

Introduction to Missionary weekend and suggested order of service for Sunday

“God’s heart is that none should perish”.

Jesus’s command to His people is to “go and teach all nations”. Jesus was constrained to tell the people of His time about the Kingdom of God and His motivation was that He looked at the people and had compassion on them for they were like sheep without a shepherd. We who claim to know the love of the Lord Jesus Christ in our hearts should be equally constrained by that same love to tell others and be motivated by His Wonderful Name to obey His command. But we (both us here and those who leave home and family to work on the overseas mission field) cannot do anything without the Spirit of God enabling and equipping us for the good works which He has set for us to accomplish in His Name.

Suggested order of service (songs taken from Mission Praise)

870 Jesus is the Name we honour

Prayer and Lord’s prayer

What do the OM team do and who are they?

- Our Tag Line is “Global Vision, Local Insight, Personal Touch”
- We try to put this into practice by “connecting, empowering and uniting” our churches with other churches throughout the world.
- Use and share our Aims and Objectives

Aims

•to encourage the Churches within the Wesleyan Reform Union to look beyond the reach of their own town or village, beyond the shores of our own country and to connect with the Church Worldwide;

•to share with God's people throughout the world in their joys and sorrows, their suffering and fears;

•to learn from our brothers and sisters in Christ and to have the same passion for the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ as is evident in the countries where there are severe restrictions on the spread of the Gospel by outside agencies e.g. governments, other faiths.

- Encourage our churches to “twin” with a church somewhere and to have regular contact with them, sharing your own needs as a fellowship with them as well as hearing and praying for their needs. Sometimes we can also help in a practical way by giving gifts to the twinned church.
- Just seeing how churches in other countries operate can teach us and give us ideas of how to do things differently. We always need to be aware that the Church in the western world does not necessarily have the best or the only workable ideas on how to do things in our churches.

- Who are we? We are all listed in the Year Book and come from members of General Committee who have been nominated by our churches to serve our churches

18 All over the world

Matthew 9, 35 – 38

730 We have heard the joyful sound

Matthew 10, 1 – 7

Prayers of intercession – pray for the world

Message for all age worship OR

Message for the day, Missionary Minded Church

527 O Word of God incarnate

Benediction

Please note that this service can be adapted to use as much or as little of it as you wish.

An article has been prepared relating to the persecuted Church which can be used in conjunction with suggestions from web sites as listed on document.

There are quizzes, crossword and other items (menus) included in the pack to use either as part of the service or if you wish to have a weekend event or a Saturday evening event.

We would be pleased to receive feedback from any Church that uses the pack.

Message for all age worship

In our first Bible Reading, Jesus is taking His disciples out and about with Him around all the towns and villages teaching the people and telling them just how much God loved them. He was making poorly people better, making people who couldn't speak talk again, making people who couldn't walk, walk and doing all sorts of amazing things as He was out and about.

The people could not get enough of Jesus. He obviously loved them so much and wanted to make their lives so much more joyful that they just followed Him about everywhere.

When He had a quick chat to His disciples, He told them that there were so many people who needed to know all about Him, but there weren't many people to go and tell them.

He said it in a funny way really – He called the people, the harvest. That is not what we think of as a harvest, is it? We think much more of fruit, vegetables and other things that we might bring to a Harvest Festival service.

In our second Bible Reading, Jesus did something that was probably a bit scary for the disciples. You remember Jesus had said there weren't many people to tell everyone about Jesus, well He sent His disciples out in pairs to do what He had been showing them before. Can you remember how many disciples there were? Twelve. Here is a picture of them!

Jesus gave them their instructions and sent them off to towns and villages close by to do just as He had shown them. They made people better! They talked about God and told them all about Jesus! And do you know what? People started to believe in Him. People started to know more about God and how much Jesus loved them. The disciples stayed with Jesus when they got back until Jesus went back to heaven. But then Jesus gave them the same job again. He told them that they had to go and tell everyone about Him. Tell people about God! Tell people that Jesus had come to earth and been put to death by the authorities because God wanted them to know just how much He loved them and how much He wanted them to be His friends.

And so the disciples started to do just that. Just twelve of them to start with, then a few more, then a few more until now, there are 2,229,951,315 people in the world who believe in Jesus. Just like very tiny little seeds grow into great big plants and have fruit, vegetables, salad and all sorts of things growing from the tiny seed, so the Church (which is what we call the people who believe in God and love Him) grew into that huge number.

But you know what? There are still a lot more people to tell. Just look at my great big sum!

World population	6,908,000.000
Number of Christians	2,229,951,315
Not Christians	4,678,048,685

There are all those people in the world and two thirds of them don't yet know about and love Jesus. And this means that, just like Jesus told the disciples, there is still a great big harvest out there of people who really need to be told all about Him and His wonderful love for them.

So now it is our job because we are Jesus' disciples now and He wants us to tell all of our friends about Him.

And how are we going to do that, do you think?

Well, here is our challenge. On this piece of paper, I want everyone to write down the name of one person, or a house in the street where you live, or a person you work with, or someone you go to school with.

Fold the piece of paper up and put it in your pocket. Every day, get the paper out – make sure you change it from one pocket to another and don't put them in the washer or they go all squidgy – and say a prayer for that person, just a short one asking Jesus to show you how you can share His love with them today.

If we try and do that every day, I think we all might need to buy more chairs for our Church very soon because lots more people will want to come and tell Jesus that they love Him too and learn more about Him.

When we give our life to Jesus, we will be just like the people that Jesus talked to when He was on earth. We won't be able to get enough of Him.

A Missionary Minded Church

So are we part of a missionary minded church and how do we know whether or not we are?

Well let us look at it just for a moment and see what qualities such a church might have. See if we can tick any boxes:-

- Do we support a missionary?
- Who is it?
- Do we contact that person on a regular basis?
- Do we send them money?
- Do we pray for them regularly?
- Do we take a keen interest in them and their life wherever they are?
- Are all of those things as an individual or as a church?

You see every believer has the incredible privilege of sharing in God's world plan. This plan excludes no one. Everyone, without regard to nationality, race, gender or colour, are loved by Him, He longs for young and old, rich and poor from the North Pole to the South Pole to discover this love. And we are all called as His co-workers to this task. To be a truly missionary minded church, it may be that some of us will have a real challenge and possibly a real change in attitude.

We very often seem to put life into little compartments and the result of that is that many Christians are so focussed on the things of the church, that we forget that there is a world out there that doesn't know Jesus. It is not that we don't care about them, but that the life style that we live and the people that we meet with regularly are all of the same mindset as we are. Actually we need to have lives that are empowered by the Holy Spirit. We need to be a people who have lives that are varied enough for us to be living lives that are "in the world" – in fact "up to our necks in it" – shining brightly and being salty for Jesus in it. Not "of the world" but definitely in it.

This may not be a change of attitude to some people, but it may be. But I would suggest that it is only when we have that attitude in our own individual lives that we can concentrate on becoming a mission minded church.

We need to be a people who have a heart for the lost. We need to be a people who have a passion for those in the world who are going to a lost eternity because they do not know the Lord Jesus Christ and His amazing love for us. We need to be a people bold to declare that the Lord Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners and that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

We live in an age when the world has changed immensely even since 2002 when I became OM Secretary. We have thought, even in the recent past, that missionaries are those who go out to other countries from their own homeland to share the Gospel with people of other nations. Now we live in an age when the world is very small; when people of other nations come to our own shores. When there are more languages spoken in every town and city than we used to know existed just a few years ago. Where it is quite possible that, just down the street from us, there is

someone who does not have English as their first language, and is a member of a different faith group?

We live in challenging times!

We need to pray for each other in our own patch of mission world for:-

- Boldness “that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given to me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the Gospel...pray that I may declare it fearlessly as I should” (Ephesians 6, 19 – 20)
- Opportunity and clarity “pray for us too that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ....pray that I may declare it clearly as I should.” (Colossians 4,3 – 4)
- Protection “pray that I may be delivered from the wicked and evil men, for not everyone has faith. But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one. (2Thessalonians 3, 2 – 3)
- The spread of God’s Word “pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honoured, just as it was with you” (2 Thessalonians 3, 1)

May God bless each one of us as we seek out our own mission field that we may truly be a mission minded body of God’s chosen people – His Church.

The Persecuted Church

I guess you went openly and freely to worship - at the weekend and probably to a mid week meeting also - a privilege which we take for granted but for many, many Christians throughout the world, this is not the case but still numbers increase, faith sustains, determination abounds all this in the face of horrific persecution. The notes to follow are to help you for focus in this situation and raise awareness.

Historically persecution has always existed within the Christian Church.

Early Christians had to meet in secret hence the sign with which we are all familiar – ICHTHUS

Scratched in the dust by the door to signify that they were believers, the sign still being a sign for Christians in all kinds of forms today – badges, car stickers, jewellery, ornaments etc. How this echoes the saying “little things mean a lot”.

What can you do?

- Raise awareness of the situation
- Support incentives to help

Where do we start?

- First by giving thanks for and taking notice of information which comes out from many sources
- By listening to the News
- By reading our Newspapers with care – where the plight of our fellow Christians is often reported *even as I write this, there is an article in my Newspaper of many Christians being taken in Malawi by the militia army – where to? And why?
- By resolving to do what we can – maybe finding out more?

Where and how do we find relevant and up to date information?

I would suggest from OPEN DOORS UK at Open Doors UK, PO Box 6, Witney, Oxon, OX29 6WG.

Telephone: 01993 460015

Email: inspire@opendoorsuk.org

Open Doors mission in the world is to raise awareness and help as, when and where applicable and possible.

Open Doors have various publications, one in particular is their Annual World Watch List which is a guide to global persecution. The edition for 2017 is the 25th edition to be published.

Their World Watch Church Pack is available and includes kidszone area with maps and ideas for activities.

So what can you do as a Church?

- Create awareness
- Pray for your fellow Christians
- Have special prayer times
- Focus on various countries
- Have the “world on your wall”
- Mark the countries on the map where severe problems exist
- Invite a speaker from Open Doors
- Take up our suggestion to hold a specific service to focus on Mission and the persecuted church – we are suggesting 22 October when, as a Union, we could be together in our focus.
- Involve the children – they could easily make an Ichthus from pipe cleaners. The fluffy ones bend easily and hand them out to the congregation.

In conclusion, to such a world wide situation, just consider the World Watch List which works by allocating points for various aspects of persecution.

Between 1993 and 2017, the all time top ten is

1. North Korea
2. Saudi Arabia
3. Iran
4. Somalia
5. Afghanistan
6. Maldives
7. Yemen
8. Sudan
9. Vietnam
10. China

Sadly six of these countries have been on the list for the whole of that time.

Romans 12, v5

So in Christ we, though we be many, form one body and each member belongs to all the others.

May God bless you and give you the will to be pro-active towards the persecuted Church and count your blessings.

Marjorie Mattershaw

OM Team

Moroccan Spiced lamb steaks

2 tablespoons of olive oil
2 red onions, thinly sliced
500g courgettes, sliced
2 garlic cloves, crushed
1-3 tablespoons harissa paste to taste
2 x 400g tins chopped tomatoes
2 x 400g tins chickpeas, drained and rinsed
100g dried apricots, roughly chopped
4 British free-range lamb steaks, about 100g each
Chopped fresh coriander to garnish

Method

1. Heat 1 tbsp oil in a large pan and fry the onions for about 5 minutes until soft, then add the courgettes and fry for 5 minutes more. Add the garlic and fry for 1 minute, then stir in the harissa and cook for 1 minute. Pour in the tomatoes and chickpeas and simmer for 5 minutes, then add the apricots. Cook for 5 minutes, then taste and add more harissa if needed.
2. Meanwhile, rub the lamb with the remaining oil and season well. Heat a large frying pan over a medium-high heat and fry the steaks for 2-4 minutes on both sides (this will give you pink to well-done lamb). Remove from the heat and leave to rest for 5 minutes.
3. Slice the steaks into 1-2cm strips and serve them with the chickpea sauce and a few coriander leaves.

Thai Chicken Curry

Ingredients

1 tbsp Olive oil
550g chicken thigh fillets
4 tsp Thai green curry paste
2 tbsp Light soy sauce
400ml Coconut milk
1 tbsp Thai fish sauce
200ml Vegetable stock
175g mushroom
6 Spring Onions
to taste salt and pepper

Method

Preheat slow-cooker, if required. Heat oil in large flameproof casserole over medium heat. Add chicken and cook for about 10 minutes. Remove and set aside. Stir in curry paste and cook for a minute. Pour in soy sauce, coconut milk, fish sauce and stock and bring to boil. Transfer to slow cooker, add chicken, mushrooms and spring onions and season with salt and pepper. Cover with lid and cook on low for 6 - 8 hours or high for 3 - 4 hours. Serve with noodles or rice.

TURKISH PIZZA

INGREDIENTS

- 250g bread and pizza plain flour
- 1 teaspoon instant dried yeast
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon sugar
- 150ml water
- 3 teaspoons olive oil, plus extra to grease

TOPPING

- 1 tablespoon of olive oil
 - 1 red onion, finely chopped
 - 2 garlic cloves, chopped
 - 500g lamb mince
 - 2 teaspoons ground cumin
 - 2 teaspoons ground coriander
 - 2 teaspoons paprika
 - 1 large tomato, finely chopped
 - 1 tablespoon tomato paste
 - Small handful fresh mint leaves, chopped, plus extra, to serve
 - Small handful fresh coriander leaves, chopped
 - 2 tablespoons couscous
 - 125g Tamar Valley Greek Style Yoghurt
 - 2 teaspoons harissa
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Method

- **Step 1**

Sift the flour into a large bowl. Stir in the yeast. Stir in the salt and sugar until combined. Make a well in the centre. Pour in the water and oil. Stir until just combined. Use your hands to bring the dough together. Turn the dough out onto a lightly floured surface. Knead for 5 minutes. Drizzle extra oil into a large clean bowl. Add dough and turn to coat. Cover with a clean tea towel. Set aside in a warm draught-free place for 1 hour or until doubled in size.

- **Step 2**

Heat oil in a frying pan over medium heat. Cook onion, stirring, for 5 minutes. Add garlic and lamb. Cook for 5-8 minutes or until lamb starts to brown. Stir in cumin, coriander and paprika for 1 minute. Stir in tomato and paste. Season. Simmer for 5 minutes. Cool. Stir mint and coriander into the lamb mixture.

- **Step 3**

Preheat oven to 250C/230C fan forced. Sprinkle 2 baking trays with a little couscous.

- **Step 4**

Knead the dough briefly in the bowl to knock out the air. Place on a floured surface. Halve dough. Roll out each piece to a 30cm disc. Place on prepared trays. Set aside for 20 minutes to rise slightly. Spread lamb mixture over dough, leaving a 2cm border. Fold in 2 sides to form an oval. Twist ends. Sprinkle dough with remaining couscous.

- **Step 5**

Bake for 10-12 minutes or until crisp and golden. Place yoghurt and harissa in a bowl. Season. Stir until nearly combined. Drizzle over pizzas. Scatter with extra mint