

BETHEL BIBLE CHURCH

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THE BETHEL CONNECTION

July 15, 2020

Bethel Global Missions FAQ

Here are a few frequently asked questions regarding some proposed changes to our missions funding at Bethel. We plan to talk more about this at our Annual meeting this week.

What is the Faith Promise Offering for Missions?

It is the amount you promise to give by faith, above your usual tithes and offerings, during the coming year to the global Missions program of your church. This is an annual pledge and the total amount promised is then used to fund the Missions budget. Bethel has used the FP method of funding missions for several years.

Why did we not have a Faith Promise offering/pledge this year?

A year ago, the Faith Promise (FP) pledge came in \$22,000 less than the already significantly reduced Missions budget of \$64,000 for the 2019/2020 year. The FP pledge not only was short of the budget, it was almost 50% less than FP pledges and giving of the previous years. The consensus of leadership was that a large part of our church family does not participate in FP, FP has not been taught or explained well over the past few years and a significant amount of FP giving had been carried by a few donors. So at the semi-annual meeting in January, the congregation approved a proposal to fund the remainder of the 2019/2020 Missions budget from general fund, to research and update actual support needs of our missionaries and look into changing to a unified budget for all church ministry expenses, including missions.

How are our missionaries doing and how will our reduced missions budget impact them?

Don Norrick and our Missions Committee worked hard to gather current data from each of our 15 missionary/ministry units that we support. We found that we have some missionaries over supported and some under supported. A missionaries sending church and agency established the amount they need to raise and receive to minister on their field effectively. Our budget adjustments reflect both our limited funding and the actual needs of those we support. The larger reductions were generally due to retirement plans in the next few years, a sense of less ministry effectiveness or fit with Bethel and a few already being over supported. Generally speaking, our missionaries are well cared for and have a large number of churches (and individuals) like Bethel that partner with them.

How does not having Faith Promise impact my giving at Bethel?

In at least two ways. First, hopefully this discussion will clarify and raise awareness regarding the importance and responsibility of funding global missions by the entire church family. Each of us should use this opportunity to evaluate our generosity to be sure it is in line with God's heart for building His church both here and around the world. Our offerings together fund or support the ministry of the gospel at Bethel Bible Church—whether it is the utilities and staff salaries at home or plane tickets and missionary salaries for our workers in other parts of the world. It is a call to renewed and growing generosity that reflects God's generosity toward us in Christ.

Second, if you have been giving to Faith Promise, please continue that giving with the understanding that those funds are needed to fully fund the proposed budget for 2020/2021 that now includes our missionaries and partnering ministries. Missions represents 16% of our proposed General Fund budget.

Many thanks both to the Lord and our Bethel church family for the impact Bethel has had and continues to have in getting the good news of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth! Let us know if you have further questions or concerns.

Don

What about the offering?

We encourage you to continue giving generously to the Lord's work here at Bethel. Here are some different options available :

- Mail
- Bank bill pay
- Online giving through the website
- Offering box is available at the back of the sanctuary.

Office Hours:

We will be in the office Monday ~ Wednesday from 10am-3pm, while still working hours from home.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK:

**BBC ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING,
WEDNESDAY, JULY 15 @ 7 PM**

SERVICE TIMES AND PROCEDURES WILL REMAIN THE SAME FOR THIS WEEK.

- Sunday, July 19 service at 9:15 am, sign up with Kelly Hines
- Sunday, July 19 service at 11:15 am, sign up with Kelly Hines
- Sunday, July 19 Drive-in service @ 11:15 am
- Sermon audio available on website by noon on Sunday.

Congrats to Jason Sears & Nicole Krohn on their engagement!

BBC will be throwing a bridal shower for Nicole in September.

Beginning this Sunday, July 19, we will be offering nursery (ages 0-2) during both the 9:15 and 11:15 services, as well as Junior Church (ages 3-kindergarten) during **only** the 9:15 service. We are adding the following procedures:

*Please only have one adult drop off and pick up children at the nursery and remain outside of the nursery if possible.

*At dismissal time for Junior Church, send children to the side sanctuary door to meet their teacher/helper. After church, please have only adult pick them up in the classroom.

*Nursery toys and surfaces will be disinfected between services.

***PLEASE** do **NOT** bring any child who has been sick or exposed to anyone who has been sick (ie fever, cough, etc) during the last week.

*Since we will not be able to social distance in these two areas, please only send your child(ren) if you are comfortable with that. Every effort will be made to keep spaces/children clean as much as we can.

Any questions: don't hesitate to reach out to Kelly.

~~~BBC Annual Business Meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 15 @ 7 pm. We are offering the drive-in option as well during our annual meeting.

~~~Mask in/mask out if you are coming inside for the meeting.



Kelly Hines will be hosting water activities for kids outside during the Annual Meeting. Be sure to bring a towel and change of clothes!

PRAYER

Please continue in prayer for Miley Dugan's mother, Maria. She had gastric surgery yesterday in Chicago. We are thankful that the surgery went well! Pray for her in the recovery time and for those taking care of her.

Pray for Tish, the granddaughter of Jerry & Cindy Vanwienen. Tish is scheduled to have surgery today, July 15 to remove her thyroid and her right and left lymph nodes. Pray for steady hands for the surgeon and all those involved in her care. Pray for Cindy & Jerry to be God's light to the family during this time.