

These days short-term missions can range from a few days to a few months. They're not only for young people either! Most people are more than happy to 'sacrifice' some time for a city break or a few days on the beach. Why not give some of your time to God too and support the cause of global missions?

- **Go!** as a full time missionary

Any missionary gets really excited when they see others lining up to join them in missions. This is the ultimate way to support missions, and although not everyone feels they can do it, it's something which is worth considering.

But what can I do now?

Below are a few things you can do now:

- *Get some prayer letters and start praying for missionaries*
- *Talk to your organisation or Neighbourhood Fellowship Group leaders about the possibility of supporting a missionary or missions organisation as a group*
- *Look for opportunities to visit missionaries or serve in missions short-term.*
- *Pray that God would guide you in what He would have you do so you can be a witness to the ends of the earth.*
- *Contact the Missions Support Team for more information.*

Partners in Mission

A guide to supporting missionaries

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 1: 8

The call to be witnesses "to the ends of the earth" was and still is one of the most challenging responsibilities of those who claim to follow Jesus. However, not all of us feel that we are able to go. So how can we be witnesses to the ends of the earth?

These days modern missions and modern technology have brought us many ways in which we can be witnesses. In fact, it's so easy for us to become partners in mission on a global scale that there is no excuse for us not to commit ourselves to the missionary cause. This leaflet outlines ways we can all do this.

1. **Pray**
2. **Give**
3. **Talk**
4. **Send**
5. **Go!**

For more information on anything on this leaflet, or to receive further copies, please e-mail hbcmissionaries@yahoo.co.uk.

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1. Pray

Not every Christian can serve on missions, but every Christian can pray. It can take minutes to pray for the needs of a missionary overseas, but the effects can last an eternity. There is nothing a Christian can do which will have greater effect than praying. It's not at all difficult to get information to fuel your prayer. Most mission organisations have a prayer letter which they can send either by post or by e-mail. It's not at all difficult to get a hold of prayer letters from the church either. Those which can be published openly will be found in the vestibule of the church. Those which cannot are available from the Missions Support Team. There's no reason not to pray and every reason to pray. All we need is the willingness to do so!

2. Give

Mission organisations and individual missionaries are always in need of funds to be enabled to do their ministry. Giving is a fantastic way to enter into their ministry and really feel a part of it. The Missions Support Team has published a leaflet called "*Stakeholders in Mission*" which lists ways you can do this.

3. Talk

As the old advert said, it's good to talk. It's even better to talk to a missionary. Missionaries do a difficult job in challenging situations and are often in need

of encouragement. Missionaries are not super-spiritual or one level lower than angels. They are ordinary human beings who get tired, get depressed and get homesick just like anyone else. Contact with home is something which really makes their day. These days we have a myriad of ways to stay in contact with missionaries:

- *Letters*
- *Telephone*
- *E-mail*
- *Chatting on the internet* using messenger programs like [Yahoo](#), [MSN](#), [Google](#), [AOL](#) and many others. Some of these even allow the use of video!
- *Sending video messages* through websites like [Google Video](#). With these you can record your message, upload it over the internet and simply e-mail the link to the video to the missionary. Seeing how things are going in your home country is immensely encouraging to any missionary.

In fact, contact over continents is so cheap and easy these days that it's hard to see why we don't use it more often. However, we do need to be aware of the security situation in some countries. In some situations, careless talk can literally cost lives. Although it's good to talk, we sometimes need to be careful how we talk or what we talk about. We can talk to people and most countries freely and without restriction. However, if you are at all in doubt, contact the Missions Support Team or the missionary organisation the missionary is serving with to make sure.

4. Send

If you can't go, send someone to go instead of you. Sending missionaries, or even visitors to missionaries, as representatives has happened since the early church began in Acts, and is still happening today. Although it's not the same as going yourself, it can still help the cause of missions tremendously.

6. Go!

By far the best way (apart from praying) in which you can support missions is by going yourself. There are three ways you can go:

- *Go! as a visitor*
If the very idea of serving as a missionary scares the life out of you, why not visit one and see what they do? It's not at all difficult to arrange and you can combine it with a holiday. Going as a visitor is an unforgettable experience which can have very positive effects for the visitor, the missionary, the missionary organisation and the sending church. There is nothing quite as good as first-hand information on how the work is progressing, Why not seriously consider this?
- *Go! as a short-term missionary*
Any missionary would be greatly encourage to hear that one of their supporters wants to affirm their ministry and the ministry of their organisation by serving alongside them for a short time.