

Fundraising

PRAYER TEAM

Before you begin any type of fundraising, give it to God in prayer. We often plan, execute and then pray for the best. The plan usually fails because we forget to ask God first.

Begin your preparations for your trip by raising a prayer support base of at least ten people who will pray regularly for you during your preparation and daily for you during the actual trip.

These must be people whose prayer life you know and trust. They need to be mature Christians who will take your prayer covenant very seriously. They cannot be members of your team.

Send your prayer team prayer requests during your preparations and before you leave. Include things like fatigue, your attitude, your reactions, flexibility, safety, and health. You will sense their prayer support on your trip and will be able to get through situations beyond your own strength because of their prayers.

SUPPORT TEAM

Another common mistake about raising funds for a mission trip is believing it is only about the money.

It certainly is about money, but it is also about building a partnership with supporters. Paul says, **“I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.”** Phil. 1:3-5

When someone agrees to support you, include them in your mission experience. Remember to send a thank you card before the trip and send a letter about your trip afterwards to follow-up.

LETTER WRITING

We have found that the best way for raising funds for a trip is through letter writing. In order to do that, we often must push aside our pride and let others in to help us—remembering that they will become a part of your trip through supporting you.

Make a list of family members, friends, and church members who may be interested in supporting you.

Write a letter including:

- What your trip entails
- Explain the purpose of your trip
- Give details of how God has led you to this trip
- Explain why you chose to participate
- Tell the reader of planned activities
- Explain the need
- Ask the reader for specific actions based on the need

Remember that people give to short-term missions when they feel informed, when they believe their gift will change lives, when they feel like they are an important part of the trip and when they sense your enthusiasm about it.

Sample Fundraising Letter

Following is an example of a letter that was successful:

Dear John,

I hope this letter finds you well. I have been great and have some exciting news to share with you. I have the opportunity to travel to the Dominican Republic with GO Ministries, July 16-23.

During the week, my team will be working side-by-side with nationals to help build a Christian school and a church in Santiago, Dominican Republic. We will also have the opportunity to lead worship in several local churches and assist in the Feeding Center and do VBS work with the children.

In order to make this possible, I need to assemble a sponsorship team...people like you who can sponsor me and/or who would be willing to lift me up daily in prayer as I seek to serve God in this area. The total amount that I need to raise is \$_____. This amount includes travel expenses, food, lodging, supplies and equipment that we will leave for the Dominican people when we return home.

I would appreciate your prayerful consideration of giving financially to meet this need. Our deadline is May 1st. All gifts are tax deductible and your check needs to be made payable to _____. I have enclosed a return envelope for you to mail contributions directly.

I know that there are many opportunities each year to support these types of outreaches. So, if you have already financially contributed, please do not feel obligated to partner again in that way. But may I ask that you do mark your calendar to pray for this trip?

I would also appreciate your prayer support as we prepare for the trip and especially in July during the trip. If you have any questions or would like more information about the trip, please do not hesitate to call me. Thanks so much for your support and consideration. God bless you!

In His love,

Sarah James

