

Raising Prayer And Financial Support ~ Fundraising 101: "The Four Hours"

At MSC, we have a suggestion for a unique concept regarding "Friend Raising" that is rooted in the Mustard Seed spirituality. While we know that it is important to raise the money, **it is as important to raise awareness about MSC** and to ask people to PRAY for its mission and yours! We have a tried-and-true discipline of acquiring spiritual and financial support. **Don't wait!** Approach this in prayer and watch God work! Using this method, each missionary is called to get **30 prayer partners** (people willing to pray for them, MSC, and the success of the trip). Some prayer partner might be willing to financially support your trip as well. **This method has you write letters with self-addressed stamped letters included to send to your family and friends, recruiting them as prayer partners and asking for spiritual and financial support.** Print out these letters and hand out to people you see in your daily activities and every day life situations!

Here's how it works - Block off four hours on your calendar.

This is the minimum that you need but the more you begin to "beg for the poor" the more support you will raise.

- **The First Hour - PRAY:** Find a quiet place to pray! Pray that God will place on your hearts the names of people that **He** wants you to tell about Mustard Seed Communities and your trip. Pray that He will bless the children and staff at MSC and all of the others going on the mission trip with you. Some suggestions are adoration, a daily mass, and the recitation of the rosary or finding a prayerful spot to rest in God's presence. Take time to listen to God and start thinking about why He has called you to this special trip. Pray about who the people are in your life that would benefit from hearing about MSC. Have some paper with you to write down names that God reveals. **Write a list of as many people that you can think of that God brings to your heart and mind.**
- **The Second Hour: Make your list!** Get your address book, email list, church membership directory, school directory and phonebook, and begin making a list of addresses/numbers/emails to send out. Create a spreadsheet/list of all of the people that you want to tell about your trip. Make an excel doc with their phone numbers and email addresses.
- **The Third Hour –Write and mail/send the letter:** Personalize the sample letter (see example) or create your own and copy the response card (see example) on the back of your letter. You may want to add a date for them to return the letter to you (suggest a three-week turn around). Don't forget to **add your address** in the space provided on the Response Card so they will know where to return it. Sign your letters and maybe handwrite a short, personalized sentence on the top of your letter. Run off about 50 copies—front and back of this letter/response card. Fold, stuff, stamp and address. (Try to mail at least 25 letters and hand out the rest) Before you send them, say a prayer over them and ask God to let the words fall on an open heart. **Also send out copies of your letter by email** with the response card as an attachment they can print off, fill in and send back to you. Keep extra copies in your car, desk, briefcase, backpack, etc. and pass them out as much as you can. Lead the conversation with, "Would you be willing to pray for me when I go on a mission trip to _____?" Almost EVERYONE says, "Yes!." Then ask them to read the letter and fill out the back and return it to you when they're ready. **It is important to have THEM fill out the response card themselves COMPLETELY and not you.** Some of your best supporters will come after a brief comment about your upcoming trip, asking for prayers and handing them a letter. You may also consider talking to groups at your church or other organizations. We challenge you to send letters to people that you would not ordinarily think would contribute financially, but those that might want to hear about MSC. Remember to include your non-Catholic and non-Christian friends. You have no idea who He wants to touch. Give them the chance. It's exciting to see God work!
- **The Fourth Hour – Direct people to www.GoFISHOutreach.com.** Send through facebook or emails or letters, but get people to go to the website to donate and get a tax donation letter. Pray some more – and go out and ask for prayers again. You'll be amazed at the response you get. **START TODAY – START TODAY and START TODAY!**

Personal Commitment: AGAIN - It is VERY important that **the prayer partners fill in the response card themselves**. If someone follows the "four hour" discipline below and gets 30 prayer partners, trusting in the Providence of God, we guarantee that the money will follow and what you ask of the Father will be given to you. (Luke 11:9). Remember your part is saying, "Yes" and leave the money part to God.

REMEMBER: Focus on getting prayer partners and telling people about MSC—not on the money. Some are called to go on missions and others to pray and still others to support financially – www.MustardSeed.com