

---

**Subject:** FW: Christian Community Credit Union in the News!

**What:** Christian Community Credit Union was featured in the business section of various newspapers owned by the San Gabriel Valley Newspaper Group. The article appeared in the SGV Tribune, Pasadena Star-News and Whittier Daily News and highlighted our new IM Platinum Rewards Visa and our "Cards that Give to Missions" program.

## Faith and finances: Christian credit union's Visa card benefits missions

By Kevin Smith Staff Writer

Posted: 09/27/2010 10:12:16 PM PDT

SAN DIMAS - People are always looking to get the biggest bang for their buck, and Christian Community Credit Union allows its members to do just that.

The San Dimas-based business has partnered with American Baptist International Ministries to offer members a new type of missions-giving card - the International Ministries Platinum Rewards Visa.

For every new card that is approved, Christian Community will donate \$25 to support IM's global missionary work. The credit union will make additional donations at no cost every time a member uses an IM card.

That helps Christian Community Credit Union hold true to a core belief of providing "the highest level of commitment to our members while helping further God's work here on earth."

"We launched the new credit card last week and we've already had 30 people sign up," said John Walling, Christian Community's president and CEO. "This card gives you points for free airline tickets, hotels and merchandise. But every time you use it, you're also giving to the missions."

This is nothing new for Christian Community.

The credit union began issuing similar cards in 1994 as part of its "Cards That Give to Missions" program and has since given away about \$3 million to mission projects around the world, according to Walling.

"We've also given money to disaster relief, like hurricanes and tsunamis," he said. "And there have been mission relief projects in places like South Africa and Thailand."

One project provided water, sanitation and a medical clinic for a hill tribe in Thailand.

"We've done five villages where we've given them water," Walling said. "In one village, they had to walk an hour to get their fresh water. But now they have a spring-fed water source. And we also helped them get out of growing opium and helped them start growing coffee and macadamia nuts."

Founded in 1957, Christian Community Credit Union was initially headquartered in Whittier, but moved a year later to Covina.

The headquarters was relocated to San Dimas about seven years ago, although the business still maintains a branch in Covina. But the company's reach extends far beyond those two locations.

Christian Community is part of a branch network of more than 2,000 credit unions nationwide. That means members can walk into any of those other locations and do business. Members also have free access to more

than 30,000 ATMs nationwide as part of a cooperative network of credit unions.

"About 60 percent of our loans are given out to churches and ministries, and 40 percent go to individuals," Walling said.

Pastor Bob Harmon of the New Hope Fellowship San Dimas Foursquare Church, said his church has dealt with Christian Community Credit Union for years.

"We have CDs with them and they seem to be better with their rates than others," Harmon said. "They've treated us well for many years."

Walling said the credit cards Christian Community offers are hard to beat.

"We're excited about the fact you have credit cards that not only reward you with points, but also help someone else," he said. "There's no annual fee and the interest rate is only 10.9 percent. Average credit card rates are 17 percent, and some people pay as much as 32 to 35 percent. We urge our members to pay off their credit card balances every month, but we know in these economic times many people have to carry a balance."

[kevin.smith@sgvn.com](mailto:kevin.smith@sgvn.com)

626-962-8811, Ext. 2701