

How to Plan a Successful Missions Convention

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A Series of Services dedicated to promoting:

1. An awareness of spiritual need throughout the world.
2. The individual believer's responsibility to become a part of the solution.

A Convention Should Be:

1. Informative - It should expose your people to world need and the work of the Assemblies of God missions.
2. Inspirational - Every service should move the heart of the hearer.
3. Motivational - The goal is to get every believer involved in:
 - a. Going
 - b. Praying
 - c. Giving

What are the necessary elements of a successful convention?

1. A series of services, conducted annually, that focus on missions
2. A missions speaker
3. A Faith Promise challenge to every believer

How long should a convention last?

1. You may choose a weekend convention:
 - a. Saturday night – Banquet
 - b. Sunday morning – Faith Promises
 - c. Sunday evening – Personal Commitment
2. Some prefer a week long convention with two Sundays, Wednesday evening and a Saturday banquet.
3. You may join churches for simultaneous conventions

Whatever format you choose:

1. The pastor should preach on missions on the Sunday prior to Faith Promise Sunday.
2. Distribute a faith promise brochure, "*What is a Faith Promise?*" to the congregation during this service.
3. It is essential that the people know the pastor believes in missions.

Set a Date:

1. Begin planning your convention at least six months in advance.
2. Plan your convention for the same month each year.
3. Peak months are September through November and March through May.

Do not plan any church activity during your convention week that would distract from the focus of missions.

Plan your convention at a time when most of your people can be present.

1. Avoid dates when special school or community activities are scheduled each year.
2. Take weather, vacation time and other special work schedules into consideration.

Establish a Convention budget:

1. Speakers Expenses:
 - a. Motel and food
 - b. Fares or mileage

- c. Honorariums and/or free-will offerings
- 2. Promotions, printing, and advertising
- 3. Banquet

Schedule your speakers:

- 1. You may invite:
 - a. Missionaries
 - b. AGWM/AGUSM Personnel
 - c. District Leadership
- 2. Select a speaker who:
 - a. Will present a world view of missions rather than focusing on a particular field
 - b. Will help educate your people to their personal responsibility
 - c. Is capable of presenting the faith promise plan and inspiring your people to action.
- 3. How many speakers do we need? This will depend on:
 - a. The number of activities planned
 - b. The availability of speakers
 - c. The amount of funds available to cover speakers expenses.

What are our responsibilities to the speakers?

- 1. Missionaries – A generous free-will offering
- 2. DFM, DHM, and District personnel – Travel expenses and a generous honorarium when possible.
- 3. Motel and food for all speakers as needed

Utilize your Committee:

- 1. Don't try to do it all yourself.
- 2. Allow your people to take ownership.
- 3. Give your missions committee members the opportunity to dream big dreams for reaching a lost world.

Get everyone involved, which could include:

- 1. Parades – Children, youth and adults
- 2. Skits – Youth doing promotions for the convention
- 3. Banquets – All ages
- 4. Booths and displays
- 5. Decorations and flags of the nations
- 6. Sunday School classes dedicated to missions
- 7. Special music
- 8. Special prayer meetings
- 9. All of these and more with a missions theme

Set Financial or Percentage of Participation Goals:

- 1. That are larger than last year
- 2. That require faith
- 3. That encourage your people to reach beyond anything they have ever done
- 4. That include teaching about the faith promise method

Don't forget to order materials:

- 1. Allow 6 – 8 weeks for delivery.
- 2. Order sufficient banners and posters.
- 3. Take advantage of the theme video.
- 4. Don't forget brochures that introduce the multiple ministries available through AGWM and AGUSM.

Prepare your congregation:

- 1. Begin promoting your convention at least 2 months in advance

2. Begin teaching about faith promises
3. Share the faith promise goals
4. Create excitement and anticipation
5. Begin special prayer meetings for the success of the convention

Promote a Prayer emphasis:

1. Distribute a prayer list of request for the convention
2. Be sure to include information about the missionary families that you support
3. Conduct special prayer meetings to intercede for the lost of the world.

Prepare for Faith Promise Sunday:

1. Decorate the sanctuary with flags, posters, and banners.
2. Provide Faith Promise Cards to every one present.
3. Provide a table of brochures with various missions themes.
4. Feature missions in each Sunday School class for the day.
5. Receive faith promises in children's church.