



Planting Missions Education in the Church

Perhaps one of the easiest ways to begin missions education is through the use of the six areas of mission focus around which WMU® builds its materials. Remember that the six seeds are:

- Learn about missions
- Pray for missions
- Support missions
- Do missions and witness
- Develop spiritually towards a missions lifestyle
- Participate in the work of the church and the denomination

Remember also that the church is filled with activities such as Sunday School, worship, music, children's activities, adult activities, youth programs—and the list goes on and on, depending upon the church's size and its resources. What makes missions education different is that every event planned around these six seeds should focus on missions. If there are no formal missions organizations in the church, using these six seeds are a perfect way to grow missions education.

In the following pages you will find an example of how to plan for activities month by month. Remember that this chart is an **EXAMPLE!** You will need to change the calendar to fit what your own church needs. As you look at the calendar, keep these things in mind:

1. Before doing anything, talk with your pastor and other leaders about including activities based in the six different areas in the church program. It is important that the pastor and other church leaders agree about planning missions activities in your church.
2. There is a blank chart at the end of this document. First fill in the chart with activities that are already happening in your church. Remember that an activity must have missions at its heart in order to be written on the chart. For example, if your church collects the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® for International Missions, then there is missions support. But missions support is only one part of a missions lifestyle.
3. After you fill in the chart, look at the columns. Where are the holes in the missions education in your church? Those empty spaces show a need. Think about what would fill the need. Begin to plan.

4. Some final cautions as you use this method:

- Every space on the calendar does NOT have to be filled in for every month. If you try to do that, it will feel like too much for you and everyone else in the church. Plan only what will make what you already have even better!
- Always begin your planning with prayer! This is God's work and we have a part in it. We must seek His will first.
- Ask other people to help in the planning. Look for people who want to be involved in missions.
- Always keep in mind what resources you have in your church. Plan to use those things that your church already has.
- Be flexible (willing to change your plans).
- Remember to evaluate: think about the effectiveness of what you planned. Did it work? Did it accomplish the goal? (Did it help people the way you wanted it to?)

Seeds for Missions Growth

<i>Month</i>	<i>Learn about missions</i>	<i>Pray for missions</i>	<i>Support missions</i>	<i>Do missions and witness</i>	<i>Grow spiritually towards a missions lifestyle</i>	<i>Participate in the work of the church and the denomination</i>
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan a state missions study night • Ask the pastor to invite a state missions speaker to your church 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in prayer emphasis for state missions • Use prayer page from Missions Plan Book to pray for missionaries and their needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give to state missions offering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prayerwalk around local schools • Collect school supplies and give to a local school to help students who do not have supplies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use Bible study from Missions Plan Book for group or individual study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Missions leaders go to associational or state training • Collect state missions offering
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan an Oktoberfest Missions Festival for the children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place missionary prayer requests in the bulletin each Sunday 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give to the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give canned foods to help local food banks • Encourage adult and student groups in the church to help prepare the homes of older people for the winter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have an adult Fall Mission Saturday Brunch that focuses on what it means to live a missions lifestyle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in World Hunger Sunday
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teach the International Mission Study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage women to participate in the Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage church to work with a local homeless shelter 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in an International Mission Study
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use materials from International Mission Board to share in bulletins or before Sunday services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in the Week of Prayer for International Missions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in the International Missions Emphasis
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage church members to read a book 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Go to www.imb.org or www.namb.net to find 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan a Families on Mission night 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer a workshop (class) on how to share your 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in January Bible Study

	about a missionary's life	missionary prayer requests. Share them with the entire church.			testimony	
February				• Participate in Children's Ministry Day--for all children in the church	• Use the Olympics as inspiration to plan a spiritual Olympics day for the youth or young adults in the church	• Participate in Focus on WMU
March	• Plan a mission study on North American missions using materials from www.namb.net	• Participate in the Week of Prayer for North American Missions	• Collect the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering® for North American Missions		• Do a Walk Across America prayer experience for the entire church	• Participate in Week of Prayer for North American Missions
April						• Encourage the church to participate in Cooperative Program Sunday
May		• Participate in Day of Prayer and Fasting for World Evangelization			• Plan a Mother/Daughter Banquet and ask a woman missionary to speak	
June	• Work with another church in the association and plan a missions fair					
July				• Plan a project to help military families where a parent is away—provide phone cards, etc.		

August			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choose a Christmas in August missionary, and collect and send items he or she asked for 			
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Make Your Plans Here!

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September						
October						

November						
December						
January						
February						
March						

April						
May						
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August						
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