

# Mischievous Missiology

## August 2006 – What is all that budget language?

As Angela and I are now 9 months into our new career as A/G missionaries the learning curve has been great in many areas. Probably the most has been in the Assemblies of God World Missions, (AGWM), financial procedures. For 5-1/2 years as an associate pastor I heard scores of missionaries say ‘being under budget,’ ‘Springfield has raised our budget,’ ‘our monthly budget,’ ‘please help us raise our cash budget,’ ‘our double O account.’ How much money does an AGWM missionary have? Hopefully I can provide some enlightenment in this issue.

Every missionary regardless of their appointment status has two main parts to their budget: a monthly budget and a cash budget. Here are some quick facts about each:

### The Basic Monthly Budget

- ❑ A specific amount established for every term on the field by AGWM
- ❑ Includes Salary, Housing, Field Travel and Administration Expenses, Taxes – US & Foreign, International Health Insurance, Children’s Schooling, AGWM & A/G Administrative Expenses, and other miscellaneous expenses, (e.g. security, technology allowance, etc.)
- ❑ A missionary can not leave until 100% of it is raised; AGWM has to receive the Commitment Forms, (formerly called Pledge Forms) equal in monthly commitments to the amount of the budget. Budgets are set with anticipated inflation.
- ❑ The current required International Health Insurance for our missionary group is \$845/month for a couple or family. It starts charging to our account immediately when we began itinerating.

### The 00 Account (“pronounced double O” or class 00)

- ❑ Every missionary has this account. It is our general ledger account maintained by AGWM in Springfield, MO.
- ❑ Its primary source is the funds from monthly support.
- ❑ All monies come in and out of this account.
- ❑ Just like a general ledger, monies go out of this account to other accounts and they are numbered. E.g., Building Projects are Class 62.

- ❑ An Itinerating Missionary’s offerings received minus itinerating expenses at the end of the month are sent into the 00 account.
- ❑ Support sent by donors goes directly into the 00, unless it is a personal offering, (a gift).
- ❑ The last day of the month the account is reconciled by AGWM financial staff.
- ❑ When offerings sent in do not equal the budget amount, a deficit is created that carries over to the next month. (Sounds familiar?)
- ❑ AGWM will underwrite most of the categories of a missionary’s monthly budget. Thus pushing the missionary **in the red** and needing more the next month to catch up.
- ❑ If a missionary on the field gets underwritten funds because of dropped support, they face coming home with thousands of dollars owed to AGWM before they can raise their next term’s budget.
- ❑ For new missionaries the importance of quick support is the same principle, many auto-charges begin building up. Within 4 months a new missionary can be **in the red** with AGWM as much as \$10,000 if he can not get enough support and services with offerings.
- ❑ The AGWM itineration philosophy is setup on each missionary averaging 10 services per month with offerings, and raising \$300-500 per month in monthly support. Thus new missionaries should only need 15 months and veterans about 12 months.

### The Cash Budget

- ❑ This operates similar to a savings account held by AGWM for the missionary. (However, this is not discretionary cash at our disposal)
- ❑ Big ticket one time expense items come out of this like airline tickets, language school tuition, field housing setup deposits, and special projects.
- ❑ It is raised from the offerings received at services and begins building after a missionary is successfully operating out of the red and in the black.
- ❑ When the funds are needed they are transferred to the 00 account then dispersed to the missionary and accounted for on the next month’s report.