

## Great Commission Budget FAQ's

### **Q. What is the Great Commission Budget?**

A. The Great Commission Budget (GCB) is the primary means of funding the mission of EFC-ER by providing financial support to the work of our four Ministry Teams:

- Church Health
- Leadership Development
- Finance & Administration
- Innovative Multiplication

Such things as: pastoral development, internships, Malone University support, church health assessments, cross-cultural ministry, church planting, and many other important works, are all funded by the GCB. The majority of GCB funds (over 52%) are used to support foreign missions.

### **Q. Aren't our missionaries now supported through Evangelical Friends Mission?**

A. At our 2019 Yearly Meeting sessions, the EFC-ER delegates made the bold decision to become full partners with Evangelical Friends Mission (EFM) by placing our EFC-ER missionaries under EFM's care and oversight. Beginning in January of 2020, EFM took over the payroll responsibilities for these missionaries. However, EFC-ER has maintained our commitment to fully fund all of these (formerly EFC-ER) missionaries by sending monthly payments to EFM. These funds come entirely from the free-will giving of churches and individuals who support the Great Commission Budget of EFC-ER.

### **Q. What is EFM and how is it different from EFC-ER?**

A. Evangelical Friends Mission (EFM) is the international arm of Evangelical Friends Church International – North America. The six Yearly Meetings that make up this partnership include:

1. Alaska Yearly Meeting
2. Northwest Yearly Meeting
3. Friends Southwest
4. Rocky Mountain Yearly Meeting
5. Evangelical Friends Church – Mid-America Yearly Meeting
6. Evangelical Friends Church – Eastern Region (EFC-ER)

Believing that we can do more together, EFM was formed in 1968 to mobilize these groups of Evangelical Friends to fulfill the Great Commission in partnership with one another. Because EFC-ER already had our own foreign missions program at the time of EFM's formation, for many years we have supported both EFC-ER missionaries and EFM missionaries. At times, this dual commitment caused confusion among our churches, which is one of the reasons delegates chose to merge EFC-ER foreign works with EFM in 2019.

The EFM Board includes representatives from all six partnering Yearly Meetings. Together, we now support a total of 21 missionary families serving in 16 different nations.

### **Q. How is the GCB funded?**

A. The Great Commission Budget (GCB) is entirely funded through the generous free-will giving of churches and individuals throughout EFC-ER.

Churches use a variety of methods for raising funds for the GCB. Some churches encourage their members to make annual “Faith Promise Pledges,” some churches collect special offerings at Christmas, Easter, and other occasions, some churches hold innovative fund-raising events for the GCB, many churches include the GCB as part of their annual budget. Most EFC-ER churches use a combination of these methods.

**Q. What is the difference between the GCB and the “Fair Share”?**

A. All EFC-ER churches are asked to contribute a percentage of their income (3.25%) as part of their “Fair Share.” These Fair Share funds are used to cover the *administrative costs* of EFC-ER.

The Great Commission Budget (GCB) funds the *mission* of EFC-ER by providing financial support to the work of our four ministry teams, including our commitment to foreign missions. The GCB is a free-will gift that churches and individuals generously donate so that we can accomplish our mission together.