

Go Forth, Make Disciples of All Nations!

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Adapted for Parish use by Natalie Kapeluck Nixon 2011

Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA

Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry



Go Forth, Make Disciples of All Nations-

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Notes for using this curriculum:

This curriculum may be used in Youth Group gatherings or in Church Schools. For Youth Group Settings you want to integrate the curriculum into a larger program involving Ice breakers, fun activities, possibly a meal and interactive learning. **Text in Blue are notations for Youth Leader**

A suggested schedule may look like this if conducted on a Saturday:

4:00pm – IceBreakers – Games

4:30pm – Begin with Prayer for Missions (located in Appendix III) - Lesson and Open Discussion

5:30pm – Free time

6:00pm - Great Vespers

7:00pm – Dinner

Objectives for this Program – Why Missions?

Then Jesus approached and said to them, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20)

This brief passage from the conclusion of St. Matthew's Gospel is known as the "Great Commission." It reveals our Lord's last instructions to His followers before his glorious Ascension into Heaven. Look carefully at His words: **Go ...make disciples...baptize...teach - all are verbs!** His last directives to the disciples were not words of contemplation, instructions to turn inward, but words of action! He gave them "marching orders", so to speak, to go out into the world to share their experiences with those who never had met Christ personally, but who through their enthusiasm and honest witness would become just as convinced as they were that, in the word of St. Peter, "(Jesus Christ) is the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

This has always been the very essence of the mission activity of the Church. Men and women, whose lives have been touched by Christ, changed by Christ, energized by Christ, have come to realize that the only possible shared experience is to make it possible for others to experience it as well. Each, according to the unique situations and circumstances of his or her own life, shared the Good News, the **Gospel**, with those who had never heard it, or who had grown indifferent to it. This witness may have been through profound and eloquent teaching, or it may have been through the simple actions of a Christ-like life. The call to continue this work never expires. Our Lord's directions are as true and vital for all of us today as they were when He first spoke them. All of us can be missionaries, whether we are hierarchs and priests, lay adults, or school students.

This unit, ***Go Forth, Make Disciples of All Nations!***, is a wonderful introduction to the missionary mindset. By introducing our children to this concept, we can instill in them the zeal for mission work that Orthodoxy has embodied for centuries. The selected examples of notable missionaries throughout the generations will serve to inspire all of us to realize the opportunities and obligation we have to follow in their footsteps, to bring the Light of Christ to a world too often satisfied with darkness.

Fr. Michael Kochis

Director, Consistory Office of Missions and Parish Development

Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA

January 2011

Lesson 1: What is a missionary?

Objectives: 1. Provide basic understanding of a missionary and their purpose

Items Needed : White Board, Dry Erase Markers

Read the passage from Matthew 9. Ask for a volunteer to read the first paragraph.

"The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field." Matthew 9:37- 38

In this verse from the bible we hear Christ telling his disciples about a harvest. You probably already know that the harvest is what a farmer is able to pick and use from his farm. If your family grows a garden, you probably harvest or pick the fruits and vegetables from it to eat. You might even share them with family and friends. Below, list some things you might need to have or use in order to harvest a good crop from your garden.

An alternative to having the youth list here, is to ask the question and compile a list collectively on the white board.

In the verse we read, Christ isn't talking about finding the fruits and vegetables that are ready to be harvested. He's talking about finding the people who are ready to learn about Christ and participate in the church. In your list of things that you might need to harvest a good crop, you probably talked about things like seeds, water and sunlight that help the plants to grow. These are just as important as tools like shovels, rakes, or machines that are used to actually harvest the crops. Christ tells us that he has done the work of "growing the plants" already. Every person in this world was created so that they are ready to receive Christ's message. We just have to go into the world and find the people who are ready to follow, but haven't been told about Christ and the Orthodox faith yet. The people who do this great work are called **missionaries**.

Missionaries: _____

Now that you know what a missionary does, make a list of things that a missionary might have or use to teach people who do not know about Christ. What might they do when working as missionaries? **Again, you may choose to do this as a group on the white board.**



Let's look at the Bible verse again: "*The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field.*" Matthew 9:37- 38

Ask the participants the following questions. Take time to discuss each answer.

Who or what is being harvested? **People - souls**

What does Christ mean when He says that the harvest is plentiful? **There are many people searching to hear the Good News and be guided to Christ.**

Who are the workers that Christ is talking about and what field are they working in?

Christians, the world

In the next lesson, we'll learn how the disciples knew they were supposed to go into the world to teach about Christ and the church.

Ask the participants if they have any questions about the lesson. You may also leave this time for open discussion.

Lesson 2: Sharing the Good News

Objective: 1. Gain understanding of the Good News 2. Determine where the Good News may be found 3. Why we share the Good News 4. Learn the term Great Commission and how it applies to them.

Needed Items: White Board, Bibles



Think about a time when something exciting happened to you or someone you know.

When we hear good news, we like to share it with others. At every Divine Liturgy we hear the good news about Christ. Do you know when? The word **Gospel** (It may be fun to play a short game of pictionary to get to the word Gospel.) means good news and the priest reads a passage from it every Sunday. Open the Bible to the New Testament and find the titles of the first four books. They are: **Matthew, Mark, Luke and John**. These books make up the “Good News” or Gospel that is used in church. **Ask the participants if they know who these four men were and how they were related to Christ.**

The Gospel tells us about a time when the people received some really good news about Christ. Read about it in **Matthew 28: 1-10**.

What good news did the women receive and who told them? **Christ was no longer in the tomb – He had risen. An angel.**

Were they supposed to share this news? **YES!**

Imagine how excited the women must have been! They came in sadness to take care of Jesus’ body, but found that He rose from the dead. But how did the disciples know that they were to tell the whole world about Christ? Continue reading, **Matthew 28:16-20**.

In this passage, the disciples get a clear message from Christ. They are to “Go therefore and make Disciples of all the nations.” **Ask: What event in Christ’s life does He give this message? Wait for the answer “His Ascension”. Ask someone to tell the story of the Ascension. If know one know the story – give an explanation.**

Christ tells them to do this in two very specific ways. They are to Baptize the people in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. They are also supposed to teach the people to observe or follow all of God’s commandments. Just like soldiers marching into battle, the disciples are given instructions on how to carry out Christ’s mission. They are given instructions on how to be missionaries!

What do we do when we learn of good news? **Share it!**

How did the disciples know that they were supposed to share the good news about Christ and the church? **Christ told them.**

Say to the participants this command from Christ is known as something special to all Christians. Play one more round of Pictionary. Ask a participant to be the “artist”. Give them “The Great Commission”. For young students you may want to be the “artist”. Once it has been guessed, ask the participants why Matthew 28:16-20 would be called The Great Commission. Ask them how this may relate to them.

Lesson Three: The Gift of the Holy Spirit



Objectives: 1. Gain understanding of the significance of Pentecost
2. Relate Pentecost to the Great Commission and how the two are tied together.

Needed Items: Bibles

- Passages in different languages on small strips of paper make sure you have enough for each young person to get one (*Appendix IV*)
- Whistle
- Bag (*to put the different passages in so young people can randomly choose one*)

IceBreaker Activity: Speaking in Tongues (Courtesy Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Youth Dept.)

Have each young person take a strip of paper with the Acts passage from the bag.

State (paraphrase in your own words)

You have all been given an important message, one that you must share with those around you. The only problem is that you will all be sharing this message in different languages. Some of you may be concerned that you don't speak the language on your slip of paper—pretend that you do, and read the passage aloud. Even if you can't read it... fake it. The point is that you have something important to teach, and you need to share it loudly until you hear the whistle blow.

Let the young people spread their message for a few minutes—it should be loud and chaotic. Blow the whistle and have the young people gather in a circle.

Discuss (accept all answers and reflect back)

How did that feel?

What were you trying to communicate?

Continue with the lesson and inform the participants that you will discuss this activity further in the lesson.

In the last lesson, we learned how the disciples knew they were to tell the whole world about Christ and what His instructions were for carrying out this mission. Next we'll look at how the disciples began their mission work.

After Jesus gave His Disciples the Great Commission - to "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations" (Matthew 28:19), He told them to go to Jerusalem and wait. One more thing had to happen before they could begin their mission. Read what happened in **Acts 2:1-8**.

The disciples were finally ready to fulfill their mission. They were filled with the Holy Spirit and able to be understood by people who spoke any language around the world. How do you think the people around them felt at first? **Stop and ask the following questions: When you were attempting to**

convey your message in during the game, was it easy to communicate? Did the other people understand you? How did you feel? State - The Holy Spirit came down and granted the disciples a great gift to aid them in their work. Can you see how this gift made such a great difference?

Listen to what Peter told the people that day: **Acts 2:14-39**.

On that great day of Pentecost, three-thousand people listened to God's word and were baptized and gathered together as the Church. This was the birthday of the Church, for together they would begin a new life. These new Christians changed the way they lived. They gathered together to learn about God and his son Jesus Christ, who came to give us new life. They sang hymns of praise and thanks to God for their new life in the Holy Spirit. They remembered how Jesus took bread and wine and shared it with his disciples, so they did the same. They showed their love for each other and helped people who were sick or hungry or had no clothes. This is how the first Christians lived and how the Church began. From this day forward, the disciples traveled to places near and far, teaching them about Christ and baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit!

What was the last thing the disciples needed before starting their mission?

Gift of the Holy Spirit

How did the gift of the Holy Spirit allow the disciples to speak to everyone in Jerusalem?

Anyone who heard them speak – heard them in their own language.

In the next session we'll learn about the first missionaries of our Church.

Allow time here for discussion and questions.

Lesson Four: The First Missionaries

Objective: This next few lessons will provide participants with a clear vision as to how the “good news” spread throughout the area and the world. They should also gain a better understanding as to what Christ expects of us as missionaries, to leave home and family to go wherever they may be needed to spread the news.

Items needed: Markers, pens

Alternate Idea: Included in the curriculum is a world map to be used in these lessons. It may be helpful to take the map and have it enlarged to put on the wall. The participants can “Map it!” on the large map as well as their workbook map.

After receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, the disciples began to follow Christ’s command to “Go forth and make disciples of all nations.” Some traveled to far places to teach people about Christ and baptize them, while others ministered to those in Jerusalem. Remember, Christ prepared the crops for the disciples to harvest. Everyone was created ready to understand their message, but you’ll see that it was not always an easy job for the disciples.

- **Jerusalem – Map it!**



We already learned that on the day of Pentecost, the disciples taught the people in Jerusalem and baptized over three thousand of them. Some of the disciples stayed in Jerusalem for a while in order to minister to the other people there. In addition to teaching the people about Christ, the disciples also healed people with the help of the Holy Spirit. Read an example in **Acts 3:1-10**.



How did Peter and John help this man?

He was lame and they healed him by the name of God – granting him the ability to walk.

Was the man surprised? Yes

What do you think happened when people saw this miracle? Many people were amazed and crowded around Peter and John. Peter was afraid that the people would think that the man was healed by magic, so he spoke to them saying that it was this man’s faith in “The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers” (**Acts 3:13**) that saved him. You read earlier that being a missionary was not always an easy thing to do. As Peter was speaking, the leaders of the temple became angry and had Peter and John arrested for trying to “trick” the people. Luckily, many people believed what they saw and heard and eventually, Peter and John were released. Read **Acts 4:4** and write down how many people became followers of Christ after that event: **5000**

With so many people wanting to become followers of Christ, the disciples were unable to teach and baptize new people and still take care of all of the people who were already

baptized. It was decided that the twelve disciples would choose to ordain seven deacons to help them. **Acts 6:3** tells us what qualifications a man had to have in order to be chosen. He had to be full of the Spirit and Wisdom . These deacons helped to take care of the people who were already baptized, or helped the disciples who traveled to teach others. Who do our deacons help today?

- **Antioch-Map It!**



With the help of deacons, the disciples were able to travel farther away from Jerusalem. The people that they taught and baptized also became missionaries and traveled to other countries. Eventually, news of Christ and the church reached a city called Antioch. When the disciples heard that the people in Antioch wanted to learn more about Christ, they sent Barnabas to teach them. When he arrived he was very happy to see that the people there were excited and he even went to get his friend Saul (Paul) from Tarsus to help. Antioch was an important city at the time because it was the third largest city in the Roman empire and a major trade city. People from all over the world came to Antioch to trade goods like spices, animals and cloth. They also traded ideas, including the knowledge of Christ. Antioch was the first place to call the followers of Christ, Christians. We still use that name today!

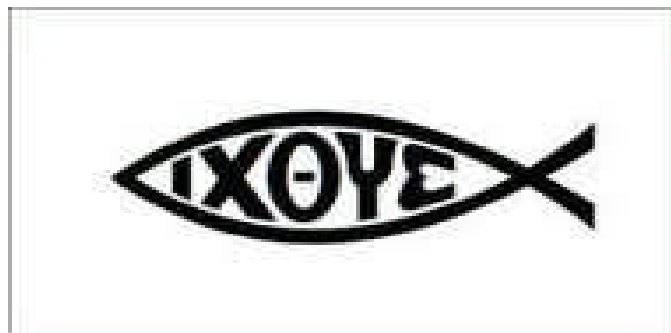
- **Rome**



Paul and Barnabas were joined by several other new disciples in Antioch. They taught the people about Christ and the kingdom of heaven and baptized many people. Eventually, God sent these disciples a message saying, “Now separate to Me, Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” (**Acts 13:2**) They left Antioch to be missionaries in new lands. Paul traveled throughout Syria, Turkey, Greece, and other countries. He also wrote many letters or **epistles** to people, teaching them about Christ. We read from these epistles at every Divine Liturgy.

One of the places that Paul wrote to was Rome. Rome was a scary place for Christians at that time. The Roman Empire was in control of much of the land and places we have learned about so far. People in Rome were strictly forbidden to be Christians, but many did so in secret. Paul sent them many letters encouraging them to be strong in their faith and he later spent two years there, preaching and baptizing.

In order to let other people know that they were Christians, people in Rome used the fish as a symbol. The letters in fish stood for JESUS CHRIST SON OF GOD SAVIOR. Copy the symbol of the fish here:



These disciples and many others traveled to lots of other places. They became the example of missionary work that we still follow today.

In what ways did the disciples act as missionaries to other countries?

Who did the disciples choose to help them in their work?

Why was it especially important for missionaries to contact and visit places like Rome?

Timeline- The disciples began their mission work in approximately 35 AD.



Now that we have studied the examples of the first missionaries, the next few lessons will teach us about mission work throughout history and current missionaries.

Lesson Five: Saint Nino (Nina) the Enlightener of Georgia

Map it!-Georgia



Listen to the story about the life of St. Nino, a missionary in the country of Georgia.

Why did the Theotokos give Saint Nino a cross of vines?

She was given the cross for protection and to show Nino that it was truly the Holy Theotokos who was visiting her.

Why was Saint Nino's decision to be a missionary in Georgia a dangerous one?

The Roman emperor and the leaders of many countries like Armenia hated Christians. They made it a crime to be a Christian and punished people who disobeyed.

Describe some of the miracles that God performed through Saint Nino.

Describe any found in the reading: a child granted to the gardener and his wife, Queen Nana healed, conversion of King Mirian, etc.

Troparion for Saint Nino (Nina) (*Tone 3*) celebrated on January 27th

As minister of the word of God in apostolic preaching, you equaled Andrew the first-called and the rest of the Apostles. Enlightener of Georgia and instruments of the Holy Spirit, holy Nina, equal to the Apostles, entreat Christ God that our souls may be saved.

Why do you think Saint Nino is called Equal to the Apostles?

Students' answers may include: baptism of so many people, miracles worked through her, courage to travel to dangerous and far away lands.

Timeline-Saint Nino was a missionary approximately three hundred years after Paul and the other disciples.



Next, we'll learn about some missionaries who completed their work a little later in history.

Lesson Six: Saints Cyril and Methodius

Map it!- Moravia

Go Forth Curriculum



Saints Cyril and Methodius are especially remembered by countries in eastern Europe, listen to their story to find out why.

How did Saints Cyril and Methodius help to spread the good news of Christ throughout the Slavic lands?



Saint Cyril taught others as a deacon, and both went on missionary trips and were invited to speak to the leaders of other countries. Their work led to the Cyrillic alphabet which made the knowledge of Christ and the church available to people in these lands.

Why were people upset when Saints Cyril and Methodius created the written language to teach the people?

Many rulers worried that they would lose their power if people learned to read and write. By being able to read and write, people throughout the country could talk to one another, complain about the king and come up with ways to find a better ruler.

What countries today might benefit from the work of Saints Cyril and Methodius?

Any country that uses the Cyrillic alphabet, some examples: Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Bulgaria, etc.

Troparion for Saints Cyril and Methodius (*Tone 4*) celebrated on May 21st

O Cyril and Methodius, inspired by God, by your life you became equal to the Apostles. As Teachers of the Slavs, intercede with the Master of All, that he may strengthen all Orthodox people in the true faith, granting peace to the world and great mercy to our souls.

Timeline- Saints Cyril and Methodius completed their missionary work in the Slavic lands

during the 800s AD.



In the next few lessons, we will study missionaries who worked in the last three hundred years.

Lesson Seven: Cosmos of Aitolia

Map it!- Albania



Saint Cosmos did not start his life wanting to be a missionary. He originally became a monk at a famous place in Greece call Mount Athos. Listen to his story to find out how his life led him to mission work.

How did Saint Cosmos travel as a missionary?

By foot, donkey and ship

In what ways did Saint Cosmos help the people in Albania and Greece to understand the message of Christ?

He traveled to many cities and preached to the people, helped to build schools, raised money for religious and teaching supplies.

What challenges did Saint Cosmos face in Albania?

Muslim rulers were against Christianity, churches had been destroyed by the Muslims, Cosmos was falsely accused and executed.

Now you'll hear the story of Drita, a young girl from Albania. Think about how the work of Saint Cosmos allowed Drita to know about Orthodoxy and become a Christian.

Troparion for Saint Cosmos (*Tone 4*) celebrated on September 6th

With odes let us acclaim the renowned Cosmos, who gloriously excelled among the choirs of the martyrs, priests, and ascetics, and let us gather; for he dispenses healing to them that have recourse to him with faith, since, as an equal of the Apostles, he has boldness before Christ.

Timeline- Saint Cosmos performed his missionary work in the 1700s AD.



Lesson Eight: Bishop Nicholas of Japan

Map it!-Japan



Bishop Nicholas, like Saint Cosmos, started as an Orthodox monk before becoming a missionary. Listen to his story to find out more about his journey from Russia to Japan.

How long did Bishop Nicholas serve the people of Japan? over 50 years

How did Bishop Nicholas become a missionary in Japan?

He found out that the Russian ambassadors in Japan were looking for someone to travel to Japan and teach about the church. He asked his bishop to send him on this mission.

What obstacles did Bishop Nicholas have to overcome during his time in Japan?

Could include answers like: had to learn to speak Japanese, Japanese rulers began persecuting Christians, etc.

Troparion for Bishop Nicholas of Japan (Tone 4) celebrated on February 16th

O holy Saint Nicholas, the Enlightener of Japan, you share the dignity and the throne of the Apostles: you are a wise and faithful servant of Christ, a temple chosen by the Divine Spirit, a vessel overflowing with the love of Christ. O hierarch equal to the Apostles, pray to the life-creating Trinity for all your flock and for the whole world.

Timeline- Bishop Nicholas served the people of Japan from 1861 AD to 1912 AD.



In the next lesson you will learn about how Orthodoxy arrived in America.



Lesson Nine: Saint Herman of Alaska and Saint Raphael of Brooklyn

Map it!- Alaska and New York



These three saints are very special to us because they helped to spread the good news of Christ in our country.

Why did Saint Herman come to America?

He came with a group of missionaries to spread Christianity in North America.

How did Saint Herman show an example of Christ to the people in Alaska?

Students could have various takes on this, but should point out that St. Herman ministered to the poor and the sick when no one else would.

What groups of people was Saint Raphael concerned about?

He cared for everyone, but paid special attention to those in need like orphans and the poor.

How did Saint Raphael try to reach these groups?

He reached out to all groups with love.

Troparion for Saint Herman of Alaska (*Tone 4*) celebrated December 26th

O blessed Father Herman of Alaska, North star of Christ's holy Church, the light of your holy life and great deeds guides those who follow the Orthodox way. Together we lift high the Holy Cross you planted firmly in America. Let all behold and glorify Jesus Christ, singing his holy Resurrection.

Troparion for Saint Raphael of Brooklyn (*Tone 3*) February 27th

Rejoice, O Father Raphael, Adornment of the holy Church! Thou art Champion of the True Faith, Seeker of the lost, Consolation of the oppressed, Father to orphans, friend of the poor, Peacemaker and Good Shepherd, Joy of all the Orthodox, Son of Antioch, Boast of America; Intercede with Christ God for us and for all who honor you.



Timeline- Saint Herman arrived in Alaska in 1794 AD. Saint Raphael came to New York in 1895 AD.

Lesson Ten: Following in Their Footsteps

God commanded his disciples to “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations.” These instructions were not just for the people we have learned about so far. There are many other saints who have devoted their lives to mission work and many others choose to become missionaries today. Here some examples of Orthodox missionaries in the world today.



- **India:** The people speak a different language, Bengali, and many of the people are very poor. Most people do not yet know Jesus Christ. In Kolkata, 10 priests and one nun are working to tell people about Jesus Christ and teach people about the Church. They go to villages to tell people about Jesus Christ. Many people want to hear more and join our Church. Also, these priests help others by giving food, clothes, medicines, and shelter to the poor who need it. Sister Nectaria, a nun from Greece, helps the priests and runs an orphanage for young girls who do not have parents.

Map it!- India



- **Tanzania:** Katie is an Orthodox Christian. She goes to Church in Texas. When she finished high school she went on a short term mission trip. She noticed that in other places of the world people do not know about Jesus Christ. There are very few churches. There are very few priests. There are many people who want to know about Jesus Christ and the Orthodox Church. People have to walk for hours to get to Church. When Katie got home she read more about missions. She read that there were not enough people to teach. There were not enough Bibles. There were very few priests and deacons. Many people did not read. Many were sick. Many wanted to learn about the Orthodox Church. She read that Jesus needs us to help Him bring people into the Church by going to places where people do not know Him and teaching them that He loves them. Katie went to college to become a nurse. She went on another Mission Team. In her heart she wanted to teach people about Jesus Christ. Katie also wanted to use her skills as a nurse to help people. Katie is now preparing to go to Tanzania to help the people there learn more about Jesus Christ and to help the Orthodox Church in Tanzania in other ways. Because she is a nurse she will be able to help take care of sick people.

Map it!- Tanzania



Orthodox mission teams are currently working on almost every continent in the world. They are working to harvest the crop that God has prepared for them. How can we act as missionaries in our own lives?

An easy way to remember Christ's instructions for becoming a missionary is with the initials BLT. **B**elieve in Him, **L**earn about His message, and **T**ell or **T**each others.

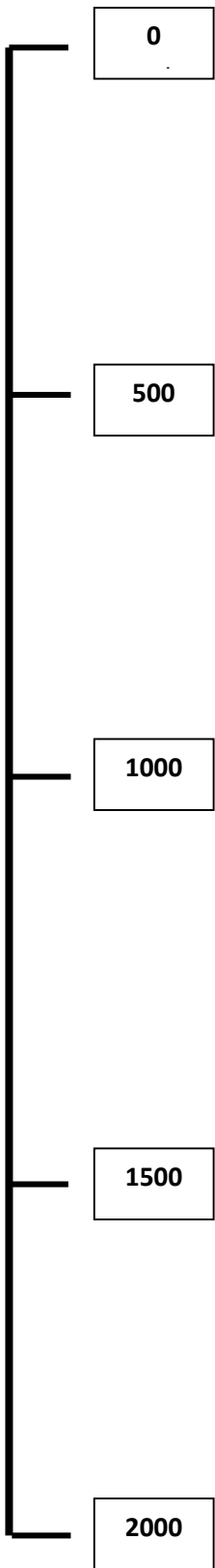
Finally, let's come up with some ways that you can in your life "make disciples of all the nations!" You are never too young to share your knowledge about Christ with others around you.

Think back to your list of tools that the disciples might have used to talk to the people who did not know about Christ. List a few tools that you might use. They can be the same or new ideas.

Spend a considerable amount of time brainstorming. No ideas are bad ideas! Have the participants discuss not only personal ways they can be missionaries but ways in which they as a youth group may work as missionaries.

Choose one item from your list that you would like to try to do this year. Remember to pray to God or your patron saint to help you with your task. Have each person choose a personal task and choose one task for the group.

Timeline



Map it!



Acknowledgments & References

The following resources were consulted in the creation of this curriculum and may be useful for further study:

- **Teach All Nations:** Proclaiming the Gospel around the World. Department of Youth, Young Adult, and Campus Ministry, Orthodox Church in America, PO Box 675 Syosset, NY 11791, <http://yya.oca.org>
- **OCMC Orthodox Mission Sunday Lesson Plans:** Orthodox Christian Mission Center, www.ocmc.org
- **GOYA Curriculum I – Lesson 9:** Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Department of Youth Ministry www.goarch.org

Appendix I – Activities



Orthodox Christian Mission Center

OCMC Mission & Purpose

The Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) is the official international missions agency of the Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in America (SCOBA).

Mission Statement

To help fulfill the Great Commission of Christ(Matthew 28:16); the Orthodox Christian Mission Center(OCMC) strives to establish vibrant Eucharistic communities throughout the world, to develop and support indigenous church leaders, and to strengthen the infrastructure of their churches. OCMC carries out this work primarily, though not solely, in countries where Christianity is in the minority and where the Gospel message has not been proclaimed. OCMC will recruit, train, send, and support Orthodox missionaries to preach, teach, baptize, construct, and minister to the spiritual and physical needs of those being served and saved.

Purpose

OCMC has been sanctioned by SCOBA to help the faithful of North America to proclaim the fullness of the Orthodox Christian Faith with the world. Each year hundred of Orthodox Christians answer the call to make disciples of all nations through one of OCMC’s many initiatives which include:

Missionary Service

Orthodox Mission Teams

Support a Mission Priest (SAMP) Program

Agape Canister Program

OCMC Ambassador Program

(Above taken from OCMC website)

Activities

1. Raise Awareness about OCMC – OCMC provides a lessons about their work and mission work(some of the material is integrated into this curriculum). Review the lessons provided at www.ocmc.org. Pull useful information to teach the youth about OCMC. You may also request an OCMC video. Discuss with the youth how they can then raise awareness about OCMC in you parish.
2. Support a Mission Priest (SAMP) Program – The youth of your parish could agree to raise funds to become a SAMP participant. They could support a mission priest monateraly as well as through correspondence. The youth may even approach the Parish Council to make this a parish project.
3. Coin Box Program – This is a simple and wonderful way for youth to support OCMC and Missionaries by giving of their own funds.

4. Praying for Missionaries – OCMC will provide information cards about current long-term missionaries around the world. Request to have at least one card of each missionary. Once you obtain the cards, you can scan in their photos and print out larger photos (recommended 8 x 10). With the blessing of your priest, you can have the youth make a Missionary display board with the photos and information. The display can be put up in your parish hall. Each week choose a different missionary to pray for and remember in the Divine Liturgy. You can also put their information in the parish bulletin. There is also a Prayer for Missionaries provided on the OCMC website and on the back of each of the informational cards. Pass the smaller cards out to the youth to take home and to pray for their missionary on a daily basis.

For further information about any of the OCMC programs go to their website at www.ocmc.org

Support UOC Missionaries and Mission Trips

The Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA sponsors several missionary opportunities through the Offices of Youth & Young Adult Ministry and Christian Charity. You can raise awareness about these trips in your parish, encourage teenagers and young adults to apply to participate, and/or support the trips with funds or supplies. You may learn more about these trips at www.uocyouth.org. Your youth and parish can pray for these young missionaries when they are participating on the trips.

High School Mission in the Untied States

Each August five teenagers are chosen from around the United States to participate in a domestic mission trip. These trips are designed to aid teenagers in understanding that they do not need to go to a foreign country to help those in need or to spread the work of Christ.

Past teams have traveled to Raphael House in San Francisco, St. John the Compassionate Mission in Toronto, Canada, St. Nicholas Mission parish in Charlottesville, VA and St. Anthony Mission Parish in Las Cruces, NM.

Request a copy of the Power Point Presentation or Short Video to show to your youth. Encourage them to apply as participants or to possibly hold a fundraiser for the trip or for that current year's location.

Mission Trip to Orphanages in Ukraine

In 2000, the UOC of the USA began sponsoring special needs orphanages in Ukraine. To date we sponsor three orphanages. Trips are planned at least once a year for college students (and sometimes adults) to go and minister to these very needy yet blessed children.

Encourage the college students of your parish to apply for the trip. You may request a copy of the short film documenting these trips to show your youth. Please keep in mind that the images in the film may be too mature for small/young children (under the age of 10). You may also request a short video that could be shown to people of all ages. In addition to raising funds to support the orphanage project, you can also inquire into what items may currently be needed at the orpahanges (shoes, clothes, toothbrushes, crayons, etc.) and collect them to be taken with the current team or sent directly from your parish.

Parish Open House

One of the ideas we want our youth to acquire is that we can be missionaries, deliverers of the “good news”, in our daily lives and local communities. An event that can aid in that understanding is sponsoring a Parish Open House. The objective of a parish open house is to open the parish door to the local community to learn about the Orthodox Faith. Steps to make it happen.

1. Speak to your parish priest to gain his blessing and input for the event
2. Speak to the parish council to gain their approval and support (this could be a great parish event)
3. Decide on a date and schedule. The 2009 High School Mission Team helped St. Anthony Mission Parish to plan and execute an Open House. They create posters for the event and placed them all around the local community and colleges. They determined the following schedule:



Saturday Afternoon

- | | |
|--------|---|
| 2:00pm | Parish Tours |
| 2:30 | Short Concert of Liturgical Music/Hymns |
| 2:45 | Q & A with Priest |
| 3:00pm | First Group Refreshments/Meet and Greet – New Group Starts Parish Tours |
| 3:30 | Short Concert of Liturgical Music/Hymns |
| 3:45pm | Q& A with Priest |
| 4:15pm | Refreshments/Meet and Greet |
| 5:00pm | Great Vespers |

The campers at Teenage Conference 2010 also helped to publicize and host an open house for St. Peter & St. Paul in Lyndora, PA. In addition to the posters, the campers went to the local mall and passed out flyers in the parking lot as well as placing them on cars. The schedule for this open house was a bit different and was held on a Wednesday evening.

- | | |
|--------|--|
| 4:30pm | Parish Tours |
| 5:00pm | Introduction by Fr. Paisius |
| 5:10pm | Short Concert of Liturgical Music/Hymns |
| 5:30pm | Presentation by Missionaries from the High School and Ukraine Mission Trps |
| 6:00pm | Closing Remarks Q & A and Reception |

4. Publicize, publicize, publicize! Have the youth go out one Sunday and place flyers throughout the community. This may spark a discussion with those they may meet. Prior to going out have a set of rules and protocols.

- The youth should always be in groups and should have an adult with them
- Show care with cars and private property
- If someone approaches and asks questions, make sure the youth do not give out any personal information (last names, address, phone number)
- Have a practice session to answer questions such as (what is this about? What does Orthodox mean? How are you different than Catholics? - a great answer for this is “come to the Open House and find out??”)
- Have at least 1000 flyers to pass out – really make an impact

Place an ad in your local news paper.

Make signs to put in front of your parish.

Tell your friends to come! You never know who may be interested

Make this a regular event! Plan to host open houses regularly – once the word gets around it may bring more and more people.

SPECIAL NOTE: Do not be discouraged if no one or just a few people show up. Sometimes it takes a few tries to get people to come in the door. Even the act of passing out the flyers places the seed of Orthodoxy.




Parish Awareness

With the blessing and guidance of your parish priest and council president have the youth design a parish flyer with times of services, adult education classes and/or inquirer classes. Spend an afternoon placing these throughout the community on bulletin boards (Starbucks, Panera, Grocery Stores etc.). This is a simple way to attempt to spread the good news. Below is a poster created by the High School Mission team for St. Anthony Mission in New Mexico.

Have the youth of the parish raise funds to place ads in the local news paper with the times of services at your parish or Christmas/Paschal greetings.

ST ANTHONY'S ORTHODOX

Come and See



St. Anthony of the Desert
Orthodox Christian Mission
518 N. Alameda (at Hadley)

Great Vespers - Saturday 5pm
Divine Liturgy - Sunday 9am
www.stanthonylc.org • 575-524-1071
Pastor - Fr. Gabriel Rochelle

IOCC Kits

International Orthodox Christian Charities the official international humanitarian agency of SCOBA. Their mission is to in the spirit of Christ's love, offer emergency relief and development programs to those in need worldwide, without discrimination, and strengthens the capacity of the Orthodox Church to respond. (IOCC website)

IOCC Kits provide aid to those in need in various ways.

School Kits – provide basic school supplies to children who cannot afford them. (2010 participants of Diocesan Church School Camp and Teenage Conference assembled 100 School Kits – they were made extra special in that the campers decorated the bags with permanent markers for the children and added a personal message on post card)

Health Kits – Make a big difference. They provide basic health/hygiene needs for ongoing development and disaster areas.

Baby Kits – Early days of new life for moms and kids a better experience.

Emergency Clean –up Buckets - These buckets aid individuals with the overwhelming tasking of cleaning up after a major disaster like flooding, tornados, hurricanes or other disasters here in the United States.

You can gain more information about assembling IOCC Emergency Kits at www.iocc.org

Appendix II – Orthodoxy Around the World

Below is a listing of how Christianity spread throughout the world. If missionization happened after 1054AD, notations have been made as to when Orthodox Christianity was brought to that country as well. It may be interesting to obtain a large wall map and place it in your church hall. Go through the list and have the youth place the dates on each country.

Albania – Evangelized in the 2nd century

Andorra - In the early centuries of the Church through missionary work by the apostles

Antigua and Barbuda - The Ethiopian Orthodox Church -2007

Argentina – The Russian Orthodox Church took root in 1888

Armenia – Christianity takes root in 301 AD

Austria – In the 4th century, the Church becomes state religion of Roman Empire

Azerbaijan – St Bartholomew evangelized this area in around 60AD

Belarus – Received Christianity in 990 AD from the Greeks

Belgium – 4th century AD, however, it receded temporarily a year later during the conquest by the Franks

Belize – Orthodox Church exists in Belize but not sure of when it began. It ministers to the Greeks in the community.

Bermuda – In 1977, the Ethiopian Church in Bermuda is elevated to Diocesan status

Bosnia and Herzegovina – At around 958 the first Christian Slavs arrived in that area

Bulgaria – In 927, Christianity takes root in Bulgaria

Canada – Possibly in 1592 by Greek seafarer Ioaniss Fokas while exploring the coast for Phillip II: possibly in 1860s or 70s by Syrian and Lebanese merchants: First documented Divine Liturgy took place

China – Christians appear in China in 635 AD during the Tang dynasty

Costa Rica – Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia takes root in 1994

Croatia – 7th century AD: in 679 they made an agreement with Pope Agaton to not war with any neighboring Christian nations

Cuba – Orthodox Church beginning of 20th century from the Greeks

Cyprus – Christianity was introduced by Sts. Paul and Barnabas in 47 AD

Czech Republic – Sts. Cyril and Methodius introduced Christianity in the 9th century

Democratic Republic of the Congo – Bishop Antonio Markos spreads Coptic church there in 1997

Denmark – In 700 AD, the missionary Willibrod brings Christianity there

Egypt – St Mark brings Christianity to Egypt in 43 AD

Estonia – In 1030, this region is evangelized

Ethiopia – In 329 AD, Pope Athanasius consecrates St. Fremontius as first bishop (Abba Salama) (Coptic Church)

Finland – Graves were discovered dating back to the end of the 1st millennium containing Christian artifacts: in the 12th century traders and monks from Novgorod arrive

France – In the 2nd century, Romans bring Christianity to Gaul Germany – St Boniface brings Christianity around 719 AD Ghana – Bishop Bresi-Ando starts Orthodox church in 1935

Greenland – In 1000 AD Leif Ericsson brings Christianity to Norse settlers there: first Christian arrived there in 985

Guatemala – In 1986, the Holy Trinity Monastery is founded: it is recognized within the church in 1995

Haiti – In the 1990s, a Russian mission is formed

Hungary – In the 10th century, Western missionaries are invited to the country

Iceland – In 995 AD, missionaries from Norway arrive in Iceland India – St Thomas brings Christianity to India in 1st century

Indonesia – In 1988, Fr Daniel B.P. Byantoro begins missionary work

Iran – St Thomas brings Christianity to Iran in the 1st century

Ireland – In the late 300s or early 400s, Palladius is sent by the Pope

Italy – In the beginning of the first century AD

Jamaica – In 1910, Fr. Antonio Michael brings Christianity to Jamaica

Japan – In 1894, St Nicholas of Japan spreads Christianity throughout the country

Jordan – Early centuries of the Church through apostolic missionary work

Kazakhstan – In the 2nd century AD, Christians were among Roman soldiers taken prisoner in battle in this region

Kenya – In 1930, Greek immigrants bring Orthodox Christianity to Kenya

Latvia – In the 13th century, Orthodoxy is brought to Latvia

Lebanon – Early centuries of the Church through apostolic missionary work

Liechtenstein – In the 4th century AD, Christianity takes root there: St Lucius is first saint to be venerated there

Lithuania – In 1387, this region experiences a Roman Catholic conversion to Orthodoxy

Lybia – St. Mark brings the Good News to Lybia in 43 AD

Macedonia – In 1019, this region is evangelized

Madagascar – In 1953, Greek colonists in Madagascar build an Orthodox church

Malta – St Paul shipwrecked in Malta in 60 AD

Mexico – In 1924, the “Mexican Apostolic National Church” is formed

Moldova – St Constantine brings Christianity to Moldova in 325 AD

Monaco – St Devote spreads Christianity in Monaco in 304 AD

Montenegro – In 1219, Christianity spreads through this region from Serbia and St Sava

Nigeria – In 1985, leaders of the Nigerian “Greek Orthodox Church” are officially baptized

Peru – Diplomatic relations with Greece began in 1966, making it a possible date for origins of Orthodox Christianity in Peru

Russia In the first century AD, the Apostle Andrew spread Christianity throughout this region

San Marino – St Marinus spread Christianity in what is now San Marino in 310 AD

Serbia – Between the years 867-874, Christianity takes root in Serbia

South Africa – At the end of the 19th century, Orthodox Greeks reached the shores of South Africa

Syria – Early centuries of the Church through apostolic missionary work

Tanzania – In the 1970s, the Tanzanian Orthodox Church forms

Trinidad and Tobago – In 1952, the Ethiopian Orthodox Church takes root

Turkey – Early centuries of the church through apostolic missionary work

Uganda – In 1919, Daniel William Alexander adopted Orthodoxy and returned to Uganda in 1931 as a priest to evangelize the nation

Ukraine In the first century AD, the Apostle Andrew brought the good news to this land

USA – In the 5th century, Byzantine monks fleeing from the Vandal Invasion in North Africa settle in what is now Connecticut and build a church there: 1740 is first documented Divine Liturgy -served off coast of Alaska

Venezuela – In 1957, the first Bishop (Seraphim) of Caracas and Venezuela is consecrated

Zimbabwe – Orthodox Greek immigrants arrived in early 20th century

Appendix III – Prayer for Missions

From Orthodox Christian Mission Center

God of truth and love: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Hear our prayer for those who do not know You.

That they may come to a saving knowledge of the truth, and that Your Name may be praised among all peoples of the world.

Sustain, inspire, and enlighten Your servants who bring them the Gospel. Bring fresh vigor to wavering faith; sustain our faith when it is still fragile.

Continually renew missionary zeal in ourselves and in the Church, and raise up new missionaries who will follow You to the ends of the world.

Make us witnesses to Your goodness full of love, full of strength, and full of faith for Your glory and the salvation of the entire world.

Through the prayers of St. Paul, St. Fotini, Ss. Cyril and Methodios, St. Kosmas Aitolos, St. Innocent of Alaska, St. Nicholas of Japan, and all the missionary saints, Have mercy on us and save us. Amen.

