Thank You!

Thank you for taking time out of your day to visit our website and to seek out information for making missions alive and active for the women in your church! Our team at national WMU®, the parent organization of Women on Mission®, would like to extend our help and offer the best resources available to help you meet the missional goals for your women’s group.

Contact information may be found on the bottom of this page as well as on our website.

WHAT IS WOMEN ON MISSION?

Women on Mission® is an active missions organization through which women are discipled in matching their faith and their lifestyle through missions projects, ministries, prayer, and Bible study. The purpose of all Women on Mission activities is that every person has the opportunity to hear and respond to the gospel.

ONLINE RESOURCES

Subscribe to the Adult Missions/Women on Mission enewsletter at wmu.com by clicking on email signup in the top right corner.

facebook.com/WomensMissions
twitter.com/MissionsMosaic
pinterest.com/NationalWMU
instagram.com/NationalWMU
THE BASICS OF
Women on Mission

SO WHO IS WOMEN ON MISSION FOR?
The soccer moms? The choir members? The retired? The answer is . . . all of the above! They are women just like you, who are passionate to learn about and live out missions.

WHAT DOES WOMEN ON MISSION LOOK LIKE?
Groups basically revolve around four key areas in a woman’s life through Women on Mission, Missions Mosaic, and online, where helps and tips to live missionally are regularly encouraged:

• Missions and Me: Monthly missions ideas and relationship-building tools with the unchurched
• Heartbeat of Missions: Bible study, prayer, and daily devotions
• Missions Here and There: Short reports of international and North American missionaries, stories of missional women like you and featured missionaries
• Missions Matters: Stories of retired missionaries and multicultural WMUs, simple gospel sharing tips, ways to reach neighbors, and parenting postmoderns

HOW MANY LEADERS ARE NEEDED?
Flexibility is the key word when answering this question. It totally depends on the goals of the women or individual woman in the church. A few scenarios:

Having one group facilitator to lead group members in preparing for, doing, and assessing the work of the group could be your fit. This woman would keep up with scheduling and planning meetings, project completion, record keeping, and promoting involvement.

If you have more willing to participate in leadership, then consider having a project leader. She is responsible for specific projects such as a missions and ministry activity, a prayer retreat, an on-going prayer project, or a special event.

If you don’t have an “official leader,” but you desire to meet, then consider having a planning team. It’s a wonderful way to share leadership for any of the above. One person doesn’t have to be the “head honcho” all the time. It may work better in your church to have teams pool their talents, ideas, and skills.

GENERAL QUESTIONS?
Locally, you can contact your associational adult consultant. Your local Baptist Association would have her phone number.

You can reach the adult team at national WMU at (205) 991-8100 or by email, adults@wmu.org.

ADDITIONAL HELP FOR LEADERS
Visit ChristianLeaderLearning.com for online, on-demand leadership training. Click on Develop to see courses related to leading Women on Mission.
SIX EASY TIPS FOR GETTING STARTED

1. **Determine the focus of the group.** Meet with other women and discuss what will work best for your women. Meetings often revolve around one of three articles written monthly in *Missions Mosaic*. Each comes with an easy-to-follow lesson plan in the *Women on Mission Leader* or *Resource Kit*. Articles include missionary stories, prayer, and Bible study. Groups also meet around missions projects or common interests.

2. **Identify leaders.** Identify the coordinator of the group as well as others who are open to leading.

3. **Decide on your resources.** Meet with leaders to review resources (see next page). Consider participating in training from national WMU® or your state WMU office. See more training information on page 2.

4. **Order resources.** Regardless of any other materials ordered, it is encouraged that each woman receive a copy of *Missions Mosaic* to help her grow in her love for and knowledge of missions.

5. **Calendar.** Plan the time and location of the meeting.

6. **Publicize.** Invite women personally to attend. A combination of inviting them in person, by email or Facebook, and in flyers is always a good practice.

Then, meet together!
RESOURCING

Women on Mission

Missions Mosaic

This monthly missions magazine is a must-have for all women who desire to live a missional lifestyle. It includes missionary stories, Bible studies, mission project ideas, and a devotional guide/prayer calendar.
Annual subscription (12 monthly issues) • $20.99

Women on Mission Resource Kit: Posters Plus

Lead your Women on Mission® group in a simple and fun way with this kit! Each quarter comes with leader tips, three missions projects, six full-color, promotional posters, customizable flyers to promote meetings, and three meeting plans that work alongside articles found in Missions Mosaic. All-in-all, it’s an incredible value for the time-conscious leader!
Annual Subscription (4 quarterly issues) • $39.99 a year

If you are only interested in ordering the lesson plans and leader helps, then you’ll want the Women on Mission Leader.
Annual Subscription (4 quarterly issues) • $14.99 a year

Women on Mission Guide for Leaders

This is the most comprehensive resource for getting started. It includes guides for leading women’s groups and how to organize a group at your church. It is a must-have for new missions leaders and for seasoned leaders who are looking for new ideas.

W124102 • $5.99 (print)
E124120 • $4.99 (download)

Save 20% on these resources with promo code PACK7. Offer expires September 30, 2017.
IN ADDITION TO

Women on Mission

A MONTH-TO-MONTH FOCUS

We have coordinated with our missional partners, New Hope Publishers® and WorldCraftsSM, to provide ideas for a missional book of the month and fair-trade craft of the month.

These products are not required to participate in Women on Mission® activities, rather, they’ll serve to enhance the programming for each month.

GENERAL QUESTIONS?

Locally, contact your associational adult consultant. Call your local Baptist association for his/her phone number.

You can reach the adult team at national WMU at (205) 991-8100 or by email, adults@wmu.org.
IN ADDITION TO
Women on Mission

WMU MINISTRIES
Do you want to be more involved in hands-on missions, but sometimes it seems too hard? We’ve broken it down, pointing out a few ways you can get plugged in locally, nationally, or globally. Visit wmu.com/ministries for more information.

WorldCrafts℠
Fair-trade businesses among impoverished people around the world
Locally: Throw a party! A WorldCrafts party is an easy and unique way to introduce (or keep) missions in front of your church family.
Globally: When you shop fair trade, you automatically support international missions. Artisans are paid fair wages and receive sustainable incomes through sales.

Project HELP℠
Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
A four-year churchwide emphasis
Locally: Help your church learn more on this issue with this helpful learning tool, Drawing Near: Understanding and Supporting Those with PTSD.
Nationally: Contact your state WMU office to learn specific needs related to PTSD in your state and how you can get involved.

Christian Women’s Job Corps℠/Christian Men’s Job Corps℠
Job Readiness
Locally: Go online and see if a site is nearby and volunteer. Close to 200 sites are scattered across the country!
Globally: Pray for the existing CWJC℠/CMJC℠ sites, and pray these sites will be multiplied throughout the world.

Baptist Nursing Fellowship℠ (BNF®)
For Christian health-care professionals
Locally: Contact your state WMU office to locate where BNF organizations are serving this year. It may be in your own backyard.
Nationally: Membership is also available nationally. Join us for national and global missions trips that focus on health care.

Pure Water, Pure Love℠
A clean water ministry
Locally: Raise awareness in your church through resources available online. Challenge them to give their change to change the lives of many who do not have clean water.
Globally: Give financially to support water filters for missionaries and the drilling of wells and water purification projects where missionaries and residents live.

Missions Trips!
Familyfest℠, Missionsfest℠, and International Initiatives℠
Locally: New trips are planned each year for either Familyfest or Missionsfest. Visit us online to discover what’s going on this year.
Globally: WMU® partners with various non-profits around the globe each year and sends missions teams to serve. See wmu.com/trips for more details.
Tribes Reaching Tribes

Spreading the Word in the Philippines

CREATING QUIET WITHIN
Pause ... Breathe ... Pray

SOLACE IN THE RUBBLE
Bringing Stability to Those Rocked by Nepali Earthquakes
COMMUNING WITH NATURE would be easy for Steve and Jen Hagen and their three children in the lush, tropical beauty of the Philippines. With everything from sandy beaches to forested mountains on the island of Luzon, God’s handiwork is on display in myriad ways.

Yet as much as they appreciate the beauty, they understand that communing with the Creator is much more important than communing with the creation. Keeping close to the Father is what enables them to mobilize tribal churches to send out missionaries to unreached tribal people groups in the Philippines. “I help to organize the churches, teaching them about sending out missionaries and supporting them,” says Steve. “I help them train their missionaries and work with those they have sent out to help them to be strategic and effective.”

MISSIONARIES SENDING MISSIONARIES

The main focus for the Hagens is reaching the Agta tribes in the mountains. “The greatest need they have is the gospel clearly taught. The area they are in is full of cults.” Steve notes, “Each [cult] teaches that it is Jesus plus something or someone else.”

From their home near Manila, Jen and Steve work together in their ministry. While Steve does the writing, prep work, and traveling for trainings and meetings, Jen takes care of all the necessary logistics, administration, and communications. This also includes keeping
prayer supporters updated as well as coordinating strategic volunteer teams. They do work directly with their people group but have found it extremely effective for existing tribal churches to send their own members as missionaries.

Steve says he will never forget the first missionaries sent from the tribal churches. The group included two families, a single man, and an older widower, all called and confirmed by their home churches. They cried as they said good-bye to their families, then traveled 20 hours away to their new place of ministry. “They had left behind families and tight-knit villages where they knew everyone, to move into the unknown. Now they were in a new area preparing to spread out, learn new languages, and build houses.” Steve recalls that one of the men thanked him, explaining that he had sensed God’s call to be a missionary for years. “He said their churches didn’t know how to do that, but we had helped make it possible. Everyone else echoed his sentiment.” Steve was stunned since verbal expressions of thanks are not a part of their culture. “Here they were thanking me for essentially

Keeping close to the Father is what enables the Hagens to mobilize tribal churches to send out missionaries to unreached tribal people groups in the Philippines.
making their life harder, but they knew it was God’s plan for them.”

Traveling and Computers
It seems to reflect a bit of God’s humor that He called a man who hates to travel to be a missionary half a world away from his home, with a ministry that involves travel 30–40 percent of the time. Most of Steve’s travel can be completed in a day’s drive, but some destinations include a couple of hours hiking after that. Meetings and trainings often last several days and he spends the night in the pastor’s home or church. When he’s by himself, travel time is spent listening to the Bible, sermons, and books. Sometimes people come along for the trip or just hitch a ride and he admits that as he looks back, God has worked in his life through their hours of conversations.

When the family is together at home, Steve and Jen spend a lot of time on their computers. In the evening, they help Mikayla, Zach, and Ben with homework, get together with other believers or participate in community sports for exercise. All three teenagers are involved in ministries in their community.

The children now attend an international school in the city for missionary kids but were homeschooled for several years. During those years, the whole family would spend time in the mountains traveling with Steve. Jen graciously took care of the family on-the-go in difficult conditions (doing laundry in the river, hiking to churches, crossing flooded rivers when the bridges were out) while homeschooling and helping disciple and counsel the tribal women. She continues to travel with Steve when possible, but the children can only go during school breaks. The whole family looks forward to working together in the mountains and even keeps a “tribal” house where they live while ministering there.

Communing with the Creator
Steve and Jen recognize they cannot keep up their hectic ministry and family schedule in their own strength. Following Jesus’ example, they carve out time to commune with the true source of strength: the Father.

“I find it best,” says Steve, “if I take a morning (preferably once a week) and just fast and be with God through His Word and prayer.” On other days, “I try not to stop my prayertime with God when my devotion time is up in the morning but continue speaking with Him throughout the day.” He also is part of a group of men who stay in touch to encourage each other and hold one another accountable.

“I often find I have to give up sleep [to have time with God]. I also cut out most emails, news, and Facebook because I saw that it became too much of a drain. It got my focus on the problems in the world, rather than the One Who can fix it.” The result has been a shift in his attitude about ministry. “God has really been showing me lately that He is the One Who will do the work. If I go into things with the attitude that no matter what I do, it will fail if He doesn’t work, it changes my attitude.”

Jen says, “I fit in individual time [with God] just like any other busy mom, whenever I get a minute. Primarily, I try to have a particular verse that I am meditating on throughout the day, rather than just reading something and forgetting about it. Sometimes it’s a song that’s meaningful for what is going on at that time.” Combining spiritual and physical health, she says, “I often spend time in the Word while I am working out. If I During their children’s early years, the Hagen family travelled and worked together to disciple and train believers.
don’t multitask my workout time, there doesn’t seem to be enough minutes in the day.” Jen uses a couple of personal devotionals and “one of them I discuss through email with a friend and we pray for one another.”

The Hagens have family worship several times a week. “We also meet with another missionary family for worship and small group study once a week when Steve is not traveling. We attend church as much as our travel schedule allows, but usually the best ‘feeding’ time happens as a family or with our small group.”

**Strength for Whatever It Takes**

Steve recalls one particularly difficult time of ministry that would have been impossible without an intimate relationship with God. It seems there was a misunderstanding, which led to a rumor, which led to serious allegations about the work with the tribal churches. Most didn’t believe the rumor, but some did, which led to a real division among these missionary-sending tribal churches. Steve was asked by associational leadership to come with some other missionaries to a meeting to resolve the issue.

He was the only one in the group who could drive. After a 20-hour drive (sleeping for a while in the SUV), Steve was asked to speak in a church then drive to the meeting in a village about another hour away. As things turned out, the meeting was delayed until about 10:30 p.m. that night and went until almost 1:00 a.m. the next morning. At 4 a.m. Steve was awakened by the noise of people cooking for a big church gathering.

“Over the next couple of days we had numerous other meetings to resolve the rumor, restore trust, and improve communication and relationship,” he said. “It was three days of meetings past midnight and early mornings. I had to rely fully on God to work since I had no strength left of my own. When I finally made the drive home, I knew I had done all I could to maintain unity and live with all men. Unity is too important to leave anything undone that could be done.”

With the issue dealt with successfully, the tribal churches continued their missions outreach. And Steve was prepared because he had spent precious time communing with God.

**Balancing Act**

The Hagens partner with Southern Baptist churches as well as Great Commission churches in the United States and have had volunteer teams from both. A Southern Baptist church in Mississippi sent a single young woman as a volunteer and she ended up returning with the Journeyman program. Another partner is a Chinese church in the Philippines.

Because of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® and the Cooperative Program, the Hagens have a place to live, food on the table, and a very useful 4-by-4 diesel vehicle to carry them over the rugged terrain. They are able to focus on what is most strategic to get the gospel to their people group.

Jen and Steve balance ministry, travel, and family time while moving back and forth from city life to primitive tribal living. Without a close relationship with the Father, this balancing act might come crashing down. Yet they commune with Him and find stability.

They minister and join the people where they are, eating their food, and living their simple lifestyle. “The most meaningful compliments I have ever gotten were from tribals when they say I act like one of them,” says Steve. “One told my wife that she doesn’t know what I am like when I am with people in the city, but when I am with them, ‘I am poor.’ I have treasured that ever since.”

**SHARON R. NEFF** is a pastor’s wife in Mississippi and can be reached at sharoneff@gmail.com.
Jesus ends our focal passage with a command. Actions are necessary to fulfill it: bake, buy, give, listen, write, share, transport, teach, train, cook, call, cry, repair, sew, go, encourage, hug, laugh, and a zillion others Missions Mosaic readers could add from personal experience. So many ways exist to “love each other.”

But before jumping to verse 17, let’s camp out in verses 1–16. Jesus had much to teach us about the source of the love we share and the necessity of abiding in Him for the production of true spiritual fruit. Our remaining makes the going possible.

Our Lord uses a beautiful analogy to unpack these truths. He is the Vine, God the Father is the Gardener, we are the branches, and our acts of love are the fruit. If a branch is cut off from the vine, it is dead. Its sustenance, strength, and power come only from its connection to the vine. Our identity in Christ is our connection to Him, the true Vine. We are alive because of Him.
You and I are nothing and our acts of service are nothing apart from Him. He is our life, our spiritual food, and our power. He both prompts us to love and enables us to love. Our connectedness to Him will produce fruit. The fruit in our lives confirms our connection to Jesus. The fruit may come seasonally (like the tree in Psalm 1:3 “which yields its fruit in season”), but it will come.

And just as a parent disciplines the child he loves and just as a wise gardener will prune away a few branches, so our heavenly Father will cut away areas of our lives that are unhealthy for us. The pruning brings pain but results in a healthier vine and even more fruit to come. A gardener will occasionally even prune away good fruit to ensure more prolific and sweeter fruit in the future. Our great God may sometimes ask us to give up a good thing to allow room for the better and best thing. We move from bearing fruit (John 15:2) to bearing much fruit (John 15:5), as we remain in Him. As we yield to Him, our lives yield greater and sweeter fruit.

What does remaining look like? How is it possible? How do you and I cultivate a remaining life so we can produce a going life? Consider holding fast to these four habits.

**Remaining Habit 1:**
**Take Truth from the Word.**

“If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you” (John 15:7).

God’s Word is our daily manna. Without it, we become spiritually emaciated, depleted, and weak. Are you hungry for the Word of God? Can you declare like Jeremiah, “When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart’s delight, for I bear your name, O LORD God Almighty” (Jer. 15:16).

If remaining in the Word feels more like a “have to” than a “want to,” ask God to change your heart. Ask Him to create a hunger that nothing else can satisfy. Set the alarm for 10 minutes earlier than usual. Assemble your Bible, a journal, and a pen the night before. Arise in the morning and begin your remaining-in-the-Word journey by practicing the three Rs:

- **Read.** Read a few verses, a full chapter, or until you come to a verse or phrase that resonates in your heart.
- **(w)Rite.** Write this verse or phrase in your journal and then record what it means to you or write out a prayer to God using this verse or phrase.
- **Reflect.** Allow the words to percolate throughout the day in your heart and mind. Think about what they mean. Pray them back to God, asking Him for more revelation or an assignment related to the truth you read. Keep your thought life reflecting on the truth.

**Remaining Habit 2:**
**Tell God.**

“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints” (Eph. 6:18).

If remaining in Christ is the goal, then we must consider what prompts us to let go of cluttered schedules, critical spirits, and even competition, as we struggle with Paul’s advice: “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves” (Phil. 2:3).

Telling God all keeps us abiding and remaining in Him. Our continual conversation keeps us constantly connected.

- If your heart is joyful, have you told Him why?
- If your heart is hurting, have you poured your troubles out before Him?
- Have you tried telling on your spouse to Him (instead of your mother or best friend)?

When we tell God, He will often set us straight, give us a new perspective, or teach us to trust Him through the conflict. Nothing keeps us connected to God like a continual conversation with Him.

**Remaining Habit 3:**
**Travel the Way of Love.**

“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:12–13).

Daily life brings multiple intersections—opportunities to take the way of love or choose the way of selfishness, pride, fear, or disobedience.

- When a comment can be interpreted offensively, how can you take the way of love?
- How can faith trump fear so you can choose love?

Remaining keeps us ready to love, speak, give, do, and go. How is God calling you to remain so you are ready to go?

**Laura Macfarlane** writes, speaks, and teaches from Siloam Springs, Arkansas. You can connect with her at CrossMyHeartMinistry.com.
Creating Quiet Within

Pause ... Breathe ... Pray

By Lucretia Mobbs

Some days my life is like a frantic rush to the airport! I get there with seconds to spare only to find we’re taking off in a storm. Oh, how I pray that the pilot can maneuver above the storm. I’m finding that life lived in a frantic, noisy storm of overbooked schedules diminishes the capacity to be quiet enough to hear God when He speaks.

Constant Noise

We are bombarded by constant noise every day; most of it by our own choice. The television is on from us rising up in the morning to settling into bed and even after in some homes. Technology has brought noise into our personal space now that earbuds are a fashionable accessory. Have we considered how exhausting it is to be constantly stimulated by noise?

Constant Stimulation

A constantly stimulated mind finds it difficult to settle into prayer. We become accustomed to ever changing, ever increasing stimulation. Over time, this constant stimulation causes our mind to crave more. Soon we discover that we’re uncomfortable with quiet. We must learn, just as Elijah did, that God speaks to us in the quiet moments. Are we quiet enough to hear Him?

Quiet before God

Jesus said in John 15:5, “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” Jesus is telling us that the outcome for all our doing for God

heartbeat of missions ■ Prayer

28 www.wmu.com/MissionsMosaic
depends upon our staying constantly in tune with Him. No substitute exists for this. Pursuing silence and quietness draws you into being with God, and it is there, in the sweet quiet with Him, that He reveals His purposes and His plans for you. The quiet, soft voice of God answers your heart's prayers and plants deep within your soul the desire to please Him above all else.

Silence Your Inner Chatter
Turning off external noise is easy compared to silencing our mind's chatter. Some experts say there are about 50,000 thoughts that run through our minds every day. One way to tame this incessant chatter and condition our mind to hear the voice of God is to meditate on Scripture.

A Sacred Pause
Become more aware of God's presence within you by turning off the noise makers and focus on how the silence feels. Keep a notebook handy to record your feelings. Notice how long it takes you to become comfortable being still and quiet. Reject frustration when your mind wanders; gently draw it back with a sacred word or phrase like, "merciful Jesus, merciful Jesus." Sometimes I just say, “Help me, Lord!”

Don’t beat yourself up with guilt. Live in freedom and ask God to help you create these little times of silence each day. I like to think of them as sacred pauses that return me to God, the source of my strength.

Set a quiet alarm on your phone or computer to remind you to stop your activity and thoughts. Pause and take a deep cleansing breath. Genesis 2:7 says, “Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.” Meditate on the thought that every breath you take is a manifestation of the presence of God within you. How amazing and wonderful to become aware of God's presence within by becoming more aware of each breath taken! Breathe in and breathe out a prayer. Soon you discover that you trust God more and more. A deep and abiding peace and calmness settles in.

Pause . . . breathe . . . pray . . . These little times of silence, breathing, and praying keep your attention on the present moment and the very thing God wants you to see. Refocusing your attention on God primes you like a well pump to deliver sweet, refreshing water. You hear. You see. You are now ready to minister in the very place He was taking you all along.

The Awareness Challenge
Encourage those in your Women on Mission® or other small group to take the awareness challenge with you. Document your experiences on your social media sites to encourage more people to take the challenge themselves. Turn off the noise makers for two weeks and keep a journal to record your feelings.

● What was your first reaction to the quiet?
● Was a designated place necessary for you to find quietness?
● How long did it take you to become comfortable with quietness?
● What was your first indication of an increased awareness of God's presence?
● Did you immediately resume your noise makers after two weeks? Why or why not?
● Share any new insights about prayer when you meet again.

Our world is filled with more needs than you and I can address, but we, as the body of Christ, are called to step into the needs of the people around us. Prayer is the work of God we can do anywhere and anytime.

Don’t allow the enemy to overwhelm and paralyze you with the need. Pausing throughout your day, breathing deeply, and becoming aware of God’s presence focuses you like an arrow aimed at a target. Your skills, abilities, talents, and passions are directed precisely where you will be most effective for God.

Practice these little silences and you will soon discover that your spirit is calmer, your blood pressure is lower, and your heart is attuned to see God like never before. A deep inner joy seeps through you, and others notice you radiate with God's presence.

This deep inner stillness and quiet way of being with God brings a settled peace into your spirit. It becomes easier to trust God and to leave the outcomes to Him. We know His outcome is so much better than ours.

Pause . . . breathe . . . and pray.}

Lucretia Mobbs writes from Portland, Tennessee, and is learning to appreciate quietness more.
WOMEN ON MISSION LEADER is the quarterly leader resource for facilitators of Women on Mission® groups. Monthly meeting plans built around the three feature articles—Missionary Spotlight, Bible Study, Prayer—in Missions Mosaic are presented, along with some helpful leadership articles to assist you in your facilitator role.

For each Women on Mission group facilitator:
☐ WMU Year Book 2016–17
☐ Women on Mission Leader or Women on Mission Resource Kit
☐ Women on Mission Guide for Leaders
☐ Missions Mosaic

For each Women on Mission member:
☐ Missions Mosaic subscription

10 Tips for Facilitators

1. Find publicity, prayer calendar, and mission action projects on the beginning page of each month.

2. Personalize and reproduce the monthly promotional flyer. Try copying it onto suitable scrapbook paper to give it some punch.

3. Review the meeting plans given for the Missionary Spotlight, Bible Study, and Prayer articles for a particular month.

4. Consider incorporating a segment of each of the three plans for your monthly meeting if you only meet once a month.

5. Secure the needed supplies for the plan of your choice.

6. Enlist any needed volunteers. The more women you involve, the better your meeting will be.

7. Consider changing the location of your meeting occasionally. Try a progressive meeting beginning at the first location for the Missionary Spotlight study, move to another location for the Bible study, and conclude at the final location for the prayer study. If meeting at a church, simply move from one room or area of the church to another.

8. Use these ideas merely as springboards for meeting plans. Create your own adaptations.

9. Look for ways to introduce missions to all the women of your church.

10. Move your women out. Create definite plans for a monthly, quarterly, or ongoing mission action project.


When God Sets Your Timetable

Many Christians set their own timetable, then ask God to bless it. As this month’s authors explain, when believers spend more time listening to God, they can allow Him to set their timetables—often with kingdom-impacting results.

**Publicity**

- Drape one any-size round table with a white tablecloth, placing it in a well-trafficked area of the church. Place appropriately sized, black bulletin board numbers on the cloth in the style of a clock face. Place a frame or easel in the middle of the table containing an invitation duplicated from page 4.
- Post a photograph of the table and/or an invitation on the church’s social media channels. Encourage women to share the post.
- Duplicate the invitation’s clock face, enlarging in varied sizes. Use those images on a bulletin board titled, “When God Sets Your Timetable.” Include a “Take one!” pocket with duplicated invitations.
- Assemble clocks of all types on a table in a well-trafficked area of the church. Ask a Women on Mission® member to monitor the table, offering copies of Missions Mosaic and the invitation.
- Add the invitation to all church publications, print or online.

**Prayer Calendar**

- Draw a clock image so women can place their initials next to the numbers. Duplicate one small clock image for each attendee.
- On the back of each duplicated small clock, list several missionary names and service areas from the Missions Mosaic prayer calendar.
- Distribute the small clocks to attendees, asking them to read each missionary’s name out loud.
- Remind women that missionaries contend with time constrictions, too. Pray aloud, asking God to draw each missionary into spending more time with Him, and that He will speak to them during that time.
- Suggest women conduct round-the-clock prayers for these missionaries. Ask them to initial an hour on the large clock image at which they will spend several minutes praying for missionaries’ God-set timetables.

**Mission Action**

- People in crisis often seek spiritual truth. Although hospital chaplains conduct effective ministries with patients, they may never meet patients’ loved ones.
- Contact a local hospital or rehabilitation facility’s chaplaincy program. Ask if your group can set up a “prayer cart,” a portable station equipped with a “Prayers Here” sign, paper slips, pens, and a container for the slips. Also leave a Bible, tracts, and an invitation to contact your church. Ask whether your group can staff the cart and pray with individuals or if it is just to be a repository for prayer requests.
- Determine whether one or two members can staff the cart for a few hours each week during the hospital’s most-trafficked times. Offer to pray in that moment for people who stop by.
- If you can’t accompany the cart, retrieve prayer requests daily, distributing them and praying faithfully. Provide an optional way for each person to leave contact information. Ask your ministerial staff to help you follow up appropriately.
When God Sets Your Timetable

Do you set your own timetable, then ask God to bless it? How can you allow God to set the timetable He has designed for you? Come learn with us as we explore this topic.

Who: ____________________________
What: ____________________________
When: ____________________________
Where: ____________________________
What else: _________________________

Before the Meeting
(What to do or obtain before the meeting)

☐ Subscription of Missions Mosaic for each woman
☐ Secure poster board, whiteboard, or other way to visually record women’s responses, markers
☐ Stopwatch or a smartphone app
☐ Ask a volunteer to study the Hagens’ story (beginning on page 18 of Missions Mosaic) and offer a short summary of a typical “day in the life” schedule for the family.
☐ Enlist someone to prepare the prayer calendar activity on page 3.
☐ Prepare a two-minute summary of the Hagens’ ministry, focusing on equipping tribal churches for work among the unreached.
☐ Recruit someone to explore the mission action option on page 3 for your group.

Icebreaker

1. Draw a pie graph on a board. Ask women to estimate what percentage of time they spend in different activities. Explain that the missionary in today’s lesson spends 30 to 40 percent of his time traveling. What do they spend 30 to 40 percent of their time doing?
2. Lead a brief discussion about how they wish they could reappropriate their time. What would they do if they had an extra hour/day?
3. Ask women how God might adjust their pie chart, if they gave Him the opportunity. Explain that today’s missionary story holds some very practical ideas on allowing God to set their timetables.

During the Meeting

1. Ask an attendee to monitor the smartphone/stopwatch as you offer a two-minute summary of the Hagens’ ministry. Then explain how difficult it was to provide that information in such a short time. Ask, *Do you think God’s work in our lives is limited when we don’t spend even two minutes waiting for Him to speak?*
2. Call for the volunteer to offer her short summary of a typical day in the life of the Hagens.
3. Instruct women to turn to the “Communing with the Creator” section of the story, and name all the ways Steve and Jen intentionally commune with God. List those steps (designate a day, fast, seek accountability, sacrifice sleep, etc.) on a poster, whiteboard, or chalkboard as women discover them.
4. Direct women to the results of Steve’s time spent communing with God, from the last sentence of the “Strength for Whatever It Takes” section.
5. Ask, *How does this family’s example inspire you? How might they use similar steps to allow God to set their timetables?*

Wrap Up

1. Recruit a volunteer to pray for the Hagens and their ministry, asking God’s favor on them and their work. Complete the prayer calendar activity on page 3.
2. Ask women what ministry ideas they have, based on this lesson. Ask the volunteer to explain the mission action idea from page 3, if appropriate. Discuss ideas, and then commit to pray for God’s timetable in whatever steps the group is considering.
3. Pray for attendees, asking God to draw each into a closer relationship with Him. Ask God to make the group’s missions plans clear.
Before the Meeting  
(What to do or obtain before the meeting)  

- Bibles  
- Missions Mosaic subscription for each woman  
- Study the Missions Mosaic article beginning on page 26. Prepare to lead a discussion based on the outline in “During the Meeting” section to the right.  
- Enlist someone to prepare and present the prayer calendar idea as suggested on page 3.  
- Ask someone to investigate the viability of doing the mission action option on page 3 and initiate plans if the group is to move forward with it.

During the Meeting

1. Enlist a woman to open in prayer, asking God to order the time the group spends in study. Then ask another participant to read John 15:1-17.  
2. Use the magazine article beginning on page 26 as a study outline, starting with the thought, “Our great God may sometimes ask us to give up a good thing to allow room for the better and best thing.”  
3. Then introduce the first “remaining” habit. Ask the group to respond to the questions/reflections suggested within that section and the next three habits. Enlist someone to read each Scripture passage reference aloud.  
4. Dwell on the last question asked about how God might be calling women to remain, so they are ready to go. Encourage attendees to share their experiences about “remaining.” How have they found their timetable altered by God? Was that difficult at the time? When did they realize that His plan was far superior to their own? What struggles do they continue to have with that concept?  
5. Ask women if they can think of examples in biblical history when God had someone remain before he or she could go. Remind them that Paul was in prison when he wrote many of his letters. Do they think Paul would have been as likely to write those letters if he hadn’t been called to “remain”? Discuss how God often has bigger plans for “remaining” times than what we can imagine.

Wrap Up

1. Ask the volunteer to present the prayer calendar. Discuss how missionaries must deal with some of the same “remaining” principles discussed today.  
2. Lead a prayer for participants and missionaries, asking God to set their timetables, helping them implement the four habits studied.  
3. Ask the woman who investigated the mission action opportunity for her report. Lead a discussion of the opportunities for this or other prayer ministries to share the gospel with those who are seeking help. Commit to pray for God’s direction, reporting back at a designated time with resulting insights.
Before the Meeting
(What to do or obtain before the meeting)

- Subscription of Missions Mosaic for each woman
- Poster, whiteboard, or other medium for recording responses, markers
- Prepare three sets of the questions found in number 3 in the During the Meeting section.
- Recruit a volunteer to prepare the prayer calendar idea as suggested on page 3.
- Ask a volunteer to investigate and propose the mission action idea to the group.

During the Meeting

1. Start the meeting with sentence prayers. Encourage participants to pray aloud for themselves and each other, asking that each woman will be able to pause, breathe, and pray. Suggest the women pray that each attendee will be able to focus on the study, setting distractions aside. Ask for the Holy Spirit’s presence to fill each heart.

2. Ask women if they, like the author on page 28 of Missions Mosaic, have difficulty focusing on their time with God amid life’s noise. What have they found to be most effective in coping with distractions? How do they turn off the world’s stimulation to focus on spending time with God?

3. Review the ways the author of the story suggests to incorporate “sacred pauses” into each day. Then divide the women into three small groups giving each group the same set of questions: How can you introduce the sacred pause concept upon awakening? How can you do so when preparing for the day? When driving? During daily chores? At work? With family? How can you do so as you prepare to sleep? Are there Scriptures you have found most helpful at particular times of the day?

4. Stop during the lesson to pause, breathe, and pray again. Ask the Lord to direct the discussion as He wills. Provide a time of silence at this midpoint, asking each woman to pray silently for insight.

5. Ask women if they are willing to take the awareness challenge outlined in the study. What would be the most difficult part of that plan to implement? Do they already feel comfortable with quietness? Why or why not? Ask if anyone has done something similar in the past. If so, ask if they are willing to share those experiences.

Wrap Up

1. Provide several minutes of silence for women as they pray. Then pray aloud for the group, asking God to provide what each individual needs to incorporate these prayer disciplines, seeking God’s timetable.

2. Ask the volunteer to present the prayer calendar. Discuss how women might pray for the same quiet moments for missionaries.

3. Ask the other volunteer to present what she discovered about the mission action possibility. Call for the group’s insights. Commit to pray together, to determine God’s leading in a prayer-centered outreach.

Icebreaker

1. Ask, What are your best time-saving ideas? Record them on a poster, whiteboard, or other surface.

2. Discuss how different times of life have different challenges, but “time” is always a concern. Quiz, What issues in your schedules tend to be most demanding of your time? How do time demands distract you from allowing God to set the timetable of your life?