

Ideas for Financial Support of “Your Missionary”

- ✓ Pledge part of annual budget. This can be any amount. Remember that mission personnel have two kinds of support needs – for basic salary support and for work/program needs.
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- ✓ If church has endowment funds, check to see if any could be used for mission support.
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- ✓ If church undertakes a capital campaign, tithe the amount raised and use some to support your missionary.

- ✓ Use the PC(USA) Vacation Bible School mission curricula (particularly 2004 and 2005; available from Presbytery Resource Center) for VBS, as a Sunday School curriculum, or other educational programs for children. Collect money for your missionary as the mission project.

- ✓ Set up birthday jars in every Sunday School class room. In class on the week of each person’s birthday, he/she puts in a specified amount for each year of life; a dime, a quarter, a dollar per year. (10 years old @ dime/year = \$1.00; 60 years old @ dollar/year = \$60!) Be sure to sing “Happy Birthday!”

- ✓ When church members go on mission trips, tithe the cost of trip to a PC(USA) missionary working in the country where you are going. (Ex: , those going to Puentes de Cristo could tithe to Bill Richter, the US coordinator for Puentes; those going to Guatemala could tithe to the support of the Wiseman’s.)

- ✓ Have a meal featuring the food of the country where your missionary is in ministry. Charge or ask for donations. Or do a movie night, featuring a movie about or from the country where your missionary is serving.

- ✓ Send family and friends, Christmas, birthday and other congratulatory cards, or sympathy card announcing that a gift has been given to your missionary in their honor, or in memory of loved one). (PWNC can provide cards for PCUSA missionaries coming from this Presbytery.)

- ✓ Take the Great Commission Offering to support missionaries specifically sent from PWNC. Materials in support of the Offering are available at Presbytery office.

Ideas for Spiritual & Emotional Support

- ✓ **Assign responsibility for maintaining contact with mission family to an individual or committee.** Sometimes a homebound member welcomes the opportunity to correspond with the mission worker. He/she could write once a month, telling the missionary what has happened in the church and asking for missionary’s prayer requests. Occasionally send photos of events or people reported about; send newsletters or other material that highlight the missionary, or sermons of particular interest.
 - IMPORTANT NOTES:
 - **Ask missionaries what forms of communication work for them. For instance, is e-mail an option? If so, can attachments such as photos be sent?**
 - **Follow up on communications received back from missionaries.**
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- ✓ Send contact’s name and e-mail address to Presbytery office so that person(s) receives information and is included if there is an electronic group to send news quickly related to

your missionary. If others in the congregation want to be on the electronic mailing list, send their names and e-mail addresses as well.

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- ✓ It is also possible for anyone to get on one of the existing PC(USA) mission networks email list (there are networks for Malawi, Guatemala, Mexico, for example), to stay up to date on what is happening in the countries where "their" mission workers are living.
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- ✓ Include missionary's name and address in your church directory; include name on church bulletin (along with pastor and other staff).
- ✓ **Make** a bulletin board and keep it updated.
- ✓ **Include** missionaries weekly in the congregational prayers; be as specific as possible.
- ✓ **Put** small bits of news, thanksgiving, requests etc. from missionaries or about the country where he/she/they is serving in church newsletters regularly.
- ✓ **Check** the Mission Yearbook for Prayer & Study. Note the day that your missionary is featured. **Lift up** the day for your congregation. **Make** a banner and have members of the congregation sign it, write a prayer or message on it, and **send** it to him/her/them.
- ✓ **Arrange** for telephone or e-mail hook-up occasionally, if possible. Use during worship, church dinners, session meetings, youth groups etc.
- ✓ **Send** cards on birthdays and other special occasions (Valentine's Day cards for the children and Mother's and Father's Day, for instance)
- ✓ **Send** a tape of special music from your church.
- ✓ **Supply** a Postal Airgram (available at the post office) at a session, circle, or committee meeting or at a church school class, so that individuals can write notes. An airgram may be placed in a conspicuous place in the narthex on a Sunday morning along with a note in the bulletin, or it can be announced, so that those who wish can write a note of **encouragement**.
- ✓ When there is no time to write, **send** a "Thinking of You" card. Cards can be humorous and light-hearted as well as serious.
- ✓ **Send** clippings from your local newspapers or magazines about topics you know are of interest to your missionary.
- ✓ **Send** modest gifts to family and children on special occasions such as birthdays and Christmas. If gifts are sent to the family let them know that something has been sent so they know to expect it. Give plenty of time for the parcel to arrive. Do not assume that the person has received it and just not acknowledged it. It can take several months for parcels to arrive.
- ✓ Give the mission field personnel adequate lead time to respond to specific requests for information and/or photos
- ✓ Review PCUSA publications in preparation for making mission trips – it includes ways on getting information on the country where the missionary serves .
- ✓ **Remember** that mission workers are extremely busy carrying out their assignments, and often do not have time to answer every communication.

