

Missions trip support raising

"When I go to Spain . . . I hope to . . .to have you assist me on my journey there."

-- *Romans 15:24*

How do you find the financial aid you need to go on a short term mission experience? How do you get people to consider making donations?

Here's a funding strategy outline

1. Let your **daily prayer times** be permeated with the sense that you are looking primarily to the Lord to provide your finances.
2. Make a list of individuals and churches with whom you can share your vision and call.
Ideas for contacts to recruit sponsors:
 - Your church missions committee or council
 - The church where you grew up
 - Churches on your home district
 - Friends and acquaintances at each of these churches
 - People at your work place (current and summer)
 - Acquaintances outside your normal church circles (neighbors, for instance)
 - Alumni from your school
 - Friends involved in other Christian groups and ministries
 - Friends and contacts of your parents
 - Relatives
 - Christian contacts at your university (professors, administrators, staff)
 - Christian parents of your friends
 - Your close friends
 - Your Executive Minister at your American Baptist Churches Region office.
3. Prioritize your list into your "Top 10," Second 10, Third 10 and so on.
Those "Top 10" donors or sponsors will probably provide two-thirds of your financial support.
4. Prayerfully individualize your fund-raising appeals.
 1. Ask appropriately.
 2. Don't be afraid to ask for large gifts of money.
 3. Decide the best way to contact each person on your top 10 list and what gift range you would like to ask them to consider giving.
Possible ways to contact are:
 - Face-to-face funding presentations
 - Phone call followed with an information letter and response card and envelope
 - Fund-raising letter with an information sheet and response card and envelope, followed up by a phone call if they do not get back to you in time
 - Church presentation
 - Other creative options such as car wash
4. Pray, then contact each person on your "Top 10" list. Set yourself a deadline to get this done
5. Follow up with them as planned
6. Repeat steps 1-5 for your second 10
7. Continue steps 1-6 until you reach 100% of your fund raising goal

Examples of mission trip support letters

Asian prayer journey

Dear friends and family,

Can you envision a land where cows are holy, animal sacrifices are a weekly occurrence and human cremations take place daily? I want to share with you a challenging ministry opportunity God has presented to me. During March 28 - April 10, I will be going to Bangkok and Nepal with a team from First Christian Church.

Our two-week trip will focus on Hindu and Buddhist cultures in this area of the world that is often referred to as 'the heart of darkness.' The purpose of our trip is fourfold:

- 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, this Prayer Journey will help us focus our individual prayers by traveling to a foreign land and praying 'on-site with insight.' We will pray for the Hindu and Buddhist people that God may open their eyes and hearts to the message of Jesus.
- Third, we will be visiting an 'unreached people group' of which less than 1% is Christian. First Christian Church has adopted the Newar people group and is assisting in bringing them the gospel. We will be working with some Newar churches to help them grow in their Christian walk.
- Fourth, we will encourage local Christians in Bangkok and Kathmandu. Our presence will bolster their spirits and support their work. We will visit many small villages in Nepal where we will develop relationships with the Christians there.

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 a number of people. I need to raise \$3,000 by March 20th. 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.

If you would like to be part of this mission through your financial support, send a check to: [insert church address here]

Envelopes are enclosed for your convenience. Please make your check payable to First Christian Church and write "Nepal" and my name on the memo line. All contributions are tax deductible.

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.

Because they haven't heard,
(Signed)

Week-long summer trip to Mexico

Dear [name]

I have an opportunity this summer, June 2-9, to join churches around the Dallas/Ft. Worth metroplex and across the U.S. on a mission trip to Juarez, Mexico. On our trip we will be holding vacation Bible schools for the children of Juarez and working on different construction sites around the city. What a chance to minister to others!

I am excited about what God is going to do in my life and in other people's lives through this ministry this summer. I do, however, need your help. We will be flying to El Paso and then busing over the border to Juarez. I will need to raise around \$500 before June 2. Anything you can do to help will be greatly appreciated.

Please be a part of this awesome opportunity, for I know that you too will be blessed. Thank you and God bless

In Christ,

[the bottom third of the letter was a response form to be returned]

Taken from Southern Nazarene University -- fulfilling the Great Commission
Howard Culbertson, professor of missions and world evangelism
<http://home.snu.edu/~hculbert/index.htm>