

Get Your Sunday School Involved: Support a Mission Project
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One of the best ways to teach children about missions around the world is to get them directly involved. No, I'm not talking about sending a group of 4th graders to Guatemala for a two week mission trip. But Sunday school children can learn much by directly supporting a particular mission project.

The Sunday school children of Saint Paul Lutheran Church, Chesterton, Indiana got excited about supporting a mission project that would have an impact around the world and so they chose to help new congregations with roofing materials for their churches. Many times local people can put up the walls of their chapels, but they need help with the supplies needed for the roofs.

Through the year the Sunday School spent time learning about various areas of the world and the work of LCMS missionaries. But they didn't just learn about the missions; they held several activities to help raise money, and awareness, for the mission. On Sunday, December 5, 2004, they were honored by LCMS World Mission for having raised \$2580.00 toward a project titled "chapel roofs."

When I was a missionary in Guatemala, more than once our mission work was benefited by the generosity, prayers and interest of Sunday Schools and Vacation Bible Schools who helped to support a mission project. We were able to respond personally to the questions and interest of the children who were interested in our work.

While many people are most willing to support missions without a direct connection, there is no substitute for doing something directly for a specific mission. In addition, it helps the children learn more about the world and how God has touched the lives of people with the Gospel.

Of course it is not only about money, but the children can also learn to pray for specific missionaries, pastors, workers and countries in different parts of the world. Once I met a pastor from India who was visiting the U.S. He came up to me and introduced himself, immediately citing my wife's and our five children's name and their birthdays! From somewhere he had gotten a copy of our prayer card that was produced by LCMS World Mission years before. For over ten years, the Sunday school of his congregation in India had been praying for my family and me on our birthdays! What a moving experience to know that people halfway around the world were praying for us.

LCMS World Mission has many resources and educational materials available to help a Sunday school get directly involved. You can contact Janet Meyer, Project Administrator (janet.meyer@lcms.org, or toll free 800-248-1930) for more information on worthy projects and how your Sunday school can get involved. You can also explore the website www.lcmsworldmission.org for additional information. Click on especially the links entitled: "Good News from the Field" and "Children's Mission Ideas, Projects and Resources." A list of projects is available to fit almost any Sunday School's capability and interest.