

Raising Support

For the majority of Pioneers, raising funds is the most difficult ingredient of your entire experience. The awkwardness of asking for money seems so difficult. I have run a non-profit ministry for over 15 years and it was not until recently that I began to find an easiness in asking people to be involved financially.

Over the last couple of years I have come to realize that raising support, especially for overseas mission's activities, is a simple task. This is primarily due to the fact that not everyone is called to go overseas but most people want to be involved. Opening the door for them to contribute toward your trip allows them to be involved without having to actually go. We all know that God has gifted everyone with gifts and we should use them accordingly – for some it is going, for others it is giving, etc. Over the last year I have heard many people say that they do not feel called to go overseas but they know they should be involved and Global Pioneers gives them the opportunity. For these many people, supporting your participation is a privilege – and you need to look at it the same way!

We often make the task of raising funds about us and in reality it is not about us at all – it is about Jesus Christ accomplishing His work in Mozambique. Once you understand this point, the idea of raising funds becomes an opportunity and not a burden. Allow others to use their gifts and support your efforts in serving the Lord in Mozambique!

Preparation:

As you begin this task, the first thing you want to do is spend some time praying about who it is that God has placed in your life to support your involvement in Christ's work through GP. He will bring to mind the people you need to pursue; church members, friends, family, acquaintances, etc.

Making Contact:

Once you have made a list of people, the next step is contacting them. Keep praying for them, but you will also want to connect with them. Write your own letter that expresses what has led you to this point of attending GP and what you hope to be accomplished while there. Include both how you hope to bless the people of Mozambique and also how you hope that this will affect your life. You will also include a statement requesting that they consider supporting you in this experience. Be sure to also ask that they support you through prayer! Lastly, let them know that you will be following up with them in a couple of weeks.

We have included a Support Letter from the Director of GP on the website. Once you have written your letter, combine it with the letter provided. This will allow your donors to better understand the program and at the same time here your heart for the experience.

When possible, make contact prior to delivering the letters. Speak with them briefly in person or by phone, answer any questions and then give/send them the letters.

Mail-Out:

In the envelope, include:

- Your Letter
- Director's Letter
- A support card to fill out

- Stamped & Addressed Envelope

Sample “Support Card”:

Global Pioneers ‘08 Support Card	
Please check one of the following:	
_____	I am enclosing a check in the amount of _____ to financially partner with <i>(your name)</i> as you attend GP.
_____	I commit to partner with <i>(your name)</i> through prayer while you attend GP.
_____	_____
Signature	Date
Please make checks payable to: “Country Place Ministries, Inc” Please put “Global Pioneers” in the memo line of the check.	

The envelope should have your address and a stamp on it to make it simple for the donor to return the card.

****Be sure that the card can fit in the envelope****

Follow-Up:

Once you have mailed the letters continue to pray for those who will be receiving the letters.

As you receive responses, be sure to send “thank you” note expressing your appreciation for their involvement and your commitment to follow-up when you return. For those committing to prayer, send a thank you as well adding any specific requests you may have at that time. Be sure to keep a list of financial supporters and prayer partners with names and addresses.

Allow two weeks for those on your list to respond to your request. After the two weeks has passed, contact those whom you have not heard from to be sure they received the letter. Ask if you can answer any further questions at this time and thank them for considering the request.

Prayer Partners:

As you move closer to your departure date, you will want to send a prayer postcard to those who will be praying for you. On this card again thank them for supporting you this way and share any updated praises and prayers as you go.

During GP:

While on GP, it is good to take time to write each partner a card saying “thank you” and share a thought of what the experience is doing for you. This is very simple to do and yet will mean so much to those who have partnered with you.

On the last day in Africa, we will take you to a place to purchase various items and souvenirs, be sure to find something to bring back to your supporters. You can easily find little items that are very inexpensive and yet represent Africa and it once again shows your appreciation.

After Returning from Africa:

When you get home, send a final letter to your supporters expressing how this experience impacted you and what you accomplished while on GP. It is often helpful to write this letter while on the return flight as it will be fresh on your mind. Once again, express your thanks for partnering with you through prayer/support.

Once you are home and have had a couple of days to rest, be sure to give your prayer partners and donors there little African gift. It is a good final expression of thanks. Feel free to type up a letter sharing a more indepth view of your experience and include it with the gift.