

Checklist for Choosing a Christian Charity to Give To

Choosing where to give is a personal decision. This guide offers a few practical questions to help you learn about a charity and decide whether its work feels right for you.

A note on the Scripture: the verse summaries in this guide are plain-English paraphrases, not quotations from a particular Bible translation. Read each passage in your preferred Bible for its full wording and context.

1. Check the charity is registered

The charity register depends on where the organisation is based:

- ☐ England and Wales: search the Charity Commission register.
- ☐ Scotland: search the OSCR register.
- ☐ Northern Ireland: search the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register.
- ☐ Check the register entry for its registered charity number, trustees, income and annual accounts.

2. Understand what it does

- ☐ Its aims are clear. I can explain who it serves and what it is working to change.
- ☐ It describes its activities and the difference it hopes to make in plain language.
- ☐ It explains its results honestly, including what it has learned and what remains difficult.

3. Look at how it uses money

- ☐ I can find its published annual report and accounts, and understand the broad picture they give.
- ☐ The charity explains how much it spends on its charitable work and what its costs support.
- ☐ Its fundraising practices are clear, respectful and consistent with the way I want to give.

4. Ask about its faith identity

- ☐ It is open about whether it is a Christian charity and how its faith shapes its purpose and day-to-day work.
- ☐ I understand whether it supports people of any faith or none, and how it treats the people it serves.

5. Check the giving practicalities

- ☐ If I am a UK taxpayer, I can consider Gift Aid. The charity can claim an extra 25p for every £1 I give, at no extra cost to me, if I am eligible and make a valid declaration.
- ☐ I can choose between a one-off gift and regular giving, and understand how to change or stop a regular gift.
- ☐ I can also explore giving time or skills if that suits me better than giving money.

6. Notice possible warning signs

- ☐ An appeal uses high pressure or makes me feel I must give immediately. I can pause and check before deciding.
- ☐ The charity gives vague answers about where donations go or how its work is carried out.
- ☐ I cannot find a registration number where I would expect one. I will check the relevant official register and ask the charity to explain.

A few notes for my decision

Charity or question to follow up: _____

What matters most to me: _____

Giving is a personal choice, and Christians differ in how they decide where and how much to give. There is no need to feel pressured. Take time to pray, ask questions and choose what is right for you.

2 Corinthians 9:7. Paraphrase: Give willingly, not under pressure.

Prayer: God, give us wisdom to give with generous hearts and respect for others. Amen.

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