

ground force

building a money education ministry
part 1: artists impression



welcome

Thank you for your interest in the resources from Stewardship to support both churches and committed individuals who wish to develop a sustainable, biblically-based and holistic money ministry in the local church.

By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, his work will be shown for what it is....

(1 Corinthians 4:10-13a)

Paul talks about establishing a ministry on solid foundations and building with best materials. Using the analogy of building, this action pack will help ensure that the time, energy, skills and commitment that you bring to this money education ministry will be effective.

This Action Pack will help committed individuals (whom we call 'money advocates') and money ministry teams in the local church take practical steps towards a biblically based, holistic and sustainable ministry of Christian money education

➔ For an online overview see our walkthrough, *Effective Money Ministry*, in the money ministry section of "Take Action" at www.stewardship.org.uk/money

Ground Force builds, step by step, into a single document. Don't try to read it all at once. It is a reference, not a gripping read! This pack is updated in August each year.

why Ground Force?

We call this action pack *Ground Force* with good reason – **you!**

No-one knows your church and community better. Your gifts, experience and relationships will ensure that biblically-based money education can impact our diverse communities and offer local support to local people.

Ground Force also offers a range of building materials; practical suggestions, ideas and tips which can help build an effective money education ministry in your church and your community.

But you must feel free to experiment. Try some ideas, reject others and try something new of your own. You must feel free to succeed – and sometimes to fail.

We hope that you will share your stories with Stewardship so that we can tell others to encourage and enhance money ministry in other churches. Email your stories to education@stewardship.org.uk.



the Ground Force team

Ground Force is an action pack for local church money ministry teams and for committed individuals, money advocates. What do we mean by these terms: money ministry and money advocate?

a local money ministry

A growing number of churches are creating what we call a local 'money ministry'. In brief a money ministry:

- is authorised by the church leadership
- will exercise that ministry in their congregation and community, and
- provide a professional and efficient personal budget coaching service.

A single individual may carry this ministry on his or her own. In a small church of limited resources this might be the best way forward. However, experience suggests that a money ministry is most effective in small teams. Either way, *Ground Force* should be used flexibly, not slavishly. Be selective, given available resources of people, time and money.

➔ More information can be found in [What is a Money Ministry?](#)

a money advocate

In many churches the formation of a small ministry team is simply not possible or may be too soon. There may be little leadership support or vision for a money education ministry.

Committed individuals should not be dismayed if their passion for biblically-based money education cannot (yet) become a distinct and supported ministry of the church. There is still much that can be achieved as a 'money advocate'.

A money advocate speaks on behalf of those in debt, agitates for biblically-based teaching on money and takes practical action. A money advocate should use *Ground Force* carefully and selectively to develop his or her money advocacy in the local church but do be realistic about what you can achieve - and be gentle with your church leadership!

➔ For more details see [What is a money advocate?](#)

why 'artists impression'?

An architect does not begin detailed plans but with a compelling picture in the mind's eye of what s/he wants to build. This is then brought to life by an artist's impression before work begins on the specifications.

What is your 'artist's impression' of effective money education in your own church? What compels you to take action? What excites you about this ministry? What inspired you to get involved? Take the time to dream some dreams, sketch out what it might look like in your church, in your community.

You are building your own money ministry, not ours. An effective money ministry will listen to congregations and communities, learning from them and responding to their needs. It will build on the strengths of those involved and will pray and look for creative opportunities in congregation and community and will be shaped by:

- The needs that you see around you in the local church and the local community
- Your own skills and experiences, and of course the time that you can bring to your work
- Your growing understanding of a biblical perspective on money and possessions

Ground Force offers a simple, flexible structure and some detailed ideas for practical action. It will help you get your artist's impression, but it is not a blueprint, nor detailed specifications. It helps you get the picture, the rough dimensions of your money education ministry but leaves you and/or your leadership to customise while building.

- This first part is an introduction. It sketches how Stewardship understands money education and what support we can offer to money ministries and money advocates
- Part 2 is particularly intended for money ministry teams. It focuses on the setting up and running of a personal budget coaching service to serve and support clients. Money ministry teams should ensure that they read this part 2 carefully alongside the relevant sections in the personal budget coach training manual.
- Parts 3-6 suggest practical ways in which money advocates and money ministry teams can take action to develop a creative and sustainable money education ministry in congregation and community



the dimensions: Stewardship and Christian money education

Ground Force sets out the footprint and the rough dimensions for building a money ministry.

At Stewardship we believe biblically-based money education has three key dimensions which shape our approach to the subject. An effective money ministry will always be guided and shaped by each of these dimensions.

- **Debt freedom:** Addressing this pressing issue in congregation and community is very often the first and ongoing task of a new money ministry. Our Red2Black materials provide plug and play resources to raise awareness, take practical action and do essential local research.

➔ Details can be found in *Ground Force* part 4

- **Holistic, biblical money education:** If all we have is from God each financial decision is ultimately a spiritual decision. An effective money ministry will arrange money courses and encourage teaching on borrowing, saving, spending, planning and budgeting from a biblical perspective.

➔ Details can be found in *Ground Force* part 5

- **Discipleship and generosity:** We approach money as an issue of personal discipleship and not just from the perspective of need. We believe generosity is the hallmark of authentic discipleship around money.

➔ Details can be found in *Ground Force* part 5

For more detail on Stewardship's approach to money education see *The Abundance of Everything*.

A balanced, rounded money education ministry will reflect these three perspectives. Of course at times more weight will be given to one of these perspectives than the others.

the role of Stewardship

Stewardship does not own either money advocates or money ministries.

The passion and commitment comes from the people involved; the support, encouragement, resources and accountability come from the local church.



What Stewardship can do is to help facilitate a loose, informal network of people committed to this ministry. We are committed to providing our own resources and to signposting resources from Christian and other agencies in the money education field.

Stewardship support this in three ways:

- **Our website:** www.stewardship.org.uk/money. The engine of this vehicle is the Resource Library where you'll find all manner of money education resources and tools. If you are looking for a specific document simply enter the name of the document you are searching for in full.

➔ [Check the Spotlight tab to find out about new resources and events.](#)

- **E-bulletin:** Everyone who registers on the site will receive a regular e-bulletin highlighting new resources, training and events and technical updates. It also facilitates networking between those interested in Christian money education by sharing good news and good practice from around the country. As you develop your own ministry and resources we hope that you will be willing to share with others, to encourage them and to make us all more effective.
- **Regional conferences:** At least twice a year we hold an open regional day conference for anyone interested in Christian money education for:
 - a. Networking - meeting other people who share this ministry
 - b. Training – the chance to develop your understanding and skills
 - c. Updates - new courses, developments in personal finances,
 - d. Celebration and prayer

➔ [See the Training and Events tab on the website for details](#)

the next steps

for money advocates

Money advocates should use parts 3-6 of Ground Force to explore the options for developing a money education ministry in your church. Take care not to take on too much. As far as possible share your 'artists impression' and your developing ministry with your church leadership. Revisit the Stewardship website to find out about new resources and regional conferences and make sure you receive Money Talk each month.

➔ Access Ground Force from the walkthrough, *Building a Money Education Ministry*

for money ministries

A new money ministry team should ensure that arrangements are in place to meet regularly to pray and to plan towards the public launch of the money ministry in the church and perhaps also in the community. You will need to build a team together and plan to run a professional personal budget coach service alongside the money education aspect of a money ministry

- Guidance notes are found in *Ground Force part 2: Establishing a money ministry*. This is a lengthy reference document to be noted for later consideration by members of a money ministry team.
- *Establishing a money ministry* includes a useful, simple tool called Action Plan which helps a team record its actions and produce a brief outline of their money ministry which can be shared with church leaders.
- All team members and any supporters should be aware of the website walkthrough *Building a Money Education Ministry* which provides a brief overview and makes *Ground Force* available for download in parts.
- All should come to a first planning meeting having read a copy of:
 - a. *What is a Money Ministry?*
 - b. *Ground Force part 1 at least*

