

*Assemblies of God
World Missions*

**FREQUENTLY
ASKED
MISSIONS
QUESTIONS**

FAQ



H. AMANDUS
B.V.O.

BEGIN OR CHANGE WORLD MISSIONS SUPPORT

How can I begin supporting a missionary?

Commitment forms are available from missionaries and from Assemblies of God World Missions (AGWM), or a form can be filled out online at agwm.com.

If you do not have a commitment form, you can send a letter to AGWM stating your intention to support a missionary on a monthly basis. A phone call is also sufficient to inform us of your monthly commitment.

How does a missionary know I have made a commitment?

A list of all commitments appears on each missionary's monthly report of cash receipts. This list includes new, increased, deleted, and changed commitments. Providing information to AGWM is extremely important so that missionaries can be notified.

I changed my commitments on a blue-and-white offering form, but AGWM has not made changes. Why not?

The preprinted blue-and-white offering form is not tied to the commitment system. This form serves only to properly identify offerings. The AGWM staff does not see the form unless a note or letter is attached.

What is the best way to communicate a commitment change to AGWM?

Complete a new commitment form either on a preprinted form or online. This guarantees that backup information is available to verify your commitment records. If you do not have access to a commitment form or to the AGWM website, a letter detailing the changes is acceptable.

How should I inform AGWM of decreased or deleted commitments?

Send AGWM a preprinted or online commitment form or letter. This will give AGWM the information needed to change its records. A church or individual also should write to the missionary involved, explaining the change and effective date.

WORLD MISSIONS GIVING CERTIFICATES

How are certificates prepared and sent?

Normally, certificates are sent to the appropriate district missions director for his or her signature. Afterward, the certificates are mailed to churches.

For special occasions, certificates can be sent without the district missions director's signature. However, the donor should send or take the certificate to the district office for official signatures as soon as possible.

My church does not have certificates for all its missions commitments. How can the church receive these?

Contact the AGWM Mobilization Department. Staff will send certificates for the missionaries you support.

UPDATING WORLD MISSIONS FILES

How can I update the AGWM files?

Make any changes necessary on the cost-of-living printout. Add names, change dollar amounts as needed, and make other corrections necessary to bring AGWM records in line with your records.

What happens when the updated list is returned to AGWM?

AGWM staff immediately begin to update commitment files and prepare new certificates for donors. Please allow 6-8 weeks for certificates to be processed. AGWM receives thousands of responses that generate approximately 50,000 certificates annually.

ADJUSTING THE AMOUNT OF WORLD MISSIONS GIVING

Occasionally, my church has excess funds in its missions account. What is the best way to use this money?

These funds can be used effectively in several ways.

1. Give a special offering to each missionary your church supports.
2. Ask AGWM to supply your church with names of missionaries who urgently need funds.
3. Increase each missionary commitment.
4. Invest the excess finances in Senders Fund to help cover initial expenses for new missionaries.
5. Contribute to an approved field project.
6. Add one or more missionaries to your regular support list.

Because of financial difficulties, my church is behind in its commitments. What should we do?

If possible, send funds to cover the missed months. If that is not possible, begin again to send the committed amount.

Sometimes financial difficulties make it necessary for a church to adjust its missions budget. How should these cutbacks be made to cause as few problems as possible for missionaries?

The AGWM Mobilization Department can provide assistance in evaluating how to make cutbacks in missions giving.

Contact AGWM to request a correspondence report and financial analysis of missionaries you support. Review the list and note whether each missionary is on the field or at home. Missionaries overseas will not have an opportunity to recover lost funds until they come home for itineration. Missionaries already in the United States can contact other churches and try to recover lost commitments.

Also, unusual inflation on the field or lost commitments sometimes force a missionary's account into overdraft. If this happens while he or she is on the field, the missionary does not have an opportunity to recover or personally solicit new funds. Try to maintain support for missionaries who are overseas.

How should a church's missions committee plan for adding new missionaries to its commitment list between missions conventions?

The following method works well for some churches:

Once Faith Promises are received, the pastor and missions committee can determine the amount of money they have to work with and how it should be distributed. For example, if Faith Promises total \$10,000, perhaps \$8,000 can be pledged to various missionaries. The remaining \$2,000 allows the church to add new missionaries and give to special needs.

Pledging less than the total amount of the Faith Promises also protects against Faith Promises that do not come in.

You also might consider adding one or more commitments for \$50 or an un-designated amount into your budget. When a missionary visits your church, write his or her name and account number on a commitment form and give it to him or her. You will have provided the missionary with immediate support while staying within your budget.

COMMITMENTS & FAITH PROMISES

When should I start paying a commitment?

Ideally, a payment of a commitment should begin immediately or as soon as possible after signing the commitment form. Write the missionary's name on the blue-and-white preprinted offering form the first time the commitment is sent. The missionary's name will be printed on the form attached to your receipt.

You can also give online using a credit or debit card or PayPal at giving.ag.org. The website will prompt you set up an account or log in to help you better manage your giving. Once on the website, you can search for the missionary by their last name or first 6 digits of their account number. You can choose to give a one-time gift or set up a recurring donation that will be charged to your credit or debit card on the 20th of each month. Paper receipts will be sent each time a donation is processed.

What is the normal duration of a commitment?

Since missionaries need support while on itineration, the commitment should be for no less than five years. This will allow the missionary to complete his or her itineration, serve a four-year term overseas, and return to the United States for further itineration. Many churches support missionaries during their entire careers.

What is the difference between a commitment and a Faith Promise?

Local churches encourage their members to make annual Faith Promises. Individuals or families are challenged to believe God for an amount He will provide for them to give on a monthly basis.

Commitments are signed agreements from churches or individuals who decide to support one or more missionaries for a five-year period or longer. Commitments are recorded in AGWM to determine when a missionary has raised his or her budget. Receipts and preprinted offering forms are furnished for the donor's convenience. However, reminders or bills are never sent to the donor.

RECORDS & MAILINGS

Each fall I receive a cost-of-living mailing with a list of my commitments. The list is seldom current. Why?

Commitment information is sent to AGWM daily and is recorded both in the missionary's file and the donor's file. If new information has not been communicated properly to AGWM, the files cannot be updated. Making changes on the blue-and-white offering form alone will not give AGWM the information needed to update its records.

My church has no records of its missions commitments. How can I get this information?

A current list of your church's commitments is available through AGWM. However, it is not possible to supply backdated records.

Some individuals in my congregation send personal commitments to missionaries. Can our church receive World Missions Giving credit for these offerings?

Any individual who sends offerings directly to AGWM can give World Missions Giving credit to his or her church. The donor should write the church name, city, and state in the upper righthand corner of the blue-and-white offering form. A receipt will be sent to the donor, and the church will be credited.

AGWM

Assemblies of God World Missions

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