

# RECOGNIZING WMU IN THE CHURCH



*“My dear friends, stand firm and don’t be shaken.  
Always keep busy working for the Lord.  
You know that everything you do for him is worthwhile”*

(1 Cor. 15:58 CEV).



The dream of Woman’s Missionary Union (WMU) was born in the heart of a wealthy young woman in Baltimore in the late 1800s. This young woman’s desire to reach people with God’s love stretched across generations, socio-economic status and racial lines. She helped plant churches, served those enslaved to poverty and addiction, and organized other women to help her reach out to African Americans, Native Americans and impoverished families in rural areas.

In 1888, this young woman, Annie Armstrong, organized a meeting of women from 12 states. Together the women formed the Executive Committee of Woman’s Mission Societies, Auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention—what we know today as WMU.

WMU continues to inspire and mobilize people of all ages to carry the gospel of Jesus Christ to those who don’t yet know Him. Through multiple ministries and publications, WMU stands in the gap empowering believers to stand firm in their unshakable pursuit of God’s mission.

Please use these resources and ideas to recognize the impact of WMU in your church. Feel free to pick and choose and tailor the resources to the needs of your church.

Thank you for your commitment to missions both at home and throughout the world.

# RECOGNITION SERVICE ELEMENTS

Use one or more of these elements to recognize WMU during a worship or prayer service:

## Use the Theme: Unshakable Pursuit

Order the Unshakable Pursuit Poster Set (W183108 • \$19.99) to display. Place the posters on bulletin boards, or adhere them to foam board and place them in common areas. Invite your church members to read the posters and consider how they can grow in their unshakable pursuit of God.

Visit [wmustore.com](http://wmustore.com) to purchase the poster set.



## Suggested Music for a Recognition Service

The following hymns and songs can be found in the *Baptist Hymnal*, 2008 edition:

- *Share His Love* (358)
- *Song for the Nations* (365)
- *They'll Know We Are Christians* (385)
- *The Solid Rock* (511)
- *Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus* (657)

The following hymns and songs can be found in the *Baptist Hymnal*, 1991 edition:

- *Be Strong in the Lord* (476)
- *Jesus Loves the Little Children* (592)
- *Let Your Heart Be Broken* (611)

Other Selections

- *All Ye Refugees*, ©2015 Petit Bateaux Music (ASCAP)
- *Messengers* (ft. for KING & COUNTRY), Lecrae, 2014
- *Mission's Flame*, Matt Redman, ©2004 Thankyou Music
- *Send Us to the Nations*, Jarod Espy
- *We Will Not Be Shaken*, ©2014 Hillsong Music Publishing

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## **Ask your worship leader to read the WMU Scripture passage and Watchword:**

Scripture Passage: Acts 17:16–28 (CEV)

While Paul was waiting in Athens, he was upset to see all the idols in the city. He went to the Jewish meeting place to speak to the Jews and to anyone who worshiped with them. Day after day he also spoke to everyone he met in the market. Some of them were Epicureans and some were Stoics, and they started arguing with him. People were asking, "What is this know-it-all trying to say?"

Some even said, "Paul must be preaching about foreign gods! That's what he means when he talks about Jesus and about people rising from death." They brought Paul before a council called the Areopagus, and said, "Tell us what your new teaching is all about. We have heard you say some strange things, and we want to know what you mean." More than anything else the people of Athens and the foreigners living there loved to hear and to talk about anything new. So Paul stood up in front of the council and said:

People of Athens, I see that you are very religious. As I was going through your city and looking at the things you worship, I found an altar with the words, "To an Unknown God." You worship this God, but you don't really know him. So I want to tell you about him. This God made the world and everything in it. He is Lord of heaven and earth, and he doesn't live in temples built by human hands. He doesn't need help from anyone. He gives life, breath, and everything else to all people. From one person God made all nations who live on earth, and he decided when and where every nation would be.

God has done all this, so that we will look for him and reach out and find him. He isn't far from any of us, and he gives us the power to live, to move, and to be who we are. "We are his children," just as some of your poets have said.

Watchword: My dear friends, stand firm and don't be shaken. Always keep busy working for the Lord. You know that everything you do for him is worthwhile.  
(1 Corinthians 15:58 CEV)

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## **Visual Recognition**

Create a slide presentation of WMU's work in your church. Include images of preschool, children's and student organizations. Use some of the above music selections. Conclude with a note of thanksgiving to all your missions leaders.

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## **Create an Interactive Experience**

Create three interactive stations to highlight WMU's current emphasis, Unshakable Pursuit, and the ways that your missions organizations are living in unshakable pursuit. These stations can be created at the same time on one Sunday, or you can create one each Sunday through the first three weeks of February, culminating the Sunday after Children's Missions Day, February 16.

### *Know God More*

Create a poster with the title "Know God More." Display your poster on a bulletin board. Attach several lines of twine to the bulletin board, and place miniature clothespins on the twine. On a table below the bulletin board, place pens and colorful index cards. Invite church members to share their favorite missions verses by writing the verses on cards and attaching them to the twine on the bulletin board. Remind church members that the desire to live on mission increases as their relationship with our Father grows.

### *Show His Love Unconditionally*

Display a poster with the title "Show His Love Unconditionally." Create a grouping of tables. Invite missions groups in your church to provide pictures and stories from their mission trips and missions projects. Display these in the area. Ask volunteers to remain in this area to share with others what they have learned about sharing God's love. Ask church members to spend time in prayer and write a prayer of commitment to God that they will share His love unconditionally.

### *Make Disciples Who Make Disciples*

Highlight your missions organizations. Display a poster with the title "Make Disciples Who Make Disciples." Invite preschoolers, children, students and adults to creatively share what they are learning about missions (suggestions: drawings, collages made with images from missions magazines, poems, brief videos). Display these on tables or bulletin boards. Invite those who've written or created a piece of art to stay in the area to talk to those who visit the display. Challenge church members to make a list of three people they can disciple and to ask God to open opportunities for discipleship.

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**Use this choral reading to highlight WMU's current emphasis, *Unshakable Pursuit*:**

Reader 1: God is always at work, reaching for His people. He is fixed, firm and unyielding in His pursuit of us.

Reader 4: He longs for us to know Him and to walk in relationship with Him.

Reader 2: The Almighty God,

Reader 3: The Maker of heaven and earth,

Reader 4: The Alpha and Omega, the beginning and end,

Reader 1: The King of all kings,

Reader 3: The Messiah, the Savior,

Reader 2: It is **He** who pursues us.

Reader 4: And what does He ask of us?

Reader 2: He asks us to recognize our brokenness and our need for Him.

Reader 1: He wants our offerings of worship. He lives in our praise.

Reader 3: Yes, He moves and works in our hearts when we praise Him.

Reader 2: He longs for us to know Him and to walk in relationship with Him.

Reader 4: He yearns for us to pursue Him with passion.

Reader 3: He is to be our obsession.

Reader 1: Our unshakable pursuit!

Reader 2: Unshakable? What do you mean by that?

Reader 1: Steadfast.

Reader 4: Courageous.

Reader 3: Fearless.

Reader 4: Devoted.

Reader 1: Powerful.

Reader 3: Relentless.

Reader 1: Intense.

Reader 4: Compelled.

Reader 1: Faithful.

Reader 3: Bold.

Reader 2 (Shaking head with some understanding):  
Our unshakable pursuit is to know God more, show His love unconditionally and make disciples who make disciples.

Reader 1: My dear friends, stand firm and don't be shaken.

Reader 4: Always keep busy working for the Lord.

Reader 3: You know that everything you do for Him is worthwhile.

Reader 2: May He be your ...

All: Unshakable pursuit.

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## **Highlight Project HELP: Refugees**

WMU is currently focusing on the international refugee crisis and how Christians can minister to refugees. Visit [wmu.com/refugees](http://wmu.com/refugees) for resources that will help you lead your church to engage in refugee ministry.

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## **Purchase Gifts for Your Missions Leaders**

Consider purchasing a gift for those who lead missions in your church.

Purchase subscriptions of *Missions Mosaic*:

- Annual Print Subscription (12 monthly issues) \$22.99
- Annual Digital Subscription (12 monthly issues) \$20.99
- Annual Print/Digital Bundle Subscription (12 monthly issues) \$24.99

Purchase a digital mission study:

- *Religions Among Us: Understanding the World of Those Trapped in False Beliefs* (E164110 • \$3.99)
- *The World Around Us: Bridges to Connect with and Engage Ethnic Groups* (E164109 • \$3.99)
- *Refugees: Forced to Flee Bible Study and Teaching Guide* (E184115 • \$24.99)

Purchase a fair-trade gift from WorldCrafts at [WorldCrafts.org](http://WorldCrafts.org). These beautiful handcrafted items are made by artisans both in the United States and throughout the world. WorldCrafts' vision is to offer an income with dignity and the hope of everlasting life to every person on earth.

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**For more ideas,** see Focus on WMU and Children's Missions Day articles in Missions Leader: WMU Planning Guide 2018–19 (W183101 • \$19.99). Visit [wmu.com](http://wmu.com) to order.