

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

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INTRODUCTION

More is said about this level of care than all others combined, yet, at best, it is only third in importance of the six areas of care Paul talks about in Philippians. Securing financial support is as simple as ABC! But there are two problems:

1. Most who are trying to "raise their support" (I "hate" that term. It sounds like we are trying to "raise" the dead!), focus only on the money. After all, the agency says, "You can go to the field when you have reached your 'quota'". Your quota of what? Money, of course! "Oh, and please do pray for me." is spoken as an afterthought.
2. The second issue is that as they begin to secure their financial support (look for investors in the Kingdom of God), they immediately "jump" to "C" without giving careful consideration to "A" & "B". You will never do "C" well until you have handled "A & B".

A. Motivation — A Matter of the Heart (Volumes have been written on the subject of "knowing God's will"; yet, before one book goes out-of-print, several more have taken its place. Here is a simplified thought from the Word of God.)

1. Know in your heart that you are supposed to go (Col 3:15-17)
 - a. WORD dwelling richly in your heart (Not just a commitment to read through the Bible each year, but the Word becoming a part of the fabric of your spirit.)
 - b. PEACE of God ruling decisively in all issues of life (Not the peace that the world gives, but like the current of a river that keeps flowing in one direction, in spite of the splashing of the surface waters—emotional ups and downs.)
 - c. Non-forced circumstances become the divine confirmation of what you're to do.
2. Be encouraged in the Lord. (I Sam 30:6)
3. Doors held open by the Lord cannot be shut by man! (Rev 3:8) (When the going gets rough—and it will—since you know in your heart that this *IS* God's will, you will also know that the problems that come are the enemy trying to "trip you up" rather than God "closing that door on me.")

B. Attitude — A Matter of the Mind

1. People are not giving money to you; but as you are giving of your life to the work of the Lord, they are giving of their finances to the work of the Lord. They are investing in the Kingdom of God.
2. It is a privilege to be about the Father's business
 - a. Esther
 - b. Going to Brazil: Father-in-law's church (Your own illustration)
3. Needs—Wants—Wishes: A lifestyle as equal as possible to the ones you are ministering among. (This does not mean—necessarily—that you live in the garbage dump with them, but neither will you live in luxury in the exclusive part of town if you are working in the dump.)
4. A 100% commitment of personal finances. It's all yours, Lord! (What to sell? What to give away? What to keep?)

5. God owns all, yet He is a frugal economist. He wastes nothing.
- C. Function — The action of securing Financial Support (Looking for Kingdom of God investors)
1. How do I figure my costs?
 - a. Continuing home costs
 - b. Travel to and from host country
 - c. Travel within host country
 - d. Basic living costs
 - e. Ministry costs (A clear separation between basic and ministry, else they may think, "How come he needs so much money? I don't make that much.")
 - f. Needs of other missionaries and nationals
 - g. Start-up costs back home
 - h. If the agency makes this determination without your input, you will just realize that you will have a lot of money to give away. Ask for God's wisdom in how to distribute it. Agencies seem to over calculate what is really needed for mission field living.
 2. Full information; No solicitation (As you are sharing the amount, it is good to say, "It has been determined by [whomever made the determination] that we need investors of [xxx] amount to fulfill the work we {you and me, for we are partners in this} have been called to do.") ("We are looking for partners who want to add this ministry to their Kingdom of God Investment Portfolio.")
 3. Perspective from history
 - a. Paul, the Apostle:
 - i. Corinth (Sending Titus ahead to make sure they follow through with the pledge they had made the previous year. Yet, he also speaks of the need to give from a willing heart. II Cor 8:1-14),
 - ii. Philemon (arm-twisting?),
 - iii. Philippi (4:10-19) This clearly speaks of the attitude of the missionary toward the money invested in the Kingdom of God that they will be using.
 - b. George Mueller (Never asked for money, but everyone in London knew how many boys he had, etc.)
 - c. CCC (Blatantly asking everybody, and if you say "no", they will ask you to ask your friends!
 - d. DL Moody (Will you use "beer money" to build your college? His answer: "The world has used this money long enough. I am now going to use it for God.")
 - e. Wm Booth—bell ringers
 - f. Jews for Jesus—no tithes
 4. Personal experience: Brazil (You have some.)
 5. Receive graciously!!! Byron's "university" coins! (Your own story!)
 6. Expressions of thanks to those who have given.

