

# RAISING SUPPORT

## The God bit

You might find yourself wondering how you're going to raise so much cash/wondering where it's all going to come from/panicking that you've got limited time to raise the money.

We would encourage you not to panic – remember:

- God is our provider, and he is able to do all things.
- He promises that when we ask, he will answer –

Matthew 7: 7-8: "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened."

Do ask – pray!

We've heard many inspiring stories of how Action Teamers have experienced God's provision and generosity in amazing ways through their fundraising.

Becky Hembery, a past Action Teamer, describes how she experienced God's provision: *'When I did my Action Team year I had raised a fair amount of money through my church, but the day before the payment deadline I still had quite a bit of money to raise – £421.36 (to be specific!) and I didn't know how I was going to get this. I prayed and told God that if he wanted me to go on the gap year He would have to provide the money. Later that day I received a phone call from one of my friends, saying she wanted to come over and chat. She came over and told me that her and her husband had set a budget for doing up their new house and they had managed to do it under budget and wanted to give me what was left – it was the exact amount to the penny that I needed for my Action Team place!*

God is always faithful, and abundantly generous – we'd encourage you to be eagerly expectant of what, and how, he will provide!

## Why raise support?

Support is very important both before and during your Action Team year. We can receive support in variety of ways – financial support is the most obvious, but when you are overseas, prayer support, letters and packages of chocolate, marmite and tea bags become pretty valuable too.

During this session we're going to look a bit further at the financial cost.

- We appreciate that you have to raise a lot of money, and it's very likely that some of you may be feeling a bit daunted about the prospect of raising this amount, and that's entirely understandable. However, we'd suggest looking at it in slightly more manageable terms (to make it seem smaller): break the amount you have to raise down into monthly sums and then think about all that the amount is covering: flights, accommodation, food, visas, travel...
- We'd encourage you not to see the financial cost in isolation, but as an opportunity to tell people about what you're doing, and a way to get them interested, envisioned and on board.

- Raising your own finance is also a good witness to those around you. In 1 Thessalonians 2: 9, Paul writes: 'Don't you remember, dear brothers and sisters, how hard we worked among you? Night and day we toiled to earn a living so that our expenses would not be a burden to anyone there as we preached God's Good News among you'. Paul is committed to spreading the gospel, but does not want to be a burden in the churches he visits overseas. That's very much the spirit we want to encourage too. Getting a full or part time job over the summer (once exams have finished obviously!) can get you a long way towards reaching your fundraising target.

### When?

- We appreciate that, for some people, exams are approaching – it's a busy time of year.
- Do start planning fundraising NOW – but don't actually collect any money until you have been formally accepted onto the Action Team programme.
- Once you have been accepted onto the programme, BMS' finance department will open an individual payment record in your name.
- You can then start sending in money – either in bits and pieces, as and when you receive it, or all in one lump sum.
- Payment deadline is **31 August**. However, if it looks like you won't be able to make this deadline, please don't panic – do phone us if you're concerned.

### How?

There are endless possibilities of how to fundraise. Why not brainstorm all the different ways you can come up with?

Ideas from previous Action Teamers include:

- Garage /car boot/jumble sale
- Themed party
- Sponsored sports event
- Collect small change (in Smarties/Pringles tube)
- Carwash
- Non-uniform day
- Dinner party
- BBQ
- Quiz/games night
- Produce and sell a cookery book
- Church gift day
- Murder mystery evening
- Coffee morning/cake sale
- Promise/slave auction

Particularly successful past ideas to highlight include –

- Sponsored events – one past Action Teamer was sponsored to live without shoes 24/7 for a month. Original ideas work best, especially if there's some kind of logic behind them (ie. many of the children I'll be working with in Kolkata don't have shoes, so I'm going to go without shoes for a month to raise money for my AT place...)

- Location themed dinner party – why not cook an Indian/French/Thai etc meal, with appropriate themed entertainment, and charge people to attend.
- Play to your strengths – if you're a good cook, why not throw a fancy dinner party. If you're a bit arty/crafty, why not try commissioned paintings, or making and selling greeting cards?

Also:

- For sponsored events, there is a sponsorship form in your Information Pack that can be photocopied. It's also on the BMS website, available to download.
- Do take a look at the resources table and help yourself to anything you think might be useful for raising support. See also the resources tab on our website [www.bmsworldmission.org/resources](http://www.bmsworldmission.org/resources) for further downloadable resources.

## Who?

Who are we approaching for support?

Church

- Your church is the first and most obvious source of support.
- Find out your church's policy on supporting mission workers – many churches have money set aside for the specific purpose of supporting those involved in short-term mission.
- Take opportunities to let people know what you're doing - interview slot in main service/youth meeting/mission evening/prayer meeting etc
- See the handout 'talking to your church' for further suggestions and advice.

Community

- There are various potential sources of support within your local community
- Local Rotary clubs, Women's Institute groups, shops and companies may all be potential sources of funding. Think about what could be in it for them – what will be the benefit of them sponsoring/funding you?
- If you promise to do a talk or presentation on your return, please make sure you do it!

Trusts and Foundations

- Many charitable trusts and foundations have grants available to support those involved in charitable work. See the separate handout 'Applying to a charitable trust or foundation' for further details. See also 'Ideas to help your fundraising' handout.

## Practical points

Do ask supporters to Gift Aid their donations wherever possible. However, the reclaimed tax from this cannot legally contribute towards your total funds– this money will go towards the overall costs of Action Teams. HOWEVER – please note that immediate family relations cannot gift aid on your behalf, for legal reasons.

We can accept Charity Vouchers (CAFs) – if you don't know what these are, it's a method that some people use to manage their charitable giving. The tax is reclaimed first, before they make a donation.

Fairly obvious, but just to make it clear – we'd ask you not to fundraise by gambling in any form (including raffles) – thanks!

*It may encourage you to hear that we have never yet had an Action Teamer who has not managed to raise the full amount required.*

**Finally**

BMS staff are very much here to help. If at any point you would like advice concerning your fundraising, have a query about finances or are struggling to raise funds, please get in touch with us.