

MISSIONARY SUPPORT FUND [formerly General Fund] FAQs

ANNOUNCEMENT: what has been formerly known as and called the GENERAL FUND will now be known as and called the MISSIONARY SUPPORT FUND.

Q: Is the MISSIONARY SUPPORT FUND the same as the GENERAL FUND, and will it be used for the same purposes?

A: Yes, it is the same fund, it is supplied by the same offerings, and it will be used for the same purposes. Even all the while it was called GENERAL FUND, it was our primary and exclusive MISSIONARY SUPPORT FUND.

Q: Why was it called the GENERAL FUND before?

A: It was called the GENERAL FUND because 'GENERAL' indicated that all the GENERAL commitments, benefits, and services we give to our missionaries come from this funding source. 'GENERAL' was used to distinguish from 'DESIGNATED' offerings which were given for specific projects and activities, and which were directly forwarded to the missionary to whom they were designated. [It could just as easily have been called the 'COMMON' FUND or 'STANDARD COMMITMENTS' FUND since all the common and standard commitments, benefits, and services we give to our missionaries all came from this common fund. But, it was called GENERAL FUND because GENERAL FUND was the term commonly used for decades.]

Q: Why are we NOT going to continue to call it the GENERAL FUND?

A: Because – the very name GENERAL FUND has undergone a shift and change in the popular perceptions and notions people have for what a GENERAL FUND is. The term has fallen into 'general' disfavor. The popular perception has changed to give the impression that a GENERAL FUND is for either extraneous, miscellaneous, or peripheral expenditures that may or may not directly impact and benefit the missionaries and their ministries. We have had supporters tell us that they didn't want to support a 'GENERAL' FUND – they want to support a missionary. This thinking was caused by the perception that the GENERAL FUND was for activities other than direct and personal MISSIONARY SUPPORT. Of course, nothing could be farther from the truth with ours. The truth is: EVERY BENEFIT AND SERVICE WE HAVE COMMITTED TO OUR MISSIONARIES AND PROVIDE FOR OUR MISSIONARIES COMES DIRECTLY AND SOLELY FROM THIS FUND.

Q: Why are you now changing the name of this funding source to MISSIONARY SUPPORT FUND?

A: Because – that is what it is and that is what we do with every disbursement from offerings and contributions to this fund: we SUPPORT MISSIONARIES from this MISSIONARY SUPPORT FUND.

Q: Like – what kind of MISSIONARY SUPPORT is supplied and funded from the MISSIONARY SUPPORT FUND?

A: Here's a typical current month's disbursements from the **MISSIONARY SUPPORT FUND**:

\$15,200.00	Missionaries' salaries
\$ 6,250.00	Missionaries' housing/ministry expense allowances
\$12,100.00	Missionaries' medical insurance premiums
\$ <u>600.00</u>	Publishing their newsletters in the News & Reports
\$34,150.00	A conservative and consistent standard monthly expenditure

And, these are just what we call their **ESSENTIAL MISSIONARY SUPPORT [EMS]** commitments. They have to receive these essential commitments on a regular monthly schedule just to maintain and sustain being where they are to conduct their ministries. In other words, if they didn't receive these **ESSENTIAL MISSIONARY SUPPORT** benefits, they couldn't even remain on their fields. And, they all come from the **MISSIONARY SUPPORT FUND**.

Q: Are these standard and consistent monthly expenditures from the MISSIONARY SUPPORT FUND all the disbursements you make to our missionaries?

A: NO! not by any means. There are numerous other benefits and services we provide for our missionaries, not only every month, but also at various times throughout the year as the need arises or as they come due.

For example:

- **Medical insurance personal deductible reimbursement:** yes, we not only pay their total medical insurance premiums, but we also reimburse them for their personal deductible
- **Furlough transportation expenses:** when it is time for them to come to the States for their furlough [or Home Assignment], we pay for those travel expenses
- **Children's Education Assistance Allowance:** if their children are in tuition-based schooling, we provide \$1000 / per child / per school year toward those expenses
- **Support Services:** all of the services and logistics that are necessary to transact and administer all of these commitments to our missionaries are also provided...all the other transactions would not be made if these support services were not in place to make them happen...

Q: So, ALL of the services and benefits we provide for ALL of our missionaries ALL come from this same MISSIONARY SUPPORT FUND?

A: YES! ALL OF THESE COMMITMENTS WE HAVE MADE TO OUR MISSIONARIES ALL COME FROM THE **MISSIONARY SUPPORT FUND**. We don't have any sourcing or funding other than the **MISSIONARY SUPPORT FUND** to supply our missionaries' support needs. IF WE DON'T RECEIVE IT INTO THE **MISSIONAY SUPPORT FUND**, THEN WE CAN'T SUPPLY OR DISBURSE ANY COMMITMENTS, BENEFITS, OR SERVICES FROM IT WHEN OUR MISSIONARIES REQUEST IT...regardless of how much we want to do so.

Q: But, what if I prefer to give either personal offerings to a missionary – or designate my contributions to specific projects or ministries to be used that way?

A: We totally understand that desire, and we will not discourage those contributions in any way. We do not fund specific projects from the **MISSIONARY SUPPORT FUND**, and we also understand that our missionaries' friends, family, and supporting churches will all want to bless them with personal gifts. BUT, WE DO WISH TO EMPHASIZE THAT IF THE **MISSIONARY SUPPORT FUND** IS

NOT ADEQUATELY FUNDED SO WE CAN ADMINISTER THEIR ESSENTIAL MISSIONARY SUPPORT, THEN THEY WON'T HAVE THE NECESSARY SUPPORT SUPPLIES TO REMAIN ON THE FIELD TO EVEN RECEIVE THEIR ADDITIONAL GIFTS.

Q: So, you're saying that the best way to support our missionaries and to ensure the strength and stability of their ministry activities is to begin by contributing to the MISSIONARY SUPPORT FUND?

A: Yes, that is what we are saying. And, we are encouraging all our missionaries' giving friends – whether churches or individuals – to receive this appeal on behalf of our missionaries. HELP US SUSTAIN AND MAINTAIN OUR MISSIONARIES BY SUSTAINING AND MAINTAINING THE MISSIONARY SUPPORT FUND.

“For the administration of this service not only supplies the needs of the saints, but also is abounding through many thanksgivings to God...” ~2 Corinthians 9.12