

Mission Events

Small or large, regular or one-off occasions, mission events bring people together and provide a platform for inspiration, encouragement and education about world mission and those involved with it.

Mission is for anyone who is a follower of Jesus, and so whatever the occasion, an aim should be that everyone leaves having gained something from it.

Below are some guidelines and questions to think through that may be helpful in planning a mission occasion.

Sunday services

- What is the purpose of such an event?
- How regularly should this take place? Some churches may have a monthly slot, others a biannual or annual one. This should also fit with the vision of the church overall.
- With the pastor or a church leader, come to an agreement about what a Mission Sunday means and its format i.e. does the entire service(s) have a world mission focus or is it a 10 minute slot?
- Establish a clear programme - even for 10 minutes. Who and what should be involved?
- If this is a regular slot, think through any rosters that may need to be established well in advance.
- Some ideas may include (but is certainly not limited to this and perhaps don't attempt to do it all at once!):
 - Share news of the mission workers overseas – read or video clips.
 - Think too about people from the church that are involved in NZ based mission and/or work for the NZ offices of world mission agencies.
 - Highlight a region of the world that church people are in or a project that the church supports.
 - Commission or have a report back from a team that has gone out.
 - Pray for people.
 - Take up a mission offering – separate and additional to the usual one. Warn people in advance so they can come prepared. Be clear about what this extra money might be used for i.e. general mission funds, a project etc.
 - Introduce new workers.
 - Give the congregation members something to take away to help remind them to pray for people e.g. have mini prayer cards in a basket at the door on the way in or out, that has a photo, names and roles of mission workers. People can choose the card(s) they'd like and keep them at work, in their car etc.
 - Have paper on which people can write a greeting to overseas workers (Christmas is a great time for doing this!).
 - Give out lollies or a snack from a particular part of the world.
 - Invite people to come dressed in the local clothing from an area that they have/have had association with (nice and colourful and you might be surprised as to the extent of worldwide affiliations!).
 - Get the children involved - drama, song, praying etc.
 - Highlight mission workers' children as much as their parents.
 - Write a regular 'mission bulletin'.

Events

Events tend to have a singular focus and are largely one-off or perhaps annual events. They tend to take more organisation but are great opportunities for involving people that can only offer limited time. Don't be afraid to shoulder tap people to help out - most people do welcome it!

Events may focus around fundraisers for general mission, a project or people group that the church supports, something specific that is needed by an overseas worker, a team going out. Perhaps it might also be an inspirational evening with a mission worker on home assignment, or an educational

event with a seminar/workshop on an aspect of mission with displays and conversations with mission agencies.

Some things to think through in the organisation of such an event include:

- What is the purpose of such an event? What is the desired outcome?
- Who is this aimed at? Should people be invited or is it open?
- Be realistic about timeframes for planning and to fit with the church calendar.
- Obtain any necessary approvals from the leadership/pastor.
- Think through well in advance all the necessary facilities and equipment and make required bookings.
- Agree with the appropriate people as to a programme outline.
- Advertise well in advance and if there is a cost or RSVP involved be very clear about this.

Ideas for events may include (but is certainly not limited to):

Fundraisers

- Hire a cinema with a new release film and all proceeds go to a mission project...most cinema complexes have this as an option now.
- Walk the Auckland Coast-to-Coast and have people sponsored to do so.
- Run an auction with donated quality items. Ask church people and local businesses if they'd be willing to donate or sponsor a product i.e. meat packs, movie tickets, art work, books, supermarket hampers, toys, a free car service, a weekend at a beach house – if you don't ask you'll never know! You'll just need to be clear with any business as to why you're asking. There are likely to be Christian business people in the church – knock on their doors too!
- Over a dinner that people have paid a small amount for, auction off the church leaders or the youth group to work around people's houses for a half day!
- Run an all-age concert with a small entrance donation and gold coin for supper items.
- Run a bottle auction – have people wrap a bottle of anything attractively but so the identity of the contents is unknown. It's amazing how people will fight over a bottle of tomato sauce and end up paying \$15 for it! A great one for the kids to be part of...give them each \$5 to bid for something. **NB: for any auction it will be important to have a good auctioneer that can keep things moving and hold people's attention!**
- Hold a garage sale with donated items.
- Hold a car wash
- Sausage sizzle, or curry and chapatti for \$2 after the morning service
- Book BBQ places outside The Warehouse or Bunnings – great for team fundraisers but book well in advance.

Other events

- An 'Indian' evening (or any other location), with local snacks or a meal, a room decorated accordingly, local music. Have items or someone share about the region and the work they are or have been doing.
- A movie night at the church or elsewhere with a film that relates to mission...just make sure you have the appropriate licence to show a film.
- Offer an educational seminar or workshop on a topic that would suit the context of the group e.g. justice, business as mission, Islam, retirees and mission, prayer, children and mission, the role of the church as senders.
- Story telling evening –mission workers, past and present on the couch sharing their experiences. Perhaps purely inspirational. Connect with present workers via skype in their part of the world at the same time.