

Cultivating Missions Awareness Ideas

Sending Church Element #1 - Cultivating Missions Awareness

By Mike Easton

The first of the Sending Church Elements is “Cultivating Missions Awareness.” The following are a list of practical ideas that the Upstream team has put together as recommendations for ways to cultivate missions awareness in your church.

Worship Gatherings

What are people seeing & hearing in your church’s gatherings?

- [Sermons](#) - Consider, at minimum once per year, a sermon centered on God’s heart for the nations. Know your teaching schedule and encourage your teachers & preachers to focus on global missions where appropriate.
- [Songs](#) - Sing songs in a different language or songs that your missionaries are using around the world.
- Current Events - Pray for current events happening around the world—natural disasters, wars, persecution, etc.
- [Prayer for the Persecuted Church](#) - Spend a season (a month or more) in your church focusing on prayer for the persecuted church.
- Liturgy & Benedictions - Write out scripture passages or liturgies for your pastors or worship team to use during the service and as you finish the service. Do it in different languages.
- [Commissioning](#) - Each time you send a missionary, have a commissioning service.
- [Inviting a Missionaries’ Influence](#) - As highly connected missionaries come back, allow them to share in a service, small groups, or equipping session.
- [Video Updates](#) - Gather video updates from the field to play in a church service.
- Video Calls In-Service - While the technology can be tricky, find ways for people to be able to call into a service, small group, or equipping session.

Building & Media

What are people seeing, hearing, & reading in your building, social media, and other forms of communication?

Building

- [Strategic Map/Signs](#) - Having a map in the foyer of your church building is a must for casting missions vision. Find unique ways to share your strategy and your people on the map. Creative depictions of your strategy, pictures of overseas, etc.

- [Prayer Cards](#) - Have security conscious prayer cards available at your missions center and/or in your church offices.
- Missions Center - A central place in the church foyer for people to talk to someone about global missions each week.

Media

- [Social Media Account](#) - Run a social media account that provides reminders of global issues. Facebook Live Events
- [Website](#) - If not a separate website, have at least one page on your church's website that describes your mission's vision.
- [Church Newsletter](#) - Have global highlighted regularly in your church's newsletter.

Decision-Making Leadership

How are the decision-makers in your church (Elders, Deacons, Staff) coming to greater understanding and sense of responsibility towards global missions?

- [Book Study](#) - Do a book study with key decision makers in your church.
- [Vision Trips](#) - Take key leaders on vision trips.
- [Missions Team](#) - Create a missions team with real responsibility in global missions that includes decision-makers in your church.

Small Groups

- Monthly Missions Focus - Provide opportunities for your small groups monthly to do
- [Adopt a Missionary/Advocacy Teams](#) - As a church delegate prayer for your missionaries to small groups. Have them all receive updates and pray at least monthly for the missionaries.
- [Equipping Sessions](#) - Create a 4-week global missions class that gives members of your church the opportunity to learn about global missions.

Kids

- [Missions Focus Month](#) - Do a missions focus each year for your kids ministry. Provide opportunities for them to get to know missionary kids. Provide parents reading materials.
- Videos from Missionary Kids - During your missions focused month, do some videos
- Missionary Biographies - Provide a good list of missionary biographies to parents. The YWAM series: "Christian Heroes" is a great place to start.

Students

- Exposure Trips - Have a regular cadence of 2-14 day exposure trips that give students the chance to see global missions opportunities that complement your global missions vision.

- Missions Study - Do a book study with students through books like, [Finish the Mission](#) by John Piper or [God's Heart for the Nations](#) by Jeff Lewis.
- [Virtual Missions Trips](#) - Have your overseas partners put together a 1-2 hour virtual missions trip exploring their city and getting to know their people.