

STEWARDSHIP

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Faith + Promise = Faith Promise

by Dr. Mark Lail, Director of Stewardship Ministries

At a recent fund raiser, other donors and I were asked to pledge \$10,000 for a very worthy cause. The presenters made it clear the money did not have to come in all at once, but payments would be fine. Since the key fund raiser is a good friend, I pledged \$10,000 and indicated I would be most comfortable with an installment plan of \$1 per month for 10,000 months. At that rate, my pledge would be complete in 83 years and 4 months, just prior to my 139th birthday. We had a good laugh and I followed with a serious pledge more within the scope of my means.

Installment plans are popular because many people find it easier to spend a little every month than a lot at once. It seems to fit our society as we cycle through bi-weekly paychecks, mortgage payments, utility bills and groceries. Nazarene churches, which

traditionally raise World Evangelism Fund contributions through special offerings such as Easter and Thanksgiving, have discovered that installment giving works well for their faithful members. Some who would not see feasibility in writing a \$1,000 check for the Thanksgiving offering find that \$20 per week is a faith challenge that seems doable. Nazarenes use the term Faith Promise to describe such giving plans. Moved by the Holy Spirit, members make a faith commitment – a promise to give over and above tithe to make Christlike disciples in the nations. The key to Faith Promise is realizing God calls us to do things outside our comfort zones and learning to trust Him to meet our needs as we give back to His mission.

Faith Promise looks different for each congregation. For some churches, funds are raised purely for the World Evangelism goal of 5.5%. For others, Faith Promise focuses on a combination of World Evangelism Fund and a variety of Nazarene mission specials, such as missionary deputation, Work and Witness or Nazarene Compassionate Ministries. Decatur (IL) Church of the Nazarene held a “Halle-luau” weekend to promote Faith Promise, which included a meal, music and guest missionary speakers. Bend (OR) Church of the Nazarene hosted a men’s breakfast, a piano concert with dessert and a Faith Promise service. Connecting Point Church of the Nazarene in Denair, CA, hosted a family camp-out event with Asia-Pacific Regional Director Dr. Mark Louw.

Making budgets balance is seldom easy, but giving in faith is rewarding. When you make a commitment through Faith Promise, you are saying to God, “I am willing to give above and beyond what is expected and I trust You will provide the means for me to do so.” Such a commitment not only benefits people around the world through the World Evangelism Fund, it also benefits those who give, strengthening their faith in the Creator and reminding them they are part of a larger Kingdom work.

[Click here](#) to download a PDF explaining Faith Promise. [Click here](#) for some ideas on how to promote Faith Promise in your church.



Faith Promise Sermon Series

In an effort to aid pastors in their preparations for Faith Promise, Stewardship Ministries is offering a set of free downloadable sermon outlines. We hope they will be a valuable resource to you as you prepare for Faith Promise. [Click here](#) to download.



Stories Vol. 1 - 2016 Released

The "Stories" video series, designed to connect churches around the world through personal stories, is now available to view or [download here](#).



Stewardship Scholarship Winners Announced

Congratulations to the winners, David Goodwin, David Filsinger and Rachael Reichley. [Click here](#) to read the official press release.