

Dear Friends,

The Iowa Yearly Meeting Mission Board is happy to respond to the request from several of you in your evaluations asking for material that would challenge youth and young adults to become more mission oriented.

Included in this packet are two attempts to provide you with materials that we think will meet your requests not only for youth and young adults but for your entire church.

The Mission Challenge provides twelve approximately five-minute presentations that can be used once a month for a year or once a week for a quarter or you can be creative and adapt them to your church situation. These will provide a broad world outlook and the need for missions as well as opening your eyes to the persecution of Christians that is happening around the world.

The Prayer Labyrinth is suggested as a way to facilitate meditation and prayer that will draw you closer to God personally and provide the opportunity to pray for Friends mission efforts Iowa Yearly Meeting encourages and supports.

You will find helpful instructions for using each of these offerings. However, if you have questions let us know and we will be happy to respond to you. We look forward to getting feedback from you as you use this material.

It is our prayer that you will be blessed as you use these materials and that God will put within the hearts of your people a greater understanding and appreciation for His calling to share the Good News around the world.

In His Service,

Mary Glenn Hadley, Clerk, Iowa Yearly Meeting Board on Missions

## GUIDE TO USING MISSION CHALLENGES EFFECTIVELY

We are grateful to Sarah Radcliff for her insights in reaching youth and young adults with a mission heart. She is a young adult who is prepared to serve as a missionary nurse in the near future. We thank her for writing this material and involving technology that is understood by her generation.

**PREPARE PRAYER BOX:** Fix an interesting box with a slot in the top that is large enough to drop a 3"x 5" card into. Affix in some manner the words: **HOW CAN WE BE THE HANDS AND FEET OF CHRIST IN OUR COMMUNITY? IN OUR WORLD?** With each presentation, you will drop a card with the name of the selected country to pray for into the Prayer Box. As you talk about that country, suggestions for ways you can become involved may arise. Write those on the back of the card before dropping it into the box. Encourage people to slip suggestions in the box that God may bring to their attention where you can be God's Hands and Feet in the community or world.

**PRAY OVER THE PRAYER BOX:** Each time a presentation is made, you are encouraged to Pray Over the Box. At the end of three months have your youth and young adults spend time praying for God to show them one plan for them to be His Hands and Feet in their community and one plan for their involvement in the world. Then open the box and prayerfully consider each suggestion and select two plans to pursue—one for the community and one for the world.

If you have chosen to use this material monthly, you may want to open the box using the above procedure four times a year.

**STORIES, SONGS, VIDEOS ETC:** These presentations incorporate stories, songs and videos that are available on the internet. They have been carefully chosen to broaden the worldview and the need for missions. It raises awareness of the persecution Christians are enduring. If using technology in this way challenges you, realize that youth and young adults connect more through this technology. Invite someone who uses technology easily to help you. Don't be put off by it and lay it aside.

**PLAN AHEAD FOR EACH PRESENTATION:** At the beginning of each presentation, you will find a list of things to do in advance under Preparation. They are not difficult things but need to be prepared so the presentation can be made more effectively. These include such things as preparing bulletin inserts, ordering a prayer map or things that make the learning more real. Each lesson details how to get the music or profile for a selected country from the internet.

**CHALLENGES:** Most of the presentations include a Challenge which is more of a Hands-On opportunity which we encourage you to do. It is an opportunity to put into action some expression of being God's Hands and Feet in the community or world or sometimes it is something just to strengthen who you are in Christ.

## Week 1: I HAVE DECIDED TO FOLLOW JESUS

### Preparation:

- Preview video and set up equipment
- Prepare Prayer Box as instructed in the introduction
- Prepare Music Insert for Bulletin
- Select country to profile for Prayer Box
- Write name of selected country on card to put in Prayer Box

### Mission Challenge

#### Show video to introduce:

“Story of a family in India who gave up their lives to follow Jesus and in turn changed the whole village”

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=KOBSu\\_A4LU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=KOBSu_A4LU)

Click on I Have Decided to Follow Jesus Video (Ft. Jadon Lavik)

Are we as a church living the Great Commission like Jesus intended? How are we following Jesus in our community or in our world? How are we encouraging our brothers and sisters who are tortured for Christ? As a church we are going to take five minutes each Sunday to learn and pray about what it means to follow Jesus, no turning back, no turning back. (Display the Prayer Box) In this box we will be putting ideas for actions we should take for at least a year in our community and in our world to be seen by those around us as the hands and feet of Christ. We will pray over this box each Sunday for six months, praying about where the Holy Spirit is leading and then the youth of our church will choose two actions the church will commit to in the community and the world.

*“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith, and in purity..... Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.” 1 Timothy 4:12-14 NIV*

**Pray:** Pray over box. How can we be the Hands and Feet of Christ in our Community? In Our World?

“Lord, help me to surrender to your power and your greater purpose for my life.” (Andrew & Verne, 2002, p. 232)

**Sing** *I Have Decided To Follow Jesus* (Words can be found in prepared Bulletin Insert—see next page) If the song is not known, read the words .

**Introduce the country** you have selected to profile for this week (or month) for which you have prepared a bulletin insert. Add the name of this country on a card and drop it in your Prayer Box. Encourage people to commit to praying for this country.

(Make your selection of country to profile by going to <http://www.onewiththem.com/resources/> under Country Profiles. Prepare the bulletin insert of that country and invite your church to pray specifically for this country for the week (or month).

*“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:19-20NIV*

Week 1: I have decided to follow Jesus (continued)

**Insert for Bulletin:**

1. I have decided to follow Jesus;  
I have decided to follow Jesus;  
I have decided to follow Jesus;  
No turning back, no turning back.
  
2. Though I may wonder, I still will follow;  
Though I may wonder, I still will follow;  
Though I may wonder, I still will follow;  
No turning back, no turning back.
  
3. The world behind me, the cross before me;  
The world behind me, the cross before me;  
The world behind me, the cross before me;  
No turning back, no turning back.
  
4. Though none go with me, still I will follow;  
Though none go with me, still I will follow;  
Though none go with me, still I will follow;  
No turning back, no turning back.
  
5. Will you decide now to follow Jesus?  
Will you decide now to follow Jesus?  
Will you decide now to follow Jesus?  
No turning back, no turning back.

*“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

*Matthew 28: 19-20*

## Week 2: GOD'S CALL

### Preparation:

- Prepare to play "Give Me Your Eyes" by Brandon Heath
- Prepare Music Insert for Bulletin
- Select country to profile and prepare Bulletin Insert
- Write name of selected country on card to put in Prayer Box
- Have 3x5 cards to pass to all attendees

### Mission Challenge

*God's Call* by Brother Andrew with Verne Becker

"If we want to change the world for God, we must start by listening to his word as given in the Scriptures." (Andrew & Verne, 2002, p. 27) This is a quote from Brother Andrew who committed his life to following Jesus with no reserves and smuggled Bibles into closed countries. He is the founder of Open Doors who continues to encourage and provide resources to Christians in closed countries.

God provides in unexpected ways. We may not know what the outcome will be but Jesus honors our willingness to go. This is one of many stories Brother Andrew heard from various team members helping to smuggle Bibles into closed countries. They were people who were willing to say yes and equip brothers and sisters with Bibles so that the gospel could spread.

"One of our Dutch teams was heading into Czechoslovakia. Before reaching the border, they stopped for prayer and ---- being good Dutchmen---- a stiff cup of coffee. One of them opened a carton of condensed milk to pour in the coffee but forgot to put it away afterward. He left it sitting right on top of a box that contained Bibles and a few tools. At the Czech border, while they were inside the station processing their papers, an officer went out to check the van's contents. He had hardly looked inside when he accidentally knocked over the forgotten carton, spilling milk on the floor of the van. So he ran inside got a towel, went back to the car, and cleaned up the mess—after which he apologized to the men and quickly sent them on their way." (Andrew & Verne, 2002, p. 39)

God uses our mistakes. Who are we to think we are big enough to mess up God's plan? Have you ever felt inadequate or not the right person for the job? Have you ever looked at someone and thought I wish I could do that? Or you don't have enough strength to carry on? Rejoice in this because through Christ all things are possible. God doesn't want us to lean on our own understanding but to trust him. To say "Here I am, send me!"

1 Corinthians 1:27 *"But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong."*

**PRAY:** For the prayer box and a willingness to step out in faith

“Lord, cause me to hear your prophetic Word for my life today. And lead me to the places and people who need to receive that Word....even at the risk of being thought a fool.”

(Andrew & Verne, 2002, p. 31)

**Hands On:**

Pass around a card for the whole church to sign and write an encouraging word for a missionary couple the church is supporting to send this coming week. Play “Give me your eyes” by Brandon Heath at the end of the service when everyone is leaving.

**Introduce the Country** you have selected to profile for this week (or month) for which you have prepared a bulletin insert. Add the name of this country on a card and drop it in your Prayer Box. Encourage people to commit to praying for this country.

(Make your selection of country to profile by going to <http://www.onewiththem.com/resources/> under Country Profiles. Prepare the bulletin insert of that country and invite your church to pray specifically for this country for this week (or month).

**Sing** “*Give me your eyes*” by Brandon Heath (Words can be found in prepared Bulletin Insert—see next page) If the song is not known, read the words with the music in the background.

Week 2: God's Call (continued)

**Insert for Bulletin:**

**Give me your eyes by Brandon Heath**

Looked down from a broken sky; Traced out by the city light

My World from a mile high; Best seat in the house tonight

Touched down on the cold black tar; hold on for the sudden stop

Breathe in the familiar shock; Of confusion and chaos

All those people going somewhere, Why have I never cared?

(Chorus)

Give me Your eyes for just one second; Give me your eyes so I can see

Everything that I keep missing; Give me Your love for humanity

Give me your arms for the broken hearted. The ones that are far beyond my reach?

Give me Your heart for the one's forgotten; Give me Your eyes so I can see

Yeah, Yeah, Yeah, Yeah

Step out on a busy street, See a girl and our eyes meet

Does her best to smile at me, To hide what's underneath

There's a man just to her right, Black suit and a bright red tie

Too ashamed to tell his wife, He's out of work, he's buying time

All those people going somewhere, Why have I never cared?

(Chorus)

I've been there a million times; A couple of million eyes just moving past me by

I swear I never thought that I was wrong.

Well, I want a second glance; So give me a second chance

To see the way You see the people all alone

(Chorus)

Give me Your eyes for just one second; Give me your eyes so I can see

Everything that I keep missing; Give me Your love for humanity

Give me your arms for the broken hearted. The ones that are far beyond my reach?

Give me Your heart for the one's forgotten; Give me Your eyes so I can see

Yeah, Yeah, Yeah, Yeah

## Week 3: I WILL GO

### Preparation:

Sign up for free Prayer World Map

Prepare Music Insert for Bulletin

Prepare equipment to play *I Will Go* by Starfield

Select country to profile for Prayer Box and prepare Bulletin Insert

Write name of selected country on card to put in Prayer Box

### Mission Challenge

**Read Aloud** *I will Go* by Starfield found in the insert for bulletin.

### Insert for Bulletin:

#### *I will Go* by Starfield

To the desperate eyes and reaching hands,

To the suffering and the lean

To the ones the world has cast aside

Where you want me I will be

[Chorus:]

I will go, I will go

I will go, Lord send me

To the world, To the lost

To the poor and hungry

Take everything I am

I'm clay within your hands

I will go, I will go, send me

Let me not be blind with privilege

Give me eyes to see the pain

Let the blessing You've poured out on me

Not be spent on me in vain

Let this life be used for change

[Chorus]

I wanna live for you

Go where you lead me

I wanna follow you

[Repeat 3x]

*“Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I, Send me!” Isaiah 6:8-9 NIV*

Where does the Lord want us as a church?



**Prayer:**

Father, I ask for open doors to spread the Gospel

“Devote yourselves to prayer that God may open a door to proclaim Christ.” (Colossians 4:2-3)

Father, I ask for open minds to receive the Gospel.

“I am sending you to them (the lost) to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light.” (Acts 26:17)

Father, I ask for open hearts to embrace the Gospel.

“For God made His light shine in our hearts to give us the light of Christ.” (2 Corinthians 4:6)

Father, I ask for open heavens, that the Gospel may run swiftly.

*“Open up, O heavens, and pour out your righteousness. Let the earth open wide so salvation and righteousness can sprout up together.” (Isaiah 45:8) [www.EHC.org](http://www.EHC.org)*

**Introduce the Country:** you have selected to profile for this week (or month) for which you have prepared a bulletin insert. Add the name of this country on a card and drop it in your Prayer Box. Encourage people to commit to praying for this country.

(Make your selection of country to profile by going to <http://www.onewiththem.com/resources/> under Country Profiles. Prepare the bulletin insert of that country and invite your church to pray specifically for this country for the week (or month).

**Hands On:**

Play actual song at the end of service when everyone is leaving.

Sign up for Free prayer world maps: <http://www.ehc.org/resources-world-prayer-maps> and give to those willing to take them.

Keep one to identify the countries you are selecting to prayer for.

## Week 4: WE ARE ONE

### Preparation:

- Prepare Nick Whitehead's story as Bulletin Insert
- Select country to profile for Prayer Box and prepare Bulletin Insert
- Write name of selected country on card to put in Prayer Box
- Plan how to collect items for care package for missionary family

### Mission Challenge

#### Read or Tell the story

*We Are One* by Nick Whitehead

I am a missionary kid, not out of choice but just because it happened that way. I'm not one of those MK's who can't tell you where "home" is nor one that speaks a few different languages fluently. I'm pretty much just a normal American who by choice of his parents and the guidance of God, ended up in Ecuador. So, yeah, after a while being a missionary kid isn't all that cool. Maybe when you're little, it was all like, "Look at me, I've played with monkeys in my backyard and eaten grasshoppers and liked them!" But once you get older you realize that there are millions of kids with similar experiences and not just kids who are overseas.....

"Whether I'm in Chicago, or Somalia, or even Quito, Ecuador, I am exactly who I was meant to be." Life ain't gonna be a stroll around a track. It's gonna be a race through a jungle, with vines tearing at your clothes, holes to fall in, and crazy things chasing you down. You just gotta brush off those vines, climb out of those holes and keep running. You gotta be strong and not let anything or anyone get you down.

.....Life is a struggle, and there's nothing you can do to make it simple. It's not a fight that's gonna be won by sitting around doing nothing about your worries or problems. So... make the best of it; look at the joys in life, examine the high points more closely than the low ones; taste every piece of food like it's your last, listen like you never have before, and always be sure to get right back up when you fall down..... Don't live your life for anybody but God and the hope of eternity. Don't deny your future or the hope it brings, but be smart and make the choice that only you can make for yourself. We all are together as humans. WE ARE ONE.

**Pray:** From 1 Corinthians 12:12

*"The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ."*

**Introduce the country** you have selected to profile for this week (or month) for which you have prepared a bulletin insert. Add the name of this country on a card and drop it in your Prayer Box. Encourage people to commit to praying for this country.

(Make your selection of country to profile by going to <http://www.onewiththem.com/resources/> under Country Profiles. Prepare the bulletin insert of that country and invite your church to pray specifically for this country for the week (or month).)

#### Hands On:

Send a care package to a missionary family.

## Week 5: FOLLOWING JESUS ISN'T EASY

### Preparation:

Select country to profile for Prayer Box and prepare Bulletin Insert

Write name of selected country on card to put in Prayer Box

Subscribe for suggested monthly newsletter

### Mission Challenge

*Tortured for Christ* by Richard Wurmbrand

#### Share story of Richard Wurmbrand

Richard Wurmbrand was a man who spent fourteen years in Communist prison because of his passion for Jesus Christ. He loved the LORD with ALL his heart, ALL his soul, and ALL his mind. People tried to change his mind and make him question if Jesus was enough.

“Several Christians have asked me how we could resist brainwashing. There is only one method of resistance to brainwashing: it is “heart washing.” If the heart is cleansed by the love of Jesus Christ, one can resist all tortures.” Pg. 38

What Richard saw and experienced cannot be put into words but this is how he viewed the people who tortured him.

“ Communists are men and Christ loves them. So does every man who has the mind of Christ.....I have seen Christians in Communist prisons with fifty pounds of chains on their feet, tortured with red-hot iron pokers, in whose throats spoonfuls of salt had been forced, being kept afterward without water, starving, whipped, suffering from cold.....praying with fervor for the Communists. This is humanly inexplicable! It is the love of Christ, which was poured out in our hearts.” Pg. 55

Do we have this love of Christ in our own lives? What hurts or bitterness do we need to let go of? Are we willing to trust Jesus to fill our needs even when we feel we are being wronged and justice is needed? How can we *love the Lord with All our hearts, All our souls, and All our minds?* (Matthew 22:37)

**Introduce the country** you have selected to profile for this week (or month) for which you have prepared a bulletin insert. Add the name of this country on a card and drop it in your Prayer Box. Encourage people to commit to praying for this country.

(Make your selection of country to profile by going to <http://www.onewiththem.com/resources/> under Country Profiles. Prepare the bulletin insert of that country and invite your church to pray specifically for this country for the week (or month).)

### Pray:

Pray for the country highlighted in the Bulletin insert. Put the name of this country in the Prayer Box for action that could be taken in our world.

**Hands On:** As a church, subscribe to *The Voice of the Martyrs* monthly newsletter. (Its Free)

<http://www.persecution.com/>. Introduce the church to this newsletter and tell where it will be available for reading.

## Week 6: BE ONE WITH THEM

### Preparation:

- Preview video and set up equipment
- Select country to profile for Prayer Box and prepare bulletin insert
- Write name of selected country on card to put in Prayer Box
- Order bracelets as suggested and give out at church

### Mission Challenge

Show video to introduce:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VQISQnp1EAI>

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(Make your selection of country to profile by going to <http://www.onewiththem.com/resources/> under Country Profiles. Prepare the bulletin insert of that country and invite your church to pray specifically for this country for the week (or month).)

**Pray:** Pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ in the nation in the bulletin insert chosen.

Using Ephesians 3:14-19

*“For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” Ephesians 3: 14 thru 19 NIV*

### Hands On:

Youth Group/ Sunday School check out

- 1.) Be One With Them Bracelets: <http://www.onewiththem.com/resources/wristbands/>

Want a tangible reminder to pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters?

This barbed wire wristband is not only a great reminder to pray for the persecuted church, it is also a great conversation starter to share about the Christian persecution. The barbed wire wristband comes in two sizes: Regular (20 centimeters or 7.8 inches) and Large (22 centimeters or 8.6 inches) and cost **just \$1 each**.

Your purchase will provide support to Open Doors programs and services that strengthen the persecuted church throughout the world.

- 2.) Red Thread Movement: <http://www.redthreadmovement.org/>. Click on About, click on merchandise, go to Red Thread Bracelet.

Red Thread movement works to help provide for girls, victimized for human trafficking, not feel forgotten. Wearing a bracelet helps to generate awareness against human trafficking and provide funds to help stop this injustice.

## Week 7: LIVING THE WORD

### Preparation:

Select country to profile for Prayer Box and prepare Bulletin Insert

Write name of selected country on card to put in Prayer Box

### Mission Challenge

#### Read Romans 5:6-8 from *The Message*

*“Christ arrives right on time to make this happen. He didn’t, and doesn’t, wait for us to get ready. He presented himself for this sacrificial death when we were far too weak and rebellious to do anything to get ourselves ready. And even if we hadn’t been so weak, we wouldn’t have known what to do anyway. We can understand someone dying for a person worth dying for, and we can understand how someone good and noble could inspire us to selfless sacrifice. But God put his love on the line for us by offering his Son in sacrificial death while we were of no use whatsoever to him.”*

#### Share story from *Tortured for Christ* by Richard Wurmbrand

“A pastor by the name of Florescu was tortured with red-hot iron pokers and with knives. He was beaten very badly. Then starving rats were driven into his cell through a large pipe. He could not sleep because he had to defend himself all the time. If he rested a moment, the rats would attack him. ...The Communists wished to compel him to betray his brethren, but he resisted steadfastly. Eventually, they brought his fourteen-year-old son to the prison and began to whip the boy in front of his father, saying that they would continue to beat him until the pastor said what they wished him to say....He bore it as long as he could, then he cried to his son, “Alexander, I must say what they want? I can’t bear your beating anymore?” The son answered, “Father don’t do me the injustice of having a traitor as a parent. Withstand? If they kill me, I will die with the words, ‘Jesus and my fatherland.” Pg. 34

#### Read Luke 6:27 NIV

*“But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you.”*

#### Read Matthew 5:44 NIV

*“But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.”*

The pastor’s son died praising God and his Father was never the same after this. What sacrifices are you willing to make? What sacrifices as a church could be made to help encourage families who have lost loved ones because of their faith?

**Introduce the country** you have selected to profile for this week (or month) for which you have prepared a bulletin insert. Add the name of this country on a card and drop it in your Prayer Box. Encourage people to commit to praying for this country.

(Make your selection of country to profile by going to <http://www.onewiththem.com/resources/> under Country Profiles. Prepare the bulletin insert of that country and invite your church to pray specifically for this country for the week (or month).)

### Pray:

Pray for the country highlighted in the Bulletin insert. Put the name of this country in the Prayer Box for action that could be taken in our world.

*“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up.” 1 Thessalonians 5:11 NIV*

**Challenge:** Lord, help us to get out of your way. Open our heart and mind to your will this week when we read your word. *“For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Hebrews 4:12 NIV*

## Week 8: Standing in the Gap

### Preparation:

- Preview video and set up equipment
- Prepare Prayer Box as instructed in the introduction
- Prepare Music Insert for Bulletin
- Select country to profile for Prayer Box
- Write name of selected country on card to put in Prayer Box

### Mission Challenge

Ezekial 22:30-31 NIV

“I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found none. So I will pour out my wrath on them and consume them with my fiery anger, bringing down on their own heads all they have done, declares the Sovereign Lord.”

It can be easy to focus on God’s love for us. It is a comforting feeling to know no matter what God will still love us but has this made us complacent? Do we recognize God is also angry? Angry with the pain and suffering we have caused in the world he gave us as a gift to treasure. Moses stood in the gap several times for the Israelite people when God’s anger had finally reached the point of just wiping them out all together. Moses first humbled his own heart and reminded God of his initial plans for the Israelites. Moses then helped to humble the Israelites hearts and turn back to God. Do we have a true fear of God knowing one day we will have to answer for all our actions here on earth? Once Jesus is our Savior he calls us friend but what type of friend are we being to Jesus? God is looking for people who will do more than just pray but intercede “stand in the gap” for his people. How does that related to close countries today? Do I even know what countries are closed to the gospel? Where should my passion for Jesus take me? Have I counted up the cost?

**Watch:** Rend Collective Experiment - The Cost by Open Doors

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RaX4Rv02CGk&utm\\_source=church-watch&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=image&utm\\_campaign=april](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RaX4Rv02CGk&utm_source=church-watch&utm_medium=email&utm_content=image&utm_campaign=april)

**Introduce the Country** you have selected to profile for this week (or month) for which you have prepared a bulletin insert. Add the name of this country on a card and drop it in your Prayer Box. Encourage people to commit to praying for this country.

(Make your selection of country to profile by going to <http://www.onewiththem.com/resources/> under Country Profiles. Prepare the bulletin insert of that country and invite your church to pray specifically for this country for this week (or month).

**READ:** 1 Corinthians 3:13 NIV

“his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man’s work.”

### Pray:

- How should we be standing in the gap for those who don’t know Christ
- To have the fear of the Lord instilled in our hearts

### Challenge:

Learn more about a closed country and how to encourage believers there.

Insert In Bulletin:

Lyrics to The Cost by Rend Collective Experiment



Week 8: Standing in the Gap

**Rend Collective Experiment - The Cost Lyrics**

**Artist: Rend Collective Experiment**  
**Album: Homemade Worship By Handmade People**

I'm saying yes to You  
And no to my desires  
I'll leave myself behind  
And follow You

I'll walk the narrow road  
'cause it leads me to You  
I'll fall but grace  
Will pick me up again

I've counted up the cost  
Oh I've counted up the cost  
Yes I've counted up the cost  
And You are worth it

I do not need safety  
As much as I need You  
You're dangerous  
But Lord You're beautiful

I'll chase You through the pain  
I'll carry my cross  
'cause real love  
Is not afraid to bleed

Jesus  
Take my all  
Take my everything

I've counted up the cost  
And You're worth everything

## Week 9: Live life on purpose

### Preparation:

Select country to profile for Prayer Box and prepare Bulletin Insert

Write name of selected country on card to put in Prayer Box

Obtain copies of the book **REAL LIFE “A Christianity Worth Living Out.”** by James Choung for Sunday School or Youth Group to read.

### Mission Challenge

“We should all read the Bible. But we shouldn’t expect non-Christians to read the Bible. We are the Bible non-Christians read. We are God’s epistle, and everyone should read our lives.” (Andrew & Al, Light Force, 2004, p. 248) What do people see when they look at my life? Am I living my life toward a purpose? What is that purpose?

**Read:** Deuteronomy 30:11-20 NIV

“Now what I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach. It is not up in heaven, so that you have to ask, “Who will ascend into heaven to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?” Nor is it beyond the sea, so that you have to ask, “Who will cross the sea to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?” No, the word is very near you; it is in your mouth, and in your heart so you may obey it. See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death, and destruction. For I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments, decrees, and laws; then you will live and increase, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess... This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings, and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him.”

Are we being God-watchers? Can we point out to the people around us where God is moving and explain how he is present? Are we praying and studying God’s word so that we may show others how God is present when he seems distant? When is the last time we have stopped to listen to God’s voice? Do we believe he will speak? Are we willing to tell others what we hear?

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### Pray:

- the country highlighted in the Bulletin insert. Put this country prayer box for action that could be taken in our world.

Lord,

Put a fire in our hearts to read your word and see it become the focus of our thoughts. Help us to plan our life based on your word. Our hearts are selfish and we are a forgetful people. Let us not be outdone by stones who will cry out your name and praise you if we remain silent. Break us free from our doubts and fears and overwhelm us with a desire to love you with all our hearts and walk in your ways. Let us recognize where you are present and a desire to show others around us how you are near. It can be so hard to listen. Change our hearts O God, and make them ever true allow us to see and take initiative in where we are supposed to advance your kingdom.

### Challenge:

Sunday Schools, Youth Groups, or Bible Studies go through REAL LIFE “A Christianity Worth Living Out.” by James Choung

## Week 10: Disciple Makers

### Preparation:

Select country to profile for Prayer Box and prepare Bulletin Insert

Write name of selected country on card to put in Prayer Box

Discuss the Hand-Out

### Mission Challenge

“make disciples of all nations.” Matthew 28:19 Are we being disciple makers? We should be teaching “discipling” others no matter where we are in our walk with God. How are we creating space for people to hear God’s voice this week? “It takes a whole village to raise a child” is a famous quote acknowledging we need community to raise our children. Why do we try to do one on ones with people who are spiritually children? Where are the people at, with Christ who we see day to day? Are they skeptic and believe you or Christianity is just full of it? Do they believe in God or something out there and are seeking for answers? Have they been a Christian since they can remember and gone to church off and on? Is it a leader who needs encouragement or support for their ideas? To talk to people about Jesus we need to recognize where they are at and meet them in this place. It is not something that can be done just by ourselves. Are we letting the Holy Spirit empower us? What steps can we take to create more space for the Holy Spirit to move?

### Read: Acts 1:8 NIV

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

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### Challenge:

Read Luke 10:1-23 and discuss the hand out.

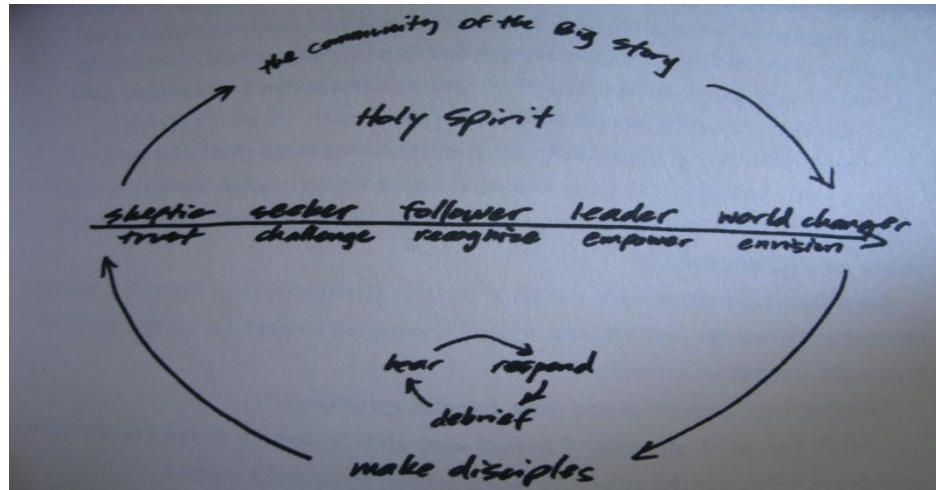
### Pray:

- How to reach people where they are at?
- Holy Spirit to rain down on us
- Country chosen this week (or month)

## Handout: How to reach people where they are at

Skeptic	Build trust
Seeker	Challenge toward next steps
Follower	Train to recognize God's voice and obey it
Leader	Give power and authority
World Changer	Cast vision for broader impact

We cannot reach people alone and need a community for discipleship. "Although it's tempting to make the discipling process individualistic, it's important to do this in community. Discipling in community has a way of deeply reinforcing what has been taught, as people in the group encourage and challenge each other instead of merely relying on the leader." (choung, 2012, p. 228) If people are just relying on us when we are not around their growth in Christ will fall.



Insert from Real Life by James Choung

"The discipling process that follows happens at each stage through a three-part cycle, based on Luke 10:

**HEAR.** In verse 2-16, the seventy-two disciples listen to Jesus' instructions. They take time to hear what he has to say. Today, we also need to create spaces for God to speak to the community.....Be open to the many ways God may choose to speak and use discernment to encourage or correct words that are shared in the group, keeping these four things in mind: Is it biblical? What does the community think? What is the fruit of that word? Does it create fear?

**RESPOND.** The seventy-two then go out according to Jesus' instructions to heal the sick and cast out demons. They respond by going out two-by-two. In verse 17, it's implied that they do what he asked. In this way, any Scripture study, any prayer meeting, anything that you do together as a community needs to point to a specific application point...

**DEBRIEF.** In verse 17-24, Jesus' disciples return in triumph. In debriefing them, Jesus offers two things: encouragement and correction. Disciples will regularly need to hear your encouragement and correction to know if they're on the right track. And a disciple maker can offer wisdom to help disciples interpret their experiences correctly, so that they continue to build their faith lives on the right perspectives...

- This week, identify someone that God is calling you to disciple. What next steps will you take to invite that person to a discipling community?
- In what ways can you create spaces for people to hear God's voice this week? How will you help them discern what they are hearing?
- In what ways can you help someone this week respond to God's Word, whether in Scripture or in life? (choung, 2012, pp. 228-230)

## Week 11: Friends around the World making Disciples

### Preparation:

Select country to profile for Prayer Box and prepare Bulletin Insert

Write name of selected country on card to put in Prayer Box

Check out <http://www.palfriends.org/>

Prepare insert in bulletin: Steadfast, We Remain

### Mission Challenge

The Friends School of Ramallah and El-Bireh has a long and honored history in Palestine. This school strives to be a leading educational institution in the Palestinian community. The Lower School (FGS) and the Upper School (FBS) were founded in 1869 and 1901 respectively, for the purpose of offering Palestinian youth a rigorous program guided by principles of the Quakers background. The school's education seeks to promote a constant search for God to all human situations, and to cultivate ethical, moral and spiritual values.

The history of the Friends School is one closely tied with the history of Palestine. Over the last century, the School has experienced Turkish, British, Jordanian, and Israeli occupation, world wars, and closures. The Friends School, in its checkered political history, has served not only as schools, but also as a center for refugees, hospital, and a center for community lectures, concerts and other cultural activities.

Insert from <http://www.palfriends.org>

Today, the students at the Ramallah Friends Schools located on the West Bank live with political tensions daily. The school works hard to prepare them to make peaceful choices as they face conflict and tensions. Building on experiences attending several Model UN (MUN) conferences worldwide, the Ramallah Friends School students planned extensively to host the first Palestinian MUN for high school students. With Israeli military restrictions on the entry of international and regional visitors, participants had to be limited to those from the West Bank. One hundred and thirty students from various schools participated in a three-day conference. Each student was assigned a country and the issues to be discussed were shared well in advance. They each came prepared to defend their assigned countries' position on many issues ranging from demilitarization, the famine in Somalia and the UN bid for Palestinian statehood. Most ironic was that one of the students was assigned to represent the State of Israel. With that came an incredible yet very enlightening experiment in role playing and conflict resolution. These students come from varied religious backgrounds yet the message of Christ's love and peace is making a difference in these lives. Who knows how God may choose to use them to influence international issues and decisions?

### Prayer:

“Prayer connects us with the body. It helps us identify with those who suffer and struggle as Christians in difficult situations. Prayer brings these problems to the one source that can really make a difference, but it must be intelligent prayer, not “God bless the missions wherever they are in the world today. “Intelligent prayer is where you open your heart and your ears.” (Andrew & Al, Light Force, 2004, p. 317)

Pray for the students and teachers of The Friends School of Ramallah and El-Bireh

Pray for the Palestine people

**Challenge:**

Check out <http://www.palfriends.org/> and not only pray for this school but send encouragement to what they are doing.

Learn more about the Church being caught in the Middle East Crossfire. Read the Light Force by Brother Andrew.

**Insert In Bulletin:****Steadfast, We Remain**

As I was writing this entry, the horrific violence against the people of Gaza was erupting. I thought about the irony of my message at this time. While I was planning to report on our school's facilities development, schools and homes were being destroyed throughout the Strip. While I wanted to share how our elementary school students were enjoying the new safe landscaped areas and sports fields, children were being killed by Israeli bombardment; and while I was going to talk about the proud parents and their active engagement with the school, I thought of the hundreds of mourning mothers and fathers in Gaza. As I was receiving reports about our school's academic program from both our principals, our students did their own reporting by sending me their poems, art and audiovisual productions expressing intense feelings about what is happening to their people. Even if Ramallah is being spared from the bombardment this time around, our hearts and minds are with our people. We pray for their safety, but also for an end to the military siege and occupation imposed on them. We pray for peace with justice for all. While the violence was happening, our school resolutely endured as it has for over one century. The teachers kept teaching, the workers kept building and the children kept playing. In Arabic, this continuation accurately represents the meaning of Sumoud, or what could be translated as steadfastness. Helping us endure throughout, are lovely partnerships taking root between gracious supporters and a competent and dedicated staff. We are so happy to see our students enjoying the new landscaping at the Lower School with two new AstroTurf fields, many new gardens and play areas created. The new kindergarten is also now complete and the upper floor has opened its doors to students this fall.

While we are thankful for all the support we receive to make these dreams a reality, we also know that together we can continue to make a difference in the lives of children. I am asking you to consider your support to our students' financial aid fund (allowing vulnerable and underprivileged children an opportunity to receive a top notch Quaker education)

From the Director's Office By Joyce Ajlouny, RFS Director December 2012

<http://www.palfriends.org/downloads/1/newsletterWinter2012.pdf>

or use

[http://www.palfriends.org/friends\\_brochure.pdf](http://www.palfriends.org/friends_brochure.pdf)

## Week 12: GO

### Preparation:

Select country to profile for Prayer Box and prepare Bulletin Insert

Write name of selected country on card to put in Prayer Box

Prepare to play song Go Hard or Go Home by Lecrae

### Mission Challenge

Jesus said go and make disciples of all nations. Sometimes I wonder how this is possible and then God reminds me it is not by my resources or ideas but it is done by the body of Christ through his resources and ideas. We are the body of Christ and have lost communication with each other leaving some of our sisters and brothers to feel discouraged and alone. It is much easier to send encouragement and prayer for people when we know they are physically sick. Then we go to the hospital, send Get Well cards, or add them to the prayer chain. Why does it have to come down to people being physically sick or injured before we think to encourage or pray? Do we hope since we cannot see a person's soul that it is not our responsibility to reach out, encourage, and send Christ healing? Look around in your community and see how God has brought all nations to you.

“ We are going to see that the people God uses in His journey are not people who have incredible, unwavering faith; so much as they are normal people that are willing to take the next step down the path.” (Claude, 2003, p. 51)

**Read:** Romans 10: 14-17 NIV

How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “ How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things?”

**PRAY:** For the prayer box and a willingness to step out in faith

“Lord, cause me to hear your prophetic Word for my life today. And lead me to the places and people who need to receive that Word....even at the risk of being thought a fool.”  
(Andrew & Verne, 2002, p. 31)

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### Challenge:

The youth decides where the Holy Spirit is leading and chooses two actions the church will commit to in the community and the world. Play song Go hard or Go Home by Lecrae

Go hard or Go Home by Lecrae

Go Hard or Go Home(2xs)

Lord Use Me Up(2xs)

[Verse 1: Lecrae]

Lord kill me If I don't preach the gospel  
I'm still in my 20's- but I'll die if I got to  
Eh man I'm Already dead- man forget my flesh  
I done been crossed over, see the full court press  
I'm a full court mess if the Lord don't use me  
Running from my trials thinkin' everythings groovy  
If the Cross don't move me then I don't wanna breath no mo  
If I ain't seeing Christ potna I don't wanna see no mo  
Rep Him every day without worrying about bruising  
I been to china mayne I seen some real persecution  
If you didn't know Christ would ya life look the same  
Can they tell you value Jesus by the way you rep his name?  
Man what's the point of living if Im living for myself  
Lord empty out my life before I put you on the shelf  
So for God I got Hard I don't wanna die tonight  
But It's too many people living who ain't heard about the Christ

Go Hard or Go Home(2xs)

Lord Use Me Up(2xs)

[Verse 2: Lecrae]

Went to Asia had to duck and hide-for sharin' my faith  
They tell me water it down when I get back to states  
They say tone the music down you might sell a lot a records  
But it's people out here dying and none of em heard the message  
Took my wifey on mission trip - in central america  
Shared her testimony 40 people stood and stared at her  
When she said Jesus shoulda seen it was insane  
Cause 40 out of 40 never heard of Jesus name  
Aw mayne we ain't focused on the war we just kickin' it  
Worried bout our image and our space up on the internet  
Take me out the game coach I don't wanna play no mo  
If can't give it all I got and leave it out there on the court  
Thank you for the Grace for the will and the desire  
Got me living for your glory stead of living to retire  
But I pray I'll never tire of going hard for Messiah  
I don't need no motivation You the reason I'm inspired

[Verse 3: Tedashii]



Go Hard for the Lord baby 'til He takes us home  
Go Hard for the Father baby go on get it on  
That's what that is baby/that what that mean/that what that mean  
That what That is baby/That what that mean/that what that mean  
Wha-What that mean?  
That mean that we, should be out up in the streets  
Not just in houses with our bible's summarizing what we read  
Man this ain't deep (man this ain't deep)/why we ain't doing what we read  
Its like we sleep (its like we sleep)  
But sinners sleepwalk when they sleep  
So why can't we (so why can't we)/the redeemed of the LORD  
Act out, what He said/and make a scene for the LORD  
Action-cut, say what, like we was the director  
But you better get a Grip like movie sets, and get to stepping/(Martin)  
I know you done it/da-done it, da-done-and heard it all  
You was going hard for the Lord before you heard this song  
But don't play yourself to save ya self/and walk in fear  
Scripture's like a mirror/the truth is closer than it appears