

Writing A Support Letter

One of the great things about the first steps of your mission effort is trusting in God to provide the funds. You might have to take a few steps of faith in the process. This involves making personal sacrifices and raising funds necessary to go. Fund raising is less a beating down of our pride and more of an act of faith that God will get us where He wants us to go. It can be a time-consuming process so please get started as soon as you can. Don't procrastinate.

We advise you to send out as many support letters as possible regardless of how much you can pay with your own funds. Here is why..... In the process of raising funds you will also raise up a prayer support team not just a funding team. You need to be completely covered in prayer as you go on your mission and the support raising process is ideal for that. Also, your letter itself can act as a challenge to other Christians to be involved around the world. So, we recommend that you send letters asking for prayer and financial support.

Why do it this way? If you just pay the whole thing yourself you deny others the opportunity to participate in your mission. You can also help raise funds to sponsor someone else going. The funds you raise for the trip are an investment in the Kingdom of God. We hope you believe this. These are not just slick words to help you feel better. We want to see your friends, relatives, co-workers, and even non-believing acquaintances know what you are planning to do and to want to get in on it. The payback for this investment will be seen in heaven as peoples from every tribe, tongue, and nation gather together at Jesus' feet in worship.

We recommend that you write and send out a letter. Don't be shy about who should receive letters from you. Remember, you are speaking on behalf of those you are helping. We recommend sending letters to friends, family, extended family, coworkers, non-believers, and anyone who might want to know what you are up to and might be able to help. We include non-believers because your letter may be an opening for you to share about why you are going and what you will be doing. It may be an opportunity for you to share the Gospel with non-believing acquaintances.

You should send out a lot of letters (we suggest 25 per \$1,000 needed). In general, more letters raise more funds than fewer letters. Ask the Lord to help you come up with a recipient list. Allow Him to be creative and bold in this. You will be amazed how God will raise funds for you as you let Him direct you. God can really surprise you through the generosity of others.

You should write the letter yourself, have someone check it for spelling, and grammar. Avoid a standard "form" letter if possible. The body of the letter can be the same for all recipients but if you can, try to personalize an opening remark or closing comment for each letter you send. Limit your entire letter to no more than two pages. Use a type font that is easy to read (12 or 14 point). You should cover the following:

- Your call and motivation to go.
- When and where you are going.
- Who else is going with you and what organization is sponsoring the trip.
- What you will be doing.
- To whom you will be ministering.
- What you want from those who get your letter: 1. prayer, 2. financial help.
- A few things you want them to pray for.
- Specifics regarding financial gifts. (amount needed, address, tax deduction info, campaign code, notation on the check, using a credit card to donate, etc.)
- Thank them for praying and supporting.

You should be accountable to your supporters for what you see God do on this mission. God's Glory is our singular purpose for going and He will be the one doing the work. Our responsibility is to be obedient and to report back to those who sent us what we saw God do (Acts 4:20). If they helped get you to go or supported you in prayer, you should give them a report when you get back.

Through prayer, keep this mission trip before the Lord. Pray for His will regarding your funds, the team makeup, the nationals we will work with, and for the harvest to come.