



## INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD

# Week of Prayer for International Missions Stations

The Week of Prayer for the International Mission Board is a special time of year when we can focus on missionaries serving overseas and the dynamic work they are doing in the name of Christ. This year the IMB is focusing on reaching the lost through obedience, innovation, research, partnerships, church planting, relationships, discipleship, and commitment. You will notice that a theme of “connection” is woven throughout all of these stories. These Week of Prayer Stations are meant to help our missions learners make a deeper connection to our missionaries and taste and see what life might be like in the places that they serve.

### Materials Needed:

Masala or Spiced Tea. This is sometimes called Chai in stores.

Coffee in a carafe or coffee maker.

VR Goggle setup or a board game.

Sleeping bag with storage pouch, backpack

Peanut butter and jelly and bread or strawberry jelly and cream cheese.

Plastic knife

Becoming a Christian guide (supplied in study)

Sign Language guide (supplied in study)

\*Written missionary profile materials adapted from Week of Prayer For International Missions by IMB.

# Reaching the Lost in Europe



## Station 1:

Don and Pam Lynch use espresso to reach people's hearts for Jesus in Belgium. Europe is now considered unreached by the IMB. That means less than %2 of the population know Jesus as their Savior. Not surprisingly, lostness coupled with a mental health crisis worldwide has left people like the Belgians with a sense of disconnection and hopelessness. The Lynches set up an espresso cart in places around their city and share coffee and listening ears. "When people share their struggles, the missionaries can actually hear, build relationships, and most importantly introduce a loving Savior."

**Task:** Have some coffee and share a little about your life with the people in your group. You can use these questions as starters.

What is the best gift you have ever received?

How many places have you lived in your life?

What would you say to a person that you were sharing coffee with in Belgium like the Lynches do?

- Pray for new initiatives around the world that seek the lost and offer the message of eternal hope.
- Pray with Don and Pam that God would provide more opportunities for them to have deep gospel conversations and long-term friendships.
- Pray that God would lead more workers to seek the lost around the world and present the Gospel solution.

# Virtual Evangelism



## Station 2

The Knippers are missionaries in Japan. They met through a virtual reality game in college and Justin shared the gospel with Michaela online! Now they use virtual reality communities as one place to share the gospel. “They recognize their unique interests and skills in the gaming world mean they might be the only ones sharing the gospel with those in the virtual world where they serve.” The Knippers make a point to connect with people in real life as well and follow up and disciple people there so that they can relate to them on a “heart level in the tech capital of the world.”

Similarly, the Crownovers in Germany reach their neighbors through board game nights and an online board gaming community through YouTube. Board games are a huge national pastime in Germany, which is considered an unreached country.

**Task:** Try on the VR goggles and see what it might be like interacting in the virtual world, or grab a partner and a game and see what it might be like for missionaries in Germany to share their faith through board games.

- Pray that God would help the Knippers learn Japanese so they can transition relationships from VR to IRL.
- Pray that more missionaries would be willing to use the newest innovations and technologies to reach the world for Christ.

# Where No One Has Gone Before



## Station 3

There is a difference between unreached people and unengaged people groups. Unengaged people groups have never had the opportunity to hear the good news of Jesus. The International Mission Board launched Project 3000 to engage 3,072 unengaged, unreached people groups. Ray Henry Holiday is a part of that project. Ray is a Missionary explorer who journeys “into the unknown to find out where these people groups live, learn about their culture, discern their literacy, develop ministry strategies and find people to partner with in the task.” Ray says he carries his home on his back. He often uses a translator to gather information about the places he goes but also to make connections and build relationships.

**Task:** Ray travels with what he needs on his back. That means clothes, sleeping bag, toiletries, etc. Just the sleeping bag itself can be a challenge. Try to get the sleeping bag in its bag and attach it to the backpack. Pack the clothes a missionary like Ray might need for a week.

- Pray for Ray as he and other Project 3000 missionaries scout out and research their people groups.
- Pray the Lord would open the hearts of these unengaged, unreached people groups.
- Pray God would call more people to serve through project 3000.

# Sports Ministry Legacy



## Station 4:

Prison and sports ministries and developing national missionaries are a big part of the ministries done in partnerships between Matt and Gretchen Clay's believers and churches in North African and Fruit Cove and Aspire churches in Florida. The believers in Florida have a great tradition of sports and prison ministry. Still, rather than sending their members to North Africa to do these ministries, they train native North Africans to do these ministries in their local setting. Empowering the local ministers fuels their fire to share the gospel!

**Task:** Have you ever tried to teach someone something new? Think about the steps involved in something as simple as making a peanut butter and Jelly Sandwich can be tricky. Let's try it! One person be the sandwich maker and the other person be the "sandwich teacher". Write down the steps and then read the steps to the "maker". Start with nothing in your hands or in front of you. The maker can only do the steps that the teacher says to do.

\*In case of peanut allergies, use spreadable cream cheese and strawberry jelly.

How does knowing that your "maker" has no background in peanut butter and jelly sandwich-making change how you teach them?

- Pray for these partners as they seek to take the gospel to areas previously untouched by the good news of Jesus Christ.
- Praise God for churches' request' to be trained and mentored.
- Pray for continued fruit from the work of the Clays who are a steadfast presence among the lost.

# Reproducible Community Discipleship



## Station 5

Randy and Kimberly Windham connect with local Zambians to start new churches. They have a three-step process:

Step 1: Prayer for Gospel access to a community.

Step 2: Teach Evangelism by modeling.

Step 3: Discipleship

Randy and Kimberly say that churches never look the same from the outside. They might meet under a shade tree, use a room at a school, or have their own building. However, all have biblical teaching, fellowship, worship, service, and evangelism. "We never stop training and planting churches," Randy says. A key part of Randy and Kimberly's ministry is that it can be reproducible, meaning that the native people whom they train, can then use the same, simple model to train others. They never want the ministry of a community to be dependent on their presence.

**Task:** Use the "Becoming a Christian" witnessing guide to practice sharing how to become a Christian. One person shares and the other "receives" and then switch.

- Pray for the Windhams and their work in Zambia.
- Pray God would bring boldness and wisdom to local believers as they are discipled.
- Pray for continued church multiplication.

How to become a Christian guide is found at: <https://wmu.com/wpcontent/uploads/2023/02/Becoming-a-Christian-Flyer.pdf>

# Becoming A Christian

Good news! God loves you and every person in the world. He loves us very much!

There's bad news, too. Each person has sinned. We have done things God does not like.

**The Bible says: "Everyone has sinned" (Romans 3:23).**

But there's more. Because God loves us so much, He sent His Son, Jesus, to Earth. Jesus died on the Cross for our sins. He came back to life to show His power over death and sin.

**The Bible says: "When you sin, the pay you get is death. But God gives you the gift of eternal life. That's because of what Christ Jesus our Lord has done" (Romans 6:23).**

**Becoming a Christian starts with telling God that you have sinned. Believe that Jesus died and came back to life to save you from your sins. Jesus is the only way we can be with God forever.**

Thank God that Jesus takes away your sin. Turn away from sinning. Commit your life to Jesus. Ask God to help you do what He wants you to do.

**The Bible says: "Say with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord.' Believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead. Then you will be saved" (Romans 10:9).**

Christians try to follow God in everything they do. They ask God to help them love people as Jesus loves them. God is more important to a Christian than anything else.

**Talk with your parents, your missions leader, or another Christian adult to learn more about becoming a Christian.**

MISSIONS JOURNEY: *Kids*



# Global Partners



## Station 6

The IMB defines a global missionary partner (GMP) as a national church partner based overseas who is fully funded through a church, a network of churches or Baptist conventions. He or she serves on and with an existing IMB team. Rose, a teacher from Mexico had a passion for reaching a people group in the Horn of Africa. 15 churches across Mexico and Panama support Rose. Her Mexican passport helps her to have greater access to a hard-to-reach people group than some of her American partners have! Rose is dedicated to being out in the community, no matter where that community might be, as she and her team have been forced to relocate multiple times.

**Task:** One way that Rose and Her team might connect with their community is by having tea with them. Masala Chai is the favorite tea in the Horn of Africa. Smell the tea bag and see if you can guess the spices that make this tea different from our Lipton tea. Read the back of the box to see if you are correct.

- Pray for ministry among Rose's people group to flourish, even as they experience ongoing political conflict. Her passion is to see the lost come to saving faith.
- Pray the coalition of Latin American churches grows in relationship with the IMB as we reach the nations together.
- Ask that more of Rose's family in Mexico will come to faith in Jesus Christ.



# Eyes To Hear The Good News



## Station 7

Paul is an IMB missionary who connects is uniquely equipped to disciple the deaf in Senegal because he experiences the world in much the same way they do. The commonalities between Paul and Joseph, a Senegalese believer, have helped Paul disciple him more effectively.

Paul understands this need to learn visually, and, along with StoryOne Camps, he teaches the Bible in a way Deaf can understand — through storying.

Now, because Joseph was given access to the Scripture in his heart language, Francophone African Sign Language, he's passionate about sharing the gospel with those like himself who need access to the gospel in a way they can understand.

His faith has come at a great cost for him. He was disowned by his family, but he hasn't backed down. Joseph is now working in a Deaf church, discipling other believers through this mnemonic storying method.

Leading out in a Bible translation project, in partnership with Paul and Deaf Pathway Global, is another way this growing disciple is fulfilling the Great Commission.

**Task:** Look at the words "Jesus Loves You" in American sign language and then compare the letters in the French Sign Language Alphabet to see if they would be signed the same way.

- Thank the Lord that He is using missionaries like Paul and national believers like Joseph to reach the Deaf.
- Pray for Joseph as he continues to spread the gospel to the Deaf while being burdened for his lost family members.
- Pray for Deaf Pathway Global as they work to translate the Scriptures and present them visually for the Deaf to have gospel access.



# When Disaster Strikes



## Station 8

Natural disasters can strike anytime and anywhere. They leave millions of people in need. Those in the path of storms, earthquakes or hurricanes often find themselves hungry, homeless and hopeless.

Thanks to the long-term commitment of Southern Baptists, missionaries can respond quickly to unexpected disasters with more than physical assistance. Missionaries understand the greatest need people have when they lose everything on earth — eternal hope in Jesus Christ.

Central Asia is a region where natural disasters are common. Large earthquakes, like February's earthquakes in Turkey and Syria, make the national news, but earthquakes of all sizes are also common there. Even small earthquakes can block roads, cutting off entire areas from aid. Central Asia also faces other catastrophic events like extreme temperatures, mudslides, floods and avalanches.

Disaster relief ministry is vital in Central Asia, and IMB workers are uniquely positioned to respond. In the first six months of 2023, they have been involved in more than 80 different projects that have included things like clean water systems, flood and earthquake relief, trauma care, food distribution, women's health initiatives and job skills training for refugees.

"Despite the challenges posed by limited resources and a shortage of evangelical churches and believers in the affected region," Botta said, "our national partners have found ways to serve vulnerable communities by supporting compassion-filled local believers."

**Task:** Talk it out...imagine that your home was destroyed by a natural disaster. What help from local churches and missionaries would you be most happy to receive? Why? If you were on a disaster relief team, in what area of relief support would you feel most equipped to serve? (food distribution, medical relief, etc.)

- Pray God would bless the long-term commitment of the IMB and national Christians who faithfully serve.
- Pray for Robert Botta and others serving in disaster relief work, that they would have strength and wisdom during difficult days.
- Ask God to lead Southern Baptists to stay focused on reaching the nations and to generously support those who are working among the world's lost.