



IDEAS FOR CHURCHWIDE MISSIONS INVOLVMENT



Linking
Involvement
Needs and
Knowledge for missions.

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Change a church...change the world.

If we could change churches by helping the members become radically involved the mission of God, what might happen? We could change the world!

Missions involvement includes:

- awareness opportunities like bulletin boards and announcements in the church newsletter;
- onetime events such as a missions fair or day of Scripture distribution;
- short-term activities that involve a few days or a few weeks of mission action (ministry) or study;
- on-going ministries like a food closet or adopting a missionary family
- mission trips;
- prayer partnerships.

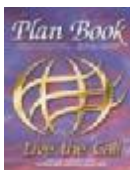
The possibilities for missions involvement are as varied as the interests, needs, and skills of your church. WMU offers resources and missions opportunities for the entire church.



Missions Leader is a quarterly magazine which includes many missions involvement ideas for the whole church. WMU leaders and pastors will find this to be a great resource.

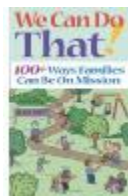


The WMU Yearbook is both a planning tool and a source of ministry ideas. Use this resource for WMU planning for the church as well as age-level organizations.

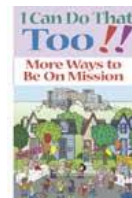


Missions Plan Book is a great resource for smaller congregations. A new issue comes out each year with a year of missions plans, including Bible study and ministry ideas.

Resources for Ministry



Involve families in missions with ideas from *We Can Do That!* This collection includes ministry ideas for the whole family.



This is a book of seed ideas. As you read through the collection of ministry ideas, you'll find yourself saying "I can do that, too!"



Thought Project HELP, WMU addresses important social ministry needs. Our current emphasis is on Poverty.



Missions Education & Ministry Resources

for all ages - WMU publishes curriculum for preschool through adult which includes both teaching materials and ministry ideas. Learn more about WMU resources through your association, Kentucky WMU, or WMU Customer Service.

Contact information:

Kentucky WMU

502-489-3534 or toll free in Kentucky (outside Louisville): 1-866-489-3534
www.kywmu.org

Kentucky Baptist Convention

502-245-4101 or toll free in Kentucky (outside Louisville): 1-800-266-6477
www.kybaptist.org

WMU Customer Service (Birmingham, AL)

1-800-968-7301
www.wmu.com

Think missions – Think WMU!

Churchwide Missions for the Whole Year

<p>September: Missions in Kentucky Encourage your church to pray for missions in Kentucky and participate in the Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions. Contact Kentucky WMU for free teaching materials, DVD, posters, prayer guides, and offering envelopes. Invite a state missions speaker. Operation Missions LINK: Plan a special project to involve people in your church in hands-on ministry in your community.</p>	<p>March: North American Missions Use the materials provided by the North American Mission Board to emphasize missions. Distribute prayer guides and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering envelopes. Invite a missions speaker to your church. If possible, take a group to visit the ministry site of your missionary speaker or another mission site in your area.</p>
<p>October: World Hunger Help your church learn more about world hunger. Refer to suggestions in the WMU Year Book or the Missions Plan Book. Contact the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission for additional resources. Encourage church members to give money to the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund.</p>	<p>April: Cooperative Missions Giving Working together is a strong part of Southern Baptist missions. Secure the most recent Cooperative Program video and brochure from the KBC Communications Department. Invite a KBC staff member to speak about the ministries supported through CP Missions.</p>
<p>November: Pray and Give Thanks Baptist Women’s World Day of Prayer - Baptist women around the world come together on the first Monday in November to pray. Order a free planning guide from Kentucky WMU. Give Thanks - invite internationals, homeless persons, senior adults, or another group in your community to a special Thanksgiving Dinner. Share the love of Christ through the meal and a special program.</p>	<p>May: Families on Mission May is a great month to encourage parents and families. Plan a parenting workshop. Sponsor a Parents Night Out. Organize a ministry project that whole families can do. Collect baby items for new parents who cannot afford these items. Contact a crisis pregnancy center for more information. Associational Missions: Participate in your association missions offering and missions emphasis. Contact your Director of Missions for more information about associational ministries.</p>
<p>December: International Missions Plan a time in December for all ages to study about international missions. Enlist a missionary speaker to come to your church sometime during the month. Hold a missions banquet. Help your church set a goal for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions.</p>	<p>June: Vacation Bible School Help unchurched children attend VBS. Take VBS to them! Hold VBS in an apartment complex, mobile home park, a backyard, or a park. After getting to know unchurched children, invite them to Sunday School, missions groups, and other church activities.</p>
<p>January: Project HELP Focus on the current WMU Project HELP emphasis and look for ways to help. Secure <i>Breaking the Cycle: Issues Affecting Poverty</i>. Plan a program and/or project to help your church understand and respond to the needs of poverty in your community.</p>	<p>July: Honor Community Workers Take cookies, cards, and other expressions of appreciation to police, fire, ambulance, hospital, municipal, and other workers in your community. Include a church brochure and/or gospel tract.</p>
<p>February: Focus on WMU Make your church aware of the ministries and activities of WMU. Show the video “Changing Lives: WMU Ministries.” Plan a missions prayer retreat or prayer breakfast as a part of your WMU emphasis. Plan a hands-on ministry project that involves all ages. Show pictures and report on the ministry in a worship service.</p>	<p>August: Back to School Plan a prayerwalk at local schools in your community. Send notes to teachers as they return to school. Collect school supplies for needy children. Contact schools about school needs. Start a new missions group for children at the start of the school year.</p>

These are just a few involvement ideas. WMU resources contain suggestions for all ages.

Choose Your Way to Do Missions

A church can do missions in at least three ways:

1. Missions activities for the whole church family
2. Missions groups for one or more age-levels in the church
3. A combination of missions activities for the whole church and for age-level groups

Measure Your Church

What is the best plan for missions in your church? Take these steps to discover the answer.

- **Pray first.** Ask God to help you and others understand the importance of missions. Pray that you will recognize the opportunities for missions in your church and community.
- **Look at what God has given your church.** Think about the church members. What are their gifts, abilities, and interests? What are their ages? Where is your church located? What opportunities for ministry and witness can you find in the church neighborhood?
- **Think about your church's interest in missions.** Make a list of ways you are doing missions now. What could be expanded? Added?
- **Talk with your pastor and other church leaders.** Share your research. Be ready to share ideas about beginning or strengthening missions activities. Develop a goal of what God wants your church to do.

Which approach to missions is best for your church?

- Churchwide WMU (Missions activities for the whole church)
- Age-level WMU organizations (Missions groups for one or more age-levels)
- Churchwide & Age-level organizations (a combination of churchwide and age-level missions activities)

As you choose, remember:

- « You do not have to do everything.
- « You can change and adapt as your church grows and as needs or wishes change.
- « Missions education activities do not require a big budget.
- « You do not need a large number of people to begin a group or ministry.
- « You can get training and materials from your association, Kentucky WMU, or national WMU.
- « God will honor your decision to focus on missions, and He will meet your needs for missions projects and programs.
- « Contact Kentucky WMU for assistance and possible free materials (per WMU, SBC guidelines) if you are starting a new WMU group (any age-level or churchwide).

Missions Activities for the Whole Church

- The pastor and other church leaders can lead a missions prayer time or share missions information during worship services. A great free resource from KBC Communications Department is *Missionary Moments*.
- Use churchwide missions emphasis ideas from *Missions Leader*, a quarterly magazine from WMU.
- Place posters throughout the church with specific missions facts or prayer reminders.
- Invite missions volunteers or missionaries to speak. (Contact Kentucky WMU for help in securing a missions speaker.)
- The youth of the church can help present missions information as a report or skit.
- During worship, study what the Bible teaches about missions.
- Have a missions emphasis during one of the Weeks of Prayer, and encourage praying, giving, and learning about missions (state, international, North America). (Many materials are available free from Kentucky WMU.)
- Meet a local group's need, and plan a ministry project for all ages. Ideas include doing yard work for the elderly, collecting health items for a missions center, or painting a low-income home.
- Plan a meal and teach a missions book for each age group at your church.
- The church choir can present a program of missions songs or plan a program for a nursing home or senior center.

Mission Trips

A mission trip can be a great way to experience hands-on missions and see Southern Baptist mission work up close. For more information about options in Kentucky and beyond, just visit these web sites:

Appalachian Regional Ministry

www.arministry.org

Mississippi River Ministry

www.riverministry.com/ministry.htm

Volunteer Connection

www.wmu.com/volunteerconnection

Kentucky Baptist Convention

www.kybaptist.org

North American Mission Board

www.namb.net

International Mission Board

www.imb.org

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