When a group gathers at a table to enjoy a good meal, no sooner are the plates filled than the salt shaker begins making its rounds so that everyone may season the food to their liking. Many a meal would be far less tasty—even bland—if no salt were readily at hand!

Jesus tells those of us who follow him that we are “the salt of the earth.” Since ancient times, salt has been used not only as a seasoning to enhance flavor, but also as a preservative. Long before refrigeration was available, salt was coarsely rubbed into meat so that it could be saved and stored over time, remaining useful for nourishment.

As the “salt of the earth,” there is a quality about us, a distinct character, a “flavor” that should enhance the quality of life for those around us. It should preserve relationships and the social structures that facilitate human flourishing. And it should make people thirsty for the living water, generating an awareness of spiritual need that can only be quenched by the presence of the Spirit given to those who come to faith in our Lord Jesus. (John 7:37-38)

Jesus includes with this charge a warning, however: Salt that “loses its saltiness” becomes useless and is tossed aside. The “salt” to which Jesus was referring was not like the refined sodium chloride that we use today. It was a coarse white powder mined from the area of the Dead Sea that contained gypsum and other minerals mixed in with salt. Over time, the sodium chloride would leach out of the powder, leaving a chalky tasteless powder that was poured on the roads and pathways. No longer useful for seasoning or preserving, it was discarded.

So also we, as followers of Jesus, must remain in him and so retain those qualities that arise out of devotion to Jesus and commitment to the way of Christ—the fruit of the Spirit, love for one another and holiness. (John 15:4-5; Galatians 5:22-23; John 10:34-35; 1 Peter 1:15-16)

Even these qualities may lose their life-enhancing, culture-preserving and spirit-stirring-producing qualities when they are only turned inward. Our “saltiness” is useless when we remain in the shaker; when we become inwardly focused only on our personal spirituality or the life of our Christian communities. It is when we are poured out in obedient service to God—when we become engaged in God’s mission in our neighborhoods, our schools, our cities, our nation and across cultural and national boundaries, “to the ends of the earth”—that we begin to see God’s self being done “on earth as it is in heaven.” (Matthew 6:10)

We invite you to join International Ministries in “passing the salt,” not only around a table, but around the globe. Through your encouragement, your prayers and your gifts to the World Mission Offering, you enable IM’s global servants, volunteers and international partners to share the good news of Jesus in word and in deed.
DAYS OF PRAYER

The global servants and staff of International Missions are pleased to bring you 60 special prayers to enhance your walk with God during your church’s World Mission Offering (and beyond).

Our inspiration for these prayers comes from Jesus’ words to his followers, “You are the salt of the earth.” (Matthew 5:13)

Salt, so ordinary and plentiful as it is, possesses a unique power. Unlike any other seasoning, salt Unlock the subtle flavors in almost any food, enhancing them and bringing new sensations to our taste buds. When the Lord says to his followers, “you are the salt of the earth,” he is urging us to improve in their studies and add dignity to their lives. Lord, help us to remember that you send us into the world to be witnesses of your kingdom.

Today, let us be the light of the world to your love.
Today, let the light of your love fill our lives.
Today, let the light of your love

Pray for our teenage church family to be a part of your family.
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