

Mission Fundraising Step-by-Step

God is already providing you the resources necessary for your trip. If you do not have the means readily available, God may desire that you use the need as an opportunity to allow others to participate through prayer and giving, and to grow your own faith and dependence on Him in the process. Here are some suggestions to help you get started:

STEP 1	PRAY. Express your total dependence on the Lord. Enlist others to pray with you.
STEP 2	BEGIN WITH ASKING YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY. This is a wonderful opportunity to begin a spiritual conversation with those closest to you. People give to people they know and care about.
STEP 3	MAKE A LIST OF OTHER PROSPECTS. Include church friends, relatives, neighbors and schoolmates. Ask your parents to use their Christmas card list. How about your doctor, lawyer, or dentist? Do not leave people off your list because you think they will not or cannot support you. God may have other plans.
STEP 4	WRITE YOUR LETTERS. We encourage you to read the ideas and insert your information into the sample letter at the bottom of this page or use them as references as you create your own letters. Remember to include a self addressed stamped envelope for the person to submit payment. Follow up to the recipients with e-mails and phone calls. Important Note Regarding Contributions: If the donor, be it you or someone contributing to your trip, would like to receive tax credit, they must submit a check made payable to your local church and have the church send the funding to Open Bible Central directly. Make sure to check with your pastor prior to suggesting or using this option.
STEP 5	KEEP TRACK. As you receive gifts, have a simple way to keep track.
STEP 6	SEND FUNDING TO OPEN BIBLE CENTRAL: Online: Go to www.openbiblecentral.org/india to make scheduled payments. By Mail: Send check (<i>made out to Open Bible Central</i>) with note describing who to credit it to.
STEP 7	SAY THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SUPPORTED YOU. Write a personal thank you note when you receive the check <i>and</i> then again after you return from your trip with your results and experiences.

OTHER WAYS TO RAISE MONEY FOR SHORT-TERM MISSION TRIPS

Yard Sale:

Ask members of your church, friends, and family to donate household items for a yard sale. Advertise in your church and community. Promote the yard sale as a fundraiser for Christian missions. Donate all leftover items to another charity.

Car Wash:

Host a car wash in front of a local business in your community. Use lots of signage and energetic participants. Instead of setting a price, allow car owners to give what they feel is appropriate. Sell advanced sale coupons in your church and to friends and family.

Rent-A-Missionary:

Pick a weekend to rent yourself out for yard work or babysitting. Allow the renters to pay as they feel led. Organize a parent's night out at a home or church. Allow parents to drop off their kids at one location and find some friends to help you babysit. Create a spring cleaning day and volunteer to take truckloads of trash to the dump.

Meal Tickets:

Host a spaghetti feed or barbecue at your house after church. Get your food, plates, and drinks donated or purchased at a discount. Sell advance tickets. Turn the event into a church social.

Bake Sale:

Ask your church if you can set out cookies, cakes, pies, and cupcakes on a Sunday morning. Sell them all to the highest bidders after church. This can easily be combined with another meal or fundraising event.

Crowdfunding:

There are dozens of websites (Generosity.com, Crowdrise.com, GoFundMe.com, GoGetFunding.com, etc.) that help you raise funds. The website hosts your page, receives the donations and takes a percentage. Crowdfunding support raisers work best when the URL of the fundraising site is shared via social media or e-mail. This is a near effortless way to raise support, you just have to get the word out.

FUNDRAISING: SUPPORT LETTERS

Letters are VITAL. If you have to choose between letters and events, choose letters. Here's why:

- They work. People love to see others serve, and they will respond. Even if they might not go themselves, they can be a part of your experience. Send it to Christians and non-Christians alike. Share WHY this cause is important to you – WHY you want to go on this trip.
- It's not just about money. It's about prayer support. This is absolutely necessary. Any trip that has a spiritual component will have spiritual opposition and requires a good prayer support team!
- They're wonderful faith builders. As team members see God provide both prayer and financial support (often times in the most unexpected people!), their faith grows and they go on the trip very aware that they're supposed to be there!

Practical Thoughts on Letter Writing

- Don't beat around the bush. You know why you're writing. They know why, too. Get to it.
- Make it personal. Tell about what's been going on in your life. Share from the heart. And even though we provide a sample letter, be sure your letter sounds like it's from you. Keep it personal and in your own voice.
- Have somebody read it over for you. Spell-check it. Basically, do an excellent job.
- Let them know exactly what you'll be doing (as much as you know) and WHY!
- Ask for both prayer and financial support. Give specific prayer items (maybe you want to make a daily prayer list, asking for specific requests for each day. This encourages daily prayer.)
- Provide a return envelope with a stamp already on it. This will cost you a bit, but it encourages a response.
- Check with your church to find out what the policy is on sending letters to people within the church (only applicable if you're sending on behalf of the church to people with whom you are NOT acquainted). Most likely you'll just be sending to family and friends.
- Send lots of letters.
- Send a follow-up postcard or note thanking those who've indicated they're going to support you for your trip, letting people know where you're at, and tell them that if they forgot or would still like to support you, it's not too late!
- Immediately send a thank you note when you receive the money or their response.
- Send a follow-up letter upon your return – share your experience and how they helped make it possible.

SAMPLE LETTER #1

<DATE>

Dear <NAME OF RECIPIENT>,

I'd like to share with you about a great opportunity that I believe God is leading me to – an opportunity to serve people in India on a short-term mission trip. That's why I'm writing...I'd love for you to be a financial and prayer partner in this mission with me.

I believe this is a new step that God is asking me to make. I am excited for all that I will learn in the months leading up to the trip, during the trip and after I return home. I believe God is going to "do a good work in me" as a result of this incredible opportunity.

Our team will spend most of our time focused on helping and serving the poorest of the poor in the slums of India! Our goal is to reach out with Christ's love to the abandoned and outcast.

As I prepare for the trip, I need your prayers for safety and God to work in and through me, and I want to humbly ask you to consider supporting me financially. The cost of the trip is \$2,500. Any amount would be great, but if you would be willing to contribute \$20, \$50, \$100 or more, it would really help me to reach my goal!

Please prayerfully consider how you would be willing to support me during this trip—either through prayer, financial support or both. Thank you for partnering with me and supporting me as I prepare for this adventure! I look forward to letting you know how the trip impacted my life when I return!

Blessings,

<YOUR NAME>

SAMPLE LETTER #2

<DATE>

Dear <NAME OF RECIPIENT>,

I am writing to share with you the fantastic opportunity that the Lord has provided for me. I have decided to serve on a short-term mission team with other students from Open Bible's Central Region!

When: June 9-18, 2018

Where: India

Cost: \$2,500. This covers airfare, food, hotel and materials. Each team member is responsible for raising 100% of their financial and prayer support.

Purpose: The first and foremost reason for going is to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with the people. Our team will spend most of our time focused on helping and serving the poorest of the poor in the slums of India! Our goal is to reach out with Christ's love to the abandoned and outcast.

Prayer Needs:

- 1) God will open the hearts of the people.
- 2) Team unity.
- 3) I will be open to what God wants to teach me.

I am so excited about this trip! Will you please consider sharing this opportunity with me as the Lord leads you to pray and/or give? Financial support is essential to my going on this trip, but of equal or greater importance is your commitment to pray!

If you would like to be involved financially, please make your check payable to _____ and use the enclosed envelope.

In Christ,

<YOUR NAME>