



Where is YOUR Mission Field?

As a teenager, mission work was something that rarely crossed my mind. I thought about missions at church when we would take up special missions offerings or when a Missionary would come speak to us, but that was about it. I had other things to worry about – like who was going to ask me to the prom and where I was going to hang out on Friday night.

The summer after my senior year of high school, my youth group went on a mission trip to Bro. Dexter Guin’s church in Colorado Springs, Colorado. That week, we got to see what life is really like for missionaries. As the Guin family opened their home and church to us, my friends and I learned that they weren’t much different from us.

In Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus told His disciples, “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

His command was for all of us. “Go into the world and teach people everywhere about Me.” In other words, Jesus told us ALL to be missionaries.

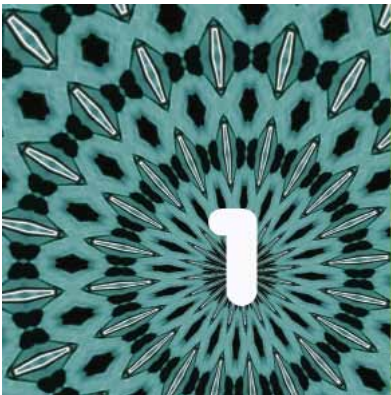
You may be thinking, “Me? A missionary?” I know it might sound scary (or maybe even a little crazy), but YES– YOU are a MISSIONARY!

So, where is your mission field?

“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

WEEK ONE

JERUSALEM



In Matthew 28, Jesus told His disciples HOW they would reach people for Him. They were instructed to teach and baptize all nations. In Acts 1:8, He told them WHERE to go, and He told them to start at home.

So when it comes to missions – START AT HOME.

MISSIONS IN ACTION

This week, think of some ways you can be a missionary in your community. It may be hosting a teen Bible study at your house, volunteering to help teach Children’s Church one Sunday, or even helping your neighbors with housework. One of the biggest things I learned about missions during my trip to Colorado is that the little things make a big difference when it comes to winning souls to Christ. Sometimes, people may not want to talk about Jesus, but you can show them your love for them by your actions.

Make a list of some things you can do this week to be a missionary for Christ:

At home _____

At school _____

In my neighborhood _____

At my church _____

Afraid of what your friends will think if you start sharing your faith with people at school? Remember our verse from last month: “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind” (2 Timothy 1:7).

WEEK TWO
JUDAEA



After the disciples reached the people in their community, they were supposed to move on to the next community.

For us, this means moving out of our comfort zone.

For example, one of my friends at church is very shy. She’s usually very quiet and you have to get to know her before she’ll talk to you very much. This year during our UPWARD Basketball season, she took a big step out of her comfort zone and gave the devotion during one of the games. Since then, she has also given her testimony at one of our district Women Active for Christ meetings.

She stepped out of her comfort zone to tell others what Jesus has done for her. Public speaking is her Judaea. What’s yours?

MISSIONS IN ACTION

Taking that mission trip with my church youth group was a big step out of my comfort zone, but it is one of the best memories I have of that time in my life. When we surrender to God and do the things He wants us to do, He will bless us in ways we can’t even imagine.

If your youth group can go on a mission trip, that is amazing. I’m sure yours will be just as special as mine was. If not, you can try some mini-mission trips. You and your youth group can do things like help pick up trash on the side of the road or visit a nursing home for the day.

List some ideas for reaching your Judaea. Pray about them and share your ideas with your Youth Pastor and friends to put them into action.

When you feel like you can’t make that step out of your comfort zone, remember God’s promises to always be with you. “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me” (Philippians 4:13).

WEEK THREE

SAMARIA



If there was one place that the Jews did not want to be, it was Samaria. They usually went around the city to keep from having to interact with Samaritans, but Jesus commanded His disciples to witness to them.

Read Matthew 25:35-40. In these verses, Jesus gave us a list of people that we need to reach for Him. His list included some people that we may not want to be around: the poor, the sick, the stranger, and the prisoner.

Sometimes, we have to get our hands dirty. If we want to reach people, we have to go where they are. We can help feed the poor and clothe the naked and visit the sick. These jobs aren’t glamorous, but we aren’t here to bring glory to ourselves. When we roll up our sleeves and jump into the dirty, grimy work that usually goes unnoticed, God smiles down on us.

MISSIONS IN ACTION

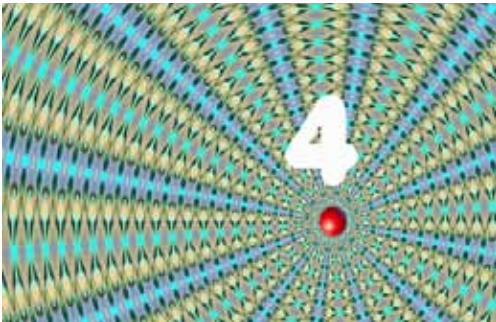
There are lots of organizations you can join to help reach the poor, needy, sick or imprisoned. The Hanna Project and Compassion International are two great organizations you can check into. (Visit www.hannahproject.com or www.compassion.com for more information about these organizations.)

Talk to your friends about some other ways you can reach out to these people and list some ideas below. Pray over your ideas and seek God’s guidance for how you can put them into action! (Be sure to talk to your parents and youth pastor for help.)

“And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me” (Matthew 25:40).

WEEK FOUR

THE UTMOST PART OF THE EARTH



God may call you to go to a foreign country to be a missionary someday. He may not. Either way, He wants you to be a part of His plan and to fulfill His Great Commission.

Jesus concluded His commandment in Acts 1:8 by telling His disciples to go to “the uttermost part of the earth.” Jesus came so that we could ALL be saved – no matter who we are and no matter where we live.

MISSIONS IN ACTION

How can you be a part of world missions?

1. Pray—Commit to pray for missionaries and their families.
2. Donate—Missionaries always need financial support. Put aside part of your allowance to give to missions or have a bake sale for missions with your friends.
3. Connect—Many of our Free Will Baptist missionaries have their own websites or blogs where you can get to know them on a personal level. There are also lots of missionaries on Facebook. Send a note or email letting them know that you are praying for them.
4. Share—Get together with your youth group and send a care package to some missionaries. Be sure to include some things that will remind them of home.



ABOUT THE WRITER:

Christina Hopper is 23 years old. She attends Sulphur Springs FWB Church in Northport, Alabama where she teaches the Junior Youth Group and coaches UPWARD Cheerleading. She is pictured here with her youth group from Fayette First FWB Church on their first mission trip in July 2005.

