

MISSION PROJECT SUPPORT TEAMS

Principles for Raising Funds

Three principles of financial support are:

1. To use personal earnings
2. To make needs known and ask others
3. Ask God

Biblical principles:

1. There is the principle of **self support**. There were times in Paul's ministry when he provided for his own financial needs by making tents.

And because he was a tentmaker as they were, he stayed and worked with them. Acts 18:3

For you recall brethren, our labor and hardship, how working day and night so as not to be a burden to any of you, we proclaimed to you the Gospel of God. 1 Thessalonians 2:9

2. **Making needs known** means sharing the vision and ministry with friends and asking them to prayerfully consider supporting the ministry financially.
 - In Exodus 12:35, God instructed Israel to ask the Egyptians for articles of silver and gold, and for clothing. In verse 36, we are told, "The Lord made the Egyptians favorable disposed toward the people and gave them what they asked for..."
 - In 1 Kings 17, the Lord instructed Elijah to make his needs known to a widow living a Zarepath. As a result, she provided food and lodging for Elijah for as long as he needed it.
 - In Acts 11:28-29, a prophet by the name of Agabus came making a need known in a manner that prompted the following response. "Then the disciples, each according to his ability, decided to provide help for their brothers living in Judea which they did."
3. There is the principle of **looking to God**. This means praying and making your needs known to God. We have His promise of provision.

And my God will meet all of your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19

Strategy for Raising Funds

Before you get started:

- Know you are called; it gives you credibility
- Understand your task; it helps you share the vision
- Be commissioned by a body of believers; it makes you accountable

Create a support team. You will need a support team that provides prayers, finances, and supplies for the trip. Prayer is the most important. If you have the prayers, the others will come.

- Prayer – We are going into Satan’s territory to lead others to Jesus Christ. This is spiritual warfare!!! Prayer is critical. We need a strong prayer team.
- Finances – Each team member must raise their own financial support – the total cost of the trip.
- Supplies – We will be taking in supplies for the people we are working with. Some people will pray, some will give money, and some will buy supplies.

❖ **Be accountable!!!! Send hand written thank you notes, prayer calendars, and trip reports to everyone who has been a part of your support team.**

Team members are asked to consider the meeting of their financial need by asking:

- 1. How would God want me to help myself?**
Take on an extra job; hold a garage sale, save your daily change in a jar
- 2. How would God want my family to help me?**
Hold a fundraiser for you, give financially
- 3. To whom would God want me to present the remainder of my financial need for support consideration?**
Friends, neighbors, co-workers, club members, former churches, former teachers

Remember – **people give to people!!!** It is not a fancy brochure or a clever presentation that evokes a giver as much as it is who asks and how they do it!

The point is to emphasize that they will be part of a ministry that is helping win the world to Christ. You are not sharing your need. You are asking for the people on the field: a little child, older adult or youth with whom you will be sharing.

BUILDING A SUPPORT TEAM

Each individual team member will be responsible for developing his or her own support team. The support team consists of:

- *Prayer Supporters (At least 25 per team members)
- *Financial Contributors

The concept is to develop a team, not just to raise funds. The most important need for the team member is for people to pray for him or her, before and during the project.

RAISING FUNDS

If an individual cannot pay for their trip, the most effective proven method to raise individual funds is to write a letter for distribution to friends, co-workers, neighbors, family, etc. People will give to people they know. Potential contributors are happy to have the opportunity to invest in someone they know personally or an endeavor they care about. God's Word promises us that He will supply our every need.

Prepare the Team List

Usually 25 or more is a good number to send out letters to. It is a great idea to use friends, relatives, Christian contacts, and non-Christians that God may open a door to witness to through this process

NOTE: We do encourage you to be the first person to invest in your project. Consider how God would have you to financially invest in the trip.

Compose the Letter

You are asking people to support the ministry of First Baptist Church of Forney. If you are asking for financial contributions, you are asking them to help with the cost that you will incur by conducting the ministry (transportation, meals while on the field, in-country housing, visa, travel insurance, etc.) A common testimony for team members is that while they were initially put off by the idea of sending support letters, the experience turned out to be a highlight of the entire trip.

- There are two types of letters:
 - 1) A letter sent out asking for prayer support only (if you are paying your own way)
 - 2) A letter sent out asking for prayer and financial support
- Compose your own letter. It is unwise to copy from a sample letter. People prefer to read a personal letter.
- Include the following information in the letter:
 - 1) Information about the country/culture you are going to
 - 2) Information about the sending organization (the church) and the hosting organization (the agency or national church)
 - 3) Description of what the team will be doing (why the team is doing this particular project)
 - 4) The cost of the trip (the same for each individual team member)
 - 5) Why you want to be involved on the trip (reasons for going that you feel strongest about)
 - 6) How God called you to go on this trip
 - 7) How you would like the reader to be involved (prayer, financial, both)
 - 8) All checks must be payable to **First Baptist Church of Forney**
 - 9) Mail the check to you (the team member) and then you can turn in the checks to the church.
 - 10) The date you need the money
 - 11) Contributors are not to write on the memo line of the check**
- Include a response slip for them to send to you or have them submit a note with the check explaining the reason for the gift.
- Keep the letter brief (one page).

** Make checks payable to First Baptist Church Forney

Make an online payment by going to www.fbcforney.org and then click **Giving and set up an account.

Select "Mission Trip" as the fund and then "International" or "North America" as the sub fund. Also please call or email the church to communicate the reason for the online gift so we can track it appropriately.

FBC Forney office number is 972-564-3357 or email slyle@fbcforney.org

Follow-up

It is the team member's responsibility to keep accurate records of who has supported them and at what amount. Please send all of your supporters a personal card or note for their gift, support or prayer.

SAMPLE SUPPORT LETTER

February 7, 2011

Dear Family and Friends:

I wanted to let you know about an exciting opportunity that I will have in July. A group from our church is going on a mission trip to Beirut Lebanon. We will leave on Thursday, July 14 and return on Saturday, July 23. While in Beirut, we will be working the local missionaries, churches, and the Beirut Baptist Society. Our efforts will plant seeds and support the work of these mission organizations.

Please pray for our team in the upcoming months as God prepares our hearts and minds for this adventure. Also, be in prayer for the people with whom God will allow us to share Christ's love. Attached you will find a schedule of our trip that you can use for a daily prayer guide. The most important thing you can do to support our team is to pray for us every day.

Finally, individuals making this trip to Beirut are responsible for all of their expenses amounting to \$1800. If you can help support this mission project financially, your contributions would be tax-deductible through First Baptist Church Forney, TX. You can make a check payable to the church and send it to me. Please cut off the attached slip (or include a note explaining the reason for your gift) and mail back in the enclosed stamped envelope.

I look forward to reporting to you about our trip when we return. If you have any questions please feel free to call me at 972-564-5325 or email at slyle@fbcforney.org.

Thank you,
Scott Lyle



(Please cut this slip and return in the envelope provided ~~ Thank you!)

Name _____ Email address _____

_____ I will be one of your prayer partners and commit to pray for you before the project and during it.

_____ I will financially support you with a gift of \$ _____

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