

what is a money advocate?



how money advocacy can make a difference

In our different ways we are all influenced by the pressures of our consumer society. That's why Paul challenged us not to be *conformed* to the world but *transformed* in our thinking (Rom 13:2) But being counter-cultural is not easy, especially when it comes to money!

We don't always make the connection between money and discipleship. We miss out on the richness, the distinctiveness, the timeless wisdom and freedom of a biblical view of money.

Perhaps above all we miss out on the joy of generosity and many churches are constrained by too little money to sustain and grow effective ministry.

money advocates

Money advocates are committed individuals with something to say about biblically-based money education in the church, and in the community.

Money advocates speak up and speak out. They challenge the sound of silence around money; they want to change the money culture in their church; they encourage money talk with honesty, openness and humour.

- Money advocates believe that biblical teaching about money is central to both personal discipleship and congregational faithfulness and should be a natural part of discipleship teaching.
- Money advocates believe that the church can and should take action in and with the local community around money issues, especially supporting those burdened with debt.
- Money advocates are financial buddies not financial experts. Some have a financial background, most don't. They are not debt experts but they do care about people in debt.
- Money advocates are committed to speaking up and speaking out about these things. They support and encourage their leaders, they challenge and they bring resources to this ministry.
- Money advocates will very often enhance their advocacy by training as a personal budget coach and put this training in the service of the ministry of their church where possible.



what do money advocates do?

Debt is a critical issue in every community and also in our congregations. Money advocates are encouraged and resourced to take practical action. **But money advocacy is about money education, not just debt.**

In fact Stewardship has three key objectives for our Christian money education:

- to promote freedom from personal debt and the good money management which is so essential to addressing money anxiety. Our Red2Black initiative is a key resource in meeting this challenge. Money advocates signpost to local sources of debt advice and, when trained as personal budget coaches, will sit alongside those struggling with debt or wanting to take control of their money especially at important life changes from a baby to redundancy.
- to promote a rich biblical perspective on all aspects of money – saving, borrowing, planning etc. Money advocates will be proactive and creative in identifying resources that can help the church embed money into the preaching, teaching and pastoral care of the church. They will organise courses and workshops, publish magazine and web articles from our resources, and more.
- to promote the importance of generosity as the hallmark of financial discipleship and money as an central issue in mature discipleship and spirituality. As Christians, money advocates are always asking: *whose money are we managing?* They encourage and gently challenge churches to understand money as God's entrusted gift and responsibility and to experience the joy of generosity, of releasing kingdom resources.



can I be a money advocate?

if you have a God given passion for a biblical perspective on money and to make a real difference in people's lives then money advocacy is for you!

You may have professional financial skills, an interest in money matters or experience in helping others. You may have come through a debt crisis yourself and want others to benefit from your experience. You may have experienced the joy of a biblical approach to money.

God uses what we have and what we are. If you can share what you've learned without judging the lifestyle or the financial decisions of others then money advocacy is for you!

You will need:

- a willingness to learn about money from a biblical perspective and to apply these principles to the godly ordering of your own finances. No one gets this absolutely right! Just make sure you are on your own journey if you want to
- a willingness to engage with your church leadership to bring money on to the agenda of church life.
- an understanding of household finance and putting it into practice in your own life as best you know how. No expert knowledge needed here though.
- time to give to this ministry, perhaps 2- 4 hours a month, more if a course or event is being run.

But there are no formal qualifications at all. You are not going to be advising anyone about their financial decisions or offer debt advice (that's against the law!). You won't do anything you don't feel called to do.

who will support me?

Money advocacy is not unique to the church and it is not exclusive to Stewardship. Money advocacy is not a concept or a brand 'owned' by Stewardship as a central organisation or parent body. But, convinced that individuals can make a difference and convinced of the transforming and liberating truth of a biblical approach to money, Stewardship is committed to resourcing money advocacy.

- Your primary support and encouragement must lie with your local church. Begin with clear communication with your church leaders. They must be able to affirm what you want to do and understand your passion and purpose.
- Stewardship provides resources to help you grow a local money advocate ministry in your church and where you are confident and comfortable, in your local community. The focus of Stewardship's support and resources for money advocates is our website at www.stewardship.org.uk/money.

the next steps?

There are no interviews or application forms. This is a local ministry supported by your local church. Take time to find out more. Think and pray; is money advocacy for you?

- ➔ For a more detailed overview visit our walkthrough [Building a money education ministry](#)
- ➔ Explore the resources at www.stewardship.org.uk/money
- ➔ Talk to and share your ideas and this paper with your church leadership
- ➔ Find out more about budget coaching in [What is a Personal Budget Coach](#) or see the Taking Action tab on the website.