



The Levite Project

*“But to the tribe of Levi,
Moses had given no
inheritance; the LORD,
the God of Israel, is their
inheritance, as he
promised them.”*

Joshua 13:33

Using the Biblical example of the Levites, **The Levite Project** will raise money from individuals within the Church to fund PWM's administrative costs and new missionaries. It will allow the missionaries to raise support on a full-time basis and carefully survey their missionary calling before embarking on long-term missionary service in the field.

There is a great need for more qualified, trained, and professional candidates in the mission field. More often than not, qualified and willing attorneys, engineers, doctors, business owners, and other professionals do not enter the mission field because they would be forced to work a full-time job and raise support on a part-time basis before beginning their ministry. This is particularly true in organizations such as PWM, which ensures the integrity of funds donated directly to the care of children and widows by (a) keeping its administrative funds completely separate from ministry funds and (b) requiring its administrative executives to raise financial support through a third-party organization. Once implemented, the Levite Project will enable the most qualified individuals throughout the United States to serve orphans and widows throughout the world by eliminating the support-raising roadblock.

Biblical Foundation

In the [Jewish](#) tradition, a Levite was a member of the [Hebrew](#) tribe of [Levi](#). The Levites, who were the original missionaries, served particular religious duties and political responsibilities for the Israelites. And when [Joshua](#) led the [Israelites](#) into the land of [Canaan](#), the Levites were the only [Israelite](#) tribe who received no inheritance because the Lord God of Israel himself was their inheritance. ([Joshua 13:32](#).) As a result, the Levitical system in the Old Testament is predicated on the financial support of ministers of religious duties by the rest of God's people. ([Nehemiah 13:10](#); [Numbers 18:21-24](#).)

The Levitical system of financial support for missionaries continued throughout the New Testament, as the Church supported and “sent” Jesus, the Disciples, and Paul, among others. (See, e.g., [Luke 8:1-3](#); [Romans 15:24](#); [II Cor. 1:15-16](#).) And James 1:27 makes it absolutely clear that one of the primary religious duties Christians are called to fulfill is “to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.” Indeed, James describes the fulfillment of this duty as, “Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father.” (James 1:27.)

Purpose: Enable Missionaries to Serve Orphans and Widows

To reach the goal of acquiring qualified, trained, and highly-educated nationals to administer the care for orphans and widows, the **Levite Project** seeks a response from the Church to care for the administration of such missionaries, just as the Israelites supported the Levites.

Such a response is necessary within the structure of PWM, which is fully committed to dedicate 100% of funds donated to children in distress and related special projects to those children and their special projects. The PWM missionaries and laborers administering these funds and projects do not receive administrative percentages of the donations because we value

thrive on disaster and the distress of others to fund their staff's salaries and other administrative costs. For instance, with regard to disaster relief organizations, when hurricanes, floods, or famines occur, the organization collecting the funds receives the exact same percentage from the donation regardless of the environmental conditions, set of events, and the amount of the donation. Such a system is a recipe for corruption, the very thing James 1:27 warns us about, as it allows the organizations to continue funding purported "administrative costs" even if donations exceed the budgeted amount for a given year and the organization technically starts receiving more than what they claim they need for the administration of projects. Though additional administrative support is needed when organizations are in this position, the amount of additional support needed is a question rarely researched, let alone answered. Further,

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and respect the wishes of the donors regarding the recipient or project. Just as the transparency of how the Levites performed their duties was key in God's economy, PWM has responded with transparency and respect for order. As a result, PWM is being blessed by a tremendous response to the needs of children and widows. However, the funds necessary for the administration of the ministry still need to be addressed.

Contrary to PWM's structure, most non-profit organizations fund their administrative costs by dedicating between 10% and 80% of what donors give to the needy to administrative support. Inherent in that system is that organizations often

after disasters occur, the organizations are often dependent on additional disasters to bring in the monetary resources needed to maintain their resultant larger administrative infrastructures. And often, because the growth is unplanned, organizations resort to the exploitation of the ones in need to meet their new administrative requirements.

To avoid such potential for corruption, PWM has developed The Levite Project to fund its separate administrative budget each fiscal year, and thus obviate the need to use the monies donated directly to the orphans, widows, and special projects. This allows for controlled, planned growth without exploiting

“But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret.

Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you”

Matthew 6:3

the work to which we are called. It forces us to know the need (research) and then go out and inform donors (development). This model has drawn a very positive response from donors on both sides, whether they donate to a need in the community or to the administrative branch of the ministry. The overwhelming response to this model is that it is more fiscally responsible and allows donors to know exactly what they are giving to before they make any donation to PWM.

The Levite Project seeks a response from the Church to care for the administration of such missionaries

As an additional step to protect PWM from unnecessary administrative growth and possible corruption, PWM requires that all of its long-term missionaries seek their personal support from outside PWM's immediate system. In so doing, PWM partners with third-party sending organizations to manage its missionaries. This allows the missionaries to have 100% of the attention they and their families need, while simultaneously freeing PWM to focus on helping those whom they have been called to help.

It is often difficult, however, for attorneys, engineers, doctors, business owners, and other professionals to make the leap into missions because potential missionaries are expected to work a full-time job while raising support on a part-time basis. The **Levite Project** will also address this issue by providing a source of missionary “seed money.” One of the most difficult things one can do is raise support for missionary service and not be allowed to serve. Some missionaries have to spend several years raising support before they are actually able to serve in the field

to which they are called. Such a “bridge” period discourages many qualified individuals and families from ever entering the mission field. The **Levite Project** seeks to avoid such unfortunate situations by allowing missionaries with vast experience to jump into a service position and have the opportunity to raise their funds without affecting the stability of their families. We believe this Biblical model will attract and enable more experienced professionals to enter into God's service, and will enable

them to raise support on a full-time basis and carefully survey their missionary potential and calling prior to a long-term, missionary service commitment in the field.

The value of initial financial support for missionary service begins with an apprenticeship, short-term missionary paid position. This allows for missionaries to receive the proper cultural training in the very first few months and, if qualified, be put to immediate service. A missionary is thus allowed to serve a short period of time while being equipped for a lifetime of service. Once the apprenticeship period is over, missionaries are evaluated and can continue in their service under the financial care of friends, family, and other financial partners. Additionally, as the missionary raises financial support during the apprenticeship period, those funds will replace the “seed money” until the missionary is fully reliant on funds from his or her financial ministry partners.

Who Does the Levite Project Seek to Fund?

The Levite Project seeks individuals, whether paid nationals or missionaries, to have the following characteristics:

A tolerance for ambiguity in known and unknown cultural settings

- People-centeredness and warmth
- A sense of humor
- The ability to accept failure and grow from it
- Non-judgmental attitudes
- Flexibility & adaptability
- Commitment and perseverance in tasks and convictions
- Curiosity – is this person a lifelong learner and teachable?
- Tolerance for differences both within the missionary community and within the local culture
- A servant attitude with a leadership approach
- A strong work ethic

Ultimately, PWM seeks strong believers who have an ability to transcend difficulty and who can carry the cross in the name of Christ.

How Prospective Missionaries Qualify to Receive Levite Project Funds

To qualify for Levite Project funds, prospective missionaries are required to apply for the Levite Project with PWM, and be approved by a participating sending organization, including, without limitation, InterFACE Ministries. Upon approval of the application, the missionary must raise the first 25% of his or her budget before receiving any funds from the Levite Project. This initial requirement ensures that the prospective missionaries are dedicated to the ministry and able to raise funds.

After the missionary raises 25% of the budget, he or she will receive the remaining 75% of the budget from the Levite Project funds, and will begin a three-month period dedicated completely to fundraising. During that three-month period, the missionary is expected to raise an additional 25% of the budget. This fundraising period ensures that the missionary will not just “dive into” the full-time position and neglect raising his or her budget.

It is often difficult for professionals to make the leap into missions because potential missionaries are expected to work a full-time job while raising support on a part-time basis.

After the three-month fundraising period, 25% of the Levite Project funds will be phased out and the missionary will only receive 50% of his or her budget from the Levite Project funds. He or she will also begin a six-month period of language and cultural training in conjunction with continuing fundraising. The missionary is expected to raise an additional 25% of his or her budget during this period.

Following the six-month language and cultural training period, an additional 25% of the Levite Project funds will be

phased out and the missionary will only receive 25% of his or her budget from the project for the remainder of the Levite Project year. During that final three months of the project, the missionary will begin his or her position on a full-time basis, in conjunction with raising the final 25% of his or her budget.

The table below provides an example of the “phase-out” nature of the Levite Project funds over the course of a year, using a hypothetical position with a budget of \$5,000 per month (“M” – Missionary; “LP” – Levite Project).

% Raise (M)	Yearly (M)	Monthly (M)	Yearly (LP)	Monthly (LP)	# Months	Total (LP)	Total (M)
25%	\$15,000	\$1,250	\$45,000	\$3,370	1-3	\$11,250	\$3,750
50%	\$30,000	\$2,500	\$30,000	\$2,500	4-9	\$15,000	\$15,000
75%	\$45,000	\$3,750	\$15,000	\$1,250	10-12	\$3,750	\$11,250
100%	\$60,000	\$5,000	—	—		—	—
Total						\$30,000	\$30,000

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