

# ***INTRODUCTION TO SUPPORT RAISING***

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*Raising support is not about whether the Father will take care of you or not, but about inviting others to enter into partnership with you and the Lord for the Kingdom, in the process of which everyone involved will learn more about God's amazing leadership and creative provision; grow in love and unity as the Bride of Christ and enjoy seeing the fruit of their partnership in the lives of other people being impacted for eternity.*

## **I. MY OWN JOURNEY OF SEEING ABBA'S PROVISION IN MY LIFE**

## **II. SUPPORT RAISING HINDRANCES AND MISCONCEPTIONS**

## **III. A RIGHT FOUNDATION FOR SUPPORT RAISING: FIVE AREAS**

- A. **1. Trust God.**
- B. **2. Pray.**
- C. **3. Give.** Sow and you will reap.
- D. **4. Work.** Have a vision to be faithful in what God entrusts to you to do.
- E. **5. Budget.** Take care of your finances and close doors through which you let money flow away.

## **IV. WHERE AND HOW TO START?**

- A. **Pray.**
- B. **Know your vision.** *Who you are in the Lord and what work you do.*
- C. **Know your needs.** Make a realistic budget for being a long term missionary.
- D. **DO IT. Make a plan.** Commit yourself to start doing support raising.
- E. **Prepare materials:** Newsletter and response card. Gather available materials from the organization you work with. Personalized literature or media. Have a presentation and game plan for different meetings (20-30 min.; 60 min.; 90 min.) Then invite people to partner.

## **V. HOW TO CONTINUE?**

- A. You never stop support raising, even when you've reached your goal. *Continue to increase/build your current support base. Keep pasturing your current supporters*

## **VI. SOME PRACTICALS FOR GOOD COMMUNICATION**

- A. Be yourself.. Clear. Upfront. Bold. People love polite, humble honesty. Make sure you really make the point you want to make, don't let it disappear in a mass of words. Resist the temptation to say everything in one newsletter, brochure etc. Don't use over-romanticized language.
- B. Think about what design you like and what serves your purposes best. Good quality is important! Dare to invest. Think and pray before you write or make things. What is the message you want to communicate? Think how you can make involvement and response easy for those you appeal to.

## **VII. IDEAS FOR SUPPORT RAISING MATERIALS**

- A. Newsletter or support letter + response card and return envelopes with your address.
- B. Business/prayer cards/refrigerator magnet: easy to make, great to hand out. [www.vistaprint.com](http://www.vistaprint.com)
- C. Brochure. Clear, specific, concise. Great resource to hand out or send in a mailing.
- D. Power point presentation or flipbook: make a short 3-5 page version and a longer version.
- E. IHOP DVD and materials.
- F. Website. (see eg. [www.wordpress.com](http://www.wordpress.com); [www.blogger.com](http://www.blogger.com)) Suggestions for pages on your site: "Home; about yourself; about YwaM/your ministry; blog; downloads/media (eg your newsletters or cool teachings from the organization you work with); support; contact". Some website ideas: [www.zackhensley.com](http://www.zackhensley.com); [www.joannareyburn.com](http://www.joannareyburn.com); [www.heisatthedoor.com/wordcast](http://www.heisatthedoor.com/wordcast); [andreavanvoorst.wordpress.com](http://andreavanvoorst.wordpress.com); [timsamantha.wordpress.com](http://timsamantha.wordpress.com); [www.johanverhoef.nl](http://www.johanverhoef.nl).
- G. Movie/podcast.
- H. Send a gift bag.
- I. TNTMPD! ([www.tntmpd.com](http://www.tntmpd.com)) a great program to keep track of your supporters (not for Mac).

## **VIII. RESOURCES**

- A. [www.johanverhoef.nl](http://www.johanverhoef.nl), some of my materials are available, though mostly in Dutch.
- B. Eric Spady ([www.fundingyourministry.com](http://www.fundingyourministry.com)) and Josh Hawkings/Shawn Blanc ([www.supportraisingmaterials.com](http://www.supportraisingmaterials.com)) have good resources available. Eric Spady's 'Personal Support Raising' is available for free at IHOP's staff development office (SDO)