

Readers Theater on Missions

Sunday Morning Service Format – Read Carefully

This is a program for a church which has a large number of missionaries come together for a conference. Instead of introducing individual missionaries, they are involved throughout the entire service. The morning's message is a "reader's theater" style of presentation. Everyone's role is important in communicating this message.

Read and practice the morning service script carefully before the festival. Some missionaries and staff will need to write speaking parts. (Samples are below) These should be written exactly as they will be spoken or prayed to stay within the time allotted. This script (including the sections that some missionaries still need to write) is exactly 58 minutes long.

This cannot be done without a mandatory rehearsal

Reader's Theater Directions

Divide the missionary speakers into five groups. Group 1 sits on the left side of the platform. Group 2 sits on the right side of the platform. Group 3 sits on the right side of the main floor. Group 4 is on the central lower platform. Group 5 is on the left side of the main floor. There will be one microphone for every group. The choir will spread out along the first row of the balcony or back of church.

Every missionary speaker will have the script in their hands in a black folder that the church provides. Choir members will also have the entire script. It is all right to read from the script, but wise to practice so that when the individual is ready to say his/her line(s) at the appropriate time the whole script flows naturally and has a sense of energy and unity.

The speaker should stand directly in front of his group's microphone before he needs to speak his line, and speak directly into the mic. Don't rush lines. Speak clearly. When a speaker finishes he/she should immediately move away from the mic so that the next person in the group can position themselves for their speaking role.

*note: if there are not enough missionaries to fill all the speaker positions, use staff or members of the church.

Platform set-up

A praise band can be positioned at the center of the platform. And band members sit down by their instruments during the service when they aren't playing. Flags from around the world can be arranged in a semi-circle behind the band at the back of the platform.

Worship folder

The worship folder should list most of the scripture passages including the responsive readings. The worship folder can also include the name of all the songs and the song words when appropriate. The folder will be divided according to the three main sections of the morning –

- Everyone Involved.
- Everywhere There's Need.
- Every way Possible.

At the end of the service notes, put a list of all the missionaries involved in the service and where they are serving.

Morning Service Script

***PRELUDE BY band: (Prelude will begin 5 minutes before each service begins)**

The band will play something energetic and inviting as people enter the sanctuary.

Suggestion is the Thai hymn, "Come Everyone."

***WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS (3 min)**

Pastor: *Good Morning and welcome to College Church and our Fall Missions Festival. Welcome to visitors and announcements. Pastor will prepare these announcements.*

INTRODUCTION (3:30 min)

Staff or member 1: Our theme this morning is "**Everyone** Involved, **Everywhere** there's Need, **Every way** Possible".

Staff or member 2: This theme is grounded in Scripture's emphasis upon every believer using their unique gifts to advance the Gospel everywhere there is need by all possible means.

Staff or member 3: This is Bible-based missions diversification for the sake of the Gospel.

Staff or member 4: If you are a member of College Church, you share our common commitment to be "God's people joyfully proclaiming Christ's glory among the nations." That's the missions statement and purpose of this church.

Staff or member 5: Each one of us has a unique role to play in God's plan to draw people from all nations into his family. There is no missions box. There isn't one set method or way to reach the world with the Gospel. There are no parameters to innovation in missions.

Pastor: Four missions initiatives shape and focus our missions efforts –

- We invest in training national leaders,
- We prepare, send and support career missionaries,
- We provide short term assistance to the global church
- and we reach out to immigrants, refugees and international students God has brought to Chicago.

But there are unlimited ways to specifically engage in these initiatives and there are many other initiatives also worth our pursuit. In fact, our desire is to catalyze all kinds of missions involvement by College Church people. We can prepare you for missions and we will provide many missions opportunities, but we also want you pursue the unique opportunities God is giving you through work or with your ethnic neighbors, or through your own contacts and interests.

Staff or member 6: The Bible says,

ALL MISSIONARIES: "God so loved the world.."

Staff or member 6: and that love for the whole world - for all people created by God - is a consistent and central theme throughout all of scripture, and God wants to use you in some way to establish and strengthen His church worldwide.

Pastor: This morning you are going to hear from many of our missionaries and national partners. In fact, this is the largest gathering of missionaries we've ever had at a missions

festival. You are going to get a sense for how diverse they are in age, background, professional training, education and personality.

Staff or member 7: We are going to describe some of the needs and opportunities present worldwide.

Staff or member 8: And, to stimulate your thinking, we are going to describe some of the things we are doing, or you could do, to introduce others to Christ and build His church.

Staff or member 7: You don't need to be a full time missionary to have a part in the evangelism and discipleship of all nations.

Staff or member 8: You don't even need to have a passion for living overseas to engage in some way.

Staff or member 7: But every Christian must have a passion for the Gospel being proclaimed in every nation. It is a biblical imperative.

Staff or member 9: So the question we want you to consider this morning is, "What's your unique contribution? How can you use the unique gifts, skills, affinities, experience and resources that God has given you to advance the Gospel- in some way – around the world?" Let's begin with scripture. In your worship folder you will find several scripture passages that we will be reading this morning. So please keep your worship folder open throughout the service.

***EVERYONE INVOLVED (16 min for this section)**

SCRIPTURE & OVERVIEW (2:30 min)

Staff or member 10: The Bible teaches that every Christian has some part to play in God's global plan. Join me in reading Romans 12:4-8 responsively. Please read the scripture portions in bold.

*"For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function,

so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us,

let us use them:

if prophecy,

in proportion to our faith;

if service,

in our serving;

the one who teaches,

in his teaching;

the one who exhorts,

in his exhortation;

the one who contributes,

in generosity;

the one who leads,

with zeal;

the one who does acts of mercy,

with cheerfulness.”

(Romans 12:4-8)

Speaker 1: Your service is desperately needed in the body of Christ. Each of us has a role to play and every role is important. There is no small service to God. It all matters. The Bible says, “All of you together are Christ’s body and each one of you is a separate and necessary part of it.” (1 Cor. 12:27)

Speaker 2: We need all kinds of people – with all kinds of skills and personalities - to reach the world. The important quality is that we are willing to serve. Jesus said, “Your attitude must be like my own, for even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:45)

Speaker 3: God wants to use you to make a difference in this world. He wants to work through you. The Bible says, “For we are God’s workmanship (His masterpiece), created in Christ Jesus to do good works which God prepared in advance for us to do. (Ephesians 2:10)” Your service will look different from your neighbors! But God does have something special planned for you.

Speaker 4: If you’re not involved in any service or ministry, what excuse have you been using?

Speaker 2: Abraham was old,

Speaker 3: Jacob was insecure,

Speaker 4: Leah was unattractive,

Speaker 2: Joseph was abused,

Speaker 3: Moses stuttered,

Speaker 4: Samson was co-dependent,

Speaker 2 : Rahab was immoral,

Speaker 3: Jeremiah was depressed,

Speaker 4: Jonah was reluctant,

Speaker 2: John the Baptist was eccentric,

Speaker 3: Martha worried,

Speaker 4: Zacchaeus was unpopular,

Speaker 2: Thomas had doubts,

Speaker 3: and Timothy was timid.

Speaker 4: That is quite a variety of misfits, but God intentionally used each of them in his service. He can use you too...

Speaker 4, Speaker 2 and Speaker 3: ...so don’t make excuses.

Missionary Story: (2 min)

Missionary shares a two minute synopsis of his unexpected journey from business into missions.

STATISTICS (1 min) (These speakers are giving specific ministries but have your own missionaries fill in what they do or their ministry in simple terms.)

Missionary 1: I went to India after working as a nurse.

Staff or member 8: I went to Bulgaria after working as a physical therapist.

Missionary 2 : I was a trained pilot.

Missionary 3: I was an elementary school teacher.

Missionary 4: I was a music producer in New Jersey.

Missionary 5: I was a professional baseball player.

Missionary 6: I was a high school science teacher in _____.

Missionary 7: I had a medical practice in _____.

Pastor: From this Church, God has called people with backgrounds in banking, restaurant management, engineering, music, social work, publishing, education, ministry, and professional sports to reach the world with the Gospel.

Staff or member 3: “We all come from different backgrounds with different levels of education, different personalities and diverse skill sets. But the Lord has used each of us in a unique way to build his kingdom all around the world.”

ALL missionaries: “Everyone Involved!”

Missionary 8: Age is not a barrier to missions involvement.

Missionary 9: I got involved in missions when I was 21.

Missionary 10: “26”

Staff or member 2: “30”

Staff or member 10: “31”

Missionary 11: “64”

Missionary Story (1 min)

Second career Missionary prepares a one minute synopsis of his background and how he and his wife got involved in missions later in life.

Staff or member 1 Story (1 min)

Staff member prepares a one minute synopsis of how he was called to missions at early age and, now, as a young married couple, how they are on the verge of returning to missions.

SUMMARY (2:00 min)

Pastor: God is at work in the world, and he wants you to join him. Jesus calls us not only to come to him but to go for him. In the great commission, Jesus said, “Go to the people of all nations and make them my disciples. Baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to do everything I have told them.” (Matt 28:19-20 CEV) This commission was given to every follower of Jesus – not only to full-time pastors and missionaries. This is your commission from Jesus, and it is not optional. These words of Jesus are not the great suggestion. If you are part of God’s family, this mission is mandatory.

Missionary 6: This mission is a wonderful privilege! Paul said, “God has given us the privilege of urging everyone to come into his favor and be reconciled to him.” (2 Cor 5:18 LB)

Missionary 7: This mission has eternal significance. Nothing else you do will ever matter as much as helping people establish an eternal relationship with God. Only the kingdom of God is going to last. Everything else will eventually vanish.

Missionary 8: The Bible says, “The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.” (Isaiah 40:8).

Staff or member 8: What better way to invest your life, than to bring God’s eternal word to the eternal souls of men, women and children?

Missionary 9: You may be unaware that God holds you responsible for the unbelievers who live around you. The Bible says, “You must warn them so they may live. If you don’t speak out to warn the wicked, to stop their evil ways, they will die in their sin. But I will hold you responsible for their death.” (Ez. 3:18 NSV)

Staff or member 10: Don’t miss the opportunities God is giving you. The Bible says, “Make the most of your chances to tell others the good news. Be wise in all your contacts with them.” (Col 4:5 LB)

Staff or member 9: Everyone involved means that every person—business people and homemakers, the young and the elderly, traditional missionaries and laypeople—have some role to play in advancing the truth of Jesus Christ cross-culturally.

(One missionary then several choir members call out, from around the platform and balcony):

Staff or member 6: “Everyone Involved!”

Choir member 1 : “Everyone Involved!”

Choir member 2: “Everyone Involved!”

Choir member 3: “Everyone Involved!”

Choir member 4: “Everyone Involved!”

Whole choir in unison: “Everyone involved!”

***Band song: Te Alaben (Salmo 67) in Spanish, from Venezuela (4:00 min)**
Involve the congregation in clapping? Have the choir join them in singing a chorus?

Te Alaben (Salmo 67) ~ in Spanish, from Venezuela ~

Let the peoples Praise you O God
All of the peoples Let them praise You! (repeat)

Dios, tenga misericordia
De nosotros y nos bendiga
Haga resplandecer Su rostro
Sobre nosotros
 Para que sea conocido
 En la tierra Tu camino
 En todas las naciones - Tu salvación
Te alaben los pueblos, o Dios
Todos los pueblos Te alaben (se repite)

O God, be gracious to us
And bless us, and bless us
And turn Your face, turn Your face
To shine upon us, to shine upon us
 That your Way may be known on earth
 Your Salvation to all the nations
 That your Way may be known on earth - Your Salvation!
Let the peoples Praise you O God
All of the peoples. Let them praise You! (repeat)

Scripture Reading (1:30 min)

Staff or member 1: “As we close this section on the importance of everyone getting involved in missions, please refer to your worship folder as we read 1 Peter 4:10-11 in unison:

“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace; who ever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.”

***Pastoral Prayer (1:00 min)**

Pastor leads in a one minute prayer thanking God for the various gifts he has given each member of the church and asking the Lord to show us how he wants us to use these gifts from him.

***EVERYWHERE THERE’S NEED (23 min for this section)**

SUMMARY & SCRIPTURE (7 Min)

Pastor: The needs of the world are as diverse as the gifts and skills God has given his people, so that they may address these needs in Christ’s name.

Staff or member 2: Follow along in your Bible or worship folder as I read Matthew 9: 35-38:

“Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” (Matthew 9:35-38)

Staff or member 4: Today, there are great needs in cities and villages.

Staff or member 5: Last year, the world reached an invisible but momentous milestone: For the first time in history, more than half its' human population - 3.3 billion people - live in **urban areas**. By 2030, this is expected to swell to almost 5 billion. Many of the new urbanites will be poor. We must respond to this urban growth.

Staff or member 3: There are great needs in rural areas where poverty, illiteracy, and endemic diseases like TB, malaria, and HIV put incredible strain on whole communities.

Staff or member 2: Human trafficking is a heart-breaking problem in parts of Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe.

Staff or member 1: Jesus responded to people's needs through his words and actions. He proclaimed the Gospel and healed diseases. He responded in compassion and told his followers to pray earnestly that the Lord would send out workers into His harvest.

Pastor: Our missionaries are going to describe just a few needs that they see in their corners of the world. There are needs here too. And opportunities for us to reach out cross-culturally to immigrants, refugees and international students that are right in our backyard. But, it's the rawness of life in many parts of the world, the intensity of need, and the clear teaching of scripture to think globally, that pushes us to think beyond ourselves and our needs and to respond intentionally and generously with the Gospel of Christ to the needs of our brothers and sisters and the lost all over the world.

Missionary: (Create appropriate story like the following). We work in India. There are nearly 800 million Hindus in India, comprising 80% of the population. There are also 140 million Muslims in India, making India the second largest Muslim country in the world. India has more (and larger) people groups with no Christians, churches or workers than any other part of the world. Poverty, poor health, and inadequate education are significant issues for many Indians. As medical professionals, we work on the staff of a Christian hospital to express the love of Christ through our words and deeds to Muslims and Hindus in North India. But it is difficult to retain qualified staff in our rural location. More workers are needed.

Missionary: We serve with Mercy Ships – a ministry dedicated to bringing hope and healing to the world's forgotten poor. Our ship provides free medical care, starts development projects and provides training programs for the sick and needy in the countries of West Africa. We do this in response to the following words from Isaiah 58. Please join me in a responsive reading of Isaiah 58: 6-7. Please read the scripture portions in bold.

*"Is not this the fast that I choose:

to loose the bonds of wickedness,

to undo the straps of the yoke,

to let the oppressed go free,

and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry

and bring the homeless poor into your house;

when you see the naked, to cover him,

and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?

Missionary story: (create appropriate story like the following) There are nearly 7,000 languages in the world today, with the entire Bible translated into 438 of them. Although many translation projects are underway, there are still 2,200 languages – representing 200 million people – that don't possess a single translated portion of God's Word. Not one verse.

My wife and I felt God's leading to work with another couple in the fall of 2000 when we heard that the 11 language groups of the Aitape West area of Papua New Guinea were anxious to hear God's Word in their own language. The people we work with are strongly animistic, with a smattering of Christian ideas mixed in. Without God's Word, they are susceptible to believing false doctrines. Their greatest needs are to learn who God is, allow His Word to change them, and to trust Him completely with their lives.

Staff or member 10: One of HCJB's target people groups in N. Africa/Middle East is the Berber Tashelhait. A note from a ministry partner reads: 'The signal is getting out to the farthest reaches of the Tashelhait-speaking region, and we are getting responses from these places. No broadcast had reached these people before, and there are very few local believers or Christian workers living among them. But now, as a result of the radio program, there is at least one new believer and several seekers are meeting regularly with local believers to find out more.'

Staff or member 1: In the north of Italy less than .5% of people are believers! Of the 33,000 communities in the country, less than 2,000 have any evangelical witness. At the same time, there are now over a million Muslims and many Italians have left the Catholic Church to pursue new age thinking, the occult and materialistic secularism. Similar stats are true for other European countries like France, Slovakia, and Spain.

Missionary: In Bulgaria, the evangelical church is also small and faces challenges from secular humanism and the aftermath of Communism. Families with disabilities are hidden from society and have tremendous need for compassionate help.

Staff or member 6: In each of these areas, the Gospel needs to be clearly preached. And not just to adults. There is an urgent need to reach children with the Gospel. This is my ministry focus in South Africa, but it is a great need all over the world.

In your worship folder, let's read Romans 10: 14-17 responsively:

*"How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, **"How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"**

But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?" So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ." (Romans 10:14-17)

Staff or member 5 Prayer (2 min)

Staff or member 5 leads us in a two minute prayer asking God to show mercy on the lost throughout the world – the poor, the least-reached, Europeans, Asians, and tribal peoples. Ask God to give these people faith to believe in Christ as Lord and Savior. Ask God to send workers to declare and demonstrate the Gospel of Christ through word and deed.

***Band song: Ameen Ta'ala (Rev. 22:20) in Arabic from Egypt (4 min)**

Song with a specific emphasis upon the least reached. Congregation then joins in also singing this song?

Ameen Ta'ala (Rev. 22:20) ~ in Arabic - Egypt ~

Ameen ta'ala Yarabe Almubarek
Ashwaquna zadat lehatha alleqa (repeat)
Amen, Come our blessed Lord!
We are eager for that meeting.

Ameen ta'ala Ya Rabi Yasua Ameen ta'ala Ya Rabi Yasua
Ameen ta'ala, Ameen taala Ameen ta'ala Ya Rabi Yasua!
Amen! Come LORD Jesus!

Asra ta'ala nahnu beantethariiek
Latubteana tamem alraja (repeat)
Please hurry and come, we are waiting
Don't delay, fulfill our hope.

Ameen ta'ala Ya Rabi Yasua Ameen ta'ala Ya Rabi Yasua
Ameen ta'ala, Ameen taala Ameen ta'ala Ya Rabi Yasua!
Amen! Come LORD Jesus! .

Lord Jesus, come! Return! Fulfill our longing!
Do not delay, our only hope is You!
Lord Jesus, come - Our souls to You belonging
Desire Your glorious countenance to view.

Lord Jesus, come! Our hearts cry out to You.
We know Your promise to return is true.
Your people waiting, anticipating.
Lord Jesus, come! Our hearts cry out to You.

Ameen ta'ala Ya Rabi Yasua Ameen ta'ala Ya Rabi Yasua
Ameen ta'ala, Ameen taala Ameen ta'ala Ya Rabi Yasua!
Amen! Come LORD Jesus! .

Missionary who works with training national leaders like the following (1 min)

Missionary prepares a one minute description of their work in training national leaders. If possible, focus on the benefit one individual has received from this training. He will start with these words, "One of the greatest needs of the global church is training national leaders. My wife and I work with _____(country or people group) church leaders to provide training in theological education, expositional preaching and pastoral ministry."

Missionary (theological training focus like the following) (1 min)

"I represent _____ Graduate School of Theology in _____, one of your partner seminaries. The _____ Graduate School is having a major impact on the church in _____ and especially the English-speaking region in two important ways. First, the school has trained and is training leadership for several of the theological institutions in the nation and region. Second, many of the pastors and denominational leaders of evangelical churches in _____ are graduates. Other graduates are serving _____ as teachers in our universities and high schools, as leaders in the public sector, as counselors at crisis centers, and through para-church organizations. More leaders like this need to be trained and your scholarship funds help make this possible.

Staff or member 2 (3 min)

Staff prepare a succinct, three minute snapshot of the Biblical basis for training national leaders. Include reference to 2 Tim 2:2 (“What you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also”) and Matthew 28:18 – 20 (“And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age).

RESPONSE***Missionary or member Prayer (1 min)**

Someone leads in a one minute prayer asking God to give understanding and obedience to the men and women being trained to serve and lead the global church.

Pastor (1 min)

Over the past twenty minutes we’ve heard our missionaries describe significant needs around the world. There is an immense amount of work to be done in training leaders, in teaching children, in planting the church, in translating and distributing God’s word, and in meeting physical needs in the name of Christ.

People with all kinds of professional skills, spiritual gifts, and life experience are necessary to address these needs. The needs are always changing. Excellent preparation and innovation in execution should be hallmarks of our response to these global challenges.

As we prepare to receive our morning offering, let’s take the next few minutes to reflect on all that we’ve heard so far this morning and ask ourselves, “What has God given me and how has God uniquely gifted me, to potentially respond to these needs?”

***Band song: Istítay Dios Awqui (I Live Every Moment) ~ in Aymara - Bolivia_ (3 min)**

Collect Offering while Izibongo sings a song.

Istítay Dios Awqui (I Live Every Moment) ~ in Aymara - Bolivia ~

Istítay Dios Awqui mayisitajjaru;
Uruy arumawa Jumat mayisma.
Jaltayitay Tata, khoru cancañata.
Take chuymampiwa Jumar iyawssma

*Listen God Father to my pleading;
Day night I am calling on you.
Take away from me Father the evil existing in me.
All heart with I want to trust in You.*

Kollan suma Awqui, irpaquitaya,
Wajcha sariritwa acapachana.
Uñjañpuni munta alajpach marca,
Wiñay cusiona, Christojj thiyana.

*Holy good God please lead me,
Orphan I am, traveling this land.
To see I am always wanting the heavenly land,*

Forever I will be joyful, Christ at His side

I live every moment in Thy presence praying,
Thinking of Thy wonders, Savior Jesus Christ.
From all foolish living, free me Lord, I'm saying.
With a faith victorious let me live my life.

Guide me to the glory of Thy holiness
Like a pilgrim traveling to a sacred place.
My consuming passion is Thy name to bless
Live with Thee forever and to see Thy face.

Kollan suma Awqui, irpaquitaya,
Wajcha sarirıtwa acapachana.
Uñjañpuni munta alajjpach marca,
Wiñay cusisiña, Christojj thiyana.

*Holy good God please lead me,
Orphan I am, traveling this land.
To see I am always wanting the heavenly land,
Forever I will be joyful, Christ at His side*

***EVERY WAY POSSIBLE (12 min for this section)**

SUMMARY & SCRIPTURE (8:00 min)

Pastor: We need to use every avenue possible to reach the world.

Missionary 1: In scripture, God used elderly Abraham to start a nation.

Staff or member 8: He used Joseph's slavery to protect his people.

Missionary 2: He parted the sea to free his people.

Staff or member 4: He used a teenage virgin to birth His son.

Missionary 2: He used a crucifixion to bring us redemption.

Staff or member 8: He used fishermen and a tax collector to start the church.

Missionary 1: He used persecution to spread the church.

Staff or member 8: He used an Ethiopian eunuch to expand the church in Africa.

Missionary 2: The Apostle Paul wrote, "I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some." The context for that quote comes from 1 Corinthians 9:19-23. Please follow along in your worship folder as I read this passage.

*"For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not

being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.” (1 Corinthians 9:19-23)

Twelve (12) missionaries give a two to three sentence description of their ministry such as: “We are currently building teams of 3-5 individuals to live in northern France and work among African, Muslim immigrant communities for three years. We are especially seeking young, career singles and couples who will allow God to use them to build His Kingdom in the midst of Europe’s changing demographics. We invite you to consider serving on a short term team.

2: We work with college students – sharing the Gospel and making disciples among Kiwi and Asian and Middle Eastern students attending university in New Zealand. If you are a college student, we invite you to take a semester or a year and study in New Zealand – using that opportunity to share the gospel with students from countries like Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, and China. Or perhaps you might consider joining the China study team. At some point in your college career, take a semester or a year and study abroad. It’s an incredible opportunity for witness and personal development.

3: We work with educational institutions that invest in educating and training children from Christian and non-Christian backgrounds throughout Europe. If you are training to be a teacher or an experienced teacher nearing retirement, we invite you to teach at an international school at the front or back-end of your teaching career.

4: And we work with La _____ Christian school in Costa Rica. Many non-Christian families enroll their children in the school so that their child can become proficient in English. We have the opportunity to share Christ with these children and families who might otherwise not hear the message of the gospel. Chris and Staff or member 7 have a similar opportunity to reach students at Grace International School in Thailand. We are looking for teachers. So are most of the international schools around the world. Perhaps it’s time for you to make a mid-career change to teaching overseas.

5: I am working with the church in Bulgaria to start a halfway house for young women too old to live in an orphanage but inadequately trained to survive on their own. By teaching them job skills while we build their faith, we are keeping them from exploitation and prostitution. We need career missionaries to equip the church to address difficult social issues like this.

6: We are working with the _____ to expand a business that provides valuable services to the expat community in Eastern Europe and provides us a platform to demonstrate Christian ethics in a secular, business setting. If you are a business man or woman, we encourage you to be a light for Christ in your work. Consider taking an international assignment to be a witness overseas. Or start a business platform that would get workers into restricted access countries in the Muslim world.

7: We are training rural Papua New Guineans to accurately translate scripture into their language. We need more translation consultants. Funds are also needed to support the hundreds of translation projects underway all over the world.

8: I have worked as a baseball coach in Slovakia- using sports to make contact with Slovakian students and introduce them to the redeeming power of Christ. Sports is a great avenue for missions involvement. You could be involved in missions here in Wheaton through coaching a

refugee kid on an Upward Basketball team or you could go overseas and play on an international team like I've done in Slovakia and Stephen Rigby has done in Kenya.

9: I will be working with the church in Spain to start new churches in communities where there is very little Christian witness. You too could help advance the Gospel in Spain by serving on the World Impact team to Spain next summer.

10: I am writing curriculum that is being used to train pastors around the world in expositional preaching and pastoral ministry. These pastors are teaching lay people in these same principles and thus dramatically multiplying the effects of the Biblical training they have received. Financially supporting programs and seminaries that train national leaders is a very strategic way to be involved in missions. Training programs and seminaries are also looking for professors to teach modular classes short-term or to teach full-time at an overseas seminary.

11: I work with a team that helps the church around the world develop worship songs in their own language and musical style. A love for music opens all kinds of opportunities for relationships and influence in countries around the world.

12: We are involved in radio outreach to isolated native American communities in Alaska. There are all kinds of opportunities for people with technical skills to get involved in missions – volunteering their time and expertise to install or repair equipment, to develop and maintain websites, or to produce new media tools.

Staff or member 9: You can find out more about reaching the world every way possible by attending Urbana this Fall. You can also reach out to the world that has come to us by showing hospitality to an international student, volunteering with World Relief or Repeat Boutique, or befriending an immigrant family that's moved into your neighborhood.

Staff or member 4: Remember Paul's words, "I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings."

Missionary 7: "Look at us. We're all different ages, from all walks of life, working all around the world. We invite you to join us! There's no set formula. God has gifted *you* uniquely to help reach the world in some way. So let's reach the world..."

All Missionaries:...Every way possible!

(**Band** start playing a sitar in the background during this next section.)

PASTOR: Let's return to our opening question, "What's your unique contribution to the global advance of the Gospel?"

All missionaries: What's your role?

PASTOR: How can you leverage the unique gifts, skills, affinities, experience and resources that God has given you to advance the Gospel- in some way – around the world?"

Pastor _____ is going to close us in prayer and then Izibongo is going to lead us in a final worship song this morning. Please stand as we close in prayer and remain standing for our final song.

***Pastoral Prayer (1 min)**

Prayer of response – “Help us to know how You want us to move forward...”

***Band: Jesus Shall Reign - Isaac Watts (2min)**

While we sing, the missionaries will congregate on the platform so that we have a large group singing together on the platform.

Jesus Shall Reign - Isaac Watts

Jesus shall reign where e'er the sun
Does his successive journeys run;
His kingdom spread from shore to shore,
'Till moons shall wax and wane no more.

To him shall endless prayer be made,
And endless praises crown His head;
His name like sweet perfume shall rise
With every morning sacrifice.

People and realms of every tongue
Dwell on His love with sweetest song;
And infant voices shall proclaim
Their early blessings on His Name.

Let every creature rise and bring
His grateful honors to our King;
Angels descend with songs again,
And earth repeat the loud, “Amen!”

***Pastoral Benediction (1 min)**

Keep people standing for the benediction and immediately dismiss people after the benediction. Don't have them sit. Give a solid plug for the evening service at this point: “I look forward to seeing everyone at the evening service tonight for missionary Christmas, outstanding preaching from Phillip Jensen - who will be sure to preach the word and, perhaps, rattle your cage – worship led by the Izibongo band, and the Global Café immediately following the service. It is going to be a great evening together so be sure to come tonight at 6. Now receive the benediction....”

***Band Postlude: Gεkpaα Gεkpaαmɔ (Psalm 136) ~ in Gikyode - Ghana ~**

Band ends with an exciting, energetic postlude.

Gεkpaα Gεkpaαmɔ (Psalm 136) ~ in Gikyode - Ghana ~

Aye-se Wurubuaare(u) afaala a gyε fo-lεε (2x)

Our Father God, we give thanks to You

(Ne) a wu yεε fo gyε dan ɔ se dεnε (2x)

We have seen that You are good

Gεkpaα gεkpaαmɔ fo-gεlaare gε maη kya ta

Your steadfast love endures forevermore

Sing Praise! Sing praise!
Forever God is faithful Forever God is strong
Forever God is with us Forever!

Give thanks to the Lord our God and King
His love endures forever!
For He is good, He is above all things
His love endures forever!

Sing praise, sing praise
Forever God is faithful Forever God is strong
Forever God is with us Forever!

From the rising to the setting sun
His love endures forever!
By the grace of God we will carry on
His love endures forever!

Sing praise, sing praise
Forever God is faithful Forever God is strong
Forever God is with us Forever!

Γεκραα γεκρααμῶ φο-γελααρε γε μαη κια τα
Forever and ever, Your love endures!