

# Save, Raise, & Praise (Bolivia)

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
<b>IT'S DOABLE</b> A Think Missions trip usually costs about \$2300. 30% of that is about \$690.	<b>YOU CAN DO IT</b> If you begin planning 12 months before the adventure, you can fill up your piggy bank with \$58 dollars/month and boom...\$696!	<b>HERE IS AN IDEA</b> \$58 per month is less than \$15 per week. That's four cups of coffee at Starbucks!	<b>HERE IS ANOTHER IDEA</b> 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?	\$690
GOD IS ON YOUR SIDE				RAISE
<b>SAVE &amp; RAISE</b> While you are working to save your \$690. You also need to RAISE \$1610. Remember: God is on your side. He called us all to "GO." He will provide if you are diligent.	<b>50/10 VISION</b> 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.	<b>DREAM</b> Your dad gives \$300, grandma \$200, aunt \$200, your church \$100, two people you didn't expect give \$100, and then 13 people you know give \$50. That's only 19 people, but it equals \$1650.	<b>HONOR</b> 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!	\$1610
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 Bolivia to build and evangelize. 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!				

# Save, Raise, & Praise

“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

<b>FAITH VS FEAR</b> Choose faith not fear. God wants you to go and He wants to provide.	<b>BLESSING VS BURDEN</b> You are a blessing not a burden to the donor - “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” - Jesus	<b>WORK + PRAYER</b> It will take a balance of personal initiative and divine intervention. Lazy plus prayer doesn't work.	<b>OWN A VERSE</b> Ex: The priests did ministry and Israel supported them. You are the priest now. Read Numbers 18.
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## LET'S GET PRACTICAL

<b>DONOR LIST</b> 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.	<b>OUTSIDE OF THE BOX</b> 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...	<b>MOVE 'EM UP</b> Move the people that love you and/or high-potential givers to the top of list. You want to go to them first.	<b>KNOW YOUR STUFF</b> 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.
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## LET'S MAKE IT HAPPEN

<b>50/10 GOAL</b> 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.	<b>FUNDRAISING LETTER</b> 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 personalized it!	<b>STAMPED ENVELOPE</b> Give the donor a hassle-free way to give. Stamp an envelope with your church address.  <b>START A FREE SITE:</b> Build a “giving page” to give your donors a way to give online. Ex: <a href="http://www.youcaring.com">www.youcaring.com</a>	<b>#10 ENVELOPE</b> 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.
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## 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 Bolivia to build and evangelize. 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"><li>• 8.5" x 11" printer paper</li><li>• #10 envelopes</li><li>• First-class postage stamps</li><li>• Names and mailing addresses of family, friends, and co-workers</li></ul>
2	Copy the text of the <i>Fundraising Letter Example</i> from the Save, Raise, & Praise section of this guide. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Everyone has access to a computer, or knows someone who does...be sure to use a computer.</li></ul>
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"><li>• 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.</li><li>• If you're not comfortable using a computer or word processing application, get help from someone who is.</li><li>• If you're not good with spelling and editing, have someone looking over your work.</li></ul>
4	Print your letters.
5	Sign, fold, and stuff your letters in #10 envelopes. (You may want to consider adding a personal note.)
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"><li>• Ask them to pray for you and for your team.</li><li>• Ask them if they have made a decision about being a part of your team by giving towards this opportunity.</li><li>• Be prepared to explain to them the giving process again.</li></ul>
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 Bolivia 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!

# Sample Fundraising Letter

DATE

Dear Friends and Family,

I hope all is well with you. I am writing to share an amazing opportunity that God has opened up for me. I am a part of a team from YOUR CHURCH and Think Missions. We are planning to leave on a mission's trip to CITY, Bolivia on DATES OF TRIP.

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". As of July 2017, they have planted 370 churches world-wide. As a part of the team, I will be involved in the construction of a new church along with evangelism using drama, dance and personal testimonies to share the Gospel with people. We will work alongside several other churches and we will preach the Gospel, pray for the sick and minister to the people of CITY, Bolivia! It's going to be an incredible experience and I am really excited about being a part of this team.

Will you pray for me as I prepare for this mission and as I travel? Please pray that the trip will be a tremendous blessing to the people of CITY. Pray that God will plant life-giving churches in Bolivia as a result of this trip. Also pray for protection for our team, and the event.

I am also asking you to pray about partnering with me with your financial support for this ministry opportunity. It will be impossible for me to go without the partnership of friends and family. All team members must raise \$2300.00 to cover the cost of their trip expenses. Details about financial support are below. All gifts are tax deductible.

If you have any questions regarding this mission, please call me at YOUR PHONE #. You can learn more about Think Missions at their website: [www.thinkmissions.org](http://www.thinkmissions.org).

Thank you for allowing me to share this opportunity with you!

God Bless You!

SIGN YOUR NAME HERE

TYPE YOUR NAME HERE

Financial Details:

- Please make all checks payable to YOUR CHURCH.
- Please do not put my name on the memo line of the check.
- Use the enclosed envelope to mail contributions. That will assure that your donation is credited toward my trip expenses. You can put my name on a sticky note, or a piece of paper, to assure that money is accredited to me.