

Raising the funds you need to GO

If God has indeed called you to go on this mission trip, He will deliver the means for you to go. You will have to take a few steps of faith in the process. For most people this means raising the funds necessary to go. Fund raising is less a beating down of our pride and more 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 soon. Don't procrastinate.

We recommend that you raise as much of the cost of your trip as possible before you pay with your own funds. Here is why..... In the process of raising funds you will also raise up a prayer support team. You need to be completely covered in prayer as you go on your mission and the support raising process is ideal for that. In fact, 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. 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.

It has been said that when it comes to missions we have three possibilities: go, send, or disobey.

- Not all will or can go.
- Sending is done by financial support and prayer support, preferably both.

Most church-going Christians in America do not know where their mission dollars go or what they are used for. Here is an opportunity for your circle of acquaintances to partner with you and send you. Give them an opportunity to be involved. Next time you will want to bring a bunch of them with you and they will want to come!

We recommend that you write and send out a letter. Don't be shy about who should receive letters from you. We recommend friends, family, extended family, coworkers, non-believers, 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.

As far as your church goes, we suggest going to your pastor, youth leader, or whomever is in authority over you and ask their advice and help. Some churches have missions committees that welcome funding requests. Maybe with permission you can approach small groups and Sunday School classes in your church to make a presentation about your plans and ask for prayer and financial support. These sessions can also be an opportunity for you to seek and find someone else from your church to go with you.

You should send out a lot of letters. 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. If you have genuinely been called for this trip, He will not pull the rug out from under 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.

Please indicate on the check memo who the funds are for as well as the name of the country they will be visiting.