



## Keeping LINKS Present in Missionary Care

In trying to simplify the many emphasis of NMI It seemed logical to group offerings that directly affect our missionaries under one umbrella—Missionary Care. So instead of asking for a Missionary Christmas Fund Offering, Missionary Health Care Offering, and money for a church's LINKS missionary, NMI gives the option of one offering for the church—the Missionary Care Offering.

It is our hope that churches and/or districts will understand that they have the freedom to choose how they present offerings (together or separately) and that NMI does not want to be restrictive or controlling.

The challenge is that while churches may take fewer offerings, the needs of each of the separate emphases have not lessened.

We have received questions about how to make LINKS personal when we group the monetary portion in with other offerings. I believe that each church needs to brainstorm and pray about how to present LINKS.

Since our goal is to give freedom in accomplishing goals, keeping it simple may be best for your church. Point out that everyone can participate. Help your church recognize the importance of supporting the missionaries, those who have given their lives to tell the Good News and win the world for Christ.

Survey your congregation, asking them:


- Do you know who the church's LINKS missionary is and a bit about his or her family?
- Do you pray for LINKS missionaries in church and at home?
- Do you ever write your LINKS missionary, either individually or corporately?

To follow up:

- Provide information about your LINKS missionaries to your church.
- Give them periodic updates from the LINKS missionary's newsletters and e-mails
- Take the time when the church is together to write a quick note to the missionaries, sending the notes in one package.
- Pray for your LINKS missionaries by name in corporate worship.

More than anything, missionaries want to know that they are not forgotten and that they are prayed for. Always let them know how your church is praying for them, asking for requests and answers to prayer.

Linda Phelps and Gail Sawrie  
NMI Office

  
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