

Food Fundraisers

International Food Fair

- Schedule a time for an International Food Fair with appropriate church staff. (This would be a good variation on Wednesday night suppers.) At least a month in advance of the event, pass a sign-up sheet for volunteers who have a specialty ethnic or international appetizer, entree or dessert they like to cook. Try to secure several recipes that represent the country where your youth team plans to serve. Promote the event through church media outlets, alerting members that the small fee they pay to enter will go toward your international mission project. The day or evening of the fair, set each cook up at his or her own station where they will offer a sample - not a serving - of their dish. Charge \$1 admission for each person as they enter, or charge 50 cents to \$1 for each food tasted. For efficiency's sake, you may wish to have plates, flatware, glasses and pitchers of drinks at tables for members to serve themselves. Members also can provide information about the country where their dish originated.

Week of Restaurant Fasting

- Designate a week for church members to save the money they would spend eating at sit-down and fast food restaurants and donate it to your international mission project. Promote the "Week of Restaurant Fasting" through church media outlets including bulletin and pulpit announcements. Provide pledge cards in pews for members to fill out and place in offering plates, pledging to participate. At the end of the fasting week, have a church-wide potluck dinner; or, have a popular local restaurant cater a meal into the church. If your church is small enough, you can book a banquet room at a restaurant. At this meal, collect the proceeds from members and announce the accumulated amount.

Pie auction and pie-eating fellowship

- Church members of all ages bring pies to a social after a church function. Each pie is auctioned to the highest bidder. If there is only one pie of a favorite flavor, the price can get quite high. After the pies are auctioned, people tend to share, creating a great social event. One church raised from \$50 to \$250 a pie! The auction money goes toward your international mission project.

Service Fundraisers

Santa's Helpers Child-care Service

- You can help eliminate holiday stress and motivate giving by organizing a Santa's Helper program either within your church or in volunteers' homes. Parents may drop off their children at the designated place and go Christmas shopping or attend parties. In larger churches, this may be most effective as an eight-hour-a-day service. Provide a schedule for parents (distributed as a

flyer in the church bulletin) of who is offering Santa Helper duty and when and where they're offering it. Provide a contact number for parents to call to sign up and register for a fee. It is up to volunteers to determine how many children they can keep, how long, and how many times. You may wish to provide Christmas videos or other holiday activities to help volunteers entertain children during the time their parents are gone.

Car Wash with a Difference

- Plan to advertise a free car wash in your community. Get someone with desktop publishing to help design a flyer. At the bottom of the flyer, put a coupon for a free car wash, and give the name of your youth group, along with date, location and time. Use the rest of the page to make squares for advertisers. Adults (or youth with adults) can canvas local business to find people who will donate money (\$100 or \$200, depending on the size of the square) for advertising space on the flyer. Let them know how many homes in the area you plan to cover with the flyers. Ask a local printer to print copies at a reduced rate in return for space on the flyer. Businesses consider it a good deal to get free advertising and be seen as helping a good cause. Whether or not people show up for the car wash, your group makes money!

Free Car Wash

- You charge nothing! Your kids collect sponsors for every car washed. If each kid collects \$1 per car in sponsors and you have 30 kids, you make \$30 per car! Our least successful Free Car Wash raised \$2400. Guarantee that you will not wash any more than 60 cars. You can also add an outreach element to this by giving every driver a flyer describing your church services and programs.

Personalized Labels

- If you have computer capabilities, offer to sell 100 personalized return labels for \$5. You could also do business cards.

Valentine's Flowers to Go

- Take orders from men (and some women) at offices, body shops, health clubs, bowling alleys, and your church for 6 long stem red and white carnations and a box of candy. Package the flowers with greens and ribbon, (purchased in bulk from a local greenhouse) in a clear plastic container, and delivered them on Valentine's Day for a cost of about \$15 - \$20. With 10 teens and 10 orders each you could gross \$1,500 - \$2,000 less expenses (about half).

Christmas Presents

- Set up a booth at a local mall to wrap presents for Christmas shoppers.

Sponsor Program

- For camps, youth conventions and missions trips have adults sponsor teens so they can experience some of these spiritual events. Have a sponsor banquet after the trip with slides/video and teens sharing what they learned. Everyone wins.
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Enterprising Fundraisers

Thrift Shop

- Encourage church members to donate "yard sale" type items for a thrift shop to be held in the church's fellowship hall. Arrange a time for the sale, and then promote it through church media outlets, the local newspaper classified ads and with signs throughout the community. Assign interested members a time and place to bring their things. Secure tables for display, and masking tape and markers for pricing. Items should be priced the night before the sale - shoppers tend to arrive early. Allow members who volunteer to help set up "shop" the night before. Have two people serve as cashiers while other church members mill around to assist buyers. Donate what is not sold to area charities. If the sale attracts many people from the community, consider making it an annual event; it might attract prospects who otherwise would not go to the church.
 - Variation: Simultaneous Yard Sales - Encourage church members to hold yard sales simultaneously on a Saturday in one of the milder months in spring or fall. Arrange a time for the yard sales, and then promote them through church media outlets, the local newspaper classified ads and with signs throughout the community. Donate what is not sold to area charities.
 - Variation: Ongoing Thrift Shop - Organize a thrift shop by having church members bring clothes they no longer want. Recruit volunteers to help you organize clothes into sizes and types. Promote your hours of operation through posters and/or the church bulletin. This could be especially needed during August and September, the back-to-school months. Donated unsold items to a clothing closet.

Restaurant Certificates

- Arrange with a local restaurant to print certificates that can be sold to the public. It could, for example, be a 2-for-1 certificate or free dessert with each meal etc. Sell the tickets in your community. It is a win-win ticket because your group makes money and the restaurant gets more business and the customer gets a better deal.

Fashion Show

- Get really cool stores around your community to donate various outfits for the day's show. Select a few models from your group, get some cool lighting and music going, form a runway, and then spread the word! Sell tickets for whatever you think is reasonable. Sell refreshments & goodies or

have them included in the ticket price. This is good advertising for the clothing stores plus a chance to show the community how active and fun your group really is!

Pick your 'thon!

- Have a walk-a-thon, bike-a-thon, or trike-a-thon for church members. Let participants know that the money they raise will go toward your youth international missions project. Give each person a missionary to pray for during the weeks before the event. Have them get sponsors who will pledge money. Choose a beautiful location, and take participants on a nice walking, biking or tricycling excursion. Get plenty of adult supervision for children participants. During the event, plan to tell about a missionary who might be helped by the offering. Have someone take pictures to display at church, or create a slide show set to music for a Wednesday night.
 - Variation: Tour de (name of town) - Name your bike-a-thon to represent your hometown. Pledges pay for each mile ridden.
 - Variation: Read-a-thon - Participants read books about missionaries and/or missions. They acquire sponsors for each book that they read.
 - Variation: Rocking-chair marathon - Participants form teams. Each team is assigned one rocking chair. The team must keep their chair rocking at all times, except when trading "rockers." Participants enlist pledges for each hour that their team rocks. Show missions videos and provide people-group information so participants can learn about missions and pray for unreached people while they rock.
 - Variation: Bowl-a-thon - Rent some lanes at a bowling alley for the evening or whole night. Get people to sponsor you for every frame, or strike, you bowl.
 - Variation: Bible-a-thon - The students will bring the New International Translation of the Bible and read out loud with the group. They will be given a 10-minute break on the hour and a 30-minute lunch break. Not only will you be helping the students raise their airfare; you will also be helping them spiritually.
 - Variation: Sing-a-thon - Combine a service project with financial support. Your students collect pledges for every home they visit bringing joy to a shut-in. Sing Christmas carols, hymns, choruses. Chances are that your students will discover a tremendous ministry opportunity through this project that will leave them wanting to do it again without a fundraiser attached. The student focus, at first, will be fundraising but you will quickly see it change to ministry!
 - Variation: Swim-a-thon - Rent a swimming pool and have teens get sponsors for every lap they swim.
 - Variation: Skate-a-thon - Whether you like to ice skate, roller skate or inline skate this can be a lot of fun. Find a facility where you can crank the music and have some fun. Have refreshments available for those on the go. Get people to sponsor you for every hour you skate without stopping (except for bathroom breaks and one 5 minute break every 30 minutes).
 - Variation: Bike-a-thon - Great event for a nice day. Choose a route for biking and measure off the distance. Get people to sponsor you for every mile/kilometer you travel in a specified time period.

Local Olympics

- If you have competitive youth, divide up teams or individuals to participate in Local Olympics. Let youth choose the sports, and have sponsors pay for the faux gold, silver and bronze medals (each medal would have a different value, say \$100 for the gold, \$75 for the silver, \$50 for the bronze). Sponsors pay for their teams to compete, with proceeds going to your International mission project. Thus the team that collects the most money for the project wins the gold.
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Learning Fundraisers

Show Youth *The TASK*

- In early autumn, choose a series of nights, possibly during an already-scheduled youth program, to show all episodes of The TASK video. Invite the entire church to attend. The Bible says in Acts 20:24 that God's task is for believers to testify to the gospel of His grace. Southern Baptist youth and college kids are on mission with God to complete this task where He is at work around the world. Young adults can know even more about where God is at work by watching The TASK, a 30-minute quarterly video designed specifically for these generations. At the end of each viewing session, provide a time for believers to commit what they will give toward your international mission project to help share the gospel with people around the world. Instruct them to sign two commitment cards - one for the youth leader to keep and one for them to take home as a reminder. Remind members of their specific pledges by mailing them an offering envelope with their pledge amount written on the front
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Talent Fundraisers

'Don't Bury Your Talents' Show

- Plan a talent show for children and invite parents to buy tickets to attend. Ask your children's leaders to help encourage children to participate by helping them form groups or by remembering a child's special talent and asking the child to share it. Emphasize that children will be using their talents to help missionaries tell people all over the world about Jesus. Publicize the event well, noting proceeds go to your International missions project.

Karaoke Night

- Find someone in your church that has Karaoke equipment to donate its use for a special Karaoke night. Have interested performers make reservations with you and pay a fee. Promote the Karaoke night through church media outlets. Provide refreshments for which the audience may pay as well. The winner (voted by the audience) could receive a gag gift, such as black velvet Elvis painting or Slim Whitman album. Because Karaoke is popular among young people, youth

or young adults might choose to begin having a Karaoke night once a month to invite their friends who otherwise might not attend church.

- Variation: Stand-up Comedy - Enlist youth or young adults known for their good senses of humor to perform clean stand-up comedy. Provide snacks and soft drinks at a reasonable price. Like the Karaoke night, this could become a new youth hangout if scheduled regularly.

Seniors' Talent Show

- Coordinate a time for seniors' talent show with appropriate church staff. Promote the event through posters, bulletin announcements and flyers distributed in seniors' Sunday School classes using photos or clip art of such personalities as Elvis and Lucille Ball. Then circulate a sign-up sheet. The talent show can be in the form of a dramatic presentation from a movie, a song, guitar playing or any other talent the person cares to perform. The idea is to illicit unusual, animated talents that will surprise the church family. Pass out invitations to church members. Ask participants for addresses of friends or family they'd like to invite and send an invitation. Designate a fee for attendance and post it on the invitations. You may wish to video the performance to sell to participants or family members who do not attend your church.
 - Variation: Teen Idols - Invite teens to help the seniors prepare for the talent show. Pair one teen and one senior together to come up with a talent-show act that will appeal to a younger audience. Offer prizes for Most Audacious, Most Creative, Best Impersonation of a Younger Generation, Bravest Idea, etc.
 - Variation: Children's Talent Show - Host a talent show for children in which parents and grandparents pay to attend. Follow the same promotional procedures as above, but without the nostalgic theme. Children may choose any talent, including impersonating more modern characters.

Variation of a Movie

- Have your youth group make a film about a Bible story based on a famous movie. For instance, one group did the story of Ruth and Boaz (from the Old Testament book of Ruth) using ideas from the movie "Grease." The group wrote lyrics to the tune of "Grease" songs to tell Ruth and Boaz's story. Film the movie in advance and offer it to the church as a fundraising "dinner and a movie" night.

Family Fundraisers

Theater Night

- Show a family movie on a wide screen video projector that you've tested first to be sure it works. Recruit youth volunteers to stock and run a concession stand with popcorn, drinks, candy, nachos or other popular snacks. Set a charge (say, \$2.00 per adult, \$1.00 per child) for admission, and set additional charges for snacks. Consider showing A Journey of Faith and Sacrifice - a tour of Lottie Moon's China by International Mission Board President Jerry Rankin - during the first "Theater Night" (available through the International Mission Board Resource Center at imb.org).

This could be a weekly or monthly event in your church to raise money for your international mission project.

- Variation: Family Game Night - Set aside a night for families to meet at the church fellowship hall to play board games. Encourage families to bring board games for all ages to share with others. While admission is free, sell snacks for a reasonable price, with proceeds going to your youth mission project.

The Money Jar

- Have a family "missions" money jar that gets fed all year. Into this jar goes any money that is found in the washing machine after clothes are washed; found under sofa cushions or rugs while the house is cleaned; found in the car; found in odd places such as sidewalks, in the backs of drawers, loose change etc.

Recycle at Home

- Check with local recycling companies to determine which items are suitable for recycling. Collect the items at home, then deposit them to be recycled. Any money earned, such as from aluminum cans, goes toward the family's offering goal for your international missions project.

Additional Fundraisers

Why Would I ...

- A great fundraiser is the "Why I Would Give (Kids Name here) \$1.00 to attend (Your Event Here)." Make up 50 -100 sentences (samples below) that people can sign. Each line pertains to a different individual and they give the teen \$1.00. Sample sentences:
 - Because I work with your parent. _____
 - Because I am a nice person. _____
 - Because I feel sorry for you. _____
 - Because I don't want to see you beg. _____

The funnier the reasons to give, the more people enjoy helping.

Quarter Weigh

- Divide your group into two teams. Set up a balance with a large bucket on each side. Each group should decorate their bucket and put their group name on it. Each time your group is together have team members come to the front and deposit all the quarters they collected that week. They can bring their own or solicit donations from family, friends or church members. Have a prize for the winning team and then have the teens roll all the coins to see how much they raised.

Coin Drive

- Make a flyer describing your group and the project you are raising money for. Go door to door and ask people to donate their spare change toward your project