

Writing prayer and financial support letters

(For International trip only)

Writing support letters is one way of funding your trip from what God has entrusted to others. Pray and ask Him to guide you to those who are ready and willing to contribute to your trip. He will do His part to prompt them to make the donation. You may be surprised to find how many family members, friends, or others are willing to donate to your trip and how God works in the lives of others through this process. Prayer and support letters are mandatory!

Support letters should include the following: (use the trip information sheet for some details)

1. **Dates of your trip and information about the city/country to which you are going.** Include a brief description of the area including things such as per capita income, population, history of Christianity in the area, etc.
2. **Description of what the team will be doing.** Include any planned activities such as Vacation Bible School, construction, evangelism, etc.
3. **Why you want to be involved in this trip.** Each team member should explain his/her own call to this particular trip and the personal growth they hope to achieve.
4. **How you would like the reader to be involved.** Indicate whether you are requesting prayer or financial assistance or both. Give specific prayer requests for you and the team.
5. **The exact cost of the trip. Include this line in your letter- “Any amount I raise above and beyond the cost of my trip will go to help other needs or expenses we may encounter.”**
6. **Clear instructions on how they are to respond:**
 - Include the following statements- **“If you would like to give financially to help make this trip possible for me, you can give online at XXXXXXXXXX (specific website address to be finalized soon) or via a check payable to Faith Bible Church. Instructions on how to donate online or by mail can be found on the enclosed donation slip.”**

Additionally,

- **Each team member should compose his or her own letter.** Multiple siblings that are going on the trip may choose to write one combined letter, if preferred.
- **Keep it brief.** The first page will probably be read; additional pages may or may not. You may want to include a map or photo to enhance your letter.
- **Have your parents proofread your letter.**
- **By January 30th (and prior to sending) submit your letter via email to eric@faith-cr.org for proofing. Put your name in the Subject Line. Within 24 hours, Eric will review and note any revisions, corrections, or suggestions that are needed and reply back to you.**
- **Eric will provide instruction & response slips for you to pick up and include in your letter.**
- **Send your letters by February 6th, 2022.**
- **Follow up.** Write a thank you note acknowledging their gift and prayer support. Also write a follow up note after the trip to tell your supporters about your trip.

Support Letters

Most teams choose to do at least one fundraising event in addition to sending out support-raising letters. Support letters are a great way to help students raise their funds for a number of different reasons.

1. Experience Missionary Life

One reason that support letters are a good opportunity for students is that they see what it is like to be a missionary as they learn how to effectively share their mission. For years missionaries have relied on letters as the means of communication to friends, family, and churches that contribute financially to them. When students send out support letters and see how God uses individuals to provide for them, they will in turn be excited when they receive support letters from missionaries and will excitedly give to what God is doing around the world.

2. Watch God Provide

Another reason that letters are a great way for students to raise support is that it shows students that God is truly our provider. God uses people in the church to provide for those in need and they will experience this first hand. God often chooses to give through those from whom we least expect it to show the provision is from Him. As students experience God's providence, their faith in Him will grow.

3. See God's Team in Action

Yet another reason that letters are a great way for students to raise support is that it allows others in the church to use their giftedness. God has created some in the body of Christ to be senders. Many men and women in the church body love to support those who go out and do Christ's work when they are unable to go. Others are gifted with a heart for prayer and intercession. Often times those who receive support letters, but are unable to financially provide will support your team in their prayers and supplications.

As your team begins fundraising through letters consider the whole process of fundraising through letters:

Prayer: Preparing your heart and asking God boldly to provide.

Writing Letter: Writing a letter that talks about what your team will actually be doing.

Sending Letter: Brainstorming potential supporters and sending out a letter to the potential supporters.

Contact Recipients: Contacting recipients of the letter to talk about the trip.

Follow-up: Thank you note or follow up post trip.

Prayer:

As with all fundraising, begin in prayer. Approach the throne with boldness and ask God to provide all that you need for this trip. When you do you will be amazed at how God does provide.

Writing Letter:

When you write your letter, make sure to talk about the mission that you are going to come alongside of; talk about how you specifically will be impacting the Kingdom. Often times groups fall into the trap of just talking about how much fun they will have on the trip and the relationships they will be building with each other. While these are all wonderful outcomes of a trip like this, that is not what you are going out to do. Tell them the impact you expect to have and what you will be doing on the trip.

Tips for Writing a Support Letter:

- Bold the most important information.
- Talk about how God has prepared you for this opportunity.
- Talk about the impact you will have.
- Don't be afraid to ask for support and prayer.
- Emphasize that you are part of a team.
- Keep it short.
- Add a "PS" line that sums up everything.

(See Sample Support Letter.)

Sending the Letter:

Once you have written a support letter you need to come up with a list of people you will send it to. Don't be afraid to send your letter to every Christian you or your family knows, unsaved family as well. Use the attached sheet to help you brainstorm ideas of people to whom you could send a letter. Once you have come up with a list, create a spread sheet to track your contact with each potential supporter. In that spread sheet you should track whom you have sent letters to, who has responded, and your follow up with every giver.

When you send the letter out, include a response card (see example) and an envelope correctly addressed with a stamp for a quick and easy response.

Sample Support Letter:

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Schulte,

Over the past three years I have had the opportunity to grow so much in my faith through the exciting youth ministry at our church. I have been involved in a Bible study with a group of 8 boys; we have been studying the book of I Timothy. We have been holding each other accountable to studying the Bible on our own and praying for each other. I have also been involved in the church's children's ministry by leading games during the weekly Wednesday night program.

Pastor Gary, our youth pastor, has seen the growth that has happened in me and asked me to come on a **mission trip this summer to the Navajo Indian Reservation**. When he told me about the opportunity this trip will give us to share Christ with the Navajo people through construction and a children's ministry my heart jumped. I have been looking for a way to take my faith share it with those who have not heard the Good News yet.

On our trip we will be doing home renovation as an outreach to the Navajo Indians. Many of the Indians celebrate the religion of their ancestors that praise the gods of nature as the ones who provide for their well being. What an awesome experience it will be to share the news of a living, loving God who wants to see them reconciled with Him forever!

I, along with 12 other students from our youth group, am going to be in Arizona for two weeks doing construction for and evangelizing to this people group.

Would you aid us on our trip by covering our whole team in prayer, as we will need diligence to work hard and courage to share the Gospel with the children?

Would you prayerfully consider sending us out as bearers of the Gospel to the Navajo people by financially supporting us?

I must raise \$1,000 by May 2nd in order to carry the Message to the Navajo people.

Thank you so much for your prayers and support.

In His Love,

Kristin Peterson

PS- Please prayerfully use the enclosed response card and envelope to come alongside myself and our team as we reach out to the Navajo people this June.

Contact Recipients:

Don't rely on a letter alone to raise the support you need for your trip. Personally contact recipients and tell them again why you are excited to be going on this trip and ask them again to join your prayer and financial support team. Many people will choose to call the people on their list and touch base with them about the trip one more time. When you talk to them say something like this:

Greeting:

Chat briefly. Exchange pleasantries:

"Hello Grandma, this is Kristin. How are you doing?... What has been happening at church?..."

Transition:

"Things are going well here Grandma. The school year is going well, but I am really excited about the opportunity I have to serve this summer on the Navajo Reservation. It is going to be a stretching and growing time, but a very fruitful time in the Kingdom as our team..."

Remind them of your need:

"Did you get my letter last week about the support I need to raise for this trip? I am looking for friends and family like yourself to come alongside me in prayer and financial support."

Thank them in advance:

"Thank you Grandma for your prayers as we are on this trip, it is going to be an amazing time of outreach and I look forward to telling you all about it when I come back."

Follow-up:

Be sure to follow up with all of your prayer and financial supporters upon returning from your trip. You should send them a thank you note within three weeks of getting back. When you send them a note, tell about the "fruit" that you saw come of your trip and remind them that their partnership helped make that possible. Talk about how you grew and about the impact it had on the people that you served. Remember to track this contact as well to be certain you haven't forgotten anyone who joined you in support.