

# John...Trinity Evangelical Divinity School



## Blessing as I have been blessed

For 12 years, my wife and I served on staff with a para-church organization, discipling college students. We have been the recipient of compensation facilitated by many generous and sacrificial gifts, many arriving just when they were needed the most. Since I joined SMI, God has continued to provide for my ministry involvement.

Some SMI workers struggle to raise sufficient funds to do ministry as they attend seminary. Since I have been so richly blessed in my fundraising efforts with SMI, God has given me the desire and the willingness to share proactively with other SMI workers.

## What has the fundraising process taught me about Kingdom giving?

The fundraising process has taught me a lot about Kingdom giving, but I need to be reminded often what I already know. In my opinion, fundraising is the most difficult task in ministry/para-church work. I would rather do almost anything else than raise support. The temptation is to think that I am asking potential donors to give 'their' money for 'my' ministry. They may not want to give 'their' money, and if they do, they probably feel sorry for me because I am perceived to be needy and dependent. The truth is that we are all dependent.

Since "the earth is the Lord's and all that it contains" (Ps.23:1), which includes money and ministry, we are all ultimately accountable to God – Who owns it all. Everyone, including those in traditional secular work, are dependent on God for providing finances, work, food, etc. I feel this dependence more acutely since I am asking others for financial contributions to facilitate ministry.

God wants people to give to Kingdom work and sometimes more than money (Phil 2:27-30). Many Christians are "cheerful giver(s)" (II Cor. 9:7) and are looking for good ministries to support. **If someone is truly called to a ministry that includes raising support, God is actively preparing people to support that ministry. Our job is to work hard at finding God's givers.** Ministry is not meant to be done alone. God has set it up that we are dependent on one another for Kingdom work. I am not exempt from giving. As God provides for us, I am to bless others as well. That is why I like giving to other SMI workers. They are future leaders in training, and I am thankful that I have the opportunity to share in blessing others as I have been blessed.