



## Biblical Attitudes for Fundraising

Here are some attitudes to keep in mind as you seek God for the funds necessary to facilitate your short-term mission trip.

- God is the source, not your donors. Any donation is ultimately an offering to the Lord, not to you.
- Prayer demonstrates our dependence on God as the source. Just like Nehemiah, we should pray “to the God of heaven” (Nehemiah 2:4) instead of depending on people or our church. God is more interested in our spiritual growth than just meeting a need for funding.
- The Bible is the standard for fundraising methods—not ad gimmicks. Just because a method works doesn’t make it right. Be cautious to state your needs, your trust for God's provision and the ministry opportunity clearly and succinctly. Avoid overly-emotional appeals that may distract from the God-centered purpose for the mission.
- Biblical fundraising is a spiritual ministry, not a worldly effort to be reluctantly or apologetically endured. We often look at fundraising as secular, having not studied the Bible to find clear examples of supporting one another in ministry. If what we are doing is done in obedience to God, raising funds for it is a spiritual activity.
- Receiving support for Kingdom work is biblically sound, but does not entitle you to be pushy or demanding. Don’t expect someone to give just because you have ministered to them in the past. They need to be obedient to God as much as you do.
- Expect to raise 100% of the amount you need for the trip. There are enough resources in God’s world to fully supply your need if God has called you to go on a mission trip.
- Poor talk dishonors God. Emphasize the greatness of the opportunity, not the greatness of the need. People give because of God’s work in your life and the opportunity, not because they feel sorry for you. Fundraising is not begging!
- Focus on the giver, not the money. Paul said in Philippians 4:17, “Not that I seek the gift itself, but I seek for the profit which increases to your account.” Paul was not preoccupied with the Philippians’ money, but with their spiritual progress. You are looking for partners in God’s ministry in your life.
- Take a few moments and ask God to show you if your attitudes are consistent with the Bible before starting the process of raising funds for your mission trip.

# Church of the Holy Apostles

## Mission Biblical Fundraising

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### Mission Fundraising Step-by-Step

God is already providing you the resources necessary for your trip. If you do not have the means readily available, God may desire that you use the need as an opportunity to allow others to participate through prayer and giving, and to grow your own faith and dependence on Him in the process. Here are some suggestions to help you get started:

STEP 1	<b>PRAY.</b> Express your total dependence on the Lord. Enlist others to pray with you.
STEP 2	<b>BEGIN WITH ASKING YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY.</b> This is a wonderful opportunity to begin a spiritual conversation with those closest to you. People give to people they know and care about.
STEP 3	<b>MAKE A LIST OF OTHER PROSPECTS.</b> Include church friends, relatives, neighbors, schoolmates, club and civic contacts, and your Christmas card list. How about your doctor, lawyer, or dentist? Do not leave people off your list because you think they will not or cannot support you. God may have other plans. ** Please remember that it is okay to ask your church friends on an individual basis, but funding may not be solicited through broadcast emails or through general announcements in Small Groups, classes or other church meetings.
STEP 4	<b>WRITE YOUR LETTERS.</b> Your letter should contain a personal greeting from you and then an overview of the trip, your needs, and what your desire is for God to do through you. Describe where you will be going, what you will be doing, how they can pray for you, and specific financial needs along with deadlines. Try to keep the letter to one page in length and be sure to proof your work! We encourage you to insert your information into the sample letters at the bottom of this page or use them as references as you create your own letters. Remember to include a self addressed stamped envelope for the person to submit payment. <b>Important Note Regarding Contributions:</b> All contributions are donations to the COTHA mission fund and are non-refundable, regardless of whether the individual must cancel his or her participation in the trip.
STEP 5	<b>KEEP TRACK.</b> As you receive gifts, have a simple way to keep track or if a donations are sent directly to COTHA you will receive a regular giving report. Please have donors note you name in the memo line of the check.
STEP 6	<b>SEND FUNDING TO EVANGELISM MINISTRY AT COTHA:</b> <b>Online.</b> Visit <a href="http://www.cotha.org/evangelism">www.cotha.org/evangelism</a> to pay/donate towards a trip. <b>By Mail.</b> Mail checks (payable to COTHA) to the church at 1225 West Grand Parkway S. Katy, TX 77494. <b>In Person.</b> You may also bring your checks to the office during our regular business hours of 9:00 – 4:00 Monday through Thursday.  ** Sometimes situations arise late in the preparation stages that prevent a person from attending the trip they planned on being a part of. We are disappointed when this occurs, but we know that God has a plan even when we don't see or understand it. It is COTHA's policy that all contributions given are for the overall purpose of furthering our evangelism efforts and are therefore non-refundable, regardless of whether or not the member that raised them attends the trip.
STEP 7	<b>SAY THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SUPPORTED YOU.</b> Write a personal thank you note when you receive the funding <i>and</i> then again after you return from your trip with your results and experiences.