

the
Mission App

WHAT DO YOU WANT MISSIONS
TO LOOK LIKE AT YOUR CHURCH?



The Ultimate Missions Checklist

for your church

themissionapp.com

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✓ abiding with Jesus



Is the church spending time seeking God in global missions?

Are you praying for direction and asking Him to lead you?

Are you looking for where God is at work in our world today?

church preparation

IS YOUR CHURCH READY TO RECEIVE MEMBERS WHO FEEL THEY ARE BEING LED INTO MISSIONS?

Do you have a mission's team in place to receive members who want to go into missions? *This would be a team of people with a passion for missions who meet regularly to pray, process members interested in missions and receive missionaries on their home leave.*

Do you have a vision for where your church feels God-led to serve via missions? *This would determine where you would send missionaries to serve in and with organizations that support the same vision.*

Do you have a structure in place that helps you decide what level of support you will give your missionaries? *This structure would help guide you in evaluating financial support.*

Do you have qualifications that you would expect your members to meet before being sent from your church? *These qualifications could be helpful in deciding if members are ready for cross-cultural missions.*

Do you have guidelines or a process in place to help members who have a call for missions? *These guidelines, that a member agrees to and completes, would give support and accountability to members as they prepare to leave. Here is an example of what a process could look like:*

1. Receive & Express Call - *A call towards missions should go along with an affirmation of the local church. Anyone sent out from our church or whom our church chooses to support must have the approval and support of their church. A member should seek the counsel of a leader in our church and those on the mission's team as the first step in discerning a call to missions.*

2. Missionary Sending and Care - *Read, pray about, and understand our church guidelines for long term missions. Work with the Missions Team members to determine a path to meet requirements.*

3. Mentoring - Read books and discuss them with a mentor from the church, including books on:

*I KNOW ONLY ONE
THING: CHRIST HAS
NOT YET RETURNED;
THEREFORE THE TASK
IS NOT YET DONE.*

- GEORGE LADD

- + Evangelism & Discipleship
- + Missions
- + Singleness (if applicable)
- + Marriage (if applicable)
- + Parenting (if applicable)

4. Missions Team - Become a part of the mission's team. Use your gifts and talents in ways that will benefit the church for the cause of missions.

5. Meet - Meet with at least two missionaries to gain a perspective on world missions, either in person or virtually.

6. Go - Go on at least one short term missions trip, if you haven't already.

7. Perspectives Course - Consider completing the Perspectives Course ([perspectives.org](https://www.perspectives.org)) to better understand the history of missions and your place in it.

8. Discern Your Role - *Discern your role and global place in missions with advice from the mission's team and elders (where to go, what to do, what missions agency to select).*

9. Complete our Application - *Complete our Church's Long-Term Missions application to be approved by the missions team.*

10. Be Matched - Go to themissionapp.com to be matched with a mission's agency and work to establish a relationship between the agency and your Church.

11. Create a Team - *Put together a committed Personal Care Team. Communicate regularly with your PCT and allow them to be a dedicated part of your sending, going and returning. Your PCT would provide prayer, encouragement, communication, and logistics for when you're at our church.*

12. Sending Process - *Complete the sending process of the selected agency and raise support.*

13. Commissioning from our Church

✓ church participation

IS YOUR CHURCH CURRENTLY
ENGAGED IN GLOBAL MISSIONS?

A great resource to educate and build interest in missions for your church is the 3 step Bible studies for church members from the Center for Missions Mobilization. *The Bible studies could be done in a small group or with a mentor:*

mobilization.org/resources/resources-overview

- **Xplore:** Grow in your understanding of God's global mission and embrace your role by living a World Christian lifestyle.
- **Go Mobilize:** Introduce others to God's global mission and help multiply other World Christians, goers, and mobilizers.
- **GOer Groups & Support Raising Solutions:** Be equipped for fruitful ministry on the mission field and in support raising.

✓ church training

*DOES YOUR CHURCH NEED PROFESSIONAL HELP
IN STARTING UP A MISSIONS PROGRAM?*

These organizations help churches start or work on their missions program in a church, and consultation and coaching:

Catalyst Services – Along with consulting, they have over 150 articles on the church and missions engagement and offer a free monthly subscription. catalystservices.org

Mission Resource Network mrnet.org

Sixteen:Fifteen – Coaching for local churches to help them create a plan in fulfilling the great commission. 615.org

Books to help with the process of forming a missions team vision:

Pipeline: Engaging the Church in Missionary Mobilization
edited by David and Lorene Wilson, 2018

Mapping Church Missions by Sharon R. Hoover, 2018

Church and Mission Agencies Together: A Relational Model
for Partnership Practice by Ivan Liew, 2017.

North American Mission Handbook (William Carey Library)

✓ cultural & church planting training

HOW CAN YOU HELP TRAIN MEMBERS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN CROSS-CULTURAL WORK PREPARE FOR LIFE IN A DIFFERENT CULTURE AND CHURCH PLANTING?

Engage Global emphasizes being a catalyst for the long-term engagement of unreached peoples in the 10/40 window. They don't offer a "short term missions trip" but rather education in mission theology and exposure to unreached peoples. This teaches a learner's posture and the need for a long-term commitment when entering these cultures in order to see the gospel reach and transform a people group. engageglobal.net

Go Culture International offers online cross-cultural training with a coach to prepare you for living in a different culture. goculture.org/cross-cultural-humanitarian-training

Global Frontier Missions offers long weekend short term mission trips for churches to give them a "taste" of what cross-cultural missions is like in Clarkston, GA. They also have 2-month summer internships and 5 months to a year missionary training school. globalfrontiermissions.org/short-term-missions

HOW ABOUT FOR PEOPLE GROUPS THAT THEY WILL BE WORKING WITH?

→ For ministry to Muslims:

1. Engaging Islam: Engaging Islam is the training ministry of Horizons International, a non-profit organization whose purpose is to proclaim the gospel, disciple the nations, and equip the Church to do the same. engagingislam.org

2. Crescent Project: Through prayer, equipping and mobilizing, the Crescent Project's goal is to see every Muslim have an opportunity to respond to the Gospel and be connected to a true follower of Jesus. crescentproject.org

Sahara Challenge is an intensive classroom training and preparatory course focused on bridging the Gospel to the Muslim heart and mind. Participants include missionaries, pastors, lay workers, and college students, who receive practical tools and an encouraging message designed to spur a lifetime of service.

Bridges One Day presents an overview of the Bridges curriculum in a dynamic, interactive environment to help equip your church to reach out!

Without Borders women's conference helps Christian women understand Muslim women, build relationships, and share the truth of Christ.

→ **For ministry to Buddhists:**

1. **Blog from ABWE** on sharing the gospel with Buddhists:

tinyurl.com/pces3474

2. **Article from Dare 2 Share Ministries** on sharing the gospel with Buddhists: tinyurl.com/4j35umkj

3. **Resources for working amongst Buddhists:**

tinyurl.com/3terr37m

4. **Booklet on sharing your faith with Buddhists from Christar:**

tinyurl.com/wt36jtve

→ **For ministry to Hindus:**

1. **Mission Frontiers** article on reaching Hindus:

tinyurl.com/eudtnudc

2. **Dare 2 Share Ministries** article on sharing your faith with Hindus:

tinyurl.com/2pef3vat

3. **Stories and resources** on working with Hindus from Christar:

christar.org/hindus

4. **Lausanne World Pulse** article on sharing Christ with Hindus:

tinyurl.com/auzwa83t

5. **Article from Cru** on how to share your faith with Hindus:

tinyurl.com/sjhukn9k

6. **Article from CRI** on witnessing to Hindus:

tinyurl.com/mvj6c3u2

→ **For ministry to Tribal peoples:**

1. Podcast from Brad Buser on working with tribal ministries.

tinyurl.com/2wu3a7ff

2. Article from IMB on reaching remote people groups.

tinyurl.com/2ypb7m9u

3. Learn all about animism in this profile by International Students Inc. tinyurl.com/satpc35f

4. Article from Missio Nexus on a Biblical approach to animism.

tinyurl.com/zw9yzda8

HOW CAN THEY BE TRAINED FOR MISSIONS IN GENERAL?

Ask A Missionary: Aspiring missionaries can search questions and answers that have already been published. Some send in their own questions and receive answers from our staff and volunteers. The most helpful questions and answers are published on our website. Missionaries, mission leaders, and mobilizers also contribute answers and use the site to help and encourage the prospective missionaries with whom they work. ataskamissionary.com

The Cross Conference: CROSS exists to see our generation live for the most loving cause in the universe: bringing people from every tribe, tongue, and nation into the everlasting joy of knowing and worshiping Jesus. The conference is intended for young people between the ages of 18-25. crossforthenations.org

Grow2Serve: *A missionary learning toolbox with all kinds of training and books that you can buy or get for free to help prepare you for missions and sustain you as a missionary. missiontools.org*

Joshua Project: *A website full of information on the unengaged and unreached people groups across the world. You can also download their app and pray for a different unreached people group each day. joshuaproject.net*

The Missions Podcast: *A podcast looking to answer hard questions about theology, missions, and practice to help goers think and thinkers go. We are conservative, evangelical, and gospel centered. We think missions should be about the glory of God, the salvation of his people, and the establishing of Christ's church to be culture-making salt and light in every culture. missionspodcast.com*

Perspectives: *Helping believers from all walks of life see how they can get threaded into God's story of redeeming people from every tribe, tongue, and nation to Himself. From Genesis to the prophets, Jesus Christ to the early church, and Constantine to today, you will see how God has been moving, how the global Church has responded, and what the greatest needs in world evangelization remain today. perspectives.org*

Radius International: *Committed to assisting the evangelical church and missions community by providing pre-field missionary training that will equip cross-cultural workers to achieve their objective of partnering with Jesus Christ to establish healthy, indigenous, reproducing churches among unreached people groups. radiusinternational.org*

Books to read:

Across the Street and Around the World: Following Jesus to the Nations in Your Neighborhood and Beyond by Jeannie Marie, 2018

Everyone, Everywhere: Glimpses of God's Global Work Through People Like You by Erick Schenkel, 2017

Crossing Cultures in Scripture by Marvin Newell, 2016

The Mind of a Missionary by David Joannes, 2018

Let the Nations Be Glad by John Piper

Transforming Worldviews: An Anthropological Understanding of How People Change by Paul G. Hiebert

Mission Smart: 15 Critical Questions to Ask before Launching Overseas by David L. Frazier (Equipping Servants International)

Global Mission Handbook: A Guide for Crosscultural Service by Steve Hoke and Bill Taylor (IVP Books)

Books, continued:

The Insanity of God by Nik Ripken

When Mission Shapes The Mission by David Horner

The Life of Adoniram Judson by Edward Judson

The Life and Diary of David Brainerd by Jonathan Edwards

When Helping Hurts by Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert

Follow Me by David Platt

Don't Waste Your Life by John Piper

Podcasts

Global Missions Podcast globalmissionspodcast.com

Engaging Missions Podcast engagingmissions.com

Profile Test

Missionary Profile Test is a simple but powerful test to help assess the areas of your heart that are vital in a life of missions. Take it for free at themissionapp.com/missionary-test

*WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO NEXT,
JUST DO THE THING IN FRONT OF YOU.*

- ELISABETH ELLIOT

✓ expectations & qualifications

*WHAT QUALIFICATIONS WOULD YOU HAVE
FOR MEMBERS INTERESTED IN MISSIONS?
WOULD THEY LOOK LIKE THIS?*

- Have a clear evidence of conversion, be baptized, and display continuing Christian growth.
- Be able to agree to our church's doctrinal statement and missions policy.
- Display the fruits of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23.
- Have adequate training for his or her specific field of service.
- Be a member and an active participant in the church for at least 2 years.

WHAT ABOUT FOR MEMBERS SERVING AS MISSIONARIES FROM YOUR CHURCH?

Through conversation with the missions team, choose a missions organization that all can affirm agrees with your doctrine and vision. There may be multiple organizations that work. Go to themissionapp.com to find a good match for each candidate.

To set goals and priorities for their ministries each year and inform the missions team of them.

Share the gospel and make disciples.

Maintain regular communication with the church through the missions team and their Personal Care Team to inform them of goals, progress, problems, and prayer requests.

Make a report to the missions team or congregation in person during home assignment.

The missions team should be notified before any change in scope of ministry, financial support, or ministry relocation.

WHAT ABOUT FOR US AS A CHURCH?

To regularly pray for our missionaries corporately and within Small/Life Groups.

To provide timely financial support to our missionaries we've pledged support to.

To maintain regular communication with our missionaries.

To strive to provide the kind of support laid out in the book, *Serving As Senders*.





ARE YOU ENGAGING MEMBERS OF ALL AGES IN MISSIONS, INCLUDING KIDS? ARE YOU EDUCATING AND INVOLVING THEM IN GLOBAL MISSIONS?

Connect Junior is a quarterly magazine from AIM for kids ages 8-14 to help kids learn and pray for Africa's unreached people groups. eu.aimint.org/pray/connectjunior

A great article from ABWE on how missionary kids wanted to be treated as normal kids. tinyurl.com/97ep4zk

An article originally from EMQ on what missionary kids wish their churches knew about them. tinyurl.com/5c8bprnr

An article from SNU all about what missionary kids are like. tinyurl.com/uah4tu58

A discussion from Ethnos360 on missionary kids. tinyurl.com/yxc35fvj

*HOW WILL MISSIONS BE FUNDED AT YOUR CHURCH?
HOW WILL FINANCIAL SUPPORT BE DETERMINED?*

Here are a few questions to ask:

What is the percentage goal of the general funding of the budget to be designated to missions/outreach?

Is the mission's budget to come solely out of the weekly giving of the church?

Should the mission's budget be funded separately from the general budget?

What is the procedure for establishing the mission's budget and getting the approval of the Finance Committee and Elders?

A great article from Outreach Magazine on the church and supporting missions: tinyurl.com/ym8c2d

Some books on missions and finance:

Getting Sent: A Relational Approach to Support Raising

by Pete Sommer

The Spirituality of Fundraising by Henry Nouwen

The God Ask: A Fresh, Biblical Approach to Personal Support Raising

by Steve Shadrach



✓ God's leading

*DO YOU HAVE A MEMBER CONSIDERING MISSIONS
AND FEELS GOD HAS GIVEN THEM A CALLING?*

Here are 8 practical ways to help members discern a call to missions:

- 1 *Talk to the mission's team or your elders about considering missions. Ask them to pray with you and for you in discerning the call. Ask your mentor or small group to regularly pray with you about this.*
- 2 *Read books on missions, see list above for suggested books.*

Attend an Engage Global (CA) or Global Frontier Missions (GA) weekend. Learn more atengageglobal.net and globalfrontiermissions.org
- 4 *Talk to missionaries and gain a fuller perspective on what missions is like.*
- 5 *Go to goserve love.net to gain understanding about your calling and potential training.*

- 7 *Go on a short-term mission's trip.*
- 8 *Take the Perspectives Course. Learn more at perspectives.org.*
- 9 *Share your faith with unbelievers in your neighborhood or at work.*
- 10 *Begin reading through your church's missions' policy (if they have one) with someone on the mission's team.*



✓ mission agency selection

WILL YOUR MEMBER BE GOING OUT WITH YOUR CHURCH OR WOULD IT BE MORE BENEFICIAL FOR THEM TO GO OUT WITH A MISSIONS AGENCY?

Here are some questions for members and the church in picking an agency:

Do the agencies have a passion for reaching the lost that is similar in scope to yours? *Do you already know a contact person with whom you could have a preliminary visit?*

What is your work experience? *In what way does the agency you're considering provide resources for that work? For example, if you are a teacher but the agency specializes in church planting, will you feel fully supported in your work? Does the agency provide resources, training or conference support in your area of expertise?*

What history does the agency have in providing support (counseling, financial guidance, work encouragement, conferences) for their missionaries?

Have you heard of BAM (Business as Missions) or B-COM (Business as Commission)? *If you have a heart for an area of the world that is closed to missionaries, you may want to look into opportunities to start a business in a closed country. Some agencies can help you figure out this process and give you support as you find a new way to live alongside the unreached and share the Good News.*

Do you have a heart for a particular location of the world? *If so, does the agency you're considering have established or beginning work in those areas? For example, if you're interested in working with an inner-city trafficking problem, does the agency primarily focus on rural/developing countries?*

What happens if your support suddenly drops due to the death of a couple major supporters? *Will you have enough money to stay or will you have enough money to return home? Are there provisions to help you with that kind of emergency?*

What kind of financial base would you consider as you raise support? *Is the agency you're considering specific to your denomination only? Will that limit your financial support opportunities?*

What percentage of your required support is necessary before heading to the field? *Is it 80%, 90% or 100%? If the percentage is too low, might you find yourself doing your mission work while also feverishly trying to write support raising letters?*

Does your church mission philosophy match better with some agencies than others? *None of these philosophies are necessarily wrong but it is best to work in unity since your home church will likely be a major supporter and encouragement. Does your church prefer some agencies over others?*

Does the agency send their missionaries out alone or do they make sure that there is at least one other person who will help you find your way in your new environment?

How often do they require that you take a home leave? *What do they expect you to do during that time?*

What provisions does the agency have for supporting you during times of furlough? *Do they provide (or even better) require de-briefing opportunities either in person or through other electronic means?*

If you are a couple, what work hour requirements are established for husband and wife? *What if you have children? Are the expectations different then?*

Do the agencies you're considering have emergency evacuation plans in the event of an unexpected tragedy?

In the end, the decision will come through lots of prayer, reading and searching. God will direct you in the direction He wants you to go. Just keep knocking and asking!

Taken from missionnext.org/advice-picking-mission-agency

Go to themissionapp.com to fill out one preliminary application that will be sent to multiple agencies that match your calling. *Agencies who have ministry opportunities in locations and areas of ministry that match your criteria will then contact you.*



✓ prayer

HOW CAN YOU BE PARTNERING WITH YOUR MISSIONARIES IN PRAYER?

Are you praying regularly for unreached people groups and the people that your missionaries are working with?

Prayer needs to be the priority for your missions team and your congregation.

Here are some websites that offer ways to pray for unreached people groups around the world:



Prayercast videos: prayercast.com

Operation World: operationworld.org

Global Prayer Digest: globalprayerdigest.org

Joshua Project: joshuaproject.net

see next page for

Praying for your Missionaries A-Z





PRAYING A-Z FOR YOUR MISSIONARIES taken from imb.org

Anointing - Ask for the anointing of the Holy Spirit and that the missionary will operate in the Spirit's power.

Boldness - Pray that the missionary will speak the Word of God with boldness.

Comfort - Ask for comfort when the missionary is discouraged, brokenhearted or stressed out.

Direction - Ask that the missionary will sense God's specific direction in ministry.

Encourage - Ask God to send someone to encourage the missionary.

Family - Pray that the missionaries will guide their children in the way they should go.

Glory to God - Pray that the missionary will live each day to glorify God.

Humility - Ask that the missionary will develop a sense of humility and reject pride.

Insight - Ask that the missionary will see people and things from God's perspective.

Joy - Pray that the missionary will be full of the joy of the Lord in all situations.

Knowledge - Pray that the missionary will desire knowledge of God's Word and apply it constantly.

Love - Ask that the missionary will be a vessel through which God's love flows to others.

Motivation - Pray that the missionary will labor from godly motives, not to please others.

Needs - *Pray that the missionary will realize that in Christ, all needs will be met.*

Open Door - *Pray that the missionary will recognize opportunities to share the gospel.*

Prayer Partners - *Ask God to provide prayer partners who will intercede on a regular basis.*

Quiet Time - *Pray that nothing will keep the missionary from having a quality quiet time each day.*

Revival - *Ask God to work in the missionary's life so he or she will experience personal revival.*

Servanthood - *Pray that the missionary will do his or her work with a servant spirit.*

Thankful Heart - *Ask God to give the missionary a thankful heart even in difficult situations.*

Unsaved - *Pray that the unsaved will develop a hunger and thirst for Jesus Christ in their lives.*

Victory - *Pray that the missionary will know victory in spiritual warfare.*

Weariness - *Pray that the missionary will not get bogged down in having too much to do.*

X-ray Vision - *Ask that the missionary will have X-ray vision of the heart and desire a cleansed life.*

Yieldedness - *Pray that the missionary will be completely yielded to Christ and willing to die to self.*

Zeal - *Pray that the missionary will have a renewed zeal to share the gospel.*

✓ relationship with others

HOW WILL YOUR MISSIONARIES STAY INVOLVED AND ACTIVE IN YOUR CHURCH WHILE SERVING?

Consider having them develop a small/life group team involving some of these aspects (taken from Grace Church):

Prayer - *This person should have the spiritual gift of intercessory prayer. He or she will commit to daily and ongoing prayer for the missionary. This person will also determine what prayer requests should be sent out to the church elders, the missions team, Discipleship Groups, and/or a congregational call to prayer. This person should be humble, discerning, and rooted in spiritual principles of prayer.*

Encouragement - *This person should have the spiritual gift of exhortation (Romans 12:7-8). The best biblical example is Barnabas, and the encouragement person should consider Barnabas's ministry in order to help, comfort, and encourage the missionary to become more effective for Christ.*

Communication - *The communications person is most likely a techie in that they are gifted at helping or finding ways to communicate that are culturally relevant. He or she is aware of the role of technology and how to best utilize it in unfriendly territories; they are careful with privacy, secrecy, and safety. This may include setting up websites, online donations, organizing email newsletters, setting up secure chat clients, etc.*

Logistics - *The logistics person is skilled at organizing details that make things run smoothly. This can include comparing travel costs, making appropriate reservations, preparing travel documents, helping with to-do checklists to organize the missionary, sending care packages and letters, arranging medical care, etc. He or she will work closely with the missionary to make sure he is helping serve actual needs and will ask questions to help anticipate potential problems.*

Financial - *This person is responsible for assisting with the finances of the missionary, especially as they pertain to funding the mission. At minimum, they provide financial accountability, and at most they keep the books for the missionary. Our goal is to keep our missionaries in the black, being honest about financial needs and what they are capable of within their given budget.*

Fundraising - The fundraising person has strong social skills and is an excellent host or hostess. They would brainstorm with the missionary to come up with ways to raise ongoing and one-time funds and be a social liaison to make that happen. They may host parties, fundraising activities, auctions, online giving, support letters, etc.

Counselor - The counselor is a spiritual leader who can ask hard questions and provide wise counsel. They are concerned with the mental, spiritual, and emotional health of the missionary and his or her entire family. They will regularly check in to assess health and will provide or recommend ongoing counseling when appropriate.

Team Leader - The team leader's job is to make sure everyone else is doing his or her job, and to encourage people to work together to provide the best support.

*THE GREAT COMMISSION IS TOO BIG FOR ANYONE TO ACCOMPLISH ALONE
AND TOO IMPORTANT NOT TO TRY TO DO TOGETHER.*

- STEVE MOORE

✓ serving while stateside

*HOW WILL YOUR CHURCH SERVICE MISSIONARIES
THAT ARE HOME FOR THEIR HOME LEAVE?*

Here are some ideas from the article **20 Ways to Refresh the Hearts of the Missionary Saints on Furlough** by Jason Carter, The Gospel Coalition

The apostle Paul commended Philemon as embodying traits which refreshed the body of Christ: "Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the Lord's people" (Philemon 1:7).

What would it look like for the body of Christ to refresh the hearts of missionaries on furlough? Here are a few practical ways that you can serve those who serve:

If you are part of a bible study or small group, adopt a missionary family from the supported missionaries of your church.

Pray for them regularly.

Send care packages, birthday cards and encouraging letters.

Buy a Kindle for a missionary. Tell them to make a long list of books they want to read. Regularly buy kindle books for them when they return overseas.

If you are a dentist, offer free or discounted dental work. If you are a lawyer, offer to update their last will and testament. If you are a counselor, offer free marital counseling (i.e. a marriage tune-up). Use your vocational gifts to bless the missionary body of Christ.

Offer to host a dinner party where the missionary can share about the ministry. If there are financial needs, share those needs with the group so the missionary doesn't have to.

Send a missionary to a Christian conference or spiritual retreat where they will be equipped and refreshed for the ministry.

Purchase return plane tickets for the missionary's family. Two overseas trips in a short time frame (to the states and back to their field of service) are extremely expensive for most missionary budgets.

Offer to give the missionary couple a date night every week or two. Instead of inviting the whole family to dinner, offer to take the kids for a night.

Own a condo or time-share? Gift a week (and spending money) to a missionary family.

Loan (or give) a car to a missionary family to use during their furlough and find a couple car seats for their children.

Offer to keep in storage some of their earthly belongings while they are serving overseas.

Tell the missionary all the ways you have diligently prayed specifically for them.

If the missionary family homeschools, offer to buy some curriculum or books for the missionary kids.

Have your own kids adopt a missionary family. When the family returns overseas, encourage your kids to pray for the missionary kids' international or home schooling, friendships with national kids, foreign language learning, good health, and that the kids will come to love and serve Jesus Christ.

Ask to see the pictures. All of them. Via photos, see their adopted clan, meet their missionary colleagues and get a feel for their ministry context. It is cathartic for missionaries when people are interested in their life and ministry.

Set up a home office for their furlough: desk, chair, computer and printer.

Encourage your kids to invite the missionary kids over for playdates, play on their soccer teams and take them to youth groups. Remember, while the parents may enjoy long-lasting friendships with members of their home church, missionary kids often experience all these new people as strangers.

Let them know you are filled with joy at their service and sacrifice for the Gospel.

Tell them all the ways you will be praying for them during their next missionary term.

One of the least-helpful things people often say to missionaries on furlough is this: "Let me know how I can help." That places the missionary in a difficult spot – is this person just saying that to be kind?

Do they really want to hear about our deepest frustrations and concerns right now? Are they asking to be on our support team?

A better idea would be to choose 1-2 practical ways to refresh the hearts of the missionary saints among you.

Pray for them. Invest in their ministry. Become personally invested in their lives and in their ministry. Take the challenge: dare to be a Philemon to a missionary.

I bet you'll be glad you did.



QUESTIONS?

*If you'd like to know more about partnering
with The Mission App, please drop us an email.*

contact@themissionapp.com

LEARN MORE: themissionapp.com