

Raising Support for Short-Term Mission Trips

First Baptist Church, Jefferson City, Missouri

How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time.

How do you raise support for a mission trip? One dollar at a time.

Fundraising has a rotten reputation of being a necessary evil when the truth is that it is a very vital part of missions ministry. There are great multitudes of people that want to reach out to the lost but are not able to go so we must be their hands and feet; all part of the same body.

When something is worthwhile, is it worth investing in? Is the Great Commission something that's worth investing in? Why not raise money for something like that? We are giving people an opportunity to invest in something that God is doing and He has called us to involve others in a partnership. It is the greatest thing that a person could ever give to.

When you ask for support and the answer is no you are not being rejected. This is not about if you are worthy. God has not called everyone to provide support. And don't be fooled by the cover of the book! Everyone deserves the opportunity to be a part of God's awesome plan and be blessed as you will be blessed. Embrace fundraising for your mission trip with the belief that you are giving others an opportunity to be blessed by giving.

Here are a few ideas to help you with fund-raising for a mission trip.

1. On average, \$2,500 can be raised by writing a well-written letter sent to 75 people you know such as family and friends. (sample letter enclosed). Make sure to send a follow-up thank you note for each donation.
2. Instead of presents for your birthday, Christmas, or special event, ask for money to go towards the trip.
3. Plan a garage sale with all proceeds going toward the mission trip. Make sure to post posters at the garage sale stating what the profits are going for to educate people.
4. Sell your services. Use your computer to make fliers and offer to do chores for cash or to teach a special skill such as computers, knitting, a second language. Let people know why you need the money. Pass these out, especially to your fellow parishioners.
5. Save! Save!! Save!!! You may have to give up the daily soda quarter and the Big Mac for a while. Put the money in the bank.
6. Set a monthly goal. i.e. if you have 4 months to raise \$800. Set a goal to raise \$200 each month till you realize your goal. Some people find it much easier to raise funds this way than a lump sum which can be intimidating at times.

Date

Dear _____:

I'd like to share with you a trip that I am going to take that will hopefully be a life changing experience for the people I meet, as well as me. I feel led to go on a mission trip with others from my church. Our team will be traveling to _____ from _____ (date) to _____ (date).

While we are there we will be ministering to the people of _____ through _____. We will also be helping the missionaries in any way that we are needed. We are going to be the hands and feet of Christ.

Now, all I need is the money to get there. I need sponsors. I am looking for _____ people to sponsor me for \$ _____ toward this amazing experience. However, I realize that this amount may not be possible, so any amount that you might be able to give would be greatly appreciated.

If you would like to be part of this mission through your financial support, send a check payable to: First Baptist Church, 301 E. Capitol Avenue, Jefferson City, MO 65101. An envelope and form are enclosed for your convenience. Please make your check payable to "First Baptist Church" and write my name on the memo line. All contributions are tax deductible and non-refundable but please note that means no refunds will be given. Your gift is considered a gift to the trip, not to me as an individual. The church will apply it to my trip but if I am unable to go or I raise more than I need, the money will go toward the trip in general.

Please pray for me as I prepare for this mission and while we are there. Pray that people will see the love of Jesus through us and will be touched in some way. My prayer is that this trip proves to be life changing for the people of _____ as well as for me.

Thank you for letting me share with you what will be one of the most meaningful experiences of my life. If you cannot help in a financial way, please help support me with your prayers.

In His service,

Your name

Date

Dear _____:

I want to share with you a challenging ministry opportunity God has presented to me. During _____, I will be going to _____ with a team from First Baptist Church, Jefferson City, Missouri.

Our two-week trip will focus on _____. The purpose of our trip is three fold:

- First, we will be allowing God to work in our lives through the personal enrichment that comes from this type of a mission trip.
- Second,
- Third,

I'm excited about the opportunity and experience that lie ahead. I hope you see the value in what we will accomplish. As you can imagine, a trip like this requires financial support from many people. I need to raise _____ by _____. If you can support me in a financial way, I would be very grateful. And, most importantly, I also need your prayer support. Prayer is the fuel that will allow us to be successful as we follow God's leading in ministry in these countries. Without prayer, nothing will happen.

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While money is important, it comes in a distant second to my need for your prayer support. Since prayer support is so important to the success of this mission, I would like to know if I can count on you in that area. Enclosed is a bookmark that you can put in your Bible, on your bathroom mirror, on the "fridge", or anywhere else you will see it at least once a day. Please pray daily for the areas listed.

In His service,

Your name