

Creative Ideas and Resources for Missions Awareness and Involvement

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Chinese Proverb : *“Tell me and I may forget. Show me and I may remember. Involve me and I’ll understand.”*

Reality today... the American lifestyle has become hectic and complex. Time savers, such as cell phones don't necessarily make life simpler. The working mother, kids activities in multiple directions and a struggle for family time make families hesitant or unable to get to church meetings every night during missions conference. This is reality. We must start with this assumption and work towards how to impact each family, each person, in a significant way during missions conference.

Visual learners

Boomers are referred to as the “Sesame Street generation.” It reminds us that Boomers and Busters (Generation X) have become visual learners. They learn watching television, videos, and computer screens. These audio-visuals have increased in quality, speed and special effects so that one can easily lose interest or get frustrated with a slower moving program.

Value time more than money

Boomers and Busters (Generation X) value their time more than their money. Some feel missions has little to do with them. To sit and passively listen is seen as poor use of their time. Involve them, interact with them and give them input, and they will feel it is worth being there.

Examples of creative and interactive activities :

1. Object lessons
2. Demonstrations and activities
3. Skits
4. Puppets
5. Role Playing
6. Games
7. Service projects
8. Crafts and creative activities
9. Discussions, panel, question and answer
10. Videos and Contemporary Christian Music



Interactive activities make people feel included and involved. Involve as many of the senses as you can... sight, sound, smell, touch and taste. You might have one person to participate up front or an entire congregation participating. The idea is to draw them in, hold their attention, help them remember, enhance their learning and memory, and touch their hearts.

Benefits of interactive activities

1. **HOOK** - like the bait on the fishhook, it can capture them and draw them in.
2. **TRIGGER** - after they go home, a visual illustration or action may trigger them to remember better.
3. **SUSTAIN INTEREST** - keep from getting bored. Hold their interest through the time period.
4. **UNDERSTANDING** - looking at something several ways, or a fresh way, creates new understanding.
5. **CHANGED LIVES** - paying attention, new understanding or a touch can change a life forever.

Some Ideas and Resources

1. Object lessons

Books on object lessons at Christian bookstores may trigger an idea that you can apply to your situation. You may think of an object on your field that illustrates a point to your lesson or story. If you had several object lessons you could use, you could have a bag with several items in it, and have someone pick one out of the bag. Here is an object lesson as an example :

Story of the nail In a remote part of the world a missionary tried to tell people about the nails in Jesus' hands on the cross. They had no nails in their society, and could not grasp it. One day the missionary opened a tin can of fruit, and there was a nail packaged in the can. He showed it and explained how that object was thrust through Jesus flesh for them. (From C&MA Office of Christian Education video 1997, Getting to Know Jesus. Phone # 719-599-5999).

2. Demonstrations and Activities

Demonstrations and activities can involve many people and keep people's attention. It usually has a big impact too, because they feel the dilemma and draw the parallels.

15 skits and demonstrations. From Caleb Project. Caleb Project : 10 West Dry Creek Circle, Littleton CO 80120. (303) 730-4177.

Champ, Marie and Dorothy Lander. Bright Ideas! Packet 1 is for Teens and adults, Packet 2 is for grades 1-6, Packet 3 is for Toddlers. Order from Wycliff Bible Translators Children's task force. 4200 SE Jennings Ave. Portland OR 97267-6415. 1-800-269-2007.

Friesen, Bob and Sandy. Reach around the World : 52 Global Awareness Activities for Christian Youth. Wheaton : Victor Publishing, 1994, 144p. (Out of print. Being reprinted by Gospel Publishing/AG).

Balloon demonstration -from Wycliff Bible Translators (inequality of those who haven't heard)

Moderator has two piles of deflated balloons. One pile has four balloons to represent the population of the United States (to be explained later in the demonstration.) The other pile has 40 or more balloons representing the population of the world (or something like 20 to represent a given unreached region) The moderator asks for volunteers to help. He chooses four to represent the U.S. and one to represent the world (or given region.) However, at this point they aren't told whom they are representing.

The moderator explains the contest. "When I say 'GO' you are to begin blowing up the balloons and popping them. The first team to finish popping ALL the balloons in their pile wins. Ready, set, GO!" (Do not pause to let them fuss about the inequality of it.)

Encourage the audience to cheer for the participants, maybe even dividing the group and assigning a team to each. Obviously, the team with one participant to one balloon is going to beat the one person trying to blow up 40 balloons. Congratulate them, then ask them, or the audience if they thought this was a fair contest. Undoubtedly they will say no; ask them to explain. Let them sit down.

In the US there are quite a few people (hold up the four popped balloons) and many pastors, churches and parachurch organizations making God's instructions for life available and understandable for the people. In the world, however, (or given region; hold up the many balloons unpopped) there are many, many people who do not know about God or His Word and very few people are there to teach them. They need our help.

Candy Demonstration : (inequality of those who haven't heard)

Similar to the above demonstration, on one side of the class throw a few pieces of candy. To the other side throw out 99% of the candy. Then ask if this was fair. Why not, etc. Tell about how part of the world has the gospel widely available and the other part has very limited access. Ask what needs to be done.

Worldview Demonstration - adapted from Caleb Project (explains UPGs and reached peoples)

Each person called up front represents approximately 1/2 billion people and the religious orientation they represent. You need a piece of paper with the word of the religion [in brackets] on it and a few props.

Reached People Groups (North and South America, Southern half of Africa, parts of Asia...)

1. [Active Christians] Call 1 person up to hold a Bible. 1/2 billion who know the Bible and love God.
2. [Nominal Christians] Call 2 and give each a name tag that says "Christian." 1 billion Christian in name only.
3. [Non-Christians within reach of a church] Call 3 people up and give each a pair of sunglasses. These are people with access to the gospel (ex:churches, Bibles) but they don't see it.

Have these on 1 side of the platform. They represent nearly 3 billion people in the world with access to the gospel. Are they all Christians though? No. There is a need to help them see Christ. Now we are going to look at parts of the world with limited or no access to the Gospel. Most are found geographically in the 10/40 window.

Unreached People Groups

4. [Atheists/Chinese] Call 1 person up and put a red scarf around their neck. He represents 1/2 billion atheists in the world. China has 1 billion people but only 62% consider themselves atheists.
5. [Muslims] Call 2 people up. I usually call a man and woman and put a big African robe on the man and a scarf around the lady's head. Nearly 1 billion Muslims. Fastest growing religion in U.S.
6. [Hindus] Call a woman or girl up and put a dot on forehead (I use little red dots from Office Max). Most are found in India.
7. [Buddhists] [Animistic Tribal Groups] Call 1 person up to represent both groups, as neither one is 1/2 billion. Drape an orange cloth over 1 shoulder for the Buddhist, and place a wooden necklace for Tribal Groups.

Ask 10 people to come up to represent missionaries and go stand by someone who needs Jesus. Then I ask "What is wrong with this picture?" I ask them to redistribute so there is only 1 on the UPG side and the other 9 on the Reached People Group side. In reality 1 out of every 10 missionaries goes to the reached regions. There is a need there for people to know Jesus, but this helps us to see the distribution of resources. The finances are even more startling. 1 penny out of every dollar goes to the Unreached side and 99 cents stays in the reached areas.

Barnyard Animals Activity - Reach Around the World (language frustrations and need to reach out)

Ask everyone in the room to choose a barnyard animal, begin making that sound (optional -ask people to close their eyes) and find others who are the same. Group together. When it calms down, ask a few questions. What groups are represented? How did you feel searching for others like you, and how'd you feel finding them? Is anyone alone? How did you feel being the only one? What did you think of this? Talk about language study application... to learn a new language. Or how our tendency is to group with those like us (people groups) with a common language and culture. (I've done it with adults, too).

3. Skits, mime, choral readings, raps :

Caleb Project (see address under demonstrations) has skits, a mime a choral reading and a rap. One could take scripture passages related to missions and create a choral reading for people to come up and read.

Many skits need to be practiced ahead of time. I have taken simple skits and chose players to come up and read the script. Comical skits can really loosen people up and break down barriers about missions.

4. Puppets

Take a skit and have puppets perform it. Have puppets lip sync a missions song. Have puppets discuss or tell a story about a missionary. Use puppets to promote missions conference. How about a puppet rap?

5. Role Playing

Finding role playing situations may be hard to come up with , but they add a dimension to the missions experience. It can work with children, teens and adults. "Prop Prayers" suggests putting a prop on someone to represent the country or a person, with the group gathered around to pray for the one(s) with the prop(s) on.

Here are a couple of role playing examples.

Nurse : “Welcome to my dispensary.” Have candy (ex: M&Ms and Red Hots) provided as pretend medicine; bring stethoscope, a few rolled bandages, etc. Have kids come forward and treat them, and then talk about the medical work. Also tell about caring for the soul.

4-Wheel drive in rough terrain : Set up 3 chairs in front and 3 in back like a car. Have people come up and sit and 1 as driver, then start to describe and make them act out problems on the road. Maybe play music from there like the radio is on. For Africa ask 5 people to try to sit on the 3 chairs in the back seat to show the reality of people squeezed into the car. Talk about God’s provision and protection in travel. (see Discussion “Try to solve my issue”).

6. Games

You can take games for children and get adults to do them too. They may feel a bit awkward at first, but many times they are glad for the occasion to move around and think creatively.

The following books in the resource section have games. [The Great Kidmission : a complete resource to educate and excite kids about missions around the world](#), [Great Global Games](#), [Missions Made Fun for Kids](#), [Missions Made Exciting for Adults](#).

7. Service projects

Service projects have been in vogue in some churches under the title “Servant Evangelism” (see Top 10 Explanation of Trends). These can be local outreach or for world missions (write to missionaries, make encouragement packs for kids at an MK school, rolled bandages).

[Hands-on Service Ideas for Children’s Ministry](#). Loveland : Group, 1998. p 122. This book has 6 service projects at the end related to missions.

Williamson, Nancy. [52 Ways to Teach Stewardship](#). San Diego : Rainbow Books, 1996. 64p. Service projects, money raising ideas.

8. Crafts and creative activities

Crafts can involve people to build global awareness, and give people a prayer reminder to take with them.

Butcher Paper Map : On butcher paper have the team or kids draw a map of the world, either with the model or from memory! Have each one share where they’d like to visit. Talk about parts of the world, standing around that area. Draw what might be there (palm trees, koala bears). Find a good verse for a part of it. Is part of the world not drawn well? Why or why not? Do they know much about it? Does God love people there? Walk across the map and pray for it, or hold hands around it.

Gross, Mary ed. [The Great Kidmission : a complete resource to educate and excite kids about missions around the world](#). Ventura : Gospel Light, 1996. 144 p. Crafts from around the world for kids.

World craft ideas can also be found in education stores for teachers.

9. Discussions, panel, question and answer

Panel discussion / question and answer :

A panel could be prepared for 2 or 3 missionaries and someone who has been on a short-term missions trip. Or missionaries could answer questions asked by the group. Prepare a few questions ahead of time in case people have a hard time getting started.

True and False or wacky questions (which can lead to a point you want to make). Distribute them to people in the audience. Have people guess if it is true or false.

Try to solve my issue :

Present the a challenging issue on the mission field, describing the scenario, then asking how they might react themselves in such a situation. Give time for people to talk it through and think it through and then how you decided to handle it. Examples :

1. In a Muslim society you have a string of beggars who come day to day to your door.
2. Every time your son goes to play with a certain kid in the neighborhood, his toy always comes back broken, or taken away from him.
3. You arrived for language study and a neighbor lady keeps bringing you fruit that you can't stand every day. You can't say much and you aren't sure what is and is not polite to do.

10. Videos and Contemporary Christian Music

Contemporary Christian Videos

In our visual society Christian music videos that have a missions theme can be an new way to remind people about missions. A list of some videos with a missions theme is at the end of handout.

Missions Drama and Missions education on video

William Carey Library has a powerful package of missions videos called the "World View Video Library." Well done missions dramas can make a major impact on our society of visual learners. The Perspectives class is also on video called "Vision for the Nations."

Contemporary Christian Music and Worship Choruses

Use for special music, leading worship, mime, with a parade of nations, choir piece or children's choir...

Creative Resources

Places to order :

ACMC (Advancing Churches in Missions Commitment) P.O. Box 3929, Peachtree City, GA 30269-7929. 1-770-631-9900. ACMCATLANTA@compuserve.com. Resources for improving missions involvement in the local church. Discount for ACMC members.

Caleb Project : 10 West Dry Creek Circle, Littleton CO 80120. (303) 730-4177. Creative resources to help Generation X reach the unreached peoples of the world.

International Communication Network : PO Box 26479, Colorado Springs CO 80936. 1-719-442-6409. Fax- 1-719-380-0936; E-mail: wcn@xc.org. World Christian News and Books, YWAM ministry of information. Good prices.

William Carey Library Resource Catalog : US Center for World Mission, 1605 Elizabeth St. Pasadena CA 91104. 1-800-647-7466. All missions books, all discount rates.

General Books

Johnstone, Patrick. The Church is Bigger than you Think : the unfinished work of world evangelization. Ross-Shire : Christian Focus Publications/WEC, 1998. 314p. From Wm Carey.

Johnstone, Patrick. Operation World : a day-to-day guide to praying for the world. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1993. 662p. From Wm Carey.

McIntosh, Gary. Three Generations : riding the waves of change in your church. Grand Rapids : Revel, 1995. 215 p. Local Christian bookstore.

Creative ideas for children :

Crisci, Elizabeth Whitney. Missions Made Fun for Kids : creative ideas to involve children in mission. Colorado Springs : Accent Publications, 1993. 128 p. From Wm Carey, APMC.

Gross, Mary ed. The Great Kidmission : a complete resource to educate and excite kids about missions around the world. Ventura : Gospel Light, 1996. 144 p. From Wm Carey.

Gunderson, Bev. Great Global Activities, More Great Global Activities. Milaca : Monarch Publishing. 1994, 1997. 113p. Phone (320)983-2398. E-mail : <bgmonarch@juno.com>

Johnstone, Jill. You can change the world : learning to pray for people around the world. Volume I. Zondervan 1993, 126p. From Wm Carey. Activity books also available.

Spragget, Daphnie and Jill Johnstone. You can change the world : learning to pray for people around the world. Volume II. OM Literature, 1996. 126p. From Wm Carey.

Williamson, Nancy. 52 ways to teach missions : easy-to-do activities for ages 4-12. Rainbow books, 1996. 64 p. From Wm Carey.

Creative ideas for teens and adults :

15 skits and demonstrations. From Caleb Project.

Champ, Marie and Dorothy Lander. Bright Ideas! Packet 1 is for Teens and adults, Packet 2 is for grades 1-6, Packet 3 is for Toddlers. Order from Wycliff Bible Translators Children's task force. 4200 SE Jenning Ave. Portland OR 97267-6415. 1-800-269-2007.

Crisci, Elizabeth Whitney. Missions Made Exciting for Adults : creative ideas to involve adults in missions. Colorado Springs : Accent Publications, 1996. 127 p. From Cook. 1-800-242-2943

Excellent videos :

10/40 window for children 6 minutes, and very well done. Good for adults too. Order from Fawn Parish, 1-805-650-3511, e-mail : jparish@jetlink.net

Allegiance Ray Boltz. 3 songs with a missions theme. "Heaven is counting on you" "I pledge Allegiance to the Lamb"(Persecuted church) "I will tell the world."(teen mission experience). Word. Local Christian bookstore.

Global Link 45 minutes MTV style on reaching the world. YWAM. Well done. Powerful. Great for teens. International Communication Network.

The Harvest 20 minutes with powerful analogy about bringing in the harvest. Local Christian bookstore.

Islam's Hidden Half 8 minutes on Muslims children. Good explanation. Cute. International Communication Network.

Ordinary People, Extraordinary Love. From Caleb Project. on adopting an Unreached People Group.

Vision for the Nations. Wm Carey. Perspectives class on video.

The World God Loves. Once video with 8 sections. Wm Carey.

World Overview. 4 minutes.	Islam. 5 minutes.
World Religions. 3 minutes.	Children and Youth. 4 minutes.
Hinduism. 4 minutes.	Poor (The). 10 minutes.
Buddhism. 3 minutes.	Urbanization. 5 minutes.

The World View Video Library Wm Carey. (6 video package or 10 video package)

6 videos are : “Bamboo in Winter,” “Beyond the Next Mountain,” “Ee-Taow,” “Ee-Taow’ The Next Chapter,” “Guess who’s coming to America?” and “The wait of the world.” Each of these are very powerful videos.

“EeTaow” and sequel can be ordered separately from the package from New Tribes Mission, 1-800-321-5375. “Bamboo in Winter,” “Guess who’s coming to America” and “The wait of the world” can be ordered individually from Gospel Films, 1-800-253-0413.



CDs with excellent songs to use for missions

“Mission of Praise.” Scott Wesley Brown. Integrity Music. Local Christian bookstore.

“Shine your Light through the Window.” Ross Parsley. Christian Information Network. 1-800-500-9804

Contemporary Christian Videos

reviewed by Diane Lahlum Wido

Song : A. K. A. Public School

Singers : Audio Adrenaline

Video : Big House / 1995

Publisher : Forefront

Description : Challenges kids to look at missions as more than going on a short term missions trip. Tells them that they have a prime mission opportunity in their public school setting if they just open their mouth and share Christ.

Song : Armed and Dangerous

Singers : Petra

Video : Beyond Belief / 1990

Publisher : Dayspring

Description : Live concert with Teen Mania kids doing drama ministry in Lima, Peru. Shows a kid who goes on a mission team having a lot of fun, and another who has a boring summer at home. Classic Petra Rock.

Song : Brave New World

Singer : Ray Boltz

Video : No Greater Sacrifice / 1996

Publisher : Word

Description : Ray Boltz in Bangladesh with Mission of Mercy. Story of an abandoned child who finds refuge in a Christian orphanage.

Song : Colored People

Singers : DC Talk

Video : Jesus Freak

Publisher : Forefront

Description : Shows ethnic diversity in an inner city type setting. Explains that God created the human race as a kaleidoscope of skin tones. A call to unity. “Gotta get together somehow.”

Song : Cross that Line

Singer : Randy Stonehill

Video : Cross that Line

Publisher : Wycliff Order from Wycliff: 713-869-4600

Description : Slides with extra graphics about translation work done by Wycliff. Emphasis to teenagers to cross the line to commitment.

Song : God of all Nations Medley

Singer : Carmen

Video : Live ... Radically Saved / 1988

Publisher : Benson

Description : Carmen sings the following. Lord of all the land and sea (Africa), Praise the Lord our God (Germany), Most of All (Mexico), I need you more than ever now (Italy), Holy is the Lord (Hawaii), Jesus Christ the Way (China), God is doing something new (Detroit, USA).

Song : How can I Keep myself from Singing

Singer : Rich Mullins

Album : Winds of Heaven...Stuff of Earth Video : Two x 4 / 1989

Publisher: Reunion Description : Filmed with Teen Mania. Prays for God to touch the world, praises God “How can I stop myself from singing, Halleluia...” Slow song filmed in night light with a minor key.

Song : In the Kingdom

Singers : Whitecross

Video : The Reign Goes On

Publisher : Star Song

Description : Shows a mom sending her daughter off on a Teen Mania mission team where she’s involved in drama and music. “Let us all stand together in the kingdom...all work together in the kingdom.”

Song : I Pledge Allegiance to the Lamb

Singer : Ray Boltz

Video : Allegiance

Publisher : Word / 1994

Description : Powerful video about persecuted Christians. Filmed in Italy at a coliseum site where martyrs of church history were killed. Dramatizes stoning in Bible times, Joan of Arc at the stake, Communist soldiers breaking in on a house church, and a Western setting in a time where Bible reading might be outlawed. **Excellent, powerful**

Song : I Will Tell the World

Singer : Ray Boltz

Video : Allegiance

Publisher : Word / 1994

Description: Ray Boltz in Africa with Teen Mania. Upbeat. Comic strip graphics. Shows a reluctant kid having fun on a mission trip. **Well done, good message, fun**

Song : I Will Tell the World

Singer : Ray Boltz

Video : Global Link / 1997

Publisher : Youth With a Mission

Description : This song is found at the end of the video, “Global Link.” The footage is different from the Word version. The pictures move very quickly and have an MTV style. Made by WYAM for Generation X today. 45 minutes about what God is doing in the world. Following “I will tell the world” is a wild intense instrumental repeating, “You are the global link...This is your planet, take it.”

Song : Love all around the World

Singer : Greg Long

Video : Days of Grace

Publisher : Word

Description : Scenes from numerous places overseas. Challenge to change lives with God’s love. “Love all around the world, love for every boy and girl, love for His Holy Word...”

Song : (The) Other Side of the World

Singer : Rich Mullins

Video/Album : Winds of the heart

Publisher : Reunion

Description : Filmed with Teen Mania, showing that people living on the other side of the world need Jesus too.

Song : The Real Thing

Singers : 4 Him

Video : The Ride

Publisher : Benson

Description : 4 Him travels to Russia with the Bible League. Footage from Russia.

Video : Rejoice Africa / 1993
Publisher : Integrity Music
Description : Live Worship filmed in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Song : Serve the Lord
Singer : Carmen
Video : The Absolute Best
Publisher : Sparrow
Description : A call to do what God calls you to do and serve him. Footage on planting fields...harvest idea.

Song : Shine
Singers : Newsboys
Video / album : Down Under the Big Top / Going Public
Publisher : Star Song
Description : Funky alternative rock /MTV style about shining in the world. Japanese Geisha girl shows up often. If you are not used to this style you will think it is weird but the message is clear to let people see your life and glorify God. This song has been very popular with Christian youth. **Teens will enjoy this one.**

Song : Shine your light through the window
Singer : Ross Parsley
Video : Windows on the World
Publisher : The C&MA office of Mission Mobilization / 1996
Description : Video for last year's mission conference, "Windows on the World." Video footage of Alliance Missions. **Well done.**

Song : Side by Side
Singer : Rebecca St. James
Video /Album : Rebecca St. James
Publisher : Forefront
Description : This cute Australian teen is a hit and known for spiritual substance. Filmed with Rebecca and a African woman dancing side by side. "Side by side...working together is the way it should be." She has a segment where she talks about how we need each other, to be accountable to each other, pray for each other." **Good with a theme on partnership.**

Song : Thank You
Singer : Ray Boltz
Video : Alliance Video Magazine / Volume 6 Number 1 1992
Publisher : C&MA
Description : C&MA video made for mission conference theme in 1991-92 using the song by Ray Boltz, with footage from C&MA missions. Very nicely done. Most churches should have this in their video library.

Song : Turn my world around
Singer : Kenny Marks
Video/Album : Fire of Forgiveness
Publisher : Dayspring
Description : Filmed in the USSR with Teen Mania kids, very upbeat and motivational. Drama teams. **Well done, good message.**

Worship Choruses about Missions

Maranatha music

Maranatha Music
PO Box 31050
Laguna Hills CA 92654-1050
1-800-245-7664

Glorify thy name
Our God Reigns
Shine Jesus Shine
Tell the World (Praise Band 5)

Integrity Music

Integrity Music, Inc.
1000 Cody Road
Mobile AL 36695
1-800-239-7000

All Around Your Throne * # 808
!! Ask of Me
!! Be Exalted, O God
!! Cross Every Border
!! Go
Heaven and Earth * # 829
For Your Glory * # 821
Go Forth
Here Am I
Let the Flame Burn Brighter * # 846
Lift Jesus High * # 848
!! Lift Up Our Eyes * # 849
Lord of the Harvest * # 851
!! Our God Reigns
!! Our Heart (Found in chorus book "Come and Worship" #143)
Praise from Every Nation * # 858
!! Raise up an Army
Song for the Nations
Stand in the Gap (Pray for the nations)
The People on Your Heart * # 869
This is the Gospel of Christ * # 870
!! To the Ends of the Earth * # 871
We Declare Your Name * # 874

Chorus ideas (made popular by...)

All over the World (Steve Green)
Carry the Light (Twila Paris)
Faithful Men (Twila Paris)
Go Into the World (Philipps Craig and Dean)
Heart to Change the World (Psalty tapes)

From the book : **Songs for Praise and Worship**

Be Exalted, O God (I will give thanks to thee) # 45
Carry the Light # 143
Glorify they name (in all the earth) # 249
How Majestic Is Your Name (in all the earth) # 14
I Exalt Thee # 18
Shine, Jesus Shine # 142
Song for the Nations # 144

*From the book "Hosanna! Music"
Songbook 10

!! Songs that are easier to learn

