

# **How To Finance Your Drama Ministry**

**Some Thoughts**

**By**

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First I am assuming that you are in the ministry for more than just a one-time event. If you're in it for the long haul there are several ways to raise money for your Ministry. But before listing a few we may wish to ask why?

First, having financial reserves helps pay the many expenses that seem to crop up out of nowhere. Things like gas money, phone costs, advertising, etc. will appear out of nowhere for all but the smallest and simplest of productions.

Second, if you're serious at all you may be thinking of getting some equipment for sound reinforcement, lighting, etc.

Third, if you're very serious you may be looking for your own practice space and perhaps salary money for a secretary.

The fundraisers that come to mind first are:

1. Take up a free-will offering at each and every performance.
2. If you've got a good program then you might consider charging admission.
3. An idea you might try is post-admission. That is, let out tickets as if you are selling them but don't take money. But do require tickets for admission. In the program sheet clarify that you will be taking tickets on the way out with a donation per ticket of whatever amount your customers choose.
4. You might consider setting up a non-profit corporation to accept larger donations.
5. You might also consider building a bank of patrons; people who believe in what you're doing and who want to help on a repeating basis (say monthly). These are the people with whom you will want to keep in close contact via newsletters, email, phone, etc. The best way to begin this important group is to pass out something with the program that invites them to be a patron and asks for contact information. You then follow up.

These are a few ideas. Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Blessings,

Jim Pappas

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