

WILL PEOPLE GIVE TO ME WHEN I GO ON SABBATICAL?



YES!

We surveyed staff who had been on a sabbatical and asked four questions:

- Did you lose any donor support when you went on sabbatical?
- Did you gain any donor support when you went on sabbatical?
- Did you have any negative feedback from going on sabbatical?
- How did you communicate about your sabbatical?

No one lost any donor support. Some actually gained support. Two different staff each had someone give negative feedback for going on sabbatical. When the staff explained our sabbatical process to these critics, both negatives became very positive. One even said, "If anyone gives you a hard time, send them to me."

We encourage you to raise funds for your sabbatical and use this opportunity to make up any deficit you have. When one staff was preparing for their sabbatical, an aunt who'd never given to them before sent a generous gift, just because they were going on sabbatical.

Most misgivings about donors funding our sabbatical come from our own fears. They're not founded in reality. Most donors give to you because they love you and share your vision. Churches, too, have been supportive when they understand our sabbatical process. God promises to meet all your needs. This includes your needs during your sabbatical.

On the next few pages are sample letters used by our staff to raise funds or to tell their team about their sabbatical. May these help you as you plan your funding strategy.

2 THESSALONIANS 1:11

...by His power may He fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith.

PHILIPPIANS 4:19

And my God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

February 15, 2006

Dear Friend,

We wanted you to be among the first to know what's happening in our ministry with The Navigators and to ask for your continued partnership in funding.

Jane and I have reached significant milestones in our lives and ministry in the past two months. We celebrated 25 years of marriage in October, and this month we mark 22 years of serving with The Navigators. Both have been rewarding adventures!

We began with The Navigators in 1982 by pioneering new ministry at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs. For the last 14 years, we've supervised 150 Nav staff who minister at 47 military installations around the world. We have gladly given our lives to help advance the gospel among military personnel for these 22 years and feel we still have so much more to do! Yet, in recent months, we've felt fatigued and spiritually and emotionally depleted.

The Navigators recognizes that for staff to have long-term effectiveness in ministry, they must occasionally step back from ministry to rest, recover, reflect, and refocus. The Navigators has created a sabbatical process for that very purpose. With the support of our leadership, Jane and I will begin a six-month sabbatical in April.

No, sabbatical is not a vacation! In fact, it's a structured, supervised time to intentionally replenish and regroup for future ministry. The first phase is resting and recovering—doing what puts energy back into our tired bodies. The second phase is reflecting and refocusing—learning more about God and ourselves. The final phase is realignment—seeking God's best fit for us in life and ministry. During our sabbatical, we'll meet regularly with an advisor as we work through our personalized sabbatical plan. All of this is to prepare us to finish well the ministry to which God has called us.

Financial needs can add pressure to our lives at a time when we need to reduce stress. We face a shortfall of \$987 in our regularly pledged support, which calculates to \$11,844 annually. More than ever, we need our faithful ministry partners to stand with us as we go through the sabbatical. Thank you for being so committed to us in the past. Now during this unique time in our ministry, **would you prayerfully consider increasing your monthly support or making a special contribution to help with our financial needs?** Whatever God lays on your heart for us is received with gratitude.

Your investments make a difference for eternity. Please know how we appreciate you.

Sincerely,

Joseph and Jane Missionary

P.S. To make a gift, please return the enclosed card with a check made payable to The Navigators. May we hear from you by April 15? Thank you!



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Financial needs can add pressure to our lives at a time when we need to reduce stress. We face a shortfall of \$987 in our regularly pledged support, which calculates to \$11,844 annually. **Would you prayerfully consider joining our monthly support team or making a special contribution to help with this need?** Some can give monthly gifts of \$50, \$100, or \$200. Some can give special gifts of \$500 or \$1,000.

Please pray and consider giving one of these amounts, or whatever God lays on your heart. Your investments make a difference for eternity. Please know how we appreciate you.

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