

Reaching the World
in California:

THE
GREAT
COMMISSION
Begins HERE!

2010 CALIFORNIA MISSION OFFERING Mission Action Guide for Adults

By Beverly Regensberg

Use the following ideas to teach adults how they can participate in California missions. The ideas can be used to promote the prayer and offering emphasis churchwide or can be used for a study of California missions on a Wednesday or Sunday evening, for a Bible study class, or a Woman's Missionary Union or Women's Ministries group. Be creative in using these ideas to educate church members about the Great Commission and fulfilling it in your community and throughout the State of California.

Bible verse – "And you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8b NIV).

- Read the Bible verse and talk about the implications for the Great Commission in your neighborhood/community, your association, throughout California, across the United States and around the world.
- Discuss how church members can be effective in fulfilling the Great Commission where they live.
- Show the DVD to illustrate the world has come to California and that truly, "The Great Commission Begins Here!"

Prayer

1. Using a map of CA or two roadmaps, display the entire state noting your church, association, highlighted missionaries/ministries, and other places important to your church (i.e., Jenness Park, Camp Alta, local juvenile justice campus, race car ministry, Golden Gate Seminary, etc.). Ask each person praying to place a sticker on the map for the person/ministry for which they prayed. Seek throughout the month of September to cover the entire map.

2. Prepare a prayer-walk in your facility. Divide the worship center or fellowship hall into areas of the state. This can be done by grouping 3-4 chairs, using a helium-filled balloon to mark a station, or by enlisting a person to speak to needs in their assigned area. Note where the highlighted missionaries/ministries are located, the 31 associations with directors of missions' names, as well as other places mentioned above. Allow groups to navigate the stations, praying for specific needs of your church and community or for the requests printed in the CMO Prayer Guide. Suggested stations: North State, Bay Area/Sacramento, Central Valley, Coastal, Southern, Desert and San Diego.
3. Specific prayer requests from California Southern Baptist missionaries can be found at www.calmissions.com by clicking on promotional materials, and then prayer requests.
4. Request the free CMO key-chain tags for use in your church promotion. These can be requested when ordering other free CMO materials either online at www.calmissions.com or by using the order form included in the CMO resource packet. Place the tag on your key-chain, or carry it in a wallet, coin-purse or pocket. As you find it, pray that this year we will make a difference in "Reaching the World in California."

Giving

1. Challenge your congregation to "open their eyes" and give: the world is already here in each of our neighborhoods. Suggest to members that they pledge an amount (i.e. \$1, \$5, \$10, etc.) for each culture different from their own that they encounter.

2. Use a calendar to keep track of your CMO prayers. Cross off each day as you pray, set a goal of an amount to give per day that you pray.
 3. Make an offering box, jar, icing tub, etc. to set on your dresser or wherever you empty your pockets each day. Collect all your change nightly, giving it to CMO at the end of the month. Continue this habit of collecting change, saving it for next year's CMO. During September, you might place the container on your kitchen table, allowing guests to contribute if they'd like. Decorate the container with a picture of California poppies or distinctive CA artwork.
 4. Collect aluminum cans and plastic bottles, redeem them, and give the proceeds to CMO.
 5. Choose a day each week during September to take an alternative mode of transportation to work, donate the cost of a tank of fuel to CMO. Perhaps you could ride a bike, walk, ride the bus or carpool.
- Coordinate a giving opportunity such as collecting items for homeless people asking for help: individual packaged food items (i.e., cheese & crackers, fruit cups, soft granola bars, raisin boxes, pop-top cans of meat), bottle(s) of water, two pairs of new black socks, ziplock bag of toiletries, gift coupon to McDonalds, bus pass, include items useful in your area. Place all items in a medium-size paper sack or recyclable tote. Church members can keep a few in their vehicles, giving them to individuals they encounter. Include an encouraging note with a basic plan of salvation. Repeat these collections 2-3 times during the year.
 - Consider beginning a weekly ministry: English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, tutoring program or individuals tutoring/reading at a school site, exercise classes or times for "mall walking" inside your facility, soup kitchen, partnering with a local Christian Women's Job Corp/Christian Men's Job Corp working with them each week, time for seniors to connect (luncheon, Bible study, games, hands-on activity like quilting, etc.).
 - Consider beginning a monthly ministry: local food ministry/distribution (like Treasure Box), nursing home or hospital visits, host a Parents' Night Out or First Saturday Workshop(s) - learning opportunities for adults (basic car maintenance, cooking on a shoestring, budgeting, parenting, relationships, computer skills, other "how to" classes) - provide a Backyard Bible Club or Bible study class for the children of adults attending.
 - Prepare In-Home Care Kits distributed by Baptist Global Response (BGR). Visit these Websites: gobgr.org and inhomecarekit.org for more information.

Going Activities – Pray for God to reveal what He desires for your church. Consider adopting an activity for an entire year (or longer). Developing relationships with others takes time, not easily accomplished at a short-term event. We want to focus on "Reaching the World in California."

Pray that God would open our eyes to the needs around us. Do we see poverty? Do we see domestic abuse? Do we see hurting people every day and never recognize their need for Jesus? These needs transcend every culture and age. Ask God to touch your heart with what breaks His.

- Prayer-walk your immediate neighborhood, asking God for divine appointments with those you encounter; make prayer-walking a habit.
- Develop an intentional schedule to visit with each of your neighbors with the determined purpose of learning their spiritual condition; deliver flowers/fruit/vegetables from your yard, a small loaf of banana bread or the like; seek to develop a genuine relationship of care and concern.

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The California Mission Offering is inspired by S.G. Posey, a CSBC missionary pioneer.