

CHURCHWIDE OBSERVANCE

**Season of Prayer 2008
For State Missions and the Janie Chapman Offering
For State Missions, Missions Education, and Empowering Kingdom Growth
September 14-21, 2008
\$2,000,000**

infusion

“Everything I do, I do to get the Good News to men. I want to have a part in this work.” I Corinthians 9:23 (NLV)

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When you invite Jesus Christ to come into your heart as your Savior and Lord, an **infusion** process begins. Christ now lives in you, through you, and out of you. This **infusion** has life-changing shifts. You now live with a purpose to broadcast God’s “Good News” to all people. In I Corinthians 9:23, the Apostle Paul shares the impact of being a recipient of God’s **infusion** process. Paul states that he will give up everything in order to be a teammate with God to “save some.” As you read and hear the stories of our South Carolina missionaries, you will also see and feel how their tireless ministry is the needed **infusion** that offers life-changing results that only God can give. Pray with the same heart and commitment.

Listed below are suggestions to encourage churchwide participation in the 2008 Season of Prayer for State Missions observance. Suggestions include (1) preparation, (2) promotion, (3) leadership responsibilities, and (4) membership responsibilities.

Preparation

- ▶ Make sure that your church has ordered and received Season of Prayer posters, prayer guides, *Family Missions Page*, Children’s Sermons, and Janie Chapman envelopes.
- ▶ Set your Janie Chapman offering goal prayerfully.
- ▶ Meet with your leadership team and decide on those who will help you communicate the missions emphasis: drama team, special guest missionary or promotional speaker(s). Note: Secure special guest soon to assure their availability.
- ▶ Make sure all age level groups have their materials in advance.
- ▶ Have church staff and WMU leadership team make your church participation a prayer priority now. Ask your leaders to begin now praying for God to help each of us have the heart of the Apostle Paul – willing to give up everything in order to be a teammate with God to “save some”.

(Over)

Promotion

- ▶ Place posters with your church offering goal in traffic areas of all your meeting places.
- ▶ Display a collection of things on a table in the vestibule that are used for infusion purposes (examples: a plant soaking in water; safe medical items such as a syringe without a needle of course, an old infusion pump and hose, gauze and solution; basketball and pump; Spaulding Infusion basketball, football and pump, computer and software). Note: When air is pumped into a basketball it is called "infusion." You might also consider having a basketball to represent specific increments of \$25's, \$50's, etc. You could place a stand-alone basketball backboard and goal in a conspicuous location. Calculate your goal and as each increment is reached, place another basketball in a net. Each basketball can be contained in its own net and then connect the nets to another starting with the rim net and then go downward from the goal. (This concept can also be downsized to as simple as cutouts on a bulletin board.)
- ▶ Have your goal printed weekly in your church bulletin or newsletter along with one of the state missions facts from the **South Carolina State Facts** sheet you received.
- ▶ Schedule a specific worship service (Wednesday or Sunday) to do one or more of the following: 1) show the state missions DVD, 2) enlist a state speaker (list of available speakers mailed to pastors and WMU directors in June, July, August leadership packet), 3) members involved in missions, and/or 4) someone in your church who can speak about infusion (ie. medical personnel, youth basketball player, youth football player, computer software programmer) and then communicate how we can be that person (instrument) for someone to receive that needed infusion which offers life-changing results that only God can give.
- ▶ Use provided Children's Sermons in Sunday morning worship services.

Leadership

- ▶ Have WMU leadership team and church staff to meet a few moments one morning (perhaps before Sunday worship during the state missions week of prayer) for coffee and prayer for your church's monetary goal and missions involvement goals.
- ▶ Have WMU director and leaders make invitations in the shape of a syringe, basketball, football or an air pump of some type with time, date, and place of the Season of Prayer for State Missions Observance (prayer experience or guest speaker). Distribute either to Sunday School classes or congregation as they assemble at least one week before the observance.
- ▶ Ask Sunday School teachers (or someone on the WMU Leadership Team) to share one of the testimonies included in the missions emphasis (ie. State Fair Ministry, Prison Ministry, foreign-born growth) for a few moments during class the month of September.
- ▶ Encourage the pastor to share from the pulpit the importance of prayer and financial support of state missions.
- ▶ Ask music or worship leader to include the selected songs for the season of prayer in the worship service (songs listed in materials).
- ▶ Use provided Children's Sermons in Sunday morning worship services.

Membership

- ▶ Remind members by praying, giving and sharing the gospel, we can participate in the needed infusion which offers life-changing results that only God can give.
- ▶ Allow children to sing the selected song "*When I Pray*" during worship service and possibly be "ushers" to collect the offering one Sunday for the Janie Chapman offering.
- ▶ Ask drama team, youth group or senior group to write and perform "cameo" skits during worship service. These could be about the State Fair Ministry, Prison Ministry, foreign-born growth, or any of the subjects addressed in the material provided.
- ▶ Provide a list of state missions facts for members so they can see what sacrificial giving can do in the Kingdom work in South Carolina when we participate in the needed infusion which offers life-changing results that only God can give!