

Fundraising

Total cost: \$

Date	Amount Due	Type
		Deposit
		Payment
		Final Payment

Raising Financial Support

START HERE: Attitude Check. This is an incredible opportunity for you to trust God! For some of you this will be the biggest step of faith you have taken since the day you decided to follow Jesus. Believe it or not, raising support will be a blessing in your life because your faith will be strengthened as you see how God provides. Take time to thank God that you get the privilege of raising your personal support for this project.

THEN: Ask yourself a question. How do I feel about asking other people for monetary support? (Come on, be honest!) Do you feel like you are asking for handouts? Maybe you don't feel worthy of receiving the generosity of others? The need to raise support will often uncover pride in a person's heart. In others it will raise issues of insecurity or fear. Don't ignore these feelings. Whatever God shows you about yourself, face it and talk with Him about it.

AFTER THAT: Go to God's Word. Take some time to study and reflect on the following verses:

- Luke 8:1-3
- Luke 17: 10-12
- 2 Corinthians 8:1-5
- Philippians 4:10-20
- 1 Thessalonians 5:24
- 3 John 5-8
- Exodus 25:1-2
- 1 Kings 17:1-16

What do they say to you about raising support? What do they say about God's faithfulness/your attitude?

NOW: You're ready to begin.

1. Create a list of names of people who might be interested in what you are doing. Think of those who have had significant roles in your life. Your list could include:

- Parents
- Relatives
- Friends from high school
- Friends from college
- Sunday school teachers
- Neighbors
- Former high school teachers
- Former or current professors
- Family friends
- Employers
- People in your current church
- People in your home church
- People to whom you have ministered in some way (maybe in your Bible study, etc.)

2. **Don't censor your list.** You will always be able to think of a reason why you shouldn't ask any of these individuals to consider contributing to your overseas trip: "He doesn't have much money"..."I haven't talked to them in a long time"..."They already give a lot to the church"...etc. Just write the names down. It is tempting to want to make decisions for others. Even someone who doesn't have much might truly enjoy having a small part in what you are doing.
3. **Begin to pray for the people on your list.** What do you know about their lives and needs? Would God put it on their hearts to give? (If some of the individuals on your list are friends of your parents you might want to ask your parents' permission before approaching them. This is especially true if your parents are not Christians.)
4. **Write your letter.**
 - Explain what you are doing, why you want to do it, and what you are asking them to do. Be specific: "Would you please consider making a contribution in order to help cover my expenses for this trip? I need to raise \$3,500."
 - Be sure to include information such as where to send checks, who to make them out to, and the date you need them. Make sure to give them ample time to reply and you won't have to wonder up to the last minute if you are going to have enough funds.
 - Funds can be mailed to:
Central Baptist Church
Attn: Missions Office
1991 FM 158
College Station, TX 77845
 - If writing a check, make it out to Central Baptist Church, and put "Mission Trip Support for (first and last name)" on the memo line.
5. **Security Guidelines:** If you are going on a team to some place other than Europe, you will need to observe the following security guidelines. PLEASE OBSERVE ALL OF THESE GUIDELINES.
 - Do NOT print the name of the city or country to which you are going. Please only refer to a region such as North Africa, Middle East, Central Asia, East Asia, South Asia or Southeast Asia.
 - Do NOT print the names of the people on the field with whom you will be working.
 - When speaking in front of churches, student ministries or other large groups please do NOT mention the names of the city, country or people on the field you will be working with.
 - You may want to use caution when mentioning the name of the people group you will be focusing on as well.

6. **Enclose a pre-addressed envelope** for their convenience. It is not necessary to put a stamp on it. If someone wants to contribute, they will not mind providing their own postage.
7. **Keep a record** of who gives and promptly send a **thank you note** to each one.
8. **At the end of the summer, write to people** you wrote to originally and thank them for praying. Share something about your experience overseas, what you learned, how you saw God at work, etc. It is perfectly okay for this to be a form letter. Choose one of your favorite photographs from your trip to copy in the letter. You might want to jot a personal note at the end of the letters sent to individuals that contributed financially.
9. **Remember:** Ultimately, you are depending on God, not on people.

Fundraising Letter Example

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)