

OUR MISSION:

FIRST CHURCH MISSIONS
& LOCAL MINISTRIES



FIRST CHURCH
OPEN BIBLE
Family Life Resources



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Family Life Resources

We understand the challenges of busy schedules at home, which is why we offer resources that support you and your family which are easy to use, relevant and most importantly honor God. We pray these resources for your home along with the classes and services at First Church make an eternal difference in the lives of families like yours.

Blessings,
First Church Open Bible

Colossians 2:6,7

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

Introduction

The Calling and the Mission of the Church

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

(Acts 1:8)

The mission of First Church is to multiply the Kingdom of God. We accomplish this in many ways.

This Family Resource highlights some of the local ministries and worldwide missions that we support. We hope that this resource will help your family to become actively involved with the ministries and missions of Open Bible.

LESSON 1

The Last Commandment

Parent's Passage: Matthew 28

Family Reading: Matthew 28:16-20

Key Verse: Matthew 28:19

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,""

Did you know that Jesus gives us a very clear answer to the question, "Why am I here?" and "What is my purpose?" In fact, His response is more than just an answer, it's a command.

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength ... Love your neighbor as yourself."

Mark 12:30-31

How do you Love God? Well, Jesus teaches us that, too!

"Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me." John 14:21

By following His commands, we also show our love to others. In Jesus's final words before He ascended to Heaven, He commanded us:

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," Matthew 28:19

Let's break this commandment down a little more:

Therefore go - Just as He did during His lifetime, Jesus commands us to move! Maybe that means we walk across the room or maybe that means we travel somewhere farther away. Either way, it's important that we "go" and we share the good news with others that Jesus loves and wants us all to return to Him.

"Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord," Acts 3:19

And make disciples - Some translations say "teach all nations." Jesus does not want us to remain silent. He is not asking Christians to keep their faith to themselves; He is calling us to go and to teach.

You don't even have to be a formal teacher, because we can also teach by example:

- We can say what would be pleasing to God, ***"A gentle answer turns away wrath"*** (Proverbs 15:1) or ***"Gracious words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones."*** (Proverbs 16:24).
- We can show others God's love by showing compassion: ***"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."*** (Ephesians 4:32)
- We can help when and where we're able (without complaining!): ***"So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you"*** (Matthew 7:12)
- We can share how God has been good to us: ***"I will tell of the kindnesses of the Lord, the deeds for which He is to be praised, ..."*** Isaiah 63:7

Of all nations - It might feel more comfortable to talk about Jesus with someone who looks like you, speaks the same language, or lives the same way you do.

But Jesus makes no exceptions. He tells us to witness to “all nations” which means all people. No exceptions!

Baptizing them - Baptism does not save you from your sins and it does not guarantee you a place in heaven. Jesus is the only one who can do that. Getting baptized is an obedient step that symbolizes you are choosing to let your old sinful ways be buried, as Jesus was also buried in the tomb. And because Jesus overcame the grave and rose again, you may also rise again to a new life.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit - This is the whole point! This is why we want to follow Jesus' last command and it's the only way we can follow it.

“For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill His good purpose.” Philippians 2:13

“The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.” Deuteronomy 31:8

Are you ready to get started? Even if you're still feeling shy, pray this together as a family:

PRAYER

Lord, I pray for the courage and the boldness I need in order to talk about You to others. Please show me a person You would like me to talk to. Give me the words to say, and help me see them the way You see them.

Remind me that You love me and I would not know You if someone had not shared Your love with me. Please show me how I can share your love with someone else.

In Jesus's name, Amen.

LESSON 2

Local Ministries Supported by First Church

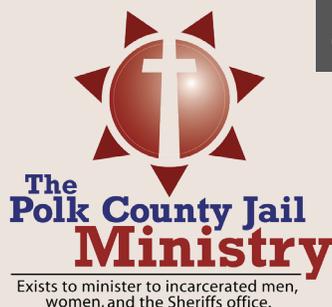
At First Church Open Bible, we feel that our primary assignment from the Lord is to share the Gospel and the love of Jesus with everyone who comes through our doors.

We have a wonderful pastor who shares the Word of God every Sunday morning and Wednesday evening, as well as engaging childcare and Sunday School for the kids.

However, we can't reach everyone! The Great Commission is worldwide in scope! Our resources are limited. That's where our many ministry partners (called Para-Church Ministries) come in!

Each one ministers God's love and care to specific segments of our local community— children, mothers in need, individuals struggling with addiction, inmates, and church planters, to name a few.

Here are some local ministry efforts we support:



Here are short descriptions of the services these local ministries provide:

AGAPE PREGNANCY CENTER



Agape provides confidential pregnancy and parenting services 100% free of charge in Des Moines and Indianola, Iowa.

FREEDOM FOR YOUTH



Freedom for Youth Ministries empowers youth across Iowa, through the love of Jesus Christ, to discover their God-given talents, and lead transformed lives.

HOPE MINISTRIES



Hope Ministries provides food, shelter, clothing, and life recovery and restoration to men, women, and needy children.



Monroe is a K-5th grade school located in our neighborhood. It is a truly international school - there are 10 different countries represented, as well as 14 different languages spoken by the students.



POLK COUNTY JAIL MINISTRY

Chaplain Jerry Van Cleave and a group of volunteers provide inmates spiritual counseling, Bible studies, and Christian books in the jail, bringing the transforming Gospel of Jesus Christ to the incarcerated.

SOBER SOLDIERZ



This ministry, led by T.J. and C.J. Vasquez, supports a spiritually-based recovery family that believes in the motto, "God and Recovery Must Come First".

THE TIMOTHY INITIATIVE

TTI exists to advance the Kingdom of Christ by multiplying disciples and disciple-making churches around the world.

MONROE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Monroe is a K-5th grade school located in our neighborhood. It is a truly international school - there are 10 different countries represented, as well as 14 different languages spoken by the students.

LESSON 3

India: A Land of Color and Hope

India can only be described as a colorful country. It overflows with vibrant flowers, brilliant fabrics, breathtaking landscapes, and the expressive faces of children whose eyes tell countless stories.



For 45 years, the Elida Orphanage opened her heart and home to abandoned and “throwaway” children, welcoming them into a loving Children’s Home and giving them dignity, safety, and hope.

Then in 2020, everything changed. Christian homes were no longer permitted to care for homeless children, and we were no longer allowed to rescue boys.

**But when doors close, God always opens a window.
That window became a soccer field.**

In 2020, a dedicated young man from our church felt called to invest in the lives of young boys searching for purpose. He started a soccer program in the large parking lot of the Open Bible Church of God. The beginning was humble – just a handful of boys, one soccer ball, and no uniforms.

Many assumed they had no chance.





They were wrong.

Through the unwavering dedication of this coach, the boys entered a tournament – and they won. As their confidence and skills grew, so did their numbers. Through our missions program, we were able to provide proper equipment and uniforms.

Today, the program has grown to over 125 boys across five team levels. We now have seven trained Christian coaches pouring into these young men. The program has even been recognized nationally for having one of the highest levels of trained coaching staff. We are excited to see what God will continue to do.

Boys from the ghettos are being drawn in – and their lives are being transformed. This is more than soccer. It is a discipleship program designed to raise strong, godly men with vision, character, and purpose.

Ten of our boys have been recruited to prestigious private schools on full scholarships to play soccer. Most recently, one young man was selected by a college in England.



Seeds planted in faith are beginning to bloom.



To sustain and expand this growing ministry, we are currently raising funds for two small buses to transport the boys safely. The cost is \$23,000 each.



Linda Wilson

To support Linda's work in India, visit: bit.ly/Linda_Wilson online.

LESSON 4

Lifesong Learning Center's Story

Parent's Passage: Acts 1:4-9

Family Reading: Acts 1:8

Key Verse: John 3:16

"Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."

Lifesong Learning Center was born of God's great love for the people of Cambodia. They live in spiritual darkness and through the work of the Holy Spirit, Ly and Sarin Mak were called back to their homeland to shine the light of Jesus in that dark land.

Having survived the atrocities of the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia and later resettling in United States, Ly and Sarin built a new life



Ly and Sarin Mak

with great friendships, successful employment, and spiritual growth in the U.S.



However, they never lost their love and concern for their family and friends in Cambodia. Eventually they heard God's voice telling them to return to Cambodia. When they returned to

their home country, they started a feeding program and a school, Ly and Sairn Mak built a new life with.

They have trained several of their students to lead and have also received assistance from other churches, including First Church. Recently, several of the older students have been able continue on to college.

Long time First Church members, Roger and Connie Cox, visited the Lifesong Learning Center in 2017, and they fell in love with the people. The Holy Spirit called them as missionaries, to work along side Ly and Sarin and help them train up future leaders for the church in Cambodia.



Ly and Sarin Mak with Roger and Connie Cox.

Their desire is to see the children grow in their love for Jesus and become disciple makers throughout Cambodia. The preschool is going strong. Approximately fifty children attend the center five days a week. Classes are scheduled to begin at 7:00 a.m., but the excited children start showing up at 6:30 a.m.



2026 MOVE Team

In February 2026, God called the men of MOVE Ministries to return to Cambodia to build an additional building for the school. More than 50 men responded to the call, including a group of four men from First Open Bible, led by our own senior Pastor Josh Bingaman.

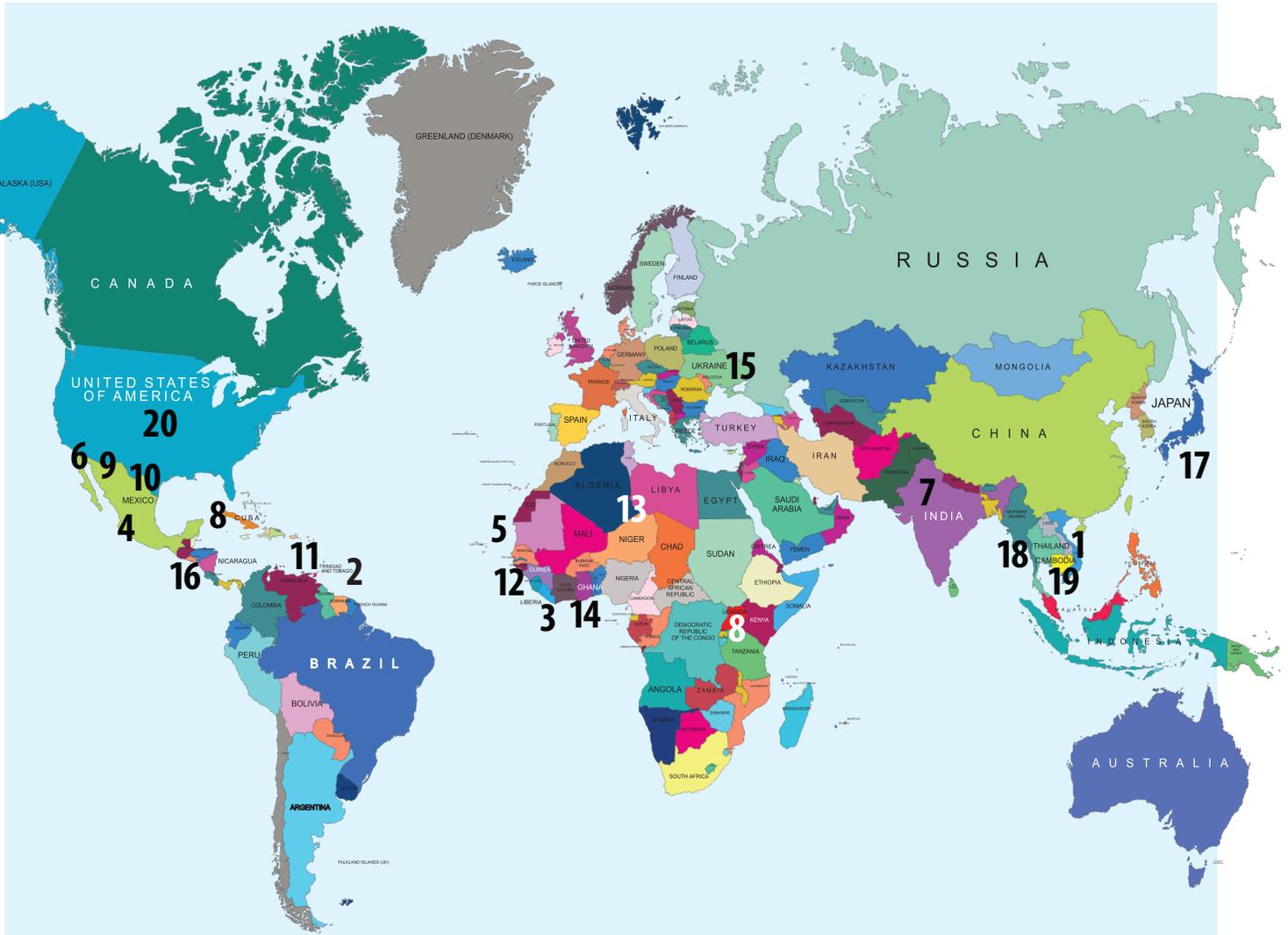
Lifesong Learning Center clearly demonstrates how God himself is at work drawing people to his Son. He calls us to join him in the work of his kingdom.

FAMILY PRAYER

Father God, we ask that You give us Your heart for Your people. Let the Holy Spirit guide us in our thoughts and plans. Help us to see our part in Your purpose to bring all people to know Jesus. Let Your Kingdom come and Your will be done. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Missionary Prayer Map

As a family, locate our missionaries by number & color. Help your children pronounce each country, talk about what it must be like to live there, and pray for the missionaries.



- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| 1. Ly & Sarin Mak
(Cambodia) | 6. Justus & Michaela Morgan
(Tijuana, Mexico) | 11. Mike & Pam Lumbar
(Trinidad & Tobago) | 16. Nelson & Tirsia Gaitan
(Nicaragua) |
| 2. Brent & Sara Kelderman
(Trinidad & Tobago) | 7. Linda Wilson/Byerly
(India) | 12. Tom & Sherry Moore
(Guinea W. Africa) | 17. McKendre Veenstra
(Japan) |
| 3. Drew & Jessica Welch
(Liberia) | 8. Burriss & Dawn Parker
(Uganda, Kenya, & Cuba) | 13. Nicole
(Name & Country Withheld) | 18. Mike & Dara Rasavanh
(Thailand) |
| 4. Fayth McConnell
(Nogales, Mexico) | 9. Del Brown
(Nogales, Mexico) | 14. Rich & Patti Koop
(Ghana) | 19. Roger & Connie Cox
(Cambodia) |
| 5. Andy & Nancy
(Name & Country Withheld) | 10. Zachary Anderson
(Tijuana, Mexico) | 15. Tammy Swailes
(Ukraine & E. Europe) | 20. Vince McCarty
(Des Moines IA.) |



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