

Faith Promise FAQ

"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."

2 Corinthians 9:7-8 (NIV)

Each year, our church family will enjoy together an adventure in Global Missions giving known as FAITH PROMISE. Here are answers to common questions about what Faith Promise is and how it works.

WHAT IS FAITH PROMISE? Faith Promise is a Spirit-led means of financially supporting foreign missions. It involves "faith" because we are deciding to give over the next year money we don't currently have or aren't certain we will receive or intend to give as God enables us. It involves "promise" because as God supplies the money, we promise to follow through in joyful obedience and give it to Global Missions instead of using it for other personal needs. ***This is an annual challenge where each person seeks God's guidance and then responds accordingly.***

WHY DO WE MAKE A "FAITH PROMISE"? The Bible commands us to *go into all the world and preach the gospel to everyone.* (Matthew 28:19 and Mark 16:15) As most of us will never be able to travel around the world sharing the gospel with other people-groups, Faith Promise provides our church with opportunities to partner with ministries and missionaries who are able to take on this Kingdom task. We will determine the Global Missions budget by your Faith Promise commitments. In turn we can determine which evangelistic ministries, missionaries and projects in which to participate.

HOW DOES FAITH PROMISE WORK? Each of us are challenged to pray privately for God to lead us in identifying an amount of funds, over and above our regular tithe, which He will provide for us to give to Global Missions over the next year. Then, each of us watches as God supplies, and we give in obedience.

WHAT ARE THE RESULTS OF FAITH PROMISE GIVING? Faith Promise Giving will engage us all in a more meaningful way in our foundational role as supporters of ministries and missionaries sharing the gospel around the world. We believe that we are a part of each mission by joining them as part of their team. Vicariously, we go with them, as we send and support. Through Faith Promise our awareness will be increased as well as an ongoing enthusiasm for what God is doing on the field. Personally you should expect to see an increase in Christian joy, God's blessing, an increased ability to give, and a consistently growing faith.

IS FAITH PROMISE THE SAME AS TITHING? **ABSOLUTELY NOT! Faith promise is in addition to our monthly tithe (the tithe is 10% of our income that is used for the operation of our church ministry).** The tithe is the foundational support for our church and finances all the ministry we do in our community, the state of Florida and around the nation. However, sacrificial and generous grace giving is the New Testament goal to which Believers are to aspire. Faith Promise is as an adventure in giving that is "over and above" our regular tithe and challenges us to give sacrificially and generously to spread the gospel around the world. Faith Promise Giving targets our desire to see our church impact God's Kingdom around the world. Think of it like this... our tithes finance Local Missions and Faith Promise finances Global Missions.

IS THIS A PLEDGE AND WILL I BE NOTIFIED OF MY PROGRESS? This is a promise to God, not a pledge to the church. Your Faith Promise amount is between you and God. No one will notify you or keep track of your progress toward your commitment. We collect your Faith Promise amount at the beginning of each Missions year in order to assist us with budget planning. We do ask that you include your name with the amount God has laid on your heart so that we can be certain that submitted cards are legitimate. (For example, a child may turn in a card with a large amount that is due to wishful thinking instead of God's leading. This commitment would then skew our budget planning.)

WILL I BE PRESSURED? Let me reassure you. Faith Promise is a private act of devotion and trust. It is not public pledging in the traditional sense. Some of us may have sour memories of funding programs which involved being pressured and manipulated; not so with Faith Promise. It is between you and the Lord. The joy of this personal adventure, this partnership with the God of infinite supply, will bless you, our missionaries, worldwide ministries, and most of all, our Lord.

HOW DO I DETERMINE THE AMOUNT? Pray and listen. Ask for wisdom and expect God to make it clear to your heart. Involve your family. The Faith Promise adventure can take a number of shapes. Tom Horn, Regional Director of Advancing Churches in Missions Commitment, suggests three common approaches to determining the amount of your Faith Promise commitment:

- 1. SURPRISE-ME APPROACH:** You may ask the Lord to lay a specific amount for missions, with the intention of asking Him to supply it in unexpected ways throughout the year. It is a kind of "trust fund" approach, where you trust Him to fund it. Some of the greatest stories of God's miraculous provision come about with this kind of intentional faith.
- 2. CUT-BACK APPROACH:** You may discuss with the Lord and your family what money could be made available by choosing to restrict other spending. "Each month, what could we do without in order to support missions? A meal out? Several video rentals? Could we fast one day a month?" You get the idea. *We sacrifice a non-priority to make missions a higher priority.*
- 3. NEW-SOURCE APPROACH:** Why not consider using your talents and service to generate new money to give to missions as a Faith Promise? For example, extra baby sitting, bake sales, chores for seniors, etc. How creative can you be?

WHAT WILL FAITH PROMISE FUND? Faith Promise undergirds our support for existing missionaries and ministries, and opens the way for new, strategic mission's investment. For example, we can begin supporting new ministries, grant current missionaries additional support, generate funding for short-term missions projects, assist our members who raise funds for their missions trips, or respond to emergency needs our ministry partners occasionally experience.

HOW DO I PARTICIPATE? In conjunction with our Missions Conference, we will provide a response card that you should fill-out and turn in during our Missions Conference. *Since we don't keep a record of your previous year's Faith Promise, a new card is needed each year to indicate your current intention.*

- 1. Prayer:** Please pray that God will lead you to an amount you can trust Him to provide over the next year. It is a blessing to include your family in this prayer discussion.
- 2. Commitment:** We will collect the church's portion of the Faith Promise card during and for a few weeks after the Missions Conference. Signing the card is optional; however doing so, may assist the Missions Team in determining the validity of an amount. You keep your half of the card as a reminder of your commitment. Once the Missions Cards have been tallied, we will destroy them in order to protect your privacy. A select group of Deacons will be entrusted with this responsibility. No church pastor will be aware of your commitment.
- 3. Follow Through:** Be sure to keep the main part of the Faith Promise card for your personal use as a prayer reminder. During the weekly offerings, you can either write a separate Faith Promise check from your normal tithes and offerings or write one check and note in the memo field the amount which is for Missions and the amount for the General Fund.

"AND WITHOUT FAITH IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE HIM . . ."
(HEBREWS 11:6A)