

Empowered by the Spirit. Sent to the World.

Stories of Faith that are
Changing the World



FIRST
METHODIST CHURCH
TULSA





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David

FMC Member

On the first night of our mission trip to Honduras, we gathered as a team and prayed. After we prayed, I was aware that the Holy Spirit's presence had settled in over us. This seemingly tangible substance felt like a weight, but not a heaviness. It was like a weighted blanket. I didn't know if we were feeling this presence because He was blessing the work we came to do, or if this was what it felt like to be in a ministry setting bathed in years of prayer, or if one or more persons walked in such an anointing that we all felt it. I think all of the team would say His presence shaped the ministry that week. But beyond that week, I do know that this awareness of His tangible presence has persisted in me now as a hiding place and a point of contact for "I AM with you."

Pat & Melenda

Global Partner

From the very first note we heard of Alablak traditional music, our family was enchanted by the mellow sound of bamboo flutes and the rhythm of their hand-hewn hourglass shaped drums and slit gong drums. The tunes were created to reflect beauty in their environment—mountains, streams and places or remembering loved ones. The slit gongs were once used as a method of communication, echoing their sound for miles. Sometimes as they celebrated the opening of a new house or the dismantling of the old, we would join the family or community in their customs. The house would shake and vibrate as the bark wood floors moved with swaying dancers and the marching feet of flute players. We marveled at the beauty around us. The complexities of language, art, and music make up a vibrant living culture. People groups should not

have to abandon any of these in order to embrace Jesus.

We urged them to create songs of worship that incorporated their melodies and traditional instruments. But they were hesitant to do so.

When the Alamblak translation of the New Testament arrived, their attitude towards expressing praise through traditional music began to change. Leading up to the dedication of their New Testament, an ethnomusicologist came to show how their traditional music was not unacceptable to God, but it was something they could use to express their deepest feelings towards God.

As the dedication grew closer, some of the Christians began to compose hymns in their traditional styles. Lydia was a lover of the

traditional Alamblak music, and she loved Jesus. She was eager to try composing songs that expressed her heartfelt joy in Jesus. One morning, she came to the church women's group and said that during the night the Lord came to her in a dream and gave her a song. She said that she sang the song ("Jesus calls out to me and I follow Him") until morning so she could share it and not forget it. The Spirit began inspiring more people to express themselves to God through traditional music.

Last year, we returned to celebrate a reprint of their New Testament. We were elated to hear that every year they had been celebrating the coming of the Word of God in their mother tongue. It had become a milestone celebration. The dedication of the reprint was a big affair. It was accompanied by much singing and dancing and praising God. One of the highlights for us was hearing many new traditional Alamblak hymns in the church. They now sing with gusto and heartfelt passion for the Lord with music that truly moves their spirits and draws them closer to God.





Sherry

FMC Member

While in Cuba, our team was gathering and looking to an open balcony awaiting the time to go to Sunday morning worship. It was a beautiful morning and as we were waiting quietly, all of a sudden we heard the sounding of the shofar loud and clear. We said, "It is time to go now." We all thought it was their way of telling us it was time to come to the church. I figured it was the elder in the church sounding the shofar that morning to welcome us for the service as it was about to start. Later that evening with Adria and Guillermo, we all mentioned hearing the sounding of the shofar that morning. There were puzzled looks on their faces. The elder who sounds the shofar was not at church that morning as he was working his hospital job! We all knew at once the angel of the Lord had sounded the shofar that morning just for us. We asked God for a sign and a wonder to be seen or realized. There were 87 people who came to Jesus that day!



Jodi

FMC Member

Meeting needs through the Care Portal has been challenging at times, but also an extraordinary experience of watching God work in people's lives. One of those was a young mother whom I will call T. She was in a difficult situation, leaving an abusive relationship, and taking on the responsibility of caring for her baby and a young niece alone. She was ready to move forward but faced an issue of back rent owed for the apartment she had previously shared with her husband. T worked full time and picked up extra hours to pay off as much as she could, but her husband refused to contribute which left her in danger of becoming homeless.

Through her case worker, a request was made on Care Portal to cover the remaining rent so T could have a safe place to live and care for her family. Our team committed to meeting that need, but

unexpected delays pushed things back by over a week. Meanwhile, time was running out.

Then came a pivotal moment. T received a call from her landlord with a warning—if the rent was not paid, she would be evicted. As she hung up, overwhelmed and unsure of what would come next, she cried out to the Lord for help, declaring that no matter what happened she would trust Him.

Within twenty minutes, T received word that someone from First Methodist was stepping in to cover the rest of her rent. Not long after, I had the privilege of meeting T and placing the money order for rent into her hands. With tears in her eyes and joy in her heart, she shared how she had prayed—and how God had answered her almost immediately. Together, we praised Him for His faithfulness.

It was wonderful to be a witness to what God is doing in T's life. In her moment of greatest need, God saw her, heard her cry, and provided—right on time.

Mathews & Mary Sheba

Global Partners

One afternoon a Grade 7 student named Sravan came to speak with me. Sravan is an orphan who has grown up without the comfort and stability of a family. After standing quietly for a moment, he said something very simple but deeply touching and then he quietly walked away: “Ma’am... this school feels like my home.”

Those words stayed with me long after that conversation ended.

For children like Sravan, Bethany Academy becomes more than a school. It becomes a place where they feel safe, where someone listens to them, prays for them, and reminds them that they are deeply valued and loved by God. Moments like this remind us that the work we do here is not only about education, but about nurturing hearts and lives.





Melanie

FMC Member

I had the opportunity to evangelize at the Santa Monica Pier in LA. My partner, Simeon, taught me so much! He's 19 years old and has been sharing the gospel for a year. I learned the importance of asking the Holy Spirit to lead us. We approached a couple people that just happened to be lingering in the sun. It was a divine appointment no doubt! They were going to golf and decided, no let's go to the pier. They said let's just stand here in the sun for a minute. Simeon asked if we could pray for one of the men. They went back and forth about struggles with work, his grandma, and mom battling cancer. The friend with him had been trying to get him to go to church. Simeon shared the gospel and he accepted! His life is forever changed! I am so encouraged to keep sharing and know that I'll get better every time! The power is in sharing the truth of what Jesus did for us.



Reese

FMC Member

I have seen the Holy Spirit working in my everyday life, but a moment I remember comes from my first trip to Guatemala. I was given the opportunity to teach the Bible to someone I now call a friend. She was confused about what the Bible says, but the Holy Spirit spoke through me, giving her clarity about Jesus' character, and I saw a shift in her heart when she learned the full goodness of our God. Watching her fall in love with Jesus from a simple Bible story changed the way I see people, and I will never forget that moment. The moment I saw a spiritual shift in my Guatemalan friend, I knew I was called to a teaching position. Now I am in college studying youth ministry because the Lord has called me to serve the upcoming generation of youth and to give them a firm foundation through showing them how Jesus loves them through my actions and life.





Lauren

Global Partner

I felt called to move from going on short term trips to being a full time missionary while on a mission trip my senior year of college when I was 21. At the time, I was praying if God was calling me to move here (Guatemala). A family friend gave me a book, and it had nothing to do with missions and the first page said, “whatever you choose to be, do it well. Whether it be a teacher, nurse, or missionary in Guatemala.”



Terry

Local Partner

The Holy Spirit is opening doors in many ways on the TU campus. An Indian student invited me to have tea with him and his friends. He asked about my time serving as a missionary in the Middle East. He was very curious why I committed so much of my life to serving there. I shared my testimony of coming to Christ, which began my missionary journey. The volunteer that was with me was so impressed at how the Holy Spirit orchestrated this connection. It was my simple act of obedience in saying “yes” to tea that this student heard about the Gospel.



Debbie

FMC Member

My experience as a Family Partner with International Student Ministries has truly been a gift. My partner, a graduate student from Indonesia studying at ORU, has become so much more than an assigned match—she’s become a dear friend and sister in Christ. I’ve had the joy of meeting some of her family who visited, and sharing moments together that have reminded me how beautiful God’s family truly is. We’ve enjoyed many special times, from international lunches at TU on Fridays to Furniture Fest, where laughter and friendship filled the day. Providing a “home away from home” has been deeply fulfilling—what began as an act of service has become a journey of mutual blessing. God has enriched my life with a faithful prayer partner, and I’ve witnessed His hand at work in powerful ways as we’ve prayed, worshiped, and shared life together.



Joanny

Global Partner

I’ve seen the Lord moving within my own family. A year ago I lost my uncle. He drank most of his life and participated in a lot of bad things. As my mom and I went to comfort the family, the Holy Spirit spoke to my mom saying, “open doors for them once again.” For about four years prior to my uncle’s death, we continued our ministry without any collaboration with this side of my family. I always prayed that the Lord would give me guidance in drawing firm boundaries with this side of my family. However, after my uncle’s passing, I witnessed the Holy Spirit moving by mending all of our broken hearts and weaving our family back together. The unforgiveness that was still in our hearts started to fade. The Lord began a new thing in my family. Through the Holy Spirit’s comfort, the healing process and uniting of my family began. This was a miracle only the Lord could perform!

Joe & Kathi

FMC Members

In September 2025, when I first heard about the Cuba mission trip, my initial thought was “not something I am interested in or would want to participate in.” Later in the same month, Bill Couey directly asked me to consider going on this mission. He didn’t push for a direct response, just asked me to think about it. At that time, I still felt the same way, “not interested”.

I casually mentioned the trip to Kathi, and she expressed no interest in going either. This was confirmation to me that we definitely were not going. As the following week progressed, the Holy Spirit began to work on me. As I found out later, Kathi was having the same experience. Looking back, apparently the Holy Spirit was directing Bill, Jenny and Sherri to pick on us! As Kathi and I continued to discuss this trip, it became obvious the Holy Spirit was softening both our hearts toward the mission. In late October, there was no question in our minds, we wanted and needed to



go. We committed, paid our fees and bought in to the Cuba mission.

The Cuban people were warm, responsive and eager to hear our personal stories. They worshipped with passion and loved us as we shared how we have overcome our vulnerabilities and weaknesses. We, and they experienced the reality of the Gospel, i.e. Jesus Christ bringing us all together as one family, one focus. Any differences like nationality, location, culture, and government fade away in the light of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit!



Pat

Global Partner

How do you follow Jesus without His words? In 2014, I began working as a translation consultant for the Notsi [NOH'-CHEE] translation project. They had been working on their New Testament since 1986 but had faced many setbacks. When we completed checking their last book, Romans, in 2024, the Notsi translation team was elated. In May 2025, they finally dedicated the Notsi New Testament. Thirty-nine years. That's how long they waited to hold the New Testament in their hands. And when it finally arrived, a party erupted!



Adria & Guillermo

Global Partners

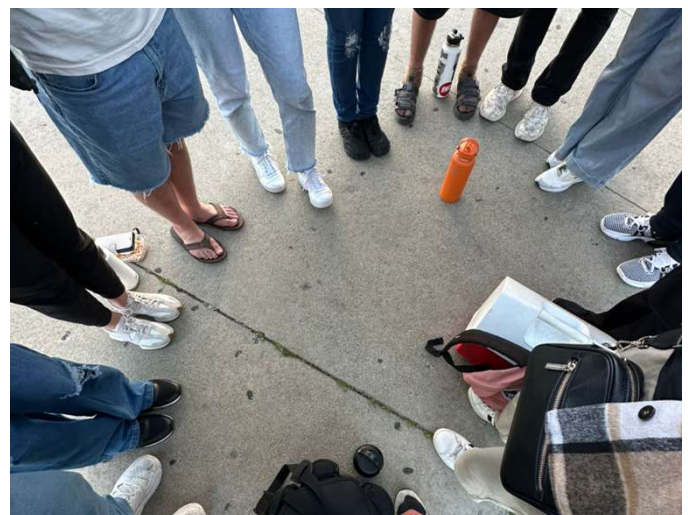
We have seen the Holy Spirit working and moving in extraordinary ways over 22 years in our pastoral ministry. His presence in our lives and in each Church that we have worked and pastored in Cuba has been impressive. His power has manifested itself by healing the sick. People on crutches and in wheelchairs have been healed and raised. Demon-possessed people have received deliverance. People with drug addiction have been delivered and saved. Women from bad lives have changed and today serve the Lord. The Holy Spirit has done supernatural things! We have witnessed his power at work in multiplying the food for the children we feed every Sunday! Even more than that, we have felt Him intimately, so close, so palpable. In our worship services, the Holy Spirit transforms the atmosphere! Come Holy Spirit!



Rebekah

FMC Member

In February I joined a team doing street evangelism in Los Angeles, CA. I have talked around and about Jesus my entire life, yet had never led someone to the Lord until recently. I have been afraid of giving offense and so I have failed to ask the question, “would you like to give your life to Jesus?” Standing on Santa Monica Pier listening to my teammate preach and watching people respond, the Holy Spirit convicted me of this style of evangelism by suggestion. The Holy Spirit urged me instead to take him at his word that the harvest is ripe and to dare to ask the question of salvation. Minutes later, I responded in obedience, asking a young mother if she would like to pray together to repent and believe. There was no hesitation as she responded yes. “Don’t you have a saying, ‘It’s still four months until harvest’? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.” John 4:35





Sandra

Global Partner

In February we went to visit a new family who live in a small village about a half hour from the school. The access to this village is through a private coffee farm. When we came to the entrance of the coffee farm, the security guard told us we needed a letter in order to enter, as well as identification. God made it so that we were able to enter without any issues. It was a bit of a drive up the mountain, but when we reached the top, we saw that the village was tucked down in a valley.

We learned that there were no school options in the village higher than 6th grade, which is why the kids were enrolled in Escuela Integrada even though it was so far away. I felt that the Holy Spirit had led this community to our school for a reason, and I am excited to see what the future holds for the families.



Ann FMC Member

Last spring, during Spark, the Bible club at Eugene Field Elementary, one of our students shared with us—week after week—that her mom was in jail. She didn't say why, but her consistency and sadness stayed with me. When school let out, I felt a strong nudge from the Lord to check in on her. I figured a little extra love and attention might go a long way.

I found out she and her younger sister were staying with their uncle. As we spent time together, her uncle opened up and shared the full story: their mom had been detained by immigration and was being held in a Texas prison. She had a lawyer and a court date on the horizon. He also said that letters to the judge could make a difference.

So, one of our team members and I wrote letters, while the rest of our Bible club team began praying—fervently. We waited and hoped. Her first court date came... and was delayed. The lawyer needed more time. To be honest, at that point, I started to fear the worst.

Then—just two weeks later—her case came up again. And guess what? **GOD SHOWED UP** in a powerful way! Her mom was released and reunited with her daughters in Tulsa. It was a miracle and now the whole family is doing well.

This experience reminded me again: when we pray, care, and show up—even in small ways—God does what only He can do. What a gift it is to be part of what He's doing in these kids' lives.

Donna

FMC Member

Sometimes you just know when God is speaking to you simply and boldly. I felt the Lord repeatedly saying to my spirit: “Honduras” ... “Honduras” ...

My response to the Lord was the same as when I was called to Guatemala: “What is it that I can possibly add to this mission, God? I surely don’t have the right stuff and I don’t speak Spanish or play soccer anymore.”

Once on the ground in Honduras, I soon knew that God had orchestrated our perfect team. It was a powerful week of thrilling evangelism. We broke into small teams including the Honduran church members, and visited the villages, inviting people to our events but mostly looking for those that God had chosen for us to pray for. In one day alone, I laid hands on those beautiful people and prayed for eyes to see, ears to open, seizures to cease, a tongue to be set loose, diabetic wounds to heal, and a woman named Olga in front of a yellow house to receive Jesus as her Savior. It was one of the best days of my life. The next day, I prayed with a pastor’s wife who received the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

I also was able to help children and ladies with craft projects and music. The Honduran foundation laid by missionaries Cheryl and Gary Kuney is so loving and amazing. Is God calling you? I hope you’ll answer the call.



Kelly

FMC Member

In March 2025, Mary Susan Danker-Dake and I traveled to India to walk alongside our missionary partners, Annie & Joanny Moses. God began planting incredible seeds. Everywhere we went, the Holy Spirit was moving in powerful and undeniable ways. One moment that deeply impacted me was our visit to a tribal village called Cheemalapadu.

As we walked through the village with the local pastor, we spent time praying—asking God to continue moving mightily and to draw the people of the village to Jesus. During that time of prayer, the Lord gave me a vision. I saw a church where none stood at the time, a lighthouse to the entire village.

I sensed the Holy Spirit saying that this church would not only be a spiritual light—drawing many to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ—but also a physical light set on a hill, shining brightly for all to see.

Fast forward one year—look at what God has done!

Now, there stands a church, strong and radiant, filled with light—God’s light—serving as a beacon of hope for the entire village. Our partners have just celebrated the dedication of this church!

What a powerful testimony to God’s faithfulness—how He gives vision, hope, and a future, even in the most remote places, like this tribal village in the Eastern Ghat mountains of southern India.

It is such a privilege to be a witness of God’s work in the world, empowered by His Spirit.



John

FMC Member

First Methodist in Tulsa has been participating in the Contact Mission Christmas Store since 2014 and I have had the opportunity, as the event photographer, to see things through the lens and witness the power of God in action.

I've witnessed it as Contact's sanctuary is transformed into a department store made possible by generous donations from our church and many other churches and organizations throughout Tulsa. I've seen it in the hearts and lives of Contact's staff as they live their passion to see lives transformed by the power of God. I've seen it on the faces of volunteers offering kindness and love as they welcome and serve Christmas Store shoppers. I've seen it in the relationship that develops between shoppers and their shopping guides as they search for just the right gift for each child. I've seen it on the faces of the shoppers as they have been able to find that perfect gift on their child's list for a price they can afford, and I've heard

it in their voices as they express gratitude to God and to those making it possible.

I've seen it in the prayer rooms as compassionate followers of Jesus take the time to ask important questions and offer prayer with each and every person. It is obvious God is at work and those serving and those coming to shop are drawn closer to Jesus.

It's amazing to get to see people leave the Christmas Store so full because of their experience. They've experienced the love and power of God and they've been able provide for their own children and are excited about what Christmas will mean for their family. It's why we keep coming back year after year.







Emma

Mission Team Member

My journey of God working in my life through missions began with a simple invitation. One day, my wonderful Meme asked if I wanted to be a part of a mission team to Guatemala. Without hesitation, my heart said yes.

When I arrived, I was deeply moved. I experienced God's grace in a powerful way and saw just how incredible it is to serve others. It was such an honor to help children in Guatemala learn about the Gospel and understand God's Word.

That one invitation changed my life. Since then, I have continued to go back every year, growing in my faith and my love for serving others.



Kathy

FMC Member

Joining this mission team was such a gift. In a place where tourism creates opportunity, children who learn English have a real advantage in supporting their families—and it was an honor to be part of that.

I went expecting to be a blessing, but I was deeply blessed by our team. From every adult to every child, there was a shared focus on being “beautiful feet,” spreading God’s love and joy. The staff at the school—from those preparing meals to translators and teachers—were incredible blessings to us.

Before the trip, Emmie (my granddaughter) and I practiced Spanish and prayed together. She and Lizzie were the youngest, but God used them just as powerfully as anyone else. Through every challenge, the kids showed patience and unity—I never heard a single harsh word among them.

One of the most meaningful moments was after a Bible lesson when a translator asked Kelly

and me to pray with her. She shared deep struggles from her home life, and we could truly feel the Holy Spirit ministering. Another powerful time was after Aaron shared his testimony and we prayed in small groups. The kids were open and vulnerable, sharing real needs—it was sacred.

Years ago, my husband took our daughter on her first mission trip at nine, and it sparked a lifelong fire for Jesus. Now, seeing another nine-year-old (Emmie) with that same growing heart for Him—that’s my prayer: that it continues to grow all her life.



Sara

Mission team Member

This past summer, our family had the incredible opportunity to serve together in Guatemala—a trip that has forever changed our hearts, our perspective, and even our marriage.

While our daughters had previously experienced this mission trip with their grandmother, this was the first time my husband and I were able to join them. What we experienced together as a family is something I will always be deeply grateful for. Stepping outside of our comfort zone and into a completely unfamiliar environment challenged us, stretched us, and ultimately brought us closer—not only as a family, but as a husband and wife.

Serving side by side in Guatemala was a blessing Ryan and I didn't know we needed but are thankful we received. Removed from the distractions of everyday life, we were able to truly focus on what matters most—our faith, our family, and each other. Walking through new experiences



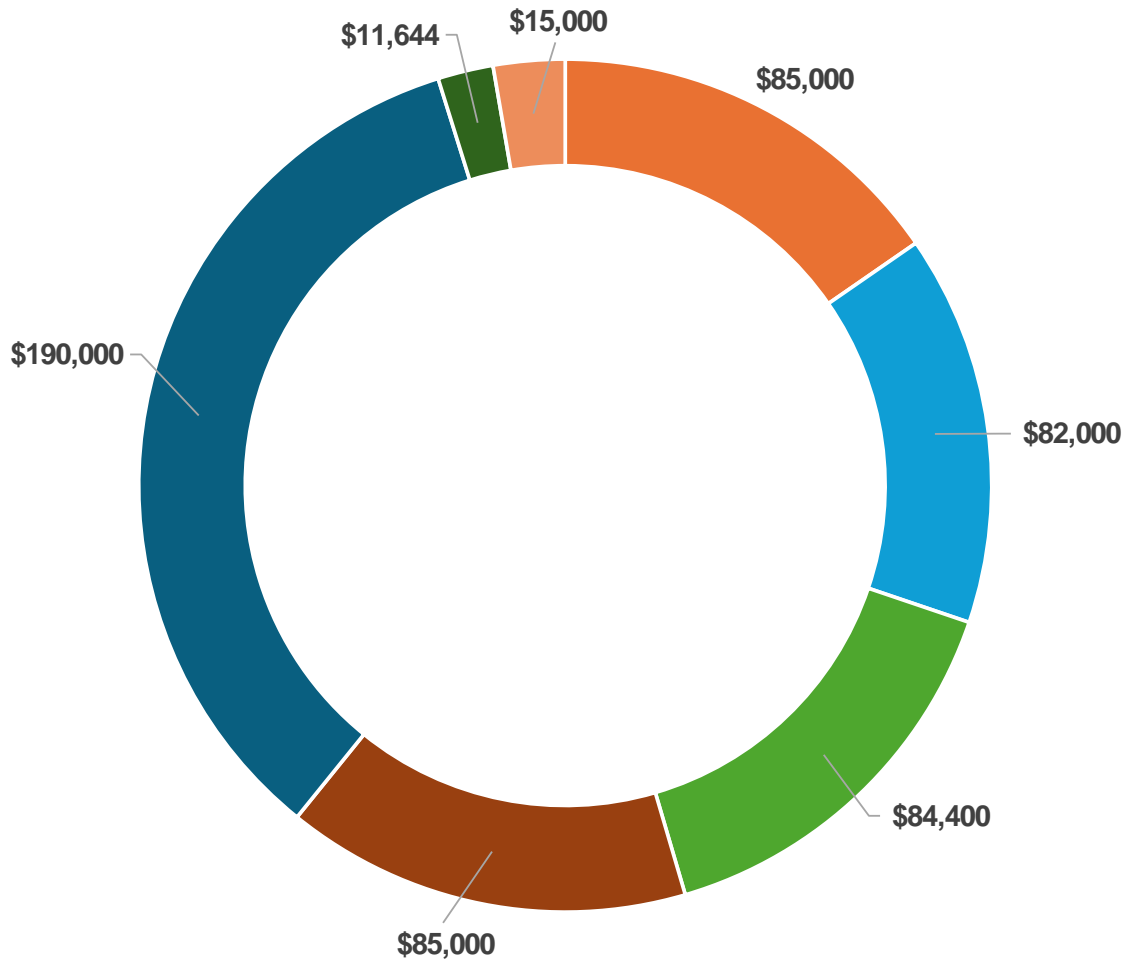
together, supporting one another, and witnessing God at work deepened our connection in a way that is hard to fully put into words.

During that week, we felt the Holy Spirit moving in ways we never expected. One of the most meaningful moments was meeting a young boy named Alejandro. From the moment we connected, we knew he would always hold a special place in our hearts. Today, we are honored to sponsor him through GRACES, and we are so grateful for the opportunity to be part of his journey and watch him grow.



Outreach Budget Breakdown

Total: \$553,044



- Mission Trips
- Missionary Support
- Church Mobilization
- International Focus Areas
- Mission Projects
- Local Outreach
- Missionary Care

Faith Promise Mission Giving

What is Faith Promise?

First Methodist is passionate about being “Sent on Mission”. Did you know that at First Methodist all our local and global mission outreaches are supported through our Faith Promise giving?

What is Faith Promise Mission Giving?

A Faith Promise is a personal commitment, made in faith, for global and local outreach. You commit to give what God provides. We say, “I commit to give this amount of money and I trust God to provide. I will fulfill this commitment.”

- **First**, pray and ask the Lord what he would have you step out in faith to give!
- **Second**, commit yourself by faith to give a specific amount and trust God to provide.
- **Third**, look for God to move in miraculous ways to provide. He will do it!!
- **Fourth**, be faithful to give what God provides and share your story when He does.

You can make a Faith Promise mission commitment by visiting tulsafmc.org/global or by using one of the commitment cards in the sanctuary pew.

Mission Projects

SEEDS School

Your Faith Promise mission giving helped establish a bilingual Christian school through our partnership with Kevin and Laren Sanchez in Paramos, Guatemala. SEEDS opened on January 10, 2026, with twenty-eight 4- and 5-year-old students. Each year they plan to add a grade through 6th grade. You helped fund this amazing God-sized dream and they already have a waiting list for next year!

Missionary Training School

Your Faith Promise mission giving has made a difference as we partnered with Annie and Joanny Moses to establish a Missionary Training School & Women’s Center in the tribal areas of the Eastern Ghat Mountains of India. Your giving is helping train and support 40 pastors, sending them across the mountains to the unreached tribal people who are hearing the message of Jesus for the first time!

