

Sports & Cultural Exchange Int'l

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Dear Missionary Athlete,

You are part of an exciting “Faith Venture” for Christ. Jesus commanded His disciples, “Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature” Mark 16:15. You and I are His disciples today.

God’s Word says if a person will place his complete faith and trust in the “finished work” of Jesus Christ they will become sons of God and receive the gift of Life Everlasting. How do we receive this “free gift”? It is only by faith!

How does one trust God to provide needed finances to accomplish His work of taking the Gospel to the world? That also is by faith in the promises of God. “*And whatever you ask in My Name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.*” John 14:13. “*For my God shall provide all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.*” Phil. 4:19

Faith means that you are putting your complete confidence and trust in God to accomplish His work through you. You cannot and must not rely on your own ability or feelings to do it. This is God’s work. It is He who has called you to do this ministry, and it is He who will provide the needs if we believe and let Him.

Raising support, therefore, is an exciting part of this ministry venture for Christ. Go about it with fervor, joy and great expectancy in His promises. Pray, work hard and trust Him for all the results. It is His work, not yours, for which you are raising finances. It is His money that is being raised.

Until all have heard,

David Gordon, President

IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS TO HELP YOU RAISE PERSONAL SUPPORT

The following are some ideas that others before you have done to raise their funds. Hopefully, you can use some of the same ideas.

Because SCEI is a Christ-centered Faith Missionary organization and you are going out as a short term missionary, your church can be a real source of encouragement and support.

You may have the benefit of two church homes: the one at your school location and your home town church.

The idea behind going to your church for help is not just for funds, but to get people committed to pray for you during your trip.

HOW TO WORK WITH YOUR CHURCH

Contact the Pastor, Youth Pastor, Missions chairman or a friendly layman (board member, etc.)

Set up an appointment to talk with them face to face. Don't try to explain this whole thing over the phone. Tell them you need their help and suggestions. This meeting shouldn't take more than 20 minutes and **ASK FOR AN APPOINTMENT**. Such a meeting two or three weeks before the tour is too late.

HOW TO PREPARE FOR AN APPOINTMENT

Write down a list of things you want to cover in the appointment and the area of help you want to ask them for.

NOTE: People love to help others, especially young people. Let them help you, but make it easy by letting them know what help you need.

Example: If they are unfamiliar with the Sports Evangelism ministry, ask them to look on this web site (www.sceionline.org). Share how the Lord is working in your life and why you want to go on this ministry.

HOW TO WRITE PERSONAL LETTERS

First of all, make a list of people to contact. Relatives, friends, friends of family, pastors, church members, coaches, school professors, employers, parents of your school friends, organizations you have belonged to, etc. *(Try to verify addresses to make sure they are good.)*

Then, design your letter. See the sample letter below and add your own personal touch. Write your own letter using your imagination. Be creative... people receive requests through the mail every day. You want them to read yours.

Here's a sample (an idea) of what you might like to say:

Dear _____,

Date: _____

I was selected to represent Jesus Christ, Sports & Cultural Exchange, Int'l and the USA on an all-Christian _____ (*insert your sport ... basketball, baseball, volleyball, etc.*) team which will tour _____ (*insert country you will be going to*).

I feel that this is a fantastic way for me to use the athletic ability God has given me to honor Him and witness for Christ. At each game our team will be presenting the Gospel through personal testimonies, special music, select literature and preaching by an evangelist.

Along with presenting New Testaments to our opponents, we will be offering each spectator a program which contains a clear presentation of the Gospel. Selected local pastors and missionaries then help with the follow-up.

In order to be able to go on this evangelistic outreach, I am trusting God to meet my part in the financial needs. I would like to extend to you the opportunity to help send me out as a missionary and representative for Christ . I need 10 people who will donate \$100 each and another ten who will help me with \$50 a piece. (*this last statement must be adjusted to exactly what your particular need is*). If you can help me, I will be very thankful and know that God will repay you.

I would also like to ask you to be one of the people who will promise to pray for me each day of the tour, _____ to _____ (*dates of the tour*). Our biggest battle in _____ (*country*) will not be against the opposing teams, but against the forces of Satan.

If you would like to have a financial part in sending me on this ministry, please make your check payable to SCEI, and send it to them in the enclosed return envelope. You will receive a tax deductible receipt.

Your friend in Christ
Your Name.

FOLLOW-UP CALL

Call the person a week after you send them a letter. Ask them if they received your letter and information.

- 1) If they say “yes”, then ask them if they have any questions about your up-coming mission trip. If they can’t help you financially, ask them to pray for you daily while you are gone.
- 2) If they haven’t received your letter, then tell them you would like to send them one, double check their address.
- 3) Remember to tell them their donations need to be payable to SCEI and specified to go to you on a separate piece of paper... not on their check. Every donation to SCEI is tax-deductible. *Be sure you always write a letter of thanks and report when you get back from your trip.*

PUBLICATIONS AND ADVERTISING

NEWSPAPERS: See if your local newspaper will get behind you for a series of articles to expose your trip and your need. You can be in the “Sports”, “Religious” or “Youth” sections. Possibly you can get a local group to sponsor you in conjunction with the Newspaper.

SCHOOL NEWSPAPER: Get an article run with your picture if possible.

YOUR CHURCH MONTHLY OR WEEKLY MAILER: Ask your pastor or a close friend to write something about you going on a special short-term missionary venture. Maybe you could have a special insert into the church Sunday School bulletin.

SAMPLE PRESS RELEASE

Sports & Cultural Exchange, International (SCEI), sends teams of Christian athletes to various countries to play top national teams and share their faith through literature, music and half-time presentations.

Players like (name) raise their own finances to travel on the teams. Since 1960, SCEI has sent hundreds of teams of young athletes to 60 countries around the world.

SCEI has home offices in Monteagle, Tennessee and Lakeland, Florida. Overseas, they work alongside missionaries and national churches to share God’s Word.

JOBS AND/OR YOUR OWN MONEY

If you have a job, invest in your own ministry. The same goes if you have a Savings Account and need just a small amount to reach your goal. You may want to do odd jobs of mowing, painting, cleaning, hauling, etc. to raise funds for your trip. Be sure to let your employers know what you are raising money for, they might just want to contribute over and above your wages.

TIPS TO REMEMBER

EXERCISE YOUR FAITH ... READ HEBREWS 11

I. Make an appointment with your Pastor.

Dress Sharp

Be organized

Know what you want to say (*write it down & practice*)

Ask for his blessing and help.. maybe put something about you in the bulletin

II. Make a "Mailing List"

Ask family and friends to help you with this project

III. Write a letter from your "Heart"

If you make copies, make sure they're sharp and personally sign it with a blue pen

Put address and stamp straight on envelopes

Pray for these people that they will be blessed, whether or not they give...

a good time is while you're stuffing their envelope.

Keep the names and addresses of those who promise to pray and financially help.

Write them a Post Card from the "Mission Field" thanking them again.

IV. Be willing to "Work"

If more money is raised than needed, be willing to "give" to a fellow team mate that still may have needs.

V. Pray diligently for:

Each team member

SCEI staff and missionaries

Those on the "field" who you will be reaching

"In everything give thanks... " 1 Thessalonians 5:18