



## WHAT WILL IT TAKE FOR US TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN RAISING \$1 MILLION?

There is one thing for certain – we cannot take the total that is needed and divide it by the number of families in the church and come up with an “average” gift for every family to give! That will not work! Studying other campaigns (that have already been completed) in other churches, a very typical distribution of gifts can be found. Using that typical distribution and applying it to our church, we find a “model” distribution of gifts that it will take for us to be successful. This also underscores the Biblical principle of proportionality – **that each of us is called to give according to how we’ve been blessed with financial resources!**

This tool also underscores another Biblical principle of stewardship, the principle that decisions about giving should be made in prayer. **Look at the chart below and pray the Stewardship Prayer, “Lord, what do You want to do through me?”** Then ask the Lord, “Where do You see me (or us) on this chart?” (At what level of giving?) God will tell you – just ask!!

### GIVEN OVER THREE YEARS

**\$1,000,000**

*“NOT EQUAL GIFTS BUT EQUAL SACRIFICE”*

NO. OF GIFTS AT LEVEL	MONTHLY GIFT	GIFT LEVEL	TOTAL AT LEVEL	CUMULATIVE TOTAL
1	\$2,778	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
2	\$1,667	\$60,000	\$120,000	\$220,000
3	\$1,250	\$45,000	\$135,000	\$355,000
4	\$833	\$30,000	\$120,000	\$475,000
<b>10</b>	<b>POTENTIAL COMMITMENTS = \$475,000 OR 47.5% OF GOAL</b>			

NO. OF GIFTS AT LEVEL	MONTHLY GIFT	GIFT LEVEL	TOTAL AT LEVEL	CUMULATIVE TOTAL
4	\$667	\$24,000	\$96,000	\$571,000
5	\$417	\$15,000	\$75,000	\$646,000
7	\$333	\$12,000	\$84,000	\$730,000
9	\$250	\$9,000	\$81,000	\$811,000
<b>25</b>	<b>POTENTIAL COMMITMENTS = \$336,000 OR 33.6% OF GOAL</b>			

NO. OF GIFTS AT LEVEL	MONTHLY GIFT	GIFT LEVEL	TOTAL AT LEVEL	CUMULATIVE TOTAL
10	\$167	\$6,000	\$60,000	\$871,000
20	\$83	\$3,000	\$60,000	\$931,000
46	\$42	\$1,500	\$69,000	\$1,000,000
<b>76</b>	<b>POTENTIAL COMMITMENTS = \$189,000 OR 18.9% OF GOAL</b>			
<b>111</b>	<b>TOTAL COMMITMENTS = \$1,000,000 OR 100% OF GOAL</b>			



**STEP ONE: PRAY**

God is interested in what's on your heart and mind. As you walk with God open your heart to what He is inviting you to become and to do. Prayer will be a place where your desires and God's desires will meet. It will also be a place where the Holy Spirit can work in you to enable you to fully respond to God's direction. Here are some suggestions to help you press into God:

**1. BE HONEST**

Express your doubt, your fears, your excitement, your hopes. Let prayer be a time to identify where you are in the journey.

**2. ASK GOD QUESTIONS**

Maybe choose a couple of questions a week that you use as the focus of your prayer. Here are some questions you could ask God:

- What do You want me to know about **my own heart**?
- What do You want me to know about **Your heart**?
- What are the **gifts** You have given to me? What gets in the way of me using those gifts for You?
- What do You want to do **in me**?
- What do You want to do **through me**? What do You want me to change about my lifestyle, priorities, focus, and goals?

**3. LISTEN**

Sit quietly and try to pay attention to what God might be saying or doing. Try to spend five minutes each day waiting for God in silence. Journal what you are hearing.

**4. PARTNER**

Find one person to talk with about your prayer experiences. You could do a weekly check-in by phone, email, or a face-to-face. Pray for your partner's journey and know that they are praying for yours.

**STEP TWO: EVALUATE YOUR INCOME**

It's important to have a realistic starting point, so start with what is known; your income.

Salary #1: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Salary #2: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**YEAR 1** Potential raise/bonus/commission: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**YEAR 2** Potential raise/bonus/commission: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**YEAR 3** Potential raise/bonus/commission: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**3-YEAR SUB-TOTAL:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

For most of us, income alone will not take us where we want to go toward making a legacy-type commitment to our church.



**STEP THREE: LIFESTYLE CHANGES AND/OR ALTERED SPENDING**

Some ideas to get you thinking:

- Lessen car payments	\$ _____
- Sell car & purchase a used car with no payments	\$ _____
- Eat out less often	\$ _____
- Cut back on subscriptions	\$ _____
- Regulate the amount and number of gifts given	\$ _____
- Scale back cell phone & internet usage	\$ _____
- Modify type and number of vacations	\$ _____
- Adjust cable TV/direct TV coverage, packages downward	\$ _____
- Trim down entertainment, watch a video, instead of first-run movie	\$ _____
- Reduce the number of coffee runs	\$ _____
- Decrease new clothing purchases	\$ _____
- Pay off a bill and continue that payment to Rise Up	\$ _____
- Do your own housekeeping, lawn care	\$ _____
- Other	\$ _____
<b>SUB-TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

It's important in this journey to include your spouse in the conversation if married, or the entire family if you have children. It's an important step in the development of your family. Most of us think that our kids will not be willing to sacrifice, but I've seen that most kids are more comfortable than we are as adults with the process and they have an implicit and childlike faith and belief in a **big God**.

**STEP FOUR: ACTIVELY CONSIDER YOUR ASSETS**

This includes a number of different possibilities:

**Items that have appreciated in value, such as:**

- Home	\$ _____
- Land	\$ _____
- Timeshares	\$ _____
- Apartments	\$ _____
- Condos	\$ _____
- Vacation home	\$ _____
- Stocks and Bonds	\$ _____
- Retirement accounts	\$ _____

**Collectables such as...**

- Cars	\$ _____
- Stamps	\$ _____
- Trading cards	\$ _____
- Coins	\$ _____
- Memorabilia/antiques	\$ _____

**Depreciated objects such as...**

- Motorcycle	\$ _____
- Clothes	\$ _____
- Boats	\$ _____
- Jewelry	\$ _____
- Artwork	\$ _____
- Things that could be sold online	\$ _____
<b>SUB-TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>



**STEP FIVE: TIME AND TALENT**

The goal here is financial health; getting to a place where you have the margin to be generous. This includes a number of different possibilities:

- Return to work \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - Work one additional day a week \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - Start a new business to generate income \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - Take an outside "seasonal" job opportunity \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - Work over-time \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - Work an extra Saturday \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - Creative & artistic hobbies, jewelry making, pottery, etc. \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- SUB-TOTAL:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**STEP SIX: DENIAL OR A GENUINE ACT OF SACRIFICIAL FAITH**

As is seen in the Bible, God often taps people on the shoulder and asks them to do something extra-ordinary. This is the sort of out-of-the-ordinary faith that can only be attributed to a prompting of God's Spirit. It's the type of commitment that a financial planner may think is foolish, but God may very well consider quite smart. It's hard to suggest what this opportunity may be for you, but we believe God will lead some of you toward this very place.

*For instance:*

*You decided to retire, but you delay it for 3 years to give those resources to the church. You postpone or slide back retirement by taking money out of your 401K/403B/IRA.*

It could very well be that there are dollar amounts that can be assigned to every one of these steps/categories. Total them up and give that over the 3 years. Yes, it is going to take God's help to accomplish it, but if we could do it on our own, then we very well might be tempted to take the credit for what God--and only God--can do!

**STEP SEVEN: THE COMMITMENT...TRUST GOD!**

HOW DID THEY DO IT? *A family of five's commitment strategies:*

Increase giving by \$25.00/wk 3 year total:	\$3,900	Family reduces Christmas expense by \$500	\$1,500
Phil plays golf only once a week during Summer	\$2,400	Cancel one vacation	\$2,500
Randy (7th grader) takes lunch to school	\$450	Vicki (10th grader) gives 1/4 baby sitting fees	\$400
Phil (husband) takes lunch to work	\$2,600	Teresa foregoes pedicures	\$2,700
Teresa (wife) reduces household food budget by \$25/wk	\$3,900	Trusting God for another \$1000	\$1,000
Melissa (HS Senior) reduces entertainment expense	\$600	Reduce eating out by \$50.00/wk	\$7,800
Miscellaneous reductions (subscriptions, fees, etc.)	\$250	<b>3-YEAR GRAND TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>

The real journey will come over the next three years. We hope you'll keep a journal of the amazing and unexpected ways God will work and provide in your life to accomplish your commitment.

**MY TOTAL 3-YEAR COMMITMENT:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ *(What I believe God wants to do through me)*