

Season of Prayer 2018

For State Missions and the Janie Chapman Offering
For State Missions, Missions Education, and Great Commission Living

Churchwide Observance Missions in 3D

Scripture: “⁹And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, ¹⁰so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ.” Philippians 1:9-10

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Use this checklist to determine which of these promotional items will work best at your church to promote the Janie Chapman State Missions Offering.

Preparations

- Pray for your church as they prepare for the special observance of the Season of Prayer for State Missions.
- If you have not ordered posters, prayer guides, offering envelopes and the Family Missions Page for State Missions please call 1.800.765.0030 to order them from South Carolina WMU.
- Place State Missions posters in the busiest hallway(s) of your church. They can be placed on doors, any place people gather (for example, the line for meals or refreshments), and next to the location(s) where preschoolers or children are dropped off and picked up (preschool and children’s classrooms).
- Use the Janie Chapman Offering envelopes to help promote giving. These may be placed in the pews, in a decorative box or container on tables around the church, in bulletins, mailed out to church members along with the prayer guides and information about the offering, or placed in church classrooms to remind people of the offering.
- If your church has a library, check to see if they have any books related to life in South Carolina. If so, ask that they are featured for September in a special reading area. You might invite persons to meet before a service to read to children in the church or listen to the children read. Share about the Reading Buddies from the State Missions program.
- Provide the church musicians a list of songs that are related to the state missions emphasis. A list of suggested music can be found at the beginning of the *Leaders Guide*. Ask them to use them during the month your church promotes state missions.

Communication

- Send out postcards to church members announcing the 3D program that will be taking place at your church. Don’t forget to include the basics of who, what, when, where and why. A sample is on the South Carolina WMU website.
- Provide the Family Missions Page for each family in the church. Additional copies are provided free from South Carolina WMU or you may print them from the DVD or the South Carolina WMU website.
- Each week, update through social media how much your church has raised for the offering, events that are taking place and how the offering will be used. Each day during the week of prayer post something from the prayer guide you think is special.
- Provide updates on your church’s website about the Janie Chapman Offering. Share when the emphasis will take place and other special promotions you have selected from this guide.

Food

- Does your church provide a midweek meal? Share these menu ideas with the person(s) who prepares the meal. Since we will be covering several areas of South Carolina there is variety in the food you could use to help focus on our state. Talk about the emphasis on state missions and suggest these types of dishes. Which would be your church's favorite? You could even have them vote on their favorite barbeque.
 - South Carolina barbeque (depending on where you live, or offer several options – mustard-based for the midlands, vinegar-based for the sandhills, ketchup-or vinegar-based for the upstate, etc.).
 - Lowcountry boil (use the favorite recipe from your area of South Carolina)
 - Shrimp and grits
 - Collard greens and great country cooking is very much a part of South Carolina life. You might even consider serving wild game such as deer or turkey.
 - Hot dogs, hamburgers or pizza (We will be talking about children and schools.)
 - Hispanic foods, such as, tacos, rice, etc. (We will be talking about strengthening churches.)
 - Recipes can be found by searching online.
- Hand out popcorn after church the Sunday before the State Missions emphasis. Copy the State Missions clip art on paper, adding the date, time and place of your church's program, and roll it up to form a cone. Use the paper cones to put the popcorn in and remember that parents must give it to their child in case of allergies. Also, popcorn should not be given to children under the age of four (however you may provide something like a soft cracker or banana for them). Share that they will have the opportunity to participate in something 3D very soon.
- One Sunday set up a refreshment station and serve benne wafers (from Charleston) and Blenheim ginger ale. (Offer the ginger ale in small cups, it is a little strong for some.) Share about the Season of Prayer for State Missions emphasis and hand out a prayer guide.
- At other meetings throughout the month of September offer boiled peanuts as a snack with a small card to remind those in attendance to pray for South Carolina and State Missions. Boiled peanuts are South Carolina's official snack food.

Promotion in Worship

- Show videos from the State Missions DVD before church services. You may use the DVD provided for the WMU Directors or ask your church media person to download the videos from www.scwmu.org.
- Use the children's sermon provided in the materials for your worship service or in children's church.
- Enlist a guest speaker. A State Missions Speakers Bureau List is provided by South Carolina WMU.
- Use the skit provided on the DVD to share about the Janie Chapman Offering for State Missions.
- Place one of the leaflets, provided on the South Carolina WMU website, in the church bulletin each week during September. These leaflets tell about Janie Chapman (Janie Who?) and ways the offering will be used.

Visuals

- Since the theme is Missions in 3D, create a three-dimensional bulletin board. To give depth to the board use art supplies such as foam core, layered poster board, or Styrofoam items that you can get at a craft store. You may add items to the bulletin board such as the State Missions prayer guide, offering envelopes, or the allocations sheet to make a three-dimensional display of resources and/or information.
- Using poster board, cut out the numbers for your church offering goal. Glue them to pieces of foam core or Styrofoam and place them in a prominent area in your church.
- Around the church, use items to visually remind people of our state. Goldenrod wildflowers are the South Carolina state wildflowers. Sweetgrass baskets, seashells (the lettered olive is our state shell), and the South Carolina flag are other items that may represent our state.
- Visuals are a wonderful way to encourage your church reach their goal. Depending on the size of your church and your goal adapt these ideas as needed.

- Ask some of the youth in your church to help by making a video, PowerPoint or some other media image which shows your church's progress toward the goal each week.
- Make a cylinder. Take three soft drink liter bottles and leave the bottom on one but cut the bottoms off the other two. Cut all three of the tops off each bottle. Then attach them together with clear packing tape to make a cylinder. Determine the kind of balls you can use to fill up your cylinder as you go towards your goal. For example, each ping pong ball might represent \$50 or each tennis ball might be \$100. Celebrate as you reach your church offering goal.
- Use a set of steps from the preschool area or any others you might find (or create some from foam core). Find pictures to represent the different allocations for the State Missions Offering. As the offering increases add the pictures to the steps as you get closer to your goal each week. For more information about each of these areas see the 2018 Allocations for State Missions. This can be found on the State Missions DVD or on the South Carolina WMU website, www.scwmu.org.

More Ways to Engage Others

- Have a fishing game in a hallway of the church. Let the children fish and have parents read the information on the fish they catch. Use limbs or dowel sticks, string, and magnets for the poles. Cut out shapes of fish and use the items on the State Missions Facts page to copy onto the fish. Attach a paper clip to the fish so the magnet will be able to pick up the fish when the children catch them. You could also use this on Wednesday nights before the church supper.
- Multihousing areas in your neighborhood are places you can schedule a prayerwalking experience for the week of prayer.
- Instead of meeting at the church to pray each day, you may visit homes, plan a prayerwalking experience, and/or prayerwalk your community buildings and county areas. Make sure you obtain permission when needed.
- Offer a Missions in 3D experience in your neighborhood. Enlist drivers to chauffeur persons around the church community. Ask persons to note any children or youth in the area, ramps, schools, recreational areas, homes and/or businesses in disrepair, and any needs you see in the community. Try to see your community with fresh eyes and pray for your community as you travel. End by praying for missions all around South Carolina and for the Janie Chapman Offering.