

Building Your Support Team



It is important for each mission team member to develop his or her own support team. This team will need to consist of:

- Prayer Supporters
- Encouragers
- Financial Contributors

The idea is to build a team, not merely to raise funds. The most important need for the team member is for people to pray for him or her before and during the project.

Why Build a Team (2 Corinthians 8:4)

You want to involve as many people as possible on your team. Some may fill more than one role, for instance as a prayer supporter and a financial contributor.

This team will be an active part of the mission effort, not only helping you, but also helping the entire mission team and therefore helping those to whom the mission team ministers. Having a team allows others, who may not be able to go, to be able to share in the blessings of the mission.

Seek people who can be part of your team, not just those who might give financially. Put emphasis on building a prayer team first, then everything else will fall into place.

You need a prayer and encouragement support team even if you do not need financial assistance.

Prepare a Team List

Begin making a list of potential team members. Think of family, friends, co-workers, church members and others you know outside of church. You should try to put together 50-100 names, not all from your church. Consider anyone who might want to invest in your life through prayer, encouragement or finances.

Raising Support

If an individual cannot pay for their trip, the most effective proven method to raise individual support is to write a letter for distribution to friends, co-workers, family and church members. People are more likely to give to someone they know for a cause they care about.

Write a Letter

You are asking people to support you through the ministry of ETC Ministries. If you are asking for financial contributions, you are asking them to help with the cost that you will incur by conducting the ministry (transportation, meals while on the field, housing, visa, travel insurance, etc.)

If your support is channeled through ETC Ministries all gifts given on your behalf will be noted as charitable contributions and the donor will receive acknowledgement from ETC Ministries after the end of the calendar year. Due to IRS restrictions, refunds are not provided. If the team member raises more than the required support or for any reason cannot participate on the trip, the funds will be reallocated within the team account. All funds will be used to support the field ministry for which they are given.

Writing Your Letter



The following guidelines will help you in writing your letter:

- There are three types of letters:
 - A letter sent out asking for prayer support only (if you are paying your own way)
 - A letter sent out asking for prayer and financial support
 - A letter sent out asking for project support (if you are paying your own way)
- Compose your own letter. It is unwise to copy from the sample letter. The last thing a donor wants is to receive four copies of the same letter with different signatures. People prefer to read a personal letter.
- Include the following information in the letter:
 - Information about the country/culture you are going to
 - Information about the sending organization (ETC Ministries) and the hosting organization (local church or mission)
 - Give them the website of ETC: www.exposedtochrist.com so that they can get more information
 - Description of what the team will be doing
 - The cost of the trip for the individual team member
 - You may want to recommend a giving amount (\$25, \$50, \$100)
 - Why you want to be involved on the trip (reasons you feel strongest about)
 - How you knew that God had called you on this trip
 - How you would like the recipient to be involved (prayer, financial, both)
 - To whom should the checks be made out: ETC Ministries, your church
 - Mail the check to you or give online at www.exposedtochrist.com/giving.html
 - The date you need the money
- Keep the letter brief (no more than one page)
- Include a response slip and a self-addressed envelope with every letter
- Include an ETC Ministries designated policy slip with every letter

Send the Letter

- Mail the letter, response slip, envelope and policy slip to the list of potential support team members. This should be done as early as possible to give you sufficient time to build your support team.

Follow-Up

- It is the team member's responsibility to keep accurate records of who has supported them and at what amount. Please send all of your support team a personal card or note thanking them for their gift, support and/or prayer.
- ETC will provide a recap of the mission project and it is a good idea to forward this recap to all of your supporters.

Sample Support Letter



Date

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Dear _____:

I have a great opportunity to minister to missionaries and do outreach in the Mediterranean next summer. ETC Ministries is working with Transform 2014 to lead a Vacation Bible school at the Transform conference in Rome for the missionaries who are leading the conference. We will then be travelling to the United Kingdom to do VBS as an outreach for one of the local churches. I feel strongly that God has called me to this opportunity and I know that my life will never be the same afterward.

We will leave on Sunday, July 21 and return about two weeks later. The cost of the trip is \$2750 which includes airfare, ground transportation, meals, lodging, insurance and some other expenses of the trip. You can find out more about the trip by clicking on the "Missions" button at www.exposedtochrist.com.

I am asking you to prayerfully consider being part of my support team through your prayers, encouragement and financial support. However God leads you to join my team, it will be a great blessing to me, the team and those to whom we minister. Our money is due on June 1. Please make your check payable to ETC Ministries or go to their website and make an online contribution toward my account. All donations to ETC are deductible for tax purposes and you will receive a statement from them after the end of the year.

I am excited to see what God has in store for me and the ways He will use our team next summer. Would you please join my team to help spread the gospel to the Mediterranean and the UK? Please pray for me that I will grow stronger in seeking God's will for my life and that I will be used by Him.

In Christ,

(Your Name)

(Please cut this slip and return in the envelope provided – Thank you!)

(Type your name here)

_____ Include me on your prayer list
my email _____

_____ I will financially support you with a gift of \$25 \$50 \$100 \$ _____
please make checks payable to ETC Ministries

ETC Financial Policy Slip

ETC Ministries is a registered non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation



All contributions to ETC Ministries mission efforts are non-refundable. To be tax deductible you must:

- Make checks and money orders payable to ETC Ministries
 - Enclose a note stating which project and/or individual you are supporting
 - You will receive acknowledgement for tax purposes from ETC Ministries after the end of the year in reference to any gift amount
 - Mail the check to the individual you are supporting
 - Online donations are reduced by approximately 2.9% due to credit card processing fees
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