



RAISING SUPPORT

Asking for money is tough and it can be completely humbling, but it's an experience that actually helps prepare people's hearts for the trip. You can't be a good giver until you've learned to receive from others. It helps to have a good view on why we raise support.

Why We Raise Support

- A Prayer Team Will Result. When people are challenged to give financially, they are likely to pray for you.
- Your Faith Will Grow. Support raising is a faith journey. When days go by and your support level does not increase, you may be tempted to question your call to missions. But those are the days to be reminded that God has called you and that He will supply every need. Often the best faith lessons appear as we wait on God. That's when we learn that we are limited and God is limitless.
- It Broadens the Missionary Vision of Our Church. You are the best recruiter for world missions. When you share your passion with others, you are able to communicate your vision and your call. Your enthusiasm and dedication stimulates and challenges interest and involvement in missions.

How We Raise Support

- Pray that God will lead you and your team to look for the resources for this trip.
- We strongly encourage individual support letters (samples are included). From our experience personal support letters tend to yield the most financial fruit for trips. People give out of relationship to you. An email blast is impersonal and easy to delete, a personal letter is harder to ignore. Make a target of sending out at least 100 letters.
- Look outside of the church. Friends, relatives, co-workers and neighbors (even unbelievers) may feel blessed to invest in you and God's leading in your life. Seek their support.

- Ask inside of the church. Ask your small group or ministry team friends to pray about God's leading to give prayer and/or financial help for this opportunity. However, do not ask people unless you have some kind of connection with them. And only ask your pastor to support you as a way to practice—not for real money!
- It is very important to follow-up with people that you have sent letters to. You can follow up either through email or a phone call.
- Follow-up each gift with a personal thank-you note.
- Upon returning from the trip, send a report letter to all the people who supported you, both through prayer and finances.
- Evaluate your own contribution. Other people can tell you the surprising places God provided money: unexpected refund checks, garage sales, extra income opportunities, etc. Challenge yourself to plan ahead and to evaluate what sacrifices you can make in the next few months to contribute toward your trip.
- Facebook and crowd funding sites are good tools, but they have NOT been proven to raise the full amount. Don't let that be your only way of raising funds.
- For the die-hards or for extra project funds, we have included a resource called "20 Ways to Raise Support" that you might find helpful.

How To Process Support

- When sending out letters, include a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your home as the return address. Make copies or keep a list of checks you receive before turning them into the church.
- Include in your letter the online option for giving. Go to www.occ.org/give page. In the dropdown there is an option to give directly to the trip.
- Submit checks/cash at training meetings. Checks should be made payable to OCC.

For donations to be considered tax-deductible the following MUST happen:

- Must **NOT** designate the gift to you anywhere on their check.
- Understand the giving is to the church and trip that will then support the people's participation.

NOTE: According to federal guidelines, individuals who receive more money than is required are NOT in control of extra funds. Any funds above and beyond your trip will be used at the discretion of the church for mission-related activities.