

G-3 Group Weekly Bible Study



Missions are essential to the life and health of a church because they align the church with the very heart of God, who seeks and saves the lost and desires worshipers from every nation. A church that supports missions is obeying Christ's Great Commission, participating in the spread of the gospel where it has not yet been heard, and investing in eternal fruit that far outlasts buildings, programs, or budgets. Missions keep a church outward-focused, prayer-driven, and dependent on the Holy Spirit rather than inward, stagnant, or self-absorbed.

When a church sends, gives, prays, and partners with missionaries, it reflects God's character, strengthens its own spiritual vitality, and joins in God's global redemptive work that will one day be celebrated around His throne.

The scripture portions are shorter this week in order for you to spend more time praying for our faith-based missionaries this week. Attached to this study is some recent prayer updates from our faith-based missionaries. Over the next few weeks, we are taking up offerings to help support their mission endeavor. To meet our financial pledge of support for them we need to raise over \$10,000 dollars. Please be in prayer on what you could give to this worthy cause.

Remember all Christians are missionaries in the reality we should all be sharing the Gospel where every we go. But there are also Missionaries sent out from our churches that are working in places where we ourselves may or may not be able to go and needs our support. This study should emphasize the importance of mission work and our part in Praying intentionally, Giving sacrificially, Sending joyfully, Partnering relationally, Going willingly

"Lord, give me Your heart for the nations. Make me faithful to pray, give, send, and go as You lead. Use our church to advance the gospel to the ends of the earth."

FAMOUS QUOTES ON THE NECESSARY PURPOSE OF MISSIONS

Theological Foundations

- David Platt: "We are not an audience to be entertained; we are an army to be mobilized"
- . Hudson Taylor: "The Great Commission is not an option to be considered; it is a command to be obeyed."
- John Stott: "We must be global Christians with a global vision because our God is a global God."

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The Urgency of the Gospel

- Oswald J. Smith: "No one has the right to hear the gospel twice while there remains someone who has not heard it once."
- C.T. Studd: "Some want to live within the sound of church or chapel bell; I want to run a rescue shop within a yard of hell."

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The Heart of God for the Nations

- Charles Spurgeon: "Every Christian is either a missionary or an impostor."
- Samuel Zwemer: "The history of missions is the history of answered prayer."

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The Cost and Joy of Missions

- Elisabeth Elliot: "The will of God is never exactly what you expect it to be, but it is always good."
- David Livingstone: "If a commission by an earthly king is considered an honor, how can a commission by a heavenly King be considered a sacrifice?"

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The Purpose of the Church

- Oswald Chambers: "The church that does not evangelize will fossilize."
- George W. Peters: "Missions is not the ultimate goal of the church. Worship is. Missions is for the sake of worship."
- Andrew Murray: "The man who mobilizes the Christian church to pray will make the greatest contribution to world evangelization."

5-DAY DEVOTIONAL: THE IMPORTANCE OF SUPPORTING MISSION WORK

DAY 1 - God's Heart Is for the Nations Scripture:

Genesis 12:1-3; Luke 19:10

Reflection:

From the beginning, God's plan has always been global. He blessed Abraham so that all nations would be blessed. Jesus came "to seek and to save the lost" —not just nearby, but everywhere.

Mission work is not a modern invention; it is the unfolding of God's eternal heart.

Supporting missions means aligning ourselves with what God has always cared about: redeeming people from every tribe, tongue, and nation.

Application:

- Identify one missionary or mission partner your church supports.
- Learn their story and pray for their specific needs.
- Ask God to give you His heart for the nations.

Prayer:

Father, thank You for loving the nations. Give me Your heart for people / may never meet. Shape my desires to match Your mission. Use me to bless the world as You blessed Abraham.

DAY 2—The Gospel Needs Senders

Scripture: Romans 10:13-15

Reflection: Paul lays out a chain that cannot be broken:

People cannot believe unless they hear.

They cannot hear unless someone preaches.

They cannot preach unless they are sent.

Missionaries are the ones who go—but the church is the one who sends.

When we support mission work, we become part of the gospel's movement into places we cannot personally go.

Application:

- Write down one way you can strengthen your role as a "sender" (prayer, giving, encouragement).
- Consider setting a weekly reminder to pray for gospel workers.

Prayer.

Lord, thank You for those who go. Make me faithful as one who sends. Let my prayers, generosity, and encouragement carry the gospel farther than my feet ever could.

DAY 3 – Supporting Missions Is Worship

Scripture: Philippians 4:15-18

Reflection:

Paul describes the church's missionary support as:

- a fragrant offering
- an acceptable sacrifice
- well-pleasing to God

Mission support is not a donation—it is worship.

When we give, pray, send, and encourage, we are offering something directly to God Himself.

Application:

- Reflect on your giving: Is it worshipful or leftover?
- Choose one missionary to encourage with a message, card, or gift.
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Prayer:

Jesus, make my support of missions an act of worship. Purify my motives. Let my giving, praying, and encouraging rise to You as a pleasing offering.

DAY 4-Supporting Missions Is Obedience

Scripture: Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8

Reflection:

The Great Commission is not optional.

Jesus commands His church to make disciples of all nations.

Some go.

Some send.

But no one is called to be a spectator.

Supporting mission work is obedience to Christ's final command.

Application:

- Ask God where He wants you to obey more boldly-going, sending, giving, or praying.
- Consider joining or helping lead a missions initiative at your church.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, You have all authority. Help me obey Your command to make disciples of all nations. Show me my role, and give me courage to walk in it.

DAY 5-Mission Support Is an Eternal Investment

Scripture: Matthew 6:19-21; John 4:35-38

Reflection:

Jesus tells us to store up treasures in heaven.

Mission work is one of the clearest ways to do that.

When we support missions:

- Souls are saved
- Churches are planted
- Bibles are translated
- Leaders are trained
- Darkness is pushed back

You may never meet the people you impact-until eternity.

Application:

- Evaluate your time, talents, and treasure: What eternal investments are you making?
- Commit to one long-term step in supporting missions (monthly giving, prayer partnership, short-term trip, etc.).
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Prayer:

Father, fix my eyes on eternity. Let my life count for what lasts forever. Use my resources, prayers, and obedience to bring people into Your kingdom.



Dear Friends,

February 2026

What a great March!! Yes, my March Madness bracket is in the trash can, but Tami is ruling our family pool, and she is in the top 1% of all 26,500,000 brackets. I know its meaningless, but as a missionary you try to stay connected to home and family as much as you can. :) But it was a truly great month for us. Four years ago God opened the door into the Haitian immigrant population in our city, La Vega. We have seen God touch a number of hearts with the Gospel. It can be risky for the Haitians to congregate openly due to immigration authorities looking to deport them. Most of our people have been legal in the past, but approximately 2 years ago, the Dominican government stopped granting VISA's to Haitians, and halted all VISA renewals as well.

Some of these dear brothers and sisters in Christ have been in country for more than 10 years. Our family is here to reach those with whom we cross paths and allow Jesus Christ to change their lives.

For the last 3 months, we have been praying and searching for a house to rent in order to move the Haitian ministry into their community, where the lost Haitian population would feel more comfortable worshipping and learning about the risen Lord. This week God directed us to what appears to be a perfect place. It's smack dab in the center of a mixed Dominican and Haitian barrio or housing area. The house has 2 large rooms for bible studies/meetings and 3 bedrooms to accommodate our ministry leader Benel and his family. It even has a large cement slab in the back where we could host outside meetings if needed, along with a large number of Plantain trees. Free food is always a good attractor for believers!! :) Our rent is \$300 a month, and we have already received a commitment from a church in Chattanooga, for \$100 each month to help. Our Haitian new believers are so very excited. The first service will be held Easter Sunday. Thank you for your role in what God is doing!!

I asked for prayers last month for our Bible Institute course over Dispensationalism. We had the best attendance ever for a 1 week intensive class. Many of those attenders have committed to participate in our regular Wednesday night courses. We begin the class on the book of Acts next week. The Bible Institute is the key to our long term effectiveness here, and it's exactly what God called us to do back in 2010 when we first embraced His call to the DR. We told you that 2 Tim. 2:2 was our mandate from God, and we are so excited to see God's blessing here in La Vega. Thank you for being part of our team! I believe we are just beginning to see what God will do here. Love you

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Living the Dream, Gary, Tami, & Haley

Merry Christmas/update

From Tom Van Gorkom <tomvangorkom@gmail.com>

Date Tue 12/23/2025 4:03 PM

Dear All,

Things keep changing. If you remember, we first tried to find a tower or land on which to build a tower for our station, KOIR FM, because the old tower was rusted beyond repair and the owner wasn't sure if they would replace it, especially to the height we needed. When all doors seemed to shut, we were told by the old tower owner that they would rebuild it and we could go back on it at a lower elevation, maybe with 6-8 weeks of being off the air. Then, two weeks ago we received a letter and a termination contract from the owner of that tower informing us that we needed to be completely moved out of the building and off the tower by January 31, and that we shouldn't even discuss moving back on the tower for 2-3 years until they complete both this and another tower project. We were surprised.

I scrambled to check every tower around for space and signal viability. None are positioned to allow us a full signal, some owners haven't responded to my request for information, one gave me a list of all they needed to work out a tower lease contract of 5 years duration, but in our situation and for a higher cost, a 3 year contract could be written. In the midst of this, one Christian station that owns their own tower in our listener area told us that we could use their tower and transmitter shelter temporarily without a contract. If we have to stay a long time, we would need to build our own shelter and get our own electric meter. That was a relief.

This week in a conversation with the rusted tower owner administrator, I asked for clarification on what all had to be removed and if our return to that tower really depended on the completion of the other tower project as well. He told me that he saw no problem with us returning to the rebuilt tower as soon as it is complete, but at a lower elevation as previously understood. A second relief.

As of today, we will plan to move to the other Christian station tower in January temporarily. The request for permission to operate from that location has been filed with the FCC and will hopefully be granted within a few weeks. We just purchased a low power antenna and transmitter to fit the temporary situation. While we can only transmit at 5% of our licensed power from there, it will at least keep us on the air. Then, if the tower rebuild takes longer than about 3 months, we may work on getting a directional antenna which will allow us to transmit at higher power and cover much more of our audience. This type of antenna is costly to design and to proof for the FCC, but it could be worth it if the rebuild is significantly delayed.

Thank you for praying for this situation. It's been a ride that isn't over. One of the things that has ministered to me is from 1 John 4:16 NLT "We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love." I have to remind myself often to trust in his love, plans, and timing. He's got this.

A musician whose music we play on the radio recently told us that a lady who listens to our broadcasts told him that she appreciated one of his CDs that invited people to follow Christ. She ordered it for her

young adult son who had been very rebellious for a long time. Amazingly, he listened to it and gave his life to Christ! A week later he died in an accident. She wanted the musician to know what a blessing his music had been and he wanted us at Radio Esperanza to know the part we played in it too. The mother who lost her son says that she is at peace because she knows that her wayward son is now with Jesus.

Terry and I wish God's blessings on you this Christmas and in the New Year. May you trust in His love.

Tom and Terry

Home address: 3509 Illeana St, Edinburg, TX 78539

Tom's cell: [865-803-7427](tel:865-803-7427)

Support may be given on-line at www.riogrande.edu/vangorkom/ which takes you to our giving page, or send to the following mailing address with a note that it is for Tom and Terry Van Gorkom.

Rio Grande Bible Ministries
4300 S. US Hwy 281
Edinburg, TX 78539

JEFF AND LESLIE VANVACTOR

March 2026 Missions Update from Zamorano, Honduras



We're Open for Business!

We can't believe it's already nearing the end of March! We have been so busy with the new ministry and we are loving it! We have 8 precious little ones in our program and are enjoying getting to know each one and their families a little better with each passing day. Our youngest child is 2.5 years old and has the biggest smiles, and the oldest is 4 and loves to play outside with Oliver. We start our mornings early and arrive onsite at 7 am to prepare for the day. The children start arriving around 7:30 and get to enjoy some free play time while we wait for everyone to arrive. Then we fill their morning with songs, games, crafts, Bible stories and English learning! We also provide them with a snack and lunch before they head home around 12:30. We have been blessed with the ability to afford 2 helpers, which has been the perfect amount of help! We only have our program 3 days a week at the moment and for now that seems to be the perfect amount of time, allowing us to use the other days to plan and prepare activities and continue to spruce up the building and make it more child-friendly.

Before starting this program, we prayed for these children and their families. We wanted to help the families who aren't able to help themselves. We spoke with a few of our friends who have grown up in this community and know the families well. Most

Contact us at JeffandLeslieV@gmail.com or via Facebook Messenger

To support our ministry financially, visit: give.globalservicenetwork.org/50821002



of our children are from single parent homes. The family of one child lives off the money made by collecting recyclables from the side of the street. One child lost her father to suicide only a few months ago. Several children live in homes made from mud and clay, and they are all precious in His sight. We look forward to introducing you to each of these children and their families throughout the year.

Thank you to those of you who have given to help us be able to provide a safe, loving environment for these children to learn so many things! They are loving it and the parents are too. We also had some great helpers come down to visit in February

and help us get ready to start our program! We would not have been ready without you! And thank you to everyone who has and is praying for us. Sometimes we're tired, sometime our own kids are tired, sometimes it's just hot and so everyone is a little extra tired, but by God's grace He gives us the love and energy to care for these children every morning of our program. Please continue to keep us in your prayers as this Friday we will have our very first parenting class! Pray that the parents will be encouraged and that God would speak to each of their hearts so that they would see their need for a Savior, and that He would grow in them a desire to make Christ the center of their homes.

Additionally, if you could please pray for Leslie's car. It has been with the mechanic for more than a month. The transmission went out on the way to the airport last month to pick up Leslie's family and we are having a hard time finding a replacement transmission here.

You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Jesus Christ. 2 Timothy 3:14-15

Giving Him all the glory,

Jeff, Leslie, Elliot, and Oliver



Roland and Jinni Shafer and Family- Support Workers to Launch Ethnos 360 Missionaries Around the World.



PRAISES

- 75 missionary trainees at ETC in Missouri
- Praise God that the Tanguat people of "A" and "M" villages are "excited about learning what God wants to teach them through His Word."
- "God is building His Church here in Elsengg!
- Tobo people of Papua New Guinea. Chad is "rounding out" some key Old Testament passages to include with the first Tobo New Testaments. Praise God for the progress made.
- Travel opportunities this summer.
- God's continued provision, faithfulness and GRACE!!
- Moriah started 2nd year of residency with college students
- Susan online school with Liberty for elementary education
- Kaylee and Elijah are expecting a boy in January!
- Moriah & Jinni traveling to Columbia for wedding of co-workers son.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Use your IT skills to make an eternal impact!
- OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDE:
 - Cybersecurity Analysts • Network and Systems Administrators
 - • Hardware and Software Technicians • Application Developers
 - and Administrators • Database Engineers • Website Administrators
 - • Customer Support and Technology Trainers • Project Managers
- Wisdom – Endurance – Discernment – Time Management for us and our children
- Arctic Canada. "Please be praying fervently with us as the search for more language helpers/nurturers continues.
- Please pray for a new full-time Food Services Director and a new full-time Mechanic. And that, in the fall, God would supply the various volunteers as needed – at the Ethnos360 Homes
- Pray for the sale of the Jackson property.
- Elijah homeschooling Elliana, Kaylee's pregnancy, Moriah's ministry and schoolwork, Susan's juggling of school and work.
- The Lord to renew RJ's mind from deception, victim mentality, anxiety and depression.

Matt. 28:19a - Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations....



Our Purpose
"Motivated by the love of Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, Ethnos360 exists to assist the ministry of the local church through the mobilizing, equipping and coordinating of believers to evangelize unreached people groups, translate the Scriptures and see indigenous churches established that glorify God."

Phil. 1: 3-5 - I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now.