

Short - Term Missions Support Raising

The Team Building Approach

Building a Support Team

Each individual team member will be responsible for developing his or her own support team.

The support team consists of:

- *Prayer Supporters
- *Encouragers
- *Financial Contributors

The concept is to develop a team, not just 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.

The Team

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

- *is a ministry through you to the team (TEAM = goers + prayer support + senders)
- *is a means by which others can share in the blessings of the mission (Phil. 4:17)
- *is a Biblical approach (II Cor. 8:4)
- *is a means by which others become World Christians through giving

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

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 and church members. Professional fund-raisers 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 an endeavor they care about. God's Word promises us that He will supply our every need.

Prepare the Team List

Usually between 50 - 100 names not all Idlewild Baptist Church members (50% outside our church); Friends, relatives, Christian contacts, non-Christians that God may open a door to witness to through this process.

Write the Letter

You are asking people to support the ministry of Idlewild Baptist Church. 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, in-country housing, visa, travel insurance, etc.) A common testimony for team members is that while they were initially put off by the idea of sending support letters, the experience turned out to be a highlight of the entire trip.

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****(You Should Include A Self-Addressed, Stamped Envelope In Each Support Letter You Send)

SAMPLE SUPPORT LETTER

Date

Name
Address
City, State, Zip

Dear _____ ,

An incredible opportunity to serve in Portugal at the Word of Life Bible Camp has touched my heart. There is an immediate need in Portugal. The Missions Department has a camp and retreat area to be used for Christian ministry. They desire to begin a summer camp for children in July. There are many structural problems, plumbing problems and unsafe conditions. For the first time in my life I have been called to provide a service for God's kingdom. Only our Father in heaven knows how many hearts and souls will be changed because of this ministry. I am honored to be asked to provide a small contribution to this ministry. Please join me and watch what God will do.

We will leave on Friday, July 6th if reservations permit and will return approximately 10 days later. The cost of the trip is \$1,500.00, which includes airfare ground transportation, meals, lodging, insurance and departure taxes.

I ask that you prayerfully consider being a part of this team through your prayers, encouragement and financial support. Whatever amount God leads you to give, it will be a great blessing to me and the people I minister to while in Portugal, Our money is due in by June 6th Please make your check payable to Idlewild Baptist Church and return in the envelope provided.

I am excited to see what God has in store for me personally. I am excited to see the ways that God will use me and each of you who join the team to spread the message of salvation to Portugal. I pray that I will grow stronger in seeking Gods' will for my life and that I will return changed forever to better serve.

Yours In Christ,

(Your Name)



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

(Type Your Name Here)

_____ I will pray for you.

_____ I will financially support you with a gift of \$ _____. Checks payable to IBC.