

Friends of Gideons

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated 2/5/24

1. What is Friends of Gideons?

Friends of Gideons is a group of non-members who provide much needed prayer and financial support to the ministry of The Gideons International. Friends have a vested interest in helping Gideons and Auxiliary carry out the work of The Gideons International.

2. Who qualifies as a Friend?

A Friend has a heart for seeing people come to Christ, is committed to supporting The Gideons through prayer and giving, and desires to strengthen his or her personal witnessing.

3. How can someone become a Friend of The Gideons?

To become a Friend of The Gideons International or to learn more about the program, individuals sign up on the website (FriendsOfGideons.org).

4. What is the benefit of being a Friend?

All Friends who reside in the United States receive the following:

- A Welcome Kit, which includes a welcome letter, a copy of our quarterly non-member newsletter titled *Sowing the Word*, and a Friends Testament to share as God leads.
- A quarterly newsletter highlighting prayer requests, ministry updates, and occasional opportunities to support The Gideons International.
- Invitations to Events—Gideons can invite Friends to their camp's Annual Pastors Event and Faith Fund Rallies. Friends may not participate in Scripture distributions and are not invited to attend camp prayer meetings. However, they may be invited to the Association's annual International Day of Prayer event hosted by the camp in their area.
- Friends may order several resources to support their personal evangelism efforts including Friends Testaments in KJV, ESV, and Spanish along with books about witnessing: *Secret to an Open Door* and *Share Jesus without Fear*.

5. What changed about Friends as a result of the July 2021 Bylaw change?

- Tier-structure—There is no longer a classification of Prayer or Financial Partner. All Friends are simply Friends of The Gideons, and there is no minimum contribution required to sign up. Friends can be any non-member who has a shared passion for winning people to Christ and is committed to pray for the ministry and learn about financial giving opportunities.
- Camp rebates—Camps no longer receive the annual \$12 rebate for each Financial Friend registered to their camp, as there is no tiered level of commitment. Camp members are still encouraged to recruit and engage Friends by inviting them to key events such as Faith Fund Rallies, Annual Pastors Events, and the Association’s annual International Day of Prayer. These are great opportunities for Friends to learn how their support is making a difference.
- Engagement—Faith Fund Program chairmen are responsible for communicating with Friends associated with the camp, inviting them to key events, and thanking them for their faithful support. Friends are not to be part of Scripture placements, distributions, or weekly prayer meetings, as those are activities specifically for Gideons and Auxiliary.
- Benefits—Upon joining, Friends who reside in the United States will receive a Welcome Kit that includes a letter, a copy of our quarterly newsletter titled *Sowing the Word*, and a Friends Testament. Additionally, FriendsOfGideons.org features an online store where Friends can purchase KJV, ESV, and Spanish Testaments to share during witnessing opportunities, plus *Secret to an Open Door* and *Share Jesus Without Fear* to help build their confidence in sharing their faith with others.

6. What giving amount is required to be a Friend?

There is no longer a minimum requirement to be a Friend or to order merchandise. Previously, the annual required amount was \$120 to be a Financial Friend. The Hope, Joy, and Love tier structure for Friends no longer exists.

7. What is the difference between a Prayer Friend and a Financial Friend?

There is no longer a classification of Prayer or Financial Friend. All Friends are simply Friends of The Gideons, and there is no minimum contribution required to sign up. Friends can be any non-member who has a shared passion for winning people to Christ and is committed to pray for the ministry and learn about financial giving opportunities.

8. How will people find out about joining Friends of Gideons?

Qualified speakers should share about Friends of Gideons during church presentations and have Friends brochures available for those who are interested in learning more. Additionally, Gideons and Auxiliary can share about Friends during personal conversations with non-members who are interested in supporting The Gideons International.

9. What giving amount is required to order merchandise?

There is no longer an amount required to be Friend or to order merchandise. If you are a Friend of The Gideons, you are able to order merchandise by logging in to your account at FriendsOfGideons.org.

10. Can a Gideon order Friends Testaments?

No. Gideons cannot order Friends Testaments. Members can buy non-emblem Testaments from the Store on *theConnection* in ESV (Item #6394I), KJV (#6392I), and Spanish (#7763I).

11. What merchandise items can Friends order?

Friends can order non-emblem ESV, KJV, and Spanish Testaments. These are available in packs of 5 for \$10.00. Friends can also order two books to assist them with their witnessing: *Share Jesus Without Fear* and *Secret to an Open Door*.

12. How do Friends order merchandise?

Friends will go to the website, FriendsOfGideons.org, and log in. From there, they will navigate to the Friends Store to order merchandise.

13. How much are Friends merchandise items?

Friends Testaments come in a pack of 5 for \$10.00. Friends can also purchase two books: *Share Jesus without Fear* for \$5.20 and *Secret to an Open Door* for \$6.10.

14. Can Friends ship Testaments or merchandise orders to a different address than their own?

Yes, Friends can choose a different shipping address than the address listed on their contact information.

15. How can a Friend make a donation?

Friends can go to the website, FriendsOfGideons.org, and log in to make a gift.

For Friends who wish to donate over the phone, they should call International Headquarters at 866-382-4253 during normal business hours (Monday–Friday, 8:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m. CST).

For Friends who wish to donate by mail, the gift should be mailed to:

The Gideons International Processing Center
P.O. Box 97251
Washington, DC 20090-7251

16. What if a Friend has an issue or question about their donation or recurring donation?

Friends can email questions to Friends@gideons.org.

To update their recurring donation, they should call International Headquarters at 866-382-4253 during normal business hours (Monday–Friday, 8:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m. CST).

17. What if a Friend wants to redeem a voucher?

Vouchers for Friends Testaments expired on March 31, 2022, and are no longer issued under the new structure of the Friends Program.

18. What if a Friend gives their money to a camp?

Donations given at specific events such as Faith Fund Rallies will be used in alignment with the overall purpose of the event. Donations given by Friends not connected with a specific event will be allocated to the General Fund.

If the donation is given during a church service, the camp should remit the funds to Headquarters using the church receipts category.

If a donation is given during a state convention or rally, the camp should remit the funds to Headquarters using the proper Faith Fund receipts category.

If a donation is given in honor or memory through the GideonCard Bible Program, the camp should remit to Headquarters using the proper GideonCard category.

If a donation is given and not associated with a program or event, please mail the gift to:

The Gideons International Processing Center
P.O. Box 97251
Washington, DC 20090-7251

19. Will Friends be given a receipt for their donations?

Along with all other donors, Friends will receive a receipt for their donations of \$5 and above, along with an annual statement that is mailed each year at the end of January. Recurring donations will continue to receive only an annual statement.

Previously, Friends did not receive a receipt for their giving. They only received an annual statement.

21. How will a camp know that a Friend has been assigned to their camp?

Each time someone joins Friends of Gideons, an automatic email is sent to camp Faith Fund chairmen. The notification email includes the new Friend's name and contact information. Friends are listed on *theConnection* under Programs, Faith Fund, View Friends of Gideons. Camp officers can also edit the Friends information to help keep their records up to date.

Faith Fund Program chairmen are responsible for communicating with Friends associated with the camp, inviting them to key events, and thanking them for their faithful support. Friends are not to be part of Scripture placements, distributions, or weekly prayer meetings, as those are activities specifically for Gideons and Auxiliary.

22. How can Friends participate in the camp?

Members should share with Friends prayer requests for their local camp and area. They may also invite Friends to Annual Pastors Events, Faith Fund Rallies, International Day of Prayer, and/or the pastors event at the state convention.

Friends do not participate in Scripture distributions and are not invited to attend camp prayer meetings.

23. How does a Friend reset their password?

Friends should visit FriendsOfGideons.org and go to the login screen. There the Friend can choose “forgot password” to reset their password. They may also change their password by visiting FriendsOfGideons.org, logging into their account, and going to their User Profile (upper right-hand corner once logged in).

24. How can a Friend update their address or contact information?

The address and phone number can be updated by visiting FriendsOfGideons.org, logging into the account, and going into the User Profile section (upper right-hand corner once logged in).

25. How should camps recruit Friends of Gideons?

Camp members are still encouraged to recruit and engage Friends. Friends come beside Gideons and Auxiliary and pray for their work. They also have opportunities to support equipping efforts of the ministry through financial giving.

26. What is the proper way to send a notification if a Friend is deceased?

Send an email to Friends@gideons.org and include the deceased name and/or any additional information that is available.

27. What should a church speaker say about Friends during a presentation?

The following message can be shared at the close of a church presentation:

“Recognizing that you have more than business and professional men in your church, we have an opportunity for anyone interested in supporting our efforts to win people to Jesus Christ. We call it Friends of Gideons. As a Friend, you can become partners in reaching the spiritually lost of the world for Christ. Friends support our work through prayers and financial giving. Friends also have access to purchase Testaments for their own personal witnessing. See me after the

service or visit our website, FriendsOfGideons.org, to learn more about this partnership opportunity!”

28. What is included in the Friends of Gideons Welcome Kit?

A welcome letter, a Friends Testament, and a copy of our quarterly newsletter, *Sowing the Word*.

29. Where will Friends gifts be allocated?

Gifts from Friends are allocated to the General Fund, which supports the overall operations of the Association.