



C-ME Grow Six Weeks Series

Expanding Overseas Missions Partnerships

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Learning Objective

Learn the biblical foundation for global missions and overseas partnerships, and discover practical ways churches can build, sustain, and strengthen international mission relationships. Develop strategies for engaging in missions through praying, giving, going, and partnering.

Biblical Foundation

- **Genesis 12:3** — God promised Abraham that all nations would be blessed through him, which is God's global plan of redemption and the biblical basis for missions.
- **Acts 1:8** — Jesus commissions believers to be His witnesses locally, regionally, culturally, and globally through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- **Matthew 28:18-20** — The Great Commission calls believers to go, make disciples, baptize, and teach all nations.
- **Revelation 7:9** — God's Kingdom includes people from every nation, tribe, people, and language worshiping before His throne.

1. **What is Overseas Mission Partnerships?** Overseas mission partnerships are collaborative relationships between churches, ministries, leaders, and communities across national and cultural boundaries that work together to advance the Gospel.

2. Effective Partnerships Include:

Shared Mission — We are united by the same mission: to advance the Gospel and make disciples.

Shared Relationships — Partnership is built on authentic relationships, trust, communication, and mutual respect.

Shared Resources — Each partner brings gifts, knowledge, experience, finances, skills, and other resources to strengthen the work.

Shared Responsibility — Mission is not something one church does *for* another; we work together, share responsibility, and remain accountable to one another.

3. The CME Church: A Global Connection

Beyond the United States, the CME Church has a presence in countries across the Caribbean and Africa, including:

- Haiti
- Jamaica
- Burundi
- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Botswana
- Ghana
- Kenya
- Liberia
- Malawi
- Nigeria
- Rwanda
- South Africa
- Tanzania
- Togo
- Uganda
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

4. Three Essentials for Missions Partnerships

- **Spiritual Alignment** - Ground every partnership in prayer, Scripture, and the Great Commission.
- **Preparation** - Learn about the people, culture, leadership, and actual needs.
- **Teamwork** - Work with overseas churches and leaders, not simply for them.

5. Key Lessons from the Jamaica Experience

- Relationships come before projects.
- Listen before leading.
- Shared worship builds unity.
- Trust creates opportunities.
- Missions are about people.

6. Effective Mission Partnerships:

- **Honor local leadership** by respecting and supporting local pastors, leaders, and decision-makers.
- **Build trust** by developing genuine relationships through listening, consistency, and mutual respect.
- Strengthen local churches
- **Avoid dependency** by helping in ways that strengthen local churches and communities rather than creating long-term reliance on outside support
- **Promote sustainability** by supporting solutions that can continue and thrive through local leadership and resources over time.

Evangelism Question: How can your local church move from supporting overseas missions to building authentic relationships that help advance the Gospel?

7. The Connection Between Evangelism and Missions

Evangelism is the heartbeat of the Church. Our calling is to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ, reach people with the Good News, and make disciples. Missions extends that heartbeat beyond our local communities and across cultures, nations, and borders. Outreach and mission activities such as building churches, supporting education, strengthening families, and meeting community needs help create relationships and opportunities to demonstrate the love of Christ, share the Gospel, strengthen the Church, and make disciples.

8. The Great Commission in Action

Missions puts the Great Commission into action by sharing the Gospel, making disciples, strengthening the Church, and serving communities in ways that demonstrate the love of Christ.

Examples include:

- ✓ Church planting and construction
- ✓ Schools and education
- ✓ Hospitals and health ministries
- ✓ Economic empowerment
- ✓ Supporting vulnerable populations
- ✓ Community development initiatives

9. Current Mission Opportunities

Your local church does not have to start with a large international mission project. Start where you are and with what you have. Collaborate with your local Evangelism and Missions leadership and Women's Missionary Society to identify how your congregation can participate. Then, work through your Presiding Bishop and appropriate mission leadership to connect with the Presiding Bishop assigned to the international CME church or country. Listen to the Episcopal leadership assigned to that country, along with local church leaders, to understand the actual needs, and then identify one area where your congregation can help. Some international CME churches face significant needs, including:

- Church construction
- Worship facilities
- School supplies
- Women's empowerment initiatives
- Support for widows
- Support for orphanages
- Community development projects

Community transformation may include:

- Economic empowerment

- Vocational training
- School support
- Assistance for vulnerable families
- Community development initiatives

10. How Every Church Can Participate

Even if your congregation cannot travel internationally, it can:

- **Pray** – Pray regularly for overseas churches, bishops, leaders, missionaries, and communities.
- **Give** – Contribute financial resources to support mission projects and ministry needs.
- **Learn** – Increase awareness of global mission opportunities, cultures, and community needs.
- **Encourage** – Support and uplift missionaries, pastors, and mission leaders through communication and prayer.
- **Partner** – Build meaningful relationships with overseas churches and ministries to advance the Gospel together.
- **Share Mission Stories** – Tell how God is working through mission partnerships to inspire greater involvement.
- **Support Specific Mission Needs** – Help address identified needs through resources, expertise, service, or special projects.

Evangelism Question: What is one practical step your church can take to become an active partner in overseas missions?

From Training to Action

- **Commit to praying** for our overseas CME churches, bishops, pastors, leaders, missionaries, and communities.
- **Identify an overseas CME church** with which your congregation can partner. (Work through your Presiding Bishop and appropriate missions leadership)
- **Learn directly from overseas leaders** about their priorities and needs before deciding what your church will provide. They know the needs of their churches and communities.
- **Choose one specific mission need** your congregation can help address through giving, resources, expertise, or service.
- **Develop an ongoing mission partnership** that strengthens the local church and advances the Gospel.

Sources & Resources

Christian Methodist Episcopal Church. *The Book of Discipline of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, Revised 2022*.

Christian Methodist Episcopal Church. Official CME Church website. www.thecmechurch.org

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