

world mission offering

LEADERS' GUIDE

Engage your church in world mission

Bolivian families gather for the health clinics led by Global Servant Rhonda Reed and the Fundación Proyecto de Esperanza.

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GOD IS DOING something *new.*

“See, **I am doing a new thing!** Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? **I am making a way** in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.”

ISAIAH 43:19

One of our global servants once commented to me that the worst thing about living in a warm climate near the equator is that people do not have a concept of “winter.” There is no season when freezing temperatures and snowy roads keep you indoors more, and darker days sap your energy.

Just as we might annually experience the “death” of winter followed by the new life that buds in the spring, the biblical pattern shows many of God’s servants in seasons of “death” before seasons of “life.” After triumphing over the prophets of Baal, Elijah flees to Horeb and sleeps for days. It is not until after Elijah has ceased all activity that the LORD speaks to him about what lies ahead. Jonah spends days in complete darkness in the belly of a fish before he finally follows God’s directive to go to Nineveh. In poetic foreshadowing of his own death and resurrection, Jesus states, “I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds” (John 12:24).

Friends, these past couple of years have felt like a season of death and waiting. In most parts of the world, the COVID-19 pandemic has not resolved, and IM’s global servants are up close and personal with many desperate needs heightened by the pandemic.

At the Fundación Proyecto de Esperanza in Bolivia, Global Servants J.D. and Rhonda Reed watched as two of their ministry partners nearly died from COVID and no hospitals had available beds. As the team prayed, God miraculously provided the supply of oxygen and volunteer medical care needed to save their lives.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a broken water pump at a mission hospital meant no one could access water unless they carried it, six gallons at a time, two miles uphill from a spring. Global Servant Wayne Niles and a

team were able to install a solar-powered pump. People came from everywhere to receive water during the dry season when it hadn’t rained for months.

The biblical pattern tells us that the season of death gives way to a season of life. Did you know that we are currently responding to more than forty individuals and couples who have expressed a desire to serve cross-culturally? And, friends, we are looking for more! These are sprouts of God-given new beginnings coming up like crocuses in the spring. Many are responding to the invitation to become disciples of Jesus Christ in spite of their circumstances and others are becoming followers of Christ *because of* their circumstances.

This September and October, will your church take part in the new life God is creating by giving to the World Mission Offering?

For two centuries, God’s mission through IM has been dependent on God’s faithful people working together to respond to God’s call. I hope you will use this Leaders’ Guide to seek what God might say to you and your church today. How might God be calling you to participate in what the Holy Spirit is doing around the world?



Rev. Sharon Koh
Executive Director/CEO



CHILDREN'S SERMON

THEME | God is always doing a new thing in mission. Children can partner with God's mission work now and in the future.

SCRIPTURE | Isaiah 43:18-21

OBJECT(S)

- A cell phone (new or older)
- Old phones (crank, rotary, wall mount, etc.) or printed pictures of old phones



LESSON

1 Share about your experience with phones—show old phones or pictures of old phones. Say something like: “When I was a child, phones hung on the wall. People did not carry phones in their purses or backpacks. We had to stand by the wall because the cord reached only so far.”

2 Tell how phones have changed—show a new phone. Say something like: “Today, we do not have to stand by a wall. We do not have to walk to the phone because our phones are always with us. Cell phones have made talking with family and friends easier. You can call or text from almost anywhere.”

3 Ask: “Do you think phones will be different in the future? What do you think phones will look like when you are older?” Allow children time to share.

4 Share about God's ingenious use of technology. God has used all kinds of new ways to share the good news of Jesus. Two hundred years ago, when we sent our first missionaries, they had to travel in boats. They sailed for months before getting to their place of service. Then God used trains and planes to get missionaries to other

countries. And today, some of our missionaries can use the internet to tell others about God's love. You can see a picture above of missionaries Carlos Bonilla and Mayra Giovanetti teaching the Bible to people in Chile through Zoom.

5 Ask: Do you think there will be new technologies in the future that God can use to tell other people about Jesus? Do you think you could be part of that?

POINT | God is doing a new thing in mission. Children can partner with God's mission work now and in the future.

CLOSING PRAYER | Heavenly Father, we do not know what the future will bring but we know you. You are a good God who works in mind-blowing ways. You have used boats, trains, planes, and now the internet to share the good news of Jesus with people all over the world. We know you are not done with this work, so use us in new ways to tell others about your love. In Jesus' name, amen.

The children in your church can enjoy using our stickers to create their own World Mission Offering coin boxes to raise money for mission.

BIBLICAL REFLECTION

BY REV. DR. IVAN E. GREUTER

SCRIPTURE | Isaiah 43:18-21

When people ask me if I would like to live in any past period, my immediate answer is “No.” I like living now. I like modern medicine. I am accustomed to our world’s amenities, technology, and conveniences.

Don’t get me wrong, as a history enthusiast, I dabble in nostalgia. But while we may enjoy daydreaming about the past, the past often appears brighter in the rearview mirror.

In Isaiah 43, the people of God were living in Babylonian captivity. The temple was destroyed, their friends and family were uprooted, and the people mourned the loss of lives and homes. We hear their lament in Psalm 137:1, “by the rivers of Babylon—there we sat down, and there we wept when we remembered Zion.” Who would not ask if there was hope?

Into their disillusionment, God speaks prophetic words for the future. The Lord says, **“Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing...”** (Isaiah 43:18-19). Almighty God tells the people of faith to have confidence in the One who worked mightily and miraculously in the past because God could and would act again. The former times were critical—God’s people experienced first-hand the Lord’s liberating and redemptive work in the Exodus. The great “I AM who I AM” (Exodus 3:14) assured the people that God’s new thing would eclipse the old and redefine it globally. If the Lord Almighty can save a people out of Egypt, can God rescue all people among the nations? God showed the faithful that their Savior was alive, active, capable, and ready to rescue them again.

The people would once again be eyewitnesses of God’s salvation in their midst by testifying to the new life salvation brings in desert places, **“now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?”** (Isaiah 43:19b). What God did in the past would be seen again as redemption’s work burst forth

with new life among them. Scarcity, starvation, and survival would give way to overwhelming abundance and blessings. God’s creativity is inexhaustible when it comes to the Lord fulfilling the gospel mission of saving people. God spares nothing—not even Jesus Christ—to bring hope, love, redemption, and new life to people worldwide. Even the wild animals—the jackals and the ostriches (v. 20)—would benefit from God’s lavish loving grace.

The Lord would accomplish this saving work for one purpose: **“the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise”** (v. 21).

As we receive the World Mission Offering, I am reminded of God’s great work in the past: two centuries of calling, commissioning, supporting, and sending thousands of missionaries into God’s world for redemptive work. We could stop as a mission agency—pause and applaud all God has done in and through us. We could retire knowing “the best is behind us.” However, the Lord has not completed the work of bringing hope, healing, liberation, and restoration to the people God loves “from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages” (Revelation 7:9). **If God is not done, can the church be done spreading the good news of God’s love among us?**

I hold on to the wise words of our first missionary, Adoniram Judson, who wrote, “the Future is as Bright as the Promises of God.” What mind-blowing miracles will God do through International Ministries in the future? What new relationships and technologies will God use to carry the love of Jesus into the world? How will my children and my children’s children be eyewitnesses to God’s saving actions? I want to be part of God’s ongoing work—I hope you do, too!

SERMON STARTER

SCRIPTURE | Isaiah 43:18-21

SUPPORTING TEXT | Philippians 1:6

SUGGESTED TITLE | “With God, the best is yet to come”

THEME | We can honor our history and past experiences as evidence of God’s presence and look forward to a future filled with promises of God’s praise.

QUESTION | When was the golden age of your congregation? When would the people set the dial on the time machine if the local church could go back in time? “The church was best when...” [Tell positive stories of your church’s past. You may wish to ask older members to testify about experiences of the Lord.] What if our “best years” are not behind us but ahead of us?

TEXT | In Isaiah 43, the people believed their best times were behind them. Tradition and storytelling became a way of keeping the “golden age” of the first temple period alive when “God was with us.”

However, the Exodus Lord (“I AM”) was not satisfied with living with past glories but promised to work contemporaneously to bring redemption to God’s people among the nations.

How can our past experiences of God’s saving work serve as testimony for God’s future work? How can we—and our children’s children—join God’s work to bring God’s name praise and glory in a future God is forming?



POINT 1 | God has worked powerfully in the past. Isaiah recalls the Exodus as an epic eyewitness experience of God’s powerful rescue of the people.

POINT 2 | God invites the people to imagine a better future after their return from Babylonian exile—“The Future is as Bright as the Promises of God” (Adoniram Judson).

POINT 3 | v. 19: The people will be eyewitnesses who will enjoy and tell others of God’s redemptive work.

POINT 4 | v. 20-21: With new life (water in the desert), the people of God will praise God’s name among the nations.

2022

PRAYER GUIDE

1 Lord, we pray for creativity, patience, and wisdom as we all continue to adapt to a COVID-shaped world.

STAN SLADE, GLOBAL

2 We pray for God's wisdom and vision, so we can keep our ministries with the migrants and Deborah's House within the perfect will of God for their lives.

DELIRIS & MOISE CARRIÓN-JOSEPH, MEXICO

3 Dear Lord, we pray that you will bless the fields of our partners with good fruit and vegetable crops.

ANITA & RICK GUTIERREZ, SOUTH AFRICA

4 Dear God, we pray for provision for the leaders and pastors from the 107 tribes spread throughout Colombia to come to the Bible Institute as they prepare to serve their communities.

WALESKA S. FEBRES, COLOMBIA

5 Lord, we pray for the millions of unreached Banjara to hear the Good News.

LANUTEMJEN JAMIR & ALEMLA AO, INDIA

6 We pray for Larry's ministry through the Serbian Baptist Church to bless the poor, lonely, and distressed, and for his ministry to refugees, including those from Ukraine.

BECKY & LARRY STANTON, HUNGARY

7 We pray for the discipleship groups we have established in our region as they grow.

**CARLOS BONILLA & MAYRA GIOVANETTI,
IBEROAMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

8 Loving Father, we pray for the children of Tijuana with special needs still not in school, that the Didaqué school becomes their safe haven.

PATTI & TIM LONG, MEXICO

9 We pray for peace in the region as the economic instability of the country has increased political tensions.

MELANIE BAGGAO, LEBANON

10 Dear God, we pray that you will guide and protect the health promoters who sacrificially dedicate themselves to caring for the most vulnerable people in their communities.

DAVID PARAJÓN, NICARAGUA

11 Pray for wisdom as we minister to vulnerable, homeless children.

**ANN & BILL CLEMMER, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF
THE CONGO**



12 Lord, we pray for funds to help with the purchase of land for the new churches which are being planted.

KETLY & VITAL PIERRE, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

13 Dear God, please guide the Leadership Team of the International Christian Alliance on Prostitution as we seek to provide meaningful support and encouragement to practitioners.

LAURAN BETHELL, GLOBAL

14 Almighty God, we pray for guidance in the continuing realities of the COVID-19 pandemic and how it affects the ministry of the Fundación Proyecto de Esperanza.

J.D. & RHONDA REED, BOLIVIA

15 Lord, we pray for all of the Kingdom of Peace and Development organization's peace-building activities—especially the radio broadcast and the training of Conflict Transformation Trainers.

BOAZ KEIBARAK, KENYA

16 Father God, we pray for the house parents at Hope Unlimited who care for up to twelve students who need love, affirmation, and structure restored into their lives.

CORENNE & PHILIP SMITH, BRAZIL

17 We pray, Lord, for worldwide justice based on God's wisdom and we look forward to witnessing Christ's miracles in creating a better world of peace.

JOEL & TRISH HOEFLE-MAGAL, THAILAND

18 Lord, we pray for the virtual Christian Enterprise Development trainings in Southern Asia.

WATI LONGCHAR, EAST & SOUTH ASIA

19 Dear God, we pray for more integration amongst the different ethnic groups in the ministry.

HERMELINDA & JORGE DAMASCENO, UNITED KINGDOM

20 We pray for God's blessings on the growth of the church in Rifu as we reach out to the community.

GORDON & LEE ANN HWANG, JAPAN

21 We pray for scholarships for Master of Theological Studies students in Latino/a ministries so they can respond to the call to be theologically trained.

MERCY GONZÁLEZ-BARNES, IBEROAMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

22 We pray, Lord, that the New Life Center Foundation residents would come to know Jesus deeply and personally and that they would find freedom in Jesus' love.

JENI PEDZINSKI, THAILAND

23 Almighty Lord, we pray for people to truly listen and hear the hope and peace of God's salvation whenever they hear the gospel.

CARMELLA JONES, HUNGARY

24 We pray for the seven Latin American countries beginning Talita Cumi Girls' Clubs in vulnerable communities, and for Dwight as he trains communities in rainwater harvesting.

BARB & DWIGHT BOLICK, CHILE

25 We pray, God, that with your help I can continue to build my ministry in teaching practical theology from the Latin American Biblical University.

RUTH VINDAS, COSTA RICA

26 Father God, we pray for the refugees from Myanmar (Burma) who are experiencing life as Internally Displaced Persons and those who have migrated, especially to the US.

MARLENE PO, SERVING MYANMAR DIASPORA IN THE US

27 Lord, we pray for opened eyes and ears to see, hear, and follow God's will and for readiness to share God's love wherever we are.

BECKY & MIKE MANN, THAILAND

28 We pray for your provision to serve Haitian and Dominican communities through food, medicine, hygiene products, school supplies, uniforms, and water.

MADELINE FLORES-LÓPEZ, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

29 We pray, Lord, for the ongoing work of Companion With The Poor (CWTP)'s church planting ministry in Metro-Manila and Cebu.

PAUL ROLLET, PHILIPPINES

30 Heavenly Father, we pray for the Barnabas project to raise powerful leaders who will impart skills to others in Africa.

CHRISTINA & LANCE MUTEYO, ZIMBABWE

31 Loving God, we pray that Debby's ministry among IM's missionary kids and their families can bear much fruit that will last.

DEBBY & KYLE WITMER, THAILAND



The **World Mission Offering** provides an opportunity for individuals and churches to participate in God's life-changing mission around the globe.

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