



THE
BLUEPRINT SERIES
Volume 2

Building...

MISSIONS SUPPORT

with an Annual Missions Convention

A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE
TO ASSIST LOCAL
CHURCH LEADERSHIP
IN PLANNING AND
CONDUCTING A
SUCCESSFUL MISSIONS
CONVENTION



Created by Paul Brannan
for the

WORLD ASSEMBLIES OF GOD FELLOWSHIP



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WITH AN ANNUAL MISSIONS CONVENTION

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This manual has been produced by the Missions Awareness Team to assist church leadership in establishing a comprehensive missions' outreach in the local assembly.



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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Sixty-six years of ministry have, to a great extent, determined the person I am now. Fifty-four of those years have been spent in world missions' involvement. I thank God for the opportunities I have had to serve as a pastor, missionary, missionary administrator, district missions director, creator, and coordinator of the Missions Awareness Team, and, currently, as resource editor for the team.

I am indebted to hundreds of churches where I have ministered about missions and to the missions' committees and lay leadership that allowed me the privilege to share the "how to" and "why" of missions. This manual is the product of all those experiences. I have drawn, not only from my own background, but also from the experiences of others who have graciously shared with me. Special gratitude is due to some very committed people who generously shared with me the structure and function of missions within their congregations.

The sole purpose of this manual is to share workable ideas that can assist church leaders in building strong missions' outreaches within their churches. Always aware that cultures differ and so will methods, but I remain prayerful that you may glean from these pages something of the "how to" that may be applied to your own church and community. The "want to" must come from the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and a desire to follow Christ's commands.

May you and your congregation be blessed as you endeavor to reach your community, your nation, and the world beyond!

Your partner in the harvest,

Paul Brannan

INTRODUCTION

The Constitution of the General Council of the Assemblies of God states:

“...the priority reason-for-being of the Assemblies of God is to be an agency of God for evangelizing the world...”

Assemblies of God World Missions is committed to one purpose: To complete, in full obedience to Christ, the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). The divine imperative is to make disciples of all peoples. Christ's command is obligatory. It is His fundamental marching order for the Church until He comes again.

Every local Assembly of God needs to be committed to the evangelization of the world. There are five building blocks that are essential for creating mission's participation in the local congregation. The Missions Awareness Team, an extension of World Missions, has prepared The Blueprint Series, five manuals that address the five elements necessary for building missions. Listed below are the titles and the subject matter of each:

1. Building Missions Leadership in the Local Church – How to create and orientate an active missions' team
2. Building Missions Support with an Annual Missions Convention – A step-by-step guide for planning and conducting an annual mission's convention with a faith promise challenge
3. Building Missions Vision Month by Month – How to keep missions before the congregation all year with special emphasis on planning a monthly Missions Sunday presentation
4. Building Missions Effectiveness through Prayer - A guide for planning coordinated and regularly scheduled prayer efforts for missions and missionaries
5. Building Missions Partnership with the Missionary Visit – How to get the most from the missionary visit with creative ideas to assist you in scheduling missionaries for the greatest exposure, and much more

You may download each of these manuals at worldagfellowship.org/missions/ A series of PowerPoint presentations, to be used as teaching tools, are also available for download at the same site.

A missions-minded church is a growing, caring church. A recent study revealed that churches conducting an annual mission's convention report 67% more conversions than churches having occasional missionary speakers but no convention.

This workbook will guide you in planning a strong mission's outreach in your church. Every idea mentioned has been tried and proven. Remember, the size of the church is not a major factor in the success of creating mission's awareness.

The annual mission's convention is the quickest and the most effective way of leading your congregation into that commitment. It is the booster rocket that can propel your congregation into an awareness of world need and their personal

responsibility to reach that world during this generation. This manual will guide you to a successful convention.

Put this workbook to the test. Use the checklist included. Adapt the material to meet the needs of your church. Then season it with much prayer and you will be well on the way toward obedience to Christ's command to "go into all the world".

SECTION 1

Why Conduct An Annual Missions Convention?

Many pastors and much church leadership would like to do more for missions but feel that their congregation just isn't able to give any more. The truth is that committed Christians are going to give to those needs that touch their hearts. If the church does not offer that opportunity they will give outside the church. God's people will open their hearts and their finances to those causes that reflect God's own values when presented with a reasonable and an attainable challenge. Just look at the response of the Macedonian Christians when they heard of the need in Jerusalem.

"I can tell you that they gave as much as they were able and even more than they could afford. No one told them to do it." 2 Cor 8:3 NCV

PART 1

TEN BENEFITS OF AN ANNUAL MISSIONS CONVENTION

1. THE MISSIONS CONVENTION IS THE QUICKEST AND MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO OPEN THE WORLD TO YOUR CONGREGATION.

It gives believers exposure to the spiritual needs of the world, better equipping them for intercession. Won't three or four missionary services each year, accomplish the same thing? No! Here is why.

Presents a service

Involves the missionary

Presents the call of one

Results in emotional giving

Results in a one-time offering

Assists one missionary budget

Presents a strategy

Involves everyone

Presents the call to all

Results in consistent personal giving

Results in monthly faith promise giving

Supports the entire missions' budget

2. A MISSIONS CONVENTION WILL MAKE BELIEVERS MORE SOUL CONSCIOUS.

This will result in making the church members more effective as personal soul-winners in their own community. The kingdom of God will grow, and a recent study showed that, on average, the church that conducts an annual mission's convention reports 67% more converts than churches having only an occasional missionary speaker.

3. THE MISSIONS CONVENTION CAN GIVE YOUR PEOPLE GREAT JOY.

Soul-winning Christians become joyful Christians. Joyful Christians make better members and workers.

4. INVOLVING YOUR CHURCH IN MISSIONS CONVENTIONS WILL RESULT IN BETTER UNITY.

Joyful Christians get along better with each other. The unity displayed during a convention will begin to manifest itself in all areas of church life. People working for the common goal of reaching a lost world receive abundant blessings from God.

5. FAITH PROMISE GIVING WILL GENERATE MORE MONEY FOR MISSIONS.

Experience shows that most churches more than double their missions giving following their first missions' convention. Every pastor and church leader should rejoice at the opportunity to reach a lost world more effectively through increased missions giving.

6. FAITH PROMISE GIVING WILL ALLOW FOR MORE DISPOSABLE INCOME IN THE GENERAL FUND.

When faith promises are received, money that had been taken from the general fund to pay monthly mission's commitments is now released for discretionary spending by the local congregation. Or you may choose to continue giving a percentage of the general fund income to missions as well. This is a great

practice if the congregation still has opportunity to become personally involved in giving to missions through the faith promise plan.

7. FAITH PROMISE GIVING WILL RELEASE GOD’S PRINCIPLE OF MULTIPLICATION.

When we give to that cause which is nearest to God’s heart, He will release financial blessing to both the obedient individual and the missions-minded church.

A national study revealed that general fund giving usually increased by about 15% during the year following a first-time convention when the mission’s faith promise plan is instituted. God will never be indebted to either the church or the generous believer.

8. A YEARLY CONVENTION HELPS THE CHURCH SPREAD THE GOSPEL AND THUS HASTENS THE LORD’S COMING.

“You ought to live holy and Godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming.” (2 Peter 3:11,12 NIV)

Jesus said to His disciples, *“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.” (Matthew 24:14 NIV)*

9. AN ANNUAL CONVENTION GIVES BELIEVERS THE OPPORTUNITY TO OBEY CHRIST’S COMMAND.

The Great Commission, given by Christ, was a command to every believer. The annual mission’s convention gives opportunity to the believer to move into obedience to that command. Every believer is given opportunity to fulfill the Great Commission through:

1. Faithful intercessory prayer
2. Committed missions giving
3. Responding to the call to become missionaries – Surveys done during the past two decades revealed that the two top influences in a missionary’s calling were personal prayer and missionary speakers.

10. THE ANNUAL MISSIONS CONVENTION PUTS THE PASTOR AND CHURCH IN AGREEMENT WITH GOD’S PURPOSE.

- **The Father** is not willing that anyone be lost. (2 Peter 3:9)
- **The Son** came to seek and save all who are lost (Luke 19:10).
- **The Holy Spirit** came to convict the world of sin and draw all men to Christ (John 6:8).

PART 2

EIGHT HINDRANCES TO THE GROWTH OF MISSIONS IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

God's plan for reaching the world with the gospel is simple: **People reaching other people.** This is clearly declared in the Great Commission, which appears in one form or another in all four gospels and, for good measure, it is repeated in the Book of Acts. This five-dimensional command demands obedience from every believer.

It is our responsibility as spiritual leaders to guide every individual within our care to a challenge to personal commitment. As leaders we must:

1. Demonstrate a personal passion for the lost of the world.
2. Establish a strong and aggressive missions' outreach.
3. Challenge and inspire every believer to become an active partner in world evangelization.

It has already been stated that the quickest, most effective way of leading a congregation in an ongoing missions' outreach is the faith promise plan. Its benefits are many:

1. Its methods are tried and proven by thousands of churches.
2. It will result in increased missions giving.
3. In most cases, even general fund giving will increase.
4. God's blessings will rest upon the local congregation.

If this is so, thousands of churches have failed to accept the faith promise challenge?

LOOK AT SOME OF THE REASONS

1. SOME CHURCHES JUST AREN'T INTERESTED IN MISSIONS.

Studies show that many churches give nothing to missions year after year and never have a missionary speaker in their church.

2. THE PASTOR AND BOARD MAY FEAR THAT THE CHURCH WILL SUFFER FINANCIALLY IF THE PEOPLE START GIVING TO MISSIONS.

Many struggling churches fear they could not meet the financial obligations of the local church if they started faith promise giving to missions. They do not realize that giving is a spiritual grace. They have forgotten that giving is also a spiritual law of the harvest.

Give, and it shall be given unto you... For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. (Luke 6:38, NIV).

3. MANY SMALLER CHURCHES BELIEVE THAT FAITH PROMISES WILL ONLY WORK IN LARGE CHURCHES.

Smaller churches hear of sizable faith promise budgets in large churches and conclude that they can never reach that level. Remember, we are not responsible for what we cannot do. We will, however, be held accountable for what we could have done, but did not do!

4. SOME BELIEVE THAT THE FAITH PROMISE PLAN WILL ONLY WORK IF WEALTHY PEOPLE ARE IN THE CONGREGATION.

The faith promise plan depends on each believer's faith balance, not its bank balance. The faith promise is not completed through the church's efforts alone, but through divine provision.

5. OTHERS BELIEVE THAT NO SPECIAL EMPHASIS NEEDS TO BE MADE.

They believe that if the full gospel is faithfully preached, the members will naturally want to support missions.

If church leaders fail to help guide believers' giving, those who really care about missions will give through para-church organizations and others that offer little or no financial accountability.

6. SOME BELIEVE MAKING LONG -TERM FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS IS WRONG.

But we make long-term monthly payments to the bank to finance those things that are important to us such as our house and our cars. We make commitments to Visa, MasterCard, Discover, as well as Wal-Mart, Penney's, Sears, Home Depot, etc, etc, etc. for other things we want. Get the message?

7. OTHERS TRY THE FAITH PROMISE PLAN ONCE, AND THEN DROP THE IDEA BECAUSE IT "JUST DIDN'T WORK".

Some will present the faith promise plan, but without real conviction. Their lack of adequate preparation and prayer will almost always guarantee failure.

It is said, "no stream will rise higher than its source." Few congregations will surpass the dedication and commitment of their spiritual leaders.

8. BUT THE FUNDAMENTAL REASON IS A SPIRITUAL ONE ... WE GET CAUGHT UP IN ACTIVITIES THAT DON'T REFLECT GOD'S VALUES AND PRIORITIES!

Time is running out...

- For those who are dying without hearing about Christ. Who will tell them if we don't?
- For many countries where the doors to missionary work will soon be closing. We must act while there is still opportunity.
- For churches and believers who have ignored God's command for too long. There is a price to pay for carelessness and disobedience.

JESUS SAID, *"Not all who sound religious are really godly people. They may refer to me as 'Lord,' but still won't get to heaven. For the decisive question is whether they obey my Father in heaven."* (Matthew 7:21, TLB).

We must lead those in our care to an understanding of Christ's commands and the cost of disobedience. **Fruitlessness is sin!** Jesus, speaking of his Father, said, *"He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit, he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful... This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples."* (John 15:2,8, NIV).

SO, WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

It Is Time To:

- Examine our own obedience to Christ's command to "go into all the world".

- We must teach by example the value of a lost soul.
- We must plan and conduct an annual missions convention each year, giving every believer the opportunity to obey the Great Commission through their faith promise giving.

We must listen with our hearts to the cries of a dying world.

Personalize God's commands
As well as His promises

SECTION 2

Let's Plan a Missions Convention

God won't plan a missions' convention for you, but He will guide you in the decision-making. The Bible says, "A man's heart plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps." (Proverbs 16:9 NKJV)

It is not difficult to plan a convention, but a lot of decisions must be made. God is interested in the details. If you doubt it, just consider the plans He gave for building the ark, the tabernacle, or the temple.

Jesus said, "But don't begin until you count the cost. For who would begin construction of a building without first getting estimates and then checking to see if there is enough money to pay the bills? Otherwise, you might complete only the foundation before running out of funds. (Luke 14:28-29 NLT)

The focus is not on the amount of money that you have but, on your determination, to plan well and spend available funds wisely.

PART 1

WHAT IS A MISSIONS CONVENTION?

THE MISSIONS CONVENTION IS A SERIES OF SERVICES, CONDUCTED ANNUALLY, THAT ARE DEDICATED TO PROMOTING:

- An awareness of spiritual need throughout the world.
- The individual believer's responsibility to be a part of the solution.

THE MISSIONS CONVENTION SHOULD BE INFORMATIVE.

By exposing the congregation to various missionaries who share the spiritual needs of the world and the role of the Assemblies of God in missions, both in the U. S. and around the world, we bring a clearer understanding to the believer of their spiritual responsibility to become involved.

For the convention to be truly successful, the congregation should know more about missions when the convention ends than they did before it started.

THE MISSIONS CONVENTION SHOULD BE INSPIRATIONAL.

Every service should move the heart of the hearer. Our emotions must be touched before we will respond willingly and enthusiastically to the challenge to become world Christians. Seek the Holy Spirit's anointing on every plan and every person who participates. Nothing should be planned as a filler to occupy space on the program.

THE MISSIONS CONVENTION SHOULD BE MOTIVATIONAL.

The purpose of the convention is to get people involved in at least one of three ways:

1. Go as a missionary.
2. Pray for the missionaries.
3. Give to send the missionaries.

All these goals should be in focus in every convention. We must challenge our people and we must lead them by example.

THE MISSIONS CONVENTION WILL INCLUDE:

- A series of services that focus on missions.
- A missions' speaker.
- A faith promise challenge to every believer.

The highlight of every convention should be the faith promise service. **No convention should be conducted without receiving personal faith promises from the congregation.**

Faith promises should be received in the service with the largest attendance, which will usually be the Sunday morning worship service. Everyone, including the occasional attendee and the uncommitted, needs to have an opportunity to obey the Great Commission through their giving. Not all will grasp the faith promise concept, but many will make a nominal monthly commitment and that is a beginning.

PART 2

WHAT IS THE RIGHT FORMAT FOR OUR CONVENTION?

HOW LONG SHOULD YOUR CONVENTION LAST?

Every church must determine which format will work best for them. Let's look at some of the more common choices.

1. Weekend

By inviting one missionary speaker, a church can conduct a Saturday evening banquet, Sunday morning faith promise service, and the Sunday night service dedicated to personal commitment.

2. The Eight-Day Format

This is a Sunday – Wednesday - Sunday format with missionary speakers in all the main services. Some churches include "home group" meetings on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday and invite missionaries to visit each group. This gives the congregation a greater exposure to missions and to the missionaries.

3. Simultaneous Convention

Sometimes called a "round - robin" convention, this is a joint effort among two or more area churches. Each church plans its own program and receives faith promises. Missions' speakers rotate among the participating churches.

The disadvantage with the "round robin" convention is that a pastor and church may "piggyback" on a neighboring church's missions' program without committing themselves to prayer and preparation, limiting any long-term benefits they might have received.

WHAT IS THE RIGHT FORMAT FOR A MISSIONS CONVENTION?

There is no format that is right for every church. Church leadership will need to study the various formats and determine which is the most appropriate for their congregation at this time.

Some factors to include in your consideration would be:

- How much help do you have for the planning and preparation of the convention? Do you have a local mission's team to help carry the load?
- How much uninterrupted time do you have on your church calendar? You do not want to compete with other church activities. The convention should be the only focus with no conflicting dates from departmental ministries or other church activities.
- How much finance do you have available for your convention? If finance is in short supply, it would be better to plan a week-end convention this year, then lay aside money monthly for your convention next year.
- How many missionary speakers can you afford? You need to provide transportation, housing, and food while there, and a generous offering for each participating missionary.

- How many missionary speakers are available during the dates you have set? Sometimes there are several missionaries itinerating in your district and at other times, few are to be found.
- How much experience do you have in organizing such an event? It would be better to schedule a shorter event and do it well than to have a larger event that was poorly planned and executed. If this is your first convention, it is critical that its success will lay the foundation for all future missions' activities!

A POSSIBLE FORMAT FOR A TWO-WEEKEND CONVENTION FOLLOWS:

Friday or Saturday Evening

Conduct a prayer meeting to pray for the success of the upcoming convention.

First Sunday Morning

Pastor preaches his vision for missions.

- The congregation needs to see the pastor's heart for missions.
- They need to know there is a strategy for missions' involvement.
- Distribute the brochure What is a Faith Promise?
- Give brief explanation of the Faith Promise plan.
- Instruct the congregation to seek God's direction concerning their personal commitment when faith promises are collected during the Faith Promise Service on the last Sunday morning of the convention.

First Sunday Evening

Schedule a home missionary as the evening speaker.

Wednesday Evening Missions Intercessory Prayer Service

A possible program might be as follows:

- Open with prayer.
- Sing a few missions songs to establish the atmosphere of the service.
- Take care of any other preliminaries.
- Have various members of missions committee give a report on each missionary family and project a photograph of the missionary family during each report.
- Share the prayer needs of each missionary family and end each report with a time of intercessory prayer.

Saturday Night International Missions Banquet

A suggested program follows:

- Open with a greeting and prayer.
- Give instructions concerning the meal.
- After the meal, the program may include:
 - A skit or drama
 - A missionary speaker
 - Or a DVD with a mission's theme

- Keep the evening's activities to a reasonable time length; don't exhaust the people
- Build excitement. Set the pace for tomorrow morning, Faith Promise Sunday.

Second Sunday Morning-Sunday School

- Present missions at all age levels of Sunday school.
- Combine the adult classes and schedule a missionary to speak to this group.
- Present the missions strategy of the church.
- Present and briefly explain the Faith Promise Plan.

Sunday Morning Service(s)—Faith Promise Service

This is the most important service of the convention! Build excitement. Everything that is done should point to missions and faith promise giving.

- Make sure that the congregational and special music carry a mission's theme.
- Plan at least 45 minutes for an explanation of the faith promise plan, the message, and receiving the faith promises.
- Be sure to present the Faith Promise Plan in both the sanctuary and in children's church.
- In this service, the missionary speaker should present a vision of world need rather than his or her own country and ministry.
- Following the missionary message, either the missionary or the pastor will pray for God's direction.
- Receive the faith promises, taking a few cards at a time.
- Read the annual total for each faith promise; but do not read names of the donors.
- Tabulate the faith promises and read final total.
- Give God the praise for the gracious and generous response and dismiss the congregation.

Note: "Section 4, Part 2 - The Faith Promise Service" (page 43) offers more detail on how to conduct the faith promise service.

Final Sunday Evening Service

This is a time of celebration because of the successful faith promise response. Be sure to give opportunity for others to make a faith promise as well.

This service should focus on personal commitment. Each person can search their own heart concerning their willingness to not only give, but to pray or even go.

Some might feel that the above plan is more than they can accomplish right now. In that case, it might be advisable to plan a weekend convention, consisting of a Saturday night banquet, Sunday morning faith promises and a Sunday evening personal commitment service. It would still be necessary for the pastor to preach on

missions and distribute the brochure, What is a Faith Promise? during the morning worship service the Sunday prior to the Faith Promise Sunday.

Regardless of the type of convention that you choose, it will require planning and hard work seasoned with much prayer.

PART 3

WHAT SHOULD WE CALL OUR CONVENTION?

That may sound like a strange question but there are many pastors that will argue the point that the term “missions convention” is outdated or carries negative connotations. It is important that we be able to present our missions activities in terms that are current within our society, with a clearly understood purpose and a name that carries a spiritual emphasis. The name should neither mislead nor promise more than it can produce. Choose a name that will aptly describe the activity and its importance. Remember...its purpose is to enlist the cooperation of the congregation in world evangelization

There are many different terms that are used to promote a mission's activity. Listed below are just a few:

- Missions Conference
- World Outreach Week (or Weekend)
- World Harvest Celebration
- Great Commission Week
- First Priority Concentration
- Global Focus
- Global Harvest Time
- We Speak to the Nations Week
- Open Door to the World
- Eye on the World
- Touch the World
- Focus on the Lost
- Heed the Call
- The Master's Commission

At least, you get the idea. You may create your own name for the missions' activities or choose one of the above. **Call it what you will but just do it!**

PART 4

GET IT ON THE CALENDAR

We in the Assemblies of God are proud of our Pentecostal heritage. We believe in the power of the Holy Spirit, and hopefully, we depend on Him for guidance. However, I have discovered that there is one thing that the Holy Spirit will never do. He will not slip into the church office during the middle of the night and write on your church calendar, "Missions Convention, October 3-10". If you as leader do not set the date and plan accordingly it will never happen. Tragically, activities that carry far less meaning and benefit often occupy the choice dates on the calendar and the real purpose of the church is overlooked!

If this is your first convention and the year is slipping away, you can plan a successful weekend convention with six months of preparation and promotion. Next year you will have a full twelve months to plan the second convention. Many churches set the dates for their conventions at least two or three years in advance.

Plan your convention for the same month each year. It is important that the congregation know in advance when the convention will be conducted. It usually takes about three years for the congregation to take ownership of the convention. Once that occurs, many will plan their other family activities such as vacations, etc. so as not to conflict with the convention dates.

The best dates for your convention will depend on several factors. If you live in warm climate, almost any month would be satisfactory. If you live in an area with four seasons, Winter might not be your best choice. Wouldn't it be a shame if you plan a winter convention and then the ice or snow prevents the attendance of the congregation? Plans were made, money was spent, and all for nothing.

The best months for conventions are those with good weather but are not interrupted by vacations. Since these are the most popular months for conventions, they also present the greatest challenge in scheduling the missionary speaker that you desire since many others want him or her for the same dates. It becomes necessary to plan well in advance to schedule the better-known convention speakers.

Do not plan any other church activity during the time of your convention. Missions is the purpose of the church and should not have to compete with camps, cookouts, retreats, or any other activity that does not focus on missions. There should be absolutely no distractions. This is easier said than done. Departmental leaders and others will clamor for a space on the calendar but, as pastor, you must not allow anything that would communicate that missions is just another church activity.

It should be obvious that we should plan our convention at a time when most of the congregation can be present. Avoid dates when special school or community activities are scheduled. If you try to compete, you will more than likely be the loser and missions deserves better. Be sure to consider not only the weather and vacation schedules but also any special work schedules that might be common in your area.

There are a few dates that just will not work for a missions' convention. Absenteeism is too great, and attention is focused elsewhere. These include Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Independence Day, and the Christmas season.

Many pastors prefer to schedule their convention during the first or second week of January, beginning the new calendar year with the new faith promise budget.

Whatever date you choose, be assured that you are pleasing the heart of God with your plans to focus on the needs of a dying world and enlisting every believer in participating in reaching that world before it is too late.

Section 3

Good Preparation Brings Great Success

Some say that preparation is everything. I am not sure about that, but it is extremely important. Take Noah for example. God gave Noah a divine commission and a plan for building the ark. That plan would not float by itself and that ark didn't just happen. Noah worked for almost 100 years preparing for the flood. Was the outcome worth so much work and preparation? Just ask Noah and his family. Or ask the animals.

We have been given a divine commission to reach the world. We have a plan (the missions convention) that will make this possible, but it will not just happen.

We must prepare for success! It is urgent. But do not try to do it all yourself. Select several people who are committed to the Great Commission and enlist their assistance as your missions' team.

Remember, the wisest man that every lived said, "*Whatever work you do, do your best...*" Ecc1 9:10 NCV

PART 1

ESTABLISH A CONVENTION BUDGET

Yes, a missions' convention will cost the church some money. It is not, however, an expenditure but rather an investment. It is an investment in lost souls around the world and in the spiritual welfare of the congregation.

Studies of our own Assemblies of God churches reveal that the general fund will usually increase by about 15% in the year following a first-time convention.

Many churches struggle from month to month just to pay the regular obligations of the church. The good news is that it does not require a large investment to conduct a weekend convention. No church is too small or too financially challenged to conduct a missions' convention. If finance is not available in the church fund or the members' pockets, call a missionary, hopefully nearby, and tell him or her the situation. Commit to give the membership a faith promise challenge and receive an offering for the missionary. There are many missionaries willing to invest their time and energy in your first-time convention.

While it is understandable that many churches will be challenged financially when planning their first convention, this should never be the case in subsequent years. Following the convention, a budget should be established which reflects the faith promises received during the convention. One of the items on the missions' budget should be for the expenses of the convention that will be conducted the following year. This will assure that the church will be able to invite the speakers they desire and cover their travel expenses and a generous offering.

When inviting a missionary speaker, it is understood that the congregation will cover the expenses incurred while traveling and during the convention. This includes such items as:

1. Airfares or mileage if driving
2. Motel and food
3. A generous free-will offering for the missionary or an honorarium for other speakers.

You will want to make provision in the budget for the mission's banquet and the promotional expenses for the convention.

A worksheet for determining your convention budget is located on the following page. These suggestions will get you started. You will adapt the budget to the financial capabilities of the congregation, your own convention plan, and such things as the number of invited guests, distance traveled and number of services in which they participate.

MISSIONS CONVENTION BUDGET WORKSHEET

	Example	Estimate of your Expenditures
TELEPHONE	<u>15.00</u>	_____
ADVERTISING:		
Newspaper	<u>20.00</u>	_____
Radio	_____	_____
Television	_____	_____
PRINTING:		
Bulletins	<u>12.00</u>	_____
Other	_____	_____
PROMOTIONAL:		
Flags	_____	_____
Posters	<u>10.00</u>	_____
Theme Video	<u>10.00</u>	_____
Displays	_____	_____
BANQUET:		
Hall Rental	<u>Church Hall</u>	_____
Food	<u>Pot Luck</u>	_____
EXPENSES FOR SPEAKERS:		
Food	<u>50.00</u>	_____
Motel <u>2</u> days @ <u>75.00</u>	<u>150.00</u>	_____
Travel:		
Mileage ____ x .37 = ..	_____	_____
Or		
Air fare	<u>350.00</u>	_____
Offering if missionary is speaking	_____	_____
Honorarium if speaker is non-missionary	<u>500.00</u>	_____
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES	_____	_____
TOTAL	<u>1,117.00</u>	_____

PART 2

SCHEDULE YOUR SPEAKERS

Believe it or not, some churches find it difficult to schedule missionaries because not every district has heavy missionary traffic. This may or may not be the case in your district. The question remains: Whom should we invite? You obviously may invite missionaries who are at home on itineration but there are other options as well. Personnel from your Domestic and World Missions office are usually available to assist you in your convention. Do not forget district leadership as well.

There should be a certain criterion for your main convention speaker since he or she will be responsible for presenting the faith promise challenge and receiving the faith promises. Much is riding on their ability to communicate the faith promise challenge to the congregation.

Your speaker should present a worldview of missions rather than focusing on a single field or ministry. The purpose of the faith promise service is to raise the missions' budget for the year, not bless one ministry with a one-time offering.

The speaker should help educate your congregation concerning their personal responsibility in world evangelism.

The person invited should be experienced and capable of presenting the faith promise plan and inspiring people to faith and action. Remember, this service is critical!

HOW MANY SPEAKERS ARE NEEDED?

Before inviting special speakers for the convention, ask yourselves the following questions:

1. How many activities have we planned that will require a guest speaker?
2. How many speakers are available for those dates?
3. Do we have sufficient funds available to provide for the number of missionary speakers that we wish to invite?

That brings up another question. What are a church's financial responsibilities to the speakers whom we invite?

1. It is a given that all lodging and food expenses for all ministering guests should be covered for the duration of their stay.
2. All travel expenses and an adequate honorarium should be given to speakers from the district or national offices.
3. For missionaries, a generous free-will offering should be received. This should be sufficient, when possible, to cover all their travel expenses plus money to add to their cash account in preparation for travel to the field.

PART 3

GET EVERYONE INVOLVED

PASTOR DON'T TRY TO DO IT ALONE!

One of the greatest errors that pastors make when conducting a first-time convention is trying to do it all without help. That is a big mistake for two reasons: First, even if you are really that good you will wear yourself out, and second, there are capable people in the congregation who should and would help if asked.

The most frequent excuse given by pastors as to why they did not plan a second convention was simply that they worked too hard planning and conducting the first one. It doesn't have to be that way.

UTILIZE YOUR MISSIONS TEAM

If you do not have a missions' team, it is time to form one. Develop a core group (3 to 6 people) and include them in all the planning and division of responsibilities. (See *Volume 1: Building Missions Leadership in the Local Church.*)

Allow your missions' team to take ownership. Those who agree to serve on the team already demonstrate an interest in missions. They may not be too knowledgeable about missions, but they demonstrate a love for the lost.

The missions' team will begin to exert influence among others in the congregation concerning missions and the vision will increase in both scope and intensity. Experience shows that where a missions' team is active in planning the missions' outreach of the local church, the congregation will begin to take ownership of the convention and will begin to look forward to this annual highlight on the church calendar. This ownership is usually full-blown by the end of the third year.

Guide the missions' team in creating vision for reaching a lost world. Allow the team to dream big dreams. You will be surprised at how great some of their ideas will be. Secure materials that can guide you and your missions' team in those formative steps of planning and conducting a convention. Consult with other churches and pastors experienced in mission's conventions. Ask your district missions' director for assistance in planning. Go ahead. You can do it!

GET EVERYONE INVOLVED

Having a mission's team does not mean that they should do all the work. Once each team member has his or her assignment, they can enlist the cooperation of others, forming sub-teams.

Do not forget to include leadership from Sunday School, children, youth, men's, and women's departments in the sub-groups. They will not only make willing hands but will also be able to help develop convention activities in their individual groups, making the convention a truly all-church activity.

IDEAS FOR ALL-CHURCH INVOLVEMENT

Parades

Everybody loves a parade. Larger churches often plan a parade for each age group at some time during their convention. They may spend months searching for original costumes from different countries. You may be surprised at how many people in your congregation already have some garment that represents another nation.

Even the smallest church can and should plan a children's parade. The kids love to get dressed up in costumes from other nations and march around the sanctuary. Parents love it too. Many will bring their digital or video camera to record their little one marching in the parade.

Children do not forget this kind of participation. In addition to learning about other countries and other customs, the children learn that missions is exciting! That is important.

Skits

Get the people involved in doing skits prior to and during the convention. Young people especially love drama. Skits are not only an excellent tool for communicating truths about missions but can make delicate subjects more acceptable than in a sermon.

Plan a skit for each Sunday morning during the month prior to the missions' convention. This can be followed by a brief announcement of the upcoming convention. You have just accomplished two important tasks: (1) You have promoted the convention, and (2) you have communicated Biblical truth about missions.

Banquets

Show me somebody who doesn't love to get together and eat! Take advantage of this trait and use it to advance the cause of missions. In an informal and not threatening setting, leadership can educate, motivate, and inspire those present to a deeper involvement in missions.

If it is a first-time convention, you may wish to keep it rather simple and inexpensive, conducting a potluck in the fellowship hall. You can still plan a mission's program to follow the meal.

Once you have more experience with your conventions, you may decide to plan a banquet away from the church property. Why? There are many functions conducted in the fellowship hall, but the mission's banquet is one of a kind and should be special. This can be done in a private dining room in a restaurant or hotel. You can accomplish much of the same purpose without the cost by renting an outside facility such as a community center that has kitchen facilities and ask each family to bring an assigned dish for an international banquet.

When planning a banquet as a super-special event, you may wish to provide childcare at the church. This makes a more restful environment, especially for the parents of small children. Secure responsible help to care for the children for the 2-3 hours necessary for the banquet. Please do not enlist the youth to serve as childcare providers. They need to be in the banquet!

The children should not be forgotten, however. Plan a banquet for the children on Wednesday evening during the convention in place of Missionette and Royal Ranger activities. Provide some type of foreign finger-food for the children to taste. Most will probably say, "Yuck". Follow that up with hotdogs or pizza. Ask the youth to serve the

children during their banquet. If your budget will allow, pay the youth for their services and they can put that money in their “Speed the Light” account.

Booths and Displays

Information is the key. The better informed your congregation is about missions, the greater will be their participation. We seldom get excited about something that is strange or unfamiliar to us.

Your display may include nothing more than a table loaded with brochures explaining the different ministries of Assemblies of God missions. Many of these materials are available without cost to you while others may carry a modest production cost. See the selection in the catalogs provided by U.S. and World Missions. (See page 36 for more information on convention materials.)

Decorations and Flags

When people walk into your church during the convention, everything around them should shout, “Today is really special”. This is not just another Sunday so let’s create a different climate for the duration of our convention. Flags, flags, flags..... hanging on the walls, from the ceiling, on poles, or carried in parades, all announce this is of worldwide importance.

Many churches start by purchasing a flag for each country where they support missionaries. They will also fly a flag for the country they wish to feature on each monthly Missions Sunday. It is neat to display, during the visit of a missionary, the flag of their adopted country. (See page 37 for information on where to purchase flags.)

Banners, large and small, along with posters, all carry the convention theme. These can also be secured from the respective mission’s departments. A large convention theme banner hung on the wall behind the pulpit announces the biblical theme for the year.

Special Music with a Missions Theme

Be sure to include music about missions even during the worship time. Any special music should be prepared with missions in mind. A theme musical is prepared each year. Your choir can present the musical with video background on the screen or you may select certain numbers from the musical to present during various services. If you feel that your church cannot present the musical, it is available on DVD to present as the focus for one service. Each musical will last about 20 to 30 minutes and makes a powerful impact. It can be used in lieu of a sermon. Be prepared to give an invitation following the musical, tailored to fit the theme.

Special Prayer Meetings

In all of you planning, don’t forget a key element – prayer. We give lip-service to prayer, but all too often we overlook its real value. Let’s be honest here. Missions is a spiritual battle and will never be truly successful unless it is directed by the Holy Spirit. This will only happen when we permeate our own efforts and planning with intercessory prayer.

A special prayer meeting conducted on a night just prior to the launching of your convention is a great way to assure God’s blessings on your efforts. Will everybody show up? Probable not, but those who do, will prepare the way for a spiritual

success. It may be on a special night or you may focus on prayer for missions during the Wednesday evening service just prior to the convention. Of course, you may dedicate a few minutes to corporate prayer for missions during the regular services leading up to the convention. This is another way to get the congregation to focus on missions.

You may desire to prepare a list of all the missionaries that the congregation supports, along with other missions' requests, and distribute the list to the congregation prior to or during the convention.

(For more ideas for praying for missions and missionaries, see [The Blueprint Series, Volume 4: Building Missions Effectiveness Through Prayer.](#)

PART 4

SET A FAITH PROMISE GOAL

If this is a first-time effort, most pastors and missions' teams are reluctant to set a goal. To accomplish anything worthwhile for the Kingdom, it is necessary to be able to visualize it first.

When challenged to set a goal, many respond, "But what if we don't reach it?" Someone has said, "If you aim at the moon, you might hit a streetlight." In other words, with a goal you will likely accomplish more than without.

It is important that the goal be within reach but not so low as to present no challenge. Experience has shown that the average first-time convention will produce faith promises that more than double the missions giving from the previous year. A good place to start, for a first-time convention, is to check the total missions giving for the previous year. Then check the amount of monthly obligations you now have for missionary support. Your goal should be sufficient to cover all your current missions' obligations plus additional funds to increase support to your current missionary list and pick up other missionaries for support as the year progresses.

If this is not a first-time convention, you will want to increase your goal over last year's giving. Other factors may come into play, such as any change that may have occurred in attendance or in finances during the previous year.

Some prefer to set a percentage-of-participation goal rather than a dollar goal. If 50% of the family units made a faith promise last year, you may wish to aim for 75% this year.

Regardless of which type of goal you set, you will likely want to set a goal that exceeds that of last year. If that amount is not sufficient to stretch the faith of the congregation, ask God to give you an amount that you should strive to reach. He will not let you down. Whatever the amount, set a goal that will encourage the congregation to reach beyond anything they have ever done.

For several weeks prior to the convention, be sure to share the faith promise goal. Do it with enthusiasm and faith. At the same time, teach about the faith promise plan. (See page 31 for more about faith promises) This will help build their faith and give them a better understanding of their personal responsibility to give to missions each month through the faith promise plan.

Do not forget to distribute the brochure *What is a Faith Promise?* on the Sunday prior to Faith Promise Sunday.

Part 5

DOMESTIC MISSIONS vs. WORLD MISSIONS

During the last 48 years of involvement with missions, I have seen and heard a lot of things. About the most foolish things that I have heard were the declarations of two pastors, not in the same place at the same time. One declared, “I don’t give anything to foreign missions. We have enough needs at home.” Although I have dedicated my life to world missions, I was just as appalled by a supporter of world missions who stated, “Everybody here in our country has had a chance to hear the gospel. We need to spend all our money in places where they have never heard.”

There is just enough truth in each statement to mislead a lot of people. It is true that we have great needs here at home. It is also true that most have had an opportunity to hear the gospel by radio and television. And there are churches, it sometimes seems, in every block. It is just as true that probably 50% of the world has never had an adequate explanation of the plan of salvation.

Admittedly, there is more romanticism involved in the concept of a missionary going overseas than one who is going to a large city, a college campus, or a reservation in the next state. That gives the world missionary an advantage, possibly unfair, in fundraising. It is also true that it is difficult to leave home and family to learn a new language and culture far from home, but it doesn’t make them any more obedient than those who have responded to domestic missions. It is the Lord of the Harvest who calls, and it is He who places us as He wills. There should never be any question regarding our commitment or our value to the Kingdom – as pastor, evangelist or missionary, domestic or World. We didn’t determine our place of labor, He did!

Domestic Missions and World Missions are separate entities in many countries – not because they are at odds, for their mandates are the same, but their methods must differ to reach their audiences. Missionaries from both Domestic and World Missions should find a place on your convention schedule.

Jesus said, “...*Ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and to the uttermost part of the earth.*” That doesn’t mean one at a time but, simultaneously. If we were not capable of doing it, Jesus would never have commanded us to reach the whole world. He knew that we could – with the power of the Holy Spirit, so we must!

Remember, the founding fathers of the Assemblies of God said:

“...the priority reason-for-being of the Assemblies of God is to be an agency of God for evangelizing the world...”

Enough said! Let’s meet the challenge, at home and abroad.

PART 6

UNDERSTANDING THE FAITH PROMISE PLAN

IT IS A BIBLICAL EXPERIENCE IN GIVING!

NOTE: This section is available as a PowerPoint presentation to be used during the faith promise service to explain in detail the faith promise plan to the congregation. Download a copy of What is a Faith Promise? At worldagfellowship.org/missions/

. The text of the presentation is as follows:

1. HALF OF THE WORLD IS WITHOUT AN ADEQUATE GOSPEL WITNESS

- One fourth of the world has never even heard the name of Jesus!
- Another fourth of the world has not received a sufficient explanation of the gospel to make a decision for Christ.
- We have been commanded to reach them.

2. WE HAVE ONLY TWO CHOICES

- We must go ourselves as missionaries, for Jesus said, *“Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.”* (Mark 16:15, NIV).
- If we do not go, we must send others through our prayers and our faithful giving. Paul wrote, *“And how will anyone go and tell them unless someone sends him?”* (Romans 10:15, TLB).
- Committed monthly giving makes this possible.

3. THERE ARE THREE KINDS OF MISSIONS GIVING

- **Emotional Giving** – Practiced by the person who gives only when moved by the emotion of the moment.
- **Token Giving** – Expressed by the one who seldom fails to give but only in small amounts requiring little effort.
- **Committed Giving** – Practiced by people who are serious in their responsibility to help evangelize the world.

4. COMMITTED MISSIONS GIVING:

- It is not the same as a tithe. Tithes are God’s portion of what He has already provided for you.
- Is not just a pledge – The church office will not contact a person who fails to keep their commitment.

5. PAUL WROTE CONCERNING THE GIVING OF THE MACEDONIAN CHRISTIANS,

“For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability, they gave of their own accord.” (2 Corinthians 8:3, NASV).

6. COMMITTED GIVING, EXPRESSED TWO WAYS, SUPPORTS OUR MISSIONS OUTREACH

- “According to their ability” means what they could afford to give. This is **BUDGETED GIVING.**

- “Beyond their ability” means to give more than they could possibly give on their own. We will call this **FAITH PROMISE GIVING**.

7. BUDGETED GIVING MEANS:

- To give regularly.
- To include missions in your monthly budget as a priority item, the same as tithe, house payment, car payment, food, etc.
- Missions becomes very important in your daily life.
- To give, not a token amount, but what you are truly able to afford.

8. FAITH PROMISE GIVING LIFTS BELIEVERS TO A NEW LEVEL – A NEW EXPERIENCE IN GIVING

It is not based solely on your ability to pay but rests confidently in God’s ability to provide as your faith ascends to new heights.

9. WHAT IS A FAITH PROMISE?

- It is a sacred act.
- A spiritual agreement between the believer and God that, with His help, he or she will give a pre-determined amount to the church during the next twelve months to be used in world missions for the evangelization of the lost.
- A sign of total reliance on God for divine provision.

10. WHO SHOULD MAKE A FAITH PROMISE?

- Every family unit (couple, family, or single person) should make a faith promise.
- Children and youth should be taught to make faith promises.
- If you are not called to go as missionaries, you are called to send others.

11. FAITH PROMISE GIVING IS THE GREAT EQUALIZER

- It doesn’t matter whether you are:
 1. A child with only a small allowance
 2. A teen with a part-time job
 3. A single mother struggling to makes ends meet
 4. A growing family who budgets every dollar
 5. A retiree on a limited income.
- Everyone is equal before God and has the privilege to believe Him for whatever amount He indicates.
- The amount of the faith promise is not based on a person’s bank balance, but on his or her faith balance.

12. IS YOUR PROMISE REALLY MADE IN FAITH?

- If the promise can easily be afforded, it doesn’t require much faith.
- If the promise isn’t a challenge, it may not stretch your faith.

13. WHY COMPLETE A FAITH PROMISE CARD?

- Missionaries must raise their full budget before they are cleared to leave for the field.
- Church leadership must know how much income to expect for missions before making monthly commitments to missionaries.

- Faith promises help leaders determine how much to budget for missionaries seeking support.

14. “I DON’T WANT ANYONE TO KNOW HOW MUCH I AM GIVING.”

- Only dollar amounts, not names will be announced.
- Confidentiality will be maintained
- Only those who administer missions’ funds will see the faith promise cards.

15. “IF I MADE A PROMISE LAST YEAR, MUST I MAKE A NEW ONE?”

- **Yes**, because each faith promise is a commitment for one year.
- **Yes**, because you should want to increase your giving each year. You have seen that God’s provision in the past so your faith should now be stronger.
- **Yes**, because we start fresh today.

16. HOW DO I GIVE MY ARE FAITH PROMISE?

- Most will give on mission’s Sunday
- Some will give as they receive their salary check.
- Others must wait until God provides.
- All should be clearly designated as “missions” on their check or an offering envelope.

17. HOW LONG DOES A FAITH PROMISE LAST?

- It will last for the next year, or
- 12 months, or
- 52 weeks, or
- 365 days, or
- Until the next convention, or until Jesus comes!

18. HOW MUCH IS A FAITH PROMISE?

- God gave His Son to redeem the world.
- Jesus gave His life for lost souls.
- Shouldn’t we give more to reach the lost than we spend on pet’s food and care or cable television?
- That is the question. You have the answer.
- If we spend more on cable television than on missions, we are not taking seriously the command of Jesus to “Go into all the world.”

19. CALVARY DEMANDS OUR BEST, NOT OUR LEFTOVERS!

20. SO, HOW MUCH SHOULD YOUR FAITH PROMISE BE?

- Here is a revolutionary idea. **Just ask God.**
- He will tell you how much your faith promise should be.

21. ACTIVE OBEDIENCE WILL LEAD YOU TO MAKE A COMMITMENT TODAY

“Each one should do as he has made up his mind...” (2 Corinthians 9:7, RSV).

22. ACTIVE FAITH WILL UNLOCK THE RESOURCES NEEDED TO COMPLETE YOUR COMMITMENT DURING THE NEXT TWELVE MONTHS.

“And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you

may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work.” (2 Corinthians 9:8, RSV)

**Christ accepted makes you a Christian.
Christ obeyed makes you a missionary.**

PART 7

PREPARE THE CONGREGATION

It is extremely important that adequate promotion be given to the upcoming convention. The congregation should never come to church on Faith Promise Sunday without being aware of what awaits them. This is planned failure!

If this is a first-time convention, it may be possible to plan with no more than six months anticipation. This is an exception. The conventions that follow should be planned at least a year in advance.

Promote, Promote, Promote

Missions is the primary purpose of the church! No, this is not just the opinion of a prejudiced missionary. A close examination of the Book of Acts will reveal that with the birth of the church their purpose was already defined: *...ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. (Acts 1:8)* If missions is the heartbeat of God, it must be the major focus of the local church.

Although preparation should begin many months in advance, vigorous promotion should begin about two months prior to the convention. If the church produces an annual calendar for its members, the convention dates should be prominently displayed. Remember, no other activities should be scheduled during the convention. The missions' thrust is singular! (See Appendix #1)

Start teaching about faith promises and sharing the faith promise goal when convention promotion begins. It doesn't have to be a long dissertation. Just a few well-planned comments each Sunday will prepare the way for a generous response.

Any time the convention is mentioned, it should be with enthusiasm. Reaching the lost for Christ is not dull! And should not be conducted as though it were. No one is happier than a productive Christian. Participating in the world-wide harvest brings great satisfaction now and great reward in eternity. Share the excitement.

Promote A Missions Prayer Emphasis

It has already been stated that prayer is a necessary element in the success of the missions' convention. There are several things that can be done to encourage prayer for missions and missionaries. A few ideas follow. You will be able to think of other creative ways to encourage prayer.

1. Prepare a prayer list of requests for the convention.
2. Include information about the missionaries supported by the church.
3. Conduct special prayer meetings to intercede for the lost of the world and to pray for the upcoming convention.

PART 8

BE CREATIVE – DON'T BE AFRAID OF NEW IDEAS

A successful mission's convention is more than a speaker, a banquet and faith promises. For a convention to really succeed, people must be involved. Here are a few proven ideas to get the missions' team started.

Posters

Ask each child to draw a poster depicting some aspect of missions. Mount them on the walls for viewing for a week or two. On faith promise Sunday, ask the guest speaker to judge the posters and award prizes for the top three entries.

Children's Banquet

Host a children's banquet on Wednesday night in place of the regular children's programs. A committee can be named to prepare the meal. Finger foods and some new and different tasting dishes from other countries are always a great hit. The children may not enjoy everything served, but the banquet will make a real impression on them. The youth can oversee setting up, serving, and cleaning up after the meal. A program with a mission's theme can be presented to the children following the meal.

See the World

Let the youth or different classes decorate several classrooms to depict the regions of Assemblies of God missions: US Missions, Africa, Asia Pacific, Eurasia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Northern Asia. If this is done on the same night as the children's banquet, the youth (or others) could take the children on a tour of these areas, explaining details about food, customs, climate, and spiritual needs in each region.

It Is A Computer World

For an innovative way to promote faith promises, build a plywood box with dimensions of about 30" wide x 30" deep x 60" high. Paint it and decorate it to look like a giant computer. Put a large knob on the front, as well as a meter or screen and a large slot. You might even put a plastic tube that contains small lights around the top. Call it **BOCS - Big Overgrown Computer System**.

Place it on the platform two or three weeks before the convention starts. Locate it where someone can enter and leave the box without being seen. In front of a platform door is an ideal location. Assign someone the task of entering BOCS during the service to be interviewed by the pastor about world need. Equipped with a microphone, BOCS (the person inside) can respond with world statistics in a computerized type voice.

On Faith Promise Sunday BOCS can be used to help tabulate the results. BOCS (the person inside) is equipped with an adding machine. He tabulates each faith promise as announced from the pulpit. The faith promise cards can then be inserted into the slot on the front of BOCS. This is strictly for effect. Occasionally ask BOCS for a sub-total. As you get closer to your goal, BOCS can speed up the running lights that encircle the computer. This communicates excitement. Although computers are not programmed to show emotion, even BOCS can't help but get excited about

winning the lost. If a machine can get excited what about the believer? Get the idea? Now, go improve on it!

For scores of other helpful ideas that have been successfully used by churches in their conventions, contact Assemblies of God World Missions and ask for the manual, *Proven Missions Convention Ideas*.

As you discover other ideas that work, file them with this manual to create your own depository of resources, from which to draw in the future as needed.

PART 9

WHAT MATERIALS DO WE NEED FOR A SUCCESSFUL MISSIONS CONVENTION?

DON'T FORGET TO ORDER MATERIALS EARLY

Be sure to order or make sufficient banners and posters. You will want to place posters, not only in the sanctuary, but also in the hallways, fellowship hall and classrooms. Let people know something special is a happening!

Anticipate your needs several months ahead. This will assure that you will have all your materials ready without worry.

Listed below are some of the materials most commonly used in a missions' convention.

- Regional posters
- Posters with faces from different countries
- Large convention theme banner
- Faith promise cards or faith promise envelopes
- Bulletin covers and inserts
- Previous year's stats bulletin inserts

Flags are readily available at many suppliers and may be purchased in many sizes and qualities. You may find a supplier locally or you may order online. If your budget is tight, you may want to inquire. Some larger churches might be willing to loan some flags for a few days. It never hurts to ask.

Or, if you prefer, you might ask the ladies to make flags and the children and youth to make posters depicting missions and the annual theme

Available Resources Provided by The Missions Commission

FREE DOWNLOADABLE ITEMS

All materials available in English, Spanish and Portuguese at
worldagfellowship.org/missions/

FOR THE NATIONAL MISSIONS DEPARTMENT

- **Manual - The Checklist** –A digest of the Blueprint Series used for teaching in missions' workshops with a corresponding PowerPoint presentation for each of the five essential elements for building missions in the local church. (available in both English and Spanish)

- **The Checklist PowerPoints**
 1. Create a Winning Missions Team
 2. The Missing Pieces
 - 2B. What Is A Faith Promise?
 3. Focus on Missions
 4. Knee Warriors
 5. The World Brought Near
- **Master Copies Are Available for Printing the Following Materials for the Local Churches:**
 1. Brochure – What Is A Faith Promise?
 2. Faith Promise Cards (For the members to make their monthly missions' commitment to the local church)
 3. Commitment Forms (For the church to make their long-term monthly commitments to the missionary)
 4. Monthly Commitment Certificates (For the national mission's department to send to supporting churches, indicating the amount of the monthly commitment and the missionary (with photo) to whom committed)

FOR THE PASTOR IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

- **The Blueprint Series** – Resource manuals (available in both English and Spanish)
 - Volume 1 – Building Missions Leadership in the Local Church
 - Volume 2 – Building Missions Support with a Missions Convention
 - Volume 3 – Building Missions Vision Month by Month
 - Volume 4 – Building Missions Effectiveness through Intercessory Prayer
 - Volume 5 – Building Missions Partnership through the Missionary Visit
- **Master Copies Are Available for Printing by the Local Churches:**
 1. Brochure – What Is A Faith Promise?
 2. Faith Promise Cards (For the members to make their monthly missions' commitment to the local church)
- **PowerPoint Presentations for use by the pastor in preparation of missions' sermons:**
 1. Collection of presentations to be shown to the congregation
 2. Collection of presentations to be used by leadership
 3. Collection of presentations to be used in pastor's sermons

SECTION 4

ZERO HOUR

Nobody said it would not be a lot of work preparing for a mission's convention, but it will be worth it if we keep our eye on the goal. Paul said, "*Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.*" Gal 6:9 NIV

You have planned, delegated, worked, and prayed for God's blessings upon your convention. It is zero hour; the preparation is over, and it is time to reap the results.

Moses recorded God's marvelous assurance of success when he wrote, "*For the LORD your God will bless you in all your harvest and in all the work of your hands, and your joy will be complete.*" Deut 16:15 NIV

Part 1

MAKE THE BANQUET SPECIAL

Everyone likes to eat. A banquet or international dinner scheduled during the mission's convention can create an informal atmosphere for information exchange, inspiration, and interaction.

When?

The Saturday evening, prior to Faith Promise Sunday is the choice of most churches. The advantage is that the same speaker can be used for both the banquet and Sunday morning. Some churches have a celebration banquet on the closing Sunday evening of the convention.

The pastor and the missions committee are the best judges of what is most appropriate for a congregation.

Where?

Some use the church fellowship hall and kitchen. Others use a community facility or a banquet room in a local restaurant. Hosting the banquet outside of the church may make the event more special since the fellowship hall is used for meals frequently.

Who Provides the Food?

At most churches, members bring assigned dishes for the meal. Some churches choose to have meat dishes catered and ask members to bring the remainder of the menu from home.

Others plan an international banquet with exotic dishes from other lands prepared by volunteers from the church. (See the manual, "Proven Mission Convention Ideas", for recipes of foreign dishes.)

A fully catered missions' banquet can be a very special event and the highlight of the year.

Do People Pay to Attend the Banquet?

Selling tickets helps determine how much food is required. But selling tickets may make some feel they cannot afford to attend. A "pot-luck" dinner allows people to attend without charging a set price.

Some churches always charge a small amount to better determine how many will attend. This income helps defray the cost of the banquet or of the convention itself. If the meal is catered, a charge likely will be necessary.

Who Is Responsible for Planning the Banquet?

A banquet team may appoint the following subcommittees with respective duties:

The program team will:

1. **Secure the speaker in cooperation with the missions' team.** You may invite a speaker just for the banquet, but most churches use the same speaker for the banquet and the Sunday morning faith promise service.
2. **Arrange for the music.** You may desire to have soft music during the dinner or only as a part of the program following the dinner. Make sure that all music is well prepared and that it carries a mission's theme.

3. **Select a master of ceremonies.** This may be the pastor or a member of the missions committee.
4. **Plan the program** (to be good stewards of time). Allow about 20 –25 minutes for the speaker and be sure to conclude at an early hour. You do want everyone back in the morning (if it is a Saturday evening banquet).
5. **Arrange for seating** the speaker and other invited guests.

The arrangements team will:

1. **Secure the banquet facility** if you decide to hold your banquet off-site. Be sure you know the cost of the facility, the arrangements for cleanup and the hour for vacating the facility.
2. **Provide decorations** and other items needed, such as table coverings, eating utensils, napkins, centerpieces, banners and/or posters, curios, etc.
3. **Coordinate the menu.** This will be necessary regardless of whether it is a potluck, international meal, or a formal banquet.
4. **Plan ahead for servers.** A buffet will only need a few servers, while a sit-down banquet will require a more elaborate plan. Servers can be older boys and girls or high school youth. You may wish to pay the youth for serving, with this money going toward their mission's project.

**“Delayed obedience is disobedience.
And disobedience is sin.” – Don Hillis**

PART 2

PREPARING FOR THE FAITH PROMISE SERVICE

This service must be well planned. The success or failure of your convention will rest in the response of the congregation to the faith promise challenge. You may feel that everything has gone well, but if the faith promise response is at best lukewarm, it probably indicates that the people do not understand the spiritual importance of their obedience to Christ's command.

Promote Faith Promise Sunday

Advertise for at least two months in advance, allowing time in each Sunday morning worship service for a brief "window on the world", to spotlight the upcoming Faith Promise Sunday. Make these announcements with enthusiasm. This is the premier event of the year!

Use skits, videos, and mime to promote the convention. Create anticipation and excitement for Faith Promise Sunday.

The week prior to Faith Promise Sunday

The pastor should preach on missions to demonstrate to the congregation that the pastor and the church are committed to reaching the world. The attitude of the pastor is the critical link to a successful convention.

At the close of this service, distribute the brochure *What Is A Faith Promise?* to each family unit. Encourage each family to read the brochure, discuss their faith promise commitment and seek God for direction as to the amount of their faith promise for the next 12 months.

Be Time Conscious

Faith Promise Sunday is a very special day. Keep announcements at a minimum. Plan baby dedications, reception of members and other such activities for another time.

Eliminate everything that will distract from your focus on missions. Remember – The primary purpose for this service is to present the faith promise challenge and motivate the people to respond. Anything else could become a distraction.

Plan All the Morning's Activities Around Missions

Decorate the sanctuary, lobby and hallways with flags, banners, and posters to help create a climate of expectation. This is like no other Sunday of the year.

Conduct special events in the Sunday school classes. If a missionary family is with you for the day, you may wish to use the spouse or the children (if old enough) to visit the classes for a brief time of sharing.

Parades generate excitement! Encourage the people to collect costumes to wear during the parade. The church can purchase flags to carry during the parade and then place around the sanctuary for the service. Any church should be able to, at the very least, have a parade for the children.

Be sure that all the congregational singing, as well as the special music, carry a mission's theme. This will help create a window through which the congregation can begin to see a lost and dying world.

Prepare the Ushers Prior to the Service

It is difficult to give instructions to the ushers during the service. Their minds are occupied with the task at hand. Meet with the ushers for a brief time prior to the service to explain how the faith promises will be received.

The faith promise cards should be distributed to everyone as they enter the sanctuary. The ushers should have additional cards in hand to distribute, when directed, during the service to those who failed to receive a card.

Make certain that the ushers know that at the close of the message, they are receiving faith promises and not an offering (although in some circumstances an offering may be received following the tallying of the faith promises). For that reason the ushers should not pass offering plates to receive the faith promise cards but rather pick up two or three cards at a time and take them quickly to the pulpit to the one who is announcing the totals.

Distribute Faith Promise Cards to Everyone

You may distribute the faith promise cards with the weekly bulletin as people enter the sanctuary or during the regular offering.

Prior to the message, the congregation should be asked if there is anyone who has not received a faith promise card. The ushers should be ready to meet that need at once.

Plan to Tabulate the Faith Promises During the Service

Some pastors, or members, object to tabulating the faith promises during the service because this takes extra time. We must be conscious of the time, but we should not "cut off our nose to spite our face". There are some real advantages to tabulating the faith promises during the service that are not realized otherwise.

Tabulation during the service creates great anticipation, something that is lost if you simply announce that the totals will be presented next week.

Tabulating the totals will result in more or larger faith promises. Hearing the individual faith promise totals announce sets a standard and encourages others to do the same.

Taking the time to tabulate communicates how important their faith promises really are.

Prior to the service, set up a table and chair for the tabulator close to the platform with a view of the pulpit. Provide a calculator with a paper tape for a running total. If you get confused with a hand-held calculator, there is no way to quickly find the error. The calculator should have new batteries, or an extension cord as needed.

It is extremely important that the tabulator be experienced and able to maintain a running total of the faith promises as announced.

Plan Carefully How the Faith Promises Will Be Received

Determine prior to the service whether the pastor or the missionary speaker will receive the faith promises? In a few cases the pastor may prefer to receive the faith promises but more commonly the two will work together.

A good plan is for the missionary speaker, who does it frequently and should be familiar with translating monthly totals into annual amounts, to write the annual total on each card and pass it on to the pastor who will then read it aloud.

Explain the Faith Promise Plan in Detail Prior to the Message

(See Section 3, Part 6 on pages 31-34 for detailed instructions and tools)

Give the Speaker Ample Time

A lost world is depending on the results of this service. Do not force your speaker to rush through these critical moments. To explain the faith promise plan, preach and then receive and tabulate the faith promises will require about 45 minutes.

It is critical that the speaker be given the pulpit early enough so that the service will not last much beyond the usual dismissal hour.

Make the Faith Promise Challenge at The Close of the Message

After the faith promise explanation and the message, lead the congregation in prayer, requesting guidance from the Holy Spirit as to the amount of each personal commitment.

Allow the opportunity for couples and families to consult with each other before making their faith promise commitment. Some churches ask the people to bring their faith promise to the front as a family unit and lay them on the altar. In this case the ushers would simply take them to the pulpit as they are received.

Trust God for the Results

The people have been inspired and motivated for a moment of decision. They are prepared to take a step of faith. So, believe in the people and expect a miracle.

Receive, Tabulate and Announce the Results During the Service

Ushers will bring the cards to the pulpit. Read the annual total from each card but do not read the names. When possible, read some of the larger promises first to inspire others to take a greater step of faith.

Remember, do not dismiss the service without announcing the total amount of faith promises received!

Now It Is Time to Celebrate the Results

If you have a band or an orchestra, ask for a drum roll or a trumpet blast as the pastor reads the grand total. Celebrate the response of the congregation and rejoice because every faith promise made assures that others will hear the gospel, maybe for the first time.

SECTION 5

Now We Need To Follow-up

In the medical field, after a person has made an initial visit to the doctor, a second appointment or a follow-up visit is scheduled to make sure progress is being made. Any farmer will tell you that you don't harvest a crop just because you planted some seed. It takes proper care during the growing season to realize a bountiful harvest.

So, it is when it comes to a missions' convention. The excitement of Faith Promise Sunday will not remain high unless missions continues to be a focus throughout the year. Once the convention has ended and the missionary is gone, the responsibility lies with the local leadership to assure that the commitment expressed through the faith promise cards remains strong until the next convention.

This means that many people will be involved. Paul wrote, *"The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building."* 1 Cor 3:8-9 NIV

It is obvious that the good work of others may not last unless we do our part in faithful cooperation for a common cause – Spreading the Gospel to the whole world.

PART 1

EVALUATE YOUR CONVENTION

The missions' convention has just ended. The missionary speaker shared the challenge of reaching the world with the gospel through regular committed giving. Faith promises were received and tabulated, and the congregation is rejoicing because of the response. What now? Three critical steps must be taken immediately.

- Evaluate the missions' convention
- Evaluate the faith promises received
- Establish the church's missions' budget for the next year

While it is fresh on everyone's mind, get together with the missions committee and others who helped make it a success for a review of everything that occurred. It is time to set in motion the plans for next year's convention before anything else is considered. As this is done it will be helpful to evaluate the convention just ended.

Ask the Following Questions:

- **What did we do right?** We know it when something works well. We want to do those things again. It could be that we could still do it better. How?
- **What did we do wrong?** Sometimes great ideas just do not work in real life. We do not want to repeat the mistakes, but the original concept may be sound. Do not discard the idea without a good discussion. After all, you now have experience with that idea. Eventually you may discard the idea, or you may find a way to eliminate the problem areas and have a great success.
- **What did we not do but should have done?** What was missing? Each year you will want to improve your convention. Be on the lookout for new ideas and fresh ways of presenting the challenge of missions. The manual *Proven Missions Convention Ideas* is full of suggestions to enhance your convention.
- **What dates will we set for next year's convention?** Never consider skipping a year in your convention scheduling, even if you think that the previous convention did not go too well. That would be all the more reason not to miss a year. Experience has shown that it usually takes three years for the congregation to begin to take ownership of the missions' convention and consider it as the highlight of the year.
- **Who will we invite as next year's convention speaker(s)?** Invite speakers at least a year in advance, when possible. Many churches set their convention schedule and extend invitations two or three years in advance to get the speakers they want. Do not wait too long or you may not find a speaker for the dates you selected.

Part 2

REVIEW THE FAITH PROMISES RECEIVED

Although the faith promise totals were announced to the congregation as they were received and tallied, these cards should be kept in confidence with only missions' leadership being privy to the individual commitments.

Review Each Faith Promise Card Carefully

As soon as possible following the convention, the missions' team should meet to review each faith promise. Most can be taken at face value, but you must give an honest appraisal to each faith promise before making long-term commitments to the missionaries seeking monthly support. Consider the following questions:

1. Is it clearly indicated on the faith promise card what each individual or family has promised to do?
2. Is this person's income adequate for such a promise?
3. Were promises received from people with whom you are unfamiliar or who have a history of not fulfilling their promises?

These are tough questions but should be answered now to avoid over-committing missions' funds for monthly support. Once these questions have been answered, it only remains to remember that these are faith promises and many people are able to do much more than expected because of God's divine assistance. That is where the faith comes in!

Estimate the expected income for missions for the next year

It would be wise not to commit all the income promised, however. It would be preferable to receive more than the missions' team commits rather than over-commit and end up with a shortfall each month. Any surplus can then be used to respond to urgent financial appeals for missionary projects through the year.

Having said that, it is necessary to estimate the amount of monthly income you will receive for missions during the next year. This includes, not only faith promises, but estimated missions' income from the various departments for Boys and Girls Missionary Crusade, Speed the Light, Light for the Lost and Women's Ministries.

Once you have arrived at a total anticipated missions' income for the next year, you are ready for the next step.

PART 3

ESTABLISH AN ANNUAL MISSIONS BUDGET FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR

The convention has been evaluated and the projected amount of faith promises determined. Now is a good time to establish the annual missions' budget for the coming year. Were enough faith promises received to meet projected giving? You can now adjust giving to actual income.

Again, a word of caution is necessary here. If this was a first-time convention, the church does not yet have a record of the reliability for faith promise income. For this reason, it is best not to commit the full amount of the faith promises received. Leave a margin for failure to pay. If the total faith promise amount does come in, you will always find more needs in missions where you can invest it later.

Estimate the Expected Increase in Missions Income for the Next Year

Once you have an estimated income for missions for the next year, subtract the congregation's current obligations to both World and US Missions from the projected missions' giving. The difference is the amount available for new commitments.

Determine How You Will Allocate the Missions Income for the Next Year. (See Appendix #2)

You may want to increase your monthly pledges to the missionaries the church currently supports. Determine the following:

1. Budgetary needs. The World Missions office or the individual missionaries can provide information regarding missionary budgets.
2. A cost-of-living increase to offset inflation.
3. Make every effort, when possible, to commit amounts that are equal to or above the national average.
4. Give priority to missionaries credentialed with your district. They depend on the Churches within your district for the major part of their support.

Consider adding new missionaries to the church's support roster. Information can be obtained from the district missions' director or the U. S. Relations office regarding new missionaries. The church can begin supporting them even before they come for a service. This will help them reach the field sooner and is an example of good stewardship.

Cash offerings. Determine the approximate number of missionaries who will be invited to speak at the church annually. Then budget a monthly amount of cash for a Missionary Speakers Reserve Fund. This fund will enable you to give each visiting missionary a guaranteed minimum cash offering, regardless of the weather or time of year, etc. However, please give the congregation an opportunity to respond to the challenge presented by the speaker. If the offering is more than the designated minimum, the entire amount should go to that missionary for his or her ministry needs.

Convention expense. Set aside a monthly amount for next year's convention. For example, if your convention cost was \$600 the first year, you will want to budget approximately \$50 per month from your missions' income for the next convention.

Budget funds for emergencies. Perhaps some missionary who is supported by your church will urgently need funds for a project. Or, for some unknown reason, your monthly income level may fall below what is needed for the list of supported missionaries. A Contingency Reserve Fund is good stewardship.

Part 4

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT MONTHLY COMMITMENTS TO MISSIONARIES

Board members, missions' team members, church treasurers and even pastors change with some frequency in many churches leaving possible confusion about missionary support. It should also be stated that proper accounting methods have made it necessary to discontinue using the term "pledge" when referring to promises made to the missionaries for monthly support. For that reason, the terms "monthly commitment" and "missionary commitment" will be used.

The following questions and answers may shed some light on issues that may arise.

What Is the Difference in a Faith Promise and a Missionary Commitment?

A faith promise is a financial commitment made by an individual to the local church for their support of missions. It is made at a missions' convention and is usually made for a period of one year. When the faith promises are tallied at the missions' convention, the local congregation has some idea about the amount they will be able to designate for missionary support.

A missionary commitment is a long-term promise of financial assistance, usually made by a local congregation, to support a specific missionary for his or her ministry.

Can an Individual Make a Monthly Commitment Directly to a Missionary?

Of course, it is possible to do so and the missionary is happy to know that there are people who wish to support their ministry.

Experience has shown, however, that personal commitments do not have the longevity of church commitments. A recent study revealed that over 32% of all personal support eroded during a four-year term while only 6.4% of church support was lost during the same period.

How Do We Determine Which Missionaries We Will Support?

If your church has a missions' team, they should develop criteria for giving support to missionaries. Attention should be given to:

1. The type of ministry in which the missionary is involved
2. The geographical area where they work
3. The missionary's current financial need
4. The missionary's sponsoring district. It is extremely important that we feel a loyalty to those missionaries being sent out from our home district before we commit ourselves to support missionaries from other districts. Most missionaries do have some support from other districts but if a missionary must go outside his home district to raise the bulk of that support, the missionary will more than likely never make it to the field. When the World Missions Board has approved a missionary, the district accepts the responsibility to do everything possible to assist that missionary in raising the necessary support.

When Should We Make A Monthly Commitment?

The sooner the better! It would be great if every church could make their commitment when the missionary is there for a service or even prior to their service with you.

If the missions' team must meet after a missionary's visit to discuss support, why not determine to always give the missionary your response within 30 days.

If every church would make their commitments in a timely manner, the missionary would be able to leave for the field much earlier.

Why Must We Send in a Commitment Form?

Every missionary is given a financial budget to raise. Only when the totals on the commitment forms, sent in by the churches, meet or exceed the monthly budget will the missionary receive clearance to leave for the field.

If you have not filled out a commitment form but are currently sending in an offering each month, it is helping the missionary's account but will not be counted toward the monthly budget. The Office of World Missions has no way of knowing your intention unless you fill out a commitment form.

How Much Should We Commit to A Missionary?

The amount of your commitment may be determined by your own church policy. Some churches give the same amount to every missionary that they support while many churches feel that they should give more to the missionaries from their home district than they commit to missionaries from other districts.

The national average for church commitments to missionaries is around \$50.00. This means that there are many commitments smaller than that amount. If your church exceeds the average, great!

If your average church commitments to the missionaries are less, perhaps your next project could be to bring them all up to the national average.

Be sure to review your commitments each year and, when possible, give the missionaries a cost of living increase.

When Should We Begin to Send in Our Monthly Support?

World Missions has no funds available to meet the living and travel expenses of the missionaries. This means that the missionary is responsible for raising every dollar that they spend.

Some churches wait until the missionary leaves for the field to begin sending their monthly commitment, but you can see that this only delays the missionary's departure. The sooner you begin sending your monthly offering, the sooner the missionary will be able to leave for the field.

Where Should We Send Our Monthly Offerings?

All offerings should be sent to either World Missions or Home Missions, 1445 Boonville Avenue, Springfield, MO 65802.

If you wish to send extra money as gifts to your missionaries for birthdays or Christmas, these may also be sent to the same address but be sure to mark them as "special offerings".

How Often Should We Send in Our Commitment?

Most commitments are made to be sent monthly. There are two reasons for sending them monthly.

1. Sending funds monthly makes it easier for the church to keep its commitments.
2. Sending monthly offerings assures that the missionary will have the finances as needed.

Who Should Be Responsible for Sending Our Commitments Each Month?

If you have a missions' team, more than likely the missions' treasurer will do this. If not, then the church treasurer would have this responsibility. The pastor should make certain that the individual responsible for missions' funds:

1. Knows how to send in the designated missions giving.
2. Sends the missionary offerings in a timely manner each month.
3. Does not spend missions' funds for other expenses of the local church.

How Long Should the Missionary Commitment Last?

There is no time limit on a monthly commitment to a missionary. It is understood that the commitment will last at least through the four-year term while the missionary is on the field. It is hoped that once a church becomes a partner with that missionary, the commitment will continue as long as the church is able to do so and the missionary continues to work under appointment with the Assemblies of God World or Home Missions.

SECTION 6

APPENDICES

Appendix # 1 Missions' Convention Planner

Appendix # 2 Annual Missions' Budget

MISSIONS CONVENTION PLANNER FOR 20_____

10-12 MONTHS

Appoint a missions' planning committee

Chairperson: _____

Members: _____

Set dates for the convention

Our convention will include the dates from _____ to _____

8-10 MONTHS

Prepare schedule

Our convention will consist of the following:

Type of service	Date	Speaker
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Confirm speakers:

_____ for _____
 _____ for _____
 _____ for _____

8 MONTHS

Announce convention dates

7 MONTHS

Announce convention dates

6 MONTHS

Announce convention dates

Appoint subcommittees:

Decorations

Chairperson _____

6 MONTHS (continued)

Hospitality (For speakers)

Chairperson _____

Banquet

Chairperson _____

Projects

Chairperson _____

Convention activities for children

Chairperson _____

Convention activities for youth

Chairperson _____

Advertising

Chairperson _____

Prayer

Chairperson _____

Ushers and tabulators

Chairperson _____

- Meet with all teams and church leaders and explain in detail the Faith Promise Plan, using Section 3, Part 6 of this manual. A PowerPoint CD on this subject is also available through the Missions Commission website: actsoneneightproject@gmail.com
- Announce convention dates
- Request letters, cassette tapes, DVDs, or video clips from the missionaries that you support.

4 MONTHS

- Announce convention dates

3 MONTHS

- Announce convention dates
- Order convention materials from Assemblies of God World Missions
- Request prayer for the convention
- Meet with sub-committees to evaluate progress

2 MONTHS

- Begin promoting the convention weekly
- Activate prayer groups
- Determine advertising to be used
- Secure photos and news releases from speakers

1 MONTH

- Promote the convention, including your faith promise goal
- Reserve motel accommodations for your speakers
- Include missions' literature such as the "True Story" brochure in the bulletin
- Meet with sub-committees for their reports
- Plan with Sunday School teachers for a missions' emphasis during class time on Faith Promise Sunday

3 WEEKS

- Promote the convention with a skit
- Share the faith promise goal
- Include missions' literature in the bulletin

2 WEEKS

- Promote the convention using the youth in a human video or skit
- Submit advertising
- Announce special prayer meeting for next week
- Meet with sub-committees for last-minute reports
- Include missions' brochure in the bulletin

- Print the convention schedule in the bulletin
- Prepare a missionary sermon for next Sunday

1 WEEK

- Promote the convention in detail
- Announce special prayer meeting for this week
- Include in the bulletin the brochure, "What Is A Faith Promise?"
- Conduct special prayer meeting
- As pastor, preach a missionary sermon
- Decorate the church, using theme materials from the Assemblies of God World Missions
- Prepare a special missions convention bulletin with a thumbnail sketch of each missionary supported, the church's present missions' budget, and the proposed missions' budget.

Assemblies of God World Missions

ANNUAL WORLD MISSIONS BUDGET WORKSHEET FOR 20____

WORLD MISSIONS/AUXILIARIES

Missionaries:	Now Giving	Projected Giving
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
Missions Convention Fund	_____	_____
Visiting Missionary Fund	_____	_____
Senders Fund (To assist candidate missionaries)	_____	_____
World Missions Administration	_____	_____
Relief Projects	_____	_____
Christmas and Special Offerings for Missionaries	_____	_____
Evangelistic Crusades	_____	_____
Projects Fund	_____	_____
Missionary Associates	_____	_____
Children's Ministry	_____	_____
Youth Ministry	_____	_____
Women's Ministries	_____	_____
Men's Ministry	_____	_____

DOMESTIC MISSIONS

Missionaries:	Now Giving	Projected Giving
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
Administration	_____	_____
Servicemen's Ministry	_____	_____
Assemblies of God Colleges and Universities	_____	_____
National Teen Challenge	_____	_____
Inner-City Ministries	_____	_____
New Church Evangelism	_____	_____
Inter-Cultural Ministries (Disabled, Ethnic, etc.)	_____	_____

BENEVOLENCES

Aged Ministers Assistance	_____	_____
Children's Homes and adoptions	_____	_____
Disaster Relief (Domestic.)	_____	_____

DISTRICT MINISTRIES

Administration	_____	_____
District Home Missions	_____	_____
Departmental (Christian Education, Youth, etc.)	_____	_____

OTHER

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

<u>TOTAL</u>	_____	_____
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