

## **WHAT IS BIBLICAL FUNDRAISING?**

Prepared by: Judy Friesen

1. **Inviting people to experience joy**...because everything belongs to God anyway. It's not to keep as much as possible and give what we can afford, but to give so generously that we see God's grace. 2 Cor. 9:11 and 1 Chron. 9:14b
2. **Inviting people to grow in their faith**...by trusting God's provision. It's not about giving out of obligation or guilt. 2 Chron. 9:7
3. **Inviting people to invest**...in God's Kingdom. It's not to help or because of your organizations need. 2 Cor. 9:6 and 1 Chron. 29:2-5
4. **Inviting people to get involved**...in something bigger than themselves. It's about sowing and reaping and giving where their hearts are. It's not to get them to just write a cheque.

### **Building for Eternity**

When was the last time you saw a dirt-mover build anything? Let's not be dirt movers, simply trying to get a donor/church to 'buy' into funding a lot of dirt-moving. Share the vision and do it often (vision leaks). Help get them personally involved. Help each person you talk to see how they are building God's Kingdom – and investing in something that will last forever.

"Certainly, fund raising, from a spiritual point of view, is a very concrete way to help the Kingdom come about. So when we build the Kingdom here on earth it is a Kingdom that will reach out beyond our own existence, and if you raise funds for the creation of a community of love, you are building the Kingdom. You're doing exactly what you're supposed to do as Christians." (Henry Nouwen)

Care for the donor/Pastor spiritually, then, the money will be no problem. We need to be intentional and keep careful and detailed notes so we can show how much we care when we refer to what was said from the previous meeting .

*"If therefore there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself; do not merely look out for your own interests, but also for the interests of others "* Phil. 2:1-4

### **Fundraising is a Ministry**

"Fund raising is first of all, a form of ministry. It is a way of announcing your vision, and inviting other people into your vision with the resources that are available to them.

Fund raising is proclaiming what you believe in, and proclaiming it in such a way that you offer the other person an opportunity to participate in your vision. So it is precisely the opposite of begging. It's not saying, "Please we have a problem, could you help us out because lately it's been hard." It is saying, "We have a vision that is so exciting that we are giving you the opportunity to participating in that vision with the resources that God has given you.

And, further, since it is a ministry, it is always a call to conversion. That is, to say to people, "I invite you to a new way of relating to your resources. So that making your resources available to us is good for you." If it is good only for us who receive; it is not fund raising in the spiritual sense of the word. Fund raising from the point of view of the gospel, is saying to people: "I will take your money only if it is good for your spiritual journey ☺☺if it is good for your health." In other words, you won't become poorer - but you will become richer by giving. Otherwise, you are saying, "I'm here, you're there, and you're giving some a little bit," and then, suddenly, you are begging again, and you are not standing up for your vision." (Henry Nouwen)

### **Where is my Security?**

"If your security is in God, then you are free to ask for money. When you are free from money, you can ask for it. The reason that we have such a hard time asking for money is precisely because it is a taboo subject. And it is a taboo subject because our own little securities are connected with it, and so we are not free. But if, on the other hand, I am absolutely sure that my whole trust is in God, and absolutely sure that I am concerned only for the Kingdom, then I will have no trouble at all in asking you for a million dollars." (Henry Nouwen)

### **Why Give?**

- To experience God's abundance— 2 Cor. 9:8 & 10,
- To experience God's principle of return— 2 Cor. 9:6, Proverbs 11:24-25
- To become more generous – 2 Cor.9: 11-13
- To help others to be more thankful & grow in their faith— 2 Cor. 9:12 & 13 and 1Chron. 29:9
- To supply a need – 2 Cor. 9:12
- To please God – 1 Chron. 29:17 and 2 Cor. 9:11b
- To display integrity and increase our loyalty – 1 Chron. 29:17 -18
- To be reminded of God's strength, power and provision – 1 Chron. 29:12
- To realign our citizenship – 1 Chron. 29: 15a
- To experience hope - 1 Chron. 29:15b
- To increase our love of God's people – 1 Chron. 29:17c