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Ideas for Missionaries
in
Northern Virginia

 **MISSION:**
POSSIBLE



MISSION: POSSIBLE

Being a missionary doesn't mean doing a bunch of projects.

We know you don't have time for that, and it's not the point, anyway. Being a missionary means loving others, sacrificially. It means living so that others can see Jesus in you. We're called to be missionaries here in Northern Virginia, and that means we're called to be intercultural. We're called to slow down, pay attention to other people, and reach out in love and friendship.

What am I supposed to do with all these ideas? We sure don't expect you to do them all. In fact, there might not be many ideas in this booklet that appeals to you or work for your lifestyle. But we hope that, by reading through these examples of missional activities, you'll be inspired to step outside your usual comfort zone to bless someone with the love of Jesus. These are just ideas to get you thinking.

What does it mean to be missional? Being a missionary means seeing people through Jesus' eyes and responding by loving them as He loves them—and as He loves us. It's letting them know that there is hope in this life—and that Jesus is the way to find it.

How can I be missional? Well, we can't really tell you that. "Missional" is unique to each person. How you're missional depends on your personality, your gifts, your life circumstances, and even where you live and work. It's a unique calling that we're all on a journey to discover and continually grow in.

Why should I be missional? Because Jesus first loved us, and gave His life for us. Lots and lots of people don't know this yet. How can we possibly go through life without sharing this most amazing news with others? Jesus sent us to be His ambassadors in this broken, hurting world. What higher mission could there possibly be?


What's the first step?

Pray expectantly—daily—that Jesus will use you in the lives of those you come in contact with in your home, neighborhood, and at work. Ask God to help you help them take the next step toward Christ in their life. Be a genuine friend, especially when it is hard.

There's no hidden agenda or ulterior motives at work here. Be real. Be yourself. But at the same time, you know that you are called to more than the status quo. So ask God to help you grow in love for those around you.

Remember that, even though on the outside it may not look like it, the Holy Spirit is continually at work, drawing your family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers to Himself.

Your mission? Look for places where God is already at work. And join Him in *His* mission.



1. Do What You're Already Doing--With an Outward Focus

These ways of showing love and kindness can be done pretty simply, and often just include helping another in something you're already doing.

Bless those around you. You can sprinkle a lot of blessings throughout your days.

- **Car Washing.** While you're washing your own car, offer to do a neighbor's car as well. They will likely join you, but even if they don't, you will probably have a great conversation.
- **Home from the Hospital.** When someone comes home from the hospital, offer to bring a full meal over with everything needed to sit down and eat.
- **Missionary Commuting.** While you're stuck on 66 or 95, pray for other drivers. Use a time that can be frustrating to discipline yourself in your words and attitude.
- **Watch a 'Little' Sport.** Everyone loves to share about their kids. Offer to go and watch a neighbor's kids sporting event and of course cheer them on! Afterwards grab a shake or ice cream to celebrate, win or lose.
- **Walk & Pray.** As you walk or take a run through your neighborhood, pray for your neighbors.
- **Raking Leaves.** While you're at it, offer to rake and bag a neighbor's yard as well.
- **Winterize.** Provide home winterizing for the elderly and single moms. Repair broken gutters, seal windows and give away bags of salt for slippery walkways.
- **White Picket Fences.** In an effort to beautify their neighborhood, Georgetown South is requiring all of their fences to be white picket fences. They need folks who can help many of the elderly residents. Get a group together and tackle a few yards.
- **The Alpha Course.** Invite a friend, co-worker, or family member to Alpha. This is a 10-week course that provides a safe environment to explore what it means to follow Christ. Alpha happens right here at MAG each September and again in January.
- **Listen.** If you can see that someone is hurting, ask them how they are doing. If they're willing to share, lend an empathic and listening ear.
- **Run errands.** Besides those who are shut in, there are many who could use a hand running errands. Offer to help out ahead of time when you know you will be out and about.
- **Start a Fantasy League.** Football, baseball, etc. This is a great way to connect with the neighbors and/or co-workers. Set up a league draft party before the season starts and have a party at the end of the season with a prize for the winner.
- **While You're Praying.** Keep others in mind as you engage in your regular prayer time. Ask God to bless them, and intercede for specific needs.
- **Winter Car Check Up –** Help out a single mom or senior by making sure their car is ready for the cold. Check fluids, tires, and wiper blades.
- **Blood Donation.** Give blood whenever you can.
- **Work Out Together.** If you belong to a gym or fitness center, get a free pass for a friend and invite them to join you.

"BUT THANKS BE TO
GOD . . .

WHO USES US TO
SPREAD THE AROMA OF
THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIM
EVERYWHERE."

FROM 2 CORINTHIANS 14

- Bless Fire Fighters. Go to the local firehouse and bring them a few batches of fresh baked goods.
- Game Night. Invite the neighbors over for a night of games and fun. Have people bring snacks to share.
- Angel Tree. Grab a tag off the tree in the foyer and bless a family or two at Christmas time.
- Bless Sanitation Workers. Give sanitation workers Christmas stockings stuffed with homemade baked goods, or a cold bottle of pop or water in the summer.
- Cupcakes for Shut-ins. Make cupcakes and take them to shut-ins or to your nearest nursing home.
- Serve at SERVE. Over one of the long holiday weekends serve a meal at SERVE, the local homeless shelter.

- MAG Block Party. Invite your friends and family to the MAG Block Party on May 16. There will be tons of great food, games, slides, bounce houses, etc., for all ages.
- Welcome New Neighbors. Bake a batch of brownies and take them to a new neighbor. Provide them with your contact info and offer to answer any of their questions.
- Super Bowl Bash – Throw a bash at your home and invite the neighbors over for the big game.
- Love & Respect. Invite other married couples to the next session of Love & Respect taught at MAG on Wednesday nights at 7:30. See the MAG Catalog for details.
- 2010 Imagine Christmas. Get your tickets early and invite your friends to MAG's Christmas performance, where the real meaning of Christmas will be shared.

"CONDUCT YOURSELVES WITH WISDOM TOWARD OUTSIDERS, MAKING THE MOST OF EVERY OPPORTUNITY."

FROM COLOSSIANS 4

2. Things that take a little planning.

If you're at a place in your life where you have the time and resources to do a little more, these ideas should get you thinking. Remember to use your imagination, pray, and tailor these ideas to your specific circumstances.

- Spring Cleaning. Offer to do some spring cleaning for someone who is elderly, disabled, or a single parent. Scrub floors, windows, and hard-to-reach areas.
- Sprucing Up. Identify a public school or community center in need of revitalization and volunteer to paint it or plant a new flower bed.
- March Madness/Final Four Party. There are plenty of college hoops fans out there. Put together a bracket pool for fun and have a party on the night of the championship game with prizes for the top four in your tournament.
- MAG Spring Cleanup. Watch for details about ways you can serve the community through MAG. Sign up!
- Neighborhood Easter. Host an Easter egg hunt at your house. Have coffee and snacks so the adults can socialize while the kids play.
- Senior Nostalgia. Bring a classic movie to your local senior center to create a special night of nostalgia. Don't forget the popcorn and lemonade.
- Mothers and Daughters. Host a mother-daughter picnic or lunch. Provide games, food, and an opportunity for daughters to publicly share what they appreciate about their moms.

- **MAG's Food Pantry.** Pitch in any Wednesday; late morning to early afternoon, as we provide groceries to people in need. Contact Eveline Adcock at the church office to sign up.
- **Mom's Day Out.** Give a tired mom a break by providing a Mother's Day Out to women in your neighborhood.
- **Girls Night Out.** Invite friends and neighbor women over for pedicures, pizza, and a chick flick.
- **Scrapbooking Crop.** Host a scrapbooking event, giving women a chance to relax, chat, and finally immortalize those family pictures.
- **Home-Game Pizza.** Before a home football game, host a pizza feed for high school students.
- **Backyard Barbecue.** Plan a BBQ/cookout in your neighborhood to kick off the summer.
- **Yard Sale.** Hold a community-wide yard sale for a local charity. Ask people to clean out their closets and pitch in.
- **Book Club.** Start a neighborhood book club, choosing books that will promote spiritual discussion. Advertise at your local library and community center.
- **Workplace Bible Study.** Start a weekly Bible study where you work. Meet over lunch.
- **Mulching Christmas Trees.** Rent a small chipper for the neighborhood and offer to mulch people's Christmas trees. The mulch is great for around azaleas and other flowering bushes.
- **AIDS Patients.** Take a few friends to volunteer at an AIDS hospice or treatment facility.
- **Christmas Caroling.** Get a group together to make a joyful noise at a local senior center. Bring goodies to share with the seniors.
- **Fleece Blankets.** Enlist a group of friends or neighbors to make no-sew fleece Christmas blankets for nursing home residents or a homeless shelter. Deliver them together.
- **IJM.** International Justice Mission has a great video tool to help end human trafficking and slavery called "At The End of Slavery." Grab a promotional kit from MAG and put together a neighborhood screening and invite your friends to take action in supporting this great cause.
- **Deploy.** Adopt a family who has a parent deployed overseas. Make them a part of family gatherings and help out with household chores.
- **Brave the Cold.** On a cold morning, pass out steaming cups of hot chocolate and coffee at a bus, VRE, Metro station, etc.

Who can you bless? Write their names here:

"DEAR CHILDREN, LET US NOT
LOVE WITH WORDS OR TONGUE,
BUT WITH ACTIONS AND IN
TRUTH."

FROM JOHN'S FIRST
LETTER, CHAPTER 3.

3. Major Projects. Think about doing one with your Life Group or your family.

Most of these projects require some group effort and possibly a longer-term commitment. Read them over. Talk them over with your group or your family and get inspired with your own ideas!

- Garden. Work with your neighborhood or apartment complex to plant a community garden. Give away a portion of the crops to needy families.
- Tea. Host a tea party for women of all ages and bring in a locally-known speaker. Encourage women to bring friends and guests.
- Food Drive. Organize a three-week food drive for your neighborhood or Life Group. Ask everyone to bring a canned food item or pastry and assemble baskets for needy families.
- Hurting Moms. Partner with a local pregnancy center to host a service of hope on the Friday night before Mother's Day weekend for women and families who have lost children.
- Coach (Little League, soccer, etc...). So many kids need a positive influence from adults who genuinely care. Contact a local league, YMCA, or Boys & Girls Club.
- Senior Celebration. Host a Valentine's banquet for senior couples. Enlist teens to serve. Have some games and award prizes (longest married, newest couple, best "how we met" story).
- Walk-a-Thon. Organize an all-ages walk-a-thon benefiting a local charity or person in need.
- Free Car Washing. Ask permission to post volunteers in a local business's parking lot and offer to wash cars as employees leave for the day.
- Block Party. Coordinate a neighborhood block party for the Fourth of July. Purchase a boatload of legal fireworks and have a potluck in the cul-de-sac. Have a balloon toss and other games for the kids.
- Foster Parenting. Being a foster parent opens up a world of opportunities to impact the lives of children who need a loving home and place of shelter from their broken world.
- Spare Room. Dedicate your extra bedroom as a short-term place for someone to stay.
- Tutor. Start an after-school tutoring service, offering individual attention in subjects like reading, science, and math.
- College Thanksgiving. Work with area colleges or Chi Alpha to host international students for a Thanksgiving celebration.
- Foreign Exchange. Host a foreign exchange student for the school year, or maybe just the summer. A fantastic way to share your life with someone from another country.
- Feed Hungry Students. The mornings of finals week, head for a college campus and hand out free orange juice and granola bars.
- Bless Soldiers. Get a group together and have everyone contribute to send gift boxes to deployed men and women. Consult a soldier to learn what to buy.
- Reconciliation. Start an interracial reconciliation group and talk openly about racism today in our area.

a communiqué from
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MANASSAS
ASSEMBLY
of GOD

HELPING PEOPLE
FOLLOW JESUS.

MISSION
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