

# “TAKE-STOCK-IN-MISSION”

## Fundraising Guidelines for Youth Mission Ministries

Pines Presbyterian Church

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### Answering God’s Call

As we grow in our faith, we become more attuned to God’s will for our lives. Yet, what are we to do when we feel God calling us to something that requires a financial commitment for which we do not have the means to respond? Are we to ignore the call or should we step out in faith and say, “Here I m, Lord!”?

Once you have discerned through prayer that God is indeed calling you to a specific mission ministry, and this has been confirmed by others who know you well, then you must personally accept the responsibility – including financial – for your participation. The first thing you should consider are the financial sacrifices *you* can make before asking others to make them with you. What is your own personal financial strategy?

If you find that you still simply cannot afford to take this step without assistance, then you must take a spiritual leap of faith and trust that the financial means will ultimately be provided. Of course, faith and trust in God do not imply that you are to sit back and wait for money and checks to come to you. You still have the responsibility to be proactive in providing opportunities for others to financially share in your mission.

### Pines Youth Mission Ministries Guidelines and Resources

It is impossible for every ministry area of the church to consider financial requests for every worthy cause, including your personal journey. Therefore, we must ask that you do not go to individual ministry areas of the church – such as Sunday School, Adult Ministries, Small Groups (other than your own), etc. – to request financial assistance. Your request may interfere with their existing mission strategy or the time they have scheduled for their curriculum. Your request may also result in a competitive situation with other people on the same or a different mission trip who have also requested financial assistance.

*Again, we ask that you do not personally fundraise (or request material goods) from ministry areas of the church.*

“So,” you say, “if I cannot fundraise in my own church, how will I be able to raise funds for my personal involvement in missions, and specifically the mission trip coming up for which I stepped out in a leap of faith?”

### Some Suggestions for “Money for Youth Mission Projects”

- ◆ **Pray** that God will lead you to resources for this trip.
- ◆ **Evaluate** once again your own personal situation and see if there are any surprising places God might provide unexpected resources, i.e. extra allowance/income opportunities, birthday gifts, etc. What sacrifices can you make to contribute toward your trip? What could you do to earn or make the money you need?
- ◆ **Look outside Pines Church.** Friends, relatives, neighbors, even unexpected unbelievers, might feel blessed to invest in you and your journey. Don’t hesitate to ask them, or others who come into your path, if they would like to support your mission. The best recruiter in the world for missions is the missionary – you!
- ◆ **Inside Pines Church** – within your personal relationships. Ask for prayer from your personal friends, including your own small group at Pines, explaining to them during a time of sharing what you are doing and why you feel led by the Lord to go on this specific trip. Ask them to pray with you while you are on

the mission and also to specifically pray that you will receive the financial help you feel you need for this ministry. You might tell them that if they feel personally led, you have more information about the mission. Then, just set the information in a place where they may pick it up, or give it to them as they request. Be discreet and humble!

- ◆ **Do not ask people in the church who do not personally know you!** We must request that you not ask pastors or staff. Do not go into ministry areas in which you are not involved. (Even in the small group or ministries in which you are involved, you might ask the facilitator if they feel it is appropriate for you to request prayer and mention your financial need during a time of sharing.)

### **Tools to Assist You in Your Fundraising**

- ◆ A Sample Letter is attached which should be modified in your own words to convey your personal journey and reasons why you feel led to be on this mission trip.

### **How to Process Support Money for Youth Mission Projects**

- ◆ Include with your letter a self-addressed return envelope for them to send their check back to you, not to the church. While the checks should be payable to Pines Church, you are responsible for collecting your support and delivering it to the church main office, notifying Pastor Sam about your own fundraising.
- ◆ Include an instruction sheet or include the following information within your letter.
  - ◆ Supporters who wish to deduct their support on their taxes should make their check payable to Pines Presbyterian Church, but **MUST NOT** designate the gift to you anywhere on the check.
  - ◆ Supporters must understand that giving is to Pines Church, which will then support your participation. The money will not go to you personally.
  - ◆ Any funds above and beyond the cost of your trip will be used by Pines Youth Ministry Missions to help defray other expenses of the mission trip.
- ◆ Checks should be made payable to “Pines Presbyterian Church” with a memo of “Take-Stock-in-Mission.”
- ◆ Hand-deliver the checks to the church’s main office as soon as possible.
- ◆ Follow-up each gift with a personal thank-you note.
- ◆ Upon your return, send a report to your supporters (you may include a token gift from the trip, i.e., a picture, small and inexpensive article made in the mission country), invite them to the celebration and sharing event for your mission trip at the Church of the Resurrection. **THANK THEM FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE YOUTH MISSION!**

### **A Word About Financial Support**

Remember that God is our provider, not people, though He works through people. Trusting Him to supply for your mission trip is a spiritual adventure of faith. Consider it part of your growth and faith journey that you will go through in preparation for the task ahead.

Not only will you be raising financial support, but:

- ◆ *You have an opportunity to grow in faith.* You may become discouraged at times and question your call to missions. These are the trying times that will challenge but can ultimately strengthen your faith. This process often helps people learn to adapt to the kind of difficult, even desperate, circumstances they may encounter on their mission trip.
- ◆ *A Prayer Team will result.* When other Christians know about your mission, whether or not they support you financially, they are likely to pray for you, too.
- ◆ *You will be helping raise mission awareness.* As you become an ambassador and recruiter, sharing your enthusiasm, dedication, testimony and call with others will challenge them and stimulate interest.

**SAMPLE LETTER**

**(Rewrite in your own words, and do not forget to include a return envelope.)**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City State Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Re: Prayer and Consideration of my mission to \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_.

Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

God has been working in my life and has opened doors for me to participate in an exciting and challenging international mission sponsored by Pines Presbyterian Church. The mission will take place in \_\_\_\_\_ (country) on \_\_\_\_\_ (date) 2012. The team will (list purpose of the mission) \_\_\_\_\_.

I am excited to become a part of this team, and I am asking for your support as a prayer partner, not just for me but for the entire team. I pledge to keep you informed of the team's progress and to invite you to a celebration and sharing of photographs, slides and testimonies upon our return.

The cost of the trip is \$\_\_\_\_\_, and I am seeking to raise a portion of the funds through those who are led to become mission partners. If you would be willing to support me in this ministry, please complete the attached form and write a check payable to Pines Presbyterian Church. Please return it to me directly. For your own tax deduction purposes, do not note my name on the check. If more financial support is raised than I personally need for this trip, the additional funds will be used to support the ongoing mission in \_\_\_\_\_ (country).

If you have any questions, please contact me or talk to Pastor Sam Jun

Thank you for your prayers, support and encouragement. I am anxious to share my mission experiences with you upon my return.

Serving with God's love, sincerely,

Name, address, phone number, email

**MISSION TRIP NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **TRIP DATES:** \_\_\_\_\_

Giver's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Mission Trip Participant's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Trip Destination \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of Gift \_\_\_\_\_

*Make check payable to **Pines Presbyterian Church**. Do not include the participant's name on the check. But do complete this form, or it will not be known that the gift is for a specific person. Thank you.*