

World Mission Sunday 2008

February 3

“Extending God’s Grace to Everyone, Everywhere” is the theme of World Mission Sunday 2008, February 3. It is a call to reach beyond ourselves and live out our baptismal covenant by proclaiming the Good News, seeking and serving Christ in all persons, and striving for justice and peace among all people.

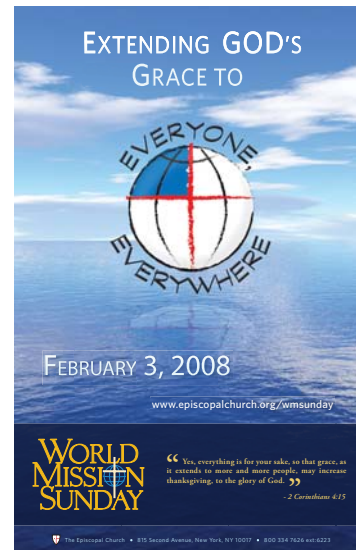
Based on 2 Corinthians 4:15: “Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and

more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God,” World Mission Sunday’s theme underscores the variety of opportunities for nurturing relationships in Christ throughout the world. The focus is on the many ways we carry out God’s mission in the world, including our gifts of prayer, relationship, time, labor, and money.

World Mission Sunday is celebrated each year on the last Sunday after Epiphany to encourage awareness of and participation in global mission by parishes and dioceses of The Episcopal Church.

Visit www.episcopalchurch.org/wmsunday for more information.

O God of all the nations of the earth: Remember the multitudes who have been created in thine image but have not known the redeeming work of our Savior Jesus Christ; and grant that, by the prayers and labors of thy holy Church, they may be brought to know and worship thee as thou hast been revealed in thy Son; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.
(Book of Common Prayer)



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Ideas for Extending God's Grace to Everyone, Everywhere

Taking an active role in world mission doesn't have to involve packing a bag and heading off to faraway places. Here are some ways to

extend God's grace to our sisters and brothers throughout the world:

- “Adopt” a missionary – Choose a missionary and actively support that person through prayer, card, letters, and email. Find out if your parish or diocese sponsors a missionary, or go to www.episcopalchurch.org/mission for a roster of Episcopal missionaries.
- Designate one day a week as “Anglican Communion Day.” Using the Anglican Cycle of Prayer (www.anglicancommunion.org), research the diocese and country highlighted that day and remember the people in your prayers.
- Find out what your congregation is doing to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, and make a commitment to help.
- Follow a daily practice of prayerful thanksgiving by using United Thank Offering's blue box. UTO grants make a real difference in the lives of people around the world. 100% of blue box thanksgivings goes toward UTO grants. (www.episcopalchurch.org/uto)
- Spend a few minutes a day reading the online journals and blogs of our missionaries and

Young Adult Service Corps volunteers. The day-by-day experiences and reflections of people in service to the Church can be found at www.episcopalchurch.org/missionblogs.

- When you read of a disaster in any part of the world, pray for those who are suffering, and find out how you can help. Episcopal Relief and Development is organized to send money, food, blankets, medicines, and many other sources of relief. (www.er-d.org)
- If your diocese has a companion relationship with another diocese in the Communion, write to a church there and exchange information, prayers, pictures, and worship bulletins.
- Have a “Minute for Mission” during weekly worship services. Plan ahead, gathering stories and prayer requests so that the time is focused and effective.”

For more information about world mission resources and events, contact Mary Brennan, 212-716-6223 or mbrennan@episcopalchurch.org.



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