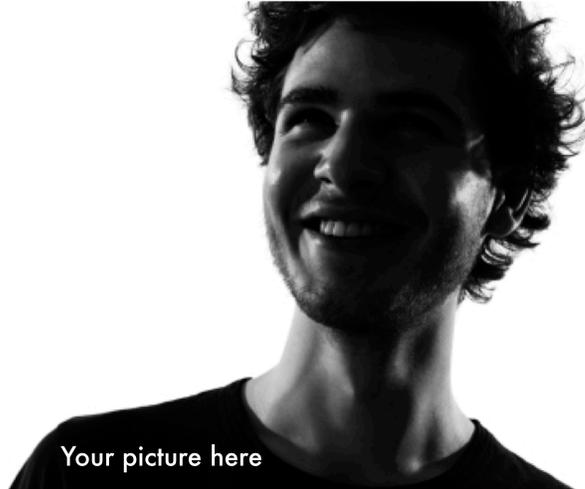


## 10 SUPPORT RAISING IDEAS

1. **Pray and fast.** Co-labor with God in this process (1 Cor. 3:9). Prayer is as important as anything else in support raising. Trust Him, walk by faith and be generous with God as you trust Him to meet your needs (Phil. 4:18-19).
2. **Commit to the process.** You must be all in; people will notice if you're not. Support raising is biblical so go for it (here are just a few references for biblical examples and principles: Luke 10:1-7, Rom. 15:24, 1 Cor 9:14, 2 Cor. 8:1-5, Phil. 4:10-19, 1 Tim. 5:17-18). Even Jesus had a support team (Luke 8:1-3). The benefits of support raising are outstanding. You get to see God provide for your needs on a daily basis, you have the financial freedom and flexibility to follow His will, and you can raise money for special needs. Committing to the process requires that you devote the time and energy needed to raise support. Whether you're a missionary, leader, or a pastor needing support, commit to this process of inviting people to partner with you.
3. **Set goals.** It's often been said that if you aim at nothing you'll hit it every time. You'll be much more effective in support raising if you set SMART goals. You can set goals for the number of contacts you want to connect with, the number of phone numbers you'll dial, the number of conversations you'll have, the number of appointments you'll have and even amounts of support you hope to raise by certain dates. These goals aren't ungodly, they're just a strategic way of being obedient to what God has called you to do. They will help keep you focused and on track.
4. **Remember accountability and community.** Don't do support raising alone. Doing it alone can be frustrating and lonely. Find someone who will keep you accountable to setting and reaching your goals. Pray with that person. Stay in constant contact with them. Also, if possible, find others (preferably in your ministry) who are raising support too. Talk with them on a regular basis to keep encouraging each other. Share good stories, bad stories, successes and failures. Pray together.
5. **Grow your list of contacts.** No one has enough contacts. Brainstorm and develop a list of contacts and then keep growing that list. Whenever you have a support appointment, get referrals. Simply ask the person you're meeting with if they would be willing to share the names of any friends they have who have hearts for God that you could share your vision with. Talk to Christian business owners. Network with people involved in local ministries. Reach out to people in your local church. Talk to church mission boards (most of them will be setting their budgets in the fall so late summer is a great time to talk with them). One great feature of talking with local churches is that they will also often allow you to share with individuals in their churches. Commit to growing your list of contacts! Aim for 200-300 contacts.
6. **Take practical steps.** Begin support raising by sending out an initial support letter which is simple and visionary and communicates the big picture of your ministry. You could also send out an email or social media message. This is an opportunity for your supporters to join with you in this awesome ministry; it is a blessing for them to be a part of your team. The following is an example of a good first letter:

## 10 SUPPORT RAISING IDEAS

Reaching  
the World  
for Jesus



### God is doing exciting things!!!

Dear Friends & Family,

Intro with formalities and what's been happening in your life.

The purpose of this letter is to share with you an exciting opportunity that God has called me to. I have been officially accepted to join a team of # people from \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_. We will be spending our time in \_\_\_\_\_ doing \_\_\_\_\_. This is such an exciting opportunity because \_\_\_\_\_. I will need to raise approximately \$\_\_\_\_\_ for this project. I would like to ask you to prayerfully consider

joining with me in this opportunity by partnering with me both prayerfully and financially for this trip. I will be calling you shortly to see how God leads you concerning this request. If you decide to support me financially you can send your tax deductible gift with the envelope included with this letter.

Thank you so much for prayerfully considering how God may have you partner with me in this amazing adventure.

Yours Truly,

Joe

### Prayer Needs:

Pray God provides for all my financial needs.

Pray for safety.

Pray God does great things during the project.

Pray for team unity and dynamics.

Summer Project  
Mission Trip



2014

Send tax deductible gifts to:

Ministry Name, P.O. Box 1, State, City, Zip

Give online at: [www.website.org](http://www.website.org)

Mention that you'll be contacting them shortly to talk more about the vision (if you're raising money for full time support, avoid asking for support in this first letter, do that in your appointment). About a week after you send out the letter, call them to see if you can schedule an appointment to discuss what God is doing in your life and ministry. If it is not possible to meet, try to do an appointment over the phone. Develop a visionary, 10 to 12 page picture book or PowerPoint presentation with fresh and exciting stories and pictures, with a page or slide in the back asking them if they will partner with you financially (at a specific amount each month) and prayerfully. You might word this something like "I would like you to prayerfully consider partnering with me in this ministry by supporting this ministry for a specific

## 10 SUPPORT RAISING IDEAS

amount each month. I also need you to be praying for me. Will you join me in what God has called me to do?" Having this printed in the back of your picture book will make the "ask" natural and it will keep you accountable to do it. Have various donation options available as well (include ministry donation envelopes, online options, etc.). After the "ask," make sure to have a second page asking for referrals. You might ask, "I need to share this vision with as many people as possible; can you think of 4 or 5 friends who have hearts for God that I could get in touch with?" Try to run your support through a church or ministry that can write donation receipts. If this isn't possible you could use a simple online donation option like [gofundme.com](http://gofundme.com). Other options, like Western Union, MoneyGram, and World Remit can work too but always make sure there is accountability involved with all of your donations.

7. **Build your team.** As you raise support, and as you do the ministry people are partnering with you in, you must communicate with your team, building relationships with them. Try to send out monthly newsletters letters that are visionary and focus on people God is using you to reach. Try to send out bi-weekly emails. You could keep people up to date with a Facebook or WhatsApp group, a blog, or other social media updates. Supplement your correspondence with pictures, videos, audio and other media. Share fresh and exciting stories, prayer needs and answers. If possible, send your team Christmas gifts and ministry reminders (like a postcard from a location you serve in). Don't delete contacts from your list unless they ask to be removed. It will take time to grow your credibility, so trust God to solidify your team over time. If you're doing full time ministry, make sure to visit your team as often as possible.
8. **Have good boundaries.** You will encounter manipulative and even awkward supporters. Have good boundaries with them. Also, respect peoples' decisions to support or not to support you. Good boundaries are critical in support raising.
9. **Plan ahead.** Full time ministers should get a feel for the ebb and flow of annual highs and lows. Plan your asks and special need requests for high times and prepare and budget for low times.
10. **Persevere patiently.** Continue prayerfully trusting God and relying on encouraging accountability and community for support. Don't give up; persevere!

This is just a start. Adapt these ideas to your needs. Keep learning and growing in this area. Steve Shadrach's site <http://www.supportraisingsolutions.org/> and bootcamps will help you tremendously. Also read *Funding Your Ministry*<sup>1</sup> by Scott Morten and the *God Ask*<sup>2</sup> by Steve Shadrach. Living on raised support is an exciting way to live. You'll see God come through for you in ways few ever will. You'll have financial freedom like most never do. It is a big step and it can be frightening but don't let that hold you back from this exciting walk of faith!

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<sup>1</sup> Scott Morten, *Funding your Ministry* (Colorado Springs, CO: Dawson Media, 2007).

<sup>2</sup> Steve Shadrach, *The God Ask* (Fayetteville, AR: CMM Press, 2013).