



ima

International Ministerial Association, Inc.

MISSIONS MANUAL

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“Reaching the Nations for Christ!”

The IMA Missions Manual is designed to help you better understand how the IMA Missions Program works. From its inception the IMA founders and leaders have always put an emphasis on promoting foreign missions. Missions is the heartbeat of God and the IMA wants to do everything we can to help and encourage fellow missionaries as well as future missionaries to reach their full potential in fulfilling God’s call on their lives. If you have additional questions about this ministry, please feel free to contact the IMA home office.

IMA Missionary Categories

Prospective Missionary

Those who are called to full-time missions and desire to become an IMA Missionary member.

Active Missionary

An active missionary is one sent out into a different religion, culture, language, or nation for the primary purpose of establishing the Gospel.

Inactive Missionary

Missionaries who are no longer engaged full-time in their primary mission’s ministry.

Retired Missionary

Missionaries who are retired from their missionary work.

Prospective IMA Missionary

For active, full-time missionaries that are not currently an IMA member.

You must first complete an application for membership in IMA. On the application, list “Missionary” as your primary ministry and check the “Missionary Active” box designating the fee as \$125.00 (USD).

Missionaries are required to pay annual dues to the IMA. Please send your dues along with your application form.

When your application is approved, you will receive your IMA membership card.

Active IMA Missionary

An Active IMA Missionary is considered one who spends the majority of their time directly involved in the field(s) of the people group(s) they are called to, and where their mission is located with their primary purpose being to establish the Gospel. They must be willing to submit documentation of this involvement to the IMA Missions Committee. An Active Missionary has chosen foreign missions as their profession and vocation.

Active Missionary Status does not guarantee eligibility to receive support from the IMA World Harvest Offering Funds. Active Missionaries are eligible for the IMA Missionary Member fee of \$125. When the spouse of the Active Missionary is also a member of the IMA only one is required to submit the annual fee. The Spousal Exemption does not apply to missionary couples when they initially join the IMA, as they are both required to submit the IMA Missionary Member fee of \$125 with their applications.

Applying For Support

Complete the “Supplementary Missionary Application Form”. Answer all applicable questions, secure signatures of endorsement and recommendation, and send the application to the Missions Chairman for IMA Missionary status approval. You may get this application by requesting it from the Missions Office.

Missionary support status for an IMA member needs approval only by the IMA Missions Committee, as your original application for IMA membership has already been approved by the Credentials Committee.

After a completed Supplementary Missionary Application has been received by the Missions Chairman and the Missions Committee members have approved it, it will be forwarded to the IMA Home Office for processing.

The applicant will be notified when the process is complete and funds are available.

Inactive IMA Missionary

An Inactive IMA Missionary is involved in mission work but DOES NOT spend the majority of their time directly involved in the field(s) of the people group(s) where the mission is located. This is particularly true if the person holds secular, church or religious employment. An Inactive Missionary is required to submit the full fee for application and annual membership based on the license level of Ordained (\$250), Ministerial (\$225) or Exhorter (\$125). There is a provision for a reduced fee for Golden Agers (65+) (\$125).

Retired IMA Missionary

When a missionary retires as an Active IMA Missionary they may be eligible for a fee reduction or receive a complimentary membership. The missionary must have spent 20 years as an Active Missionary. The Missionary Chairman will be responsible to make the recommendation to the Credentials Chairman for the additional reduction or complimentary fee.

IMA Missionary on Furlough

All missionaries returning home must notify the Missions Chairman of the purpose for their return and planned length of stay. The missionary may receive World Harvest Offerings for up to six months. If a returning missionary is going to be in the United States longer than that they must notify the Missions Chairman of their plans to be eligible to receive support for up to one year.

If a returning missionary stays home for more than one year, and they fail to seek consultation with the Missions Committee for a viable path of re-engagement in their field(s), they will be considered an Inactive Missionary. A missionary must be on the field for a period of one year before returning home in order to receive a consideration for a furlough longer than six months.

IMA View on National Ministers

World Harvest Offerings are sent to those missionaries who are working on a field other than that of their nativity. Ministers who are working in their own country and ministering to their own people are not considered missionaries. Even though they are successful in their ministry, they are considered National ministers, and not foreign

missionaries. An exception may be made under some circumstances when one is appointed as the IMA representative. A representative is one who is required to observe, mentor other ministers, report on matters, or perform any other function asked of him as an IMA representative.

General Guidelines for IMA Missionaries

Correspond with Missions Office several times during the year to keep them up to date on your needs, activities, and ministry. Often pastors ask about missionaries, and we can give them information if we have recent letters and pictures in our files.

Notify Missions Office of any change of address. We can serve you better if we know your offerings and correspondence addresses and how you wish your checks made out (i.e., personal name or ministry name, etc.) or any other special instructions.

Notify Missions Office if you become inactive. If you wish to continue as an IMA member, regular membership dues will be required.

Prospective IMA Missionaries should meet with the Missions Chairman personally, if possible, or by telephone, and then complete the missionary supplemental application form. Keep the Missions Office informed of your plans, departure date to the foreign country, if your departure date has been postponed, or your plans change.

Attend the IMA General National Conference whenever possible. This helps affirm your ministry to pastors attending and make new friends. A time is set aside for missionaries to present their work. For the same reasons, every effort should be made to attend your own District Conference if you are in the US.

The Missions Committee requires each missionary to **have a local church covering**. This has proven to be of great benefit to the missionary and local church. If you do not have a local church covering or membership commitment, we urge to prayerfully seek such an arrangement, as this could be a reason for your missionary supplemental application to be denied.

Acknowledge your supporters personally and promptly.

World Witness Ministry (missions funds)

Designated Funds

Designated funds are those offerings that are received for a specific IMA member missionary. Designated funds are usually the result of a missionaries' personal solicitation of funds from individual churches and people.

Designated funds are sent to the missionary to whom they are designated, without anything being withheld.

World Harvest Offering Funds

World Harvest Offerings are raised primarily in two different ways: First being the "World Harvest Offering Sunday" that an IMA Church (or a participating affiliate Church) would receive and then forward to the IMA Home Office. Secondly; through offerings received, and pledges made at the annual IMA National Conference during the Missions Spotlight Service. (Please note: WHO Funds are not guaranteed, and are exclusively available to IMA Missionaries that have been approved for monthly support by the IMA Missions Committee). IMA WHO Funds are distributed on a monthly basis and depending on availability; they are subject to change without prior notice. However, it is the goal, and desire of the Missions Department to maintain sufficient funds so as to alleviate the possibility of a fluctuation of monthly support.

IMA Missions Committee

All matters concerning the IMA Missions Department, shall be determined by the IMA Missions Committee. The Committee shall be composed of a Chairman and two to four other members. The Missions Department works under the authority and direction of the General Board of the IMA and may be overruled by the General Board if they feel there is reason to do so.

The Missions Committee shall make all decisions as to the disbursing of missions funds. Decisions affecting the status of any IMA missionary must be passed through the Missions Committee for determination. A majority rule will be applied to all decisions.

The IMA Missions Committee may periodically (not more than once a year) send a questionnaire to each IMA missionary to update information concerning present

ministry, ministry expansion, and future goals to ascertain how we may help.

The Missions Committee pledges themselves to the furtherance and growth of the IMA missionary endeavor with goals, ideas and challenges for the future.

District Mission Emphasis

The IMA Missions Department is endeavoring to establish a valid Missions representative in each IMA district.

The purpose of the Missions representative in each District is to help the District promote foreign mission giving within its District churches by promoting missions in the district meetings and individual churches.

Districts are also being encouraged to promote the World Harvest Offering in their churches to bring to the National IMA conference.

IMA National Conference

The IMA has an Annual National Conference which includes a special Missionary Service. It is during this service that much of the World Harvest Offering funds are raised for the Missions Department of the IMA.

All IMA missionaries should try to attend the IMA National Conference which convenes in a different location each year. We welcome any brochures, short videos, or displays at the conference. Missionary Day is designed to let you spotlight your work and your needs. It is also an excellent time to meet pastors, IMA officials, and set up future itinerary for ministry and solicitation of designated support.

If a missionary is going to attend the conference, the Chairman of the Missions Department needs to be informed. Time and programs must be scheduled around the number of missionaries present.

There are no promised offerings given at the conference; however, it has been a practice to give an offering to help defray some of the costs to each IMA missionary that attends. The Missions Committee will determine if an offering can be given at the Conference.

IMA Missions Committee Chairman

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