

Fund-raising Ideas: China

Here are some fun ways to get your group working together while raising awareness and support for the printing of Chinese Scripture through the Amity Printing Press in Nanjing. It is worth a bit of effort to make sure that people throughout the world are able to read God's Word. Make sure you have the necessary permission before you plan anything! Have fun with some of these ideas.

Table Quiz

Borrow a hall in your church (or local community centre). Ask someone to be the quizmaster. This is usually someone who is quite ingenious and simply knows too much trivia! Make some invitations asking teams of 4-6 people to enter. Ask all your friends and people from your church and local area, let as many people know as possible! Put an entrance fee on each table and explain where the proceeds are going. Make sure that the quizmaster has a few rounds on China up his/her sleeve! Have a small prize for the winning team (chocolate is usually good!) Tea/coffee & biscuits go down well.

Auction of Promises

Have as many of your young people volunteer to willingly carry out a chore for a friend. These can be anything from an evening's baby-sitting to walking the dog for a week, to washing the car...whatever you come up with! Set an evening aside and invite everyone you know. Set up a stage and bring the volunteers up one at a time, have them stand while an announcer declares their 'Promise' eg. 'Simon promises to mow your lawn this summer. Let the bidding start at £5...' This is a really great way for your young people to spend some time with more mature members of the congregation, as well as learning about being servants.

Sponsored Read-a-thon

Your group could decide to read Scripture aloud for a certain number of hours. Draw up a sponsor sheet with an explanation of the project on it and collect sponsorships for each minute or 5 minutes of reading. 10 of you could read for 30 minutes each, maybe taking turns to read in 10 or 15-minute sections. You could even read some sections in another language! There are all sorts of things you could be sponsored for – sponsored silence, stay awake, walk, fast, marathon, music making, Scripture writing...etc.

Car Boot Sale/Car Wash

Why not use your church car park for a boot sale and car wash. You can hold these together or they can be separate events. Charge £5 per car for the boot sale and encourage folks to donate their 'earnings' also. Remember to advertise in local shop windows, in the church and even through your school or by doing a flyer drop. Cars can be washed for maybe £2 each. Make sure you are careful and wash them well, always do the best job you can.

Chinese Theme Night

This is a way to combine lots of little ideas that could also be used on their own. You will need a large room, which can be decorated with all things Chinese – lots of red, lanterns, dragons, kimonos, fans etc. Provide some Chinese food, have a 'Guess the name of the dragon competition' with guesses £1 per go. You could even include a table quiz or a treasure hunt. It's up to you! Have lots of fun whatever you do!

Distribute Smartie Tubes

Put a 'Bibles for China' sticker on the tube and after the Smarties are eaten, the tube can be filled with 20 pence pieces over the following weeks. Did you know that one tube can hold £13.20 of 20 pence coins? – enough to buy paper for almost 20 Bibles!

Organise a Praise Evening

Could your church organise an evening of Praise and Scripture readings close to Easter? All you need is a choir, people who can read Scripture passages well, and printed tickets for sale. Apart from the benefit of the surplus going to buy paper to print Bibles in China, people will be inspired by the words and music.

Organise a Christmas Carol Service

Lots of Carol Services are organised in schools and churches in the days before Christmas. It's an opportunity to invite parents and enjoy both the carols and the reading of the Christmas story.

Use your talents

Give everyone an agreed sum of money and a period of weeks in which they can increase what they have been given. They could use their 'stake' to make cuddly toys or buns, or plant seeds to sell as indoor plants or lots of other things. Give a prize for the best earner. (Refer to the Bible story: Matt. 25.15)

Organise a futuristic fashion show in your youth group

What will people be wearing 20 or 30 years from now? Use your imagination and get everyone to create and model his or her own outfit. Give a prize for the best and ask for an entry fee from each entrant and from everyone in the audience.

Organise a sale of videos, CDs etc

Get everyone to bring along an item that, perhaps, they have grown tired of. Half the proceeds from the items sold could go to buy paper to print Bibles in China.

School 'No Uniform' day

Set a day apart for everyone to dress in casual style – for an agreed amount. All the contributions could become a gift for Bible paper.

Fill the container

Keep a wide-necked bottle or jar to pop your loose change into. It's amazing how many coins we have at home and how quickly it adds up! You might decide to put your tuck-shop change into it or to collect coppers or 10ps. It's up to you!

We would love to know what your group is getting up to. Tell us about your fund-raising events, we'd be interested to know how you get on!

Contact Julie at 028 9032 6577 or by email at julie@bsni.co.uk

