



## LITURGY OF COMMISSIONING FOR MISSIONARIES

Dear Pastor/Worship Planner:

Thank you for your church's support of missions! We hope that this resource will be helpful as you prepare to commission member(s) of your congregation as missionaries in an upcoming worship service.

We understand that each congregation's worship setting and style is unique and no single resource can cover every situation. We encourage you to use the language and style of commissioning that best resonates with your community, communicating the call of God on individuals and on the church. We also realize that the calling to serve in missions for married missionaries includes the spouses (and children) who also leave homes, families, and employment. This shared sense of calling within families should be appropriately worked into a commission service depending on the preferences of the missionary family.

This resource, patterned after the style of the *Worship Sourcebook*, offers you options in several categories.

**Select one or more options from each category** to create a unique commissioning liturgy:

- I. Introduction/Purpose
- II. Specific calling of this missionary
- III. Role of the church
- IV. Commitments of the missionary and the church
- V. Ordination
- VI. Prayer

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So after they had fasted and prayed,  
they placed their hands on them  
and sent them off.

Acts 13:3

### WHY COMMISSION?

Resonate Global Mission would like to see all our missionaries be commissioned by their home church. This action clearly says that the missionaries are not on their own — they are called by God and sent as agents of the Church. Missionaries are an extension of the congregation's ministry (Acts 13:3).

By commissioning, you also provide inspiration for how God is working among your membership and in the world: young adults who are wondering if this is also their calling, older folks who may not feel the call to go but can send and engage in ministry right where they are, and pastors who remember their own ordinations through this ceremony and are inspired again toward the work of ministry.

This connects the work of God in your local congregation to God's calling in the heart of individual missionaries and God's work in the world.

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## I. INTRODUCTION/PURPOSE

- A. Congregation in Jesus Christ, today we are reminded of God's love for the whole world as we commission (**name**) as a messenger of the Good News of salvation.
- B. Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ, God has a purpose and calling for each of us to serve Him with the gifts He has given us. Today we remember that calling as we participate in the commissioning of (**name**) to the missionary work set aside for her/him/them.
- C. Jesus said to His disciples in Matthew. 28:18-20, *"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."* Each of us is sent as witnesses of the Good News. Some are set apart in the role of missionary. (**Name**) has received this call.
- D. God called Abraham to a journey out of his town, his comfort zone and everything familiar. And God promised, *"If you go, I will bless you and the entire world will be blessed because of you"* (from Genesis 12:1-3). Today we rejoice in the many layers of blessings. God blesses us with salvation, then blesses us with the privilege of partnering in spreading His Good News. Through us, God pours out His blessing on the whole world.

## II. SPECIFIC CALLING OF THIS MISSIONARY

- A. **Testimony** by the missionary about God's calling and their desire to serve the Kingdom.
- B. **Question and Answer** by the Worship Leader/Pastor with the missionary:
  1. How has God brought you to this point? How have you experienced His call into missions?
  2. What is the task you are being called to?

3. Where will you be serving?
4. When are you leaving? How long is this assignment?
5. Why is this task necessary in this place at this time? What is the evident need? How will our partnership give glory to God and extend His Kingdom?

- C. **Video/PowerPoint Presentation** that answers the above questions
- D. *"Some of us have been given special ability as apostles; to others he has given the gift of being able to preach well; some have special ability in winning people to Christ, helping them to trust him as their Savior; still others have a gift for caring for God's people as a shepherd does his sheep, leading and teaching them in the ways of God."* (Eph. 4:11 The Living Bible)

## III. ROLE OF THE CHURCH

- A. **Pastor/Worship Leader:** *"In the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them. So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off."* Acts 13:1-3.
- B. **Responsive Reading:** *from Our World Belongs to God (paragraph 41)*

Following the apostles, the church is sent—sent with the gospel of the Kingdom to make disciples of all nations, to feed the hungry and to proclaim the assurance that in the name of Christ there is forgiveness of sin and new life for all who repent and believe.

In a world estranged from God where millions face confusing choices, this mission is central to our being, for we announce the one name that saves.

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## IV. COMMITMENTS OF THE MISSIONARY AND THE CHURCH

### OPTION A: LITANY OF COMMISSIONING

**Leader:** Christ promised His disciples that they would never be alone. He would send the Spirit to be with them. This promise applies to those whose ministry is in familiar places and those who travel far, to new settings. **(Name)**, please rise and respond to the following questions: Do you believe the Gospel of Jesus Christ, communicated to us by God through the Scriptures to be the way of salvation and life for all who believe?

Do you believe that the Spirit has called you to represent Jesus in **(country)** as a missionary of that Gospel?

And, do you recognize this congregation as your commissioning church under whose authority you will live and serve?

**Missionary:** I/we do, God helping me/us.

**Leader:** People of God, would you now stand? Do you recognize **(name)** as a missionary of this congregation sent to serve our Lord in **(name)**, and do you promise to support him/her/them with your love, encouragement and prayers?

**Congregation:** We do, God helping us.

### OPTION B: RESPONSIVE READING

*(select 3 or 4 Biblical characters from the list below and ask a church member to read the character's response)*

**Leader:** *The word of the LORD came to Deborah, the prophetess, asking her to defend and protect His people against the enemies that threatened them.*

**Reader:** *And Deborah replied, "My heart is with the people of God." (cf. Judges 4-5)*

**Leader:** *The voice of the LORD pierced the darkness of Israel's night, calling, "Samuel, Samuel."*

**Reader:** *And Samuel replied, "Speak, for your servant is listening." (cf. 1 Samuel 3:10)*

**Leader:** *The word of the LORD came to Jeremiah, saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,*

*before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."*

**Reader:** *And Jeremiah replied, "Ah, Sovereign LORD, I do not know how to speak; I am only a child."*

**Leader:** *But the LORD said to me, "Say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid for I am with you." (cf. Jeremiah 1:5-8)*

**Leader:** *The voice of the LORD said to Isaiah, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?"*

**Reader:** *And Isaiah replied, "Here am I, send me." (cf. Is.6:8-9)*

**Leader:** *The voice of the LORD came to Mary saying, "The LORD is with you. The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you."*

**Reader:** *And Mary replied, "I am the LORD's servant. May your word to me be fulfilled." (cf. Luke 1: 28, 35, 38)*

**Leader:** *The Spirit came to Peter in a dream telling him to reach out beyond the boundaries of his own culture and comfort.*

**Reader:** *And Peter said, "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right." (cf. Acts 10:34-35)*

**Pastor:** *The Spirit said to Philip, "Go to that chariot." When Philip drew near, he said to the man, "Do you understand what you are reading?"*

**Reader:** *He replied, "How can I, unless someone explains it to me?" (cf. Acts 8:30-31)*

**Leader:** *The voice of the Lord came to **(name)**, saying, "Look the fields are ripe for harvest. Will you go into my fields, teaching others to believe the things you have heard me say?"*

**Missionary:** "Here I am, send me."

**Leader:** Brothers and sisters, in baptism our brother/sister **(name)** received the promises of God. In Profession of Faith he/she accepted those promises and pledged a life of service to Christ. Now he/she has responded to the call of God through the voice of the church to serve as a missionary.

**ALL:** **We remember with joy our calling to serve Christ, and we celebrate God's call to our brother/sister in Christ.**

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## V. ORDINATION

If the missionary is also being ordained as a Minister of the Word or as a Commissioned Pastor, the following questions should be included:

(Name), in order that all God's people assembled here may witness that you, in the strength of the Lord, accept the responsibilities of this office, you are requested to stand and answer the following questions:

Do you believe that in the call of this congregation God Himself calls you to this holy ministry?

Do you believe that the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God, the only infallible rule of faith and life?

Do you subscribe to the doctrinal standards of this church, rejecting all teaching which contradicts them?

Do you promise to be a faithful minister, to conduct yourself in a manner worthy of your calling, and to submit to the government and discipline of the church?

(Name), what is your answer?

**Missionary: I do, God helping me.**

## VI. PRAYER

### APPENDIX: MISSIONS THEMED SONGS

#### SUGGEST SONGS FROM LIFT UP YOUR HEARTS (LUYH), PSALTER HYMNAL (PSH) AND SING! A NEW CREATION (SNC)

"Christian Hearts in Love United" PsH 513 LUYH 727

"Come, You Sinners, Poor and Needy" PsH 534

"God of the Prophets" PsH 521 LUYH 853

"Here from All Nations" PsH 235 LUYH 490

"Here I am, Lord" SNC 268

"Lift High the Cross" PsH 373 LUYH 264

"How Shall They Hear the Word of God" PsH 531

"I Love to Tell the Story" PsH 531 LUYH 262

"Jesus Shall Reign" PsH 412 LUYH 219

"Lord Most High" SNC 47 LUYH 593

"Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak" PsH 528 LUYH 754

"Lord, You Give the Great Commission" PsH 523 (tune Ellesdie)

"O Christians, Haste" PsH 525

"Our God Reigns" PsH 195

"The Mighty Deeds the LORD has done" PsH 78

"There's No God as Great" PsH 517

"Through All the World" SNC 279

"The Ends of All the Earth Shall Hear" PsH 542 LUYH 594

"The Servant Song" SNC 277 LUYH 309

"Open Our Eyes" SNC 263 LUYH 297

"Will You Come and Follow Me" SNC 267 LUYH 742

#### SONGS AVAILABLE THROUGH A CCLI LICENSE:

"Awakening" by Chris Tomlin and Reuben Morgan.

*Hillsong Music Publishing, sixsteps Music, Vamos Publishing*

"Build Your Kingdom Here" by Rend Collective. *Thankyou Music*

"Days Of Elijah" Robin Mark. *Song Solutions Daybreak*

"From The Inside Out" by Joel Houston. *Hillsong Music Publishing.*

"Hosanna (Praise Is Rising)" by Brenton Brown, Paul Baloche. *Integrity's Hosanna! Music, Thankyou Music*

"Lord Reign In Me" by Brenton Brown. *Vineyard Songs (UK/Eire)*

"Mighty to Save" by Ben Fielding and Reuben Morgan.

*Hillsong Music Publishing*

"Never Once" by Jason Ingram, Matt Redman, and Tim

Wanstall. *Chrysalis Music Ltd, Said And Done Music, sixsteps Music, Sony/ATV*

*Timber Publishing, Thankyou Music, West Main Music, Windsor Hill Music*

"Our God" by Chris Tomlin. *Said And Done Music, SHOUT! Music*

*Publishing, sixsteps Music, Thankyou Music, Vamos Publishing*

"Take My Life" by Chris Tomlin, Frances Ridley Havergal, Henri Abraham Cesar Malan, Louie Giglio. *sixsteps Music*

"The Stand" by Joel Houston. *Hillsong Music Publishing*

"Whom Shall I Fear God Of Angel Armies" by Chris

Tomlin, Ed Cash, and Scott Cash. *Alletrop Music, McTyeire Music, S.*

*D. G. Publishing, Sixsteps Songs, Worship Together Music*

"Your Great Name" by Krissy Nordhoff and Michael

Neale. *Integrity's Praise! Music, TwoNords Music*

"Your Name" by Glenn Packiam and Paul Baloche.

*Integrity's Hosanna! Music, Vertical Worship Songs*

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