



EXPERIENCE INDIA 2019

TEAM TRAINING 1 | Handout Building a Prayer & Financial Support Team

Tips for writing your support letter:

1. **Keep it personal. Don't send out mass emails to people you do not know well to solicit funds. Reasons for this include:**
 - a. Support-raising should only be done within a team member's sphere of relationships.
 - b. We want to **Team Build** not "fund raise"

Our Philosophy Fundraising vs. Team Building:

Fundraising - Sells gizmos, widgets and brownies; Doesn't care where the money comes from; Sends out cliché ridden, photo copied appeal letters to people they don't personally know; Expects everyone to give them money; Says, "Let others pay my way"; Depends on clever ideas and 'selling' of the trip.

Team Building - Tells clearly and briefly the mission and its purpose; Builds on personal sphere of influence; Sends thoughtful, imaginative communication to friends, family, and colleagues; Expects God to provide needs; Says, "I will first give all I can before turning to others"; Depends on prayer and thoughtful consideration.

2. **Answering the following questions can help you begin to formulate a description of what the team will be doing on the trip and the purpose for the trip.**
 - a. Why do you believe God is leading you to go on this trip?
 - b. How do you hope God will use you during your trip?
 - c. What do you hope to see happen as a result of your contribution on this project?
3. **Suggestions for writing letters:**
 - a. **Introduction:** Use a couple of attention-grabbing sentences to tell them the purpose for writing.
 - b. **Announcement:** Tell them what God is calling the team to do. Announce the trip or project and share the vision of how God will use this team.
 - c. **Further Details:** Share more specifics about the trip. Tell what the team expects to see accomplished.
 - d. **Partnership:** Express the need for others to help. Focus on a sense of teamwork and partnership between the sender and the reader.
 - e. **The Proposal:** State the total amount needed. Ask for a gift of \$500, \$250, \$100. Remind them that any amount will be helpful.
 - f. **Deadline:** Indicate a deadline date of when the funds need to be given.
 - g. **Close:** Thank them for considering partnering in this opportunity. Tell them to expect a call within one week to see if they have any questions.
 - h. **Your Signature:** Handwritten is best.

FUND RAISING GUIDELINES

We discourage raising funds from within the church staff, as it can put an unfair expectation on them, and will set a precedent that other teams will follow.

For instance, it would not be appropriate to hand out fliers at weekend Church Services or weeknight Church Events as we discourage "indiscriminate" fund raising amongst the congregation (as it gives the impression of "nickel and diming" people that have already been encouraged to tithe). All fundraising (including support letters, events, etc.) need to be restricted to direct relationships that people have within the congregation and not distributed in a general manner.

The initial trip deposit of \$300.00 is non-refundable as it will be used to provide Team Members with necessary training materials, to cover the cost of the cancellation fee for your airfare should you need to pull out or don't raise sufficient trip funds after the tickets have been purchased OR for the debriefing excursion and costs related to the Global Trip. At the point of cancellation, an individual's trip monies are forfeited to the team for project use. In an extraordinary circumstance, when an individual requests a return of trip monies, the situation will be reviewed by the Global Freedom Staff.

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Sample Letter #1 for Potential Prayer & Financial Partners

Dear Karen and Tim,

This has been an exciting year so far, filled with God's movement in our lives. I wish that we could get to see each other more often and really miss our times together eating dinner and just hanging out. Congratulations, I heard that Jason made the varsity team! That is so exciting. Be sure to cheer extra loud for us! I would like to tell you about what is coming up for me in the next few months.

As you know I have been involved at Friends Church for a few years now, and a small group of us have decided to engage in a trip to India. The goal of our trip is to encourage and support the education of Dalit children in the South of India. We are going to accomplish this by working in one of the schools that the Dalit children attend.

The Dalit people are more commonly known as the 'untouchables' in India and they are called that because in the Hindu caste system they are considered as less valuable than animals and are not commonly allowed to even attend school or get an education. Our church has been building schools for these Dalit children for many years and we will spend time with them at one of their schools to do various programs that are intended to enrich their educational process. We will also have the opportunity to experience all that India has to offer with its rich history, culture and tourist opportunities.

The cost of the trip is going to be \$3,250, so after I put what I have saved toward the trip, I need to raise about (Insert \$ Amount) for the trip. I would like to ask you to pray and seek God to find whether He might be calling you to team with us financially in this task. We need to have the funds to us by (Insert Your Deadline) in order to purchase the airline tickets for the trip. We're excited to see what God accomplishes through us and are confident that God will call out those He wants to partner together for this trip.

If you decide to partner financially your gift will be tax deductible, and the easiest way for you to donate is to do so online using the following web link:

www.friends.church/INDIA

Please select TRIP (Insert Your Trip Number 01, 02 or 03) to launch the donation process and supply your email address and the amount of your donation on the first page, then please input MY NAME on the Memo line on the second page and submit your payment details to complete the process. You may also give via check (made payable to Friends Church and write INDIA Trip on the memo line). if you wish and then mail it to me at my home address.

I, and the rest of our team, would greatly appreciate your help in raising this support and please know that anything raised above my needs will be shared with the entire team. Even if you are not able to contribute financially, I ask that you please pray that all the needs of this team will be met. Prayer is so important. I will give you a call in the next week to touch base with you and answer any questions you may have. Thank you so much for your consideration.

In Him,

Kevin

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Sample Letter #2 for Potential Prayer & Financial Partners

Dear Grandpa and Grandma,

This summer I have chosen to travel to India with a team from my church, Friends Church, to work with the Dalit women and children. Dalit is a term that has become synonymous with the Untouchable people of India. The name means "oppressed" and accurately describes the persecution and discrimination India's over 300 million Dalits face regularly.

Friends Church has been building Dalit Education Centers (DEC) as a part of their long-term plan to impact the nation of India. In addition to those DECs we are building many Vocational Trade Centers. These centers provide opportunities for the Dalit women to learn a specific trade and in return, take that into the work place to make a better living for their families. This is a bold and daring goal that only God alone can accomplish.

While in India our team will be visiting the city of Chennai and Pondicherry, which are in South India. The team I will be working with consists of high school, college and adult age participants. Our team will be focusing on relationship building between the team, the children and teachers at the DEC's and those who live in the local villages.

As this is a Missions trip, I am seeking financial support as well as your prayers before and during the trip. The amount of support I need is \$3250, which may sound like a lot in this economy. **However, if 100 people gave just \$30 each, that would provide all the financial support needed.** The donation is also a tax deduction and you may use the following web link to donate online:

www.friends.church/INDIA

Please select TRIP (Insert Your Trip Number 01, 02 or 03) to launch the donation process and supply your email address and the amount of your donation on the first page, then please input MY NAME on the Memo line on the second page and submit your payment details to complete the process. You may also give via check (made payable to Friends Church and write INDIA Trip on the memo line). if you wish and then mail it to me at my home address.

I, and the rest of our team, would greatly appreciate your help in raising this support and please know that anything raised above my needs will be shared with the entire team. Even if you are not able to contribute financially, I ask that you please pray that all the needs of this team will be met.

Prayer is so important, specifically pray for team unity before and during our trip, for health & safety and that God would work mightily through our team.

Thank you so much for your love and support,

Sincerely,

Janinne

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Sample Letter #3 for Potential Prayer & Financial Partners

Dear John and Suzanne,

It is with SO much excitement and the BIGGEST smile on my face that I write you this letter!!! As many of you know, two years ago I was blessed with the opportunity to go to India, which literally changed my life. Since then, India, the culture, and what God is doing there has become my single greatest passion. After coming home, everything inside of me has been dying to go back. Well, with so much prayer, and by God's perfect will, I AM GOING BACK TO INDIA!!!!

On July 17th, there will be a group of ____ of us from our church, Friends Church, who will be traveling to Chennai, India for ten days. While in India, we will be partnering with the Dalit Freedom Network and Good Shepherd Ministries. Our purpose is to demonstrate the love of Christ to the Dalit people. We will be spending time doing programs with Dalit children in their schools, building relationships in their villages, and serving these people where there is a need.

The Dalit people or “Dalits” are considered the “outcasts” or the “untouchables”. They are denied access to public wells, public parks, basic medical services, and education. The ruling caste tells them they are Hindu, yet they are denied access to the temples. Seventy percent of the Dalits live below the poverty line and only 10% of rural Dalit women can read and write. Dalit women and children are also often sold into prostitution, as early as the age of eight years old. The Hindu scripture tells these people that it would be better if they were never born.

The team has asked me to raise the finances necessary to cover the expenses of the trip: which will be approximately \$3,250 per person. I, and the rest of our team, would greatly appreciate your help in raising this support. Even if you are not able to contribute financially, I ask that you please pray that all the needs of this team will be met. Prayer is so important.

God is definitely moving in India right now and I am so excited to see how He uses our team on this trip. Words cannot express how grateful I am for the opportunity to go back to India and to be a part of this amazing country. On my last trip, it broke my heart to see the poverty in India, and to see the mistreatment of such an amazing group of people. But at the same time, I saw hope in the eyes and hearts of the Dalits, and lots of it! I cannot wait for the experiences to come because I am confident that God is working mightily there, and to just be a small part of it is such a blessing!

If you decide to partner financially your gift will be tax deductible, and the easiest way for you to make a donation is to do so online using the following web link:
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Please select TRIP (Insert Your Trip Number 01, 02 or 03) to launch the donation process and supply your email address and the amount of your donation on the first page, then please input MY NAME on the Memo line on the second page and submit your payment details to complete the process. You may also give via check (made payable to Friends Church and write INDIA Trip on the memo line). if you wish and then mail it to me at my home address.

I, and the rest of our team, would greatly appreciate your help in raising this support and please know that anything raised above my needs will be shared with the entire team. For those who indicate an interest to support either in prayer and/or financially, I will keep you informed of our progress in reaching our goals. If you have any questions or would like to hear more about our trip, please call or email me anytime, I would love to hear from you!