

MOUNT VERNON *on* MISSION



October 2025 • mountvernon.church

You'll be my witnesses...

Jesus said, "You will be my witnesses...to the ends of the earth." This month, MVBC is shining a light on **local missions** and the many ways we can share Christ's love right here in our community. From serving at the Fall Festival to joining together for Missions Saturday, there are hands-on opportunities to get involved. We're also spotlighting our Associate Pastor for Missions & Evangelism, **Pastor Gary**, and his wife **Michelle**, who faithfully lead & encourage us as we live out God's call to be His witnesses in our neighborhoods. Keep reading to see how you can pray, serve, and take part in what God is doing through local missions this October!

Upcoming MISSION Opportunities

MISSIONS Saturday

Saturday, October 25

Box Assembly

for Operation Christmas Child

9am-10am
Participants: **ALL AGES**

ONSITE



Landscaping

at Elijah House Academy

9am-12pm; Participants: **Age 11 & up**
Bring yardwork tools.

OFFSITE



Scripture Packets

for Serving In Jesus Name

9am-12pm
Participants: **ALL AGES**

OFFSITE



Register Online
mountvernon.church/missions

Missions Saturday • October 25

mountvernon.church/missions

The perfect opportunity to serve together as a church family! You can join in box assembly for OCC, roll up your sleeves for landscaping at Elijah House Academy, or help prepare Scripture packets for Serving In Jesus Name. There's a place for everyone to get involved, whether you love hands-on work, encouraging others through God's word, or preparing OCC boxes with care. Register online & be part of what God is doing through Missions Saturday.

FALL FESTIVAL

& TRUNK OR TREAT

OCTOBER
18
4PM-6PM

Family-friendly! Costumes are fun!
Bring a friend, we won't scare anyone!

Fall Festival • Missions Outreach

Saturday • October 18 • 4pm-6pm
mountvernon.church/events

At this year's Fall Festival & Trunk or Treat, we want to go beyond fun & candy by making it a true mission outreach event. We're looking for volunteers to help us connect with our community in simple but powerful ways-offering to pray with families sharing a smile while passing out water bottles, and being the hands & feet of Jesus to those who attend. This is a wonderful opportunity to plant seeds of hope & encouragement while serving at one of our biggest community events of the year.



International Gathering

Fun, Fellowship & Community

International Gathering

Saturday • November 8 • 5:30pm-8pm
mountvernon.church/missions

This special evening is a time to celebrate the beauty of cultures from around the world. We invite you to bring a dish to share from your home country and, if you'd like, wear attire that represents your heritage. It will be a night of fellowship, food, & fun as we come together as one church family while honoring the diversity God has created. Don't miss this chance to share a taste of home and enjoy the richness of our international community!

MISSIONARY of the Month

Gary & Michelle Robertson

Former Missionaries to South Africa & Malawi



What originally drew you to missions, and how did God lead you to serve in South Africa & Malawi?

Gary: I first went to Tanzania as a journeyman farm manager, and God gave me a love for Africans. That led to Malawi, where I helped train pastors & church leaders, and to South Africa, where I used my finance skills to support IMB missionaries. **Michelle:** I felt called to missions as a child. I served as a journeyman in the Philippines before studying at Southwestern Seminary, where I met Gary. We married in 1996 & in 1998 went to Malawi as church planters before moving to Johannesburg in 2013 to continue ministry through finance work & local partnerships.

Can each of you share a favorite memory or story from your time on the mission field?

Gary: My favorite memory was how open the Malawians were to hear God's word. I recall one time when we went hut to hut evangelizing, sitting under a thatched roof with a family, and before long, the man of the house had sent children to gather others so more people could hear the gospel message. **Michelle:** My absolute favorite memory was teaching women. I loved teaching at Bible studies, associational meetings, pastor's wives training, ex-pat Bible studies, and encouraging other missionary women. It gave me great joy to teach & disciple these women.

What was one way God stretched or grew your faith during those years?

Gary: Living among people who had nothing & could only rely on God for healing & their daily provision helped me to learn how to depend on the Lord for everything. **Michelle:** The Lord grew & stretched us so very much in many challenging times reminding us to rely on Him and put our trust in Him as He is good & faithful.

MISSION Partner Spotlight



Operation Christmas Child, a powerful ministry of Samaritan's Purse, goes far beyond delivering shoebox gifts to children in need. Each box is a doorway to share the **Good News of Jesus Christ**, as every child who receives a shoebox also hears the Gospel-many for the first time.

Through these simple gifts, lives are being changed, churches are being planted, and the love of Christ is reaching even the most remote corners of the world, one shoebox at a time.

Mount Vernon is honored to serve as a hub during **National Collection Week**, where we gather shoeboxes from across the community. In addition, we send teams on two mission trips each year to Samaritan's Purse Warehouses to help prepare and pack boxes that will be shipped to children around the globe.

MOUNT VERNON *on* MISSION
Prayer

Outreach at Fall Festival
Missions Saturday
OCC Collection Week in November

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