

STEPS FOR PERSONALLY RAISING FUNDS FOR MISSIONS

Acton Baptist Church believes that mission trips are an intense discipleship opportunity and encourage families to serve on mission together. However, mission trips can be costly for the average person. This is compounded when multiple members of the same family travel on mission. Acton Baptist requires participants to pay a deposit of 10% of the total trip cost but what about the remaining balance? ABC often offers several means for raising support for missions. First, the Mission Going Team budgets up to 25% of the price to assist in the cost. This generous gift comes from the church budget and represents Acton's dedication to raise up new missionaries. Second, the Mission Going Team may organize a fundraiser that is equally applied to all trip participants. ABC sanctioned fundraisers must abide with the policies of the church and will be appropriately promoted by the church. ABC will collect donations and participants have access to church facilities as needed. Trip participants are strongly encouraged to check with the trip leader to learn about opportunities to participate in ABC fundraisers.

However, these efforts are extremely helpful but are not designed to cover the entirety of the participant's expenses. Each participant is encouraged to plan other activities to raise the remaining funds needed. These personal fundraisers take place away from the church facilities and are solely the responsibility of the individual participants. However, ABC recommends the following steps to help participants.

STEP 1: MAKE SURE OF YOUR CALLING

When we go on mission we are signing up for the front lines of the spiritual battle, perhaps in a way that we never have before. It is wise to make certain of your motives and God's leading before stepping into the battlefield. God has certainly called all of us to be on mission. Has He called you to this particular place and time? You may find the confirmation through your normal scripture reading, through prayer, through the guidance of the people of God and through circumstances.

STEP 2: PRAY

The work the Lord plans to perform begins long before arriving on the mission field. The act of seeking the Lord through prayer provides peace, encouragement, and hope. Ask the Lord to open your eyes to opportunities for receiving and earning the necessary funds. Often, the greatest hesitation people have about missions is the cost. Pray that the Lord will provide and increase your faith.

STEP 3: COUNCIL OF 3

It is strongly encouraged that every mission trip participant approach 3 non-family adults within Acton Baptist Church. Consider meeting with this *Council of 3* at least once a month and perhaps more as the trip gets closer. From the moment participants register for a mission trip, they should seek other believers who have wisdom, experience, and the respect of the church body. The purpose of this council will be twofold:

1. Prayer—Every successful missionary that has ever served our Master understood one basic principle. We have no power on our own to stand, tell, proclaim, accept, or even live out the Gospel. Only by the power of the Holy Spirit through grace, given by Jesus the Christ, are we saved (Ephesians 2:8-10). Every participant is a missionary going to a foreign land where the name of Jesus has not been heard and MUST have the church lifting up prayers on their behalf.

The *Council of 3* will need to make a commitment to pray for the participant daily leading up to and during the trip. Participants should meet with their *Council of 3* at least once a month for prayer. This could be as simple as meeting for 5 to 10 minutes as a group before or after a worship service.

2. Financial Accountability—Acton Baptist is very generous and often, participants only need to pay the deposit after applying the budgeted gift and fundraiser. However, in the event that more funds are needed, the *Council of 3* can be a great encouragement and offer counsel concerning how to manage your resources.

If you have more questions or would like some suggestions for your Council, contact the trip leader.

STEP 4: SAVE

Sounds simple, right? However, never underestimate what the Lord wants you to do with the income He has already provided. Sacrifice is a huge part of trusting the Lord and going on mission. Count the cost and know that the salvation of others is priceless. Do you have savings? Perhaps the Lord prompted you to set those funds aside so that others may know the Gospel through your trip. Experience has shown that when we are personally invested in a trip it is much more meaningful.

STEP 5: WATCH

Look for unexpected blessings from the Lord. He provides for those He calls. Start saving those unexpected birthday gifts, tax refunds, and job bonuses. Pray for the Lord to provide and watch for His provision. Give Him credit for His provision.

STEP 6: WRITE YOUR STORY

People love a good story and want to be a part of the Lord's work. Begin your story with how the Lord is impacting you as you prepare. Make your story about the people, place, and needs that will be met. Discuss the mission work and the need for the Gospel in the areas the trip will serve. Describe the desired impact and final result of the mission. The Spirit uses the heart to inspire so inspire people with the need for the Lord. Make sure to be clear on the different ways people can partner with you such as prayer, supplies, funding, etc.

STEP 7: PLAN

You will need to establish a plan for raising your funds.

- A. Your story is written. Now decide how to share it.
 - a. Send letters. It may feel a little old-fashioned to send a letter through the postal system, but most people do not receive personalized mail anymore. A personal letter has perhaps a greater impact today than in previous years. If you type your letter, make sure you handwrite a personal note to the recipient. The goal is to make personal contacts.
 - b. Post your story on social media. WARNING! Everything on the internet is monitored. Be careful to exclude details that may cause problems for you, your team, or the local ministry you will serve. Please check with your team leader on these issues.
 - c. You can utilize other digital sources such as email but these are less personal. You want to have as many conversations with people as possible.
- B. Carefully explain the options for how you plan to receive donations.
 - a. The options are nearly endless. Do you plan to take cash, Venmo, checks, etc.?
 - b. Consider utilizing websites that assist in raising funds like GiveSendGo.com or GoFundMe.com. There are many who search these sites for worthwhile causes. Not only will family and friends be able to donate easily but you may find donors from all over the country. However, before setting these up, realize that many charge a small fee or a percentage of the donations.
 - c. Donors may give directly to a participant's balance through the Go Method registration. However, ABC cannot give tax-exemption to any donation made to an individual or their trip expenses.
 - d. Be faithful with your funds. Many will choose to simply give cash. Please remember that these funds are the love gifts of God's people to share the Gospel.

C. Creatively share your progress. This is where the ideas truly abound.

Use charts, graphs, jars with pennies, anything to create a visual representation of your progress and share.

Adopt a Box - One great idea is to encourage donors to choose a price point from a chart like the one below. Each donor chooses an amount to donate then mark out the option. For instance, if a donor chooses to donate \$19, simply mark out box number 19 and other donors choose different amounts. This chart raises \$1,266. Make sure you post updates often.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50

STEP 8: WORK

People tend to donate to causes for which participants are willing to sacrifice. Working to raise funds can be a great source of revenue and convince others that your mission trip is worthy of their financial sacrifice. Here are some ideas to help.

A. Sell items

- a. Look around the house for unused items and have a garage sale. Post a sign at your sale that explains the funds are to support mission trip and put out a donations jar as well.
- b. Consider posting items online in places like eBay, and Facebook Marketplace.

B. Make items

- a. Sell your hobbies. Some ideas are baked goods, crafts, and wood working projects. Post these online or sell by word of mouth.
- b. Have t-shirts made that reflect your trip and sell them.
- c. Be careful to calculate expenses. Selling homemade items can be a great source to gain partners and raise funds *unless* too much is spent on supplies or too few are sold. Remember, God's people are often looking for ways to give to the Kingdom. Telling buyers that you are selling items to raise funds for missions often prompts them to make a larger donation.

C. Part-time or temporary employment

- a. Ask your employer for extra hours.
- b. Many businesses in Granbury are short-handed. They may be willing to hire help for a few hours a week or on your day off.
- c. Many employers intentionally hire seasonal employees in the summer or around the holidays.

STEP 9: FOLLOW UP

All your partners are eager to hear from you at the conclusion of the mission trip. Write the completion of your story. Include how the Lord moved, the people you served, and how your life was changed. Remember the partners have sacrificed to send you to declare the Gospel to the nations. Celebrate with them by sending a follow-up letter, email, and making personal visits.