

Supplemental Activity Choices For Use in the 2009 Adult North American Mission Study

Use any of these activities in place of, or in addition to, ones noted in the 1-hour session guide.

Introduction

Begin by welcoming the group and, just as you begin to talk, have your cell phone ring. Look at the phone and say, "I need to take this call; I'll be just a moment." Continue to stand in front of the group as you are "talking" on the phone, saying things like, "I wasn't expecting your call," "Oh, I was just about to begin our group's annual mission study," "You want me to do what?" "This is really not a good time," and so forth. Finally, after only about one minute, say, "Well, let me get back to you on that."

Apologize to the group for the interruption. Then say, "You know, that reminds me. The North American missionaries we are going to learn about tonight were busily going about their daily, normal routines when they unmistakably got a clear call from God. They were called to serve God in places and in ways that they had not expected, and they answered His call affirmatively."

Challenge participants to brainstorm biblical personalities who answered a clear call from God, writing these names on a board. Next, challenge participants to share a time when they unmistakably received a call from God to do something specific. State that, in addition to calling individuals, God sometimes calls groups of people to a specific task. Perhaps He is calling your group to a missions task.

Learn about Interfaith Witness

As the video segment on Paul and Elizabeth Biswas will mention those of the Hindu faith, visit www.4truth.net to learn about ways one can share their Christian faith with people from different faith backgrounds. Gather invaluable information from a variety of print and video resources. Discover if any additional information or training opportunities are available through your state convention or associational office. Consider scheduling a training opportunity if none is available. If you know someone who has converted to Christianity from a non-Christian religious background, talk with that person about his or her decision to follow Christ and resulting personal sacrifices.

Invite a Guest Speaker

Contact your associational office and inquire about possible speakers who have experience in ministering and witnessing to: (1) individuals from non-Christian belief backgrounds or (2) individuals who are struggling with some of the basic necessities of life, such as those who are homeless or in extreme financial difficulties. Ask this person to challenge your group to become personally involved in a missions lifestyle.

Review Associational Demographic Studies

Contact your associational office and inquire if any recent demographic studies have been done on your community. If so, review these studies with an associational leader and try to determine if there are any unreached people groups living within your associational area. Challenge your group to covenant to pray for and possibly begin reaching out to this group. If your associational office does not have a recent demographic study, visit the website www.peoplegroups.info for helpful information.

Review Newspapers/News Magazines

As a concluding activity, divide the large group into smaller groups and distribute copies of a recent newspaper. Depending on the size of your group, you may need several newspapers or even news magazines. Challenge participants to review these news sources with an eye for witness and ministry. Ask: “What is going on in our community, in our state and in North America that might offer an appropriate opportunity for witness and ministry?” Encourage creativity and thinking “outside of the box,” as Jacobs tries to do. Ideas might range from considering a local “grief ministry” for those who have lost loved ones or planning a summer ministry to children whose parents need childcare during the summer break from school or conducting an outreach event at an upcoming community event. Assign someone to follow up on at least one of the ideas.

Mission Project Choices for Adult Mission Study

- Visit the web-site www.thebridge.namb.net to discover a variety of mission projects in which your group might want to participate. Also, contact your state convention or associational office to discover if other mission projects might be available closer to home. Encourage your group to select a project and begin necessary follow-up.
- Contact the missionaries featured in this study and inquire if there are any practical needs that your group can help meet. Also ask for specific, up-to-date prayer requests from the missionaries. Follow-up with a sense of determination and urgency. Contact information for the missionaries is available at www.anniearmstrong.com/missionaries. As an alternative, contact North American missionaries serving in your state and offer to meet practical needs these missionaries might have as well as to become their prayer partners for a specified period of time.
- Brainstorm with your group about possible innovative local mission outreach ideas that could be conducted. Remember that missionary Willie Jacobs said, “The church needs to learn new approaches in order to reach people with the gospel.” Challenge your group to think about and follow through on at least one “new approach.”
- Consider what missionary Paul Biswas said about being uniquely equipped to minister and witness to the Bengali people because they could identify with him culturally and linguistically. He said: “I can easily identify with them, with the culture because I am from the culture. I speak the same language. They feel comfortable with me and they trust me, and this is my opportunity to share the gospel with them to show the love of God.” Challenge your group to look at itself

and identify what makes your group unique. Who might your group be uniquely equipped to minister and witness to? For example, is your group uniquely positioned to reach out to business people? Farmers? Single-parent families? Sports enthusiasts? Follow through and reach out to a specific group of people. Ask your pastor or associational missionary for guidance as needed.

- Plan an around-the-clock-24-hour prayer vigil for North American missionaries. Ask individuals to pray in 15- to 30-minute intervals. Provide a prayer guide to aid individuals involved in this vigil, or use the prayer guide available at www.anniearmstrong.com.