

## Missions Plan: 2019

God has been so generous to us and in 2018 we decided to set a goal of \$18,000 to give to missions over and above our regular tithes. That number represented just under 5% of our general operating budget. As of December 31, 2018, we gave over \$25,800 to missions! Plus, an additional \$1500 was given toward Margaret's trip to Honduras, which was not on the plan for 2018 but was received with joy. All in all, our missions giving was \$27,341. That's over 50% more than our goal. WOW!

With that in mind, here is our plan for 2019.

Some important factors in how we choose our missions partners and designate funds are as follows:

1. It is better to give more money to less people than to spread small amounts of money to many people. Why? \$500 doesn't significantly impact the yearly budget for a missionary but \$5000 does. Plus, a significant investment also means a deeper connection to the work that they are doing and a chance to build relationship with them.
2. It is vital that the mission, vision, core values and DNA of the local church match up with the missionaries. Then our missions families truly are an extension of the local church in the world.

Jesus said to his followers, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

We can't be everywhere but we can leverage what we have to make this happen as the Spirit prompts us and enables us, right?

In "Jerusalem" we have committed \$3000 to Ray of Hope this year. About \$2000 of that is for providing meals and the other \$1000 will be given to where it is needed most.

In "Judea" we have committed \$5000 to Anthony & Barbara Pennings and their work in Manitoulin. They sacrifice a lot to be there and it's tough slugging to shine light in the darkness but they are there, from us, representing Christ and we are honoured to get behind that.

In "Samaria" we have committed \$5000 to Hector & Ruth Aragon and the work they do in Guatemala. This couple is the real deal. They have been in Guatemala for over 20 years involved in pastoring, church planting, pastor and discipleship training, Child Care Plus and the William Cornelius Vocational Training Centre. They are worth investing in.

In “the ends of the earth” we have committed \$5000 to Jeremy & Teresa Feller in Ethiopia. Jeremy is the PAOC’s Regional Director for the continent of Africa after more than a decade of incredible ministry in Ethiopia and surrounding countries. Rob and I have had the privilege of knowing them for many years and hearing the stories of what God is doing to break the orthodox and Muslim religious strongholds in northern Africa. Amazing. We are excited to commit these funds to their ministry this year.

Additionally, we are sending out a short-term global worker from our own church family. Margaret Pfeiffer will be in Honduras from June to December 2019 serving as the Children’s Pastor at the Schools of Hope. We’re excited for her to take this step of faith and have committed \$5000 to her budget.

All in all, we’ve committed \$23,000 to missions this year.

So you’re invited to dig in and open your hearts to a new level of generosity this year. Maybe you will connect with a specific family and want to support them monthly. Maybe you will want to take a portion of your tax return and give it to this missions goal for where it is most needed. Maybe you will make a savings plan in your budget so that by the end of the year you have set aside some specific money to extend the life-transformation work outside of these walls.

As we did last year, we will be sure to be sharing about our missions partners over the coming months - their stories, prayer requests and what God is doing through their ministries. We have a missions committee who are going to make sure what we all know that Freedom Church is investing in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth.

We know that we can’t out-give God. When we reach out to meet a need, when we give sacrificially, we know that He honours and blesses those gifts. Let’s link arms and see how we can literally impact the world through the generosity of the local church.

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## **Here’s how to give and what happens to your gift...**

- When giving on PayPal or with an offering envelope, mark “Missions” and the amount you are designating. For example, you might write: General - \$250, Missions - \$100.
- Any money that is designated to a specific missions partner will be given to them. For example: Fellers - \$200
- Money given to “Missions” without a specific mission partner designated will be collected as General Missions and will help us reach the amount that has been promised to each missionary or ministry.