



FREE METHODIST WORLD MISSIONS

MISSIONS FAIR



Keys:

- Plan activities that appeal to each of the five senses.
- Encourage hands-on participation.
- Involve as many people as possible.

*International Food

Check the Internet or your local library for great international recipes. If possible, have some food cooked on site where fair participants can observe how food is prepared and the aromas can add to the atmosphere. Use eating utensils (such as chopsticks) and seating customs (such as cushions on floor or sidewalk café setting) to add authenticity.

Music and Drama

- Invite guest musical groups.
- Have youth write and perform a drama. (Drama could be done as a narration and kids and adults act out what is being read. A story from *Free Methodist World Mission Pulse* magazine could be used.)
- Play music from around the world over the sound system or different types simultaneously at various stations representing different world areas.
- Have a broadcasting team interview missionaries, VISA workers or potential missionaries. (If missionaries are not available, write to them and get answers to interview questions. Have actors play the part of the missionaries.)
- Form a missions choir – children, youth or adult.
- Tell stories by the campfire. (Arrange for a missionary, or someone playing the part of the missionary, to relate a mission story.)
- Video one of the above options in advance and show at fair. (Filming could take place in an ethnic district of your city.)

Decoration Resources

M&N International (<http://www.mnpartystore.com/>) and Oriental Trading Company (<http://www.orientaltrading.com/>) offer many fun decorating options.

Available items include:

International Cutouts
Flags
Banners & Posters

Balloons & Inflatable Globes
Napkins & Placemats
Pins

International Hats
Music

Miscellaneous Ideas

- Set up **learning centers**.
 - ◆ **Religion Center*** – learn about the main religion of the country.
 - ◆ **Clothing Center*** – try on clothes that people of the country might wear.
 - ◆ **Game Center*** – play games that children of the country would play.
 - ◆ **Music Center*** – listen to music from the country.
 - ◆ **Craft Center*** – make a craft from the country.
 - ◆ **Food Center*** – sample foods from the country.
 - ◆ **Flag Center*** – make from construction paper or color the country's flag.
 - ◆ **Map Center*** – find the country on a map.
 - ◆ **Home Center** – research type of homes in which people live.
- Take an imaginary **airplane ride**.
- Build a **replica of the typical home** from a world area.
- Paint **scenery or a mural** for specified countries. Someone gifted in art could do preliminary sketches. Have paints, sponges, brushes, colored papers, scissors, glue, etc., available for all ages to participate.
- Record **greetings** to send to missionaries supported by conference.
- Set up a **Skype** call with one of the missionaries you support or want to learn more about.
- Set up a **photography booth** where children and adults, wearing traditional dress from a variety of countries, can have their picture taken.
- Hold an original **oratory contest** with speeches on chosen topic to be presented on the day of event.
- Take and print out photos for a **"passport."** As fair-goers visit stations of different countries, have them complete an assignment in order to get their passport stamped. Assignments might include: taste something from Burundi, hug a missionary from Ecuador, sing "Jesus Loves the Little Children" at the Philippines station, etc.
- Play **miniature golf of the world**. Make a layout of the continents, adding a mountain or lake, an elephant, etc., in various places. Use tin cans to serve as golf holes.
- Hold a contest between adults and children. Use a **game show** format and ask questions about world geography, Free Methodist missions and missionaries, etc.
- Invite **international students** to share about their country, family, cultural differences, etc.

*Ideas / options for each of these can be found in *Missions Alive!* children's curriculum:

<http://fmcusa.org/fmmissions/childrens-resources/>.