

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Support Development School?

Ministry Partner Development (MPD) is a biblical process to involve other Christians in the fulfillment of the Great Commission. You are asking people to enter into a partnership where they commit their financial resources to God for you so you will be able to commit your time and skills fully to introducing people to the Savior.

During Support Development School you will spend approximately 24 classroom hours learning principles that will enable you to raise your personal and/or ministry support for a lifetime of service through NAMB. The philosophy we operate on is to equip you for long-term, sustainable ministry. The training is a mixture of lectures with hands-on practice and workshops. There is preparatory work that must be completed prior to attending the training. This will be sent upon registration.



Support School also teaches clearly how the process of MPD fits within the framework of the Southern Baptist plan of mission support and is complementary to, rather than in competition with, regular tithes and offerings and giving through the SBC Cooperative Program and the special mission offerings.

Who should attend a Support Development School?

Church Planters, and Church Planting Teams. Collegiate Ministers. Ministry Entrepreneurs. Graduating college students seeking to fulfill God's calling on their lives. Okay, we'll admit it...basically anyone who is responsible for raising all or part of their financial support should attend! The variety of ministries represented at the school will be varied, but the training is applicable to all ministries. It is also helpful for those mobilizers whose ministry is assisting others to answer the call to missions through raising support, and for mission leaders who coordinate the work of those developing their support. Support Development School is required for those who will be serving as Mission Service Corps missionaries and will be processing their MSC ministry support through the North American Mission Board. It is also open to others who are raising their support for Great Commission ministry though not serving through Mission Service Corps. However, these would not qualify for the subsidized registration.

What are others saying about Support School?

"I hate to admit I was totally in the dark about the powerful potential for ministry that existed in the Mission Service Corps. I went to the Support School training because I was desperate to find a way to help a quality church planter stay in our area. I was surprised to find a useful tool that an association could put to immediate use. The training was done by professionals in the field and the material was top of the line and complete. I highly recommend that you get in on the big secret of Southern Baptist

endorsed support raising for God-called missionaries that works in tandem to the Cooperative Program."--**Robert Lewis, Executive Director of Missions, Sacramento Association**

"Thanks again for coming to California with the MSC Support School. I went to it thinking I was going to learn how to write a letter and word it just right to get people to give me money for ministry. Instead I learned about developing partners for the ministry which is so much better than donors to a ministry. This change of view has made it easier for me, who hates asking people for money, to ask people to become part of my ministry. "

Joy in Christ, --**Darren Bradley, Church Planter**

"Many church planters are ill-equipped to build partnerships for their ministry. This conference was invaluable to inform and train them in support raising principles and practices."--**Paul Johnson, National Church Planting Leader, Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists**

"Thanks! The instruction was excellent - you went over some very delicate material and brought out some great biblical insights and guidelines. Thank you for the very practical tools - you've not given me a fish, but you have taught me how to fish." --
Seminary Student, Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary

Why do we call the seminar Support Development School?

One participant said this, "The concept of Support Development communicates well. The military requires Boot Camp before a soldier is sent off to their assignment; likewise support development is part of the 'boot camp' for many missionaries. The focus is on more than just raising money, but developing a support system to fulfill God's call on our lives!"

When is the next Support School?

We hold at least four Support Development Schools every year spread regionally across North America. Typically there are at least three in the U.S. and one is held in Canada. It is important to attend a school as early in the process as possible to maximize your efforts and effectiveness and minimize your frustration from "not doing it well!" You can get information on upcoming Support Schools by checking the web at www.namb.net/msctraining and register right there online.



What does it cost to attend the Support Development School?

For those who are or will be serving as Mission Service Corps missionaries the registration cost is \$125 for an individual or \$150 per couple. This includes the training manual, all workshop and homework materials, plus lunch each day during the training. Additional costs would be the travel, food and lodging expenses which are up to each individual. Note: For attendees who will not be serving as MSC missionaries, the registration cost is \$200 per individual or \$225 per couple.

What if I can't afford the time or money to come to a Support School?

Do not let the lack of time or money keep you from a Support School. You may think that you can't fit the preparation requirements or three days of training into your schedule. Or you may think that you can't afford the seminar fee or cost of getting there. Our answer? You can't afford **NOT** to invest the time and money! It takes the investment of time and money to raise your support properly. What is 3-4 days of your life when you may very well be trying to raise a lifelong support team? What is a few hundred dollars investment compared to the thousands you will be trying to raise each year? For most participants, the seminar costs represent less than 15% of what only one of their monthly paychecks will be. Quite a return on your investment! Additionally, the *School Pre-training Packet* will be sent to you as soon as you register. This will also equip you to raise the necessary one-time support to attend the school if finances are an obstacle to your attending.

How do I prepare for Support School?

With a lot of prayer and hard work! The more you put in to the preparation, the more you will get out of the training. The school is designed to teach a development process model that focuses on developing individual ministry partnerships. To get the fullest value from the training, you need to invest in the advance preparation prior to arriving at the school. If you have not already received it with your registration confirmation, you can go to www.namb.net/mscsupport and download the *School Pre-training Packet*.

I have had some other training in this area, or have read some books on this. Should I still come to a Support School?

Some ministries do an excellent job of training their personnel how to raise support, some do not. Do not underestimate the value of getting top notch training in this area. Our heart is to train you to develop support for long-term, sustainable ministry, primarily in the context of Southern Baptist missions. If you feel like your training has not been thorough enough or you have raised support but are not yet at 100% a Support School will be very valuable to you. Although several books offer excellent resources, you will be lacking the hands-on applications and "how-to" workshops utilized in the Support School. The combination of the extensive preparation and the 24 hours of intense training is a powerful one- two punch that can launch you into a successful support development experience. If you have any questions about this you can e-mail [Mike Riggins](mailto:mriggins@namb.net) (mriggins@namb.net), or call him at 800.462.8657 ext.6435.



North American Mission Board
A Southern Baptist Convention agency supported by the Cooperative Program and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering
For general information, call (770) 410-6000, or visit www.namb.net.

