

# April Mission Education

## Reading Incentives for All Ages

Most mission educators know the benefits of reading the NMI missions books, but sometimes an incentive—even a low-cost or no-cost one—spurs people to pick up a book and be transported to someplace else in the world.

### Reviews

As books are checked out, ask readers to note items that were new/meaningful to them, telling them that you would like them to write a couple of sentences when they finish the book. When people return books, have slips of paper and pens available for them to write their short reviews. Ask for permission to have a reading section in the church bulletin or in the church's e-newsletter, and list a couple of reviews at a time. As you post the reviews, mention the person's name and how many books that person has read.

### Dinner with the President or the Pastor

When people read all six books, offer this incentive. It is up to you if you do it on an individual basis or as a group, who does the cooking, and if the dinner is with specific age groups. (If the host has a specialty, it is a draw if that person will serve it...thinking of a pecan pie a former pastor baked that sold at an auction for more than \$100). This could become an annual event with six-book readers of all ages honored.

### Offer Non-edible Prizes

Purchase items from other world areas—either from import stores (such as World Market, Ten Thousand Villages, etc.) or items purchased by people on mission trips. Low-cost bookmarks, figurines, and decorative items are often available.

### Bake and Decorate Cupcakes or Cookies

This would involve all six-book readers and the pastor and/or president. Have an assembly line, make a batch (or multiple batches to serve the congregation) of baked goods, some frosting and other edible decorations, and let everyone get creative. To boost World Evangelism Fund giving, these could be sold or auctioned at an all-church potluck.



### Leader Does Something Silly

This idea works by issuing a challenge to the congregation that they read *(fill in the blank)* books. It is especially good if the silliness builds. See the December 2011/January 2012 Mission Connection article "Pastor Dresses Up for WEF" on the March page as an example of how one church did this to raise World Evangelism Fund; you can do the same with the number of books read.

What incentives do you offer in your church? The NMI team would love to hear them. Send any ideas to [gsawrie@nazarene.org](mailto:gsawrie@nazarene.org).

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