






two examples

SALTMINE TRUST expect that members of their Creative Arts Teams will work towards a target of £4000 in personal support. This covers (in part) both salary and ministry costs. Saltmine provide staff members with assistance in finding ways to raise that support, including a Personal Support Pack which gives guidance on who to approach and how to approach them. Taking up a staff position is not contingent on this funding being available from day one.

ARAB WORLD MINISTRIES' normal procedure is to require all missionary workers to be in receipt of sufficient income to cover their salary, ministry costs and any other commitments. Salary scales vary according to the country of location. Discussions take place between individuals and the organisation, which makes the whole package negotiable to some degree. AWM are also supportive in helping individuals to find ways of raising support.

book recommendations

-  **Funding the Family Business**, by Myles Wilson - published by Stewardship (*A handbook for raising personal support*).
-  **Friend Raising**, by Betty Barnett published by YWAM
-  **Raising Personal Support: A Biblical Perspective**, a self-study book by Arab World Ministries
-  **The Support Raising Handbook**, by Brian Rust and Barry McLeish - published by IVP
-  **People Raising**, by William T. Dillon - published by Moody Press (*A practical guide to raising support*)

Further copies of Guideline leaflets can be obtained from Christian Vocations online and at the address below.

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personal support

money and mission

Most Christian organisations depend on donations to allow them to function and pay their staff. An increasing number now ask their staff to help directly in finding some or all of the funds needed for their particular part of the ministry. This is normally called raising personal support. In some cases you may be asked to find all the money needed for your salary. Other organisations will expect you to find a percentage of the necessary funds with the rest coming from general gifts to the organisation.

is it biblical?

Throughout history God has set apart specific people to be involved in full-time ministry. These people were not free to be involved in occupations which generated an income so they were supported by others.

releasing God's people into God's work



four examples from scripture are:

1. The priests and the Levites (Numbers 18:3-32)
2. Jesus and the disciples (Luke 8:1-3)
3. The early Church apostles, teachers, and evangelists (1 Cor 9:3-11)
4. Paul (Phil 4:4-16)

This concept has continued throughout the life of the Church. In the past most Christian organisations were supported by general gifts that were used at the discretion of the leaders. Today many supporters feel more comfortable knowing that their gifts are being used to help fund a particular person or project. This increase in designated giving has caused many organisations to encourage their staff to raise support from their own network of contacts, specifically for their own salary and ministry expenses.

what are the **benefits?**

For the supporter:

to know that their gift is being used to help fund the ministry of a particular individual, often a friend or family member. A real sense of partnership can develop as a result.

For the person being supported:

to be encouraged by the fact that people, many of whom will already know you, are so interested in your ministry that they're willing to support you regularly. And it often adds a confirmation of God's call for your life.

For the organisation:

to draw in many people who may not otherwise have known about the organisation or have considered supporting it.

What Are The Drawbacks?

For some people with limited Christian contacts, finding the amounts expected of them can be a challenge. For others who are more reserved by nature, approaching people to be part of their support team can be a daunting prospect. Also, from the organisation's perspective, if a supporter only has a specific interest in one staff member, they may get a limited view of the overall work of the organisation. To minimise these drawbacks, many mission societies have introduced training, monitoring, and publicity material for personal support raising so that the process is a positive experience for their staff.

Where Does It Come From?

Financial support can come from many sources - your home church, other churches where you or your organisation have contacts, friends, people who are interested in your chosen ministry, family members, youth groups, people who have worked with you in Christian activities, etc. There are many people who want to give their money individually or corporately so that God's work can advance. Those who know you are more likely to want to support your ministry rather than some general cause where they have no personal contact.

How Much Would I Need To Raise?

Normally support levels are set by the organisation, and the general idea is that you raise an amount that corresponds to your needs. The level will vary depending on the organisation, the particular work involved and the country of destination. A family will generally need to raise more than a single person.

