



Local Missions During COVID-19

“Mission is faith in action...It is the acting out of the central prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to use: ‘[God], hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as in heaven.’”¹ Missions are a central focus for our congregations. Our churches support CBF field personnel and partner with local organizations because of our faith that God’s Kingdom can be found here on earth.

During this time of stay-at-home orders and physical distancing, it can be hard for our mission partners to offer opportunities to volunteer our physical time and presence to us, so we are listening carefully to what local missions need from

their church partners during this time. The following is a list of a few ideas for congregations and/or individuals to continue your commitment to local missions during this time. This is not at all an exhaustive list but instead a list to spark your creativity and help you think about what local missions can look like during the COVID-19 pandemic.

***With all of these please remember to be as safe as possible, i.e. follow any instructions you are given by the mission partner, wash your hands, wear gloves, place items to be distributed in individual baggies, utilize contactless drop-offs, etc.*

1. Work with your local hospital to organize a “meal train” to provide meals for healthcare and janitorial workers.
2. Create a “[Little Free Library](#)” on your porch/in your yard and stock with supplies (canned food, cleaning supplies, paper products, etc.) for those in need to take as needed.
3. Check with local food pantries and/or local domestic abuse shelters to see what supplies they need. Set up a collection point at your church/home where people can drop off the supplies.
4. Ask your mission partners if they have a list of needed supplies on [AmazonSmile](#). Purchase items from their lists, and they will be delivered directly to your partners.
5. Purchase and distribute gift cards to those essential workers serving your church and/or home, e.g. delivery workers, mail carriers, sanitation workers, etc.
6. If city pick-ups are suspended, volunteer to pick up neighbors’ yard waste and bulk items and deliver to a collection site.
7. Create [face masks](#) to donate to local hospitals and healthcare workers.
8. Pair families with youth and children with senior adults in your congregation. Have families check in with their adults by phone calls, FaceTime calls and help them in whatever ways are possible (grocery shopping, mowing their lawns, etc.).
9. Purchase meals from a local restaurant and have them delivered to local hospitals.
10. Ask members of your congregation to write letters of blessing and love to high school seniors and graduating college students. These students are missing out on so many milestones (prom and graduation ceremonies). Think of creative ways your congregation can celebrate these students.

¹From *The Open Secret: An Introduction to the Theology of Mission* by Leslie Newbigin

