



A Team Approach to Missions

Know that God's plan is to use you on this journey, and that He will provide the resources you need. However, that does not mean you do nothing. God is orchestrating and connecting your need, His timing and other people to accomplish His plan. You will develop a team of financial and prayer supporters that God will use to provide for His purpose in your particular mission trip. Those who support you will unite with you as an integral part of the ministry you are participating in--not just in charitable giving toward something they know little about. This is a team concept of missions, and those who give and pray are as important as those who travel cross-culturally. While a dozen or more believers may board a plane to travel and minister, literally hundreds are involved in transforming lives and communities through their prayer and support.

Biblical Foundations for Raising Support

The Bible contains numerous examples of both Jesus, His disciples and the Apostles depending on the financial support of others during their ministry. Luke 8:1-3 says, *“Now it came to pass, afterward, that He went through every city and village, preaching and bringing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with him, and certain women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities—Mary called Magdalene, out of whom had come seven demons, and Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod’s steward, and Susanna, and many others who provided for Him from their substance.”* These women, among others, were paying the expenses for Jesus to travel through the cities *“bringing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God.”* Jesus depended on others for support.

In Matthew 10:9-10 Jesus says when sending out the twelve, *“Provide neither gold nor silver nor copper in your money belts, nor bag for your journey, nor two tunics, nor sandals, nor staffs, for a worker is worthy of his food (or support).”* He repeats this in

Luke 10:7 when he sent out over 70 believers. Paul paraphrases the same idea in 1 Corinthians 9:14, *“In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the*

gospel should receive their living from the gospel." Paul states this again directly in 1 Timothy 5:18, "*For the Scripture says, 'Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain,' and 'The worker deserves his wages.'"*

In Philippians 4:18, Paul says to the Macedonians about their gifts, "*Indeed I have all and abound, I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things sent from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God.*"

These examples indicate that seeking the support of other believers is endorsed in the Bible through Jesus' example and instruction, and that supporting the ministry of believers through giving to meet those needs is an acceptable offering to God.

Biblical Attitudes for Fundraising

Here are some attitudes to keep in mind as you seek God for the funds necessary to facilitate your short-term mission trip.

God is the source, not your donors. Any donation is ultimately an offering to the Lord, not to you.

Prayer demonstrates our dependence on God as the source. Just like Nehemiah, we should pray "to the God of heaven" (Nehemiah 2:4) instead of depending on people or our church. God is more interested in our spiritual growth than just meeting a need for funding.

The Bible is the standard for fundraising methods—not ad gimmicks. Just because a method works doesn't make it right. Be cautious to state your needs, your trust for God's provision and the ministry opportunity clearly and succinctly. Avoid overly-emotional appeals that may distract from the God-centered purpose for the mission.

Biblical fundraising is a spiritual ministry, not a worldly effort to be reluctantly or apologetically endured. We often look at fundraising as secular, having not studied the Bible to find clear examples of supporting one another in ministry. If what we are doing is done in obedience to God, raising funds for it is a spiritual activity.

Receiving support for Kingdom work is biblically sound, but does not entitle you to be pushy or demanding. Don't expect someone to give just because you have ministered to them in the past. They need to be obedient to God as much as you do.

Expect to raise 100% of the amount you need for the trip. There are enough resources in God's world to fully supply your need if God has called you to go on a mission trip.

Poor talk dishonors God. Emphasize the greatness of the opportunity, not the greatness of the need. People give because of God's work in your life and the opportunity, not because they feel sorry for you. Fundraising is not begging!

Focus on the giver, not the money. Paul said in Philippians 4:17, “*Not that I seek the gift itself, but I seek for the profit which increases to your account.*” Paul was not preoccupied with the Philippians’ money, but with their spiritual progress. You are looking for partners in God’s ministry in your life.

Take a few moments and ask God to show you if your attitudes are consistent with the Bible before starting the process of raising funds for your mission trip.

Mission Fundraising Step-by-Step

God is already providing you the resources necessary for your trip. If you do not have the means readily available, God may desire that you use the need as an opportunity to allow others participate through prayer and giving, and to grow your own faith and dependence on Him in the process. Here are some suggestions to help you get started:

STEP 1 PRAY. Express your total dependence on the Lord. Enlist others to pray with you.

STEP 2 BEGIN WITH ASKING YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY. This is a wonderful opportunity to begin a spiritual conversation with those closest to you. People give to people they know and care about.

STEP 3 MAKE A LIST OF OTHER PROSPECTS. Include church friends, relatives, neighbors, schoolmates, club and civic contacts, and your Christmas card list. How about your doctor, lawyer, or dentist? Do not leave people off your list because you think they will not or cannot support you. God may have other plans. Please remember that it is okay to ask your church friends on an individual basis, but funding may not be solicited through broadcast emails or through general announcements in Life Group classes or other church meetings.

STEP 4 WRITE YOUR LETTERS. Your letter should contain a personal greeting from you and then an overview of the trip, your needs, and what your desire is for God to do through you. Describe where you will be going, what you will be doing, how they can pray for you, and specific financial needs along with deadlines. Try to keep the letter to one page in length and be sure to proof your work! We encourage you to insert your information into the sample letters in this book or use them as references as you create your own letters. Remember to include a self addressed stamped envelope for the person to submit payment.

Important Note Regarding Contributions: If the donor, be it

you or someone contributing to your trip, would like to receive tax credit, they must submit a check made payable to Crossroads Gospel Space Church *without anything written in the memo line or anywhere else on the check*. **All contributions are nonrefundable, regardless of whether the individual must cancel his or her participation in the trip.**

STEP 5 KEEP TRACK. As you receive gifts, have a simple way to keep track.

STEP 6 SEND FUNDING TO MISSIONS MINISTRY AT CROSSROADS GOSPEL SPACE

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By Mail. Simply mail your checks (payable to Crossroads Gospel Space) to Pastor Tim Moore at 302 Hidden Brook Lane, Round Rock, Texas 78665. If you have any questions his phone number is (512) 739-3280. In order for us to know which participant to record the payment for, the donor or you must *attach* a note stating the participant's name. **All donations are tax deductible but the memo line must be blank but a note can be attached to the check stating which participant the funds are intended to support. This is an I.R.S. requirement for tax exemption.**

In Person. You may also bring your checks to the church during our regular business hours of 8:30 – 4:30 Monday through Friday. The physical address for the church building is 12205 Hunter's Chase Drive, Austin, Texas 78729.

Sometimes situations arise late in the preparation stages that prevent a person from attending the trip they planned on being a part of. We are disappointed when this occurs, but we know that God has a plan even when we don't see or understand it. It is Crossroads Gospel Space's policy that all contributions given are for the overall purpose of furthering our Missions efforts and are therefore non-refundable, regardless of whether or not the member that raised them attends the trip.

STEP 7 SAY THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SUPPORTED

YOU. Write a personal thank you note when you receive the check *and* then again after you return from your trip with your results and experiences.