**Project Proposal Guidelines**

* Lightbearers’ focus is limited to countries considered to be in the 10/40 Window area of the world.
* Lightbearers has limited funding each year. In order to focus resources available to Lightbearers, projects or project start-up funding is generally given to Gospel-centric projects that help promote the following activities: evangelism, church planting, mercy ministries, training, literature, and projects that give missionaries an in-country platform from which to operate.
* Lightbearers does not ordinarily fund buildings, normal ongoing staff salaries, office rent, or other ongoing expenses. One-time, or start-up proposals, for conferences or training seminars are considered, but not continuous or multi-year support of these programs.
* Lightbearers supports partners who are nationals of the country, or who have been on the field for at least two years.

*The following are some brief examples of project requests that Lightbearers would receive. Using the above guidelines, determine whether these are projects that Lightbearers would fund.*

**Project A**

Missionary Mel lives in Russograd, Russia, where he does ministry with his friends Vladimir and Olga. Vladimir and Olga are church planters and Mel is doing what he can to train and resource them. They come to him with the idea that taxi cab drivers in Russograd are a fertile ground for mission work. “Please, Mel-ski” they say, “Help us reach the taxi cab drivers.”

Their idea is to record the testimonies of taxi cab drivers who have come to faith in Christ. They will put that on a CD or cassette and distribute it to taxi drivers, along with invitations to come to their church. Taxi drivers, they argue, sit in their cars all day, and because the economy is not good, they spend most of their time waiting and not driving. They will be bored and want something to listen to, so Vladimir and Olga think this would be a great idea. Plus, passengers in the taxis will also hear the Gospel, and, if the drivers become believers, they will have a captive audience that they can share their faith with.

Mel submits a project request on behalf of Vladimir and Olga for $4,000 to pay for the recording and publishing costs.

**Project B**

Pastor Paul lives in Indirabat, India, where he runs an independent agency (he is an Indian pastor). Paul’s main work is to rescue orphans from the slums, take them to the land that he owns and created a small village, and begin to educate them. He has a school that goes through 12th grade and includes all traditional subjects, but also religious studies. It is Paul’s hope that someday some of these students will become travelling evangelists who use the literature and training he has given them to plant churches all over India.

Paul submits a request for $10,000 to sponsor 50 children for one year. $20 per month will sponsor a child and provide all the food, clothing, transportation, and education that he or she would need. In addition, a portion of the funds goes to pay the salaries of the widows who work on site and care for these children.

**Project C**

Christian Christina is a single woman from Nebraska living and working in Al-Tuna, Algeria. Christina works alongside single mothers, teaching them to sew beautiful articles of clothing and rugs from the exquisite wool of Algerian sheep. This work provides the women with a consistent source of income, and Christina is able to share life and the Gospel with these women. In addition, after women become believers, she pairs them with new employees so that they have an immediate outlet to share their faith and disciple another woman.

The good news is that Christina’s project has been incredibly successful and many women are coming to faith. The bad news is that she’s run out of space. Therefore, Christina submits a project request for $7,000, with which she can purchase the neighboring building. This building will triple her current space, enabling her to take on more women while saving costs because she can store all the products onsite instead of at an offsite warehouse.

**Project D**

Tentmaker Terry is a Pioneers missionary serving in Albuna, Azerbaijan, where he has lived for the past 14 years. Terry is an example of a BAM (business as mission) long-term worker because he has an existing business in Albuna. Terry was a banker in the Phoenix and has opened an independent bank in Albuna. 65% of his business comes from traditional sources (and he has a great relationship with some of the other leading businessmen in the city), but he also provides free financial counseling and some reduced interest loans to believers in the community. All the while, he has been working to begin a house church in his apartment complex. Every time he does that, he moves apartment complexes and starts over.

But now, Terry has a new idea. He wants to start a microfinance program to provide small, interest-free loans to new believers in his house churches who have lost their jobs because they have converted. With just $50 or $100, they could start their own small businesses, and over the course of the next 24 months, they could repay the initial loan, thus replenishing the loan fund.

Terry presents a project request for $5,000, enough to fund 75 micro-loans in this first year.

**Project E**

Daring Dave is an International Mission Board missionary serving in Chingong, China. He was a mountaineering guide in the Rockies for 12 years before he sensed God calling him to China and moved overseas 18 months ago. Dave’s current project is sending teams of college students trekking through the Tibetan Plateau. These students carry hand crank, short-wave radios. The students visit the various monasteries on the plateau and train the Buddhist monks how to use the radios and show them the only station in the area—one that has a variety of Gospel-based messages.

Dave submits two project requests—one for $2,500, enough to provide 250 radios, which will reach all the monasteries in the province, and one for 12 college students to come for two months over the summer and distribute these radios.

What’s the answer? Why?