

Finance Partnership's Guidelines

The purpose of these Finance Partnership's Guidelines is to equip leaders in Gardens in Exile with clear, biblical, and practical tools for raising financial support. This resource exists to help ministers communicate their why with integrity, invite others into partnership, and steward resources faithfully.

1. Foundations of Ministry Fundraising

- **Biblical Foundation:** Paul received support from churches and individuals (Phil. 4:15–17; 2 Cor. 8–9). Fundraising is not begging, but inviting others to partner in the Ministry.
 - **Identity:** Leaders are not professional fundraisers, but ministers of the Gospel who invite others to sow into kingdom work.
 - **Accountability:** All funds must be stewarded with integrity, transparency, and clear reporting annual to donors.
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2. Legal & Practical Setup

- **Self-Employed Structure:** Each Apostle, Prophet, and Evangelist should establish themselves as self-employed ministers in their nation's context.
 - Important Note on Tax Receipts: In some countries, self-employed ministers cannot issue official charitable tax receipts. Supporters must clearly understand that their giving is to support the life and ministry of the minister directly, not to a registered non-profit or charity. Be transparent with donors from the beginning.
 - Example Statement: "If you would like to partner with me in my ministry, your support will help me continue serving full-time. You can give through this link: [insert Stripe link]. Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel."
- **Stripe Account:**
 - Sign up for a Stripe account at stripe.com.
 - Register as an individual/sole proprietor (self-employed).
 - Link your local bank account.
 - Create a simple link for websites, social media, and newsletters.
- **Newsletter Options (Choose Your Own Platform):**
 - Substack – Simple, elegant, widely used by writers and ministries.
 - Beehiiv – Professional, free plan with growth features.
 - Mailchimp – Strong design options and integrations.
 - MailerLite – User-friendly with free tiers.
 - Sendinblue (Brevo) – Good for larger email campaigns.
 - Leaders should research, test, and choose the platform that best fits their style and audience.

3. Core Fundraising Strategy

1. Start with Inner Circle

- Family, friends, mentors, and spiritual peers.
- Ask them to prayerfully become monthly partners.
- Make a list of at least 100 people you know personally and prayerfully reach out to them. Call them, invite them for coffee, or send a personal message to share your vision.

2. Local Churches You Serve

- Share testimonies and vision in the churches you minister in.
- Invite churches to give regular support (monthly or yearly).

3. Social Media

- Creatively engage your wider audience on social media to becoming partners in the ministry your pioneering and engaging in and share compelling why its important.
 - Make your stripe link easy to access on your social media platforms.
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4. Communication Principles

- **Clarity & Simplicity:** Make giving links obvious and easy.
 - **Consistency:** Send monthly updates with testimonies, prayer requests, and financial updates.
 - **Honor Donors:** Always thank partners personally and corporately.
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5. Fundraising Goals & Practices

- **Target Goal:** \$50,000 annually for each minister to sustain ministry and family.
 - **Monthly Partner Strategy:**
 - Example: 50 partners giving \$100/month = \$60,000/year.
 - Or 100 partners giving \$50/month = \$60,000/year.
 - **One-Time Gifts:** Invite one-time contributions for specific ministry trips or projects.
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6. Accountability & Stewardship

- **Personal Record-Keeping:** Use stripe to Track all donations and expenses.
 - **Annual Report:** Send an annual reports.
 - **Spiritual Integrity:** Always represent Christ in humility, honesty, and gratitude.
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