

Field Manual: Money + Missions

abwe



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Most of us have a desire to change the world. To make it a better place. However, the reality is life isn't free. School, a mortgage, a car it all costs money!

But money shouldn't keep you from pursuing your calling.

That's why we've created this field manual to help you navigate money and missions.

In this manual, you'll find the need-to-know information about how you can get to the field. If you have any questions, [we're here to walk you through the journey.](#)

So, get ready, get equipped, and let's go!



Obstacle #1: Student Debt

Solution: The Go Fund + Med Send

Living with student debt is stressful. But, in missions, having a college degree can be a blessing. In fact, it can open doors to otherwise closed countries. We want God to use your degree for his purposes! We've got you covered with options to help tackle student debt while serving on the mission field.

If you have debt associated with a medical degree, then skip to page five and learn about how ABWE's partnership with Med Send can help pay off your student loans while you are on the mission field. For everyone else, start at page three and learn about ABWE's partnership with the Go Fund and how to qualify for it.



GO FUND

Through ABWE's partnership with the Go Fund, we're able to relieve some of your financial burden so you can focus on fulfilling the Great Commission. Student debt is rising, but it shouldn't stand in the way of your calling. Especially when God can use your skills for his glory.

Since its founding, the Go Fund has helped missionaries by:

- Paying \$664,195 of debt
- Assuming \$4,347,887 of debt
- Cultivating 85 missionary partners



How to Qualify

The Go Fund aims to pay 100% of your student debt paid over ten years if you meet the following qualifications:

- Approved to be sent by ABWE
- Sponsored by a local church
- Involved in church-planting
- Serving among the unreached
- Committed to long-term missions or career missions

The personal requirements are:

- Must be a US citizen
- Must have a bachelor's degree
- Must have student loans in your name
- Must have loans greater than \$20,000 and less than \$100,000
- Must depart for the mission field within 24 months of being appointed as a missionary

Want to learn more?

Visit abwe.org/go-fund to learn more about the Go Fund.



MED SEND

Did you know unreached people groups are in desperate need of medical care?

As Christians, we have an opportunity to serve like Christ and reach the world for Christ. Healthcare workers can reach people groups and enter countries that others can't.

But with the rising cost of tuition and mounting student loan debt, how can you afford to go?

ABWE's partnership with Med Send is the answer. While you serve on the mission field, Med Send will make your payments for you.

According to the World Health Organization, 7 million healthcare workers are needed to provide proper healthcare around the world. God can use your medical degree. Will you answer the call?

Through Med Send grants,

- \$16 million of debt has been paid.
- 82 missions hospitals and clinics have been fully staffed.



How to Qualify

Through ABWE, you qualify for a Med Send grant if you:

- Show evidence of a personal relationship with Jesus
- Spend 50% of your time (with a minimum of 20 hours per week) helping with preventative care in the community where you're serving
- Show spousal support

The personal requirements are:

- Show a US medical license
- Provide proof of a bachelor's degree
- Must have US medical school debt
- Must depart for the mission field within 24 months of being appointed as a missionary

Want to learn more?

Visit abwe.org/serve/focuses/medical-missions to learn more about the Med Send.



Obstacle #2: Funding Your Mission

Solution: ABWE Equipping & Coaching

Now that you're equipped to tackle your student loans. It's time to learn how to fund your mission and survive financially while serving on the mission field.

In the Bible, missionaries supported their ministries two ways: by support raising through ministry partners and by working (sometimes called "tentmaking"). If you take a look at Paul's life, you'll see that he actually did both (Acts 18:1-4; Phil. 4:10-20). Different seasons of life and ministries require you to choose one or the other. But both are biblical.



What is Support Raising?

Support raising is a biblical model of acquiring and accumulating the resources necessary for a life in ministry.

There are really two sides to support raising, financial support and prayer support. Finances are the earthly and the practical. This is the bottom-line dollar figure. It includes budget items like salary, insurance, housing, utilities, education, and retirement.

Prayer is the heavenly and the eternal. As Christians, we know the power of prayer and we know that only through Christ can missionaries further the Great Commission.

Both prayer and financial support are necessary to the success of a mission. And relying on others as co-laborers in your mission allows for the body of Christ to partner together in the work of the gospel.

Don't view asking for support raising as merely asking for money, but as offering an opportunity for others to join in the work. The Great Commission was meant to be a collaborative command. We can't all go, but that doesn't mean we don't all have a role.

I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building. (1 Corinthians 3:6-9)

For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor. (John 4: 37-38)

The mission was never meant to be fulfilled alone. Don't be afraid to partner with others in the cause.



Support Raising in Scripture

The New Testament is full of examples of how God wants his people to generously give to ministry workers:

Soon afterward he went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with him...and many others, who provided for them out of their means. (Luke 8:1-3)

I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a servant of the Church at Cenchreae, that you may welcome her in the Lord in a way worthy of the saints, and help her in whatever she may need from you... (Rom. 16:1-2)

If we have sown spiritual things among you, is it too much if we reap material things from you? If others share this rightful claim on you, do not we even more? (1 Cor. 9:11)

Beloved, it is a faithful thing you do in all your efforts for these brothers, strangers as they are, who testified to your love before the church. You will do well to send them on their journey in a manner worthy of God. For they have gone out for the sake of the name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles. Therefore we ought to support people like these, that we may be fellow workers for the truth. (3 John 5-8)

Want to have a conversation with the experts?

Feel free to contact go@abwe.org with your questions! We'd love to assist you.



What is Tentmaking?

Like support raising, tentmaking is a biblical model of getting the resources needed to do the hard work of missions.

Instead of relying on the contributions of individuals and churches around the globe, tentmakers take the burden of funding the mission upon themselves. Paul himself took up the work of a tentmaker during his time in Corinth (Acts 18).

Today, there are many countries that are closed off to the gospel and will not allow missionaries in. As Christians, we are called to reach every tribe and every nation. Tentmaking can serve as an avenue into these countries. Whether it's an educator teaching, a businessman getting a job in a closed country, or even starting a business there, tentmaking can help missionaries gain access to places other missionaries cannot go.



Tentmaking in Scripture

While Paul acknowledges that it's good to raise support for your gospel mission, he was proud to work and fund his own mission, as not to be a burden to the believers.

For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you. (2 Thessalonians 3:7-8)

After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. And he went to see them, and because he was of the same trade he stayed with them and worked, for they were tentmakers by trade. (Acts 18:1-3)

Want to have a conversation with the experts?

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YOU CAN

take the gospel to hard places.

We'll help.

Text "OPEN" to 43818 and reply "YES" to receive 30 Days of Prayer or sign up to receive emails at abwe.org/open.

open
INITIATIVE

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877.636.5478 (ext. 2389)
mobilization@abwe.org
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