

Program for Elementary Age Children

We have the privilege of sharing activities with elementary age children and encouraging them in mission service at home and abroad. This could be done on a monthly basis during the school year or the summer. Providing activities give the children opportunities to grow through service.

A variety of activities that children can participate in are the following:

- Praying and witnessing
- Doing for others, i.e. for the elderly they may rake leaves, vacuum, polish furniture, run errands, etc.
- Making crafts
- Visiting and giving programs at nursing homes
- Becoming acquainted with the missionaries and their families
- Writing to missionary children
- Collecting items for the mission field (A list of suggested items is included in the Resource Manual or available from the Executive Secretary.)
- Preparing greeting cards for Brazil with Portuguese verses (Verses are available from the AFLC World Mission office.)
- Creating a logo that might be used on flyers, posters or T-shirts
- Encouraging the children to give monies to support a child or national worker in India or one of our other mission fields.

It is important to keep the goal of a mission emphasis in Sunday School, Vacation Bible School and any special group that meets on a regular basis.

MISSIONS IN SUNDAY SCHOOL

Missions is carrying out the call the Lord has given for you to do for Him whether in your home town, in another state or across the world in another country.

Matthew 28:18-20 “And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go (while you are going – Greek) therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.”

SUGGESTIONS

1. Missions Sunday – One Sunday a month, instead of breaking into classes, focus on missions. Show DVDs, present projects, read mission stories, etc.
2. Missionary of the Month – Each Sunday School opening, spend 5 minutes: showing picture of missionary and family, telling about their ministry, sharing some of their stories, and collect a special Sunday School offering for them.
3. Create Fun Ways to Collect Funds for Missions
 - Little Red Wagon (Coins)
 - Baby Bottle (Miriam Infant Home)
 - Yard Sale Proceeds
 - Mission Dinners
 - Ideas?
4. Crafts to Reinforce the Mission You Are Presenting

For example: Candy Airplanes – Size 16 rubber bands, life savers, Smarties, Bible verse on stickers (1/2” x 1 3/4 “), gum, snack size baggies. Put rubber band through two life savers (tires). Put gum (wings) into two loose rubber band ends. Next slide in the Smarties (fuselage) in between the life savers. Put Bible verse stickers on the gum (wings). You now have a candy mission airplane – carrying the gospel to the world.
5. Expose Sunday School Students to Real Missionaries

If any missionaries are in the area, have them come to speak with the children for a special Sunday School hour.
Have Sunday School children host missionaries in their homes.
6. Survey

How many of you asked Jesus to be your Lord and Savior before the age of 13?
How many of you were called into missions before the age of 13?

HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO EXPOSE THE LITTLE ONES TO JESUS AND MISSIONS AT AN EARLY AGE!!!!

RESOURCES

Websites:

www.aflcworldmissions.org/wm/resources/vbs-project-ideas.htm

www.aflchomemissions.org/alaska/new-overview

www.ministry-to-children.com/missionary-stories-for-kids/

www.missionsfestinternational.org

www.jaars.org

www.wycliffe.org

www.maf.org

www.ntm.org

www.ntm.org/aviation

AFLC Resources:

World Missions – www.aflc.org (World Missions Tab)

- Request DVDs of missionaries (Paul & Becky Abel Brazil Presentation 2010), missionary prayer letters, special projects lists, SS and VBS ideas.

Home Missions – www.aflc.org (Home Missions Tab)

- AK Mission (see above info)

Ambassador Publications Catalog

- “Missions for Children” – Visual Stories and Other Resources
- Various Mission DVDs in DVD Section

Ambassador Publications also has a lending library for a small fee for postage and handling.

Missionary Books:

Missionary Chronicles, Ambassador Publications

Short missionary stories from our own AFLC missionaries and other missionaries connected to the AFLC.

50 Years Under the Southern Cross by John H. Abel, Mercy & Truth Publishers

John and Ruby Abel’s missionary adventures in Brazil as told by John.

Operation World by Jason Mandryk, Biblica Publishing

1-2 page summaries of countries all over the world. Good prayer guide for specific countries.

Other Places to Find Mission Books:

Christian Book Distributors, Christian Book Stores, Amazon, Used Book Stores, etc.

Ideas for Putting Together A Mission Festival

Adapted from workshop by Carol Knapp

The church that is mission minded is a church that grows. When we look outside ourselves and our own congregation to the needs of others, in our community or across the sea, we gain new perspectives and understanding into the Body of Christ.

CHOOSE YOUR EMPHASIS ACCORDING TO ACTS 1:8 Is your emphasis local ministries?(Jerusalem) State or United States ministries? (Judea, Samaria) International Ministries? (end of earth)

Local/U.S.

Pregnancy Center
Shelter House
Food Shelf
Thrift Store
Ethnic groups: Hispanics, Somalis, etc

International

AFLC Missions: Brazil, Mexico, India
AFLC Missionaries who are on loan to:
Eastern European Missions Network
Lutheran Mission Society (Alaska)
World Mission Prayer League

CHOOSE YOUR TARGET AUDIENCE children only? Adults only? Youth only? Everyone together?

IDEAS FOR PLANNING A MISSION FESTIVAL?

- 1) set up booths or stations in your fellowship hall or church basement. Set out books from your church library that teach about missions.
- 2) set up several classrooms for different subjects and groups rotate through them. Research a missionary family and the country they are in, then fix up each classroom to show an aspect of that country and the missionary and his work, family: i.e. food, music, people, geography/topography, etc.
- 3) decorate one larger classroom with pictures from National Geographic magazine and local photos. Local/world. In the classroom, have a missionary video (list available from AFLC Parish Ed.) or computer game (Wycliffe has a computer game to show what a Bible translator would do)
- 4) do a hands- on project art project
- 5) invite a missionary speaker on furlough, someone who was a short-term missionary to another country, a student from Ministry Training Institute (MTI) – contact AFLC, an international student studying in a local college.
- 6) serve food from a foreign country
- 7) music-teach a familiar chorus in another language
- 8) write letters/e-mails to missionaries
- 9) hang a current map of the world and make a game of identifying the countries
- 10) current map of the world with photos of missionaries and a string or arrow showing where they are stationed.
- 11) Give a book report on an missionary story
- 12) power point presentations or videos from AFLC Missions.

Much depends on how much time and energy goes into planning and organizing a Mission Festival.

Be creative – Use the talents in your congregation!

IDEAS FOR PROPOSED **MISSION FESTIVALS**

AND OTHER MISSION IDEAS

(Submitted by Delores Berkas, Bloomington, MN)

For Mission Festivals, we took a whole Sunday School morning and the whole church basement. We used signs, maps, pictures – lots of color. We used the kitchen counter with the sliding doors used when serving food partway open as our puppet stage. The puppet story emphasized “home missions” through a story about Rusty inviting a neighbor to Sunday School.

We used large cardboard boxes to make awnings, hung over the wires that normally hold our curtains—we scalloped one and painted it with tempera paints in red and white stripes. We covered one with overlapping pieces of brown wrapping paper to simulate a thatch roof. One of these was a place for the display of some artifacts. We had stations – kids went to a certain area for each country to hear short reports on the country and missionaries that had been written and researched by Sunday School teachers and students. These were sort of like radio broadcasts. There was another area with a short video on one of our missionaries. We taught a song in a foreign language. We used lots of pictures from National Geographic – mounted on construction paper, in the booths for India, Brazil and Mexico. Once we borrowed the flags from the mission office. A game was invented by one of our members, Jim Keller, similar to “Where in the World is Carmen San Diego?” It taught the kids the location of the cities where our missionaries work. We also gave some prizes. We had several things from Brazil and India.

And of course we served food. I made samosas, a favorite snack from our children’s growing-up years in Madagascar, but it is also served elsewhere. They are easy to make. It’s a little browned ground beef with onion in a wonton square and deep-fried in oil. One can make a lot of them in an hour. We also served candied peanuts, orange and pineapple slices, etc.

There are many ideas here, and not all would have to be used at one time. We had done parts of this before and since then, too. The variety and excitement of that morning was great. This is a lot for a morning, but we had lots of volunteers to help.

One year, we did a missionary quiz as part of WMF – having the ladies in groups and asking them to name the missionaries and their children, etc. – some serious and some funny questions. We gave out missionary prayer cards (from World Missions) to each one and a notebook to keep them as a prayer journal, encouraging them to pray for them by name.

Our WMF sends birthday cards to the missionaries each month and several boxes a year. That does help keep some more awareness.

A SHORT video – perhaps from one missionary a year (up-to-date) – could be shown at a WMF meeting. It takes frequent exposure to let people know what is happening. People who have visited the mission field, such as Paul and Laurie Nash (Brooklyn Park, MN) or Elden and Faith Nelson (Rockford, MN) have a real passion for missions and are willing to share their experiences. There are many others – possibly some from your area – that could be contacted to share in your congregation.

MISSION FESTIVAL IDEAS

(submitted by Elaine Kohl, Brookings, SD)

Make a large map of our mission lands. Show major cities and perhaps also show crops, topography, birds, animals, mining and other activities with pictures on the map. Then name the areas where we have mission families or mission congregations, Bible school, etc. Use pictures and/or names of each family and attach by string or yarn to where they live.

Enlarging on this idea, a booth could be made for each missionary family in our AFLC. A family or individual could be responsible for one mission family booth. They could find out as much as possible about the missionaries, the country and place where they work, and the work itself. They can have prayer cards (from World Missions) or the new prayer books to pass out and be a source of information for all who pass by.

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We are told that many people in the world go to bed hungry. As Americans, this is hard for us to comprehend. A way to demonstrate this is to serve what many in the world eat.

At our church, two different menu's were served; one a typical American meal with meat, potatoes, vegetable, salad, dessert and beverage; the second – a very small serving of rice and beans and water. As you entered, you drew a slip of paper to see which meal you would get.

Having rice and beans and water was all the more difficult when you sat next to someone who had a full meal.

We found this was a good way to lead into a presentation of our mission work in Brazil, Mexico, India and Africa.

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If there is a college or university near your church, you have a ready resource of learning about other countries. Most foreign students are eager to share about their home country. You will need to get acquainted with them to see if they are able to be a presenter or man a booth. At the very least, they can provide information about their country and its culture and recipes if you want to include food in your fair. They may also loan you objects from their country for a display such as maps, money, pictures, crafts, etc.

If the persons you contact are not Christian, you have an opportunity to share your faith, too. There will be a natural opening as you plan with them, but invite them to your home several times and pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance before you give the full Gospel message. Put yourself in their place and think how you would accept the message of Islam or Buddha if you were studying in their land.

Some of the students will be Christian, so then you can have them share about that as well as their nation and culture.

Truly, there are a surprising number of foreign students and immigrants in America. Be alert to the possibilities in your community.

IDEAS FOR **MISSIONS AWARENESS**

(submitted by Cheryl Aakre, Stephen, MN)

In our Sunday School, we would take the last Sunday of each month during our opening exercises to focus on one of our missionary families. We would try to find out as much as we could about the area/country they were living and serving the Lord in and the work they were involved in. We had a world map to show where they lived from where we lived. We would use pictures from National Geographic or other sources to show how different their houses or cities might look. We would try to have communication with the family that was being featured to share what was happening in their ministry and with their family. We would close the short time with prayer for them and any prayer concerns the missionaries had shared with us.

Another year, we decided to focus one entire month of Sunday school class hours on missions in the AFLC. Our Sunday School Superintendent asked each of the High School classes and their teacher to research one missionary family in advance. They were to make a presentation on a designated Sunday. We featured one country per Sunday. (So when Brazil was featured, each of the missionary families working in Brazil and their work was highlighted.) Each class was given the addresses and email addresses of their missionary family and was told to “be creative.”

The first Sunday opened with a member who was a former missionary-child (raised in another country with missionary parents) asking the children if they knew what a missionary was. She dressed in a style from the country she grew up in, carrying a Bible and hymnbook from that country – pretending she was going to hear the missionary speak in her hometown that Sunday. (She had brought some artifacts from her country to share for the children to see and touch.) She shared about how God calls some to “go into all the world” and share the good news. She also shared some of what growing up in another country/culture was like.

Each Sunday, a world map was set up in the front of the sanctuary, and the class would show where their family lived and worked. Most classes shared some information about the country itself (type of climate, agricultural products grown or types of major industry, major religions, etc.), Each class had a picture of the missionary family they were sharing about. Letters/parts of letters were read from the missionary families. One class had received some information from their family about the work that was going on and they decided to present it in skit form. Each student played a character (or two) and made it very interesting for the congregation. Each Sunday, there was time allowed for questions and answers.

The last Sunday of the month, our congregation was treated to a few people from our congregation/community who had visited a country on some short-term mission work. They showed a short video they had taken while they were there and brought with them some artifacts from that country. They shared some of their experiences and had a question and answer time, where many questions were asked as to what it was like to be in another country where there is so little materially, what the church was like there, how do you communicate, etc. It was very thought provoking and challenging to our members.