

Eight Sound Principles For Successful Support Raising

- **Be thoroughly convinced** that the faith method is the proper route for you to take to advance to the mission field. By “faith method” we refer to the missionary’s responsibility for raising his own support.
- Consider support raising to be a **vital ministry**, not just a necessary evil or a means to an end. Understand your mission’s policy on support raising.
- Many people launching into support raising have discovered the absolute necessity of being a **self-starter**. Support raising often takes place under circumstances where the appointee or missionary is completely on his own. One who admits to being undisciplined will not find support raising a happy experience.
- The **tools** a missionary brings with him to support raising are important. Faith, enthusiasm, sincerity, and innovation are four of the best. No one wants to support a missionary who is not excited about his calling. Few will listen to a person who is proud and boastful. Sincerity works its way into everyone’s heart. The person who is unique and innovative in his approach to support raising is often most serious about God’s call and claim on his life. And remember, “Faith without works is dead.”
- A strong **desire to share** the excitement and challenge of your call is indispensable. Every opportunity should be approached with the attitude, “I have something special and exciting to share with you. What I have to say is important not only to me but also to you.”
- **Timing** is important in support raising. Beginning support raising prematurely or at the wrong time of the year (e.g. national holiday time) can result in early discouragement. A person who has accumulated many debts or has not finished his education should not become actively involved in support raising yet.
- **Where** you do your support raising is vital. If you plan to live and do your support raising in an area where your mission agency is not known, or where there are no or few churches interested in missions, you may have a difficult time doing support raising.
- Continued **interest in the field** you plan to minister in will not only create valuable enthusiasm, interest, and information within you, but will be of great value to you once you arrive on the field.