



## Opportunities for Congregational Involvement

Here are some possible ways you and your congregation might consider supporting Crossing Bridges—Connecting in Mission:

1. **Appoint a leadership group in your congregation to spearhead the effort.** Choose people who have passion or experience in one or more of the four arenas of mission that are being supported – new mission starts, poverty work, seminarian support, Iringa.
2. **Pray.** Include this appeal in your weekly worship prayers, by sending it out on the prayer chain, involving a small group of people in prayer etc.
3. **Hold a mission Sunday (or a series of them) during which time you highlight each of the four initiatives.**
  - a. Use the bridges theme – preaching, liturgy, art, music (a Crossing Bridges song will be available by February 2007).
  - b. Invite a preacher representing one or more of the bridges. You may know of some; we have a number of them to suggest. Or, if not preachers, consider “mission moment” presenters.
4. **Adopt a congregational goal and create a large graphic indicating how far across the bridge you’ve gotten!**
5. **Adopt something that highlights each of the bridges and show/indicate when congregational bridges in that area get crossed**
  - a. What’s something your congregation could do to connect with ending poverty?
  - b. To support seminarian scholarships?
  - c. To help start new congregations?
  - d. To further our ministry with Iringa?
6. **Invite the congregation to launch an effort related to one of the four bridges in which they are not currently active, and then designate gifts and efforts in that direction.**
7. **Focus on a bridge.** This is a three-year campaign running into 2009, so a congregation might want to focus on one of the aspects of the appeal per year (one Sunday/month for year 1 = new mission starts; year 2 = seminarians, etc).

- 8. Invite together small groups that have a particular interest/openness to hear the story of the mission possibilities being supported.**
  
- 9. Choose one or more of the following ways to bring in gifts:**
  - a. A special one-Sunday offering with a build-up toward that Sunday.
  - b. A four-Sunday offering (maybe over four months), with each highlighting one aspect of the Crossing Bridges campaign, or a focus on giving to Crossing Bridges during a season such as Lent.
  - c. Council/congregation adopt a stated goal to be raised outside the budget. Appoint a group to spearhead the effort toward a stated goal.
  - d. Distribute Crossing Bridges pledge cards along with your congregational stewardship pledge cards in the fall (or whenever) or make provision for a separate Crossing Bridges pledge on your regular fall estimate of giving or pledge card.
  - e. If you are in a capital campaign, make this the “tithe” component – 10 percent to be used beyond your own place of ministry.
  - f. Invite people to give a year-end gift if they have received a bonus, inheritance, etc
  - g. Invite people to tithe some “bonus” they received – such as “f” (above) or income tax refund, inheritance etc.
  - h. Invite people to give a thankoffering for some significant bridge crossing that has happened in their lives such as the birth of a child, a wedding, recovery from illness, etc.
  - i. Many congregations support seminarians who are sons and daughters of that congregation. If you find yourself without a "homegrown" seminarian right now, make a gift to Crossing Bridges to support seminarians through this appeal (a gift equal to what you would do per year for a seminarian)
  - j. Mail Crossing Bridges envelopes (envelopes can be ordered from the synod office) to members with a special cover letter.
  - k. Place Crossing Bridges envelopes in your pew rack.
  - l. If your congregation has an endowment or foundation, encourage the group that makes annual giving decisions from that fund to make a gift to Crossing Bridges.
  
- 10. Share names.** Send the appeal director, Pastor Gary F. Anderson or Bishop Peter Rogness, the names of those who might be open to considering a significant major/lead gift or the identity of foundations that may be open to funding faith-based programs.

*Visit the Crossing Bridges web site for more information and downloadable resources.*  
*[www.spas-crossingbridges.org](http://www.spas-crossingbridges.org)*