

FAITH PROMISE

PURPOSE AND HISTORY

A. What is Faith Promise?

The Church of the Nazarene acknowledges that Faith Promise giving is a biblical method used by many local churches for raising financial support for world evangelization. For our domination, Faith Promise is dedicated specifically to the mission support of the Church of the Nazarene through various offerings promoted by Nazarene Missions International (NMI).

Faith Promise is . . .

- **a God-inspired, Bible-based plan**
- **a method of financing world evangelism**
- **a personal demonstration of faith and trust**
- **a commitment to give as God provides**

So, what is Faith Promise?

It's saying — or singing — to God and meaning it:

“I'll go where you want me to go, dear Lord.

I'll live where you want me to live.

I'll say what you want me to say, dear Lord,

I'll **give** what you want me to **give**.”

B. What Faith Promise is NOT?

1. Faith Promise is NOT a pledge.
Never issue statement of money due or post charts of individual promises paid. Since Faith Promise are between individuals and God, simply remind them to be faithful in trusting God for the promises made.
2. Faith Promise is NOT tithes.
Gently remind the congregation that the tithe is the Lord's and that Faith Promises are love gifts to God — beyond the tithe.
3. Faith Promise is NOT a substitute for mission offerings.
Emphasize and receive special offerings, such as Easter, Thanksgiving, Alabaster, World Mission Broadcast, deputation, Compassionate Ministries, etc. Even though these offerings are a part of the Faith Promise budget, some members and friends do not participate in Faith Promise. Additionally, all Nazarenes need to be reminded periodically of what Faith Promise moneys are doing for world evangelism.
4. Faith Promise is NOT a cure-all or catchall for a church's financial problems.
Educate and involve the total church in systematic stewardship for missions throughout the year. If efficiently administered, Faith Promise generates genuine passion for missions.

C. How Did Faith Promise Begin?

The Faith Promise plan was used in the late 1800s by Dr. A. B. Simpson, founder of the Christian and Missionary Alliance (CMA). Simpson said that he received the plan from the Apostle Paul in his (Paul's) correspondence to the early Christian church at Corinth. Later the plan was further developed and widely publicized by the late Dr. Oswald J. Smith, pastor of the Peoples (CMA) Church in Toronto. After more than 60 years of Faith Promise giving, the members of the Peoples Church now give more than 60 percent of their annual income to missions.

The Church of the Nazarene has endorsed the Faith Promise concept and adapted it to meet denominational needs. Although ideas for implementation may vary, the basic principles of Faith Promise for the Church of the Nazarene are similar to the CMA plan.

D. Why Faith Promise?

The basis for Faith Promise is founded upon God's Word. A key scripture is:

*"For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even **beyond their ability**. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints. And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will"*

2 Corinthians 8:3-5
emphasis added

Some important scriptures on the **Great Commission** are:

"He (Jesus) said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation'"

Mark 16:15

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you"

Matthew 28:19-20

"Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous deeds among all peoples"

Psalms 96:3