



COMMUNITAS
— International —

AM I READY TO GO ON MISSION?



KILL THE FEAR OF FUNDRAISING

"I told God I would do anything He asked, except raise support."

Is this you? There's a better way to think about fundraising here at Communitas.



“I told God I would do anything He asked, except raise support.”

When you think about going into missions work, does the thought of support raising make your stomach turn? Does it feel unattainable or even embarrassing?

If support raising is keeping you from moving forward into your calling to be a missionary, let's talk about what fundraising actually means.



3 REASONS PEOPLE HATE SUPPORT RAISING





"I'LL FEEL LIKE A CHARITY CASE"

You may have heard that missionaries ask their ministry partners for money because they are a charity case. That is just not true! Mission is not a charity. When people GIVE, they are partners in God's mission, just like you are when you GO.

Raising support is much more than asking grandma for money every month.

Every follower of Jesus is called to participate in the work of spreading the gospel around the world. For you, you may live that out by physically going. For believers who cannot physically live out that call, participating financially is how they can help reach the world.

Through support raising, you are giving people the opportunity to participate in Kingdom advancement and in their own spiritual growth.





"I DON'T WANT TO BEG FOR MONEY"

Asking for money is scary, and it can feel like pestering people. Asking people for money is socially unacceptable. We don't want to pressure those we love into giving to support our lives.

However, fundraising can be something totally different. When fundraising becomes about sharing what God is doing in the world and giving people an opportunity to participate in HIS work, it stops being embarrassing and becomes a mutually life-giving way to experience God.

"When I sensed a call into missions, I told God I would do anything He asked of me... except raise support. Then He called me to raise support. Ten years later, He has provided for our family in amazing ways, and I wouldn't trade the trust we placed in HIM for the world! Support raising is not about asking my friends for money—I'd never want to do that. It's about trusting God for His provision, and sharing with other followers of Jesus what God is doing in the world, and inviting them to join Him in his work. HE provides, not them. And I am never ashamed to share with my friends the amazing things God is doing through our ministry!"

E.C., Missionary with Communitas International





"I'LL HAVE TO SELL PEOPLE ON MY MINISTRY"

When you picture raising support, do you picture giving dozens of people a sales pitch? It may seem like support raising is a sales job. And you have to be a good salesperson with all the right tactics and strategies to “meet your quota”.

But ministry isn't sales. And we don't want people who treat it like sales.

While it IS hard work, there are tools and resources we give you to support your fundraising efforts. You aren't a salesperson. You aren't going to raise money because you shared exactly the right words or had a great presentation. You are sharing the good news of what God is doing through your life and asking people to partner with you and God in that good work.





GOD'S HEART FOR SUPPORT RAISING

If the thought of support raising is daunting and uncomfortable to you, you are not alone. Taking the step of faith to rely on God's provision for your life financially can be an unnerving and uncomfortable task that many ministry partners and missionaries share. Of course in reality, every follower of Christ depends on God's provision financially.

But at Communitas, we believe that support raising is about more than just "raising money". It's a discipleship issue.

At Communitas, we have built our fundraising model on Phillipians 4:17

"Not that I desire your gifts; what I desire is that more be credited to your account."

When Paul was sharing the Gospel, he relied on the support of faithful believers. Not just because he needed their financial support, but because their partnership helped build their own faith.





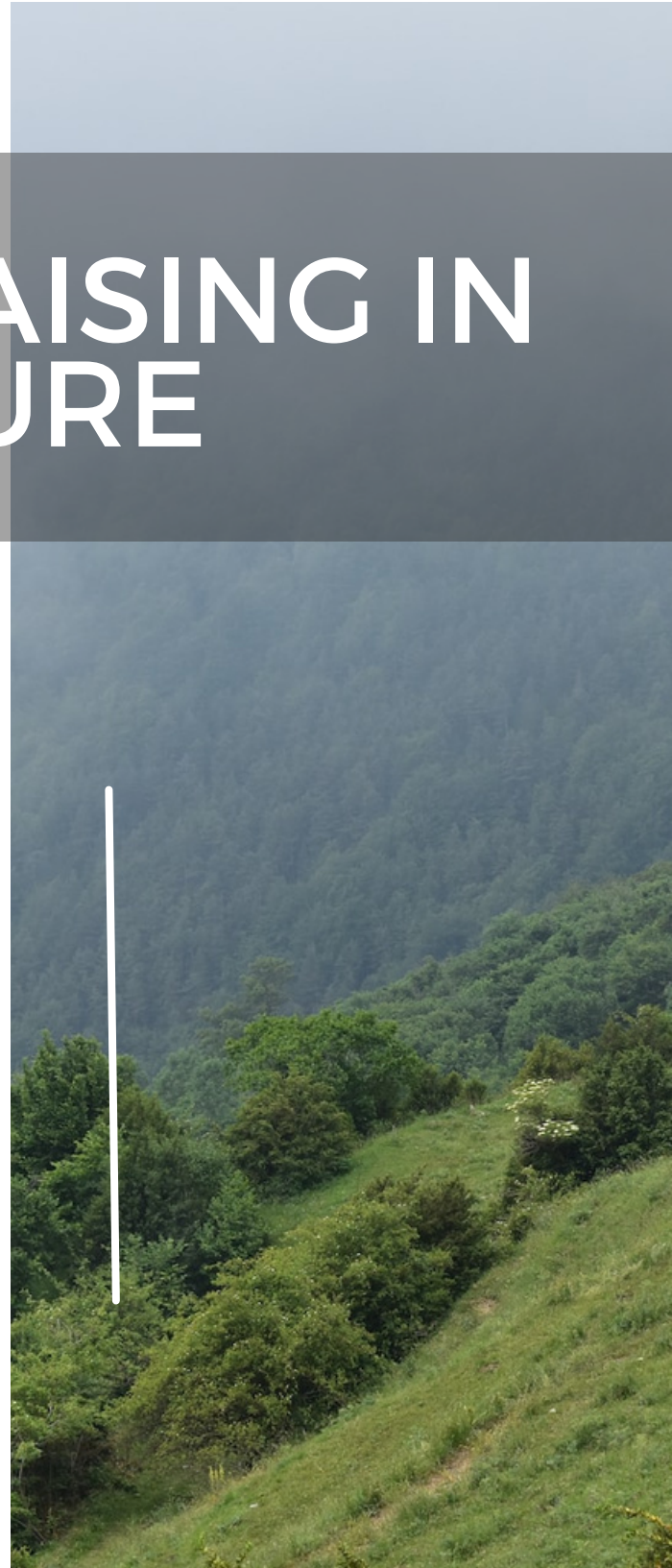
FUNDRAISING IN SCRIPTURE

Beyond all the misconceptions, support raising isn't a human invention. God's model for ministry involves supporting and caring for everyone on mission.

Dear friend, you are being faithful to God when you care for the traveling teachers who pass through, even though they are strangers to you. They have told the church here of your loving friendship. Please continue providing for such teachers in a manner that pleases God. For they are traveling for the Lord, and they accept nothing from people who are not believers. So we ourselves should support them so that we can be their partners as they teach the truth.

3 John 1: 5-8

John applauds and encourages the church in Rome for giving and supporting those who were traveling and sharing the Gospel.





Likewise, when Jesus sends out His disciples to preach the Gospel, He tells them to rely on the faithfulness of God and the generosity of others to support them.

“Whenever you enter someone’s home, first say, ‘May God’s peace be on this house.’ If those who live there are peaceful, the blessing will stand; if they are not, the blessing will return to you. Don’t move around from home to home. Stay in one place, eating and drinking what they provide. Don’t hesitate to accept hospitality, because those who work deserve their pay. “If you enter a town and it welcomes you, eat whatever is set before you.

Luke 10: 5-8

FIND A LIFE GIVING WAY TO SUPPORT RAISE



BUILD RELATIONSHIPS

Fundraising may seem daunting at first, but it is as simple as building and investing in meaningful relationships with people who care about you and the work God is doing. Relationships start long before you begin fundraising, and will last long after. When you have a dedicated community of believers dedicated to God and encouraging you and supporting you in ministry, fundraising is just another way to bring your partners into ministry with you.

REFRAME YOUR MENTALITY

What you're doing is ministry and you need to have that mindset shift. Especially with people you know, they will support you because they know you and believe God is at work in you, not because you're asking for money. For many others, they will be inspired to join your support team because God is at work through the work you are doing and you have the opportunity to invite them into it!



TRUST IN GOD

Relying on others for your entire income is scary; there's no doubt about it. And raising support is some of the hardest work you will ever do. But when we rely on God to provide for our every need (literally), we free ourselves from worry. Jesus reminds us in Luke 22, "do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes... Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life? Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?"

PRAY

Prayer is at the heart of any ministry endeavor, including fundraising. God's promise to care for us is met by His desire for us to ask. Philippians 4:6 says "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." He wants us to bring our needs to Him. When we go on mission, we trust GOD (not ourselves) for our funding--and our every need!



OUR PROCESS

How Support Raising Works with Communitas

Fundraising is the most intimidating part of missions for most new staff members. We won't leave you on your own. A guide will coach you through the entire process, giving you training, resources, and coaching to walk through this process. Here's how we prepare you:

- After you join Communitas, we connect you with a Support Raising Advocate and Guide.
- We discuss your support raising needs with you and create a support plan (how much you need to raise). It's unique, brutally honest, and completely customized. We'll make sure you have realistic expectations for your ministry location so you won't be under-supported when you get there.
- We connect you with an MPD coach (Ministry Partner Development is the "formal" term for support raising) who gives you 1 on 1 training online to guide and help you through the first 6 months of support raising. This person will be your coach through the entire journey of creating your list of people you know, developing your story to share, sending the contact emails and making follow up calls, and what to do when people say "YES!" They'll walk you through each step and be available to answer any questions or address any challenges that come up.

While you will need to do the work, we will stand with you every step of the way, giving encouragement and guidance. In turn, we ask you to trust the process... and to TRUST GOD!

As He calls, He provides.

Pray. Pray more than you've ever prayed before.

And get ready for the greatest adventure of your life!

