



hope fellowship

experience the journey...

raising support for mission trips



SERVE
our world

so, you want to go on a mission trip...

...but you need to raise all or some of the money for your trip. Rest assured that you are not alone. You will be in the good company of people like Paul who needed the support of the church to carry out his ministry. We understand that you may have many questions and even some fears. We believe that as you read and follow the steps outlined, while also praying, you will be greatly encouraged, your fears will be overcome and you will see the faithfulness of God who provides for the work that He calls us to do. We believe that this pamphlet, which provides the biblical rationale behind the practice of raising support, will be of help to you. Once you have an understanding of the biblical model, you will be better able to raise support with boldness and confidence.

developing a vision

Raising support is not about raising money, it's about sharing a vision. It's about sharing the excitement of God's call and the opportunity He has set before you; and it's about giving others a chance to participate in God's plan to us to serve others. The basic principle you need to understand is that people are giving to God's work and not to you personally. You need to have a sense of purpose when you ask, and there is no greater purpose than God's will or His work. Do you have a vision or idea of how the Lord may use you? If not pray about it and ask Him to reveal it to you. God desires for us to serve others, for everyone to enter His Kingdom and experience His love.



living by faith today

All Christians need to live by faith (2 Cor. 5:7, Heb. 11:6) regardless of how they receive their finances. The bottom line is that you need to be willing to do whatever it is the Lord asks you to do. Raising support is a matter of obedience to God's word and calling, not of following your feelings. If God calls you to go on this mission, then He will provide everything you need to fulfill your ministry, including emotional strength and perseverance.

God's promises

Psalms 84:11 "For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord will give grace and glory; no good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly."

Luke 11:9-10 "And I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives, and he who seeks, finds, and to him who knocks, it will be opened."

Luke 18:27 "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God."

Romans 8:28 "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God and are called according to His purpose."

2 Corinthians 9:8 "God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."

Ephesians 3:20 "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us..."

tax deductions

All donors will receive a tax-deductible receipt. However, donations are not refundable according to the IRS stipulation. If you must cancel your trip or have extra funds donated, these can be credited to another individual's trip or the mission trip.

make note of deadlines

Regardless of whether you individually pay the cost of the mission trip or raise financial support to cover the cost, all participants must abide by the deadlines for registration, deposits, payments, visa applications and cancellations. If you have any questions, please contact Launa Vaughn, Hope's Missions Pastor, at 972-377-8855 or email launa@hopefellowship.net

recruit a prayer team

As you begin the support raising process, keep in mind that you are also seeking to develop a prayer team along with the financial support. Having a team of people lifting you up in prayer as you go is an important part of the mission journey.

steps to successful support raising

1: Pray!

Ask God to provide for your need (Ps. 50:10-12 NAS). Remember, if God has called you, He will provide for your financial needs (Phil. 4:19). If you have sensed God's call to go on this mission trip and you are in need of additional financial help in order to go, just remember that this does not come as a surprise to God. He is aware of your need and has prepared a way to meet that need. Do not mislead yourself though, you must put into action a plan to raise support.

2: Brainstorm! Who should you write to and call?

Use these ideas to create your list:

- Your Christmas card list
- Your Life Group
- Your family physician, dentist, etc.
- Neighbors, Co-workers, Relatives
- School classmates
- As many people as you know!

Tip: Do not assume that anyone on your list cannot or will not support you financially. You do not want to limit God's plan to meet your financial and prayer support needs.

3: Prepare and send your fund-raising letter.

- Write a rough draft, have someone proof read it for you.
- Keep your letter to one page if possible.
- Personalize your letter. Use a computer to do a mail merge with your newly created mailing list to personalize it, or handwrite it. (Never address a support letter to 'Dear Friend').
- Include a self-addressed return envelope.
- Use the provided sample letter to help you get you started. We encourage you to personalize this letter because you are sending it to friends. However, it shares all of the essential elements needed in a support letter.
- Send it out
- **You can always send an email as well!!** You know your friends and family and the best way to contact them. Once you've submitted your deposit, you will be given a link that allows individuals to go online and contribute to your trip. They will need to create an account with F1 and then go back and sign in, choose you for the individual they'd like to help monetarily and then submit their payment information.



sample letter

Dear _____,

I want to share with you a wonderful opportunity I have to go to (name of country, or name of region for sensitive countries—ie: Central Asia) with Hope Fellowship from (trip date) to (trip date). As I heard about the opportunity, I really sensed God calling me to be a part of this team.

It is my prayer that as you read this letter you will consider joining me as a partner in this opportunity to serve the poor and needy, including the orphans in areas where the physical and spiritual needs are great. During the trip, I will be sharing gifts and talents with others, reaching out to the community and sharing the love of Christ. I fully expect to be touched just as much as those we are serving and can't wait to return home and share.

Would you consider partnering with me, both prayerfully and financially? I need to raise \$(dollar amount) to participate in this trip. (Or, I have determined I will personally be able to pay \$_____, leaving a balance of \$_____ that I need to raise.) Would you be willing to invest \$10, \$20 \$50 or even \$100 or some other amount God would lead you to give?

Your check (made payable to Hope Fellowship) will be tax deductible. Please use the enclosed envelope to mail your check to me so I can track my financial progress. My deadline to raise my total trip cost is (date).

Thank you for prayerfully considering joining me in this opportunity to reach out to those who need to know that God is real and that He loves them. If now is not a good time for you to give, I do understand; simply knowing that you are praying for me as I seek to raise the funds and while I go to (name of country) will be a great encouragement. I promise to send you a full report when I return.

Sincerely,

(Your signature)

write 'thank you' notes

Promptly write a 'thank you' note to those who support you. A handwritten note is best.

during the trip:

- Look for small easily mailed items that can serve as thank you gifts for those who supported you.
- Pre-print labels before you leave with the names and addresses of those who supported you.
- Keep a journal of daily events so you will be able to remember significant moments.
- Take photos that you may want to include in your follow-up report. Be sure to get some that include you with the children and adults at the sites you visit.
- Be sure to take time to meditate on what God is doing in you and through you.
- Listen to the stories others share about their experiences and get the "big picture" of what God is doing through Hope Fellowship's endeavor to serve the world.

when you return home:

- Write a letter explaining how the trip went and what was accomplished.
- Be sure to share a specific story about something you experienced, include details such as names and ages of the children in the story.
- Try to include photos in the graphics of your letter/email.
- You may want to send a copy of the letter to everyone you sent a support letter to; at the very least send a copy to anyone who supported you or prayed for your trip.
- If you bought a gift, include it with the report.
- Try to arrange an opportunity to give a verbal report to any of the groups you spoke to prior to the trip.
- Praise God for all He's done.
- Pray about what God has next for you!

other support raising ideas

Be Creative—Don't limit God—Try something new

- Hold a garage or yard sale.
- Have a bake sale—ask friends to help you prepare the goodies; offer some specialty items like "sugar free" or "low-carb" snacks.
- Auction off your skills— instead of babysitting, have an auction for 4 hours of babysitting, yard work, cleaning, running errands, preparing a dinner for four, etc.
- If you have friends who would like to help but can't give financially, ask if they will auction off a day or 1/2 a day of their services to help support your trip, too.
- Acquire "Shareholders" rather than supporters. Allow friends to buy shares in your trip. Provide "stock" certificates of appreciation.
- Hold a fund-raising dinner. Provide a simple meal (cook some national food from the country you will visit if you are adventuresome.) Prepare a slide show or photo exhibit of scenes from that country, include some of the orphans and street kids.
- If a dinner is too much to handle, invite friends to a tea. Provide desserts, chocolates and a variety of tea and coffee.