

Summit believes the best way to fund your trip is to raise support by sending letters out to friends and family. This allows you to use your trip as a witness to the work God is doing, and gives others an opportunity to be a part of that work. Be sure to include what the organization is doing, and your own personal heart for the mission.

Letter Writing Tips

Write from your heart as well as your head: Use feeling words, not intellectual ones. Write as if you are writing to a personal friend, not to a mass of people. Use words such as “you” and “me”, putting your letter on a one-on-one level. Share your feelings; people are not going to get excited unless you are!

Be personal. Your friends are interested in YOU. In your opening paragraph, share briefly how you were led to participate in this ministry. Even though this will probably be a typed and copied letter, try to make it sound like you. Be friendly and personal.

Be brief, but informative. Use simple, short words, sentences and paragraphs. In your second paragraph, include major details about the kind of ministry you will have. Explain what you will be doing as specifically as possible. You should, in some way, communicate clearly the fact that you’re going as a servant of Jesus Christ and not as a sightseeing tourist; state the type of ministry in which you will be involved.

Present your need. There are many ways to ask people for help and you should do this in a way with which you are comfortable. Recognize that most people will want to know about what you will be doing and will help in whatever way they can.

1. Share your need for prayer support. Everyone can do this and it is a very important need for your ministry.
2. Share your need for financial assistance. Explain that this is a part of your experience as a missionary, to trust God for your needs. Depending on your own personal conviction, you may or may not wish to express the specific amount of funding you will need. If you do state your financial support needs, be sure to explain what the cost will cover, such as your transportation, training and living expenses for your trip. ***When making requests for financial support, please enclose an envelope addressed to Summit Church with your name and the country you will be visiting in the lower left corner of the envelope and ask potential supporters to make sure they **DO NOT** write your name in the memo portion of their check. Summit’s address is: 735 Herndon Avenue, Orlando, Florida 32803.

Be creative. Use your imagination in writing and designing this letter. Don’t be afraid to use art, pictures, quotes, borders, colored paper and creative writing.

Biblical Basis for Funding the Work of God

Sometimes asking for financial support from others can be difficult. We want you to know what the Bible has to say about these topics:

1. Is it biblical to be supported by others to do the work of God?
 - a. Please refer to Philippians 4:10-20 and Acts 20:33-35

2. Is it biblical to raise financial support from strangers or people you do not know well?
 - a. Please refer to III John 1:5-8, Matthew 10:5-10 and Romans 15:27

3. What about making financial appeals to those who are not as well off as you?
 - a. Please refer to Deuteronomy 16:17, Luke 21:1-4 II Corinthians 9:7 and II Corinthians 8:2-4

Namestorming - Building a Network of Support

You will need to develop an initial list of potential sponsors. As with brainstorming, in namestorming there is one cardinal rule – anything goes. No name is disqualified. Don't decide for an individual whether or not he or she is interested. If you limit yourself to those you feel will or can give, you may prematurely disqualify those God wants to become sponsors. Later you can prioritize whom to contact first, but do not disqualify anyone now.

Below is a list of suggestions to think over. Try to take at least one hour to come up with your starting list. Try to come up with at least 200 potential people.

Accountants, Ad Agencies, Apartment Manager, Bible Studies, Church Friends, Civic Clubs, College Professors, Community Leaders, Dentist, Doctor, Fraternity Brothers, Friends, Friends of Parents, Hair Stylist, Neighbors, Parents of Friends, Relatives, Rotary Club, Sorority Sisters.

SAMPLE LETTER

Dear _____,

My heart for missions continues to grow each year and this summer I have an opportunity to go to Malawi with my church family at Summit Church. We are going to help a ministry in Mgwai, Malawi, called Children of the Nations. Summit has a relationship with one of the full-time missionaries there and has decided to send a team this summer to help with their ministry work there. There are many areas that need help such as relationship evangelism, building projects, children's ministry and a garden project. Our main goal is to show the people in the villages of Malawi that God cares about them and that they matter to God. We leave on June 13, 2006 and return on June 28, 2006.

I have been to Africa two times, once to Namibia and last summer I went to Kenya. I love the African people and can't wait to return and be helpful and grow in my faith as I go where God is sending me.

I would love to have your support in prayer, and financially as well, if you're able. I have experienced just how powerful and necessary prayer partners are while on missions trips and would love to have a strong and dedicated team. I have enclosed a stamped envelope addressed to Summit Church with my name in the bottom left corner. This is for you to put your commitment to prayer and possibly a donation for my trip. I want to thank you so much for your willingness to help and be a part of what God is doing in this ministry of Children of the Nations. I will keep you posted about our preparations and will be in touch when I return to let you know how everything went! If you would like more information on Children of the Nations, feel free to check out their website at www.cotni.org.

God bless you and your part in this wonderful service to God and His Kingdom,

Gail