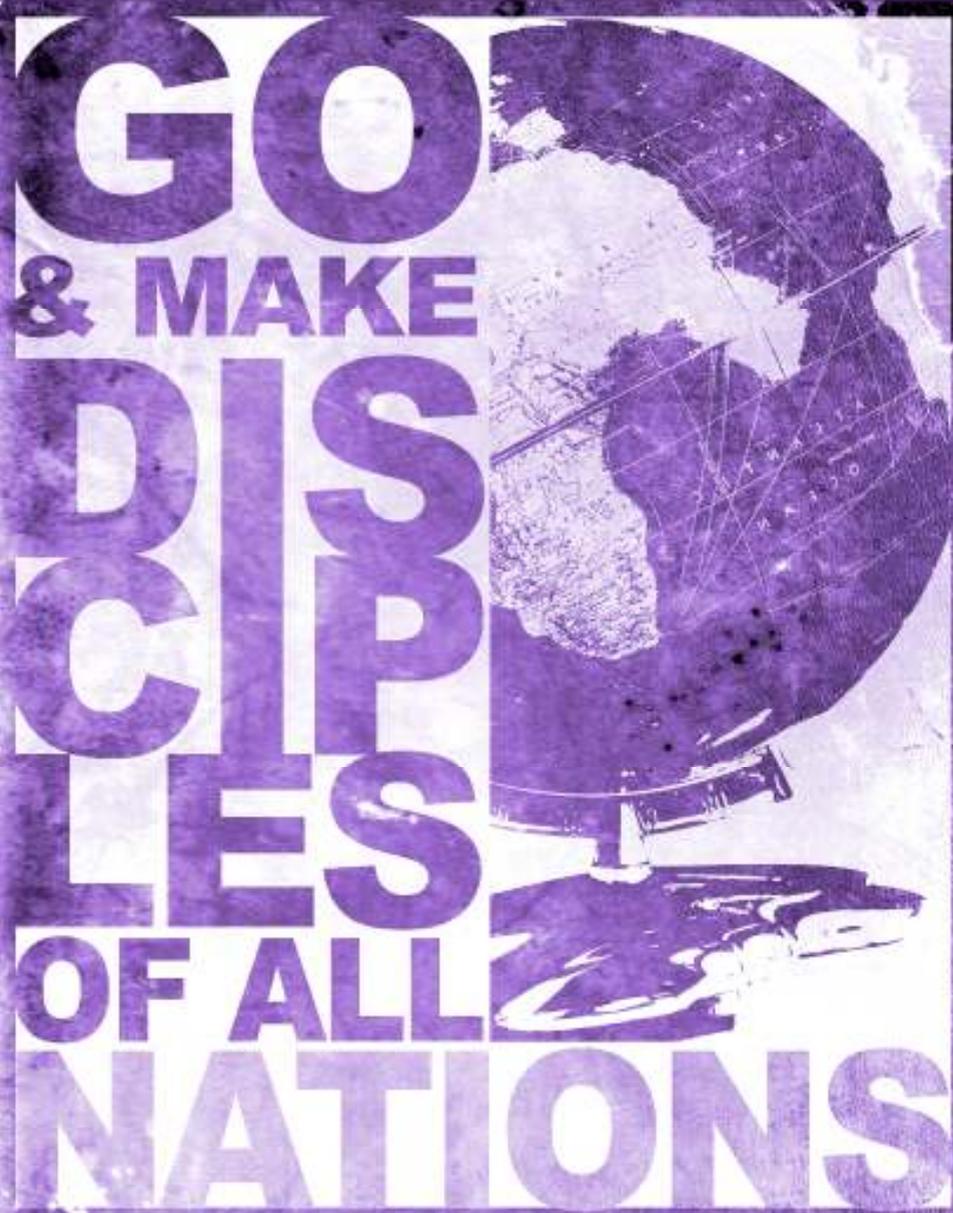


A MIND FOR MISSIONS

**GO
& MAKE
DISCIPLES
OF ALL
NATIONS**

A globe on a stand is the central visual element, positioned on the right side of the page. The globe is tilted and shows the continents of North and South America. The text 'GO & MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS' is overlaid on the left side of the globe in large, bold, black, sans-serif capital letters. The text is arranged in five lines: 'GO', '& MAKE', 'DISCIPLES', 'OF ALL', and 'NATIONS'. The background of the globe is a light, textured color, possibly representing a map or a satellite image.

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Introduction



This study is called ‘**A Mind for Missions**’ and is largely based on a book of the same name by Paul Borthwick. It is a practical book encouraging us to look beyond our everyday experiences to see God at work in different ways and in different places.

The aim of this project is to consider the issues that help us to become mission minded Christians. Each week we are encouraged to find out more about one country that interests us and discuss together some issues about how God works in us and through us. There are practical things for us to do and space to reflect on the impact of these new experiences.

You might like to choose your own country so that you can each share different insights and experiences, you might like to pair up with someone so that you can share out tasks or you might all choose to research the same country within your small group and pursue different aspects of it.

You might like to choose a country based on our Church priorities for mission.

- **places where there is no Church (such as Algeria / Morocco or Somalia)**
- **poorest of the poor (India or Ethiopia)**
- **existing partnerships (Brazil, Wales or Japan)**
- **another country that really interest you.**

It would be a good idea to have a scrap book or folder where you can collect together all your information.

It is our aim that there will be opportunity to share some of our experiences of this project during World Week (**Sunday 6th to Sunday 13th May**)

We realise that this project is different from the normal format of studies. This might be a great opportunity to include other members of your family such as your children or those who don't come to Church.

A Testimony by Pam Bebb



Some years ago my family and I took part in a very similar exploration of missions based on the book Mind for Missions by Paul Borthwick.

We found it a very humbling, concept-expanding few weeks which led to the challenging of our perceptions of missions and the role we could play within that.

It was also a great deal of fun and going through this with others spurred us on to really enjoy each task suggestion; sharing feedback on our week was both exciting and illuminating – and there was delicious exotic food to be savoured as well!

One of the highlights for me was visiting with people of other cultures as they worshipped the Lord. Experiencing this was a tiny foretaste of what heaven would be like and it opened my eyes to the diverse beauty of God's people and the love He had for all of us, from every nation in the world.

My children also became very involved; they looked up facts about their chosen nation, listened to the news, read newspapers, ate out at restaurants serving Chinese, Japanese, African and American food and learned more about the world in which they live. Their world view expanded along with ours.

This experience was part of the build up to our call to The Philippines and encouraged a heart for the nations in a very practical way. It was quite literally, a life-changing few weeks. I cannot wait to do it again and see what God has in store for me!



Study 1: Biblical overview

1. What are your thoughts and feelings when you hear the word mission?
2. Why do Christians do mission?

Read appendix 1

3. If God is a missionary God what passages from the Bible can you think of that show this?

You might like to read and consider some of the following;

- Genesis 3 - The fall of man
- Genesis 17 - Abraham
- Jonah
- Isaiah 42
- Psalm 2
- Luke 2:29-32 Simeon
- John 10:14-16
- Revelation 7:9-10

4. What are some of the themes or important points that emerge from these passages?
5. How would you sum up the story of God as a missionary as shown throughout the Bible?
6. What role does the Bible have in mission?

Now choose a country to study over the next 6 weeks. You might like to choose one each, or one for your whole group. Make a list of your decisions on the next page.

Name	Country
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In preparation for next week

- Find out some basic facts about your chosen country such as;
 - Where it is
 - Population
 - Weather
 - Customs and traditions
 - Culture
 - Main religions
 - Relationship with neighbouring countries
 - Language
 - Lifestyle
- Gather this information together in a folder or scrap book and take it with you next week.
- Collect newspaper or magazines articles about your chosen country or listen out for mention of it on the news. Take this information with you next week.



Study 2: Communications

1. What interesting things have you discovered about your chosen country?
2. What surprised you?
3. What did you use to find out this information?

Share any news items or newspaper articles you have found.

4. What is your response to the news?

Read appendix 2

5. What are some of the benefits and drawbacks of living in a global communications era?
6. What advice would you give to someone who feels overwhelmed by all the bad news they see on TV?
7. What do you think God's response would be to tonight's news headlines and why?

Read Matthew 9:35-38

8. What are the physical and spiritual needs you have discovered in your chosen country?
9. How can we gain a spiritual perspective on news events?

Read appendix 3.

In preparation for next week

- Prepare or buy a dish of food from your chosen country to take to the group.
- Find out about missions, people and organisations who work in your chosen country.
- For next week – Remind yourself of the stories of Nehemiah (1-6) and Jonah (1-4).



Study 3: Food & Prayer

Enjoy food together!

1. What have you discovered about your chosen country this week?

Read appendix 4

2. What is the role of prayer in mission?

Remind yourselves of the story of Nehemiah 1-6 or Jonah 1-4

3. What can we learn from the example of Nehemiah or Jonah?

Paul's letters to the churches in Philippi, Colossae and Ephesus include prayers for them. You might like to read through one of these letters.

4. What things did Paul include in his prayers for others?

Read appendix 5

Spend time praying for your chosen country. You might like to pray for:-

- The leaders of that country
- The wars and conflicts
- Natural disasters and restrictions
- The influence of the church
- Named missionaries and organisations
- People we know from the country
- Revival!

In preparation for next week

- Find out about the growth and spread of Christianity in your country. You might like to use the:

- ◆ Website <http://www.operationworld.org/>
- ◆ Book - Operation World

to help you.

- Arrange to meet someone from your chosen country (if possible). You could ask Tim and Sarah Ison to put you in touch with an International student from your chosen country, if possible.
- You might like to read or watch a film or read a book or a mission biography set in your chosen country for another wider experience of its culture and people.
- There might be a church or group that meets in Brighton and Hove who have a larger group of people from your chosen country and you could arrange to visit them.
- Remind yourself of the story of Ruth.



Study 4: Fellowship

Share something you have found out this week about your chosen country from the people you have met.

Read appendix 6

1. What cross cultural experiences have you had?

Read appendix 7

2. What do you understand by the term “World Christian”?
3. Would you consider yourself a world Christian?

Remind yourself of the story of Ruth.

4. What cross cultural issues would Naomi and Ruth have faced in their move from Moab to Israel?

Read appendix 8

5. Which of the four ideas listed in the passage above do you find most challenging and why?
6. What practical steps could you take to identify and overcome any bias you may have towards people from a different culture?

List some questions you would ask a person from your chosen country.

In preparation for next week

- Do an audit of your current giving. Planned, spontaneous, money and gifts in kind and pray through this list.
- Prayerfully consider how much you can give to our World Mission Gift Day.



Study 5: Giving

1. What did you discover as a result of doing a giving audit?
2. What do you have to consider when someone requests money? (street person, cold caller charity, church, friends, advertisers etc. - think as wide as possible).

Read - 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

3. What is a harvest of righteousness?
4. What are the benefits of giving generously?

Read appendix 9

5. Which of these do you find the hardest and easiest to do?
6. Which of these do you think you could grow in?
7. What are some practical steps you can take?

In preparation for next week

- Live for a week taking on some aspect of the lives of those who live in your chosen country. For example:
 - ◆ You could restrict your income to the level of JSA (Job Seekers Allowance – currently £53.45 per week for under 25's, £67.50 for over 25's and £105.95 couples) as many of our partners in Wales live on this amount.
 - ◆ You could all live in just two rooms of your house (plus the bathroom?!) as a family might do in Ethiopia.
 - ◆ You could restrict your diet to rice and sauce like those who live in the Dalit community in India.
 - ◆ You could only use electricity for four hours a day as many people in Somalia have to do.
 - ◆ You could always cover your head (women) when leaving the house as women in Morocco have to do.
 - ◆ Or use your knowledge of your chosen country to live like those people might do.
- Keep a diary during this week to reflect on this experience.



Study 6: Lifestyle

1. Talk about your experiences from the last week. What were the highs and lows?

Read - 1 Corinthians 9:19-23

2. Why did Paul need to become like the group he was witnessing to in order to share the gospel with them?
3. Consider what aspects of how we practice our faith are related to, or because of, our culture.
4. What might some of the dangers be in becoming all things to all people?

Read appendix 10

5. What have you gained and understood from studying your chosen country?
6. How have you been challenged? What action are you taking as a result of this?
7. Where or who is your mission-field?

In preparation for World Week

- Prepare or buy the dish you took in week 3 and bring it to World Night. Use this label:

Name of person who made/brought it

What it's called

Country

Main ingredients

- Update your folder/scrap book and bring to World Night to share with others. Include any books, DVD's or artefacts you have collected along the way.
- Come to World Night on **Wednesday 19th May** and enjoy finding out about other people's experiences and what next



For your notes



Holland Road Baptist Church
March 2012