

All About Outreach

Outreach Ministries exist to encourage and equip believers to be actively engaged in their Great Commission calling - to invite people to know and follow Jesus in the Great Lakes Bay Region and beyond. Here's how:

Outreach Partners:

Hopevale financially and prayerfully supports 22 Outreach Partners. Their ministries range from theological training of future international pastors, to church planting in the Ukraine, to helping the homeless right here in Saginaw (and more!) - all for the purpose of seeing people come to know Jesus personally. To know more about those we support, you can find a complete list on our website under the "Outreach" tab. Another important aspect of our support happens when our Community Groups "adopt" an Outreach Partner to provide prayer and relational support.

Global Projects:

Global projects are short-term mission trips. We send out teams to give practical, hands-on help to our Outreach Partners. It's incredible to see the way the Lord works when trip members make themselves available to be a part of what the Lord is doing around the world. Mission trips expand the participant's understanding of God, deepens the relationship with our Outreach Partner's ministry, and ministers to spiritual and physical needs of people around the globe.

Local Projects:

Being a mission-minded, externally focused church means we desire to see every believer participate in their Great Commission calling. Outreach is not just about supporting others to go and make disciples, it's about being disciples who go and make disciples! Local projects are generated through the natural pathways and ideas of Groups from Hopevale who desire to be the hands, feet, and voice of Jesus to others.

Church-Wide Projects:

If you've participated in *Operation Christmas Child* or the Bible Camp Outreach Project, then you've been a part of a Church-Wide Project. These opportunities happen three times per year and encourage the entire congregation to contribute toward a ministry project. Sometimes we do things locally - like team up with great organizations in Saginaw who get food to those in need - and sometimes we do things internationally - like provide kids with insecticide-treated mosquito nets to help prevent the spread of Malaria. Whatever the project, the collective impact is huge!

Chances are, your kids spend time with non-Christians at school, in sports, or in the neighborhood. How can you help them to live differently yet share Jesus' grace and truth with others? And we encourage you to involve your entire family in *Operation Christmas Child* this year. Go to the Outreach website or stop by the Outreach Desk for more information. This is a great way to share Christ's love and good news with children around the world. Be a family on mission!

Grace and Truth in This World
A Community of Grace and Truth series

So I Send You

In taking on flesh, Jesus didn't live an isolated life divorced from culture. He lived with and among people in such a way that his words and actions made sense to a specific people group. He was in many senses one of them, while remaining distinct as the Son of God. Ed Stetzer

1. Read the Lord's prayer for us in John 17:15-16 and the quote above. How did Jesus Himself live out what He prayed for us here?
2. Look up the verses below. Why did Jesus spend time with "sinners" the way He did? In what ways did people misunderstand what He was doing? Think of equivalent ways that we can spend time with people who don't know Christ.
 - Matthew 9:9-12—
 - Matthew 11:16-19—
 - Luke 7:36-40—
 - Matthew 12:9-14—
3. What do you think is a good balance of spending time with other believers *and* spending time with people who don't know Christ? Why are both important? What can happen if we do too much of one and not the other?
4. What does that look like in your life right now? How do you need to adjust?
5. Outreach Ministries is growing and changing (skim back page of this *Connections*). What questions do you have about outreach at Hopevale?
6. Who are you passionate about impacting for the Lord? What are practical ways to help draw them to the grace and truth of Jesus? The answer to those questions will help develop your group's ideas for local outreach projects.
7. Has your group adopted or co-adopted a Hopevale Outreach Partner? What could you do as a group this church year to encourage and partner with them in special ways? Pray for them as you close your meeting.

My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of it.
John 17:15-16