

Faith-Promise Q&A cont'd...

- Prepare Faith-Promise giving commitment cards. (There is a sample on the web site: www.crwm.org or you may request a sample from your regional representative.)
- Distribute a Faith-Promise giving packet several weeks before your Faith-Promise Commitment Sunday. Include enough cards for the whole family. Provide a thorough explanation of the Faith-Promise giving program plus good information on the missionaries and/or projects your committee is suggesting.
- On your Faith-Promise Commitment Sunday, after prayer and further explanation, ask the congregation to complete the commitment cards. (Have plenty available for those who forgot to bring them from home.) Collect the cards and announce the total as soon as possible.
- Keep the congregation informed about the level of giving and the disbursement. Many congregations disburse their missionary support on a quarterly basis.

For more information, contact your Regional Representative or check our website at:

www.crwm.org



**Christian Reformed
World Missions**

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Faith-Promise Giving

Christian Reformed
World Missions



A majority of congregations in the Christian Reformed Church in North America support at least one missionary with Christian Reformed World Missions. These same congregations usually support the work of Christian Reformed Home Missions, Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (CRWRC), The Back To God Ministries International and any number of other missionaries or organizations both local and global.

This brochure was created to help you learn more about Faith-Promise Giving and its role in the CRCNA mission of transforming lives and communities worldwide.



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World Missions**

How do congregations gather the funds they've committed for mission support above their Ministry Share commitment?

- Some congregations make missionary support part of the regular church budget.
- Some congregations set up a regular special offering schedule.
- Still other congregations use Faith-Promise Giving as it enhances the mission vision, prayer, and overall giving.

What is Faith Promise giving?

In Faith-Promise giving, individual churches members – including adults, young people and children – look to the Lord in faith, prayerfully asking how much God would have them give for work of missions, and then promise to give as the Lord directs. Such giving is a step of faith, trusting God to provide the resources needed to fulfill the commitments made. The church council (usually through its missions or evangelism or outreach committee) suggests specific missionaries, projects or agencies for support.

How does Faith-Promise giving work?

Each church member fills out a commitment card which details their monthly, quarterly or yearly commitment. Ordinarily there are two parts to the card. The signed part is taken home by the church member as a reminder of their commitment.

The other part is not signed. It is between the giver and God. This is the part that is collected and totaled. This total becomes the congregation's missions budget for the year.

Why promote Faith-Promise giving?

Congregations that have use Faith-Promise testify that mission vision and excitement increase significantly, as does the amount of money given for missionary support. The congregation's involvement in world evangelism grows and, through it, God is honoured.

Why does Faith-Promise result in increased giving for missions?

Churches which use Faith-Promise cite two reasons: First, it seems that missions committees do a better job of informing the congregation about the various missionaries or projects before Faith-Promise commitments are made. Secondly, church members tend to be more involved and give more when they make personal and prayerful commitments. Faith-Promise giving is intentional, not an afterthought.

Does Faith-Promise hurt other church giving?

All the studies show that Faith-Promise missions giving actually enhances other church giving, especially regular budget giving.

How do churches collect their Faith-Promise gifts?

Many churches set aside one Sunday per month as their Missions Sunday or Faith-Promise Sunday. Loose offerings that Sunday go into Faith-Promise. Some churches prepare special Faith-Promise envelopes which they make available to the congregation. Other churches prepare regular budget envelopes which allow

for multiple designations, including Faith-Promise gifts.

Is Faith-Promise giving Biblical?

Scripture encourages us to respond in faith to God's promises. "Bring the whole tithe ... Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, 'and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven.'" (Malachi 3:10) The Apostle Paul encourages us, "Each should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (II Cor. 9:7) The Bible clearly calls Christians to bring the Gospel to the whole world. Faith-Promise giving encourages us in that task.

How can a church organize a successful Faith-Promise giving program?

- With the Church Council's endorsement, select and appoint a Faith-Promise or Missions Committee. This committee should come to a clear understanding of the Faith-Promise giving program and then prepare a proposal for the Church Council's approval.
- Begin the planning early. If you want to implement a Faith-Promise giving program in the fall of the year and need Council approval, start planning in early spring.
- Introduce the approved program to the congregation several weeks or even months before the initial Faith-Promise or Missions Emphasis event.
- As a committee, decide in advance which missionaries and/or projects you wish to support. Gather up-to-date information on these missionaries and/or projects and prepare a handout for the congregation.