

VOLUNTEER COMMISSIONING SERVICE

Purpose of Service

- To inform the church about the ministry of the volunteer(s).
- To provide spiritual enrichment and missions education.
- To help develop a missions-minded congregation.
- To focus on prayer support for volunteers.
- To motivate others for volunteer missions.

Preparation for the Service

- Promote the service well in advance.
- Prepare a bulletin for the commissioning service.
- Plan a receiving line or a reception for the volunteers.
- Write brief biographical sketches on missions volunteers for use in your church newsletters.

Recognition Service

- Ask volunteers to share experiences of their mission projects.
- Display pictures or show videos of volunteers at work.
- Recognize volunteers with appropriate certificates, lapel pins, or plaques.
- Invite guest speakers from the North American Mission Board to emphasize volunteers in missions.
- Ask the pastor or a mission leader to challenge the church to further involvement in missions.
- Plan a banquet or fellowship time following the service.

Commissioning Service

- Invite a volunteer to share his or her testimony.
- Ask someone to give a brief description of, and the purpose of, the mission project, its location and the length of time volunteers will participate
- Ask the volunteers to come to the front of the church so they can be presented to the congregation.
- Prepare a special responsive reading and prayer led by the pastor or missions leader. Allow the congregation to respond and pledge prayer and support to the volunteers.
- Encourage financial support of the congregation for mission volunteers.
- Enlist and recognize families committed to pray for specific volunteers.
- Plan a fellowship period for the volunteers following the service.

SAMPLE COMMISSIONING SERVICE

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP "Go Tell It On The Mountain" - Choir Work

INVOCATION

HYMN NO. 572* "I Love To Tell The Story" Hankey/Fischer

WELCOME

HYMN NO. 146* "O How He Loves You And Me" Kaiser

OFFERTORY "We Have Heard the Joyful Sound" Owens/Kirkpatrick

SCRIPTURE READING Pastor

SPECIAL MUSIC "Send Me, O Lord Send Me" Coggins/Hoffman

SERMON Pastor

On-Mission Christians

1. An *On-Mission* Christian Spiritually Awakens – John 4:35-36
2. An *On-Mission* Christian Continually Adjusts – 1 Corinthians 9:22
3. An *On-Mission* Christian Evangelistically Activates – Romans 10:14
4. An *On-Mission* Christian Passionately Advocates – Luke 10:2

HYMN NO. 285* "Wherever He Leads, I'll Go" McKinney

CHARGE TO MISSION VOLUNTEERS -- Pastor asks the volunteer(s) to come to the front of the church. He addresses (him/her/them) directly during this part of the service.

Pastor: You have chosen to be an *On Mission* Christian, to be a mission volunteer. God tells us that it is our responsibility to faithfully minister and witness at all times, wherever we are. Meeting needs and sharing Christ requires:

1. Daily communication with God. God is the basis for your spiritual strength. Will you communicate with Him daily through Bible reading and prayer?
2. Doing the task that He has called you to.
3. Discovering effective ways of showing others what Christ means in your life.
4. Inviting others to respond to Christ.

Volunteer Response: I (We) will, with God's help.

Pastor: Will you permit God's influence to be felt in your work; and will you search for His will and let it be done in your day-to-day decisions and deeds?

Volunteer Response: I (We) will, with God's help.

Pastor: Will you continue to give expression to the spirit of Christ in all your relations with others; and will you live your life in such a way that others will want to know

what Christ means to you?

Volunteer Response: I (We) will, with God's help.

Pastor: In a sympathetic, loving, patient manner, will you make a conscious effort to minister and witness across all types of barriers and, when conditions permit, will you invite others to receive Christ as Lord and Savior?

Volunteer Response: I (We) will, with God's help. (Pastor asks volunteer(s) to face the congregation and reads a Scripture passage chosen especially for the congregation. Col. 4:2-4 is appropriate, or others may be chosen.)

Pastor: This is God's command to those of us who stay behind and serve. We must be faithful in undergirding these with our interest and prayer support. If you join me in this commitment of support, will you stand?

Pastor and Congregation: We, the members of _____ Baptist Church, pledge to you our continuing interest and prayer support. When we pray, we will ask God to protect, encourage, and keep you. We will ask Him to give you wisdom, strength, and courage. We will ask Him to bless those with whom you minister.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Pastor

Note: The pastor invites all present to attend a fellowship period with the volunteer(s).

*The Baptist Hymnal, 1991