

20 Quick Ways to Encourage Global Mission

Over the years, the global mission staff at the Church Center has compiled ideas for engaging more fully in global mission on the parish level. If you do any of these things, or if you have other ideas that you'd like to share, please post them on the Global Mission of the Episcopal Church Facebook page.

- 1) Observe World Mission Sunday on the Last Sunday after the Epiphany, as urged by our General Convention in 1997. Resources are provided on a special web site (<http://www.episcopalchurch.org/page/world-mission-sunday>).
- 2) Visit the blogs of serving missionaries and share the stories with your parish. (<http://archive.episcopalchurch.org/mission>)
- 3) Get names and addresses of missionaries who have gone out from your diocese, or who are serving in countries that interest you, and write to them.
- 4) Invite a current or returned missionary to speak at your church.
- 5) Arrange a telephone/Skype call with a missionary in the field, or with a local church leader in a link parish or diocese during a congregational meeting.
- 6) Host "Mission Evenings" and invite missionaries on furlough, or those who have returned or retired, to tell their story.
- 7) Regularly include missionaries, as well as the churches highlighted in the Anglican Cycle of Prayer (<http://www.anglicancommunion.org/acp>), in the "Prayers of the People" on Sunday.
- 8) Make sure your parish has a budget line for mission.
- 9) Have a commissioning ceremony for those about to embark on a special mission project. (See "A Form of Commitment to Christian Service" in The Book of Common Prayer, page 420.)
- 10) Display photos and letters of missionaries your congregation and/or diocese is supporting.
- 11) Use wall calendars that have a global theme. Church World Service (<http://www.churchworldservice.org>), UNICEF (<http://www.unicef.org>), Habitat for Humanity (<http://www.habitat.org>), and Amnesty International (<http://www.amnesty.org>) are good sources.
- 12) Create a small display on a parish hall bulletin board called "Did You Know?" Using a map of the Anglican Communion, highlight different provinces as they are lifted up in the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, available from Forward Movement Publications or online at <http://www.anglicancommunion.org/acp>.
- 13) Sing a hymn or anthem in a language other than English. Tell a story about the church's work in the world where that language is spoken.
- 14) Use bookmarks offered by mission-related organizations in hymnals and prayer books in the pew -- or design your own.
- 15) Use pottery and baskets from other countries in place of your usual chalice, paten, and offering plates
- 16) When you read of a disaster in any part of the world, pray for those who are suffering, and find out how you can help. Episcopal Relief and Development and the ecumenical agency Church World Service are organized to send money, food, blankets, medicines, and many other sources of relief.

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- 17) If your diocese has a companion relationship with another elsewhere in the world, write to churches there and exchange information, pictures, prayers, and worship bulletins. Look for links that will make this interesting to all.
- 18) Use poems or prayers from around the world in worship.
- 19) Survey your congregation to find out members' country of origin, or other links. Invite them to share memories, customs, and food.
- 20) Contact your diocesan office to find out if anyone from your area has recently gone on a mission trip and see if they can give a presentation at your church.