

# SEVEN STEPS FOR RAISING SUPPORT FOR A MISSION TRIP

**By William P. Dillon**

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So, you're going on a mission trip! It's a time for God to use you to accomplish his purposes and advance his kingdom. Are you worried about raising support?

You're not alone.

You need to develop a support-raising plan, but first, know that God has already chosen people who will invest in your ministry. As you follow his direction, he will lead you to people who are willing and able to support you.

The information below gives specific steps to take as you raise support in as short a time and in as efficient a manner as possible. Pray, and begin that journey of support/fundraising.

## **Step 1. Begin with Your Church**

The first step is contacting the leadership of your church. By contacting the church first, you recognize the church, your pastor, and your elders as your spiritual leaders and seek their approval on proceeding to enlist support in the church. You will benefit from your church's counsel now and in the days ahead. You need to have your church on your team!

There are four things you want to accomplish when you meet with your church:

1. Articulate how God led you to be a part of this mission trip.
2. Share your financial need.

3. Gain a clear understanding of the steps you should follow to request church support.
4. Identify ways to present your ministry in the church.

## **Step 2. Determine Who to Ask for Support**

The second step is to make a list of people to ask for support. Use the following list as a guide and check off each category. After you have added names from each category, make a list of prospective donors.

<p><b>Church Friends</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Home church</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Current church (if different)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other churches attended</p> <p><b>Relatives</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Parents</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Brothers</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Sisters</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Grandparents</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Aunts and uncles</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Cousins</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other relatives</p>	<p><b>Neighbors</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Past neighbors</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Current neighbors</p> <p><b>School contacts</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Grade school</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Junior high school</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> High school</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Junior college</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> College</p> <p><b>Work Colleges</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Current Work</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Previous Work</p>
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### Step 3. Record and Catalog Prospects

The third step in raising support for your short-term mission trip is to compile your list of potential friends and contributors and their contact information in an easy-to-use system. Ideally, you will computerize this list. However, you could simply set up a 4" x 6" card system.

Name	Home Phone
Address	Office Phone
City	Cell Phone
State	E-Mail
Zip	Other

### Step 4. Mail Your First Prayer Letter

In step four, you send your first prayer letter. Your initial letter should contain at least six components:

1. The opening sentence needs to grab people's attention.
2. Introduce or reintroduce yourself to people and bring them up to date with your life.
3. Convey your burden, passion, desire, and what you are looking forward to God doing in and through you because of this trip. Important!
4. Give the mission organization's name and tell about its vision and outreach. – You may need to do some research on the organization if your church, youth group, or school is using a secondary organization.
5. Inform the reader that you are responsible for raising your own support.
6. **Give the reader a way to respond to your financial need.**

## **Step 5. What about face-to-face meetings or personal phone calls?**

Choosing to meet face to face with the people you can (realizing this won't be everyone) to explain to them your missions and your heart is a great idea! When you meet, consider the following:

1. Update them on your life and let them update you on their life (be brief).
2. Share how God has led you to this mission opportunity.
3. Talk briefly about your mission organization. Get educated! Hop in the organizations' websites and know what they're doing and where!
4. Share your personal vision/desire/passion with this mission.
5. Share your financial need.
6. Ask for their support.

## **Step 6. Second Letter – An update to supporters!**

You might send out a second prayer letter before you leave. In this letter, you would update your friends on such things as:

1. Financial update on how much more you need yet to meet your goal if necessary.
2. Communicate your excitement and vision for your trip, and
3. Specific prayer requests.

## **Step 7. Send PERSONAL thank you notes to each person who contributes!**

- No matter how big or small a gift is, the people who give to you must be thanked. They should be thanked immediately. God will bless – in various ways – people that are grateful for how He is using others to provide for your needs.
- People owe you nothing! So, gratitude is hugely important!

We have outlined six key steps for you to pay attention to when considering raising support, but again, pray and expect God to work above and beyond your strategy.

*This article is adapted from People Raising Short Term Support Manual by William P. Dillon. This and other support-raising tools are available at [PeopleRaising.com](http://PeopleRaising.com).*

## **Additional Fundraising Tools**

*In addition to these helpful steps, click the following links for templates and other helpful suggestions for support letters: [Vanco Faith](#) | [Faithward](#) | [Experience Mission](#)*

Also, check out [this helpful resource on creative ways to fundraise](#) made by Experience Mission. This was made for socially-distant fundraising at the beginning of the pandemic but is still helpful today. Ideas include Adopt a Box, Tag Sales, and more!

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Seven Steps for Raising Support for a Mission Trip - Short ....  
[https://www.shorttermmissions.com/articles/support\\_raising\\_7\\_steps](https://www.shorttermmissions.com/articles/support_raising_7_steps)