

Writing a Prayer and Support-Raising Letter

Prayer and support-raising letters are an extremely important and effective means of informing family members and friends about your upcoming ministry. They allow you to share how the Lord is directing you and also give others an opportunity to respond with prayer or financial support. For those who will be paying their own way, we still recommend that you send out letters asking for prayer support for your ministry. It will be very beneficial during your trip. Here are some guidelines for writing a letter:

1. Be personal. Your friends are interested in YOU. In your opening paragraph, share briefly how you were led to participate in this ministry. Even though this will probably be a typed and copied letter, try to make it sound like you. Be friendly, personal and honest.
2. Be brief, but informative. In your second paragraph, include major details about the kind of ministry you will have. Explain what you will be doing as specifically as possible.
3. Present your need. There are many ways to ask people for help and you should do this in a way that you are comfortable with. Recognize that most people will want to know about what you will be doing and will help in whatever way they can. Many of your friends and relatives will not be able to personally participate in an overseas short-term mission program, thus they will be excited to join your support team. But, they can't help you if they don't know your needs.
 - a. Share your need for prayer support. Everyone can do this and it is a very important need for your ministry.
 - b. Share your need for financial assistance. Explain that this is part of your experience as a short-term missionary, to trust God for your needs. Give the estimated total you will need: \$1585 plus airline ticket (ticket price **estimates** are \$900 - \$1400/winter, \$1200 - \$1900/summer). Explain that this amount will be used to cover your transportation, training, and living expenses for your trip.
4. Be creative. Use your imagination in writing and designing this letter. Art, pictures, quotes, borders, colored paper and ink, creative writing, clip art, etc., all help make your letter more creative. Your letter should be neat, attractive and printed clearly. Your letter can be written in a variety of styles, but most of all, it should say "READ ME" when it enters someone's home.
5. Possible excerpts for prayer letters:
 - a. Me, teach English to Polish students? - or - But I don't know a word of Romanian! And share the Gospel in a foreign country? I would never have imagined that these words would be describing my coming winter/summer.
 - b. I will need much prayer support as I prepare for the challenges ahead of me: living in a new and different culture, communicating through a language barrier, and constantly giving of myself in service. Please pray that I will have God's strength and that my life will show the personal relationship I have with Christ.
 - c. In closing, I would like to share a verse with you that communicates what God is doing in my life (choose a verse that has special significance to you).
 - d. I am anticipating the growth of my faith as I trust God to supply for my financial need of \$_____. If you would like to help in support for this ministry, International Messengers will handle my support funds. All gifts are tax-deductible and a receipt will be given.

Sample Prayer and Support-Raising Letter

Dear _____

Date _____

Recently I made a decision to go on a short-term missions trip with International Messengers. I'm excited about the opportunity God is giving me to share the love of Jesus in Poland and I'm writing to tell you more about it and how you can be involved.



"Why Poland?" you might ask. "Aren't they already reached?" Poland has a population of 40 million people but less than 1% have a personal relationship with Christ. There are less than 200 missionaries in Poland (about 1 for every 200,000 people). People are hungry for truth, for love and for hope.

"How than can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring Good News!'"
(Romans 10:14-15)

OK, here are some details for you. I will be going to Czchow in southern Poland, to do an Evangelistic English Language Camp. During the camp we will teach English to Polish students and adults using the Bible as a text. Besides the actual teaching of English, each day there is an evangelistic Bible study focusing on the character of Jesus, a "Conversation Time" to talk in English and many opportunities for "friendship evangelism". The camp lasts ten days and I'll be in Poland July 29-August 14.



I am going to need lots of prayer for this trip. Prayer is really the key to successful ministry and this is no exception. The team needs prayer to be united and to always be focusing on God no matter what happens. I will also need prayer for me personally to stay looking to God and that God will be able to shine through me to show the people what Christ can do for us. I will also need financial support. My trip will cost about \$2900 and I am trusting God to supply for His work. This will cover my transportation, training, and my living expenses for the trip. I know you may not be able to help financially but prayer is just as important. If you are able to give financial support or are willing to pray for my ministry this summer, please complete the enclosed form and return before June 1.



In closing, I would like to say thank you for reading this letter and for considering my needs for prayer and financial support. Please contact me if you have any questions. I am extremely excited about this ministry and hope you can share in my excitement.

In His Service,

(Include your *name, address, phone # and e-mail address.*)