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“Making Disciples of Jesus Christ”

April 12, 2011

Ministers of St. Andrew's UMC

Faith Promise is coming to St. Andrew's! Twenty of the twenty-two largest missions giving churches in the United States use ***Faith Promise*** to financially support their projects. And they experienced no decrease in regular giving (tithing) or support of other efforts such as building projects. In fact they often saw increases in giving across the board.

Giving through ***Faith Promise*** should increase your awareness of not only what we're doing in missions, but also more importantly, what the mission need is. Whether we're supporting a local shelter, a church in Russia, an orphan in Kenya, a missionary in Tanzania or Mexico, an emergency response through the Methodist relief agency, or helping a local child to read, it is all to further God's work. Through our financial gifts, we help these things happen in the name of Christ, and that is how ***Faith Promise*** will take us to that next step.

In Matthew 9:37, Jesus said, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.” We know what has to be done, and in many cases it takes the physical presence of our “ministers” to accomplish the task. You will notice on the ***Faith Promise*** card there is a space to check that indicates your “Promise” to commit so many hours of service to others. This is how you can “be a minister” in places outside of our community of faith.

I look forward to seeing our missional outreach grow to what none of us alone could have imagined. Through God's blessings, in providing our individual ***Faith Promises***, we will become a church known for our mission activities and support.

Grace and peace, *D.A. Bennett*

Fellow Church Members,

For the past year the Missions Committee has been planning the realization of a method for supporting worldwide missions called “Faith Promise”. Through this giving method we each make a financial commitment to missions made between each of us and God. We individually determine a monetary amount that will be given when and if we are so blessed by God with that amount. This blessing could come from one of several sources; an unexpected pay raise, an inheritance, a tax refund that exceeded your expectation, profit from the sale of a personal item, a new home business, and any number of windfall events.

Several members of our committee have reported that part of their ‘Promise’ came from insurance settlements, stock exchange legal settlements, raffle winnings, and family gifts. Where the money comes from is not as important as the fact that it was something that was mostly unexpected; A gift from God.

Along with this letter today you'll receive a Faith Promise Card. Read it, pray for God's guidance, and on the First of May bring the top and bottom sections to our Mission's Weekend Sunday Service. Keep the middle section of the card in a prominent place in your home or office as a reminder to be watchful for God's provision.

We're excited about this new effort to further our mission outreach. Also on May 1, we encourage you to visit the numerous exhibits in the CLC (West of the Sanctuary) that will tell the story of the missions we currently support.

Blessings from your Missions Committee, *Margaret Robertson*, Chairperson

MY FAITH PROMISE GIVING GOAL

Return This Portion To The Church

As God provides, I will support missions with a Faith Promise through St. Andrew's UMC.
(Place in the offering.)

My Faith Promise Giving Goal is \$ _____ . Date: _____ .

I will also support missions by spending ____ hours in service to others.

Church Treasurer Copy

FAITH PROMISE MISSION GIVING CARD

"From Across the Street to Around the World, Spreading God's Love Through Missions"
I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done [it] unto one of the least of these my brethren,
ye have done [it] unto me. *Matthew 25:40*



St. Andrews UMC in Oklahoma City

Steps for Making a Faith Promise...

- * Ask God to help me discern an exact amount, recognizing that clarity and certainty about getting the amount exactly right isn't as important to God as my confidence in God to make that amount to be right for me!
- * The designated amount will be provided by God - so I will prayerfully begin looking to God to provide it through me for His mission to the world.
- * The Faith Promise is between me and God alone so I am not asked to sign my name to my Faith Promise Giving Goal that I return to the church. I promise God to give what God provides.
- * The Faith Promise is distinct and separate from my pledge and giving to the church budget as well as any other special church offerings to which I may give.
- * The Faith Promise is remitted by check to the church and earmarked "For Faith Promise" so my contributions may be recorded and included in my quarterly and annual contribution statements.

My Faith Promise Giving Goal is \$ _____ . Date: _____ .

I will also support missions by spending ____ hours in service to others.

Cut along the dotted line and keep this portion in a prominent place to remind you of your Faith Promise.

Your Copy - Post On Your Refrigerator

FAITH PROMISE GIVING INFORMATION

Return This Portion To The Church - Place in the Offering



Please complete the following: (check only one)

___ I have made a Faith Promise and returned the " Faith Promise Giving Goal" card (above).

___ I plan to make a Faith Promise and expect to do so in the days ahead.

___ I will consider whether to make a Faith Promise in the future.

Name (please PRINT): _____ Date: _____

Phone # _____ Email Address: _____

Faith Promise Team Copy

FAITH PROMISE MISSION GIVING CARD

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Your Faith Promise Gift Supports

San Miguel Orphanages
Leadership for Life - Africa
United Methodist Committee on Relief - UMCOR
Covenant Missions Tanzania
US Center for World Missions
OU Chinese Student Mission
CJAMM Prison Ministries
Wesley Foundation
Volunteers in Missions - VIM
ShareFest
Circle of Care
Project Transformation
McKee Center
Skyline Ministries
Special Conference Offerings
And Other Ministries & Missions!

YOUR FAITH PROMISE...

1. Supports mission outreach - at home and abroad.
2. Is according to God's provision in your life.
3. Is between you and God and is NOT a pledge to the church.
 - a. He guides you to the amount.
 - b. You look to God to provide it.
 - c. You are faithful to Him in giving it.
4. Is over and above regular giving.
5. Is a faith offering beyond what you foresee.

Pray daily that God will supply this Faith Promise gift through you. Your gift, whether \$5 or \$50,000 will make a difference both in God's work around the world and in your own heart. Pray until you are satisfied as to the size of the gift.