



NEW VISION
MISSIONS

Mission Trip Funding Guide

Funding Your Mission Trip

So, you feel called to a mission trip and are excited by the opportunity that awaits you. However, you are wondering how in the world you are going to fund it. You have thought about fundraising, but the idea makes you uncomfortable. It feels awkward, as if you were panhandling or mooching off your friends and family. Instead of thinking in terms of fundraising, we challenge you to think in terms of a support team. The focus of fundraising is money; the focus of developing a support team is involving others in ministry. Here's what we mean: all believers are called to be a part of the missions endeavor (Mat. 28:19-20), but not all are able to go to the nations. How can they be faithful to make disciples of all nations when they aren't able to go? Inviting others to partner with you is a means of involving all of God's people in spreading the gospel around the world. Instead of merely asking people to give you money, ask them to partner with you in your journey. First of all, ask them to partner with you in prayer. This is the most important way they can support you. Great things happen when God's people pray. *Even if you do not need funding for your trip, enlist partners to pray for you and your team.* Second, invite them to partner with you financially if they are so led. Keep in mind, though, if you are asking them to be partners, you need to treat them as partners. Thus, keep them involved with your preparation process with updates. Let them know of prayer requests related to the trip. Send thank you notes for both prayer and financial support. Give them a report when you return so that you can celebrate together.

Support Letter

A traditional method of enlisting ministry partners is by sending out a support letter to potential partners. In this letter, you want to let them know the who, what, when, and where of your trip. Tell them why you are going. Let them know how they can partner with you in this adventure, and make a clear request for prayer and for financial support (if needed). Include a deadline for receiving the funds, which should be two weeks prior to your trip departure.

Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) with your letter. Even though this will incur some extra cost, it is the least you can do for those whose support you are hoping to win. In addition, it ensures that the support will get to the right location. Please address the envelope as follows:

New Vision Baptist Church
Attn: Andrea Lee
1750 N. Thompson Ln.
Murfreesboro, TN 37129

In addition to your SASE, please include a response card, which is provided in this packet. The response card helps us make sure that financial support is credited properly. Also, it allows us to inform you of who your partners are. Per church policy, all gifts sent directly to the church without this card will automatically be treated as anonymous gifts.

Included in this packet is a sample support letter. Keep in mind that this is only a guide. Take time to personalize it so that it sounds like you. However, make sure you include the

postscript as it is on the sample to insure that the gift is tax deductible and that partners understand the terms of the gift.

PureCharity.com

Looking to utilize the power of social media to enlist supporters? Consider using purecharity.com. Pure Charity is a platform similar to Go Fund Me except that it is designed specifically for nonprofits. With Pure Charity, you will set up your own “fundraiser,” communicate your story, and promote on your social media networks. The website even has tips on how to most effectively accomplish these tasks. Once you have developed a support team, Pure Charity makes it easy to update your partners and share prayer requests. The best part is that all donations made through Pure Charity are tax deductible. Pure Charity does collect a 5% fee on all donations, but it’s a bargain for the services you get, and it is a lower rate than comparable services. To set up your fundraiser on Pure Charity follow the step-by-step instructions below:

1. Set up an account on purecharity.com
2. Go to your dashboard and select the “start a fundraiser” button on the right sidebar
3. Chose mission trip from the available options
4. Key in “New Vision Baptist Church” as your charitable organization
5. Select “opportunity” as your cause category
6. Key in “500” for the number of lives impacted
7. Select “South America” as the region of impact
8. Key in “Dominican Republic” for the country impacted
9. Select “One-time” for the type of funding
10. Key in your funding goal. You may go 5% over the cost of the trip if you wish in order to recoup the admin fee.
11. Select “Continue”
12. Give your fundraiser a name
13. Give your fundraiser a URL. (Keep it simple so that it’s easy to share.)
14. Choose an end date. It should be no later than two weeks before your trip departure.
15. List yourself as the fundraiser organizer
16. In the campaign ID field, put the trip month and year (e.g. October 2015)
17. In the appeal ID field, put your first and last name
18. Leave the Trip/Fund ID field blank
19. Share about your trip in the space provided. This should be similar to the content of your fundraising letter. A sample is included in this packet. *Make sure you indicate that any extra funds raised may be applied to another team member, general team expenses, or to a future trip.*
20. Agree to the terms and conditions
21. Start your fundraiser!

Don’t forget to use the update feature to keep your partners updated as you prepare for your journey and to give them a report upon your return. Also, keep in mind that you must request Pure Charity to send your support money to New Vision. It takes up to ten days for Pure Charity to process the request, and the deadline to turn in the balance of your money is one week prior to departure.

Additional Considerations

As you put together a support team, don't neglect your personal responsibility to contribute to your trip. You may not have extra money in your paycheck, but consider ways you can generate some extra cash. Here are ideas that others have implemented in the past to raise money for their mission trip:

- Pick up extra hours at work
- Work side jobs like babysitting and lawn care
- Cut unnecessary items from your monthly budget such as eating out or vending machine purchases
- Sell your stuff on Craig's List or in a yard sale
- Save birthday or Christmas money
- Monetize a special skill or hobby. For example, one past participant earned well over \$1000 by selling homemade bread for donations.

Conclusion

As you raise funds for your trip, you will be amazed by the way God provides. It may come in the form of a large gift from a place you least expected it. Or maybe babysitting jobs will begin falling into your lap. Whatever the means, you will find that through this process, God will already be growing your faith even before you set foot on foreign soil. So trust God, and get busy!

Sample Support Letter

[Date]

Dear [Insert name],

I have some exciting news to share with you about a opportunity the Lord has provided for me, and I want you to be a part of it! From [insert dates], I will be ministering in the village of La Represa in the Dominican Republic with a short-term mission team from New Vision Baptist Church. New Vision has been serving in this community since 2007, and the church's desire is to see a generation of La Represa residents transformed by the gospel. My team and I will be sharing the gospel and serving La Represa through activities such as children's Bible club, ministry to widows, and community outreach. [If you know specifics about your ministry assignment, include those details.]

I understand that not everyone is able to participate on a missionary journey. However, you can still be a part of what God is doing in La Represa by partnering with me on this trip. There are two ways you can do so:

1. You can pray! This is the best way you can help. Please pray that the residents of La Represa will be open to the gospel. Pray for our missionaries, Mo and Tamara, as they prepare for the team's arrival. And pray that my team and I will be ready for the task that God has for us, that he will provide for each member's financial needs, and that we will be worthy representatives of Christ.
2. You can contribute financially. The cost of the trip is [insert trip cost]. This is a journey that God has called me to, and any donation would be most appreciated. If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation, please complete the enclosed card and return it by [30 days before your trip departure].

Please prayerfully consider partnering with me on this journey. Thank you so much for being a part of my life and helping me accomplish something that's important to all of us!

Sincerely,

[Signature]

P.S. In order for your gift to be tax deductible, make checks payable to New Vision Baptist Church. Include my name and [Month of trip] DR Trip on the memo line of your check. Please used the enclosed envelope and include the response card indicating your partnership. Note that any funds received in excess of my personal trip cost may be applied to other team members, to general team expenses, or to a future trip. Thank you!

Sample Pure Charity Fundraiser's Story

I have some exciting news to share with you regarding an opportunity that the Lord has provided for me, and I want you to be a part of it! From [insert dates], I will be ministering in the village of La Represa in the Dominican Republic with a short-term mission team from New Vision Baptist Church. New Vision has been serving in this community since 2007, and the church's desire is to see a generation of La Represa residents transformed by the gospel. My team and I will be sharing the gospel and serving La Represa through activities such as children's Bible club, ministry to widows, and community outreach. [If you know specifics about your ministry assignment, include those details.]

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2. You can contribute financially. The cost of the trip is [insert trip cost]. This is a journey that God has called me to, and any donation would be most appreciated. I started a fundraiser on purecharity.com, which will make it easy for you to give and receive updates concerning my trip. All gifts given through Pure Charity are tax deductible.

Please prayerfully consider partnering with me on this journey. Any amount helps, and if I raise more than I need, the extra may be used to assist other participants, help with general team expenses, or even help me go again in the future! Also, I would appreciate your willingness to share this with others who may want to participate.

Thank you so much for being a part of my life and helping me accomplish something that's important to all of us!

Missionary's name: _____ Date of Trip: _____

Yes, I want to be a partner on this missionary journey! (Please check all that apply)

I will commit to pray

I am enclosing a financial gift

Please inform the above missionary of my gift

I wish for my gift to remain anonymous.

Your Name: _____

Please mail this card and any financial contribution in the enclosed envelope. Make checks payable to New Vision Baptist Church. Include participants name on memo line. Any funds received in excess of the participants trip cost may be applied to other team members, general team expenses, or to a future trip.

Missionary's name: _____ Date of Trip: _____

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