

LOVE FOR HONDURAS

BUILDING YOUR SUPPORT TEAM

WHAT IS A SUPPORT TEAM

Each individual team member is responsible for developing his or her own support team. This support team consist of:

- Prayer Supporters
- Encouragers
- Financial Contributors

The concept is to develop a team, not just raise funds. Prayer is the most important aspect of your missions experience. You need to have people praying for you before and during the mission project.

THE TEAM

The idea of building a support team is to involve as many people in the mission experience as possible. The team:

- Is a ministry through you (TEAM=GOERS+PRAYER SUPPORT+SENDERS)
- Is a means by which others share in the blessing of the missions project (Philippians 4:17)
- Is a Biblical approach (2 Corinthians 8:3-5)
- Is a means by which others invest into "eternal" things

You should seek people that you want on your team, not just those who you think will give money. Remember, if the prayer support is in lace, everything else will fall into place.

RAISING FUNDS

If you cannot pay for your trip, the most effective and proven method to raise funds is to write a letter and send it to family, friends, and co-workers. Professional fundraisers for large organizations will tell you that people will give to people they know. Potential contributors are happy to have the opportunity to invest in someone they know personally or in an endeavor they care about.

PREPARE A TEAM LIST (10-30 names)

Your list should include the following:

- Relatives
- Friends
- Christian contacts
- Business Associates
- Close Friends from Church (Not everyone in your Church directory)

WRITE YOUR LETTER

You are asking people to support you in a missions experience. If you are asking for financial contributors, you are asking them to help with the cost that you will incur. This includes: passport fees, immunizations, transportation, meals, lodging, travel insurance, etc.

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COMPOSE YOUR OWN LETTER

The last thing a donor wants is four copies of the same letter with four different signatures. People prefer to read a personal letter. Pray about what you want to communicate in the letter and write from the heart.

INFORMATION FOR YOUR LETTER

Include the following information in your letter:

- Information about the country/culture you are traveling to
- Information about the sending organization (in USA) and the hosting organization (in Honduras)
- Description of what the team will be doing and why the team is doing a particular project
- Why you want to be involved in the trip (reasons for going that you feel strongest about)
- The total cost of the trip (shots + passport + travel/trip cost = total trip cost)
- You may recommend a giving amount (\$25, \$50, \$200)
- Explain how you would like the reader to be involved (prayer, financial, item donation)
- NOTE: All checks must be payable to "The Church of Joy." Contributors are not to write recipients name on the memo line of the check. This information should be attached by a note. This will keep all records in compliance with IRS Tax Code.
- Inform reader of your deadline for financial support.
- Include a response slip for them to send back to you
- Last thoughts from V:
 - 1. KEEP IT BRIEF - The first page will probably be read, other pages may not
 - 2. BE YOURSELF - It is wise to put feelings and reactions into letters. Don't worry about actual style. You don't have to be clever, you just have to be clear. Just use natural language that comes from the heart.
 - 3. PROOFREAD - Have someone proofread your letter

MAIL YOUR LETTER

Don't procrastinate! Writing letters under pressure will quench your feelings about the mission project and hinder you from writing from the heart. Get your letter in the mail!

FOLLOW-UP LETTER

Following the trip, you should send a letter to each person who supported you. This letter should detail what happened on the trip and how it affected you. There is nothing more discouraging than to support someone on a mission trip and then never hear from that person again about the trip. By sharing your experiences with your support team, you continue to spread the blessing and heart for world missions.