



Fundraising Ideas

We recognise that raising finance is often an incredible faith-building experience and is part of our preparation as we learn to rely on God in unfamiliar and sometimes uncomfortable situations. We encourage you first to speak to your church leaders about serving with us; they may be able to give you some ideas on how best to fund-raise. You might find it really encouraging and inspiring to talk to those at your church who've been in a similar situation, and hear about the variety of ways God provides.

Praying that it's the right thing

First things first – there must have been a reason you decided to serve in mission. You may have known for a long time that the Lord wanted you to serve, or it might be a recent call to get involved. Either way, having confidence in Father's calling to serve in mission leads to you having confidence in talking to others about becoming part of your financial support team.

The idea of 'God calling you' looks different to each individual but the Lord knows how best to keep encouraging you. Take some time to pray, asking God to confirm what He wants you to do. You may want to do this with your church leader, a parent or a close friend/mentor. After praying, wait quietly for Father to respond. A Bible verse may come to mind, or perhaps a sense of peace. He may also answer your prayer at a later date or in a different way.

Hopefully, after a time of prayer, you'll feel encouraged and expectant that God will provide. At times when you feel like you'll never reach your financial target, it's important to return to that quiet place with God. Keep speaking to Him about what you're doing, handing over all your concerns, asking for His peace and direction. Remember that our focus and confidence is in God and not in our own ability to raise the finances required (2 Corinthians 3:4-5).

Ways God Can Provide

Church Support

You should have already talked to your church leader, or the individual at your church responsible for missions, about your plans, and whether they would be open to supporting you financially. They may want to give you a certain amount of financial support from the church as a whole, or suggest another way for you to raise what you need.

Churches have different structures in place to support people looking to serve in mission. They may give you an opportunity to speak at the front of church about what you're doing, or they may prefer you to speak at small groups that run during the week. Feel free to make suggestions to your church leaders about how you could inform the church of your plans and

how they could partner with you, but remember it is their decision, and you must put your trust in God that He knows how He wants to provide for you.

Individuals

You may want to think about asking individuals to support you. They could be from your church congregation or from Christian events you've attended. Though it might feel uncomfortable to ask individuals to support you financially, there are a variety of reasons why they might want to partner with you. They may be interested because of the existing relationship they have with you, because they're supportive of the work you will be doing, or because this opportunity blesses them with a chance to give.

God tells us in the Bible that it is better to give than to receive (Acts 20:35), and that as we give we are blessed in return (Philippians 4:17-19). In these verses, Paul explains these ideas to the early church, and they are still relevant today. Keep praying that Jehovah Jireh will help your views on raising financial support to come into line with His Word; seek out more detailed teaching on this. We encourage those considering serving in mission to read "*Funding the Family Business*" by Myles Wilson to gain a greater understanding on this topic.

Below is an exercise, suggested in "*Funding the Family Business*" that could give you a wider perspective of which individuals you could ask:

- Write a list of all the Christians who you know or who know you. Some of the different places you may draw these names from are: friends, current or former church leaders/pastors/youth group or Sunday School teachers, those who have had a spiritual impact on your life, those in whose life you have had a spiritual impact (or their parents if they're children), former employers/colleagues, old school friends/teachers, close family and other relatives.
- We hope you now have a wider perspective on just how many Christians God has placed around you. Consider if there is one individual you'd particularly want to support you - it may be a close friend or someone who's been an encouragement to you. Highlight their name.
- Now highlight the next five individuals you would choose, and you've now got a good group of people as a starting base to share your news with and to explain your need for financial partnership.

More often than not, individual support is built up one-by-one as you explain what you're doing and how you'd like them personally to support you. It's important to take time to work out what you would say, whether that is at the front of church or in conversation. This needn't be learnt off by heart, but preparation is key to remembering all that you would want to mention. Think about how you would explain what led you to get involved in mission and where you are hoping to serve. People may not have heard of World Horizons before so you may also want to explain about the organisation, some of the training you'll be receiving, the skills you want to develop, and ways you want to reach out and help others.

Building up a support team means partnering with people and connecting them with the projects and teams you will be involved with. The best way you can bless these potential supporters is by being clear in the way you explain and share what you are doing.

Fund-raising Events

There are many different fund-raising events you could organise to raise money. For example, you may want to have an event for your friends and family with live music, put on a big meal with a mission theme, or arrange a car-wash fund-raiser at your church. Alternatively, you could make and sell things, such as baked goods or crafts.

Paid Work

God can also provide by helping you get a job before you start your training/placement with us. You may be able to find full or part-time work at your local coffee shop, supermarket or cinema, or there may be babysitting opportunities for families at your church. Be inventive and use your contacts; just make sure you also have time to prepare for your training/placement and to spend time with your family and friends.

Family

You have probably already talked to your family about getting involved in mission, and they've probably asked you questions about how much it will all cost. They may have ideas of how you could raise the money and/or they may want to support you financially themselves. Wherever they stand, being honest with them and having them on board to talk things through with is invaluable.

Hopefully reading this document has made raising finances seem a less daunting task. Remember, finance is not beyond God's authority; it is something He uses to bless His children as they both give and receive.

Recommended Further Reading

- *"Funding the Family Business: The Handbook for Raising Personal Support"* by Myles Wilson. ISBN: 0955332001