

Missionary Care: LINKS Update

Prepared for the Global NMI Council

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LINKS reflects the mission statement of Nazarene Mission International (NMI): To mobilize the church in mission through praying, discipling, giving, and educating. By linking specific missionaries to local churches, Nazarenes can care for and support the global missionary family and to know some of that family personally.

The new LINKS cycle includes changes for many. We made these changes to facilitate more communication between the districts and the missionaries on the field, new faces, new friendships, and new fields to explore.

We are also changing one aspect in LINKS giving in order to comply with current IRS requirements. To add Mission Corps to LINKS has been a great move. More and more, God is calling families and individuals to leave their comfort zones and minister in new areas as volunteers. These missionaries are so important to the work of the Kingdom and their partnership is something we in the NMI office value highly.

In order to be in compliance with IRS regulations we can no longer facilitate personal gifts for Mission Corps volunteers that are received through LINKS. Therefore, any gifts received through LINKS for Mission Corp volunteers must be credited to the volunteer's Mission Corp support account instead of being forwarded to them as personal funds.

Personal gifts for Mission Corp volunteers that are not related to LINKS (or related to any other organized effort on the part of the Church to provide them with personal funds) are not regulated by the IRS regulations. Consequently, the General Church will continue to forward such regular personal gifts for Mission Corp volunteers.

Therefore, effective immediately, LINKS funds sent to the Global Ministry Center for Mission Corps missionaries will be placed in their ministry account. Unless clearly marked otherwise, the Global Ministry Center will assume that any personal gift received from a church assigned to a LINKS Mission Corps (volunteer or missionary) is a LINKS gift and the funds will be processed to the Mission Corps (volunteer or missionary) support fund.

Financial support is only one aspect of LINKS. Prayer coverage is essential, especially as our missionaries face a hostile world. The encouragement and discipleship between a local congregation and a missionary on the field has led many times to lasting friendships and helped to develop a passion for missions in the hearts of our youth and young leaders through the years.

As missionaries share their stories, their struggles, and God's triumphs, we learn how He is moving and how we can be a part of His work. This education is vital to our growth as Christians and especially as a mission minded church.

Through the four objectives of NMI—praying, discipling, giving, and educating—Nazarene members support and encourage our missionaries. Then, our churches receive blessing in return because of their faithfulness.