

Missions in a Box

A planning guide and resource handbook

Updated June 2026



“Missions in a Box” is a missions weekend experience

Special thanks to First Alliance Church in Calgary, Alberta for originally designing this missions experience and sharing this with The Alliance family.

“Missions in a Box” is a multi-day experience designed to help your church engage with global missions—exposure to the global Spiritual need, encountering other cultures and customs, and building meaningful connections with the international workers your church supports.

How to use this guide:

This guide is a starting point, not a script. Take what fits your context, adapt what needs adjusting, and set aside what doesn't.

Plan a missions-focused weekend

Host different events all weekend that appeal to the demographics of your church. Not every event is for everyone. A sample schedule might look like:

<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>	<i>Sunday</i>
7:00–10:00pm Street Market	3:00–4:30pm International Worker presentation + Q&A	Missions Sunday Service

Experience

Artistic, immersive elements bring the theme and key message to life. Create an experiential exhibit or room for people to explore, engage, and reflect on the theme of the missions event.

This could include:

- Poster displays (e.g., the Joshua Project banners that list all the names of the unreached people groups in the world)
- Physical objects representing key statistics or realities of other communities/unreached people groups.
- Creative, artistic displays (e.g., to illustrate the fact that, globally, 1-in-10 international workers are serving in hard and dark places—for The Alliance 7-in-10 are in hard and dark places—we cut out 10 life-sized figures, nine in black, and one in white)



1-in-10 display using cardboard silhouettes

Regions

Highlight all world regions or focus on one or two where your church is engaging. The Alliance has workers in five regions: Canada, Latin America, Africa, Europe, and Asia.

For each region, consider including each of the following elements:

- A Cultural Experience: plan an all-ages experience that allows people to engage in and learn more about the diverse cultures in your chosen region(s).
- A Childrens' Activity: plan a kids activity that shares more about how people are serving in the region or with a missions-theme (e.g., how to share the gospel). A scavenger hunt that kids can find clues (e.g., a picture, an object) at each region station works well.
- International Worker Stories and Spotlights: create a space for the International Worker posters within each region.
- Food Stall(s): offer food that is typical for each region as another way for people to discover and learn more about its culture. Decorate each region to create an engaging experience and create signs that clearly indicate each region.



Region “Passport Stamps”

Download the files for [the region stamps](#)
[C&MA brand guidelines](#)

Displays and Banners for Regions & Strategies

Retractable Pull-up Banners

You can use these files to print [retractable pull-up banners](#) from [Vistaprint](#) or [posters](#) (or take these pdfs to a local printer).

Region Pull-up Banners

- [Regions vertical](#) (24"x81")
- [Regions photo collage](#) (24"x81")

International Strategies

- [Marketplace](#) 24"x81"
- [Relief and Development](#) 24"x81"
- [Church Development](#) 24"x81"

Region Posters

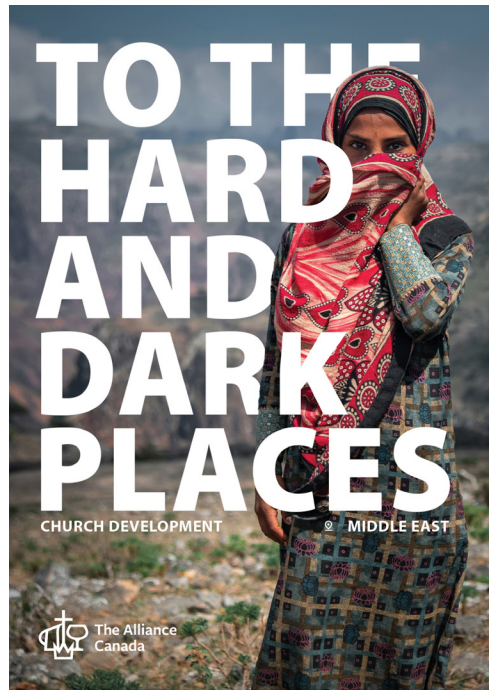
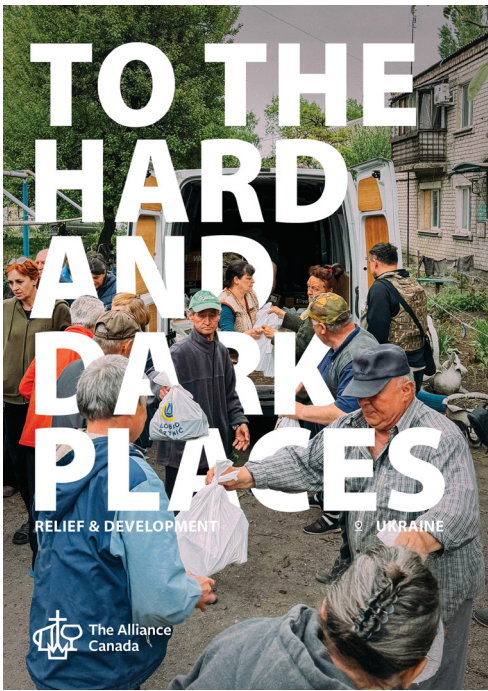
These posters showcase some of the countries we have workers or projects in.

- [International Countries + Regions 24"x36"](#)
- [International Countries + Regions 11"x17"](#)

Multiply Disciples Everywhere

- Multiply Disciples Everywhere World Map [Left 47x81](#) and [Right 47x81](#) (These banners were designed to be a pair)
- [Multiply Disciples Everywhere “City” design](#) 24"x81"





Missions Opportunities Station

Create a station that offers information for people to learn more about how they can get involved in Missions at your church.

This could include:

- Information on upcoming short term missions trips (with places and dates) and sign up sheets to indicate interest
- Courses offered
- Volunteer opportunities
- Ministries your church supports around the world
- Marketplace ministries (tell people how they can use their professional skills for missions)

ALLIANCE MISSIONS OPPORTUNITIES:

- Plan a short term trip as a church with Envision: <https://nmccan.servicereef.com>
- Justice Semester is a 12-week program for young adults interested in exploring the intersection of justice and missions
- Connect with Candidate Development Office about exploring a career in international missions, email: goglobal@cmacan.org

ALLIANCE MISSIONS RESOURCES:

- [Hard and Dark booklet digital download](#)—a pamphlet about International missions, our strategies and engagement
- [Hard and Dark postcards](#)
- [Go to the Hard and Dark places brochure](#)—a gatefold brochure about starting the process to becoming an International Worker (print file)

Giving Wall

The Giving Wall visually highlights the projects, ministries, international workers, or causes that are relevant to your church. The variety of projects and different giving levels encourage people to find a project that they want to support at a level they can afford.

Having background information on each ministry is helpful to show where the money is going to. It's important to brief your volunteers on this information so they're equipped to answer people's questions.

Your church probably supports both Alliance and non-Alliance projects, so we ask that the Alliance brand icons are featured only on Alliance initiatives to avoid confusion.

TUTORIAL VIDEO ▶



BUILD YOUR OWN:

Build a cheap, easy-to-make display using binder clips or clothes pins and twine.

LINKS FOR PRINTING PROJECT TILES:

[Blank tile template](#) | 11"x17"

[Alliance project "tiles"](#) | 11"x17"

[Alliance project descriptions](#) | 5"x7"

FINANCES:

Print a colour version and a black-and-white version for every project tile so you can keep a record of the transaction.



Kids and Youth

Kids of all ages can participate in this event. You may want to consider having volunteers in charge of coming up with children's crafts, games, and other activities at each region, or ask each region lead to plan a children's activity that's typical for their region. You can also link it to the missions theme by helping children understand the gospel message and how to share it.

IDEAS:

- Traditional clothing dress up
- Crafts
- Face painting
- Making beaded bracelets
- Photo booth
- A "day-in-the-life" activity that helps children understand the way of life or hardships that other families experience (e.g., carrying jugs of water for a short distance)
- Put paint on their hands and leave handprints on a map of the world, reminding children to pray for the area they put their hand on





Marketplace

A Street Festival wouldn't be complete without a marketplace. The Marketplace serves two purposes: brings awareness and support missions efforts that your church is engaged in.

Many Alliance International Workers partner with local organizations that support local non-profit, social justice, micro-financing, minority-owned groups. It is deeply meaningful and highly recommended to source interesting merchandise from these organizations. Aim for an assortment of merchandise, including children's items, seasonal decorations, accessories, traditional art and figurines.



TUTORIAL VIDEO
[Vimeo link](#)



Music

Create a space for people to congregate and enjoy music from all around the world. Live music with volunteer bands playing music from various regions creates an environment where people can appreciate different cultures through music.

International worship music playlists are another option to feature worship in different languages and styles.

PLAYLISTS:

- [Hindi, Urdu, Nepalese, and Punjabi Worship](#) (Spotify) courtesy of the South Asian Network
- [International Playlist \(Apple Music\)](#) courtesy of First Alliance Church
- [Tagalog Playlist](#) (spotify) courtesy of Conference of Filipino Alliance Ministries (CFAM)
- [Spanish Playlist](#) (spotify) courtesy of Hispanic Network of Alliance Churches

Food

One of the best ways to draw people in to the event and create a Street Festival atmosphere is through food!

- Order food from local vendors that reflect the regions and culinary diversity of your event.
- Sell food tickets that allow people to purchase different food items at each food stall.
- Standardize portion sizes to be consistent with the ticket price point you set.
- Locate the food stalls within the region to encourage people to explore further.
- If volunteers cook for your event, it is helpful to list ingredients and common allergens.

IDEAS:

- Book a food truck
- Hire a caterer





To The Hard and Dark Places Sermon

The Sunday morning service culminates the event with a vision casting sermon about the importance of international missions today.

Use this 45-minute sermon from Damien Lee, Vice President of International that you can stream or download directly—or adapt the sermon notes and deliver it yourself with the powerpoint slides. Use what works for your church and your own local context.

Downloads:

SLIDES

[Powerpoint file](#)

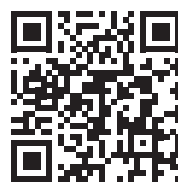
UPDATED
Mar. 16, 2026



FULL SERMON

[Vimeo link](#)

UPDATED
Mar. 16, 2026



SERMON NOTES

[Word document](#)

UPDATED
Mar. 16, 2026



Resources

Book an international worker

Contact your district office Missions Mobilizer to see if an Alliance international worker will be in your area and able to attend your missions event:

Lisa Rohrick at the Canadian Pacific District: lisar@pacificdistrict.ca

Jerin Thomas at the Western Canadian District: jthomas@thewcd.ca

Bob Keith at the Canadian Midwest District: bob@canadianmidwest.ca

Ilana Lobbezoo at the Central Canadian District: ilana@centraldistrict.ca

Amanda Corbin at the Eastern Canadian District: amanda@easterndistrict.ca

Karoline Bouchard at the Saint Lawrence District: karoline@districtstlaurent.org

Alliance Logos & Brand Guidelines

Logos: [Fourfold](#) | [English](#) | [English + French](#)

[C&MA brand guidelines](#)

Promotion

Nobody will come if they don't hear about the event! Be sure to promote it in your main service time 3–4 weeks before the event starts.

Mission research and resources:

Displays:

- Book the Wall of the Unreached from Unleashed for the Unreached: <https://www.u4theu.com/book-the-wall/> (suggested \$250 donation plus shipping)

Statistics and information about Missions

- *The State of the Great Commission* by Lausanne Movement: <https://lausanne.org/report>
- Vision 5:9: <https://vision59.odoo.com/>
- Finishing The Task: <https://finishingthetask.com/>
- Joshua Project: <https://joshuaproject.net/>
- Missions Nexus: <https://missionexus.org/>
- UNHCR refugee statistics: <https://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics>

Canadian Food Grains Bank (CFGB) resources and activities

Contact Kristi Hopf <kristi.hopf@thealliancecanada.ca> for questions or guidance about how to use the following resources from the CFGB:

- *Forced to Flee* by Canadian Food Grains Bank: <https://foodgrainsbank.ca/resources/forced-to-flee/>
- Experiencing a ration meal by Canadian Food Grains Bank: <https://untilallarefed.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/a-ration-meal-world-food-day-2023-v3.pdf>

Jaffray Offering

Every year The Alliance features an international missions focus and creates some resources for churches to engage in missions, visit <https://thealliancecanada.ca/jaffray>

Core Planning Team

The core planning team is made up of leads responsible for the planning and coordination of their respective elements. Each lead may be supported by a sub-team that helps with the preparation. Below are recommended roles for team members that First Alliance Church uses:

Role	Description
Event Lead	Responsible for overall event planning and coordination. Sets the theme/ vision, chairs the regular planning meetings, tracks progress, and coordinates between teams, church staff, etc.
Food Lead	Responsible for identifying and contacting food vendors, confirming menu items, setting portion sizes and ticket prices, and arranging final logistics for delivery, ingredient lists, and setup requirements (e.g., chafing dishes).
Giving Wall Lead	Work with the missions team and finance department to identify the projects to feature on the giving wall. Track giving themes for future analysis. Develop giving guides to help volunteers and attendees understand the various projects that are featured. Coordinate development of giving tiles and setup of giving wall before the event.
Regional Lead(s)	A lead responsible for each region being featured in the event. Designs and plans the cultural experience, kids' activity, and decoration and materials required for each region.
Kids Activity Lead	Responsible for creating the kids' activities, as necessary, that ties into each regional experience and activity.
Marketplace Lead	Responsible for ordering inventory to be sold at the marketplace and confirming price points. Responsible for setup, take down, and tracking purchases for future inventory and planning.
Music Coordinator	Responsible for identifying musicians/bands to play during the evening. Coordinates any rehearsals and technical setup as required.
Experience lead	Responsible for creating the vision and bringing the experience activity to life.
IW Stories Coordinator	Serves as the point of contact with the featured international workers (IWs) to request their stories and draft content for the IW posters. Tracks IW responses and coordinates poster finalization with the Design / Communications team.
Communications / Design Lead	Responsible for creating event content, including promotion material, international worker posters, signage, etc.
Volunteer Coordinator	Responsible for recruiting volunteers , assigning volunteers into roles, scheduling volunteers into shifts, and serves as the overall communication point of contact with volunteers before and during the event.
Facilities Coordinator	Supports all aspects of the event from a facilities prep, setup/take down, and technical coordination perspective.
Decor Lead	Responsible for planning overall decoration for the event and facilities to create a vibrant, street-festival atmosphere. Supports regional leads with any specific decorating requirements as necessary.

Sample project plan

Category	Key Activities	Timing
Design	Confirm date and theme for International Weekend	6 months before event
Design	Begin to design the event experience	6 months before event
Team	Confirm Core Planning team members	6 months before event
Team	Conduct kickoff planning and brainstorming meeting	6 months before event
Planning	Book event space	6 months before event
Planning	Share key ideas and milestone dates with other teams (e.g., lead team, communications team)	6 months before event
Team	Begin regular planning meeting cadence with Core Planning team members	5 months before event
Content	Send request for IW stories	4 months before event
Materials	Order marketplace items	4 months before event
Content	Finalize IW stories and create posters	3 months before event
Volunteers	Start to recruit event volunteers	3 months before event
Food	Identify and reach out to food vendors	3 months before event
Giving	Confirm giving projects and giving tiles required	3 months before event
Materials	Order / purchase materials required for event	2 months before event
Materials	Begin creating and assembling exhibits and displays for the event	2 months before event
Communications	Begin advertising the event	2 months before event
Communications	Confirm requirements with technical, facilities, and core planning team members	2 months before event
Food	Confirm food vendors and quantities	1 month before event
Materials	Print all materials required	1 month before event
Facilities	Confirm layout of the event space and confirm requirements with facilities team	1 month before event
Volunteers	Assign volunteers to roles and communicate to volunteers	1 month before event
Materials	Confirm pricing and inventory of marketplace items	1 month before event
Volunteers	Confirm volunteers and send final instructions	2 weeks before event
Setup	Confirm day-of setup plan and communicate to responsible individuals and facilities team	2 weeks before event
Setup	Begin setup and staging of materials	1 week before event
Communications	Send thank you notes to all volunteers	1 week after event
Giving	Confirm final giving totals	1 week after event