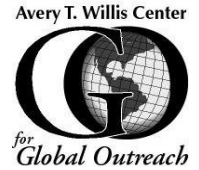




3 Ways to Raise Financial Support for Global Outreach Trips



Remember: no person or church is obligated to financially support you, so **be gracious and thankful** anytime you receive financial contributions for your trip. If God has called you to go on the trip, money is not an issue. Last year, out of 100 people, no one was unable to serve on a global outreach trip through OBU due to lack of funds. Whichever of the following option(s) you choose to pursue to raise financial support, always bring the money to OBU's GO Center along with the donor form so that we may deposit and track your progress. Remember to put action to your faith in fundraising also. **Be proactive in raising support**; don't assume money will land on you just because you send out a letter.

1. Support letters.

For most people, the most effective way to raise money for global outreach trips is to send out support letters with the donor forms. A sample support letter and the donor form are available from OBU's Avery T. Willis Center for Global Outreach. Do not be afraid to ask for money in your support letter. Be sure to give them specifics about the needs and details of the trip you are participating in. Make sure that they make the checks out to OBU. If they make the check to you, you will have to cash it, and bring the money with a donor form to the ATWCGO. Only send support letters to people who personally know you or your family. For example, don't send a support letter to everyone in your church directory. Be sure to write a thank you note to those who support you. You may also buy them a small gift from the place you visit. The gift will serve a twofold purpose: to thank them for support and remind them to pray for the people you served.

2. Your church.

If you go to a small church, ask the pastor if you may speak to the congregation about your trip. It would be ideal for you to speak in front of your church before and after your trip even if they do not support you financially. However, as you speak, see if the leadership will allow the church to take a love offering for your trip. Be sure to have your donor forms on hand at church so that those who support you may receive tax-deductible credit for their gift. You may also ask the pastor to post your letter and donor form on a bulletin board or in the church bulletin.

If you go to a large church, all of the aforementioned ideas are good and most will be applicable to your situation. The biggest exception is likely the love offering. However, if your church is very large, ask the pastor if they have scholarships available for students who participate in mission trips. They likely have some type of missions account or another way that could help you. Even if your church is large, you could try to speak in parts of the church like the youth group about your trip.

3. Personal means.

Personal means is a catch-all for other options. This could mean money you earn from a minimum wage job, personal savings, chores, Christmas money, team fundraisers, etc.

Group fundraisers usually come to some people's minds in regard to mission trips. That can be an effective way to raise funds, but its better purpose is usually to unite the team in action. Honestly, you will be able to raise more money per hour at an hourly job than a team fundraiser, unless you execute an exceptional fundraiser.