



Freedom and Choice Tour

User Manual

Western Pennsylvania District



THEALLIANCE

"Lost people matter to
God. He wants them
found." (Luke 19:10)

Western Pennsylvania IW Tour

USER'S MANUAL

03/20/18

The WPA Freedom Tour & Choice Tour

- ✓ Churches have *choice* of dates, international workers, type of emphasis; Freedom will be responsible for all speaker's expenses (travel, lodging, meals) and Choice Tour travel expenses within the district and annual tour fee.
- ✓ District seeks international worker families each year to reside in the district as our Choice Tour international workers. Half-year Choice international workers will be initially available to district WPA Choice churches for 10-18 weekends, while full-year Choice international workers will be initially available to district WPA Choice churches for 28 weekends. District will seek to provide automobile, help to locate housing and to provide assistance with miscellaneous needs.
- ✓ Churches may also utilize Alliance speakers as needed such as: international worker retirees, international worker candidates, or short-term Alliance mission trip participants from other Alliance churches.
- ✓ District responsibilities: recruit international workers to district; assist pastors and churches to be proactive in planning and implementing their annual (or more often) international ministries emphasis.
- ✓ The National Office has revised their tour system and now request all districts to use one of two models; *Choice Tour or Freedom Tour*.

QUICK START GUIDE: Three Steps for Churches

1. **CHOOSE.** Your church should make the following choices for the coming tour year by June 1:
 - Freedom Tour or Choice Tour
 - Freedom – Contact the Alliance International worker of your choice directly to schedule ministry in your church. [see Freedom Tour]
 - Choice Tour – Will be given a scheduling window to book a WPA district worker that is on home assignment for the year residing in the district.
 - International ministries emphasis you wish to employ [see sample options]
 - Preferred dates to accomplish the chosen emphasis
 - International worker you want to minister in your church on those dates
 - Method of support for the Great Commission Fund [see sample options]

2. **SCHEDULE.** Schedule the Alliance International worker of choice to minister in your church.
 - ❖ *Freedom Tour churches* may begin scheduling *their* International Worker beginning January 1 prior to the Tour year
 - ❖ *WPA Choice Tour churches* will receive from the district an email with the scheduling link and the “live” date for online scheduling of active international workers.
 - ❖ *WPA Choice Tour churches* will be given a scheduling window of opportunity before such opportunity is given to other district or non-district churches beginning May 1
 - ❖ Scheduling retired international workers living in the district and participating in the WPA choice Tour should be made via email/phone.

3. **PAY.** The church is responsible to:
 - ❖ Freedom Tour Churches:
 - Pay for **all expenses** of the International Worker they are bringing in for their conference. I.e: travel, lodging, meals. Provide the international worker with an honorarium/love offering. This should be given directly to the IW.
 - ❖ Choice Tour churches:
 - Pay the district fee one time each conference year (July 2018-June 2019). The rate is currently **\$75.00** per year. A bill will be sent July 1 to each church for the tour year, to be paid upon receipt. (This helps cover; Vehicle ,conf. costs, misc. needs)
 - Provide the international worker (IW) an honorarium/love offering as well as travel expenses from within the district (currently \$0.25/mile).

CHURCH RESPONSIBILITIES

- Freedom Tour
 - The church is responsible for all travel expenses, lodging and meals for the IW enroute to and from your church and during their stay with you.
- Choice Tour
 - The church is responsible for any travel expenses (gas,tolls, etc.) which the international worker incurs in serving your international emphasis. Reimbursement is at \$0.25 per mile.
 - The church shall pay the district tour fee one time each conference year (July 20XX-June 20XX). The rate is currently \$75.00 per year.
 - You may choose to provide overnight accommodations for your IW (as needed) or to allow him/her to drive home following an evening service, depending on what is time or cost effective.
- The church shall provide the IW an honorarium or love offering, the minimum of which shall be no less than the Sunday AM pulpit supply for each service for which the IW is the speaker.

MISSION EMPHASIS OPTIONS

1. Minimally: Each district church shall conduct annually at least two (2) high-impact, congregational events with an Alliance international worker. (The district office strongly encourages at least a weekend conference.)
2. Week long or weekend international ministries emphasis may include additional services (congregational, women's, men's, youth, kids').
3. Weekend international ministries emphasis with events scheduled during weekdays before or after.

OPTIONS FOR SUPPORTING *THE GREAT COMMISSION FUND*

1. Utilize the Faith Promise method and/or set a church goal for giving to the GCF.
2. Choose to provide all, or a portion of the funds necessary to keep a missionary family on the field.
3. A combination of the above.
4. Other, as long as minimum (see #1 above) is fulfilled.

PLEASE promote and give opportunity for your congregation to contribute to special offerings for the GCF throughout the year.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Do we have to be on the *WPA Choice Tour* or can we keep doing missions conference as we always have?

You will have to choose between Freedom Tour and Choice Tour.

2. How does the *WPA Choice Tour* differ from the traditional spring/fall district tour?

The WPA Choice Tour differs from traditional district tour in that it provides great flexibility to the church. Instead of being told by the national office, the church may now choose its type of missions emphasis, dates, and workers.

3. Will our missions conference continue to be when it has always been?

A church may choose to schedule their annual missions emphasis “when it has always been” provided they can schedule workers for those dates. However, with the lack of available IW’s on home assignment, churches may need to be flexible with their dates and be willing to join in with other churches for an international conference.

4. How and when do we know and contact our District IW?

The missions tour year should no longer be thought of as “fall tour” and “spring tour” of a given year. Instead we must think in terms of a tour year, generally, July 20XX – June 20XX. A letter will be sent out from the district informing the churches the IW that is home for the given year. For those who are on the Freedom Tour, they can contact their workers directly and set up their schedules, informing the District office of their plans. For those on choice Tour, the beginning of May, each church can go to the District Website and schedule their church’s conference with the IW they desire to come and speak at their church.

5. What does this new tour model cost the local church?

- *Freedom Tour – The local church or group of churches cover all the expenses of the IW who will be speaking at their conference. (Travel, lodging, meals and an honorarium/love gift to the IW).*
- *Choice Tour - The local church will be responsible for all the IW’s expenses related to ministry for your church (mileage currently at .25 per mile), meals, lodging, etc.).*
- *The local church will be responsible for the district tour fee, currently \$75 per church.*

- *The local church will be responsible for any other expenses related to conducting their mission emphasis.*

6. If the local church is picking up all of the expenses for its missions emphasis, why is the church also required to pay a district tour fee?

The district tour fee helps to assist the IW with a vehicle, district conference costs and miscellaneous needs of the IW that may arise.

7. Will we still receive the Missions Kit? If so, when?

The Missions Kit is mailed out by the National Office to each local church in early Fall of each year. Each church receives theirs at approximately the same time regardless of the time or type of conference being planned.

8. What about receiving Faith Promise cards?

Faith Promise cards are also mailed to all churches in the early Fall. The number a church receives is based on the church's response to the line, "literature/quantity requested" of the Annual Report form.

9. Our church does not use the Faith Promise cards. Why do we still receive them?

- *It is easier (thus less expensive) to send literature to all the churches than it is to determine and to keep track of the churches which do not desire it.*
- *It is true that the Great Commission Fund budget is not determined by the Faith Promise responses. The value of the Faith Promise method is found in their use as a discipleship tool. Use of the card challenges the giver (1) to focus on God as one's Provider, both of what one keeps and of what one gives, and (2) to learn to trust God for one's enablement, not depending on one's own ability.*
- *The Faith Promise method provides a unique opportunity for parents to model and to teach both their children and teenagers to be involved in giving to the Lord's work and specifically to worldwide missions in a consistent and systematic manner.*
- *If in some churches not everyone makes use of the Faith Promise card, the cards should be made available to any who DO DESIRE to use them, even if users are in the minority.*

10. How will the new tour model bear upon the Faith Promise year?

- *The Faith Promise year may require a one-time adjustment (extending the current Faith Promise year or a one-time shortening of the current year so as to begin a new year sooner).*
- *Or, if a church's primary missions emphasis date varies year by year, the Faith Promise year may have to be customized annually.*

11. If our District IW has a family, will the entire family be available for our missions emphasis?

- *When there are pre-school or school-age children in the IW's home, the National Office does not require the wife to go on annual Tour. This enables the children to remain in a more consistent church and, perhaps, youth group environment.*
- *While neither the district or the local church can require a mother or her school-age children to be involved in a church's missions emphasis, the church may invite their involvement. A church will be appreciative if the family responds positively to it's invitation and will be gracious and understanding when the family is unable to do so.*
- *It is appropriate to invite the IW wife and mother (who has children in the home) to attend and to speak in place of her husband on a weekend (if the church so desires) or on another occasion.*

12. Why should we provide our IW with a love offering or honorarium when we pay all of his/her expenses and while he/she receives an allowance through the Great Commission Fund?

- *IWs have great expenses in returning to the field. While their home church may assist them, assistance given may not be enough.*
- *IW allowances are at the bare minimum. Additional funds are very helpful and much appreciated.*
- *Biblical giving is not so others may be eased and you burdened, but as a matter of fairness, by your abundance another's need is supplied. It is not a matter of duty but of grace and generosity. It is an opportunity to demonstrate the reality of one's faith.*

13. Where can we get our questions answered, or obtain help to plan or to implement our missions emphasis?

For resources go to the national website cmalliance.org and click on Missions Resources. They have many helpful resources you can download and use for your missions emphasis conference that pertain to the theme of the year. Any other questions we can help with at the district office.