

October 2009 (dot) Stewardship eNewsletter

Thank You for Generations of Giving

Let the stories of Philip, Lee and Gaby inspire your congregation to generosity for the global mission of the Church of the Nazarene this fall. The seasonal offering for World Evangelism Fund traditionally corresponds with Thanksgiving for churches in Canada and the United States.

Resources to help you promote generosity and support for the global mission can be found on the Nazarene Media Library (search: Thanksgiving Offering Resources). There are two versions (in Quicktime and Windows Media Player file formats) of a 2-minute short film featuring the personal testimonies of the significance of World Evangelism Fund in three Nazarenes' lives from around the world.

Additionally, there are two corresponding bulletin inserts (in color and BW) for three-fold or half-fold bulletins or backs of pews. The colorful and educational bulletin inserts can be used individually or paired with the short film.

[Click here](#) to download the ZIP file containing the film and the PDF bulletin inserts. Note: this is a large file and may take some time to download; we think you will find the end result to be worthwhile.

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Josh Jakobitz
Creative Coordinator

Funding the Mission: October Update

In September, the Board of General Superintendents launched the new plan for funding our global mission with a group of district superintendents at a conference in Niagara Falls, N.Y. This presentation concluded years of study, discussion, and implementation strategy at both local and global levels.

The new plan, called Funding the Mission, will replace the current expense-based formula and the archaic, tax-like qualities of the old formula. Information and a ready-to-use PowerPoint presentation is available for download from the Media Library. You will need to log in to download it.

Before Christmas, a comprehensive Web site, <http://www.fundingthemission.org>, will launch. Its three functions: education, calculation, and inspiration, should enable the pastor, church board, treasurer, and district office personnel to become familiar with and begin utilizing the income-based percentages.

The Reader's Digest version of the new plan is that percentages (5.5 percent for World Evangelism Fund, 2.0 percent for Pensions & Benefits, and 2.5 percent for educational institutions) have been established as a base for funding the global

mission of the church. The percentages will be based on church income, which is any donation that qualifies as a charitable contribution. Only churches in the USA will utilize the 2.0 percent for P&B and 2.5 percent for education. Other areas and regions will set their own percentages.

Gifts specifically for World Evangelism Fund and Ten Percent Mission Specials will be excluded from the base. Those are the only deductions in the new plan. All other funds will be rolled into the base.

An online calculator will be launched in January. This application will compute the formula based on the church's accumulated income. If you are a pastor, watch your inbox for more information and our monthly eNewsletter that will pertain strictly to Funding the Mission information, FAQs, and mission stories. If you are not a pastor and would like to receive this eNewsletter, please e-mail stewardship@nazarene.org to get on the mailing list.

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Stewardship Ministries

Tithing Stories

It is no secret that very few Christians in America actually tithe. The statistics bear this out and pastors see this in their own churches. In 2001, only 8 percent of American households tithed (Barna Research). Even worse, that number dropped to 3 percent the following year.

Stewardship Ministries is working on a new tithing resource based on tithing experiences of average Nazarenes – pastors, church leaders, and laity. Hopefully, these stories will encourage and challenge our people to embark on a lifestyle of generosity based on confidence in God's faithfulness. We are looking for stories about tithing – stories of how people learned to tithe, why they feel it is important, and how God has honored their commitment. These stories will be used as the center piece of this new resource.

Do you have a tithing story? Do you know of someone in your congregation with a good tithing story? If so, please share your stories with us. Send a brief description of the story to tfelder@nazarene.org. You could be an important part of this new project.

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Tom Felder
Stewardship Ministries

Thanks for reading!
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