

Why Missions Discipleship Is Important for Women

“WMU in the church improves our vision of the world. It inspires us to meet the needs of people around us and to pray for and give to those needs that others are meeting in the distant places.”

— Helen Henley



Why am I here? What is God’s purpose for my life? How can I share Christ’s love with those who need Him?

Missions discipleship leads women to answer these questions as they come to recognize their value in Christ and explore how to fulfill Christ’s purposes.

As women build community, they come together to develop global perspectives and sharpen their understanding of how to live missionally.



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Through Women on Mission, women:

- learn about missions,
- pray for missions,
- support missions,
- do missions and make disciples of Jesus who live on mission!

What is Women on Mission?



Women on Mission is a missions discipleship group designed to equip women to become active disciples of Christ as they live on mission for Him.

Women on Mission members seek to live out missions through missions projects, ministries, prayer, giving, and Bible study. The purpose of the organization is to provide every person with the opportunity to hear and respond to the gospel.

How to Start Women on Mission

- 1. Pray.** Involve your church leadership in seeking direction for starting and leading Women on Mission.
- 2. Determine the focus.** Women on Mission groups often revolve around one of the three monthly articles in *Missions Mosaic*, using suggestions from Women on Mission Leader or Women on Mission Leader: Posters Plus. Groups also meet around common missions project interests.
- 3. Identify leaders.** Identify, enlist, and train a group coordinator and others willing to lead.
- 4. Choose resources.** Review available resources and choose the ones best for your situation. Consider participating in WMU or state leadership training.
- 5. Order resources.** Each woman should receive *Missions Mosaic* to help her grow in her knowledge of missions.
- 6. Check the calendar.** Schedule a time and location to meet.
- 7. Promote.** Invite all women to attend through personal contacts, email, Facebook, or flyers.

For more information about starting Women on Mission, visit wmu.com/adults (select “Women on Mission”).

To learn more about leading Women on Mission, visit wmu.com/howtoleadadults.

Join our online community:

facebook.com/NationalWMU

instagram.com/NationalWMU

twitter.com/NationalWMU

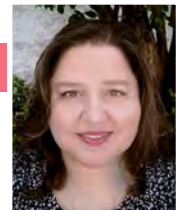
We're here to help!

For questions about starting or leading Women on Mission:

National WMU: Contact Stephanie Newton, lead strategist for adults and multicultural audiences, at snewton@wmu.org or (205) 991-4017.

State WMU: Find links to state WMU websites at wmu.com/statecontacts.

Contact your local Baptist association, your state WMU office, or national WMU for training opportunities.



Resources for Women



Missions Mosaic

Explore. Build. Pursue. *Missions Mosaic* guides you to explore discipleship, build a biblical worldview of God's missions purpose, and pursue an unshakable relationship with Him. Each monthly issue will equip you with a Bible study, a prayer starter, ministry ideas, evangelism tools, and Prayer Patterns—daily devotions followed by the names of missionaries listed by their birthdays.

Order one per person.

Annual subscription (12 monthly issues):

- Print: \$24.99
- Digital: \$22.99
- Digital/Print Bundle: \$26.99



Women on Mission Leader

Help the women in your church focus on missions with this engaging planning guide with a user-friendly quarterly format. Each quarterly issue includes leader tips, promotional flyers, and meeting plans for *Missions Mosaic* articles.

Order one per leader.

Annual subscription

(4 quarterly print issues): \$16.99

Also available as a digital download each quarter: \$5.99

New Customers: Save 20% Today!

Ready to get started and be on mission? **Enjoy 20% savings** on your **new curriculum order** by calling WMU Customer Service at 1-800-968-7301, Monday–Thursday, 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. CT. Be sure to mention promo code **START20**. (Some restrictions apply. Discount not available at wmustore.com.)

Growing in Love

JOIN US AS WE LEARN ABOUT GROWING IN
LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER, REACHING
CREATIVES FOR THE CREATOR, AND PRAYING
FOR MISSIONARIES KNOWN ONLY BY INITIALS
TO PROTECT THEIR SECURITY.

DATE: _____

TIME: _____

PLACE: _____



Study, Pray, Support

Growing in Love

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CREATIVES FOR THE CREATOR, AND PRAYING
FOR MISSIONARIES KNOWN ONLY BY INITIALS
TO PROTECT THEIR SECURITY.

DATE: _____

TIME: _____

PLACE: _____



Study, Pray, Support

AS CHRIST HAS LOVED US

Growing in Love

Use with articles on pages 16, 26, and 28 in the September 2023 issue of *Missions Mosaic*.

BEFORE THE MEETING

(What to do or obtain before the meeting)

- Gather Bibles, copies of *Missions Mosaic* magazine, and pens or pencils.
- Print copies of John 15:9-13 on a standard sheet of printer paper for participants. Leave wide margins for note-taking.
- Print copies or create a list of the "Study and Meditate" activities in the Bible Study article for each participant.
- Enlist a couple to portray Kerry and Twyla Jackson for a question-and-answer interview. They will base their answers on the introduction paragraphs, the "Reaching the Creative for the Creator" section, and the last four paragraphs of the "Mission Service Corps" section in the This Month's Spotlight article. Suggested questions:
 - **QUESTION 1:** Kerry, tell us about your background and what led you to your current position as a Mission Service Corps missionary.
 - **QUESTION 2:** Kerry, you said Bezael was inspirational to your call to ministry. Can you tell us a little more about that?
 - **QUESTION 3:** Twyla or Kerry, you talk about cultural creatives. What do you mean by that?
 - **QUESTION 4:** Twyla, tell us about the scope of ministry for you and

ATTENTION-GETTER

1. Ask participants why they think female international university students might decide they want to marry American men.
2. Summarize the "Introduction" section of the Bible Study article.
3. Call on a volunteer to read John 15:10.
4. Request participants to pray the words of Psalm 119:18 with you. Close the prayer by asking God for hearts to hear and obey as you study His Word.

BEGIN WITH THE BIBLE STUDY ARTICLE

(See *Missions Mosaic*, page 26.)

1. Read or summarize the information shared in the "Background" section of the article.
2. Distribute the printed John 15:9-13 verses and the "Study and Meditate" activities.
3. Ask participants, *What did Jesus say are the greatest and second greatest commandments?* Refer them to Matthew 22:37-40.
4. Complete as many of the "Study and Meditate" activities as time allows. Encourage participants to take this sheet and the copy of John 15:9-13 home to work on the activities not completed during the meeting.
 - Challenge participants to consider your local body of believers. Ask, *What evidence have you witnessed of people loving one another? In other words, how is loving others lived out in practical ways? Is anything hindering your obedience to this command?* Pray the work of the Holy Spirit would change hearts and minds for the sake of the gospel.

- Encourage participants to meditate on John 15:10 throughout the month and commit the Scripture verse to memory.
- 5. As the Bible Study article suggests at the end, pray the Lord would teach you and participants how to abide daily in Christ and truly "love one another." Thank Him for the Holy Spirit who indwells all believers and teaches us His ways.

TRANSITION TO THE THIS MONTH'S SPOTLIGHT ARTICLE

(See *Missions Mosaic*, page 16.)

1. Say, *Raise your hand if you know who Bezael was.* If no one or only a few participants raise their hands, explain that many people do not recall anything about him.
2. Review the first four paragraphs in the This Month's Spotlight article. Explain that although many people probably pay little attention to Exodus 31-39 with all the details of designing and furnishing the Tabernacle, God gifted Bezael and the other artists for His glory. Relate that to Kerry and Twyla Jackson's work as Mission Service

Corps (MSC) missionaries in Atlanta, Georgia.

- Interview the couple portraying Kerry and Twyla Jackson.
- Summarize the information from the “Mission Service Corps” section about MSC missionaries. Challenge participants to brainstorm other creative ways a person might use his or her talents and gifts to love others as Christ has loved us.

TRANSITION TO THE PRAYER ARTICLE

(See *Missions Mosaic*, page 28.)

- Announce that it is confession time. Ask, *When reading and praying for missionaries on the prayer calendar, do you ever pay less attention to those listed only by their initials?*
- Say and then have participants repeat with you, *Behind every set of initials are real people with real names.*
- Introduce the volunteer who will summarize the Prayer article. Explain that “Claudean” will share how she, too, skimmed over initials until she became friends with some of those initials.

WRAP UP

- Distribute the “Correct the Error” activity sheet, and work as a group to find and correct the errors. [Answers: 1. Claudean Boatman met missionaries training to serve in South Asia, and God taught her that praying for harvest workers, whether or not she knew their names, was vital kingdom work. 2. Claudean Boatman’s church was assigned District 1, a place without any evangelical work. 3. Spring rains normally cause flooding in District 1, but in 2022, the portion underwater exceeded 90 percent. 4. After delivering supplies to the flooded district, a

national partner prayed publicly, and men in this Muslim-majority place raised their hands and praised God with him. 5. Bezalel was tasked to lead in the artistic design and in making the furnishings for the Tabernacle. 6. Kerry and Twyla Jackson are North American Mission Board Mission Service Corps missionaries serving in Atlanta, Georgia. 7. Kerry often accompanies a pastor or worship leader by painting a visual representation of the sermon, story, or song.]

- Distribute the “Word Scramble” activity sheet and the prayer reminder artwork cards for participants to take home.
- Form small groups to pray for the following:
 - Pray missionaries would abide in Christ day by day and that His love would be displayed in their daily conversations and actions. Pray nonbelievers would be drawn to the light of Christ displayed in them.
 - Remember the Jacksons’ prayer requests from page 19 of *Missions Mosaic*.
 - Pray for the missionaries listed on the prayer reminder artwork cards.
- Draw participants’ attention to the prayer calendar in *Missions Mosaic* or at wmu.com/prayercalendar. Encourage use of the devotional and prayer calendar daily in their quiet times to pray for missions.
- Discuss the opportunity to implement the Mission Action Idea on page 4 to plan an arts and crafts fair that includes the opportunity to learn about and order from WorldCrafts.

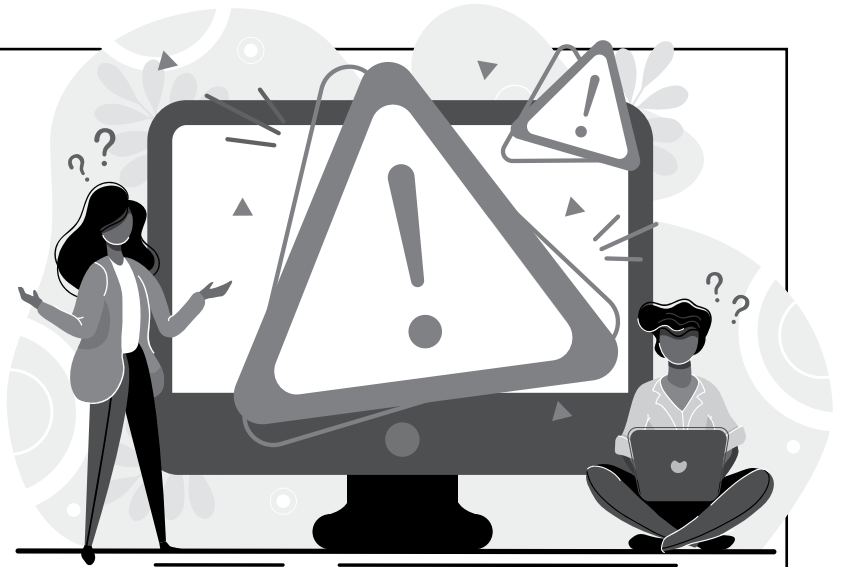
Kerry. Please include information about planting Bezalel Church in Atlanta.

- **QUESTION 5:** I like your concept of reaching the creative for the Creator. How can we pray for you?
- **QUESTION 6:** Thank you for sharing with us. Where can we find more information about you and your ministry?
 - Recruit a volunteer to summarize the Prayer article. Encourage this volunteer to share the information from author Claudean Boatman in a first-person perspective, as though she were the writer of the article.
 - Print copies of the “Correct the Error” activity sheet (p. 8) and the “Word Scramble” activity sheet (p. 9) for each participant.
 - Create the prayer reminder artwork cards described in the Prayer Calendar Ideas section (p. 3).

NOTES:

Correct the ERROR

Find and circle the single error in each of the following sentences. Write the correction in the space below.



1. Claudean Boatman met missionaries training to serve in South Africa, and God taught her that praying for harvest workers, whether or not she knew their names, was vital kingdom work.
2. Claudean Boatman's church was assigned District 3, a place without any evangelical work.
3. Spring rains normally cause flooding in District 1, but in 2022, the portion underwater exceeded 50 percent.
4. After delivering supplies to the flooded district, a national partner prayed publicly, and men in this Hindu-majority place raised their hands and praised God with him.
5. Moses was tasked to lead in the artistic design and in making the furnishings for the Tabernacle.
6. Kerry and Twyla Jackson are North American Mission Board Mission Service Corps missionaries serving in Athens, Georgia.
7. Kerry often accompanies a pastor or worship leader by using sign language as a visual representation of the sermon, story, or song.

WORD SCRAMBLE

Unscramble the following words or phrases:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. ssiionm eivcrs soprc _____ | 14. ntteal _____ |
| 2. luclarut aeerstevi _____ | 15. iriptalus tgisf _____ |
| 3. zbellea _____ | 16. hhccru retnpla _____ |
| 4. seirionaisms _____ | 17. gintainp _____ |
| 5. mmilsu _____ | 18. tar _____ |
| 6. uhtso saai _____ | 19. dehcaernu leppoe oupgr _____ |
| 7. slintaii _____ | 20. pgloes _____ |
| 8. snasitra _____ | 21. vole _____ |
| 9. ltaaant _____ | 22. sseuj _____ |
| 10. reypra _____ | 23. lebbi _____ |
| 11. tpoad a tcirtisd _____ | 24. odolf _____ |
| 12. naloitna trapren _____ | 25. dibagin ni sitrhc _____ |
| 13. elcanrebat _____ | |

ANSWERS: 1. Mission Service Corps; 2. cultural creatives; 3. Bezael; 4. missionaries; 5. Muslim; 6. South Asia; 7. initials; 8. artisans; 9. Atlanta; 10. prayer; 11. adopt a district; 12. national partner; 13. Tabernacle; 14. talent; 15. spiritual gifts; 16. church planter; 17. painting; 18. art; 19. unreached people group; 20. gospel; 21. love; 22. Jesus; 23. Bible; 24. flood; 25. abiding in Christ



This quarter begins a series of articles, exercises, and suggestions for you as missions leaders. No two churches are the same, so the challenges you face will be unique to your situation.

As we look at four roadblocks you may face, use the questions and exercises to help you consider what might strengthen missions education in your church. You may want to save your responses for future reference.

Have you noticed it's difficult to travel any distance without some type of roadblock? Bridge repairs close the road to your favorite coffee shop, or the freeway route to work is closed. Every leader will, at some point, face roadblocks that hinder growth in missions awareness or participation.

Challenging situations may hinder the launch of new groups, impede the church calendar, or leave little room to promote your church's missions events as you would like. Read the list below, and circle roadblocks you face now or have faced in the past.

- no age-level groups
- full church calendar
- staff is unfamiliar with missions education
- potential participants with already full schedules
- small church membership
- no missions education budget
- isolation from other churches
- no participation in missions offerings

As you look at the issues you have circled, use these three strategies to address the situations hindering the growth of missions zeal in your church: 1) Identify the issues that may be keeping you from leading efficiently. 2) Imagine what you want missions to look like in your church. Be creative and dream big! 3) Initiate an action plan. Stay focused and positive.

I go around roadblocks to get my hot drink every morning. We avoid the bridge closure by taking another route. Being honest about the roadblocks you face and taking action will help your church members understand the value of missions giving, praying, and participation.

FOLLOW THROUGH:

Write two things you can do now to move your church to greater missions participation.

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LINDA CLARK lives in Indiana and enjoys writing fictional accounts of women seeking God's will for their lives.

LEAD WOMEN ON MISSION:

Use with meeting plan on pages 6-7 in Women on Mission Leader (Fall 2023).

ABIDING IN

His Love

GROW THROUGH OBEDIENCE.

In John 15:10, Jesus said, “If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love.”

As you prepare your heart for Bible study today, pray God would open your heart to hear and obey as you study His Word. Pray the words of Psalm 119:18: “Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law.”

INTRODUCTION

A coworker engaged in conversation with several young women who often came to a center attended by many university students. They were trying to improve their

English language skills, but they also enjoyed friendships developed in this setting.

One day, one of them said something that took my coworker by surprise. “We’ve decided we want to marry American men.”

“What? Why?”

“Because we see how they treat their wives.” The only American men these women knew at the time were those seeking to spread the gospel in their country.

“It’s not because they’re American—not all American men treat their wives this way,” my friend explained. “It’s because these men are followers of Jesus Christ.”

These nonbelievers were witnessing godly love, respect, and kindness. They saw men and women serving one another and partnering together in ministry to others. It made an impression on them.

In His final teaching before the Cross, Jesus shared a new command with His disciples: “Love one another” (John 13:34). Today we will study John 15:9–13, which is a continuation of Jesus’ last teaching to His disciples. These verses instruct us in what He meant by that command and how we can fulfill it.

BACKGROUND

Jesus knew the time of His death was near. The Gospel of John offers an extensive look at those final hours before His arrest, death, burial, and Resurrection. Up until the end, Jesus taught His disciples and prepared them to live out their faith.

Earlier in His ministry, Jesus was asked, “What is the greatest commandment?” He answered, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind” (Matt 22:37). Then He named the second greatest commandment: “Love your neighbor as yourself” (v. 39).

Love the Lord your God. Love your neighbor. Love one another. Three commands between these two passages in John 13 and Matthew 22. All beginning with “love.” All part of abiding in Christ and growing in obedience.

STUDY AND MEDITATE

- Write John 15:9–13 in a notebook. Leave margins for notes.
- Read the entirety of John 15 to consider the immediate context of the focal passage. Read slowly and deliberately. Put yourself in the place of the disciples, as though hearing this for the very first time.
- Read John 15 again. Take notes this time, answering these questions: Who is God? What are His ways? What does He do? In your notebook, highlight every mention of God or what He does in verses 9 through 13.
- Read John 15:9–13. Which words are repeated several times in this passage? Circle them, using colored pens or pencils. Do these words bring other Bible verses to mind? Note these cross-references in the margin of your notebook for further study.

- “Remain” (also translated “abide”) is repeated several times in John 15. What does it mean? Describe the meaning based on how it is used in the passage. Then look up the word in a dictionary, and choose which definition best fits this passage. For a deeper study, consider visiting biblehub.com. Use the drop-down menus at the top of the page to enter John 15:9, then select “Interlin” in the toolbar below. Here you will see the verse alongside the original Greek words. Select the reference number above the Greek word for “remain” (or “abide”) to study its original meaning. You can use this method to study other verses more closely as well.
- Read John 13:12–16 and 34–35 and Romans 12:9–10. What insights do these verses give, related to John 15:9–13?
- Read Galatians 5:16–26. What do you learn about love in this passage?
- Throughout His final teaching, Jesus told His disciples about the Holy Spirit. He was not leaving them on their own. This month, take time to read John 13–17. Look for each name or characteristic Jesus reveals about the Holy Spirit.
- Consider reading John 13–17 several times this month, praying the Holy Spirit would provide insight into what it means to abide in Christ.

APPLY

- Use John 15:9–13 to pray for missionaries. Pray they would abide in Christ day by day and His love would be displayed in their daily conversations and actions. Pray nonbelievers would be drawn to the light of Christ displayed in them.
- Consider your local body of believers. What evidence have you witnessed of people loving one another? How is loving others lived out in practical ways? Is anything hindering your obedience to this command? Pray the work of the Holy Spirit would change hearts and minds for the sake of the gospel.
- Choose and meditate on a key verse this month. Can you think of a fellow believer you struggle to love? Ask the Lord to love that person through you.

PRAY

Pray the Lord would teach you how to abide daily in Christ and truly “love one another.” Thank Him for the Holy Spirit who indwells all believers and teaches us His ways.

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SUSAN LAFFERTY and her husband, Todd, have served with the International Mission Board for more than 32 years. Susan writes weekly at susanlafferty.com.

A MODERN-DAY BEZALEL IN

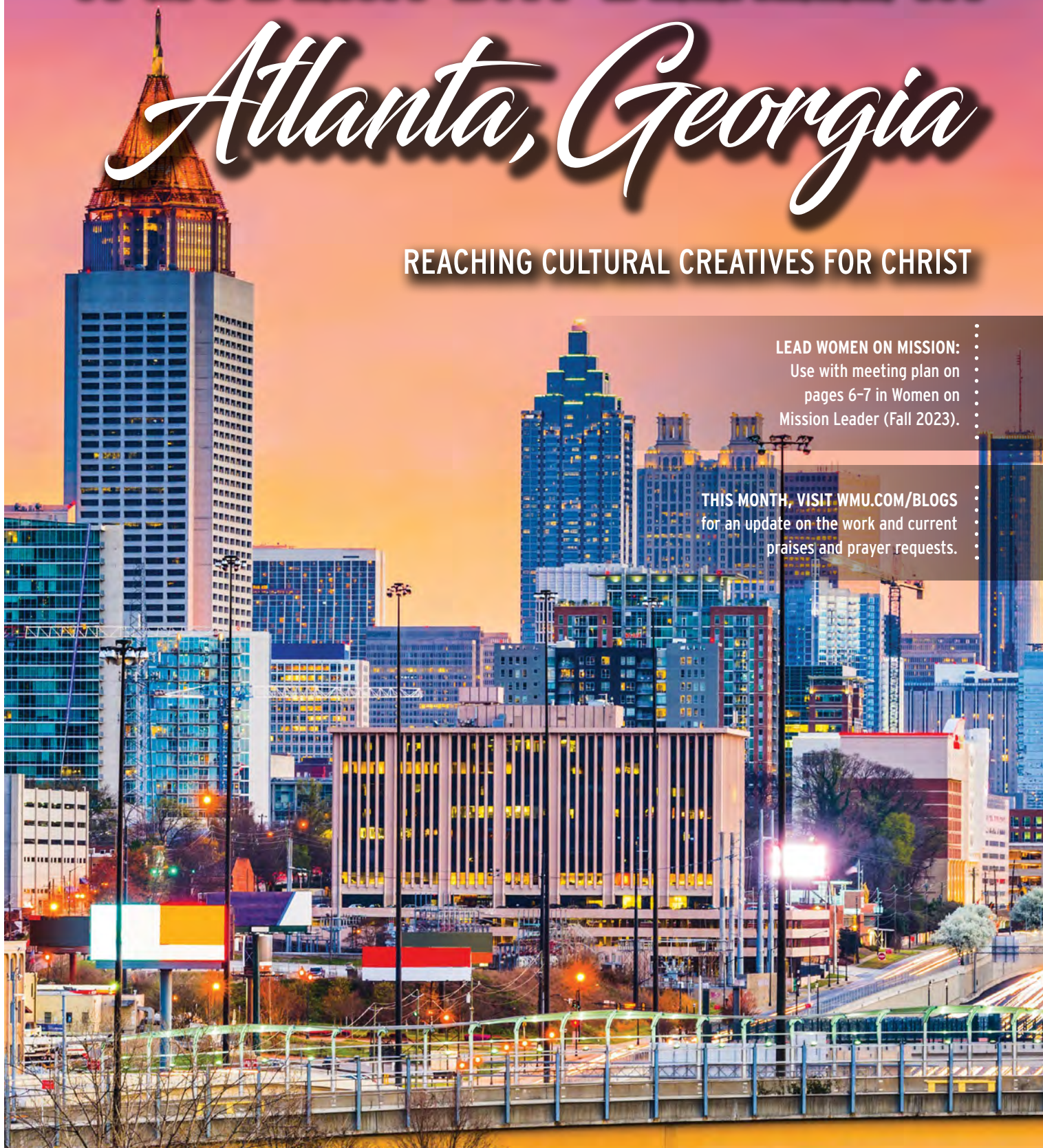
Atlanta, Georgia

REACHING CULTURAL CREATIVES FOR CHRIST

LEAD WOMEN ON MISSION:

Use with meeting plan on pages 6-7 in Women on Mission Leader (Fall 2023).

THIS MONTH, VISIT WMU.COM/BLOGS for an update on the work and current praises and prayer requests.



Chosen, gifted, and filled with the Spirit of God, Bezalel was tasked to lead in making all the furnishings for the Tabernacle. At God's specific request, Moses named Bezalel the chief artist and designer for much of the work going into the all-important place of worship for the people of God. Bezalel was given supernatural talent to turn ordinary things into works of art.

God gave him a few fellow laborers and the ability to teach and lead others in the great task ahead of them. They turned colorful yarn, linens, and even goats' hair into curtains. They made fasteners out of bronze. They dyed rams' skin to cover the tent. They made trees into posts and frames. They made the ark of the covenant and overlaid it with pure gold. They made rings of gold for fasteners. Bezalel designed and created cherubs for various locations in the Tabernacle. His team made lampstands, the table, the altar of incense, the altar of burnt offering, a bronze basin for washing, the courtyard, and even garments, all with the specifications the Lord gave Moses (read all about it in Exodus 31–39). But they weren't merely builders. They were artists. God gifted them with special skills to create beautiful things for His glory.

Kerry Jackson isn't building tabernacles, but he is creating beautiful things for the glory of God. Kerry and his wife, Twyla, are North American Mission Board (NAMB) Mission Service Corps (MSC) missionaries serving in Atlanta, Georgia.

God gave Kerry gifts and talents to create artistic masterpieces. Kerry turned those gifts into a ministry, and for nearly two decades, he and Twyla have been ministering to people across the country. Both grew up in church and learned through missions education that God could use their talents and spiritual gifts in unique, creative ways. Kerry's art career began with NAMB. He spent years creating exhibits and designs that helped tell the story of missionaries and the gospel across the United States.

In 2006, he was commissioned as a national missionary to cultural creatives through the



MSC program. This assignment took him out of the local workshop and onto a national stage. He traveled and used his gifts to share the gospel and assist other artists in growing their ministries. He developed a strategy for planting churches among creative subcultures.

Kerry and Twyla planted a church in their home city of Atlanta, Georgia, through this strategy. Bezalel Church grew out of their desire to see artists find a local place to worship and hear the gospel. Later they also planted Circle City Canvas Church in Indianapolis, Indiana, before moving back to Atlanta in 2015. Since then, God has used the Jacksons to share the gospel through art and leading and discipling other artists.

REACHING THE CREATIVE FOR THE CREATOR

Kerry said Bezalel was inspirational to his call to ministry. "Bezalel was chosen by God to lead the team of artisans to decorate the Tabernacle. He was a master craftsman [and] artist. . . . As a creative person myself, I find it no coincidence that the first person listed in the Bible as being filled with the Holy Spirit to accomplish a task was an artist! I relate to Bezalel's calling, as it is also my own, to disciple and mentor other artists."

Kerry now uses live art presentations to share the gospel around the world. Based out of their ministry area in



Atlanta, the Jacksons have traveled to visit churches, conferences, and other venues to do live paintings. Kerry often accompanies a pastor or worship leader by painting a visual representation of the sermon, story, or song.

While some of Kerry's work has him on the road all across the country, much of his ministry is happening in Atlanta. Kerry serves alongside his wife, leading Bible studies for artists from all creative disciplines. The goal of these groups is to disciple and mentor cultural creatives, people involved in the creative arts as a profession, a hobby, or even a patron. "Using the missionary principles I learned during ten years of church planting among cultural creatives, I now use creative methods to engage the unreached people group of artists in the metro-Atlanta area. My goal is to share the gospel with those I encounter in the art community and to make disciples," Kerry said. "I use my talent in art as a tool to fulfill the Great Commission among the creative community of metro Atlanta."

Twyla added, "I love serving alongside my husband in reaching cultural creatives for Christ. I enjoy music, theater, sewing, and cooking. I build relationships through volunteering and networking at various arts venues." Twyla also ministers to internationals through her and Kerry's sending church. Her heart for connecting with people from other cultures goes a long

way in a metro area like Atlanta. She teaches English as a second language and Sunday School each week.

Kerry and Twyla help creatives connect to the gospel and grow in Christlike love through their words and actions. Through their weekly groups, they gather with artists to discuss how art and faith intertwine. They support, encourage, and pray for one another. "It is so rewarding to see those who first come to know Him and follow through in baptism but also to see them come to understand that they are gifted in the arts for a reason," Kerry said.

MISSION SERVICE CORPS

The Jacksons are unique not only in their gifting but also in their missionary service. As MSC missionaries, they are mobilized and commissioned by Southern Baptist churches and rely on partnership development to raise financial support for their ministries. The MSC program was created decades ago to enable NAMB to send more missionaries to reach the lost in the US for Christ. It trains and resources missionaries like the Jacksons to identify churches and individuals who can join their ministries as partners. These partners encourage and pray for their partner missionary and give financial gifts that enable the missionary to devote his or her time to the field.

Kerry said, "As [MSC] missionaries, we raise our own financial support for both our living and ministry

expenses. Relying on mission partners to support our ministry can be very humbling and trying. However, God has always been faithful in meeting our needs.”

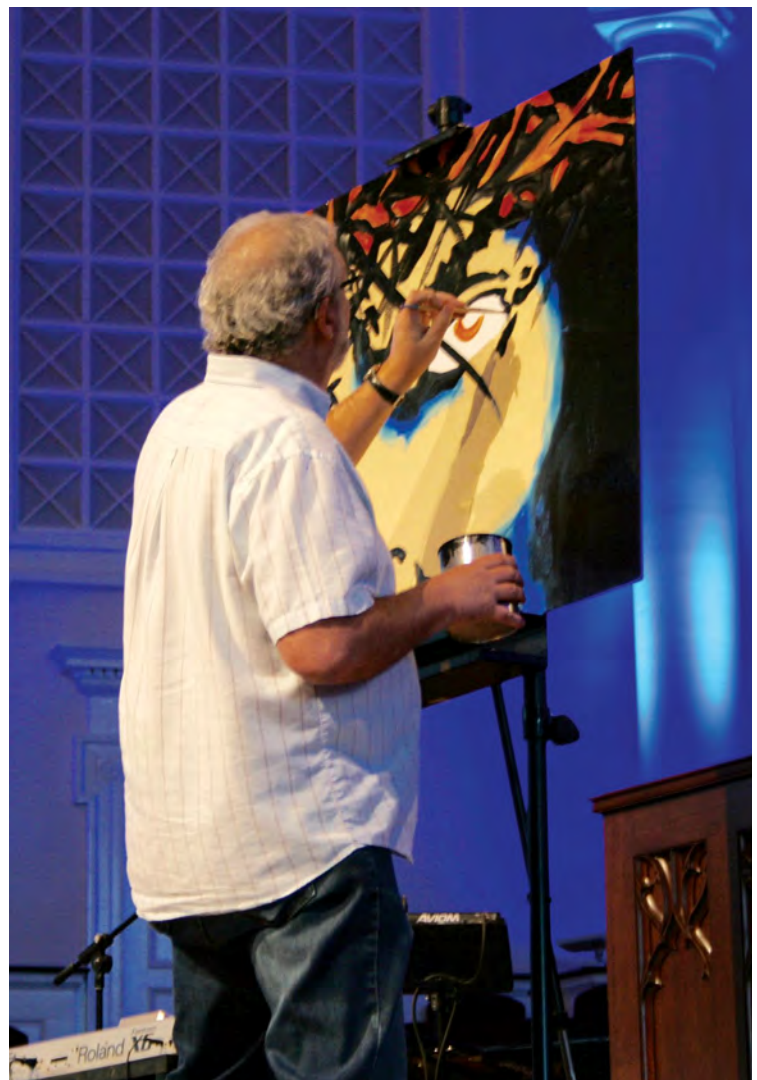
MSC missionaries serve all across the US. Like the Jacksons, many of them are evangelism catalysts, missionaries who focus on sowing the gospel among an unreached or underreached people group, strategic place, or affinity group. The Jacksons work to reach the affinity group of cultural creatives. They and other catalysts work through a local sending church to help point people outside the church to a relationship with the Lord.

MSC missionaries also include church-planting team members who work alongside a church planter to plant a church. These missionaries are looking to restore brokenness and share the gospel in a strategic city through a local church. They are sent to the field through their home church, which supports and encourages their work. The sending church receives financial support for the missionaries from churches and individuals who give through NAMB, and the church then provides for the missionaries.

This missionary model dates back to biblical missionaries like Paul and Silas and enables the church to be even more engaged in the work of the Lord across the US. The unique nature of how these missionaries receive their income is a blessing in that they have specific partners who pray for them, encourage them, and even occasionally serve alongside them.

These partnerships genuinely impact the Jacksons’ ministry for the better. The work of an MSC missionary goes beyond his or her local missions field. These missionaries must continually put time and effort into connecting with and meeting new partners. It’s an extra task they partake in for the advancement of the gospel.

To learn more about how the Jacksons and other MSC missionaries serve throughout the US, NAMB has provided a database of missionaries and church planters at missionaries.namb.net. Search by city, job title, state, or name to discover more about missionaries, what they do, and how you can pray for them. Through NAMB’s website, you can also learn how to be mobilized as a missionary yourself or how your church could become a sending church. Southern Baptists are making a big difference in ministries like the Jacksons’ in Atlanta. Find out how you can be a part.



Kerry and Twyla would love for you to learn more about their ministry and pray with them through these specific requests.

1. Pray for new opportunities to share Kerry’s art ministry.
2. Pray those they disciple through their creative groups would become disciple makers.
3. Pray more ministry partners would join their team.
4. Pray the internationals Twyla ministers to would become followers of Christ.
5. Pray for the Jacksons’ health, both spiritual and physical.

OTHER RESOURCES ON KERRY AND TWYLA JACKSON’S MINISTRY

NAMB Missionary Website: missionaries.namb.net/full/kerry-jackson

Art Ministry Website: drawingtotherock.com

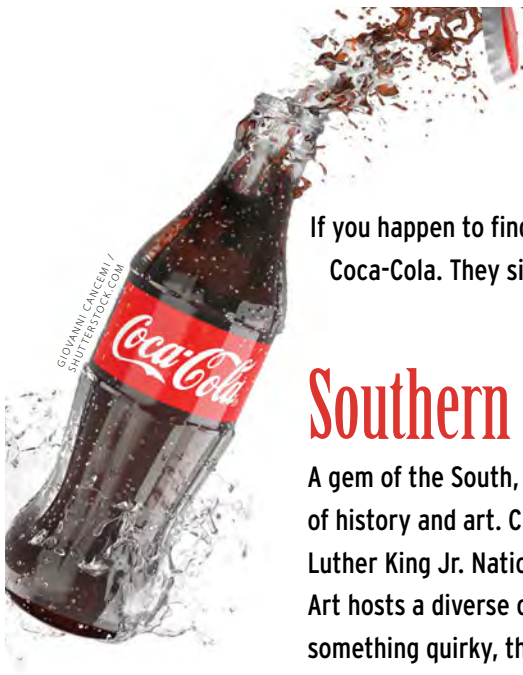
.....
CHRISTY DYER-GULTOM is a former MSC missionary church planter and writer who loves missionaries and seeing God grow their ministries through partnerships. Read more of her work at moreabundantly.org.

ATLANTA

at a Glance

- The capital city of Georgia, Atlanta is the birthplace of Coca-Cola, where its headquarters remain.
- The film industry is moving to Georgia. Alongside major Marvel films like *The Avengers* and the *Spider-Man* movies, Netflix's hit 1980s supernatural-horror show *Stranger Things* was primarily shot in Atlanta.
- If you've ever flown in the United States and flown internationally, you've likely passed through the airport in Atlanta. The Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport is the world's busiest airport.
- Atlanta wasn't always Atlanta. It was called Terminus, Thrasherville, Marthasville, and Atlantica-Pacific before finally settling on Atlanta in 1845.
- The Varsity, almost 100 years old, is the world's largest drive-in restaurant. It holds five acres of parking spots, accommodating about 600 cars, and serves approximately 3,000,000 glasses of Coca-Cola every year.
- Atlanta has a rich musical background. Specifically, rhythm and blues and hip-hop artists who emerged from Atlanta have changed the music scene forever. Those artists include Ludacris, Ciara, Usher, and Childish Gambino.
- The religious makeup of the metro-Atlanta area is largely Christian with 76 percent of adults identifying as Christian. Of these, 33 percent call themselves evangelical Protestant, and 11 percent identify as Catholic.
- Over the years, Atlanta has eliminated some rather bizarre laws. Once, it was illegal to put ice cream in your back pocket and to tie a giraffe to a telephone pole.
- Atlanta was set on fire in 1864, during the Civil War, and 40 percent of the city was destroyed.
- Because of the destruction the Civil War caused to the city, Atlanta adopted the symbol of a phoenix. Atlanta is a community that grew exponentially out of great destruction.





What to do in Atlanta?

If you happen to find yourself in Atlanta for a weekend, check out the Georgia Aquarium or the World of Coca-Cola. They sit right next to each other in Pemberton Place and are connected by a walking path.

Southern Charm

A gem of the South, Atlanta holds a lot of history and art. Check out the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Park, and learn about the civil rights movement.

The High Museum of Art hosts a diverse collection of mediums, including Picasso paintings. And, if you're looking for something quirky, there's also the Waffle House Museum.



SUSAN MONTGOMERY / SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

FRESH SOUTHERN PEACH COBBLER

Known for its tender, juicy peaches, Georgia's signature dish is peach cobbler—the perfect baked good to represent the sweetness of the South.

INGREDIENTS

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 8 fresh peaches | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 teaspoon baking powder |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ½ cup white sugar | <input type="checkbox"/> ½ teaspoon salt |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ½ cup brown sugar | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 tablespoons unsalted butter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ¼ teaspoon ground cinnamon | <input type="checkbox"/> ¼ cup boiling water |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ⅛ teaspoon ground nutmeg | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 tablespoons white sugar |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 teaspoon fresh lemon juice | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 teaspoons cornstarch | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 cup all-purpose flour | |

Source: <https://www.allrecipes.com/recipe/51535/fresh-southern-peach-cobbler/#recipe-body>



INSTRUCTIONS

Heat oven to 425°F. Peel peaches, remove the pits, and slice peaches into thin wedges. In a large bowl, combine peaches, ¼ cup white sugar, ¼ cup brown sugar, ¼ teaspoon cinnamon and nutmeg, lemon juice, and cornstarch. Toss to coat evenly, and pour into a 2-quart baking dish. Bake for 10 minutes. Then, in a second bowl, combine flour, ¼ cup white sugar, ¼ cup brown sugar, baking powder, and salt. Prepare butter by chilling and cutting into small pieces. Blend in butter with your fingertips, or a pastry blender, until mixture resembles coarse meal. Stir in water until just combined. Remove peaches from oven, and drop spoonfuls of topping over them. Combine 3 tablespoons white sugar and 1 teaspoon cinnamon, and sprinkle entire cobbler with the mixture. Bake until topping is golden, about 30 minutes.

OTHER FAMOUS DISHES IN THE ATLANTA AREA

- | | | |
|------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Barbecue Ribs | 3. Chicken and Dumplings | 4. Smoked Wings |
| 2. Pecan Waffle | | 5. Fried Chicken Biscuit |



MEGHAN CRAWFORD ROY resides in Birmingham, Alabama, with her husband. She loves writing, reading murder mysteries, traveling, and learning about different cultures, including that of her husband, who is from India.

GROWING IN LOVE

WALK WITH PETER ON HIS JOURNEY OF DISCIPLESHIP.



Prayer Patterns is a monthly devotional guide highlighting prayer for missionaries on their birthdays.

Courageous, afraid, faithful, doubtful—these words all describe the Apostle Peter at various times. This month, we will witness how Peter grew in his love for God and for other people. Starting in the Gospels, where Peter answered Jesus’ call to follow Him, we’ll journey to Acts, where Peter boldly preached the gospel through the power of the Holy Spirit. Then we’ll conclude with 1 and 2 Peter, where he urged Christians to “love one another deeply, from the heart” (1 Peter 1:22). Peter’s journey had high and low points—much like ours. But God transformed this fisherman into a follower who demonstrated his love for Jesus by loving others. This month, pray God would use His Word to help you grow in love for Him and for others.

Prayer Calendar Idea

If you lead Women on Mission or another missions group, then try this idea to encourage group members to pray for missions this month. Invite a local artist, within your church if possible, to create a scene representing missions that could be reproduced and printed on cards. If you don’t have access to an artist, visit Kerry Jackson’s website, drawingtotherock.com, and choose photos to print, cut out, and glue onto cards. On the back, list prayer calendar missionaries and their places of service. Copy and distribute cards to participants. Give credit to the artist, and ask participants to encourage the artist to continue using his or her talents for missions and ministry. Pray for the missionaries and the artist.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

PASSAGE: MATTHEW 4:18-22
FOCUS: MATTHEW 4:19

It was just another ordinary day at work—or so they thought! Two brothers and fishermen, Peter and Andrew, were casting a net into the Sea of Galilee. Jesus walked by and said to them, “Follow me . . . and I will send you out to fish for people” (v. 19). Without thinking twice, Peter and Andrew obeyed. They left their nets and followed Him.

Today might be just another ordinary day for you. Whatever today holds, Jesus is calling you to follow Him. When we are obedient to His call, God enables us to share the good news of Jesus and make disciples wherever we go. Are you willing to put down your net and start fishing for people?

Lord, help me deny myself, take up my cross daily, and follow You. Enable me and missionaries to be obedient to Your call to be fishers of people and to make disciples of all nations. Wherever You lead, I’ll go.

Prayer Focus—European Peoples: An immigrant from Mongolia to Sweden has come to faith while studying Swedish by way of a copy of the Bible in Swedish. Pray for her faith and discipleship. Pray God would direct her life, as she may have to

return to Mongolia, and that she would serve the Lord wherever He directs her.

PRAY FOR

NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD

- ALABAMA:** Kalee Full
- CALIFORNIA:** Andrew Hudson
- KANSAS:** Zachary Schemmer
- MARYLAND:** Stephen Tewell
- NORTH CAROLINA:** Peter Bond
- TEXAS:** Jared Patrick

INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD

- ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES:** AM, MS
- CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES:** MO
- EUROPEAN PEOPLES:** Vikki Franks
- NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES:** MH, DJ, AL, NO
- SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES:** JH
- SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN PEOPLES:** EB, MW

CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS

STATE CONVENTION MISSIONARIES

- RETIRED IMB:** Chuck Barbour, Bonnie Doughtie, Betty Gardner, Charles Morrison, Jan O’Dell, Betty Rushing, Jeanie Wood

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

PASSAGE: MATTHEW 8:14-17
FOCUS: MATTHEW 8:14-15

Have you ever sat by the bed of someone who was sick and held his or her hand? What a precious gift of love and compassion that is. When Jesus went to Peter’s house, he saw Peter’s mother-in-law sick and in bed with a high fever. Jesus touched her hand, and immediately her fever left. The woman got up and began to serve Jesus.

Jesus performed this miracle to help His followers, including Peter, grow in their understanding of who He was and what He came to do. Peter learned Jesus had the power to perform miracles. He learned Jesus used His power to show tender care and compassion to people who were sick and in need—including a member of his family.

Father, thank You for holding my hand and comforting me in my times of need. Help me and my church grow in love and compassion for people who are sick.

Prayer Focus—Deaf Peoples: A worker recently finished teaching at a school for the Deaf in Southeast Asia. It's a Buddhist school, but every Sunday, the school

provided her a room where she could teach students about Jesus. Some students now follow Jesus, but others don't follow Him yet. Pray more deaf students would trust in the Lord.

PRAY FOR
NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD

- FLORIDA:** Winner Olmann
- UTAH:** Barrett Smith
- ONTARIO:** Henock Tezera
- INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD**
- AMERICAN PEOPLES:** JM
- ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES:** KM
- CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES:** MB, CO, BT
- EUROPEAN PEOPLES:** NC, RM, SM, DR
- NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES:** DA
- SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN PEOPLES:** JH
- CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS**
- STATE CONVENTION MISSIONARIES**
- RETIRED IMB:** Sharon Everhart, JL, Linda Miller, Linda Witherspoon

PRAY FOR

- NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD**
- FLORIDA:** Konstantin Goncharov
- MONTANA:** Robert Reese
- NORTH CAROLINA:** Hector Rengifo
- UTAH:** Dustin Stottmann
- VIRGINIA:** Celso Henriquez
- QUEBEC:** Steven Polino
- INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD**
- AMERICAN PEOPLES:** Melissa Stormer
- ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES:** JE, Young Kim, JM, JS
- CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES:** TO
- EUROPEAN PEOPLES:** Lauren Coale
- NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES:** MS
- SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES:** KC
- CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS**
- STATE CONVENTION MISSIONARIES**
- RETIRED IMB:** Carol Chatman, Billie Fudge, Joanne Gray, WH, Miwha Han, Cal Hogue, Charlotte Kirby, Sherry Vaughan

missionary of the week

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

RICHARD AND KAREN LEE

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN PEOPLES

PASSAGE: LUKE 5:1-11

FOCUS: LUKE 5:8-10

The Cooperative Program has allowed Richard and Karen Lee to show African Americans they have a place and a role to play in the missionary task. When believers see missionaries who look like them, they feel represented.

African American Southern Baptists aren't the only people who've been surprised to meet the Lees. Tanzanian Christians celebrated their arrival.

"I have lived here for 40 years, and no one like you has ever lived in this missions house," a neighbor said.

"Where are our other brothers and sisters? You're the first ones we've seen who looked like us," Tanzanian Christians asked the couple.

African American missionaries have tremendous opportunities to make deep connections on the missions field. Through the Cooperative Program, they help churches think about what those partnerships might look like.

THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM takes the gospel to the nations and the neighborhoods. Your financial support through the Cooperative Program allows missionaries to fulfill the Great Commission call God has placed on their lives.

PRAY God would give the Lees abundant opportunities to share the gospel with their neighbors in Tanzania.



IMB PHOTO

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

PASSAGE: MATTHEW 14:22-32

FOCUS: MATTHEW 14:28-31

Imagine you are in a fishing boat with 11 people. When the boat is far from shore, a terrible storm breaks. Strong winds and huge waves toss the boat all night. You're exhausted and terrified. The disciples were in this predicament when they saw Jesus walking on the Sea of Galilee. At first Peter showed great faith. When Jesus commanded Peter to come to Him, Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus. But when Peter saw the storm, he became afraid. He began to sink and cried, "Lord, save me!" (v. 30). Jesus reached out His hand, rescued Peter, and said, "You of little faith . . . why did you doubt?" (v. 31).

Is your fear greater than your faith? As the hymn "Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus" reminds us, "Look full in His wonderful face." And the storms of life will grow "strangely dim" (Helen Howarth Lemmel, 1922).

Lord, thank You for being with me in the storms of life. Help me keep my eyes on You. Increase my faith and trust in You. You alone are my Savior.

Prayer Focus—Sub-Saharan African Peoples: Pray Acts 26:18 for the 440 unengaged unreached people groups in sub-Saharan Africa. Pray eyes would be opened and many would turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God so they would receive forgiveness of sins and have eternal life.

PRAY FOR

NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD

FLORIDA: Jean Robert Baptiste

NEW YORK: Justin Adamson

SOUTH CAROLINA: Crystal Capps

TEXAS: Bailey Robinson

INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD

AMERICAN PEOPLES: Fernando Dzubuk, Melodie Lyons

ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES: IL, Charles Seelen

EUROPEAN PEOPLES: Brittany Lawrence, DM, Amy Sparks

NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES: WH

SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES: SL, LM

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN PEOPLES:

James Hackett, Thiago Montanher

CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS

STATE CONVENTION MISSIONARIES

RETIRED IMB: Tommy Beard,

Stephen Bowers, Tricia Bridges, Evelyn Corley, Paul Savage, BT, Kittie Trail

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

PASSAGE: MATTHEW 16:13-20

FOCUS: MATTHEW 16:15-16

If you asked students at a local high school or college, “Who do you think Jesus is?” what responses might you receive? In Matthew 16, Jesus asked His disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” (v. 13). The disciples’ answers included John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah, or one of the other prophets. Then Jesus asked, “Who do you say I am?” (v. 15). Peter, in one of his shining moments, declared, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God” (v. 16).

Christians demonstrate love for God by declaring the truth about Jesus to people who do not know Him. If someone asks you, “Who is Jesus?” are you prepared with an answer?

Lord, give me and missionaries boldness to declare the truth about Jesus to a world that does not know You.

Help me and my church grow in our love for high school and college students.

Enable us to share the truth about Jesus with students so the next generation will know Your love and follow You.

Prayer Focus—Sub-Saharan African Peoples: Pray for students in sub-Saharan Africa who may be hearing the gospel for the first time, especially for those who may face persecution if they believe. Pray they would understand the good news, choose to follow Christ, and trust Him no matter what it costs them.

PRAY FOR

NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD

GEORGIA: Lucius Rouser

IDAHO: Katelin Sillery

LOUISIANA: Andrew Hanna, James Richardson

MASSACHUSETTS: Jonathan Moseley

PENNSYLVANIA: Kenneth Sachs

INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD

AMERICAN PEOPLES: AR

ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES: KB, JH, JS, Savannah Whittington

CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES: AH, AS

NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES: HL, KS

SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES: JG

CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS

STATE CONVENTION MISSIONARIES

RETIRED NAMB: Norma Charles

RETIRED IMB: Fred Beck, JK, DL, Betty Mitchell, Jeane Myers

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

PASSAGE: MATTHEW 16:21-28

FOCUS: MATTHEW 16:21-23

In 1912, traveling evangelist George Bennard was heckled while he preached at a revival. This difficult experience led him to write the hymn “The Old Rugged Cross,” in which he describes the Cross as “the emblem of suffering and shame.”

Jesus explained to His disciples that the Messiah would suffer, be killed, and be raised to life on the third day. Peter pulled Jesus aside and declared, “This shall never happen to you!” (v. 22). While Peter acknowledged Jesus as the Messiah, he still didn’t understand the Messiah must suffer and die. Jesus rebuked Peter because His death and Resurrection were central to God’s plan to redeem the world from sin.

Father, thank You for loving the world so much that You gave Your only Son to suffer and die on the Cross for the forgiveness of sin. Enable me and my church to cherish and cling to the old rugged Cross. Give us courage to share Jesus in a world that often despises the Cross.

Prayer Focus—Sub-Saharan African Peoples: Pray the Lord would raise up national believers in Conakry, Guinea, who would lead others to walk with integrity and would be willing to go against cultural norms at times to stand firm in their faith.

PRAY FOR

INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD

AMERICAN PEOPLES: Gary Clifton, Crystal Nelson

ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES: KK, BV

CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES: JM

NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES: MC, BK

SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES: DE, Monika Landry

CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS

STATE CONVENTION MISSIONARIES

RETIRED IMB: SB, Joy Bates,

Elsie Brown, Fred Day, Frank Drinkard, Bob Farmer, Robert Hall, Martha Ellen Marler, Steve Robertson

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

PASSAGE: MATTHEW 17:1-13

FOCUS: MATTHEW 17:4-5

I recently attended the concert of a well-known singer. During the concert, many people used their cell phones to record the singer’s most familiar songs. Instead of enjoying

the moment and the music, their focus was on recording the event.

After Jesus predicted His death, He took Peter, James, and John up a mountain, and they saw Jesus transfigured before them. They saw Moses and Elijah talking with Jesus. Peter immediately recognized the glory of the moment. So, he offered to put up three shelters. But while Peter was still speaking, a voice from a cloud declared, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!” (v. 5). God was reminding Peter and the other disciples to focus on listening to His beloved Son instead of memorializing the event.

Lord, thank You for leaving the glory of heaven so believers can have the forgiveness of sin and the hope of eternal life. Help me and missionaries focus on You and listen to You every day.

Prayer Focus—Sub-Saharan African Peoples: Pray churches in Tete, Mozambique, would reach across cultural and linguistic barriers to people from many other nations living and working in the city. Pray they would truly love Christ and love others. Pray believers there would experience unity, pursue holiness, and feel an urgency to take the gospel to all of Tete Province.

PRAY FOR

NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD

- ARIZONA:** Johnathan Chan
- FLORIDA:** Clinton Patterson
- LOUISIANA:** Dawesteniél Louis
- MAINE:** Lawum Kayamba
- MASSACHUSETTS:** Steven Castello
- MISSOURI:** Jacob Miller
- NEW MEXICO:** Juan Mendoza Medina

INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD

- AMERICAN PEOPLES:** KB
- ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES:** Fred Cai, JL
- EUROPEAN PEOPLES:** GB, Cheryl Enoch
- SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN PEOPLES:** TD

CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS

STATE CONVENTION MISSIONARIES

- RETIRED IMB:** Russell Fox, Earl Jolley, Lauree Moore

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

PASSAGE: MATTHEW 18:21-35

FOCUS: MATTHEW 18:21-22

I saw a cartoon where Jesus says to His disciples, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy times seven.” Then one of the disciples brings his palm to his forehead and thinks, “Great! Not only do I have to forgive my brother, now I have to do math!”

In today’s passage, Peter asked Jesus, “How many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?” (v. 21). Some Jewish teachers taught that forgiving three times was sufficient. Peter probably thought he was being generous because he had more than doubled what was required. But Jesus told Peter he should forgive the person “seventy-seven times” (v. 22), while other translations say seventy times seven (that would be 490 times!). Jesus wasn’t giving a math lesson. He was teaching that our forgiveness should be unlimited. A follower of Jesus forgives without keeping a record.

Lord, thank You for forgiving me. Help me grow in my ability to forgive others. Heal my unforgiving spirit. Enable me and my church to reflect Your love by forgiving others without limit.

Prayer Focus—Sub-Saharan African Peoples: Missionaries in sub-Saharan Africa have a vision for African churches sending African missionaries to the ends of the earth. A team of IMB missionaries has been developing a curriculum to train these African missionaries as they go to the nations. Pray the upcoming training would equip these missionaries to be successful in their work.

PRAY FOR

NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD

- CALIFORNIA:** Steve Kang
- FLORIDA:** Angel Bermudez, Emilio Herrera

MICHIGAN: Robert Parsons

MISSOURI: Pat Rankin

OKLAHOMA: Denise Fholer

WYOMING: Tyler Martin

INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD

AMERICAN PEOPLES: Young Mo Kim, BR, Doug Roberts

ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES: WA, MC, MW

CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES: BB, MH, CL

EUROPEAN PEOPLES: AY, AY

NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES: KS

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN PEOPLES: RL

CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS

STATE CONVENTION MISSIONARIES

- RETIRED IMB:** Wade Coker, Barbara Cole, David Ford, Jane Fray, Nora Gass, Baker Hill, Keith McDougal, Guy Muse, Bill Phillips, WS, Peggy Sue Siebenmann, Don Stelzer

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

PASSAGE: JOHN 13:1-20

FOCUS: JOHN 13:6-9

The time had come for Jesus to suffer and die. So He gathered His disciples to demonstrate His love for them by washing their dirty, dusty feet. Peter was shocked and confused. Why was his teacher taking the role of a servant and washing feet? Scripture records, “[Peter said,] ‘You shall never wash my feet.’ Jesus answered, ‘Unless I wash you, you have no part with me’” (v. 8). Peter quickly changed his tune and said, “Then, Lord . . . not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!” (v. 9).

After Jesus had washed the disciples’ feet, He said to them, “I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you” (v. 15). Through the washing of their feet, Jesus demonstrated the importance of loving and serving others with humility. What act of humble service is God calling you to today?

Father, thank You for Jesus, who humbled Himself by dying on the Cross. Lead me and my church to love and serve the people in our community with humility.

Prayer Focus—Sub-Saharan African Peoples: Serving in sub-Saharan Africa includes many kinds of job requests. One job that might surprise some people is serving as a logistics coordinator for a country. In this role, a business-minded person helps with housing, vehicles, and immigration needs for the other missionaries who serve in that country. Pray God would call more people to these positions.

PRAY FOR
NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD
CALIFORNIA: Clifton Stanton
COLORADO: Jaymee Collins

FLORIDA: Matthew Crawford
MICHIGAN: Nathan Sharpe
NEVADA: Andre Scales
NEW JERSEY: Jundy Bautista
PENNSYLVANIA: Chapin Jones
INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD
ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES: CK, SK, Anna Lovett, JP
CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES: HS
EUROPEAN PEOPLES: Timothy Price
NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES: DN, LT
SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES: AN, DP
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN PEOPLES: JL
CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS
STATE CONVENTION MISSIONARIES
RETIRED IMB: William Bowers, Karen Clark, John Divers, Charles Love, LM, Dorothy Miller, Cynthia Morreau, Carol Schulz, Randy Simmon, Penny Young

PRAY FOR
NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD
FLORIDA: Jacob Turner
SOUTH CAROLINA: Todd Wood
TEXAS: Timothy Chen
VIRGINIA: Oscar Sosa
INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD
AMERICAN PEOPLES: Leticia Clark
ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES: MW
CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES: RH, JJ
EUROPEAN PEOPLES: AM
NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES: RM, SM, VM, TS
SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES: JI, LL
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN PEOPLES: Diana Bledsoe, Lydia Steelman
CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS
STATE CONVENTION MISSIONARIES
RETIRED IMB: Chanelle Acton, Sandy Cole, Bill Curl, Peggy Dane, Wirt Davis, Monica Hatton, Peggy Mulkey, Libby Panter, Peggy Williams, Philip Wilson

missionary of the week

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10
CESÁR GUZMÁN
PUERTO RICO

PASSAGE: MATTHEW 26:17-35
FOCUS: MATTHEW 26:30-35

Cesár Guzmán started a church at the Universidad de Puerto Rico that was markedly different from the darkness and sin often surrounding secular college life.

A year after planting Iglesia Bautista Sobre la Roca, the church opened The Student House near where the church meets. The Student House acts as a home away from home for college students to hang out, study, and find community when they feel lonely being far from home.

The Student House is also a place where students can ask tough questions about God and the Christian faith. Students are coming to faith in Christ, and many are sensing a call to ministry through the work of Iglesia Bautista Sobre la Roca.

THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM helps Cesár provide a place where college students can ask tough spiritual questions and discover the hope of the gospel.

PRAY God would draw students at the Universidad de Puerto Rico to Himself through Cesár's ministry.



MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

PASSAGE: MATTHEW 26:36-46

FOCUS: MATTHEW 26:40-41

During Sunday worship, my pastor often asks whether anyone has a prayer request. One day, a young boy raised his hand and said, “My dog died.” What a precious moment in worship! That young boy understood he could share his sorrow with his church family and with God, who cares for him.

Jesus was overwhelmed with sorrow as He anticipated the agony of the Cross. He asked Peter, James, and John to wait nearby. After Jesus spent time alone in prayer, He came back to find His disciples sleeping. Jesus said to Peter, “Couldn’t you men keep watch with me for one hour? . . . Watch and pray” (vv. 40–41). Jesus left twice more to pray, and each time, He returned to find them sound asleep.

Lord, empower me to support people in need by praying for them and being with them in their time of sorrow and distress. My spirit is willing, but my flesh is weak.

Prayer Focus—Tennessee: Thomas McRee is a hospice chaplain serving patients and staff at Amedisys Hospice of Greeneville in Greeneville, Tennessee. “Pray for my family’s finances and for the sick and dying who are in hospice care.”

PRAY FOR

NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD

FLORIDA: Phillip Scarnecchia

GEORGIA: Robert Carr

ILLINOIS: Maurice Gaiter

NEBRASKA: Adam Lester

NEW MEXICO: Robert Erickson

TEXAS: Reynaldo Cantu,

Jonathan Leftwich

WEST VIRGINIA: Henry Garcia

PUERTO RICO: Oscar Ortiz-Rivas

INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD

CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES: TH

NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES: BC

SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES: MI, BW, BW

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN PEOPLES:

James Adair, Allie White

CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS

STATE CONVENTION MISSIONARIES

RETIRED NAMB: Jerry Yates

RETIRED IMB: Alicia Barrett,

Roland Cheng, Bob Crider,

Anne Fortenberry, David Miller,

Robert Watson

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

PASSAGE: JOHN 18:1-11

FOCUS: JOHN 18:10-11

Have you heard of the fight or flight response? In situations we perceive to be dangerous or threatening, our automatic response is either to fight or flee. When Jesus was about to be arrested, Peter’s response was to fight.

Judas betrayed Jesus. A band of soldiers and the Temple police went to the garden of Gethsemane to arrest Jesus. Peter drew his sword and cut off the ear of the high priest’s servant. But Jesus told Peter, “Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?” (v. 11). Jesus did not fight or flee. Jesus willingly accepted all the Father had given Him. He allowed the soldiers to arrest Him, bind

Him, and take Him away. Jesus willingly suffered the Cross to pay for our sin.

Lord, Your love for us is greater than I can ever tell. I’m in awe of You. Help me grow in my love for You.

Prayer Focus—Georgia: Chaplain (Major) Jose Rondon is a US Army chaplain serving in Fort Benning, Georgia. “Pray God would once again give me the opportunity to lead thousands of soldiers to Him through the preaching of His message of salvation in Christ Jesus. Previously when you prayed, I saw 11,090 soldiers come to Jesus within two years.”

PRAY FOR

NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD

FLORIDA: Christopher Cornette

ILLINOIS: Danny Hampton

KENTUCKY: Lonnie Riley

MARYLAND: Mark Wright

MASSACHUSETTS: Robbie Merkosky

ONTARIO: Binu Philip

INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD

AMERICAN PEOPLES: Don Friesen,

Rick Thompson

ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES: JB,

Adria Fleming, SJ, MS

CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES: BM, ET, TW

EUROPEAN PEOPLES: Maria Wentley

NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN

PEOPLES: DB, JG, NG, RP

CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS

STATE CONVENTION MISSIONARIES

RETIRED NAMB: William Hinson

RETIRED IMB: Dale Beighle,

Donna Burnett, David Cheng,

Lloyd Farmer, Roberta Fisher,

Cindy Hoover, Dennis Johnson,

Ramona Mercer, Tim Mitchell,

Mike Shockley

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

PASSAGE: JOHN 18:15-27

FOCUS: JOHN 18:25-27

A hymn I learned in childhood called “Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus” urges believers to take a stand for Christ (George Duffield, 1858). When Jesus needed him most, Peter did not stand up for Him and instead denied being His disciple three times. Peter heard Jesus teach with power and authority. Jesus healed Peter’s mother-in-law. Jesus

enabled Peter to walk on water and saved him from drowning. Peter witnessed the transfiguration of Jesus. Jesus had humbly washed Peter’s feet. Yet when a servant girl asked whether he was one of Jesus’ disciples, Peter emphatically stated, “I am not” (v. 17).

Peter’s fear and failure stands in sharp contrast to Jesus’ faithfulness. Though the high priest questioned Him and an official slapped Him in the face, Jesus remained resolute. However, God was not done with Peter. Despite Peter’s failure, God had great plans for him.

Lord, forgive me for not standing up for You. Give me and missionaries the strength and courage to stand up for You, no matter the cost.

Prayer Focus—Florida: Rosius Fraïis is the pastor and planter of Community Garden Church in Coral Springs, Florida. “Pray for the spiritual growth of Community Garden Church. Pray we would faithfully attend to our mission, which is making disciples for Christ on a daily basis.”

PRAY FOR

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NEW YORK: Hannah Frazier

OKLAHOMA: Jean Niyondiko

TEXAS: Aaron Orr

QUEBEC: Jean-Philippe Beaudry

INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD

ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES: LB,

Angela Dawson

NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN

PEOPLES: BD, DS

SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES: MC

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RETIRED IMB: CB, Linda Beck,

Carolyn Dubberly, Sung Kim, DM,

Peg Templin

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14**PASSAGE: JOHN 20:1-10****FOCUS: JOHN 20:6-7**

Have you ever run so fast you were out of breath and couldn't speak? When Mary Magdalene saw the stone had been removed from the entrance of Jesus' tomb, she took off running. She went to Peter and the other disciple, who was probably John. Breathless, she said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!" (v. 2).

Immediately Peter and John ran to the tomb. Can you picture these disciples in a footrace? John won, reaching the tomb first. When Peter arrived, he was probably gasping for air, but he went straight into the tomb. He saw the linen clothes and the face cloth lying there, but Jesus was gone! Just a few days earlier, Peter had denied Jesus and deserted Him when He was crucified and buried. Now Peter was a witness to the Resurrection!

Lord, I run to You today. Increase my love for You. Empower me and missionaries to share the good news that Christ is risen.

Prayer Focus—Utah: Armando López and his wife, Martha, planted Iglesia Bíblica de Ogden in Ogden City, Utah. "Pray our church-planting core group would reach people in our community with the gospel. Pray we would be salt and light in a dark place."

PRAY FOR**NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD****DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA:** Steven Lacey**MAINE:** Steven Webber**MISSOURI:** Shawn Hughes**MONTANA:** Joy Monroe**SOUTH CAROLINA:** Michael Cravatt**TEXAS:** Donna Cooley**ALBERTA:** Airenakhue Aimievbo, Vedaste Ndamiye**INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD****AMERICAN PEOPLES:** Scott Bupp,

Michael Grant, James Tieman

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15**PASSAGE: JOHN 21:1-14****FOCUS: JOHN 21:7-12**

When I visited my grandparents as a child, my grandma would cook rice mixed with milk, butter, and sugar for breakfast. I enjoyed its warm and sweet taste, but I mostly enjoyed it because my grandma prepared it for me and shared it with me. In today's passage, Peter enjoyed what was probably the best breakfast of his life. This breakfast was special not because the fish and bread tasted so good but because the resurrected Son of God prepared it and shared it with him.

Peter and the other disciples had fished all night but caught nothing. A man on the shore told them to cast their net on the right side of the boat. When they did, their net filled with fish. Peter realized the man was Jesus, jumped into the sea, and swam to shore. Jesus was waiting for him with breakfast.

Lord, thank You for Your mercy, grace, tender care, and provision. I am thankful that through Jesus, we can have fellowship with You.

Prayer Focus—California: Young Lee is the pastor and planter of South Bay Baptist Church in Torrance, California. "Pray every member of South Bay Baptist Church would increase in faith and that God would increase the church's influence within the community. Pray God would

guide me in the right direction, help the church find a good meeting place, and set everyone in the church aflame with an undying passion for Christ and others."

PRAY FOR**NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD****COLORADO:** Adam Roberts**NORTH CAROLINA:** Kathie Aiken, Mark and Jennifer Gragg***OHIO:** Michal Feliciano**INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD****ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES:** RB, Rachel Hulicki**CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES:** CH**EUROPEAN PEOPLES:** HG**SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES:** KR**SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN PEOPLES:** Stephen Dinkins**CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS****STATE CONVENTION MISSIONARIES****RETIRED IMB:** Steven Brubaker, RC, ED, Laverne Gregory, Jo Ann Parham, Betty Smith, Glen Swicegood

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16**PASSAGE: JOHN 21:15-19****FOCUS: JOHN 21:17**

For the last two weeks, we have walked with Peter on his journey of discipleship. We have seen Peter grow in his understanding of who Jesus is and what Jesus came to do. We have seen him grow in his love for God. In this final scene of the Book of John, Jesus asked Peter three times, "Do you love me?" (vv. 15-17). Three times Peter responded, "You know that I love you." Each time, Jesus commanded Peter to feed His lambs or take care of His sheep.

Peter had failed Jesus miserably by denying Him three times and deserting Him in His time of need. Now Jesus recommissioned Peter. Jesus called Peter to demonstrate his love by loving and caring for God's people.

Father, forgive my failures and unfaithfulness. I choose to follow You. Help me love You with all my heart, soul, and mind. Empower me to love my neighbor as myself. Strengthen my

pastor and the leaders in my church as they feed and take care of Your flock.

Prayer Focus—North Carolina: Gary Lee is the lead pastor and planter of Rooted Church in Cary, North Carolina. “Pray the body of believers at Rooted Church would love Jesus and others, be filled with the Holy Spirit and His grace and truth, and be a healthy and multiplying church. Pray we would know how to trust and rest in God, and pray that I, as a leader, would lead by example.”

PRAY FOR
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OREGON: Michael Samuels, Audrey Spurlin

VERMONT: Shaun Stotyn
BRITISH COLUMBIA: Kyungjo Jung
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CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES: KB, LE
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SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES: AS
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missionary of the week

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17
CAROLINE ANDERSON
EUROPEAN PEOPLES

PASSAGE: JOHN 21:20-25
FOCUS: JOHN 21:21-22

Den and Dimi are Ukrainian refugees displaced by the war between Ukraine and Russia. Caroline Anderson met their family during the height of the conflict when refugees poured over the border to Romania. Den, Dimi, and their family found refuge in a Baptist church.

The church offered support on many levels: food, safety, counseling, and some church members even gave up their mattresses so families like Den and Dimi’s had something to sleep on at the church. They shared the love of Jesus both verbally and through action.

While the boys’ parents were not Christians, Caroline and local believers poured into them and helped connect them with another church in the country they were immigrating to. These connections are vital for reestablishing life away from the war and allow the body of Christ to continue gospel conversations.

THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM takes the gospel to the nations and the neighborhoods. Your financial support through the Cooperative Program strengthens missionaries so they can spread the gospel around the world.

PRAY God would strengthen, protect, and give peace to families like Den and Dimi’s for His glory.



IMB PHOTO

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

PASSAGE: ACTS 2:1-41

FOCUS: ACTS 2:36-41

Before Jesus ascended into heaven, He promised His followers the Holy Spirit would come and empower them to be His witnesses. Then, on the day of Pentecost, the believers were together in one place, and suddenly they were filled with the Holy Spirit. Like the others, Peter was empowered and emboldened to preach the gospel to Jews from all around the world who had come to Jerusalem to celebrate Pentecost—an annual harvest festival. The one-time fisherman had been transformed into a Spirit-filled apostle.

Peter’s sermon presented Jesus of Nazareth as both Lord and Messiah. He testified to the death and Resurrection of Jesus. He urged the people in the crowd to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of their sins. The Book of Acts reports 3,000 people believed and were added to the Christian community that day!

Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit upon missionaries so they would boldly preach the gospel and sinners would repent and be baptized.

Prayer Focus—American Peoples: A journeyman, missionary kids, and local partners host an English class for teens in a squatter community. “Each week, we end with a Bible story and a gospel presentation,” the journeyman said. “Recently, we have been seeing an influx of young people. Pray gospel seeds would take root in the lives of these teens.”

PRAY FOR
NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD

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- PENNSYLVANIA: Michael Kelley
- TEXAS: Simon Villalobos del Angel, Jaime Estrella

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- NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES: JT
- SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES: MC
- SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN PEOPLES: Jane Thompson

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

PASSAGE: ACTS 3:1-10

FOCUS: ACTS 3:6-7

The prophet Isaiah told of a future time when the lame would leap like a deer (Isa. 35:6). In Acts 3, a lame beggar leaped for joy after being healed in Jesus’ name. Peter and John were about to enter the Temple to pray when a man who was lame from birth asked them for money. They stopped and looked straight at him. Peter said, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk” (Acts 3:6). Peter grabbed the man’s hand. The man jumped up and began to walk. He even entered the Temple, walking, jumping, and

praising God. The people were filled with awe and wonder.

Lord, You are more valuable than silver or gold because You alone have the power to heal and save. Help me and missionaries show Your love to people who are forgotten, ignored, and crying for help.

Prayer Focus—Asian Pacific Rim Peoples: In a deeply Buddhist neighborhood in Yangon (yan-GONG), Myanmar, believers meet physical needs, share the gospel, and invite their neighbors to learn more by attending informal home gatherings. Pray God would open the hearts of Buddhists in this area. Pray the Holy Spirit would lead the believers to people who are ready to hear and receive the gospel.

PRAY FOR
NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD

- ALASKA: Joshua Seely
- ARIZONA: Julia Curtis
- CALIFORNIA: Israel Alonso, Jesus Martinez, Daryl Murata
- TEXAS: Marshall Canales
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- EUROPEAN PEOPLES: Andrew Hayes, Angela Stoda

- SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES: EB
- SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN PEOPLES: DI
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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

PASSAGE: ACTS 3:11-26

FOCUS: ACTS 3:11-16

When my son was in kindergarten, he took his “blue blankie” to show-and-tell. Out of all the things he could have taken, he chose the small, tattered blanket he’d had since birth to show his classmates and tell them why it was special to him.

In Acts 3, Peter engaged in a sort of show-and-tell at the Temple,

when he declared Jesus of Nazareth was the Messiah. First, he showed the crowd Jesus’ power through the healing of the lame man “in the name of Jesus” (v. 16). Peter told the people the truth about Jesus’ death and Resurrection and urged them to repent so their sins would be wiped out (v. 19).

Christians are to share the love of Jesus in both word and deed; we are to show and tell. Are you showing the love of Jesus through your deeds? Are you telling about Jesus with your words?

Lord, empower me and missionaries to share the gospel in word and deed. Help us show and tell of Your wonderful love.

Prayer Focus—Central Asian Peoples: The Nuristani of Pakistan and Afghanistan include eight subgroups of people who speak different languages, some of which have gospel recordings available but not a Bible translation. Pray local believers would reach out with a gospel witness to the Nuristani people. Pray Nuristanis who go into cities for work would encounter believers, hear the gospel, and trust in Christ.

PRAY FOR
NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD

- CALIFORNIA: Jeffrey Liu
- INDIANA: Dennis Runner
- LOUISIANA: Byron Cutrer
- MICHIGAN: David Livingston
- MISSOURI: Baden Groves
- NORTH DAKOTA: Jeffrey Musgrave
- TEXAS: Reinaldo Segura Fernandez
- ONTARIO: Joel Garcia

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- CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES: EB, DC, TK, KM
- EUROPEAN PEOPLES: Ingrid Woodbridge
- NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES: WE, CV
- SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES: AG, GY
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- STATE CONVENTION MISSIONARIES
- RETIRED IMB: Annette Hall, Ted Stanton

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

PASSAGE: ACTS 4:1-22

FOCUS: ACTS 4:18-22

A song popularized by Elvis Presley states, “I can’t help falling in love with you.” Even when faced with threats and punishment, Peter and John declared, “We cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard” (v. 20).

After Peter healed the lame man and he and John preached and taught in the Temple, the leaders of the Sadducees arrested and interrogated the two of them. The Jewish council asked them, “By what power or what name did you do this?” (v. 7). Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, declared the man was healed in the name of Jesus, saying, “There is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved” (v. 12). The council was amazed at Peter’s and John’s courage, especially since they were unschooled, ordinary men. When the council commanded them not to speak or teach in the name of Jesus, Peter replied they couldn’t help speaking about Jesus.

Lord, give me and missionaries boldness to speak Your name amid threats and opposition. Grow my love for You so I can’t help but speak about You everywhere I go.

Prayer Focus—European Peoples: The cities of Leicester, Leeds, Manchester, and Liverpool in England contain a mixture of British working-class communities, immigrant communities, and university students. There is no one pocket of the population where the gospel has a strong foothold. However, God is raising up church leaders who long to be trained in each of these areas. Pray the gospel would flourish in these cities.

PRAY FOR INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD

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DEAF PEOPLES: KN

EUROPEAN PEOPLES: Michael Domke, Bailey Krause

SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES: SA, HH

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STATE CONVENTION MISSIONARIES

RETIRED IMB: Carolyn Burriss, Randy Covington, Vertie McClelland, KP, John Purl, Elinda West

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

PASSAGE: ACTS 10:1-48

FOCUS: ACTS 10:34-48

In Isaiah 43:19, the Lord said to Israel, “See, I am doing a new thing!” In Acts 10, God did a new thing. God showed Peter the gospel is for all people, including the Gentiles.

God led Peter to go to the home of Cornelius, a Gentile soldier described as devout, God-fearing, generous, and prayerful. God helped Peter understand that “God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right” (vv. 34–35). Peter preached to Cornelius, his relatives, and his close friends about the life, death, and Resurrection of Jesus. Suddenly the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the Gentiles, and Peter ordered that they be baptized. God demonstrated to Peter that He is Lord of all and that the expanding church includes Gentiles.

Lord, forgive me for showing favoritism. Help me love all people. Empower me and my church to share the gospel with people from every nation, tribe, race, and language.

Prayer Focus—South Asian Peoples: Punjabi (*pun-JAH-bee*) believers in Pakistan learned how to share their faith with others at recent training seminars. Pray local believers would apply what they’ve learned and become a mighty

workforce for God’s kingdom. Pray many Pakistani people would come to a saving knowledge of Jesus.

PRAY FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD

ARIZONA: German Granillo

MICHIGAN: Jeremiah Williams

VERMONT: Kathryn Nunnolley

INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD

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CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES: LB, JD, KS

DEAF PEOPLES: MH

EUROPEAN PEOPLES: SC

NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES: MH, AK

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Jerry Cadenhead, Shirley Gunn,

Steve Haines, Sandy Holt,

Cheryl Johnson, Linda Watkins,

Preston West, Alicia Zorzoli

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

PASSAGE: ACTS 12:1-17

FOCUS: ACTS 12:5

Have you ever prayed earnestly for someone? To pray earnestly means to pray intensely or resolutely. In Acts 12, King Herod executed James, the brother of John. Herod imprisoned Peter with the intent to execute him. But the church earnestly prayed for Peter. The night before Peter’s trial, God answered the believers’ prayers in a powerful way. An angel appeared to Peter in prison, and the chains fell off his wrists. The angel led Peter past several guards and through the gate without anyone noticing. In fact, Peter walked unnoticed straight to the house where the believers had gathered and were praying for him.

This month, we have focused on growing in love. One way we demonstrate our Christian love is by praying earnestly for one another. Does your church earnestly pray for your pastor, your church staff, and for missionaries around the world?

Lord, I pray for my church to earnestly pray together. Teach us how to pray.



Prayer Focus—Sub-Saharan African Peoples: The people of Senegal are suffering amid political unrest. Pray for peace among the people and the government officials. Pray they would come to know the One who gives peace. Pray God would protect the vulnerable and bring wisdom to the leaders.

PRAY FOR
NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD
FLORIDA: Richard Cramer, Loti Marc
KENTUCKY: Trevor Johnston
INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD
AMERICAN PEOPLES: Daniel Coronado

ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES: BB, RC, VD, Bryan Jackson, HP
NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES: CK, SK, KS
SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES: Joe Binford
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN PEOPLES: HH, Josiah Luttrull
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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

PASSAGE: 1 PETER 1:3-12
FOCUS: 1 PETER 1:8-9

The resurrected Jesus asked Peter, “Do you love me?” (John 21:16). Then He commanded Peter, “Take care of my sheep.” The Book of 1 Peter is a letter written by the Apostle Peter to believers living in Asia Minor. Through this letter, Peter took care of God’s sheep.

Peter encouraged the believers to remain faithful and live for Christ in a culture that was hostile to the gospel. He acknowledged the grief they suffered in all kinds of trials and encouraged them that God would use their suffering to prove the genuineness of their faith and to purify their faith. Peter reminded the believers they had never seen Jesus in the flesh, yet they loved Him, believed in Him, and were filled with inexpressible joy. Christians are filled with love and joy despite suffering because we have hope—the hope of the Spirit of God with us now and the hope of our eternal, resurrected lives with Christ when He returns.

Lord, comfort missionaries who suffer grief in all kinds of trials. May their lives be filled with love, joy, and the hope of salvation.

Prayer Focus—Northern African and Middle Eastern Peoples: Aicha, a North African woman in Europe, quietly asked a believer to talk later, in private, about Jesus. Peer pressure often prevents women from asking questions about Jesus or following Him. Aicha heard the gospel and is learning more. Pray more women would learn about Jesus and follow Him.

missionary of the week

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

BRIANNA DANIEL
DENVER, COLORADO

PASSAGE: ACTS 11:1-18
FOCUS: ACTS 11:15-18

Brianna Daniel recently served at the Send Relief ministry center in Denver, Colorado, a city that is a lonely place in need of many more missionaries. For example, Denver has only one evangelical church for every 32,000 people. While the city is beautiful and attracts many people, much ministry still needs to be done as well.

Brianna’s work also involved supporting a magnet school for refugee children. She led a team to help rebuild the school’s playground and coordinated a backpack drive to provide school supplies.

In addition, Brianna started a burrito wagon ministry at her church. She pulled a wagon full of burritos around the city and distributed the food to people experiencing homelessness. As she did this, she let the people she served know that Jesus loves them and so do many local churches.

THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM takes the gospel to the nations and the neighborhoods. Your financial support through the Cooperative Program allows missionaries like Brianna to meet physical and spiritual needs in Denver and beyond.

PRAY God would strengthen Brianna in her work and bring many more missionaries to Denver to share the good news of Jesus Christ.



PRAY FOR
NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD
FLORIDA: Catherine Palmer
ILLINOIS: Chad and LaDonna Wilkin*
ALBERTA: Wenzhuo Zhang
INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD
ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES: EK
CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES: GA
NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES: DD, BG, BM, RM, CS

SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES: CE
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN PEOPLES: Grace Kim, JP
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RETIRED IMB: Judith Bliss, CC, Mary Chandler, JoAnn Crawford, Mary Anne Davis, Bob Hunter, Linda Jackson, ML, John Monroe, Ellen Steele, Jerry White

PRAY FOR

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- GEORGIA:** Woongje Chun
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- NEW MEXICO:** Jesse Hardy
- OKLAHOMA:** Scott Carlson,
Lauren Southerland
- OREGON:** Emma Woods
- ALBERTA:** Dudley Hale
- BRITISH COLUMBIA:** Christian Rowland
- ONTARIO:** Christian Bendian
- SASKATCHEWAN:** Zhengde Zhai
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- EUROPEAN PEOPLES:** GG,
Brandon Gregory
- NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES:** PK, WP, KS
- SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES:** SF
- SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN PEOPLES:**
Todd Hoskins
- CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS**
- STATE CONVENTION MISSIONARIES**
- RETIRED NAMB:** Douglas Pilot
- RETIRED IMB:** Sharon Bennett,
Gail Joule, WL, CR, Lissa Roberson

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

PASSAGE: 1 PETER 1:22-25

FOCUS: 1 PETER 1:22

When my husband and I brought our newborn twins home from the hospital, we were slightly overwhelmed. We were first-time parents with no relatives close by. Our church family provided home-cooked dinners for at least two months. We will always be grateful for that act of love.

First Peter teaches Christians that since we have been cleansed through obedience to the gospel, we are to have sincere love for one another. The word Peter used for love in 1 Peter 1:22 is *philadelphia*, which means “brotherly love.” This is the mutual love between members of a group of people. Peter said our love for fellow Christians must be sincere, deep, and from the heart. Think of someone in your church

whom you do not know well. Think of a church member with whom you may not have much in common. How is God leading you to show them sincere love this week?

Lord, help the members of my church have sincere love for one another. Empower us to love one another deeply, from the heart.

Prayer Focus—Sub-Saharan African Peoples: New Hope is a trauma-healing training curriculum created by the ministry Multiplying Hope. This curriculum uses a Bible story-based approach to healing heart wounds. Pray for six women in Kampala, Uganda, who are participating in a healing group. Pray God would heal their hearts and that they would be open to pursuing a relationship with Jesus Christ.

PRAY FOR

NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD

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- IDAHO:** Dave Carver
- LOUISIANA:** Laura Clark
- TEXAS:** Luis Matos
- UTAH:** Tim A. Martin
- INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD**
- ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES:** CA, CR, BS
- EUROPEAN PEOPLES:** ML, FR, Trey Shaw
- NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES:** CR
- SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES:** Paul Ingold
- GLOBAL:** NB
- CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS**
- STATE CONVENTION MISSIONARIES**
- RETIRED IMB:** Susan Bowers,
Billy Bullington, Evelyn Bullington,
Bill Goff, Bill Hagewood,
Donna Harper, Paul Martin,
Keith Parker, Syd Pearce,
Peggy Perrin

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

PASSAGE: 1 PETER 2:13-17

FOCUS: 1 PETER 2:17

Do you have a child or grandchild who has ever been named Citizen of the Month? Many teachers give out citizenship awards to reward good behavior. The award is often given to students who treat others with respect.

Peter instructed Christians to be good citizens so their godly living

would “silence the ignorant talk of foolish people” who wished to harm them (v. 15). He urged Christians, “Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor” (v. 17). Christians are to honor and respect everyone because all people are made in the image of God. However, Peter said Christians are to display a special affection for fellow Christians because we are members of the same family—the family of God.

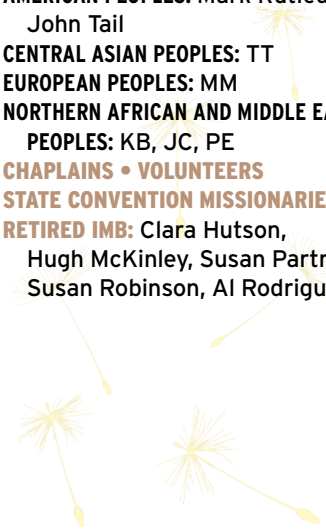
Lord, help me show respect to everyone—even people who do not show respect to me. Help me and missionaries love the family of God sincerely and deeply. May the world know we are Christians by our love.

Prayer Focus—South Asian Peoples: In a Muslim area of northwestern India, the gospel is spreading among men but not among women. Female believers there are typically not disciplined. Pray these women would learn how to study Scripture, have discipleship opportunities, and become disciple makers who teach other women how to follow Jesus.

PRAY FOR

NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD

- CALIFORNIA:** Seungeon Bae
- GEORGIA:** Zach Fowler
- MARYLAND:** Brett Flora
- MICHIGAN:** William Sam
- MONTANA:** Preston Rhodes
- NEW YORK:** Safwat Attia
- VIRGINIA:** Waldo Charles
- INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD**
- AMERICAN PEOPLES:** Mark Rutledge,
John Tail
- CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES:** TT
- EUROPEAN PEOPLES:** MM
- NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES:** KB, JC, PE
- CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS**
- STATE CONVENTION MISSIONARIES**
- RETIRED IMB:** Clara Hutson,
Hugh McKinley, Susan Partridge,
Susan Robinson, Al Rodriguez



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

PASSAGE: 1 PETER 3:8-17

FOCUS: 1 PETER 3:8

Children often make crafts from their handprints. Perhaps you've had handprint turkeys, reindeer, and sheep on your refrigerator like I have. Today we're going to trace our hands. So, get some paper and a pencil!

The Apostle Peter taught the early believers how to live faithful, godly lives during persecution and suffering. In 1 Peter 3:8, he listed five characteristics that mark the Christian life—unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, compassion, and humility. Pause and think about how Jesus perfectly exemplified each of these virtues. When Christians pursue these virtues, we are imitating Christ.

Trace your hand on a sheet of paper. On each finger, write one of the virtues. Then write the name of your church on the palm of your handprint. Put your handprint on your refrigerator to remind you to pray your church would grow in these virtues.

Lord, help me, my church, missionaries around the world, and all believers to be of one mind, focused on You, as we display sympathy, brotherly love, compassion, and humility.

Prayer Focus—Sub-Saharan African Peoples: Pray for more than 44 explorers being called out to research the 440 unengaged unreached people groups in sub-Saharan Africa so missionaries can use this information to reach them with the gospel. Pray missionaries would have quick understanding of and sensitivity to culture, know how to ask the right questions, and not miss opportunities to share the good news.

PRAY FOR

NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD

COLORADO: Zachary Thurman

ILLINOIS: John Jou

WISCONSIN: Walter Gutierrez Solorzano

INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD

AMERICAN PEOPLES: JT

ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES: SC

EUROPEAN PEOPLES: Sarah Ponder,
Keri Sheckler

SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES: KW

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN PEOPLES:
Aaron Kuglin

CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS

STATE CONVENTION MISSIONARIES

RETIRED IMB: John Floyd, Chuck Garcia,
Felix Greer, Gregory Harvell,
Doug Lee, Patti Quick,
Jo Anne Rollison, JW

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

PASSAGE: 1 PETER 4:7-11

FOCUS: 1 PETER 4:8

When my brother was young, his favorite toy was a green stretch monster. He would stretch the monster's arms as wide as he could and watch as the toy slowly returned to its original shape.

In today's focus verse, Peter called Christians to love one another "at full stretch." He wrote, "Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins." The word translated *deeply* is used to describe something that is stretched or extended. Let's face it, it is not always easy to love our fellow believers. Sometimes our fellow believers hurt us, lie to us, or commit other sins against us. But Peter's words remind us, "Love covers over a multitude of sins" (v. 8). Love keeps no record of wrongs. Love stretches and offers forgiveness. Love stretches and humbly serves.

Lord, thank You for the love of Jesus, who covered my sin through His death on the Cross. Enable me and other believers in my church to love one another "at full stretch."

Prayer Focus—All Missionaries: Lift up missionary teachers, asking God to use their witness for Him in powerful ways. Many will be teaching English as a second language to people hearing the Word for the first time. Pray God's Word would fall on fertile soul.

PRAY FOR

NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD

FLORIDA: Steve Miller

TEXAS: Timothy Fowler

ALBERTA: Rafael Aguilar Araujo

INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD

AMERICAN PEOPLES: Philip Metcalf

ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES: BD,
Alex Windle

NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES: EH

SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES: JB, LB, MI

GLOBAL: DD, MM

CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS

STATE CONVENTION MISSIONARIES

RETIRED IMB: Diann Bailey,
Jeanine Boyd, Jean Byrd, MH,
Mary Ellen Hill, Jo Ann Sturgeon

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

PASSAGE: 2 PETER 1:3-11

FOCUS: 2 PETER 1:5-8

In my mother-in-law's laundry room is a wall where seven grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren have recorded their height through the years. Many marks cover the wall at various heights, but one by one, each person stops growing taller.

While our bodies stop growing taller, Christians are never to stop growing in love for God or for others. Peter encouraged believers to make every effort to develop eight qualities or virtues that are pleasing to God: faith, goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, mutual affection, and love. The list starts with faith because we are saved by grace through faith in Christ Jesus, and the list ends with love because love is the ultimate result of our faith. Peter said if Christians keep increasing or growing in these qualities, we will live effectively and productively for Jesus. We will bear much fruit.

Lord, increase my affection for my fellow believers. Increase my love for all people. Increase my love for You. Help me be obedient to Your Word.

Prayer Focus—In Your Church: Pray for the children in your church and their missions leaders as they participate in Children's Missions Day. Pray God would grow a love for missions in children's hearts.

PRAY FOR

NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD

CALIFORNIA: Matthew Thibault

FLORIDA: Kidannie Laboy,
Addam Setzer

GEORGIA: Osee Samedi

INDIANA: Ben Beck

KENTUCKY: Tanya Parker

MASSACHUSETTS: Samuel Louis

NEW YORK: Jose Garcia

OHIO: Sajjan Betham

INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD

AMERICAN PEOPLES: Laurie Bledsoe,
Tina Louderback

ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES: CH, BM,
Michael Miller

CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES: MC

EUROPEAN PEOPLES: Grace McCoy

SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES: DN

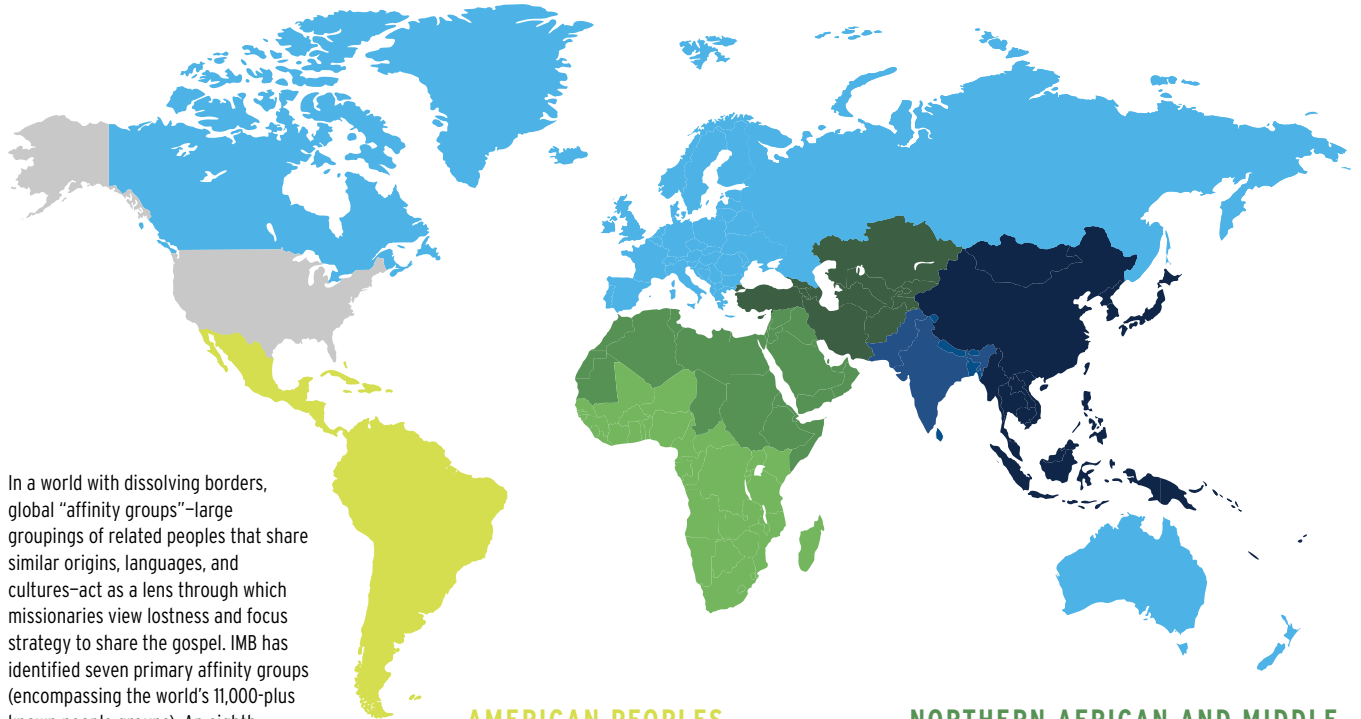
CHAPLAINS • VOLUNTEERS

STATE CONVENTION MISSIONARIES

RETIRED IMB: Emmett Barnes,
David Daggett, William Foster,
Louise Hill, Ed Jordan, Paula King,
RL, Evelyn Moss, Linda Muse,
Gina Roberts, Carla Roy

**Some NAMB missionary couples are listed together alongside one of their birthdays.*

THE WORLD BY AFFINITY GROUP



In a world with dissolving borders, global “affinity groups”—large groupings of related peoples that share similar origins, languages, and cultures—act as a lens through which missionaries view lostness and focus strategy to share the gospel. IMB has identified seven primary affinity groups (encompassing the world’s 11,000-plus known people groups). An eighth affinity group uniquely targets the world’s culturally Deaf peoples.



AMERICAN PEOPLES

ASIAN PACIFIC RIM PEOPLES

CENTRAL ASIAN PEOPLES

EUROPEAN PEOPLES

NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES

SOUTH ASIAN PEOPLES

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN PEOPLES

DEAF PEOPLES



TRACEY GHOLSON is a pastor’s wife and adjunct college instructor from Nashville, Tennessee. She enjoys coleading Women on Mission and is a former state coordinator of Tennessee Christian Women’s Job Corps.

Prayer Calendar Information

Southern Baptist missionaries and their spouses who are serving for more than two years are listed on their birthdays.

- **NATIONAL** personnel serve in roles related to developing strategy and providing training and support other NAMB-endorsed personnel.
- **GLOBAL** personnel serve in roles related to developing strategy and providing training and support other IMB-endorsed personnel.
- **CHAPLAINS** are endorsed by the SBC via NAMB but are not listed as they do not receive financial support through NAMB.
- **VOLUNTEERS** are individuals who are not funded through SBC mission boards; they are self-funded. They are not listed here because of the inability to compile a complete list of these people, but they do need your prayers daily. The exception to this policy is the listing of self-funded missionaries who are affiliated with NAMB.
- **STATE CONVENTION MISSIONARIES** are personnel not related to NAMB or IMB but who receive primary support through state conventions.

MISSIONARY FUNDING:

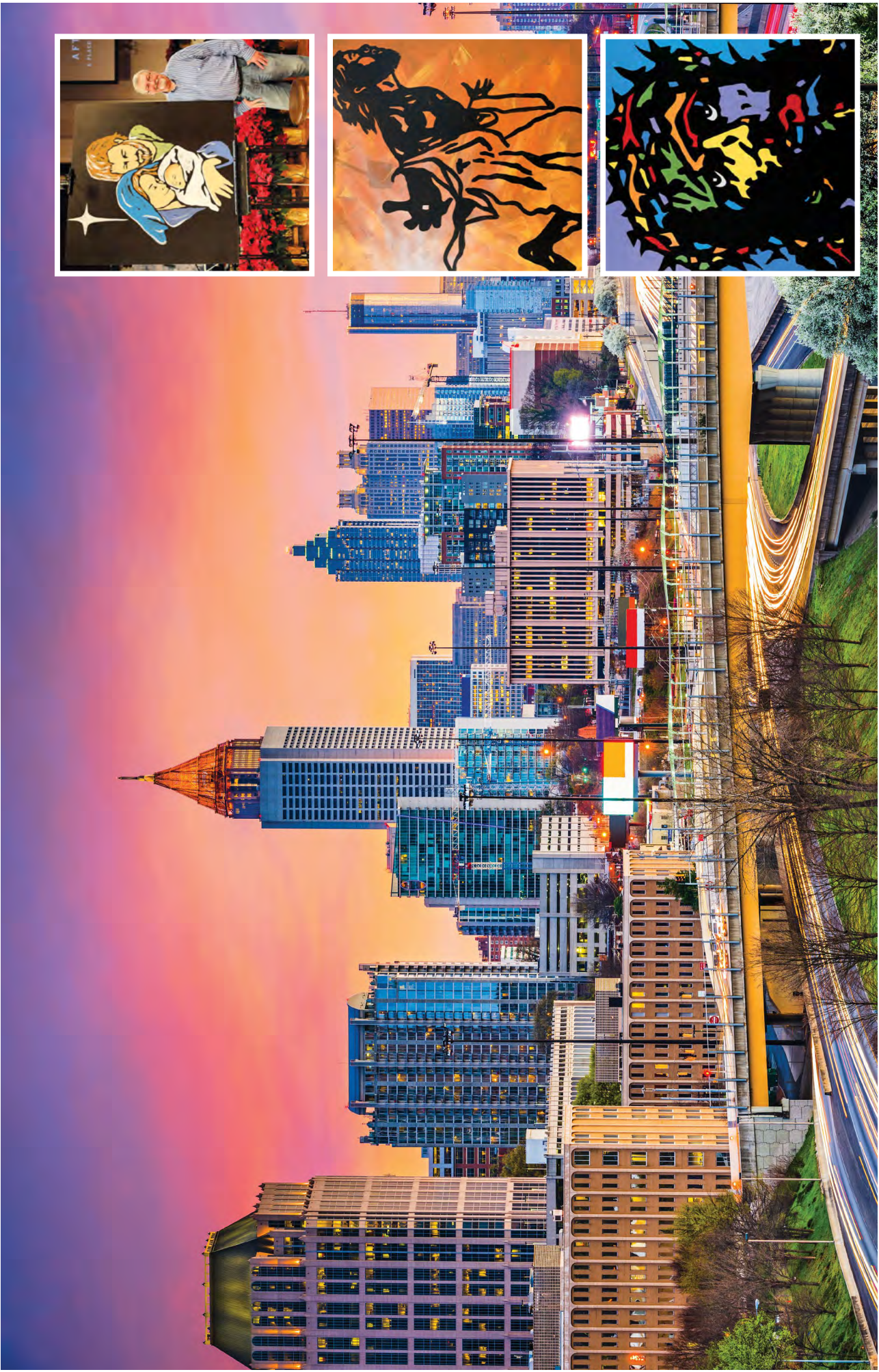
Money given through the Cooperative Program, to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® for International Missions, and to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering® for North American Missions helps support SBC missionaries.

International Mission Board: All IMB missionaries listed on the prayer calendar receive their financial support from the IMB.

North American Mission Board: NAMB missionaries listed on the prayer calendar may receive full or partial financial support from NAMB or are jointly funded through partnerships between NAMB and state conventions. In addition, missionaries affiliated with NAMB through the Mission Service Corps funding option raise their own support. Some may receive partial financial support for ministry projects.

CONTACT INFORMATION

The North American Mission Board and the International Mission Board provide missionary names and related information for the missionary prayer calendar. Should an error or omission be discovered, please address your concerns to NAMB at namb.net/contact or 1-800-634-2462, or IMB at imb.org/contact-us or 1-800-999-3113.



Kerry and Twyla Jackson, Atlanta, Georgia

Growing in Love

Poster from *Women On Mission Leader Kit: Posters Plus* (actual size: 21.75-by-16.75 inches)