

# RAISING SUPPORT



One of the first steps of your mission effort is trusting God through steps of faith to provide the funds. Raising support is an act of faith that God will get you where He wants you to go. It can be a time-consuming process, so get started as soon as you are accepted to the trip. Don't procrastinate. There are several ways to raise support.

We advise you to send out support letters regardless of how much you can pay with your own funds. Remember the goal is to raise supporters, not just support. You are looking for a team of people to invest in what God is doing in your life, not just asking people for money. You need to be completely covered in prayer as you go on your mission and the support raising process is ideal for that as well. Also, your letter itself can act as a challenge to other Christians to be involved around the world

**How Many?** We recommend that you send personalized support letters to at least 30 people for most trips.

**Who?** Ask the Lord's help in coming up with your support list. Don't be shy - send letters to friends, family, extended family, coworkers, non-believers, and anyone who might want to know what you are up to and might be able to help. Your letter may be an opening for you to share the Gospel with non-believers. You will be amazed how God will raise funds for you as you let Him direct you.

**How?** As soon as your application is approved and you've paid your deposit, write your letters and put them in the mail. You should write the letter yourself and have someone check it for spelling and grammar. Avoid a standard "form" letter if possible. The body of the letter can be the same for all recipients but personalize at least the name at the top and, if possible, an opening remark or closing comment for each letter you send. Limit your entire letter to no more than two pages. Below are two sample support letters to help you. Be sure to customize these to accurately reflect the details of your trip. Use a type font that is easy to read (12 or 14 point) and be sure to cover the following:

- a. Your call and motivation to go
- b. When and where you are going (Southeast Asia)
- c. What you will be doing and to whom you will be ministering

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d. What you want from those who get your letter:

i. Prayer - give specific ways to pray for you and those you are going to serve

ii. Financial Help - mention your financial deadlines

e. Details regarding financial gifts:

i. The amount needed

ii. How to give online or by check (participants names should not be on any checks given)

iii. Tax deductible nature of contributions

f. Thank them for praying and supporting you

5. Phone Calls. Around ten days after your letters are mailed, make follow-up phone calls to most of those to whom you sent letters. This will give you a chance to tell them a bit more about your trip and ensure they do not forget about your letter. If you aren't making phone calls, you aren't raising support!