

# Missionaries Wanted!

Would you be interested in going on a mission trip? It sounds exciting and mysterious. Our two girls just got back from a mission trip to the Philippines. What an experience they had!

I have heard of a mission field that is in dire need for missionaries. Would you be interested in going there? It is not very far from here; and it does not cost a lot of money. Where do you think this place might be located? When we talk about mission fields we automatically think of a far away, overseas, undeveloped, and poor country. According to the spirit of prophecy, **our number one mission field is in our own home** -- it is our own family, friends, and neighbors.

A while back the Lord has placed a burden on my heart concerning my unconverted family members. I am a third generation Adventist and I was always under the impression that most of my family is converted, but when I sat down and started to make a list of my living relatives, I realized that that is not the case. I have more nonbelieving, or rather not practicing family members than I thought. I have always been praying for different members of my family at different times, but not specifically and collectively for the salvation of the unconverted or backslidden members.

We all have family members who do not believe, or who are not close to the Lord. Usually we pray for them with general, vague requests for a while, but then just accept the fact that they are interested more in worldly things than in God, so we kind of write them off. According to the spirit of prophecy, it is our **obligation** to pray and labor for our family members.

Witnessing to family is much harder than witnessing to strangers. There are a lot of common mistakes we make. Like stabbing them with bits and pieces of truth, sermonizing to them, or hitting them over the head with Bible verses and Spirit of Prophecy quotes **and after that we pray for the Lord to bless our efforts**. Thus we approach and tackle the situation with the wrong tactic and we do it backwards. No matter how well we think we know our loved ones, we can not know what is in their hearts and what their true needs are. **I believe we need to pray first! It is very important that we pray first!!!** Pray that the Lord would prepare and soften the hearts of our loved ones. Also pray for wisdom for self in order to know when to speak and what to say. Saying too much or saying inappropriate things can do a lot of damage. It can be worse than saying nothing at all.

**More than anything, they need our prayers!** Let us pray, and as the Lord leads, labor for our loved ones! Let us not do it out of obligation, but out of love! Let us not do it just to get the responsibility off of our backs; but because we truly want to spend eternity with all the members of our family!

Let us solicit support from all those family members who are faithful believers! If possible, let us organize systematic prayer or at least encourage each other to pray persistently for all those that are unconverted in our family! Let us not try to think up ways to convert them, but rather pray for them and place them in the Lord's hands to save them!

The Lord has given us a lot of advice concerning the seriousness of this matter. I have collected but a few quotes. Please read them, they will help to understand the seriousness of the matter.

Let us be persistent and not give up on any of our loved ones! No one is hopeless. As long as they breathe and we are praying for them, **there is hope!**

I am appealing to you once again to make a prayer list. We all have leaky minds. We all have too many distractions. We can be persistent only if we remember. You can also use the attached bookmarks as reminders. Let us not pray in general turns, but take our loved ones to the Lord by using their names and mentioning their specific situations!

Like Moses **we need to "keep our arms in the air" and pray for our loved ones as they fight for their eternal lives.** As long as we have our "arms up towards heaven" in prayer for them, the Lord can help them gain the victory!

***Let us all be missionaries! The field is great and time is short!***



# Mission Field

“Here is a lesson to all who have a message of truth to give to the world: Their own hearts must first be imbued with the Spirit of God, and their labors should commence at home; their families should have the benefit of their influence; and the transforming power of the Spirit of God should be demonstrated in their own homes by a well-disciplined family. Then the circle should widen; the whole neighborhood should perceive the interest felt for their salvation, and the light of truth should be faithfully presented to them; for their salvation is of as much importance as that of persons at a distance. From the immediate neighborhood, and adjoining cities and towns, the circle of the labors of God's servants should widen, till the message of truth is given to the uttermost parts of the earth.”

The Spirit of Prophecy Volume Three -PG- 240-241

“Wherever the people of God are placed, in the crowded cities, in the villages, or among the country byways, there is a home mission field, for which a responsibility is laid upon them by their Lord's commission. They are to take up the duty which lies nearest. **First of all is the work in the family**; next they should seek to win their neighbors to Christ, and to bring before them the great truths for this time.”

Sowing Beside All Waters -PG- 18

“In forming a relationship with Christ, the renewed man is but coming back to his appointed relationship with God. . . . His first duty is to his children and his nearest relatives. Nothing can excuse him from neglecting the inner circle for the larger circle outside. In the day of final reckoning fathers and mothers . . . will be asked what they did and said to secure the salvation of the souls they took upon themselves the responsibility of bringing into the world. Did they neglect their lambs, leaving them to the care of strangers? . . . **A great good done for others will not cancel the debt you owe to God to care for your children. The spiritual welfare of your family comes first.**”

Sons and Daughters of God -PG- 252

“All our powers are to be used for Christ. This is the debt we each owe to God. In forming a relationship with Christ, the renewed man is but coming back to his appointed relationship with God. He is a representative of Christ, and he is ever to pray and watch unto prayer. His duties lie around him, nigh and afar off. His first duty is to his children and his nearest relatives. Nothing can excuse him from neglecting the inner circle for the larger circle outside. In the day of final reckoning fathers and mothers will be required to answer in regard to their children. Parents will be asked what they did and said to secure the salvation of the souls they took upon themselves the responsibility of bringing into the world. Did they neglect their lambs, leaving them to the care of strangers? Fathers and mothers, are you allowing your children to grow up in impurity and sin? A great good done for others will not cancel the debt you owe to God to care for your children. The spiritual welfare of your family comes first. Take them with you to the cross of Calvary, laboring for them as those that must give an account.”

The General Conference Bulletin -DT- 04-01-99

“I would urge upon fathers and mothers the importance of their home missionary work. The precious hours of probation are fast passing. Parents must be changed, children must be changed, in heart and character here in this life, or they will never be permitted to enter Heaven. It should be your very first burden to see that your own souls are right before God, and to labor for the salvation of your children. Every member of the family should be the subject of special, wisely-directed effort, that the enemy of Christ may not have possession of the heart, and control the character.”

The Signs of the Times -DT- 05-04-1888

“In the plan of Christ for the enlightenment of the world, there is, first, home missionary work to be done. The disciples were to begin at Jerusalem, though it would be the very darkest field for their operations. The most unpromising fields are those where much light has been given. Peculiar dangers will beset the feet of him who carries the lamp of life, searching for hidden jewels among the dark rubbish of earth. Yet Christ directed them to do this work, and assured them that they would be under the shield of Omnipotence, as they worked first for those nigh at hand, and afterward for those who were afar off. He bade them to strengthen their forces by uniting, and by working as one, as He and the Father were one, and said: **‘Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.’** Thus the Lord Jesus makes every provision whereby the aggressive work may be carried on both nigh at hand and afar off, and He takes upon Himself the responsibility of conducting the warfare, of supplying the qualifications, and of eventually giving success to His great missionary enterprise.”

Advent Review and Sabbath Herald -DT- 11-06-1894

“Some who have long professed to be Christians, and yet have felt no responsibility for souls perishing within the shadow of their own homes, may think they have a work to do in foreign lands; but where is the evidence of their fitness for such a work? Wherein have they manifested a burden for souls? These persons need first to be taught and disciplined at home. **True faith and love for Christ would create in them a most earnest desire to save souls right at home.** They would exert every spiritual energy to draw with Christ, learning His meekness and lowliness. Then if God should desire them to go to foreign countries, they would be prepared.”

Testimonies for the Church Volume Six -PG- 427 - 428

“To every father and mother is committed a little plot of ground before their own door. It is their work to clear it from noxious weeds, and to mellow the soil that the precious seed may take root and flourish there. To do their work faithfully will be far more pleasing to God than to go on a mission to some foreign land, leaving the home field neglected. **The work of Christian ministers and parents, should begin with their own children.** Present to the church and to the world a well-disciplined family, and you present one of the strongest arguments in favor of Christianity.”

The Signs of the Times -DT- 11-10-1881

“There are other weighty considerations aside from your own personal salvation which demand your attention. Late as it now is, with your sun about to sink behind the western hills, you have still a great work to do for your children, who have allowed the love of the world to separate them from God. You have also unsaved relatives, neighbors, and friends. Had your example been consistent with the light given you; **had you been as diligent to save these precious souls as you have been to gather earthly treasure;** had you used your means and influence, your wisdom and tact, in an effort to gather these straying ones into the fold of Christ -- had this been your lifework, you would have secured a harvest of souls and would have ensured a rich reward in the day of God. You would thus have been building upon the true foundation valuable and imperishable material; but instead of this you have been building wood, hay, and stubble, to be consumed when every man's work shall be tried, of what sort it is.”

Testimonies for the Church Volume Five -PG- 351-352

“Parents, help your children. Arouse from the lethargy which has been upon you. Watch continually to cut off the current and roll back the weight of evil which Satan is pressing in upon your children. The children cannot do this of themselves, but parents can do much. **By earnest prayer and living faith great victories will be gained.** Some parents have not realized the responsibilities resting upon them and have neglected the religious education of their children. In the morning the Christian's first thoughts should be upon God. Worldly labor and self-interest should be secondary. Children should be taught to respect and reverence the hour of prayer. Before leaving the house for labor, all the family should be called together, and the father, or the mother in the father's absence, should plead fervently with God to keep them through the day. Come in humility with a heart full of tenderness and with a sense of the temptations and dangers before yourselves and your children; **by faith bind them upon the altar, entreating for them the care of the Lord.** Ministering angels will guard children who are thus dedicated to God. **It is the duty of Christian parents, morning and evening, by earnest prayer and persevering faith, to make a**

**hedge about their children.** They should patiently instruct them, kindly and untiringly teach them how to live in order to please God.”

Testimonies for the Church Volume One -PG- 397-398

“Shall we count the mercies, brethren? Shall we receive the sunlight of heaven on our pathway? *‘He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?’* We ought to attain to a richer experience. **Take up your neglected work. Take your children with you before the throne of grace, and plead with God that His blessing may rest upon them,** until you can present a well-ordered, well-disciplined family before your Heavenly Father, and before the world. Let us cease looking at the failings of others. Let us cease speaking of their evil traits of character. When the Lord told Peter what to do, he turned and asked, *‘Lord, what shall this man do?’* The Lord answered, *‘What is that to thee? follow thou me.’* How many are like Peter to-day? They are interested in the affairs of others, but they neglect their own duty. **It is our business to follow Christ and then we can counsel others.** What we want is individual religion, personal piety. We want the Holy Spirit of Christ in our families. O that the truths which I have presented to you to-day may have a lasting influence upon your characters! O that the members of the church may come up to the help of the Lord, -- to the help of the Lord against the mighty! If we have wronged one another, if we have wronged our God, we should confess our sins to God and to one another; and we have the promise that *‘if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.’* **When we remove the rubbish from the door of the heart, the Lord will come in and make His abode with us, and we shall have daily a precious story to tell of the favor, love, and mercy of our Heavenly Father.”**

Advent Review and Sabbath Herald -DT- 04-16-1889

“Every one should understand that every member of the human family sustains an important relationship to every other member of the human family, and forms a link in the great chain which binds man to his fellow-men. **By the most sacred responsibilities, the Christian is bound to exercise his influence for Christ; and if he does this, he will love God with all his heart, and his neighbor as himself. If the Christian is to exert an influence on the side of Christ in the world, then how much more should his influence be felt in his own home?** The promise of God is to him and to his children, and he should see to it that his connection is so close with God, that nothing but hallowed influences may breathe within the family circle. Parents should seek to comprehend the fact that they are to train their children for the courts of God. When they are entrusted with children, it is the same as though Christ placed them in their arms and said, ‘Train these children for me, that they may shine in the courts of God.’ One of the first sounds that should attract their attention is the name of Jesus, and in their earliest years they should be led to the footstool of prayer. Their minds should be filled with stories of the life of the Lord, and their imagination encouraged in picturing the glories of the world to come. Christian parents, you are charged with the responsibility of presenting to the world the power and excellence of home religion. Let those who have erred in training their little ones, who have failed to represent Christ in their home life, now repent of their mistakes before it is everlastingly too late. Let Christian parents resolve that they will be loyal to God, and let them gather their children into their homes with them, and strike the door-post with blood, representing Christ as the only One who can shield and save, that the destroying angel may pass over the cherished circle of the household. Let the world see that a more than human influence is at work in the home. Let parents maintain a vital connection with God, set themselves on Christ's side, and show by His grace what great good may be accomplished through parental agency.”

Advent Review and Sabbath Herald -DT- 02-19-1895

“Model Homes Make a Model Church. Every family is a church, over which the parents preside. The first consideration of the parents should be to work for the salvation of their children. When the father and mother as priest and teacher of the family take their position fully on the side of Christ, a good influence will be exerted in the home. And this sanctified influence will be felt in the church and will be recognized by every believer. **Because of the great lack of piety and sanctification in the home, the work of God is greatly hindered.** No man can bring into the church an influence that he does not exert in his home life and in his business relations.”

Child Guidance -PG- 549

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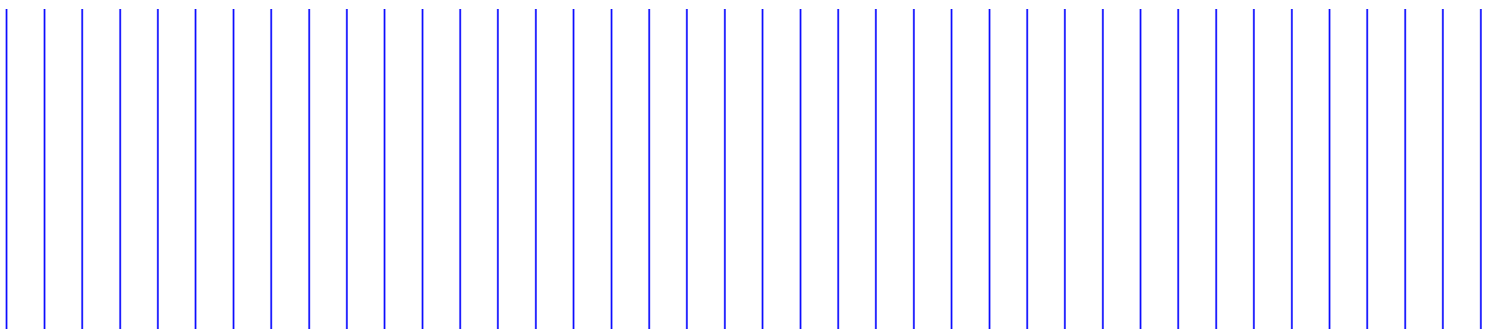
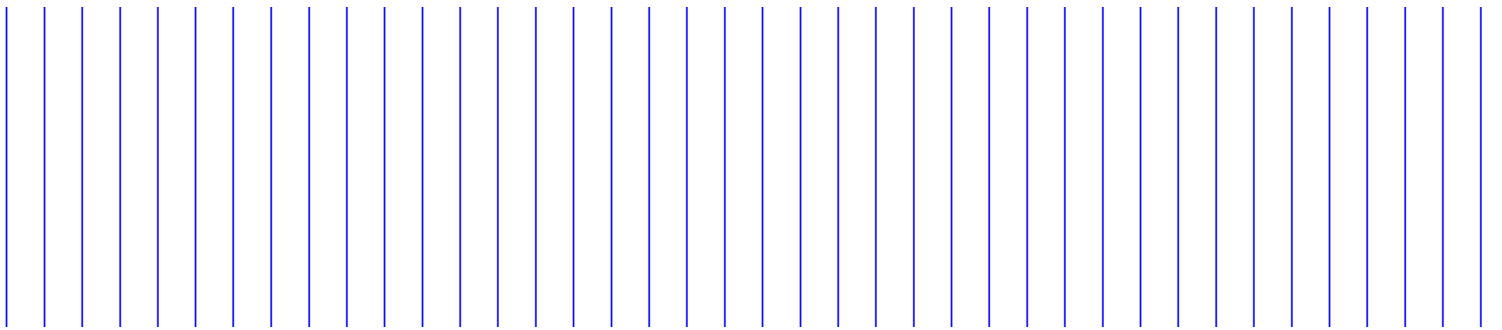
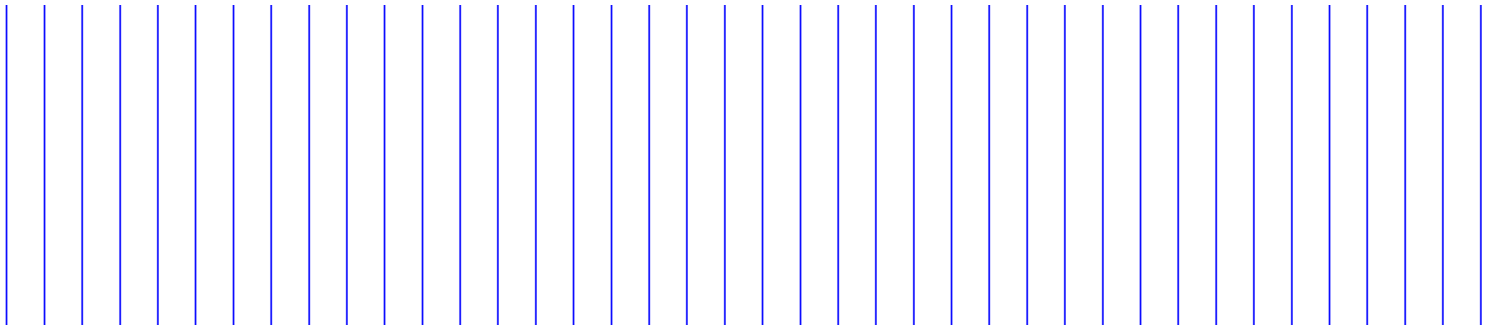
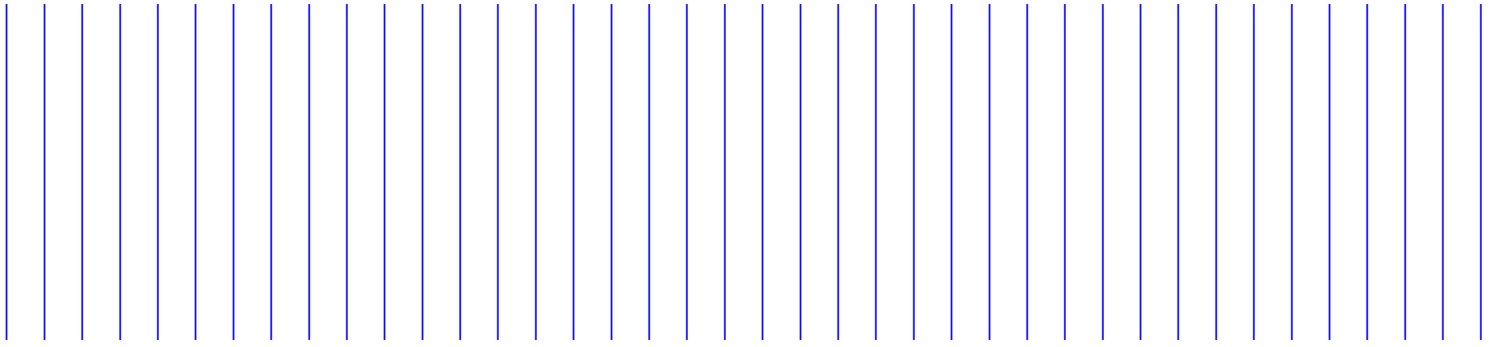
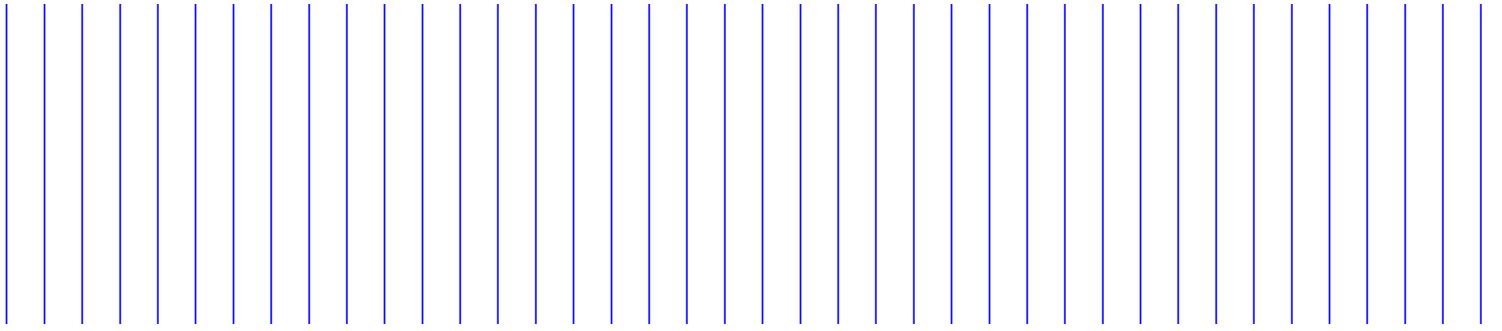
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# Mission Field



# Mission Field

Directions:

- ❖ Print page 1 on yellow paper.
- ❖ Print pages 2 - 4 back to back on cosmic orange paper.
- ❖ Print pages 5 & 6 back to back parchment blue cardstock.
- ❖ Print page 7 or 8 on a 4.25" x 9.5" envelope (depending on the type of printer you have, page 7 if envelope loads on the right side of the printer, or page 8 if printer loads envelope in the center )
- ❖ Fold appeal in 3 even sections (Z-fold -- artwork out -- showing on top section)
- ❖ Fold quotes in 3 even sections (Z-fold -- artwork out -- showing on top section)
- ❖ Cut pages 5 & 6 into bookmarks
- ❖ Place one appeal, set of quotes, and two bookmarks in each envelope.
- ❖ **PLEASE!!! Hand out and/or mail to all church members, Christian family members and friends!**
- ❖ **Let us keep each other awake, so when the Lord will soon appear in the clouds of heaven, He would find us in diligent labor!**

**By our devoted faithful efforts we can hasten His return!**