

world  
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# Reach across the world

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## Did you know that you can reach across the world without ever leaving home?

You can! And you can help many people when you do so. I'm going to tell you three stories about people who are missionaries with a group called IM (IM stands for International Ministries). Missionaries work with IM. They are people who help many others in faraway lands by providing for their needs and telling them about God's love for them. You can help them with their work. You can reach across the world.





In a place called Panama, there are farms that grow bananas because it is so warm.

There is a missionary named Ingrid in Panama. She cares about the children there. She had been teaching them for a while and noticed they had trouble paying attention and learning. It wasn't because they couldn't learn. As Ingrid got to know the children, she found that the reason they weren't learning well was that they were hungry. They couldn't concentrate because all they could think of was the empty feeling in their stomachs.

Think about how you would feel if you hadn't eaten for a long time, and you were trying to study. You wouldn't be able to learn because all you would be thinking about would be, "If I only had some chicken noodle soup. Even a piece of broccoli would taste good." Then if you got some food, you would feel better and be able to think more clearly about other things.

So when Ingrid found out the children were hungry, she got to work cooking rice and beans for them every day. All the children came and ate. And what do you think happened? They felt so much better that they were able to forget about being hungry and think about their lessons. Learning was so much easier for them.





## Denise and Juan live in Chiapas, Mexico.

They are missionaries training church leaders called pastors. They noticed that there were not very many Bibles in the churches there. Then they found out the reason. It was because there were not very many



people who knew how to read. Being able to read is very important in learning many other things including what the Bible teaches us.

Denise and Juan knew what they had to do. They began to teach reading and writing. They started a program and others helped them teach. People learned to read. Then they could read the Bible for themselves.





Also in Mexico, Debbie and Keith help many people near Puebla.

They train pastors and church leaders in thirty-five churches. These missionaries lead Bible studies for some women who do very hard work in the mountains.

These women grow coffee beans and carry heavy sacks on their backs. They come home very tired.



They get a break from work by having joyful times getting together to worship, study the Bible, sing, and clap. This refreshes them after a hard day of work. God gives them peace and strength for the next day.





There are ways you can help these people.

You can pray for them. You can tell others about them. The group called IM has a special offering every year to help them. You and your church can do a lot with a little gift. World Mission Offering gifts could pay for lunches for Ingrid's students or provide gifts to teachers like Juan and Denise. And some gifts help to send



missionaries like Debbie and Keith to provide training for pastors and leaders in Mexico.

If you have coin boxes, you can put money in them each week and ask your church to send the money to help others. Then you would be reaching across the globe without ever leaving home.





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i once was blind  
but now i see

mark 8:22-26



International Ministries, also known as the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society, works cross-culturally to invite people to become disciples of Jesus Christ and to proclaim, through both word and deed, God's reign of justice, peace and abundant life for all creation.

[www.internationalministries.org](http://www.internationalministries.org)