



The Missions Toolbox

Helping Missionaries

Missionary Finance

Philippians 4:10-19 provides the modern believer with patterns and principles for the financial support of missionaries. The Philippians faithfully sent money and supplies to Paul in many places. Paul expressed contentment with the gifts (v.11) and confidence that God would supply his every need (v. 13). He also recognized that God would reward the believers for their generosity (v. 17) and would likewise supply all their needs (19).

Missionaries today also have financial needs. Most countries will not allow foreigners to work; therefore missionaries depend upon financial support from God's people for general living and ministry expenses. Many churches use a combination of methods to support missionaries.

1. Tithe income to missionaries: Just as believers tithe to the local church, so the local church sends a percentage to missions.
2. Committed support: The local church decides each year how much to send to missions based on the number of ministries supported and the amount needed for the work.
3. Designated support: Individuals within the church send special freewill gifts through the church to specific missionaries.
4. General fund support: Just as the church budgets money for utility bills, the church also budgets an amount for missions.

Churches and individuals should also recognize that the financial needs of a missionary change over time. High rates of inflation in foreign countries, unfavorable exchange rates, expansion of the work, and the education of children can seriously jeopardize the missionary's financial position and hinder the work. Discerning churches communicate with their missionaries about their finances and often increase their gifts as needs arise.

"Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account." Philippians 4:17