

Writing Support Raising Letters for Short-Term Mission Trips

(adapted from YUGO Ministries)

The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. ~ 1 Corinthians 12:12 (NIV)

Raising financial support is a basic part of most missionaries' lives. It can be a blessing, but it is always a challenge. This is a great way to raise funds and prayer support for your mission trip. It gives you the full missionary experience! (Plus, if you raise enough, you can have your cost of letter sending reimbursed.) Here are some hints, but remember to tailor the information to your specific trip. If you'd like more information or have more questions, contact John Salvesen or Kyle Davison.

- (1) Get creative!** You might want to design a personal brochure that outlines what the trip is about and why you want to participate in this trip. Some in the past have made a brochure. Use the web. Connect on Facebook. If you think about it, you can come up with some fun ideas to share your passion with others.
- (2) Be careful** who you approach. Don't be shy, but be thoughtful. If you have an Aunt Midge in Minnesota who is an atheist and with whom you never talk or write, asking her for financial support might not be too cool. You may alienate her and drive her further from Christ ... *"Those Christians - Every time you turn around it's 'Give me \$! Give me even more \$!' I don't want anything to do with them!"*
- (3) Talk** to as many people personally as you can. Meetings are the best way to allow potential supporters to get to know your heart. This also gives them an opportunity to ask questions. This whole process makes them more comfortable, and they will be more likely to say "Yes." Their role will be 'sending,' while your role is 'going.' Both are needed. Both reflect the beauty of the diversity within the unity of the Body of Christ.
- (4) Remember** that, though going on a short-term mission trip is a good thing to do, God may not want you on this trip. He may choose to say "No." If you cannot raise your support, consider that God might be closing the door. That may be very discouraging, but remember that God may have other plans for you for the summer. In Jesus, God's promises are always "yes" (2 Cor 1:18-20), but where we are as we are in Jesus will vary.

Here is a sample of the type of letter that you could send out. This trip was with YUGO ministries in Mexico. (Modify the information for your trip and add some personal touches).

If you choose to send out letters, inform people that gifts that they make to support your summer ministry can be tax-deductible. If they send a check, have them write it to: **BCBC**.

Sample Support Letter:

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Schmeltzenheimer

I'm writing you to inform you that the youth group (college group, adult Sunday School group, etc.) from the Third Evangelical Vineyard Baptist Chapel of the Lutheran Nazarene Assembly (Put your church, school, or organization name here) is planning a missions trip to Northern Mexico with YUGO Ministries this Summer (Spring, Winter). Our team is currently beginning training to conduct Vacation Bible Schools and evangelism projects through a Mexican Local Church in Tijuana (Acuña, Mexicali, etc.) for one week.

I believe that the Lord would have me participate on this missions trip. However, in order to go, I need to raise \$400 (or whatever it actually is) in support to cover the expenses of the trip. I understand that you are interested in missionary work. Would you please prayerfully consider being a financial partner with me in this ministry? I would very much love to have you as part of my support team.

Also, would you pray for me while I'm in Mexico? I understand that in missions, prayer is often more important than money!

I've enclosed a card that you can send back to me, letting me know how you would like to participate. If you would rather call me instead, my number is (798) 555-1212. I would be happy to answer any questions you have. Thank you for considering this.

With you in His Service,
Anita Gosouth

P.S. If you do decide to help financially, please make the check out to the church and send it to them designated for my support. That way, they may be able to send you a tax-deductible receipt!