Dear friends,

In this month that we have dedicated to focusing on missions and raising funds for what God is doing, both near and far, through His people, I've been reflecting on just how many ways there are to participate in the mission that Christ has given His followers: to "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel [good news]" (Mark 16:15).

When I was growing up in the church, missions meant certain defined things to me: fundraising dinners, conferences, the biographies of a few larger-than-life people like Hudson Taylor or Jim Elliot, short trips to another country where you'd do a VBS program and a drama of some sort, and snail-mail reports from the few brave souls your family knew who had actually moved to some distant corner of the world as full-time international missionaries. Of course, all of the above may continue to be elements of supporting missions, but I've been amazed by just how central "missions" is to the life of all God's people.

In the last month, I've connected with missionaries on WhatsApp calls around topics ranging from relatable parenting challenges all the way to a natural disaster. I've seen God's people working behind the scenes to coordinate housing and transportation for missionary families. I went to the celebration-of-life service of one missions-minded saint, and over lunch, I ended up connecting with a local church planter to support an upcoming outreach event. I could go on, but the point is that there are so many connection points we can have with God's work around the world. As our own missionary to Portugal, Joanna, shared, when you think of a missionary, reach out to them, because as connected as our digital world is, missions can be lonely.

That's real, and it's so unfortunate, because there is so much that we all share in common as God's people and can relate to one another about. But listening to our missionaries and partnering ministry leaders has taught me that most of them share the same sorts of hopes and challenges that any church family member can recognize. We all are asking: How do we reach our neighbors? How do we fund the mission? How do we handle conflict and criticism? How do we continue to grow in Christlikeness personally? How do we raise up leaders to share in the work with us? How do we love and honor our own families? I'm sure that there is a question or two here that any of us could have a great conversation about!

And so my encouragement this month is that we not think of "missions" as something bracketed off from real life, as something out there, or as something for the selected few, but rather as a foundational part of our shared faith that we can and should connect around—to encourage one another, to share resources, and to play our personal part in the story of God's redeeming work.

Peace,
Pastor Brad

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. Amen. – "A Prayer for Mission" from BCP

November 2026 MISSIONS Month

New Life Community (559) 591-1176 email: office@newlifedinuba.org

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 8:30AM Growth Class 10 AM Worship Service (Multiply/SOAR) & Communion 11:30 AM Deacons' Mtg. 5 PM Youth Group/Bloom	2 6:30 PM GriefShare	3 6 AM Men's Bible Study 9 AM LIFT Women's Bible Study	4 *Open Gate Food Distribution* 6:30 PM Prayer	5 6 PM Celebrate Recovery *6:30 Dawnings Fundraiser Dinner--Ridge Creek*	6	7 *11 AM-3 PM Multiply's Youth Missions Event*
8 8:30 Growth Class (new topic) 10 AM Worship Service (guests Cecil & Tracy Ramos) 5 PM Youth Group	9 6:30 PM GriefShare	10 6 AM Men's Bible Study	11 *Open Gate Food Distribution* 6:30 PM Prayer	12 6 PM Celebrate Recovery	13 *Donations due today for HRC Boutique*	14 *9 AM-12 PM Comforter Knotting Day--Reedley MCC Center (info on patio bulletin board)*
15 8:30 Growth Class 10 AM Worship Service (guest Andre Stephens--FPU) 11:15 Volunteer Training/H.Room 5 PM Youth Group/Bloom	16 6:30 PM GriefShare	17 6 AM Men's Bible Study 9 AM LIFT Women's Bible Study	18 *Open Gate Food Distribution* 6:30 PM Prayer	19 6 PM Celebrate Recovery	20	21
22 10 AM Worship Service (guest from Care Portal) 11:30 Thanksgiving Meal (bring desserts), Missions Offering & HRC Christmas Boutique	23 6:30 PM GriefShare	24 6 AM Men's Bible Study	25 *Open Gate Food Distribution* (No Prayer Group)	26  6 PM Celebrate Recovery	27 *(Office closed for Thanksgiving)*	28
29 1st Sunday in Advent 8:30 Growth Class 10 AM Worship Service & Special Kids' Service 11:15 Youth Christmas Craft Fair	30 6:30 PM GriefShare	1 6 AM Men's Bible Study 9 AM LIFT Women's Bible Study	2 *Open Gate Food Distribution* 6:30 PM Prayer	3 Memory Verse for November: Matthew 9:38-37	4 *"Then He said to His disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. . . .*	5 *... Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field."*
6 A MONTH of Missions	NOTES ***DECEMBER PREVIEW:*** *6--Communion Sunday; 7--Final GriefShare session; 8--LIFT Party; 24--Christmas Eve Service; 25--Christmas Day; 27--Guest speaker and Family Meal* *Calendar accurate as of 10/29/26 -- most events also on website calendar at www.newlifedinuba.org*					