



FROM HIS FULLNESS FUNDRAISING POLICY¹

INTRODUCTION

From His Fullness Ministries would not exist were it not for God's generosity funneled through his people. As we seek the face of God to know his will for the advancement of the ministry, it is appropriate to think through more formally the biblical principles of fundraising. The goal of this process is not the self-perpetuation of From His Fullness at all costs, but the discernment of how to do God's work, in God's way, for as long as God desires, and for the sake of God's glory.

I. PREMISES

1. *The Holy Scripture.* Scripture was not given us to help us raise funds, nevertheless it contains certain indications of the mind of God regarding the resources needed to do his will.
2. *The local church.* Since God spreads the kingdom of heaven chiefly through the work of the local church, and since From His Fullness Ministries seeks to work as an extension of the local church (undertaking what is not necessarily immediately achievable by a local congregation), the fundraising of From His Fullness Ministries is not, nor ought it to be, a substitution for, nor in conflict with, the tithing of the Lord's people to the local church.
3. *The balance of theology:* Throughout Scripture there lie side-by-side the truths of God's sovereignty and human responsibility. The evidence of Scripture suggests these truths are applicable to fundraising. Therefore, we are not bound to:
 - A. An exclusively other-worldly approach emphasizing the sovereignty of God's provision at the expense of our human responsibility to seek it.
 - B. An exclusively this-worldly approach emphasizing human effort at the expense of trust in God's sovereign provisions.
4. *The place of prayer.* It is prayer and not newsletters, fundraising letters, or grant applications, which is the primary responsibility of From His Fullness Ministries. The latter are undertaken in light of prayer, and not as a substitute for it.

II. PRAYER

Prayer is of paramount importance because it expresses the intent of From His Fullness Ministries to be:

1. *Obedient.* We are directed to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thess. 5:17).
2. *God-centered:* Prioritizing his kingdom and his will (Matt. 6:10).

¹ Helpful in the formulation of this policy has been Marc A. Pitman's "Thoughts on Fundraising in the Bible" (<http://fundraisingcoach.com/>).

3. *Humble and dependent*: Relying on God not only for the resources to pursue the coming of the kingdom but for those needed for our daily bread, forgiveness, and safety from sin and evil (Matt. 6:11-13).
4. *Grateful*. Praising God for his gracious provisions (1 Chron. 29:10-16; 1 Thess. 5:17-18).
5. *Observant*. Through the communion with God had in prayer, both in talking to him and in hearing from him in conjunction with his Word, we gain a sense of leading (Rom. 8:14, 26-27).

III. PRACTICALITIES

Fundraising involves:

1. *Presenting*: From His Fullness both accepts and seeks opportunities to share the vision of the ministry and what God is doing through her. Presentations serve to exhibit and to foster the communion of the saints, to express the fact that From His Fullness Ministries exist to support the work of the local church, to inspire the church in the west with reports from the mission fields, and to offer a platform for presenting the needs of From His Fullness or of specific projects or service opportunities thereof.
2. *Receiving*. We receive gratefully as from the Lord all voluntary offerings which, so far as we know, neither substitute for tithing within the church or transgress the law of the land (Lk. 8:1-3). Such gifts need not come only from the Lord's people (Ex. 12:33-36; Neh. 1:1-2:20; Acts 2:46-47). Gifts received should not, however, compromise the mission or moral or theological standards of the ministry.
3. *Soliciting*. We deem it biblically permissible to seek funds either for the ministry in general or for specific ministries or projects (a capital campaign) and to present the needs to this end. Gifts need not be monetary. They may include spiritual gifts, gifts of time (volunteering), property, etc. (Ex. 25:3-7; 35:5-35; 36:1-7; 1 Chron. 29:1-20). In soliciting, it is permissible to identify those who:
 - A. Are in a position to give (1 Tim. 6:17-19).
 - B. Have a particular gift of giving (Rom. 12:8).
 - C. Are in a position to influence the giving of others (Ex. 35:27; 2 Chron. 31:1-21).
4. *Thanking*. Every effort will be made to acknowledge before God gifts received, whether large or small, financial or otherwise, with follow-up communications to the donors explaining how the said gifts further the work of the kingdom through From His Fullness Ministries, as also timely end of year statements.

IV. PROHIBITIONS

While we deem it biblically permissible, warranted even, to present the needs of From His Fullness Ministries, we reject carnal methods in the raising and stewardship of funds. These methods include but are not limited to:

1. *Manipulation*. Fundraising in Scripture always aims at voluntary or willing giving (Ex. 25:2; 35:4-5, 21-22, 29; 1 Chron. 29:9). While persuasive arguments may be used for giving, to cross over into manipulative techniques (e.g., continuing crisis appeals) or less than transparent methods is to abandon trust in God's providence (2 Cor. 8:8; 9:5, 7).
2. *Misappropriation*. Funds received and utilized are for the ministry and are not to be used for personal benefit other than those clearly understood to support the board-agreed wage structure of the ministry. Funds raised for specific projects are to be used specifically for the said project. In the event of the project not proceeding, the donor will be offered the return of the donation, or alternative options to which the donation may be applied.

3. *Stewardship.* Every effort will be made to remember that From His Fullness receives gifts in trust from both God and the donor, and that we shall one day give account for their use. Staff members accordingly operate with self-control in the use of funding and are accountable to the board of directors. The board of directors in turn is accountable to the wider church (for which reason the board will always have a preponderance of office-bearing representation on the board), and to the civil authorities (2 Cor. 8:16-22).
4. While From His Fullness Ministries may seek advice about fundraising and stewardship, ordinarily From His Fullness Ministries will not utilize professional fundraisers. Even when they may be justified on the grounds of stewardship (the funds paid to the professional fundraiser being offset by the amount of funds collected), by injecting a “middle man” into the fund raising they minimize the communion of the saints and the relationship to the local church amid the fundraising, as also the opportunity of the staff to inspire with firsthand accounts from the mission fields.

Passed by the Board of Directors, September 25, 2018