

RAISING SUPPORT

You have decided to go on this mission trip and now it is time for you to put your faith into action. Remember that faith without works is dead! Be encouraged! Thousands of people JUST LIKE YOU have successfully raised the necessary funds for their mission trip. The purpose of this document is to give you a step by step plan of action on how to raise your support through family and friends. Raising support through other people allows them to exercise their gift of giving and to become a member of your team through their prayers and financial support. You are giving them an opportunity to obey the Great Commission and receive eternal reward!

OUR STRONGEST ADVICE. Do not procrastinate! Start today!

1. **PRAY**

Unless the Lord builds the house, those who work labor in vain! Pray that the Lord will help you to raise support for this trip. Pray for the people you will be ministering to on the mission trip. Pray for wisdom and guidance. Pray for every person you ask to financially support you on this trip. Pray for God to show you who to ask!

2. **MAKE A LIST.**

Make a list of everyone you know. We encourage you not to let fear stop you from putting someone's name down on your list. Walk by faith! Some can only give three *mites*, others can give more, but all will be blessed to sow into the Kingdom of God. People on your list could include:

- Relatives - parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins
- Neighbors
- Co-workers - current and previous
- Your friends
- Church friends and acquaintances- old and new
- Civic and social group acquaintances

3. **WRITE A LETTER** to everyone on your list. The letter should be written from your heart, no more than one page in length, and should include enough facts to explain your vision and goals for this trip. We have included a sample letter on the next page that will help you.

Below are some key elements that should be included in your letter:

- Where are you going?
- Why are you going?
- Who are you going with?
- What do you expect to happen there?
- What do you expect God to do in you?
- How much money you need?
- The final date(s) you need to raise the funds
- Who to make the check out to and where to send it

RAISING SUPPORT – Continued

4. PREPARING THE ENVELOPES

- a. The address should be neatly handwritten rather than typed for a more personal approach.
- b. Enclose a stamped, self-addressed, *return envelope*. You can use labels for this envelope.

For accounting purposes, we recommend the funds be returned directly to you. That way you can keep a record of the monies you have received. The checks should be payable to Crosspoint Ministries. All checks should then be given to us for deposit and credit to your account.

Note: IRS laws require that in order for your contributors to receive a charitable deduction, your name should not be written on any portion of the check.

5. MAKE PHONE CALLS/WRITE EMAILS

- a. Call the people on your list within **one week** after they receive your letter.

“Hi Mr. Jones, this is Jared. How are you? I was calling to (let you know that I sent you a letter) (make sure you received my letter) concerning my trip to (Peru) this summer. I wanted to call and ask if there is anything you can give to sponsor me on this trip? If they say yes, thank them and ask if they have the address to mail it to and let them know the FIRST deadline that your fundraising is due. If they cannot give at this time, ask if they would be willing to pray for you and give them the dates of the trip. Make a list of your donors and your prayer partners and be sure to thank them both.”

6. SEND A SECOND LETTER or EMAIL

If you have not received a reply (yes or no) after **three weeks**, we encourage you to send a second letter. This letter should be a “praise report” telling them of the money you have already received. Be positive, not pushy, and include a statement of where you stand in reaching your financial goal and ask them to continue to pray for you. You do not need to stamp the self-addressed envelope this time. *“Dear Mrs. Smith, I have already raised \$1000 toward my goal of \$2300 for the mission trip I am going on this summer. Please continue to pray with me that I will meet my goal.”*

7. BE THANKFUL!

Praise God for every financial gift you receive. Also, within a day or two of receiving a support check, send a thank you note or email to that person. The Bible commands us to be thankful!

8. FOLLOW-UP REPORT -

When you return from your trip, be sure to send a letter to everyone telling them about your mission trip and how it has affected your life. Send

this letter to everyone on your original list, whether or not they helped you out financially. Be sure to include pictures and praise reports.

9. A FINAL THOUGHT – Please don't allow the support raising to keep you from going on the trip. God has deposited a desire in your heart to GO because He is calling you. To answer such a huge call takes determination. Once we make up our minds to answer the call, the enemy does everything in his power to stop us. But Jesus has given us all authority over him. Once we put our hand to the plow by telling people we are going and giving them an opportunity to send us, we see the faithfulness of God rising up over the schemes of the enemy and God provides everything we need. It is exciting to watch God work through the process.

Please do not give up. Take time to pray about it today. Ask God to help you make a list of people who you can send letters to using our sample letter attached to this email. Take a few hours to print, stuff, address and stamp letters this weekend. Get them in the mail and then wait on God. You will enjoy going to your mailbox each day.

Then be sure to follow up by thanking those who give and calling those you don't hear from to see if there is anything they can do. Like we mentioned above, you also need people to commit to pray for you on this venture.

Remember, we do not wrestle against flesh and blood. The minute you inquired about the trip, you entered into a spiritual battle. But it is a battle you have already won! And it is a battle that will draw you closer to God, mature you and bring you such fulfillment as you purpose in your heart to make an eternal difference in the world.

We are praying for you. We are here to encourage you and to help you in any way that we can! Most of all, we are here to serve God with you on the mission field and together make a difference in the lives of countless people.

To God be the Glory!