

Give, Go, Pray

There are countless causes and celebrations in our country worthy of our attention. We recently celebrated Veteran's Day, which honors men and women who served in our armed forces. Memorial Day honors those who lost their lives as they served. On Mother's Day, we pause to thank our mothers for their lifetime commitment to their children. Thanksgiving is a time to gather together with family to give thanks for the many blessings we have received. On July 4th, we direct our attention to celebrating our independence as a nation. Christmas and Easter are life-changing holidays to celebrate the birth and resurrection of our Lord and Savior and lead us on the path towards eternal life. The list goes on and on.



I recently attended a worship service that honored missionaries who are dedicating years of their lives to spreading the Word of Jesus Christ throughout the world. The service was designed to make missions personal to those in attendance, asking people to consider their own role in missions. For various reasons, not all of us can physically go on a mission trip, but we can all help in other ways. The service highlighted three key ways we can help: Give, Go, and Pray.

Giving is the first thing that comes to mind: Financial support provides the equipment and supplies needed to enable mission activities. It is not just giving money to the cause but we can also strengthen the fellowship of believers at the same time. Our church recently held a “chili cook-off” to raise funds for local, regional, and global missions. Enjoying a Sunday lunch at church can cost no more than what you would have paid in a grocery store or restaurant, yet it makes missions possible. You can also contribute items that can be used by the ministry, even things as basic as toothpaste and clothing. We are blessed with abundance in our country. Why not share it with others in need? ... *Freely you have received; freely give (Matthew 10:8).*

“Go” involves sharing your personal time, whether participating on a mission trip or volunteering in efforts back home. We can also actively convey God's Word to those around us in our home community. The mission field is right outside the doors to our church. *Jesus said, Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age (Matthew 28:19-20).*

Pray. When we pray, we reach out to God and express our hope for the success of missions. Prayer can also involve listening to God for His direction as we pray. He may be opening doors for your involvement and support. Let your prayers include talking, thinking, and listening. *Therefore, I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours (Mark 11:24).*

Worthwhile causes have a core purpose that goes beyond the activities. Christian ministries are all about connecting people to Jesus, whether it be through feeding programs, VBS, or building churches. We were told there are 3 billion people in the world who have never heard of Jesus Christ. There are over 1,200 languages in the world without a bible translated into their language. And, closer to home, there are people in our neighborhoods without a relationship with Jesus Christ.

The world is in chaos, but we can each make an effort, in our own way, to spread the Good News. What are you willing to do: Give, Go, and/or Pray?

Prayer: Lord, here am I, send me. Amen.