

There is biblical precedent for requesting/ collecting financial support for the work of the gospel (among other examples, see especially **Philippians 4:10-20**; note carefully the overall tone and context of this passage – while there is a clear request for financial support the concern is for so much more than ‘getting money’ and the attitude is so full of humility and joy and confidence in God. The overall effect of this is that what is written, in part to request financial support, also results in bringing glory to God and ministering to those that it is sent to; may it be so in our letters as well). In addition, **Romans 15:30** is one, of many, Scriptural examples of urging others to strive/ partner with you in prayer; this is a significant part of these support letters as well.

While each support letter should be unique and a genuine expression from you, in your style, each letter should include some basic elements, such as:

- A bit about yourself, what is going on for you, maybe why God prompted you to go on this trip; possibly a verse that has encouraged you or would encourage others
- A bit about the trip— the dates of the trip; what you will be); possibly some basic info on Mexico; your heart for the trip; etc
- The request for support—*both prayer and financial* (keep in mind here the two passages mentioned above). You may want to mention some specific prayer requests or the amount we’ll need to raise (400 per person)
- The details: if they write checks make them payable to Gateway Fellowship, and write on the memo line “Mex-11” with a separate note with your name attached; they can mail the checks to Gateway or send them directly to you
- This is not necessary but you may want to include that they can contact you or the church if they have other questions about the trip

Sample letters may be found by just doing an internet search (I typed “mission support letters” into Google and got quite a few). But, let me again remind you to: (a) not just make it a copy of something else but make it genuinely from you, even in your own style; and (b) to have it be in keeping, as much as possible, with the spirit and tone of the biblical foundations for such letters (Philippians 4 or other similar texts).

Finally, let this be a part of your stepping out in faith and trusting God in your preparation for the trip. It is not often easy for us to ask for help from others and admit our need. It is not always easy for us to trust God to provide. This is an opportunity to do both of these, which are good for us when done in humility and faith. Pray about writing the letter; pray about who you send it to; send the letter to as many people as you can; pray that God would provide the financial and prayer support you need.

And my God will supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen