

A Basic Understanding of Support Raising

Serving as a Partner Advocate carries no responsibility or obligation to financially support your worker (although many choose to do this). Please contact Mission Hills Church (Pastor Mauricio Carbone or Leslie Castagna) if you happen to encounter such a critical financial need so that they can respond appropriately.

Many of our Advocates have gone on Short Term Mission trips to participate alongside their Partners in the field. They have raised their own prayer team and financial support, and have found this to be a wonderful experience of faith and accountability. Advocates have also hosted events to help mobilize a team around their Partner, another option you may want to consider doing. Below are a few principles and Scriptures about support raising that may help you as you serve your Partner.

1. IT'S BIBLICAL:

Support raising is not a modern invention. The People of God have cared for and supported one another throughout the history of the Church. Many Bible passages demonstrate how Jesus, Paul, and others received support from those who stood by them in their work. A few examples:

Matt. 7:7 - 12 God wants us to ask him for help. He wants us to come to him with our needs. As our faithful Father, he is eager and able to meet our needs and support ministry.

Luke 8:1-3 Jesus and the disciples were supported financially by several wealthy women!

Acts 13:1-3 The Holy Spirit called out some leaders to go and plant churches, supported by the Antioch church.

Acts 4:32 - 37 As a community the first followers of Jesus shared all that they had including prayer, possessions, and financial support. Although Paul and Barnabas had a stream of income from their work and investments, they also raised significant prayer and financial support.

Phil. 4:10 - 20 The Philippian church supported Paul's ministry of planting new churches all around the Roman Empire. The Philippians had their own financial hardships but gave sacrificially and generously out of what they had. They deeply loved Paul and believed in the calling God had given him to serve on mission.

2 Cor. 8:1 - 9:15 Paul exhorts the Corinthian church to give out of its abundance to meet the needs of a growing ministry. Generosity also benefits those who sacrificially give.



2.FUNDRAISING TRUTHS:

God sends you and provides for you. “Faithful is he who calls you, and he will bring it to pass,” (1 Thes. 5:24). God sends people into the world (Matt. 9:37-38, Matt. 28:18-20, Rom. 10:14-15) to make disciples and bring the Gospel to every nation (Matt. 9:36; Rom. 3:23, 6:23, Matt. 11:28-30, John 3:19). He can abundantly provide (Eph. 3:20). It’s part of God’s character to provide for your needs - especially financial and especially when on his mission (Phil. 4:19, John 20:21).

3. ON GOD’S MISSION, YOU ARE GOD’S AMBASSADOR.

“Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us,” (2 Cor. 5:20). You don’t just represent yourself, but God, his Gospel, and his Church. Ministry is most often a team and accountability effort, being sent with many prayers and support.

4.GOD PROVIDES FOR HIS AMBASSADORS THROUGH HIS PEOPLE.

God’s people want to invest in missions. People work hard for 40 or more hours per week. They use personal resources to support their families, but they want their finances to impact the Kingdom as well! God’s people are looking for ways to support God’s work in this world. In fact, he commands that his people give to his mission through the church and missionaries—to help spread the Gospel, plant churches, and help those in need. God works through his people and loves a cheerful giver! (2 Cor. 9:7).

5.WHEN A PERSON OR FAMILY IS CALLED BY GOD INTO MINISTRY

it is often confirmed by their pastor, home church congregation and their circle of influence. This “called” person or Partner will begin to make more major life changes to prepare for ministry. Partners will typically make a list of everyone they have ever influenced (from childhood to their current calling to ministry) and start praying how they might best contact and communicate with each person and church(es) they have a ministry connection with. This is a great accountability process and test of faith.

6.A TYPICAL PARTNER

may eventually have 50 to 100 individual people and about 5 churches supplying prayer and financial support to their ministry work. Frequently they will need to invest 10% of their ministry time connecting to their support team, writing prayer letters, reports, and responding to this accountability team. This is ongoing ministry work for as long as they serve in ministry. As an Advocate, this might be a good reason to extend grace and understanding when your Partner takes some time to reply to you. Partners are very busy, frequently learning one or two more languages, living in another culture, and working to bond with the people they are trying to minister with. Thank you for being patient and prayerful as you serve as a GPS Advocate!

