

Community Ministry Leader's Guide

Four missions experiences on the theme that God is bringing hope to the hopeless

Location: Scotland

Focus verse: Psalm 63:3 “My lips will glorify You because Your faithful love is better than life.”

Overall message: IMB missionary Gena Wilson is taking Jesus to the streets of Glasgow, Scotland. She’s living among people who really need to know the hope of Jesus. Who needs the hope of Jesus in your community?

Before you begin: This resource is a collection of experiences to plug your kids into global missions. We hope you will take the ideas included here and expand your children’s view of missions and their role in God’s kingdom.

<p>This leader’s guide includes plans for four, short missions experiences that can be added to your existing programs or events:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Cultural experience  Prayer experience  Giving experience  Serving experience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each of these missions experiences is designed to last 10 to 15 minutes. • Use these as an addition to a weekly meeting or combine for a longer missions focus. • Customize these resources to fit your needs. • [Note: If you are using the DVD-ROM, all videos and handouts are included. Please follow the directions on the cover to access all files.]
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Here is a simple glossary that may be useful to you as you communicate these ideas to children:

Mission(s)—A job God gives a person He has chosen to tell another group of people the Good News about Jesus. The person God sends is called a missionary.

Missionary—A Christian chosen by God who obeys His command to go and tell another group of people the Good News about Jesus. (Preschool version) A Christian chosen by God who obeys and goes to tell another group of people about Jesus.

People group—A group of people who share the same language and way of life.

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Community Ministry Cultural Experience

Prepare

- From the DVD-ROM, prepare to show the **Gena loves Glasgow** video.
- Download and print the **Scotland map**, the **Community Ministry focus verse** and the **Scotland photos**.

Introduction

Explain that Gena Wilson is an IMB missionary to Scotland. Show the **Scotland map** and say that Gena has lived in the city of Glasgow for 17 years. She is a chaplain in a school and spends a lot of time with teenagers. She helps them make better choices for their lives and points them to Jesus. She really does that with everybody she sees! The neighborhood where she lives is one of the poorest in the city, but Gena lives there to show people how much hope she has in Jesus.

The beauty of Scotland

- Ask your kids what they know about Scotland. They might think of castles, rolling green hills or the Loch Ness monster.
- Show them the **Scotland photos** and read the captions.

Gena loves Glasgow

- Watch the **Gena loves Glasgow** video to find out about the place Gena calls home.
- Also ask the kids to be watching for a certain challenge that Gena faced. Show the video.
- When it's over, ask the following questions:
 - o How would you describe Gena's ministry in Scotland?
 - o To what kinds of people does she minister?
 - o What challenge did Gena face in her ministry? (cancer)
 - o Emphasize to your group that nothing, not even cancer, keeps Gena from doing what God asked her to do. When she was too sick to live in Scotland, she sent messages of hope to her friends through videos on Facebook!
- Show the **Community Ministry focus verse** and ask for a volunteer to read it aloud. Explain that this is one of Gena's favorite verses.

Pray

Ask God to help your kids become people who will tell everyone around them about Jesus.



Community Ministry Prayer Experience

Prepare

- From the DVD-ROM, download and print the **Gena Wilson photo** and the **BLESS prayer guide**.

Recap

Gena Wilson is an IMB missionary in Scotland who lives in one of the poorest neighborhoods. She sees how much the people around her need Jesus, so she tries to tell everyone she meets about Him. Even when she had cancer, she didn't stop telling people about the hope that Jesus offers. She's willing to bring Jesus to the streets of Scotland.

How to pray for Gena

- Show the photo of Gena.
- Share the following information about Gena (be prepared to explain some of the medical terms): *Gena Wilson has had cancer two times. First she had a cancerous tumor in her spine. She had to have surgery and chemotherapy. She was very sick. When she recovered, she went back to Scotland. But then she got sick again and doctors found out she had a tumor on her brain. She had to leave Scotland again for treatment in the U.S. As of May 2013 (the writing of this lesson), Gena's tumor was shrinking and doctors were hopeful for a full recovery. She hoped to be back in Scotland by the end of the year.*
- Find updates about Gena by being her friend on Facebook (she loves adding friends!) or checking the website commissionstories.com/eurasia. Just search "Gena Wilson."

Prayer Time

- Display the **BLESS prayer guide** so everyone can see it. If your group is very large, break them into smaller groups with their own copy of the BLESS handout.
- Take each letter of BLESS and discuss ways to pray for Gena Wilson and missionaries all over the world.
- Ask volunteers to voice prayers after each letter, or lead groups to take time to pray together.
- Prayer option for young children: **B**less the missionaries with things they need; **L**et them know that You hear their prayers; **E**xcite them with the work in their country; **S**helter them in Your care; **S**ave the people who do not know You.



Community Ministry Giving Experience

Prepare

- From the DVD-ROM, download and print the **Odom family photos** and the **British pounds** handouts. Make enough copies of the paper money, so each child can have a sheet.

Recap

Gena Wilson is a missionary in Scotland who lives in one of the poorest neighborhoods. She sees how much the people around her need Jesus, so she tries to tell everyone she meets about Him. Even when she had cancer, she didn't stop telling people about the hope that Jesus offers. She's willing to bring Jesus to the streets of Scotland.

Teamwork

- Show the **Odom family photos**.
- Explain that the Odoms work with Gena Wilson in Glasgow. They are a team.
- Ask what kinds of teams your kids have been on. How is it helpful to work on a team?
- Explain that it's helpful on the mission field to work on a team, too. For example, when Gena got sick and had to leave Scotland, the Odoms were able to continue the work.

Giving as a team

- Hand out the **British pounds** sheet and give kids time to cut out the money (and color it if they'd like).
- Tell your group that in Scotland, they use money called a pound. (Note: when this was written, 1 pound was equal to about \$1.50.)
- Ask what they think the Odoms could buy for one pound (small snack, a cheap toy for Eli). One pound would help, but it wouldn't buy much.
- But what if your group gave as a team? Ask them to count their pounds and add their money to everyone else's.
- Now how much do they have?
- Discuss the things that the Odoms might be able to buy for their family and their ministry (groceries, gas for their car, Bibles, money to help a friend).
- Explain that when we give to missions, it helps to give as a team. When your whole church gives to a missions offering, that money really makes a difference to the kingdom of God!

Pray

Thank God that we can join the team of missionaries around the world through our giving.



Community Ministry Serving Experience

Prepare

- Prepare to show the **Gena's neighborhood** video.

Recap

Gena Wilson is an IMB missionary in Scotland who lives in one of the poorest neighborhoods. She sees how much the people around her need Jesus, so she tries to tell everyone she meets about Him. Even when she had cancer, she didn't stop telling people about the hope that Jesus offers. She's willing to bring Jesus to the streets of Scotland.

Gena's neighborhood

- Show the video of Gena walking down the sidewalk of her neighborhood.
- When it's over, ask what kinds of people Gena meets when walking down her sidewalk.
- Discuss with the kids things Gena can do to minister to the people who live around her.

My neighborhood

- Now ask for volunteers to act like Gena did and pretend they are walking down a sidewalk in their community.
- How would they describe their neighborhood? What places do they see? What kinds of people live around them?
- After each volunteer acts out a scene from their neighborhood (or as time allows), stop and let the others tell ways that they could minister to those people or in those places. For example, if a volunteer says, "This is a house where an older lady lives by herself," then someone might suggest checking up on her regularly or bringing her a meal.
- Remind your group that missionaries live among people who need Jesus, so they take time to serve the people around them. We should be doing that, too – taking time to serve those around us so they can see the love of Jesus.

Pray

Ask God to give your kids opportunities to serve the people who live around them and show them the love of Jesus.



Community Ministry—Going Further

More ideas using this theme

Download and print the **Community Ministry parent letter**. Give to parents so they can continue talking about this theme as a family.

Download and print the **Lifestyle Missions newsletter**. Use it as an introduction to the 12 Lifestyle Missions experiences or as a wrap-up. Make copies for each child to have one to take home.

Plan a “Random Acts of Kindness” event in a neighborhood near your church. Think through some tasks that wouldn’t be too hard for your kids. Some examples might include picking up trash, walking dogs, raking leaves, bringing quarts of soup or plates of cookies, cleaning car windows. Be sure to bring the tools you need for that task with you and visit a neighborhood together. Encourage the kids to knock on doors and explain that they are doing random acts of kindness in Jesus’ name and they’d like to serve. Bring information about your church and be prepared to talk with neighbors about having a relationship with Christ. Make sure you have adequate adult supervision

For more on missions around the world and how you can be a part, visit **imb.org**.

Don’t forget to visit **kidsonmission.org** for more activities and KOM experiences you might have missed.