***Assessing Your Potential Support Base***

If the Lord is calling you to International Students, Inc., He will supply your needs, often through His people. Because He uses those you know and those who know you, it is necessary to look realistically at the challenge ahead of you. To help with that, ISI has prepared some questions to help discover your possible sources of support. From this, we can help you determine some reasonable expectations about the partnership development process.

Name:

Date:

If you have never raised ongoing financial support before, proceed to Section B. If you have raised support previously, complete both Sections A and B.

**A. Previous support experience**

For what organization and during what years did you raise support? Include any short-term missions trip fundraising.

What was the total annual/missions trip budget?

|  |
| --- |
| **Expense Annual/Trip Budget**  **Amount Raised in Amount Previous Year**  |
| Salary  |
| Ministry Expenses  |
| Insurance  |
| Retirement  |
| Administrative Fees  |
| Other (List)  |
| Other (List)  |

How long did it take you to raise your initial support?

How long was the period of commitment from donors? (short-term/long-term)

If you will be transferring your present support over to ISI, please complete the following:

• Amount you anticipate will continue from individual donors:

• Amount you anticipate will continue from church budgets (total):

• Estimated total amount of one-time gifts in the past 12 months:

• Percentage of total support budget achieved for the past 3 months:

• Number of churches supporting you currently:

• Number of present donors (monthly/quarterly/annually):

• Number of names on your Personal Mailing List (PML):

• Number of lapsed donors you could ask to rejoin your support team:

• Number of donors who have not increased support for the past three years:

**B. No Support-Raising Experience**

International Students, Inc. realizes that candidates may have some reservations and concerns about raising support, or what we call partnership development, especially if they have never had experience doing it. Therefore, ISI provides extensive training regarding how to develop a ministry support partnership team.

Since your personal support is going to come from friends, it is important to understand the difference between a *friend* and an *acquaintance.* A brief definition of a friend is: “a person attached to another by feelings of affection or personal regard. A person who gives assistance; as a patron or supporter; one who is on good terms with another.”

And the definition of an acquaintance is: “a person known to one; usually a person with whom one is not on terms of great intimacy.”

Most of us have many more acquaintances than we have friends. For the following questions, please make this distinction. When answering these questions, we ask about those who “might consider” partnering financially with your ministry. We recognize that this is your best-educated guess. Be as thoughtful about this as possible, while still making your “best guess.”

How many ***friends*** do you have who might consider supporting you? In your next assignment, you will be asked to list names on a separate sheet to begin to form your actual **Personal Mailing List** (PML). For now, just list the total numbers here:

Couples:

Singles:

Relatives:

Neighbors:

Parents’ friends:

Coworkers:

Business friends:

Professional friends:

**Total:**

How many churches might consider supporting you? (Those where you are already **well known.)**

From your childhood:

University or seminary days:

Current church:

Parents’ church:

Others:

**Total:**

Consider the people with whom you have lost touch over the years. Before you begin to raise support, you will want to search them out and renew a relationship with them.

Childhood friends:

Former neighbors:

Former classmates:

Former employers/employees:

Former colleagues:

Senior friends of parents:

**Total:**

If you have “discovered” a **minimum of 200 names** of individuals and churches, you have good potential to raise a full budget. If not, you may need to consider spending time building up relationships before joining ISI and beginning your partnership development. You’ll be discussing this with your coach and developing a plan to increase your potential support contacts.