

## **Practical tips on raising support for your time at College and beyond.....**

Since you started thinking about applying for a place at All Nations you have probably been thinking about the whole area of how to finance it, how will you pay for your training and how will you live without a regular income?

God is faithful, and very generous, He provides for us in so many amazing ways.

You are beginning a new and exciting adventure with God. Here are some practical tips to demonstrate how you might see God providing for you whilst you are at College.

*'It is more blessed to give than to receive'* Acts 20 v 35 b

*'God loves a cheerful giver'* 2 Corinth 9 v 7

Biblical principles are appropriate for many different cultures and situations.

Some people and mission agencies are very reluctant to ask for money, some find it even offensive, most find it very difficult. We would rather give than receive from others.

But there are many verses in the Bible which describe people of God living and working supported by others.

We are all called to give generously, as God gives, in asking for people to give to your needs you are giving them an opportunity to lay up treasure to last for eternity!

### **Check these verses out:**

**What do they say about supported living, giving, receiving, generosity, our attitudes to money....**

Numbers 18 v 8-32 (especially 20/21)

Proverbs 11 v 24-25, 28

Isaiah 58 v 10-11

Malachi 3 v 10

Matthew 6

Luke 8 v 1-3

1 Corinthians 9 v 3-11

Philippians 4 v 10 -20

1 Timothy 6 v 6-8

### **Preparation: do you know the answers to these questions?**

- How much money will you *need*? Fees, living costs, holidays...
- Have you had good advice about tax, employment status....
- Have you thought through your own attitude to money in general... to insurance, pensions, savings etc
- Have you checked your mission agency for their policy, advice and ways they can help

### **How do I start to find support? Both prayer and financial**

- **At your church....** Talk to the leaders, explain your situation and needs, arrange to speak to the church if possible. Prayer support is as important as money.
- **Friends and family...** prepare a list of *everyone* you have some contact with
- Visit if possible or phone rather than writing lots of letters
- Have all the information ready.... Details of the courses, your call to mission / country people group / activity, needs of the mission agency
- Take forms for interested people to complete on the spot, (including standing order forms)

- Email / write thank you letters at once
- Keep in regular contact, give news, show interest in them,
- Pray for your supporters regularly.
- Build up a prayer support team, make sure they have information to pray for you specifically
- Think of ways of keeping in contact with your supporters, remember birthdays, send postcards, photos etc. Visit them when you are home, go out for a meal etc

This is a very brief outline of an important process. You may like to check out the following websites and there are several books in the College library to help, including Funding the family business listed below.

[www.generousgiving.org](http://www.generousgiving.org)

[www.direct.gov.uk](http://www.direct.gov.uk)

[www.stewardship.org.uk](http://www.stewardship.org.uk)

[www.dfes.gov.uk/studentsupport](http://www.dfes.gov.uk/studentsupport)

[www.oscar.org.uk](http://www.oscar.org.uk)

[www.fundingthefamilybusiness.org](http://www.fundingthefamilybusiness.org)

<http://www.educationuk.org/Article/scholarships-for-international-postgraduate-students>

[www.britishcouncil.org/learning-funding-your-studies.htm](http://www.britishcouncil.org/learning-funding-your-studies.htm)

**Funding the family Business: a handbook for raising personal support.**  
**Myles Wilson. Pub. Stewardship.**

*Here is a sample letter to give you an idea of how you might approach possible supporters.*

Dear xxx

I am writing to tell you about an exciting opportunity I have been given. For some time now I/we have been thinking of serving the Lord with/in xxxx. We have recently applied for and have been offered places on a 10 week/1year/xx mission training course at All Nations Christian College, beginning in September xxxx.

The reason I/we are writing to you is to ask if you will be willing to pray for me/us during my/our time at All Nations, and also, if you are able, to support me/us financially. I/we believe God is calling me/us to take this step of faith, and would like to invite you to share in it with me/us by supporting me/us in a practical way. My/our costs for the coming year are in the region of xxxx, and so far I/we can put xxx towards this. I/we would rather not commit my/our savings or sell my/our house for this, as I/we have been advised that after my/our time in xxxx I/we would be best to have somewhere to come back to.

If you are interested in receiving my/our prayer letter, please fill in the form below. If you are able to support me/us financially, you can do so by xxxx or yyyy, and the details are given in the response form included with this letter.

Most of all, I/we would ask for you continuing love and prayers at this time. I/we look forward to hearing from you, and will be most happy to come and see you to explain more about what I/we will be doing.

Yours etc....