

Why People will Provide Resources for a New Church Plant by Ken Behnken

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New church plants are exciting. They involve new people, new locations, new ideas, new plans, a new vision, and hopefully new resources. The days of districts or denominations fully funding new mission starts is over, and this is probably healthy. Large subsidy grants often breed dependency. A new start today often puts the burden on the new ministry team to look for support and gifts from people who have a mission heart and want to provide another community of believers that will effectively reach the unchurched in their community.

The raising of funds for a new mission start is often seen as a barrier or an unpleasant task placed upon this new ministry team; when in fact it can be a tremendous blessing. As God moves the hearts of people to share their gifts with a new mission, He also gives them a keen sense of relationship with this new mission. They become prayer partners and have a continuing interest in the mission and its outreach activities.

What is it that moves people to share their resources with a new mission start? I can think of five reasons people would be willing to share their gifts and there are probably many more.

- ⇒ The vision of the new ministry team has been shared with them and they have caught the vision and want to be a part of the excitement this vision generates.
- ⇒ Someone on the team has a personal relationship with this person who is sharing their gift. They know this person, trust his/her integrity and know that they will, by the grace of God, be putting their heart and soul into building this vision. If the potential donor is a relative or close friend of the person who is seeking their partnership, this important relationship has already been cultivated. This potential is multiplied when you start with a team, because each team member has developed close relationships with different people.
- ⇒ The person you have asked has a heart for mission and the lost. They truly believe that a new mission is the best way to reach the unchurched in America. They want to invest in ministry.
- ⇒ Your presentation, and the material you use to share your new ministry, has been put together with quality and has been presented to them with a passionate heart that truly believes in the mission and its vision.
- ⇒ Your presentation has been given in a very friendly, personal way. It has been proven that the more personal your presentation, the more likely it will be that the donor

will respond positively. It is best if you can meet face-to-face with the donor and share from your heart the ministry God has called you to do.

As God leads you to new donors, and they partner with you by sharing their gifts, take time to ask them to also be prayer warriors for your new ministry.

Finally, be sure to acknowledge them for their gift and place them on your mailing list so that they receive continual updates on your ministry and regular emails giving them specific things to pray for as your ministry grows.

Be assured, God's people want to be a part of a vision that starts with God and carries out His mission in a healthy, growing, and exciting way.