

## GIVING RESOURCE

### How To Select An Organization *To Support*

The following points offer guidelines for selecting organizations to support. When all is said and done, you should feel passionate about the organizations to which you give, even called to participate with them in their mission. No checklist can accomplish that, but the ideas below may help rule in or out some ministries.

Most importantly, this should be a matter of prayer. Seek God's leading in where to give. Also, ensure that you and your spouse are in harmony on the matter.

Support ministries that meet the following criteria:

1. *The organization's purpose and your interests align well. God has placed in your heart a desire to be a part of the cause that they represent.* At this stage, think carefully about the organization's *purpose*, not how they carry it out.
2. *You have contemplated their strategy and believe it has significant potential to be successful.* Now you review *how* they do *what* they do; does it seem sound and shows signs of being effective?
3. *You know them, are familiar with the organization, its people, its strategy, and its track record.* Don't give to an organization until you have a personal relationship with them in some way. For a smaller donation, this relationship may be nominal; for a large donation it should be substantial and involve a site visit or meeting with the executive leadership.
4. *You enjoy working with organizations of their style:*
  - ✓ Large or small
  - ✓ Local, regional, national, or international
  - ✓ Startup or well-established
  - ✓ Entrepreneurial or traditional
  - ✓ One of a kind, or one of many meeting a need
5. *God seems to be blessing the work of the organization.* Make sure that signs of vitality, success, progress, or effectiveness are clearly evident. Find out their reputation in the community. Take into account the stage of an organization—new ones cannot be expected to have the results of well-established ministries. Avoid those that seem to be forsaken by God—don't feel called to resurrect a dying entity if God has chosen to let it retire!
6. *The organization has a significant need, and your gift can make a difference and advance its purpose.* Find out just what the ministry needs your contribution for—not all organizations need your gift at this time. Make sure there will be a return—for their clients—on your investment.

Finally, based on these issues, design the gift for the characteristics of the situation.

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