Bring Global Ministries to your Doorstep:
How to Host a Missionary

A Guide to Help You Prepare for A Missionary Visit

Mission Personnel Office
P.O. Box 1986
Indianapolis, IN 46206-1986
(317) 713-2566, cnichols@dom.disciples.org
www.globalministries.org

A common witness of the Division of Overseas Ministries, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and Wider Church Ministries, United Church of Christ
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Why Have a Mission Visit?

“I think (the mission visit) is one of the most effective mission & stewardship vehicles...it really personalizes that line item in the budget. She put a face to the money we send to support OCWM.”
Debbie Etzler, Grace Congregational UCC

“John’s sermon was informative and inspirational. Most important, however, it seems to me, was the fact that all worshipers were given the opportunity to know that our work is real people with significant results.”
Stephen Miller, Memorial Christian Church

“Elena has been an invaluable resource for us in facilitating our partnership...
Because of her, we say together with our Brothers and Sisters: “Gloria a Dios.”
Ed & Sheela Rogers, Mission Partnership Committee Massachusetts Conference UCC

“We were treated to a world-wide view of missions with a closer one of South America and a visual one of Paraguay. We left with a close-up look of missionary activity and one we could, and did, have a real part in.”
Elwood Dunn, Ferndale Christian Church
What in The World Can a Missionary Do for Us?

- **Share** - the good news of God at work in the world stories of how lives are changed
- **Challenge** – us to new visions of mission and understandings of the world
- **Teach** – new ways to do mission, evangelism, Bible study and prayer
- **Preach** – giving us new insights into how other Christians understand the work of God
- **Listen** – to your challenges in ministry and share how partners face the same challenges
- **Have fun** – teach songs and games from the missionary’s country
- **Celebrate** – learn some new things that people do in worship in other countries

**What groups in your congregation would like to hear from a missionary?**

- Retirees
- Choir
- Youth
- Pastors
- Prayer Group
- Outreach Committee
- Women's Group
- Bible Study
- Sunday School
What Might Time with the Missionary Look Like?
If you have a weekday:
- Prayer group
- Men’s breakfast
- Women’s retreat
- Retiree lunch
- Shut-in calls
- Coffee with local pastors
- Storytelling at preschool
- Language class at a local school
- Youth bowling on Saturday
- An elder’s retreat

If you have a weeknight:
- Informal supper with outreach committee
- Church Board
- A choir party after practice
- Youth group
- To meet with individuals interested in mission
- Prayer service

If you have a weekend night:
- All Church supper
- Youth group party
- Church school gathering
- Movie night on the country of the missionary

If you have a Saturday:
- Design an activity: community service
- Visit a homeless shelter
- Bible study
- Learn new music from different cultures
- Visit a migrant camp
- Visit a center for the abused
- Cooking class
- Mission fun time for young people

If you have a Sunday a.m. worship?
- Lead church school
- Preach
- Speak at all-church luncheon
- Meet with youth
- Involve the missionaries in one or more worship services
- Children’s sermon
- Lead Communion, stewardship, offertory
- Visit shut-ins with elders/pastor
- Morning prayer breakfast
- When possible, work the missionary presentation into the worship service

If you have a Sunday afternoon/evening? Build relationships:
- Meet with youth groups
- Visit the elderly
- Gathering of Disciples/UCC
- Informal gathering at a church member’s home
**Additional suggestions:**

- Schedule him/her to attend Week of Prayer for Christian Unity events in your area
- Church picnic or a barbeque
- Is there a community project that he/she might participate in?
- Accompany pastors or lay people when making hospital visits
- If your church is the missionary’s home church, schedule a time for your elders to visit them.
- Link missionary kids with same-aged kids in your congregation
- Include missionaries in social events
- Ecumenical gatherings or clergy events

**These are all suggestions to get started.**

*Be creative!*

*Let us know exciting new ideas you have.*

**Practical matters when planning for your missionary’s visit:**

- You will hear from the Mission Personnel Office of Global Ministries concerning your missionary’s home service about six months before the missionary’s return to the US
- Talk with the Mission Personnel Office’s coordinator about available dates for your missionary to visit
- Talk with your missions committee or pastor about visit details
- Talk again with your Mission Personnel Office coordinator to confirm the dates of the visit
- Continue to develop the speaking schedule
- Talk with your missionary at least two weeks in advance of the visit. **Discuss and confirm all events.**
- Look after logistical things such as extension cords, LCD projectors, tables, microphone, etc.
- On the day of the visit, meet your missionaries and shepherd them about. Make lunch arrangements.
**Getting Started:** (Questions to answer)

Name of primary contact person: ________________________________

Phone: ________________  Email: ________________________________

Others who could help:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name/phone</th>
<th>Possible Events</th>
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<tr>
<td>Outreach</td>
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<td>Women</td>
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<td>Men</td>
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What do we want to accomplish through a missionary visit?

We want to hear the good news related to (check the ones of interest):

- General Mission awareness: ______  International Understanding: ______  Advocacy: ______
- Evangelism: ______  Spiritual Development: ______  Cultural Education: ______
- Christian Education: ______  Life in the Faith Community: ______  New forms of Worship: ______
- Health Care: ______  Theological Education: ______  Women’s Issues: ______
- Human Trafficking: ______  Migration: ______  Creation Care: ______  Children: ______
- Increase BMF/OCWM Giving: ______  Partner’s work: ______  Special Projects: ______
To get the most from this visit, we want the missionary to be with these groups:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>When do they meet? Day-Date-Time</th>
<th>What is the Missionary to do? How Long should he/she speak?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday School</td>
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<td>Fellowship</td>
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<td>Worship</td>
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<td>After Worship (Lunch/ fellowship)</td>
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<td>Women</td>
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<td>Outreach</td>
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<td>Local Ministers</td>
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<td>Prayer Group</td>
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<td>Retirees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
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</table>

**Share your plans with the Missionary:**

Be sure to tell the missionary everything planned. The Primary Contact person should communicate this. The missionary can prepare to meet your expectations only if he or she knows the schedule. The missionary will also be more at ease and meet the needs of your congregation. Send the missionary these sheets by email as soon as they are completed.
ORGANIZING THE VISIT – The Details

If your church is first on the scheduled visit (conference/regional coordinator will tell you if you are), who is willing to meet the missionary at the airport?

Name: ___________________________ Phone: ___________________________

Who can provide local transportation around the community?

Name: ___________________________ Phone: ___________________________

If the Conference/Region is arranging the schedule, you may need to pick up or drop off the missionary in another community. Who can do this?

Name: ___________________________ Phone: ___________________________

Who will house the missionary?

Name: ___________________________ Phone: ___________________________

Will meals be provided by the host? Yes _____ No ______

If no, who might be able to provide meals? ____________________________

Who else should be invited to hear the missionary and who will contact them?

Area Disciples/UCC Congregations

Name: ___________________________ Phone: ___________________________

UCC/Disciples pastors

Name: ___________________________ Phone: ___________________________

Other ecumenical partners (Presbyterians, Mennonites, Methodists, Episcopal, Catholic, etc.)

Name: ___________________________ Phone: ___________________________
Retired pastors/missionaries

Name: ___________________________ Phone: ___________________________

Secular groups doing the same type of work as the missionary (feeding the hungry, working with the poor)

Name: ___________________________ Phone: ___________________________

Who will send an email blast or a news release to the local paper?

Name: ___________________________ Phone: ___________________________

Are there local radio or TV programs that might be interested in the story that this missionary can tell?

Radio: ___________________________ Date to Contact: _________________

**Get the Word Out: How Can you Advertise this Great Event?**

- Notice in the church newsletter
- Announcement from the pulpit
- Bulletin insert day of event
- Bulletin inserts in advance of the event with stories from the missionary
- Poster
- Announce in: Each church school class, youth, women’s/men’s groups
- Send emails or make telephone calls to key leaders in the congregation.
- Send an email to your church network
- Advertise on your church’s web site
- Advertise on your church yard sign
- Place fliers on public bulletin boards: at markets, grocery stores, libraries
- Facebook, twitter, church web page

**Who pays for what?**

*Global Ministries* pays round trip transportation to your Conference/Region. The flight schedule will be sent 2-4 weeks prior to the visit. Global Ministries reimburses the missionary if he or she drives.

*Your church* is asked to provide for the missionary the local transportation from the airport, housing and all meals for the missionary.
**UPON COMPLETION OF THE MISSIONARY’S VISIT:**
Please complete the following Missionary Speaker Evaluation Form:

**Evaluation of Missionary Speaker**
Thank you for taking the time to fill out this evaluation form. Your feedback is important!

*Name of missionary: _______________________________ Date of Visit ____________________

*Church: ____________________________________________________________

*Church Address: __________________________________________________________________________

*Church phone number: ___________________________ *Email address: __________________________

*Conference/Region: ________________________________________________________________________

1. What activities/events did the missionary participate in during his/her visit?

2. How did the missionary encourage your church in understanding of God’s mission?

3. Does your congregation have a better understanding of the work of Global Ministries and how giving to Our Church’s Wider Mission/One Great Hour of Sharing, or Disciples Mission Fund/Week of Compassion can have an impact in the world? Yes ☐ No ☐ Please explain:

4. Were there any difficulties in planning for the visit, communicating with the Conference/Region and the missionary beforehand, providing local transportation, meals and lodging during the visit, and the actual speaking engagement? Yes ☐ No ☐ If yes, please explain:

5. Would your church be interested in developing a communication/sharing relationship with this missionary (or another one of your choice) during their term of service through our Missionary Relationship Program? Yes ☐ No ☐ Need more information ☐
6. Do you and the members of your congregation receive the **Global Ministries Weekly Email Updates**?

   Yes ☐ No ☐ It’s the best way for congregations to regularly hear about God’s mission in the world.

   (Please attach a list of names and email addresses or write them below and we will make it happen!)

7. Do the members of your congregation need any information about taking the next practical steps of involvement in God’s mission? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, please put a check beside the following opportunities for involvement that are of interest:

☐ Participate in the **Middle East Initiative**.
☐ Develop a **Relationship with a Missionary**.
☐ Sponsor a child through the **Global Ministries Child Sponsorship Program**.
☐ Make a financial contribution to a **Special Project** overseas.
☐ Organize a mission trip through the **People-to-People Pilgrimage Program**.
☐ Participate in global **Advocacy** efforts. Issue or country of concern
☐ Receive the new **Global Ministries REACH Youth Curriculum**.
☐ Receive the new **Global Ministries READY Adult Curriculum**.
☐ Receive the **Global Ministries “We Want to Become a Global Mission Church.”**
☐ Learn about different opportunities for **Missionary Service** overseas.
☐ Help in the resettlement of **Refugees**.
☐ Other ____________________________________________________________________________

In an effort to encourage our missionaries to continue to grow in their communication and relational skills, we ask you to share your candid feedback to the following questions.

8. On a scale from 1 to 5, how effective was the missionary’s **communication skills** during his/her presentation? Please circle and then explain/give an example: (ineffective) 1 2 3 4 5 (effective)

9. On a scale from 1 to 5, how effective was the **message or story** of the missionary’s work and story of ministry? Please circle and then explain/give an example: (ineffective) 1 2 3 4 5 (effective)

10. On a scale from 1 to 5, how effective was the **theological sharing** of the missionary’s ministry? Please circle and then explain/give an example: (ineffective) 1 2 3 4 5 (effective)

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**PLEASE RETURN TO:** Beth Miller
c/o Global Ministries
PO Box 1986
Indianapolis, IN 46206-1986

**MAY WE SHARE A COPY OF THIS EVALUATION WITH THE MISSIONARY?** Yes ☐ No ☐

Submitted by: __________________________ Date: __________________________
Address: _______________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________
Phone number: __________________________ Email address: __________________________
Role in church: __________________________________________________________
Thank you!

Thanks to your hospitality for a missionary, you share with your congregation and your community a window into God’s work in the world today.

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