**Nineteen Questions to Ask Before You Give to Any Organization**

From *Eternal Perspective Ministries,* by Randy Alcorn

1. Are there things about this ministry that make it uniquely worth investing in instead of a thousand other good causes?
2. Before giving elsewhere, have I fulfilled my primary giving responsibility to my local church?
3. Have I not only studied the literature from this ministry, but talked with others who know it close up but have no vested interests in it?
4. Have I considered a ministry or vision trip to see and participate in what this ministry is actually doing on the field?
5. Does the ministry’s staff demonstrate a servant-hearted concern for those to whom they minister?
6. Do the organization’s workers demonstrate a sense of unity, camaraderie and mutual respect?
7. Have I talked directly with people at the “lower levels” of this ministry, not just executives and PR people?
8. Is this ministry biblically sound and Christ-centered?
9. What kind of character, integrity, purity, and humility is demonstrated by the ministry leaders?
10. What kind of accountability structures does the organization have?
11. If this is a secular or semi-Christian organization rather than a distinctively Christian one, what are the compelling reasons for giving to it?
12. How clear are this organization’s goals and objectives, strategies and tactics, and how effective are they in carrying them out?
13. Is this organization teachable and open to improvement to become more strategic in their efforts?
14. Am I certain I’ve gotten an objective view of this ministry, or have they given me the red carpet treatment so I’ve seen the positives without the negatives?
15. What view of God and people is demonstrated in this organization’s fundraising techniques?
16. How much money does the organization spend on overhead expenses and fundraising, and how much in actual ministry to people?
17. Does this ministry show a clear understanding of cross-cultural ministry factors and local conditions and how the flow of money may affect them?
18. Does this organization speak well of others and cooperate with them?
19. Is this ministry pervaded by a distinctly eternal perspective on life, ministry, and resources?