



DRESSED TO SERVE

**A MISSION
JOURNAL**

**COMPANION DEVOTIONALS
FOR CONGREGATIONS
SENDING MISSION TEAMS**

WHAT CONGREGATIONS CAN DO TO SUPPORT MISSION TEAMS

Your congregation is planning to send a short-term mission team to serve on your behalf. How can you show support for those who are going?

- GIVE financially and support the fund raisers.
- PRAY for the mission, the individuals going and the people they will be serving.
- HELP with needed supplies/materials.
- ENCOURAGE the individuals who are going with personal expressions and messages.
- LEARN and read about what the team will be doing and the people they will be serving.

There's something else you can do.

During the days of the trip, become involved in the mission by getting “dressed to serve.” Commit to a daily time of devotion, prayer and service on the same days your mission team will be serving in the field.

Paul tells the Colossians that they need to get dressed in the clothing of Christ in order to serve in the way Christ would have them serve:

*¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with **compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.** ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. **Forgive** as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on **love**, which binds them all together in perfect unity. (COLOSSIANS 3:12-14 NIV)*



What more can you do? You can get dressed in the wardrobe God provides through the Holy Spirit, and be ready always to serve others in the name of Christ. Have a great week of mission and growth!

REV. DR. FRANK NELSON, author

USING **THIS** JOURNAL

DURING THE DAYS WHEN YOUR MISSION TEAM SERVES IN THE FIELD...

OPTION 1: USE THIS JOURNAL FOR A PERSONAL TIME OF DEVOTION.

Use it morning, noon or night for a 15 minute devotional that includes scripture, prayer and journaling. At the end of each devotional are some practical suggestions for making a commitment to SERVE during the next 24 hours. As you seek to be obedient to the call to be loving, kind, gentle, patient, compassionate and humble, you will be putting on the wardrobe of Christ. Use the “Open T-Shirt Page” in this booklet as a place to write down thoughts, prayers and commitments, and if that isn’t enough room, find a blank sheet of paper or blank journal to continue writing.

OPTION 2: USE THIS JOURNAL TO CONNECT WITH ONE OR TWO OTHERS.

Commit to using this devotional with a friend, family member or neighbor. Meet in person or by phone, email, facebook, or video conference. As you meet, discuss the scriptures and talk about your responses in the journal section. Pray together for your church, the mission team and each other. Encourage each other to live God’s mission in the place where you live.

OPTION 3: USE THIS JOURNAL IN A SMALL GROUP.

Some will find great benefit in gathering with others to experience the journaling, prayers and commitments together. A small group of friends can gather daily for coffee to experience this mission devotional together.

OPTION 4: USE THIS JOURNAL TO INVOLVE YOUR WHOLE CONGREGATION.

Many churches have a commissioning of their mission team during worship. Why not commission the whole congregation to a week of mission as all together increase their commitment to God’s mission through devotion, prayer and service?

MISSION DAY 1 TODAY'S DATE: _____



MY MOOD TODAY:
(circle one)



FROM COLOSSIANS: *Therefore, as God's CHOSEN people, holy and dearly LOVED, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. (3:12)*

CHOSEN: *To be picked or selected for a purpose. **LOVED:** to be valued and cherished by someone.*

REFLECT

"Life's greatest happiness is to be convinced we are LOVED." —Victor Hugo, *Les Misérables*, 1862

As a child I remember feeling that I was loved by...

Love changes everything. To know that I am "dearly loved" by God helps and frees me to...

I believe God has chosen me to...

Recently, I felt love for _____ and showed my love by...

I felt loved by _____ who showed her/his love to me by...

Recently, God has been helping me to...

LISTEN

Underline key words or phrases that catch your attention.

1 Peter 2:9: *But you are a CHOSEN people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. (Add verses 4-12 from your own Bible)*

1 John 3:16: *This is how we know what LOVE is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. (Add verses 17-18)*

1 John 4:10: *This is LOVE: not that we LOVED God, but that he LOVED us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. (Add verses 7-15)*

The word or phrase that caught my attention in today's scriptures:

The message God wants me to hear in these words is...

PRAY

Dear God, sometimes it's hard for me to imagine that You, the Creator of all things, can love me. Yet, I trust and believe that You do, not because I'm lovable, but because I'm Your child. Help me to love the people around me in the way You love them. Be with the mission team today to help them know deep down that they have been chosen for this experience, and clothe them today with a new awareness that they are dearly loved by You. In the Spirit of Christ, Amen.

Silent Prayer:

Breathe deeply and repeat this prayer in silence over and over: *"I am chosen by God, I am loved...I am chosen by God and loved."* Next, pray for the individual members of the mission team. Write their names below and a prayer sentence for each person.

Dear God, I pray for...

SERVE

Choose a person to whom you will demonstrate the self-giving love of God during the next 24 hours. Who is the person? _____ How will you express God's love?

Also, memorize the clothing in God's wardrobe: compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience and love. Each time you get dressed this week, give each article of your clothing a spiritual name. Let your shoes be humility, your jeans be kindness, etc.

MISSION DAY **7** TODAY'S DATE: _____



MY MOOD TODAY:
(circle one)



FROM COLOSSIANS: *And over all these virtues PUT ON LOVE, which binds them all together in perfect unity. (3:14)*

LOVE: *Accepting others as they are and wanting only what is best for them (no matter who they are or what they have done).*

REFLECT

There is more hunger for love and appreciation in this world than for bread.
—Mother Teresa

I recently felt loved when...

I expressed love when I...

I am a LOVING person! (circle a number)

NOT VERY! 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 YES, VERY! Explain:

God continues to show love for me by...

LISTEN

Underline key words or phrases that catch your attention.

Romans 5:5: *And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. (Also verses 1-5)*

1 John 4:16-21: *1 John 4:16-21: "God is love. When we take up permanent residence in a life of love, we live in God and God lives in us. This way, love has the run of the house, becomes at home and mature in us, so that we're free of worry on Judgment Day— our standing in the world is identical with Christ's. There is no room in love for fear... If anyone boasts, "I love God," and goes right on hating his brother or sister, thinking nothing of it, he is a liar. If he won't love the person he can see, how can he love the God he can't see? The command we have from Christ is blunt: loving God includes loving people. You've got to love both." (The Message)*

The word or phrase that caught my attention in today's scriptures:

The message God wants me to hear in these words is...

PRAY

Dear God, help me to love others today by expressing appreciation, encouragement and affirmation. May I show Your love to others in the way I serve them. I pray for our mission team today that they will be very aware of your love for them, and feel the freedom to express it to others. As they near the end of their trip, be with them in their goodbyes to express appreciation and love to those they have come to know and love. Lord, clothe us in the days ahead with Your love, in the Spirit of Christ, Amen.

Silent Prayer:

Breathe deeply and pray this prayer over and over: “Clothe me, Lord, with a Spirit of love.”

Next, continue by writing a prayer.

Dear God, give me the strength and wisdom to...

I pray that as our mission team comes to the end of their trip, they will be able to...

With You as my companion and guide throughout life, I trust that you will help me to...

In Jesus' name, Amen.

SERVE

Jesus taught us to 1) love God, 2) love others and 3) love ourselves (Luke 10:27). Create three 24 hour goals, one for each love. Write your goals on an Open t-Shirt Page. In the next 24 hours do at least one thing to show love for God, one thing to show love for another person and one thing to show love for yourself.

Think of a way to show your love for the members of the mission team as they return home, and write your plan on an Open t-Shirt Page.