

Save, Raise, & Praise (India)

At Think Missions, we highly encourage you to work hard; consider getting a second job, pick up extra hours at work and **SAVE**. You having “skin in the game” is very important!

This is not something we write in stone, but here is good advice: You should pay for 30% of your mission trip with your own, hard-earned money. The rest you can **RAISE**! Remember this: The most effective way to raise your finances is through one-on-one meetings and by sending out letters. You will be stunned by the way God shows up in your fundraising journey.

Your attitude will play a huge role in this journey. Don’t let fear, doubt, and insecurities undermine your trust in God. **PRAISE** God!

TIME IS ON YOUR SIDE				SAVE
IT'S DOABLE The Think Missions India trip costs about \$2500. 30% of that is about \$750.	YOU CAN DO IT If you begin planning 12 months before the adventure, you can fill up your piggy bank with \$62.50 dollars/month and boom...\$750!	HERE IS AN IDEA \$62.50 per month is less than \$16 per week. That's four cups of specialty coffee at Starbucks!	HERE IS ANOTHER IDEA We have so many comforts we can sacrifice. Cable TV? Gym membership? Netflix? Eating out? How about asking for donations instead of a birthday or Christmas present?	\$750
GOD IS ON YOUR SIDE				RAISE
SAVE & RAISE While you are working to save your \$750. You also need to RAISE \$1750. Remember: God is on your side. He called us all to “GO.” He will provide if you are diligent.	50/10 VISION Send out at least 50 letters and meet with 10 people face-to-face or by phone. Pray for every recipient and meeting. The same faith you are using to fundraise is the faith you are going to use to lay hands on the blind.	DREAM Your dad gives \$300, grandma \$200, aunt \$200, your church \$100, two people you didn't expect give \$100, and then 15 people you know give \$50. That's only 21 people, but it equals \$1750.	HONOR If you honor (value) God and your donors, heaven's door will stay open over your fundraising journey. How big is your God and how much do you “value” the people who are supporting you? Keep them updated, send them Thank You cards. Love them!	\$1750
DON'T PUT PRAISE ASIDE				PRAISE
Fear of rejection or fearing your network is too small can cripple your faith. You should leave the unknowns behind and walk into the adventure God has for you. Go buy 100 envelopes and 50 stamps! Pick your top 50 people and send the letters off in prayer. For the 10 people you are meeting face-to-face, don't send letters to them. First, send them a short email. ("I am going to (FILL IN DESTINATION) to (FILL IN WHAT YOU WILL BE DOING, EXAMPLE- 'build a Bible school!'). I am contacting friends and family to ask them for prayer and financial support. Would you consider meeting next week or setting up a phone call to talk further about what God is doing? When is good for you?"). Once you meet with them, THEN give them your material to take home. Last tip: Before the meeting ends, ask the donor if you can follow up with them. The rest is in God's hands!				

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"Don't look at fundraising as a burden but a faith-building adventure and an awesome opportunity for God to train you for the mission field."

LET'S MANAGE THE HEART

FAITH VS FEAR

Choose faith not fear. God wants you to go and He wants to provide.

BLESSING VS BURDEN

You are a blessing not a burden to the donor - "It is more blessed to give than to receive." - Jesus

WORK + PRAYER

It will take a balance of personal initiative and divine intervention. Lazy plus prayer doesn't work.

OWN A VERSE

Ex: The priests did ministry and Israel supported them. You are the priest now. Read Numbers 18.

LET'S GET PRACTICAL

DONOR LIST

Get your donor list ready. TIP: A name on your list is not valid until you have their phone # and address. Take your time with this.

OUTSIDE OF THE BOX

Think outside of your circle of friends. Your mom's manicurist is one. Your father's best friend. Your family doctor, the list goes on...

MOVE 'EM UP

Move the people that love you and/or high-potential givers to the top of list. You want to go to them first.

KNOW YOUR STUFF

Learn about the country and/or people group you are reaching. Become familiar with the nature of the mission, the organization, etc. pray, pray, and pray. Your heart should ooze compassion.

LET'S MAKE IT HAPPEN

50/10 GOAL

We highly suggest that you do both: Send your support letters AND meet with your donors face-to-face. GOAL: 50 letters and 10 meetings.

FUNDRAISING LETTER

Not more than one page. Make it inspirational. Give them vision! What needs are you meeting? Give the donor opportunity to pray and give. Don't forget to tell them HOW to give! Take your Fundraising Letter Example from Think Missions and personalize it!

STAMPED ENVELOPE

Give the donor a hassle-free way to give. Stamp an envelope with your church address.

START A FREE SITE:

Build a "giving page" to give your donors a way to give online.
Ex: www.youcaring.com

#10 ENVELOPE

Gather the fundraising letter, a stamped envelope and put them in a #10 envelope. Send the letters to, or meet with, your donors. Don't forget to include a link for your personal website. Remind them that when they give online it's NOT tax-deductible. However, if they send a check to your church, it is.

LET'S WALK BY FAITH

Fear of rejection or fearing your network is too small, can cripple your faith. You should leave the unknowns behind and walk into the adventure God has for you. Go buy 100 envelopes and 50 stamps! Pick your top 50 people and send the letters off in prayer. For the 10 people you are meeting face-to-face, don't send letters to them. First, send them a short email. ("I am going to (FILL IN DESTINATION) to (FILL IN WHAT YOU WILL BE DOING, EXAMPLE- 'build a Bible school'). I am contacting friends and family to ask them for prayer and financial support. Would consider meeting next week or setting up a phone call to talk further about what God is doing? When is good for you?"). Once you meet with them THEN give them your material to take home. Last tip: Before the meeting ends, ask the donor if you can follow up with them. The rest is in God's hands!

May God bless every detail of this faith-building season.

Fundraising Letter - Down & Dirty

Fundraising is a simple process. It requires your prayer, your effort, and your time. Remember this, if you're not willing to invest the time and effort, or in other words "get down and dirty", your prayers alone might not be enough (James 2:18). Below is an easy-to-follow series of steps to get your letters into the hands of your donors. When combined with prayer, this will generate the funds each team member needs to be a part of this mission.

Down	Dirty
1	Purchase/obtain a minimum of 50 of these items: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 8.5" x 11" printer paper• #10 envelopes• First-class postage stamps• Names and mailing addresses of family, friends, and co-workers
2	Copy the text of the <i>Fundraising Letter Example</i> from this guide. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Everyone has access to a computer, or knows someone who does...be sure to use a computer.
3	Edit the text of the <i>Fundraising Letter Example</i> to make it more personal and specific to your trip. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Add the names and addresses of your family, friends, and co-workers to the letter, so each letter is addressed to an individual, couple, or family.• If you're not comfortable using a computer or word processing application, get help from someone who is.• If you're not good with spelling and editing, have someone looking over your work.
4	Print your letters.
5	Sign, fold, and stuff your letters in #10 envelopes.
6	Address your envelopes, include your return address, and affix your postage.
7	Mail your envelopes.
8	Over the next 5-7 days, pray for each person you have sent a letter to.
9	Call or visit each of the family, friends, and co-workers that you mailed letters to. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ask them to pray for you and for your team.• Ask them if they have made a decision about being a part of your team by giving towards this opportunity.• Be prepared to explain to them the giving process again.
10	Regardless of their response, thank them.
11	For those who are committed to give towards this mission...send them a <i>Thank You</i> card.
12	Be sure to send a follow-up report to each of your supporters after the trip and ensure that you bring back a small, inexpensive gift from India for everyone who made your trip possible.

Fundraising really is this simple. Don't let pride, laziness, or fear hold you back from being a part of this Think Missions trip. You know *at least* 50 people that can send a letter to; everyone knows at least 50 people that they can send a letter to. Note: Facebook will come in handy when asking for addresses!

Fundraising Letter (India)

[Print on your church letterhead if possible]

Dear friends and family [you may want to personalize your letter to each person],

I want to share with you a challenging ministry opportunity God has presented to me. In [early March 2019], I will be traveling to Oodlabari (West Bengal), India with a team from Think Missions. Think Missions is a church planting ministry based outside Pittsburgh, PA. Their mission is 'to serve and empower the North American Church to fill the globe with life-giving churches' and as of February 2019, they have helped to plant 452 churches world-wide.

Our mission goals are five-fold:

- First, we will be working on the 2nd of a 3-year building program for a Bible School. This Bible School is strategically located in the West Bengal region so that it is within 1-2 hours of Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and, of course, other regions within India. The Bible school will provide residential, short-term ministry and church planter training.
- Second, this journey will help us focus our individual prayers by traveling to a foreign land and praying 'on-site with insight'. We will pray for the local Muslim, Hindu and Buddhist people that God may open their eyes and hearts to the message of Jesus.
- Third, we will be allowing God to work in our lives through the personal enrichment that comes from this type of a mission trip.
- Fourth, we will be visiting an 'unreached people group' of which, less than 0.0002% is Christian. While it is illegal to evangelize, we will be praying for windows of opportunity that God may lay before us to witness to the Indian people.
- Fifth, we will encourage local Christians in Oodlabari. Our presence will bolster their spirits, support their work and develop relationships with the Christians there.

I'm excited about the opportunity and experience that lie ahead. I hope you see the value in what we will accomplish. As you can imagine, a trip like this requires financial support from a number of people. I need to raise \$2,500. [edit amt. if needed] If you can support me in a financial way, I would be very grateful. But, most importantly, I also need your prayer support. Prayer is the fuel that will allow us to be successful as we follow God's leading. Without prayer, nothing will happen. If you would like to be part of this mission through your financial support, send a check to: [insert church name and address here]. A stamped envelope is enclosed for your convenience. Please make your check payable to [insert your church name] and write "Asia mission" on the memo line. Add a note with my name (not on the check) so my account gets credited. All contributions are tax deductible. While money is important, it comes in second to my need for your prayer support. Since prayer support is so important to the success of this mission, I would like to know if I can count on you in that area.

I am sincerely thankful for your love and consideration.

Sincerely,

[INSERT YOUR NAME]