

TAKING THE SHAME OUT OF SUPPORT RAISING



"I could never go around begging people for money." Does that idea keep you from taking the next step in missions? If so, let's correct that misimpression.

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“MISSIONARIES DON’T BEG...”

Does that idea keep you from taking the next step in missions? If so, let’s correct that misimpression: Missionaries don’t beg, and their long-term donors don’t give because they’ve been pestered into it. They give because they believe in what the missionary is doing or because they want to be part of God’s work in this world. Sometimes they give because they’re your grandma or your second-grade Sunday School teacher. God’s people love to give and not just for tax deductions. Raising support simply involves developing relationships, trusting God, and praying – probably things you’re already doing!

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RELATIONSHIPS RULE

Long-term missionary Joyce writes, “One of our more effective strategies over the years has been simply to build relationships with people by inviting them to our home or meeting at a coffee shop. Taking a personal interest in their lives, plus sharing our hearts and food = prayer and financial supporters.”

Relationships begin long before support raising, notes Dawn. “My best advice for someone considering missions: Connect with people, churches, businesses where you are—college, home, working a job, wherever. Get involved where you are, before delving into support.”

Ask yourself:

Am I sharing my heart with people? How can I show them that I care about their lives?
How can I involve them in my journey toward missions?





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TRUST GOD, NOT YOUR OWN CLEVERNESS

Jill says, “Missionaries need to understand that they aren’t asking for John’s money. They are asking John to partner with God for his Kingdom. You ask and leave the rest to God. When you follow up you are simply seeing how God led them.”

“Support-raising is an adventure of building TRUST in the One who has all of the resources,” echoes Jayne. “When I needed support, I reminded God of those I knew had the resources to give. God reminded me that my job was to TRUST. I prayed for two more churches. God gave me four. There is no financial crisis in God’s economy!”

“When you’re in the midst of it, it sometimes feels like you **DEPEND** on people donating,” writes Daniella. “1 Corinthians 7:23 challenged me: ‘You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of human beings.’ God has bought us, we belong to HIM, nobody else is paying for our ministry but HIM. We don’t depend on people, donors, prayer warriors – even though God chooses to use them—but we depend on the Almighty.”

Ask yourself:

How have I already seen God provide? How do I involve God in my finances?
Do I trust him in this area?



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PRAY OFTEN.

Prayer is one key way to make sure that we are dependent on God in the support-raising process, not on our own hard work or clever ideas.

“The missionary must have a disciplined prayer life,” Sonja says. “They need to pray over their contact list and see who God lays on their heart. They need to pray before every contact with a potential donor.”

“I find that when I pray for people, I feel a deepening love for them, a pure love that exists outside of the donor/missionary relationship,” Josie says.

Ask yourself:

How often do I pray for other people? What prayers can I begin praying for potential supporters?

