



Frequently Asked Questions about Prayer and Financial Commitments to EFM Missionaries

EFM's goal is to provide our missionaries with really good care, but we cannot accomplish that goal without your faithful prayers and financial partnership. Consequently, your support of EFM missionaries is not unnoticed, nor will it go unrewarded. Thank you!

What are commitments?

Financial and prayer commitments are promises to support a missionary throughout their term(s) on an ongoing regular basis, not through one-time or occasional gifts. Financial commitments are for specific amounts that are typically given on a monthly basis; however, these commitments can also be quarterly or annually. Ongoing regular commitments provide the bulk of a missionary's financial support, but a commitment to join a missionary's prayer-support team is vitally important for successful ministry!

Why make a commitment?

Financial and prayer commitments allow missionaries to know what they can depend on. That's why EFM missionaries must raise 100 percent of their financial and prayer commitments before they leave for the mission field. These commitments are critical, not just for missionaries to depart or return to the field, but the commitments allow them to remain on the field and focus on ministry for the length of their ministry term. In addition to that, the financial and prayer commitments create a missionary's database, which enables the EFM staff to send news and prayer requests to the missionary's partners.

How long is a financial commitment and when do I start?

Your commitment starts when the EFM office receives your commitment to the missionary. A commitment will continue until the donor tells the missionary or the EFM office that they would like to change their commitment by increasing, decreasing, or terminating their support. EFM assumes that your commitment will continue through the missionary's term of service on the field; missionaries return to the US for deputation about every four years. During their deputation, they report to their supporting churches, families, and individuals "back home," which gives them an opportunity to enlist new partners or change existing commitments. National leaders who serve in their countries of origin come to the US for deputation about every six years.

Missionaries remain on salary with EFM during deputation. New missionaries begin full-time salaries with EFM once they reach 50 percent in commitments, which enables them to devote time to raising support, training, and preparation for departure to the mission field. It's important to understand that your ongoing financial commitment not only helps missionaries reach 100 percent of their goals, but your commitment also helps them with their personal package and training costs before they depart for the mission field.

How do I make a financial commitment or donation? What are my options?

Clearly state how your donation or commitment is to be used: general gift to EFM, designated missionary, particular mission field, or special project. Please provide contact information if you want to receive missionary newsletters or prayer notes.

•**Mail:** Complete a response form and mail to: EFM, PO Box 525, Arvada, CO 80001. If you are making a donation by check, please pay to the order of "EFM." If you are not using a response form, please include written designation.

•**Auto debit:** To authorize automatic debits from your checking or savings account, complete the "Automatic Debit Authorization Form" which can be found at friendsmission.com/giving/missionary-support or by [clicking here](#).

•**Online:** Go to friendsmission.com/donate EFM uses PayPal for online giving, so you may donate today or set up ongoing-commitment giving with your PayPal account or credit card.

•**Credit card:** Call the EFM office for credit card donations or use the "Credit Card Authorization Form" at which can be found at friendsmission.com/giving/missionary-support or by [clicking here](#).

•**Phone or email:** Contact the EFM office at 303.421.8100 or efm@friendsmission.com with any questions or to indicate your desire to make a commitment or donation.

What are the different financial needs of a missionary?

As already stated, EFM's goal is to provide our missionaries with really good care, but we also want every missionary to be effective in their field. In order to accomplish this, every missionary has a "personal support package," and every mission field has "ministry funds." These two areas of funding not only take care of our missionaries, but they also allow them to perform their objectives on the field where whole-life transformation takes place. In addition to this, the "EFM Project List" and "Christmas Catalogue" help support specific needs on the mission field.

Missionaries raise support that covers the needs of their personal support packages and ministry funds. It is EFM's goal to partner with supporting churches and individuals in this united effort to see missionary support fully funded (100 percent) through financial commitments.

Missionary personal support packages provide salary, health benefits, retirement, housing allowance, education, and travel funds. Ministry funds provide important ministry tools for the mission field: transportation, program funds, leadership training, evangelism and church planting resources, and assistance to the poor.

May I change my commitment?

You are welcome to change your commitment at any time. You can increase your giving, decrease your giving, or terminate your giving. Just inform the EFM office of your desired changes.

Is there a minimum amount that can be committed?

There is no minimum. In fact, every dollar you donate helps us work "better together" in the united effort of taking the gospel to the nations!

May I donate without making an ongoing commitment?

Yes! Your donations are always valued and appreciated. In fact, donations to missionaries during their deputation that are not part of your regular commitment help to defray other costs, including special deputation and training costs. This also applies to donations given to missionaries who are on the field, but the donation isn't part of a regular financial commitment. These donations are applied to their ministry support or special projects as designated.

How much of my donations and commitments actually go to the missionary?

EFM's stewardship policy states that all donations will be used as designated unless the designated ministry is fully funded. In those cases, we follow a policy to use the funds for the next closest ministry. EFM is able to apply designated gifts where they are directed because there are no administrative fees.

Are my donations used wisely?

Not only are annual audits conducted in the EFM office, but on every mission field. EFM also has an excellent board of directors who serve on various committees in the areas of finance, strategy, personnel and prayer, and development. Proposals from mission fields are considered from the perspectives of missiology, stewardship, EFM objectives, and sustainability. It is only after informed discussion and fervent prayer that mission-field proposals are approved.

What if I want to send a missionary a personal gift for a birthday or other occasion?

You can send EFM a financial gift for a missionary, but it must be clearly marked. The EFM office will inform the missionary of the gift and deposit those funds in the missionary's account.

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