Help us to catch the vision of loving missionary work for you. AMEN.

\* Loving Father, we pray for the Gerringong team going to Russia in July. We thank you that you have blessed our fundraising efforts for camp fees and Bibles and now we ask that you will bless each team member with good health, safety in travel, time for adequate preparation both physically and spiritually, and put such a love in their hearts for the children on Sakhalin Island that these children and their leaders will come to know Jesus as Saviour and Lord. AMEN.

\* **Lord, we find it hard to comprehend the suffering caused by the troubles in Israel and Palestine. We pray for the peace of Jerusalem and an end to the conflict there. May your love be revealed to all the people there so that they can transcend the differences in race and religion. Give us understanding and effective prayers and actions for this sad part of your world. In Jesus name we pray. AMEN.**

## MISSIONS SPOT 6: VINE AND BRANCHES

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AIM: To help people to think about the activities they are involved in in Church life, how productive they are for the kingdom of God and how far their activities reach.

EQUIPMENT: Real vine or cardboard vine with fruit attached.  
Post-it stickers denoting Church activities

**1. DISPLAY VINE** (one behind the other)

John 15 v 5 Jesus said "I am the vine, and you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him, will bear much fruit; for you can do nothing without me".

**Tonight, for our missionary prayers, I would like us to think about the *kind of fruit we produce in our Christian lives.***

**2. Some fruit takes comparatively *little effort* to produce:** (add stickers)

Praising the Lord with others, encouraging someone in their Christian walk, praying for someone in need.

**3. Perhaps a little *more effort* is needed to produce fruit like:** (gradually extend vine)

Inviting people home for a meal, cooking for someone who is sick, visiting someone who is sick, teaching Scripture in school.

**4.** Sometimes *personal sacrifice* is called for:

Living as an effective Christian in our daily work, leaving the comfort of home to go on a mission, going without something you want to be able to give money to meet someone else's real need.

**5.** And we should ask ourselves "*How far does our fruit reach*":

We are conscious of our dependence upon God for his presence and his power in our lives if we are to bear fruit for him. We also ask for discipline in our lives so that we will bear lasting fruit for his kingdom.

Sometimes I do not know whether to be apprehensive or take comfort from this verse:

John 15 verse 1. Jesus says "I am the real vine, and my Father is the gardener. He breaks off every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and he prunes every branch that does bear fruit, so that it will be clean and bear more fruit."

*Let us pray that our fruit will reach right around the world for Jesus.*

Dear Father, we thank you that you look after us lovingly like a gardener, so that we will bear good fruit for your kingdom. Please help us to seek you daily, walk with you closely and take every opportunity to serve you faithfully. We pray in Jesus' name, AMEN.

We pray, Lord, for the Christians in Nepal. We ask that you will surround them with your love and care and keep them trusting in you and witnessing faithfully for you. Help them to be able to share the good news of Jesus with their troubled neighbours and to be brave throughout these unsettled times in that country. We pray for their protection and the provision of all their needs. AMEN.

Lord of all power and might, we pray for all the missionary societies of the church in Australia. We pray that you will guide those who work in them, guard the workers on the field and help us to live disciplined and unselfish lives so that we can contribute to this work to spread the gospel throughout the world. For Jesus' sake, AMEN.

## MISSIONS SPOT 7: ACTIONS RATHER THAN WORDS!

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**AIM:** To help us understand that to be obedient to Christ we have to OBEY his commands and take ACTION. Discussion and prayer is not enough.

**EQUIPMENT:** 4 copies of the play  
One person to be barefoot and dressed in rags  
3 people carrying Bibles  
OHT with texts.

**1.** Present the play

- 2.** Put up the OHT for one minute without saying anything.
- 3.** Have the four play characters come to the front and pray the prepared prayers.

**PRAYER:**

Loving Father, thank you for the way you abundantly provide for us. Please help us to see clearly the spiritual and physical needs of others in the world and give us the personal courage and discipline to help them. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

## **THE PLAY (for Mission Spot 7):**

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Characters: Person **1** dressed in rags, looking dirty, barefoot and desperate.  
Persons **2,3 & 4** looking prosperous and wearing crosses.

- 1** (Stands at side of stage, begging)
- 2** Man, what's happened to you? I'll form a committee and we'll discuss your problem  
(Walks on, shaking head)
- 3** You look terrible, terrible!
- 1** I'm hungry, too. (**3** pats him on shoulder)
- 3** Well, I can't do anything for you now. I'm on my way to buy a new dress for a party. But I'll  
pray for you, really I will. (Hurries off)
- 4** Wow! You are in a sorry state.
- 1** I'm thirsty too!
- 4** Well, just remember God loves you.
- 2 & 4** (discuss together)
- 2** Did you see that guy - hardly any clothes!
- 4** Yeah! Come on. We'll be late for Bible Study.  
(hurry off - looking back at poor person)

PUT UP Over Head Transparency (next page). NARRATOR TO READ SLOWLY.

I was hungry ... and your committee  
discussed my problem

I was thirsty ... and you held a  
prayer meeting

I was sick and naked ... and you issued  
a theological statement

**BUT**  
in the end  
you **DID NOTHING !**

Jesus said:

“I was hungry and you fed me,  
thirsty and you gave me a drink;  
I was a stranger and you received me in your homes,  
naked and you clothed me;  
I was sick and you took care of me,  
in prison and you visited me.

...

The King will reply,  
‘I tell you, whenever you refused to help  
one of these least important ones,  
you refused to help me’.”

MATTHEW 25:35, 45

# MISSIONS SPOT 8: JUNGLE DOCTOR

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EQUIPMENT: 2 Jungle Doctor books,  
Pith helmet,  
Jungle Doctor video,  
OHT Modern day Jungle Doctor (Steve Bradford)

1. Years ago, when missionaries went to Africa, they wore hats like this (put on pith helmet). Very useful for keeping off the hot sun and stopping arrows from piercing their heads.
2. About 60 years ago, an Australian Dr. Paul White, went to Africa as a missionary and he became known as The Jungle Doctor. (hold up books)
3. Who has read any of these Jungle Doctor books or comics?
4. **Give brief history of Dr. Paul White. 1940s, Mvumi, training the locals, returning to Australia, spreading the message about the need for missionaries and how the Africans loved hearing about Jesus, writing books.**
5. Who has got some idea of what they want to be when they grow up? (Take a few answers)
6. When we make up our minds about what we want to do in life, we have to study to gain the skills needed, and it is great if those skills will help people have a better life.
7. About 30 years ago, an 11 year old Australian boy named Steve Bradford, loved reading the Jungle Doctor books and decided he would like to be a Jungle Doctor too.
8. When Steve left school, he went to University and, after studying engineering and medicine, he became a doctor. I met Steve Bradford in Africa several years ago. He lives with his wife and family in a small village called Berega, right out in the bush in Africa AND - GUESS WHAT? HE IS A JUNGLE DOCTOR -(OHT) working at a mission hospital, sharing his skills, helping people to get better, and telling people about Jesus.
9. **When you are thinking about what you want to be when you grow up, decide to be someone useful, someone who can help other people and tell them about Jesus. Study hard and learn all you can. Remember Steve Bradford, who made up his mind to be a Jungle Doctor when he was 11, and is doing really useful work for God today.**

# MISSIONS SPOT 9: REALITY CHECK!

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AIM: To encourage the congregation to think about this question: “Are we kidding ourselves when we say we follow Jesus?”

Equipment: \* 2 books by R.J. Sider:        Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger  
   Living More Simply  
   \* OHT ‘Global Poverty’

Sometimes a book we read makes a lifelong impression on us. That is how I felt, in 1980, when I read these two books. Many of you would have also been deeply affected by reading these books.

I was shocked by the examples and statistics in ‘Rich Christians’, which highlighted the appalling contrasts between the ‘haves’ and the ‘have nots’ in this world, particularly as all the ‘haves’ were, at least nominally, Christian countries. It made me see the ministry of Jesus, and the strong correlation between what Jesus said and what Old Testament prophets like Amos preached about justice and mercy, in a new light.

Then, when I read “Living More Simply’ I was firstly deeply ashamed, as I became aware that even though I gave generously for the work of the Lord at home and abroad, my lifestyle could and should be radically different from my non-Christian neighbours. I realised that if I really meant business with the Lord, my life and ministry would have to change.

Now, I know that I was not the only Christian to feel that way. We used these books as Bible Study guides in our Parish, we discussed the statistics, the suggestions, the principles - and agreed with them wholeheartedly. We determined to make radical changes in our personal lives and the things we organised at church. I know many Christians, at that time, did the same.

But, what is the situation 20 years on? When I look at this diagram (OHT) which illustrates current global poverty (briefly explain segments), I have to ask myself “Are we kidding ourselves when we say we follow Christ?” “Do we live radically different lives from our non-Christian neighbours?” “Are we making the contribution we should - as those who SAY they follow Christ?”

On the human level we are appalled at the suffering of so many millions living in dire poverty. But, even worse, they have not heard of the love and sacrifice of Christ. Many of our missionary societies are having great difficulty meeting their budgets. Missionaries in the field are hampered by lack of resources and the things which we daily take for granted. Their work would be so much more effective if money and manpower were more generously provided by us Christians living in comfort and safety at home.

Brothers and sisters, this should not be so. Let’s take an honest look at our lives and make some changes today.

LET US PRAY:

O loving Father, we ask forgiveness for our lack of sensitivity to the suffering of a world without Christ. Help us to have a good hard look at the way we live and work for you. Speak to our hearts and empower us to make changes so that we truly live more simply - so that others can live with the knowledge of Jesus and his love and be adequately provided for. AMEN.

## MISSIONS SPOT 10: WORKING TOGETHER CO-OPERATIVELY

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AIM: To help the congregation understand what the missionary task is today.

EQUIPMENT: \* Enough pop-sticks for each member of the group to have one.

\* Sample of pop-sticks put together to make boomerang.

- Who can tell me what a boomerang is? (A wooden thing you throw and, if you throw it correctly, it comes back to you)
- I'm going to give everyone a pop-stick. Then I want you to get into groups of four people and, together, make a boomerang like the model I am holding up.
- Start off like this with two sticks. Help each other kindly and co-operatively, everyone sharing the skills they have. When your group is successful, hold your boomerang up in the air.
- Leave the groups to concentrate on the task for a few minutes. Then ask: Who is having some difficulty? Comment on the quick groups (clever? Co-operative? Only one person took over and did it? Bossy?) Ask the slow groups: Who is feeling frustrated? Who does not like this kind of activity? Who feels a bit thick?
- Perhaps you could ask for help from some who have finished?
- When all have their boomerangs finished, or 5 minutes has passed (don't go on too long), ask people how they felt about completing the task (wanted to give up? Felt it was useless? Would have liked more instructions? Felt inadequate? Felt it was easy? Felt superior? How did you feel about the rest of your group - sorry you were lumbered with such dummies? Grateful you had someone who knew what to do?)
  - **How did your group feel if no-one came to help?**
- This is a good example of what the modern missionary's task is like. They usually have to work with people who have different backgrounds and skills and personalities; have been called as missionaries but may feel inadequate for the task; may never have faced some particular problems before; may not have enough resources; have to learn to co-operate with others to get the task of spreading the gospel done;
- How do you think people who do not know about the love of God feel if no-one comes to share the good news of Jesus? No-one comes to share their skills to help them cope in a world of spiritual darkness and poverty?

- As we work together to forward the mission of Christ in the world, let us remember the lessons about co-operation, grace, humility, and skill sharing we have learned from this activity.
- In our prayers for missionaries, pray that they will be enabled to share their skills with the people they serve; that they will be given grace and strength to work considerately with their co-workers, appreciating their skills and listening to their needs; to learn from the people they live amongst; that they will be given spiritual insight and understanding and the ability to share their faith effectively.
- And pray for ourselves, that we will be willing to generously support missionaries and consider God's call in our own lives to share the gospel here and think about going overseas with the good news of salvation.



Missionary Play 1: **HOW DO YOU RESPOND TO THE GREAT COMMISSION?**

**Matthew 28:16-20.**

**Four disciples, in biblical costume if possible, stand, backs to the audience, looking up as if they can see Jesus ascending. They could shade their eyes to see up into the distance. One of them could wave goodbye.**

**VOICE OF JESUS:** Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And I will be with you always, to the end of the age.

(Slight pause, then disciples turn around and talk in a group, facing the audience)

1. Well, that's that then. He's gone.
2. We should go too.
3. Yes, let's go home.
4. But what are we going to do?
  1. I'm going to take a good long holiday.
  3. I think I'll go back to the old fishing business.
  2. (Gloomily) My wife's been at me to re-thatch the roof and whitewash the walls.
  4. NO! What are we going to do about it?
    1. About what?
      4. About what he said. You know ... about making disciples.
    3. Oh, that ... well, we'll have to ...um....think about it....a lot.
    4. THINK about it?

3. Yes. I'll think about it while I'm fishing.
1. And I'll think about it while I'm on holiday.
2. (Still gloomy) I won't have time to think about it, my wife will see to that! (1 and 3 laugh and then start to exit with 2)
4. But aren't we going to do anything? (The others stop and turn back)
2. I'll be doing plenty!
4. (patiently) But what about making disciples?
1. Look, I don't think Jesus meant that we should just go out and make disciples.
4. But that's what he said! He said "Go and make..."
3. (interrupting) It's not that simple. I'm sure he would have wanted us to consider the....er....the implications ... (looking for back-up)
1. The ramifications.....
2. My wife! (1 and 3 glare at 2)
3. We'll have to a study on it, form a committee.

Play 1: How do you respond ... (cont.)

4. Why can't we just GO?
1. Then there's the question of training.
4. Training?
1. (Triumphantly) Yes, HOW are we going to make disciples?
4. I thought we could make friends with people and talk to them.
3. But WHAT ARE WE GOING TO SAY?
4. Why can't we just tell them about Jesus, and that he loves them and died for them and that he ...
2. (interrupting) But what if someone asks us about the efficaciousness of the underlying principles of Prophetic terminology in the Deuteronomic interpretation of the Mosaic law?
4. (Stunned, as are the others) Do people ask ... THAT.. kind of question?
2. (defensively) Well, they MIGHT!
1. (jumping in) And we have to be prepared.
3. So we'll have to have a training course.
2. A long training course - a long way away from my wife!
4. But when are we going to go and make disciples?
1. (ignoring 4) Of course, we'll need somewhere to do our training ...
2. And have our committee meetings.
3. And consider what Jesus said ...
4. (Trying to get noticed) But what about DOING what Jesus said?
1. (still ignoring 4) We'll have to build something ...(thinking)


3. (Having a vision) We'll invent steeples, stained-glass windows, and pulpits and pews...
2. (catching the vision) We'll have sermons and sacraments, and AGMs and evangelism committees ...
1. (joining in) We'll write hymns and liturgies, and minutes and reports ...
- 1, 2 and 3.** We'll call it a 'church'!
4. (Exasperated) But what good will this church be without people in it?
2. WE'LL be in it!
4. (desperate) But Jesus said we should GO OUT and make disciples!!
1. Well, he'll just have to find someone else.
3. Yes, we'll be too busy. (**1, 2 and 3** exit. **4** follows sadly behind)



Missionary Play 2: **TIME TO ANSWER THE CALL**

Two people walk in, look around, then stand as if waiting for a bus. **No. 1** begins to act impatiently.

1. What are we doing here?
2. Waiting.
1. Waiting?
2. Yes, waiting?
1. Don't tell me we are just going to stand here and wait?
2. That's right.
1. But I HATE waiting!
2. Well, you might be waiting for something good.
1. What ARE we waiting for?
2. He's coming.
1. Who's coming.
2. Jesus.
1. Oh..... But hasn't he already been?
2. Yes, but he promised to come back again.
1. How do you know?
2. The Bible says that he promised he would?
1. Well, when do YOU think he's coming?
2. Any time.
1. Like ..... NOW?
2. Guess so.

1. You mean you're not sure EXACTLY WHEN?
2. Er.....no.
1. Could be now OR tomorrow OR next week OR even next year?
2. Yep, that's what the Bible says.
1. (looking horrified) But what if I'm not ready. I haven't answered His call yet!
2. What do you mean?
1. Well, a few years ago we had a missionary speaker at our church, and I felt very strongly that the Lord was calling me to do something about missionary work - be a missionary, or at least help the cause here at home, and .....
2. Good stuff!!
1. Yeah ... but I didn't do anything about it ... I'm kind of still thinking about getting around to it ... I hope I haven't left it too late!
2. Well, don't just think of yourself! ... What about all the people who haven't heard about Jesus yet ... While you've been dithering around!!
1. OOOPS!! (walks off dejectedly and looking thoughtful) 

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