

How do I come up with the money for my missions trip?

[Positive attitude](#) [Communicating](#) [Overcoming fear](#) [George Mueller's example](#) [Divine appointments](#)

1) By keeping a positive attitude

Answer from John in Japan, where he has been a missionary for five years.

Raising financial support is a difficult hurdle. Talking to your pastor and church missions committee and hearing their encouragement may help you develop a more positive attitude for support raising.

Raising support is just another step to getting to where you believe the Lord wants you. Talking about needs and asking for support is a difficult thing. But then, speaking about Christ to the lost can be just as difficult. So support raising may be one way of helping you develop an ability to talk about something difficult with someone who may or may not be positive in their response.

2) By learning how to communicate

Answer from [Dale Pugh](#), International Coordinator of World International Mission. Dale, who served long-term in Mexico, authored *How to Survive on the Mission Field*. Chapter six is entitled "Support from Home Base."

How to raise support? My answer grows out of Romans 10:14-15b: *"How shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent?"*

Paul's Jewishness shows up in how he teaches through asking questions. In this Romans passage, there are three groups of people: the **unsaved**, the **senders** and the **goers**. The missionary is the **goer** and has to communicate between the other two groups. Just like we must prepare ourselves with the message to take to the field, we must prepare our communication with the **senders**.

We must be sent. There must be people who will sponsor us. Raising support is part of your job. I believe *"where God guides, He provides."* Yet, just as I learned how to preach, so I had to learn how to raise support. The way I have raised financial support is by prayer and communication. First, pray and find out what [God](#) wants you to do. Then, through prayer, apply His promises to those needs. Second, in an honest up-front way, share with your home church and prayer partners what you intend to do and what you need to get the job done.

I have never begged for money. I have found that after praying about my needs, church leaders and supporters usually ask what I need. The Lord has also given me creative ideas to share those needs in a newsletter or other communication with my support team. The key is not to be afraid.

3) By overcoming fear

Answer from David Smith, Director of Mobilization with [WEC Int'l](#). David has been a missionary 25 years, first as a field worker in West Africa and now at WEC headquarters in Fort Washington, PA.

When someone personally tells me they are afraid of support raising I generally ask for some clarification.

Are you really afraid? Will someone hurt you? Are you afraid of what people will think? If someone was afraid of being hurt or spoken against, they probably are not ready to face some of the very real pressures of being a missionary.

Some people just honestly don't want to invest the work. I'm not much help to them, because missions is hard work.

Some have a bad attitude about support raising, disdainfully calling it "begging." I'm no help to them either. For one thing, a negative attitude about this one issue often indicates other issues which mean problems for a mission team. If God calls a person to a certain mission, He calls them to the support raising procedure of that mission.

Others feel God is leading them a different way, but they just can't put it into words. I gladly tell those people about the funding approach we use in WEC International. It's something which our founder, [C.T. Studd](#), learned from Hudson Taylor (Taylor had himself picked up the idea from George Muller).

Our approach is simply this. When God calls us to serve Him, we believe that His call includes an assurance of the provision of the necessary money for that ministry. Therefore, in that confidence we choose not to make appeals or solicitations (or hints). Rather, we trust in God to sovereignly move upon people and churches to support us. We let people know what we are doing or planning to do, but the information about our ministry does not include information about our finances.

When my family and I were going to [Guinea-Bissau](#), we sent a general letter to friends letting them know where we were going and what we were going to do. We did not mention any kind of support level or start-up funds, or anything else related to money. We received some inquiries and indications of support, and we went. We always had enough for living and for ministry.

4) By following the example of George Mueller

Answer from Jim Raymo, U.S. Director of [WEC International](#). Jim has been a missionary in Europe, Asia and now at WEC headquarters in Fort Washington, PA. He is author of the book *Marching to a Different Drummer*

WEC's tradition of "trusting God alone" for provision comes from Scriptures and the influence of the life of George Mueller. In the 1800's, Mueller (also spelled "Muller") was guided by God to begin an orphanage in Bristol, England, on the basis of faith in the promises of God. He made no appeal for funds. Rather, he asked God to move in people's hearts so they would give toward the

care of the orphans. Mueller's testimony to God's faithful provision influenced Hudson Taylor, founder of the China Inland Mission, and later [C. T. Studd](#), founder of WEC, who began his missions career with Taylor in China.

Reflect on the words of Mueller:

"Over the years, the Lord has faithfully taken care of us financially in our work of caring for the orphans by constantly raising up new supporters. God's promise is that they that trust in the Lord shall never be confounded. . .

For one reason or another were we to lean upon man, we would inevitably be disappointed; but, in leaning upon the living God alone, moment by moment, we are beyond disappointment and beyond being forsaken because of death, or of not having enough to live on or enough love or because of the needs of other works also requiring support.

How precious to have learned to stand with God alone in the world, and yet to be happy and confident, and to know that 'no good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly.' (Psalm 84:11)"

Some who read or hear of Mueller's adventures of faith say, "Oh, he had a very special gift of faith, but I couldn't live like that!"

Mueller argues,

"It is the selfsame faith which is found in every believer. . . Oh, I plead with you, do not think me an extraordinary believer, having privileges above others of God's dear children, which they cannot have, nor look on my way of acting as something that would not do for other believers. . . .

Do but stand still in the hour of trial, and you will see the help of God if you trust in Him."

5) By looking for divine appointments

Answer from Kelly in Southeast Asia

God did not give us a spirit of fear! (2 Timothy 1:7) Think about it. God has called you. So, who is it that would like you to be so afraid of "doing what it takes" that you don't respond? Answer: The Enemy, of course! Resist the temptation to allow the fear of support raising to paralyze you. Don't allow support raising to be the obstacle that keeps you from the field where God has called you to minister.

Support raising means simply sharing with others the exciting vision that God has given you! When people hear your heart (and [God's call](#)), they **will** get involved. Often financial support will come from sources that you did not expect. Embrace support raising as an exciting faith walk with God!

As you meet people and share your vision, **listen** to the leading of the [Holy Spirit](#). This may take practice, and yes, you may make mistakes at first. Follow the peace of Christ in making decisions. When you meet a pastor, missions committee or individual, trust the Holy Spirit to guide you in what to say and do. If you don't have "peace" then move on and don't dwell on it. But if you sense the

peace of the Lord, then you can be confident that God is at work making a "divine connection" to your support team!