

MOUNT VERNON *on* MISSION

May 2025 • mountvernon.church

You'll be my witnesses...

As spring unfolds and new life blooms around us, Jesus reminds us, "You will be my witnesses...to the ends of the earth." This May, we have two exciting ways to live that out our upcoming **International Gathering**, a celebration of culture, food, and global fellowship, and several **mission trip opportunities** that will send members of our church beyond our walls to serve and share the love Christ. As you read this newsletter, we invite you to prayerfully consider how God might be inviting you to go, give, or pray this season? Whether across the world or across the street, we're called to live sent.

Upcoming **MISSION** Opportunities



Saturday, May 10

5:30pm-8pm • Fellowship Hall

Info & RSVP

mountvernon.church/events

Bring & Share meal - Bring a dish from your home country to share with everyone else

Music by Grace Notes

Wear clothes representing your home country.

Theme: The Church as the Body of Christ.

Everyone is invited.



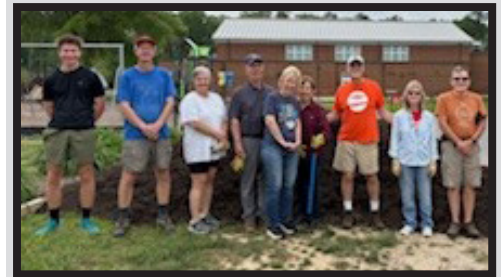
Mount Vernon IMB Mission Trip

Panama City, Panama

August 30- September 6

Trip Info: mountvernon.church/missions

Join us in Panama as we partner with IMB missionaries and a local Baptist church for a week of hands-on-ministry. You'll serve through prayer walking, gospel distribution, school outreach, and community events. This trip provides cross-cultural experience and equips you for deeper missions involvement, supporting church planting, evangelism, and discipleship in Central America.



Verse Voyagers ABF Serve at

Elijah House Academy on Missions Saturday

On a recent Saturday, nine members of the *Verse Voyagers* ABF rolled up their sleeves to serve at Elijah House Academy (EHA). Their mission? To spread mulch and refresh the landscaping, helping to beautify the campus grounds & create a welcoming environment. Elijah House Academy offers a Christ-centered, affordable education that nurtures the hearts and minds of Richmond's students-guiding them toward discovering their God-given identity, dignity, and purpose.

MISSION Partner Spotlight



International Community

mountvernon.church/missions

In Psalm 86:9, King David writes in reverence to God's greatness: "All the nations you have made shall come and worship before you, O LORD, and shall glorify your name." These words, written centuries ago, embodies the mission of MVBC International Community Ministry. Established in April 2015 through an International Ladies Bible Study, the ministry has grown to serve as a connection between the nations and our church. Through Christ-centered events, people from across the globe gather to worship, share their cultural experiences, and foster meaningful relationships with our broader church family. On May 10th, we warmly invite you to our spring International Gathering, a time of joyful singing, shared meals, and a heartfelt fellowship in Christ. Everyone is invited to this special event.

MISSIONARY of the Month



Ray & Ardith Franklin

Former IMB Missionaries in Japan

What led you both to feel called to serve as missionaries, and how did God specifically direct you to Japan?

We each felt called to missions early-Ray in junior high and Ardith at age 12. After Seminary and ministry in New Mexico, we applied with the IMB. Though initially unsure about Japan, God changed our hearts through prayer. In April 1981, we arrived in Tokyo with our baby daughter, ready to serve a nation with a deep spiritual need.

What cultural difference in Japan surprised you most & how did it affect ministry?

We were surprised by how much we enjoyed Japanese food-especially the rice! Ray wasn't a big rice eater before, but he quickly became one. We also noticed how much taller Ardith appeared compared to most Japanese women, which made her stand out. But this often opened doors, as many were eager to learn English and visit an American home-helping us build friendships and share the gospel.

How can we as a church continue to pray for Japan?

Please pray that more Japanese would be exposed to genuine Christians and the truth of Christ's teachings. Ask God to open their eyes to how much better life can be, both now and for eternity, if they would give their lives to Jesus.

MOUNT VERNON *on* MISSION
Prayer

**Saints Softball Prison
Ministry
Panama Mission Trip**

Wednesdays • 4pm-5pm • M106
Praying for missions & ministries of the church.
Everyone is welcome.