

## Seeking support for Short Term Trips

We want to encourage you to pursue helping seek support for our Short Term Missions trip. Here is how the Missions Committee has planned for managing the funds for trips:

Third does not underwrite the entire cost of an individual team member's participation in a Mission project or trip. It is crucial for a team member to demonstrate his/her commitment by raising (or self funding) more than half of the total amount needed. Team members shall be trained and encouraged to seek to raise support for their trip and to seek a group of people that will commit to pray for them and the project. There are several ways that an individual team member may fund their participation in a short-term project and may use a combination of those options. They include:

- Self-funding – The participant may choose to pay for all or part of the trip cost from personal funds. If they fund their trip from only personal funds, they should recruit a team of people who will commit to pray for them and the project during the time of the trip.
- Personal Fund raising – The participant asks family, friends, and work associates to donate funds to help them be a part of the project. Team members are encouraged to seek funds from those outside the Third community.
- Scholarship – The participant may receive part of the funds for the trip from Third's Scholarship fund. Decisions on scholarships will be made in consultation with the Project Team leader, the Director of Missions and the Budget and Grants Sub-Committee.
- Pooled funds raised by the Project Team – Funds raised by the team may be shared by the team in order to cover their total cost for the trip. All team members are expected to participate in pool funding.

We also desire that finances not be the only impediment keeping someone from going who feels called to a project. For such people, scholarship money is available.

We encourage you to plan to write letters seeking support even if you are self-funding. We believe this is helpful to the team as a whole to have broad prayer and financial support. It also opens up great opportunities for conversations with others about the Lord and chances to share your faith.

Here are some steps to accomplish that:

1. Write out a list of family, friends, work associates, neighbors, and others you know (even if they do not know Christ)
2. Write a support letter (see sample below)
3. Prayerfully decide to whom to send the letter
4. Consider enclosing an envelope with the church address on it and a partial sheet of paper for them to indicate that they are committing to pray for you and the team
5. Mail the letters and keep the list to whom you have sent it

6. Send a follow up note after you return to tell them about the trip or to invite them to a time when you will talk about the trip

## **Sample Support Letter**

Dear,

I am extremely excited about going to Haiti this summer with my church. I wanted to tell you about it and ask if you would help support me in the project. The country is extremely poor, has been through major problems for years, and is still recovering. We will be in country for about a week, doing three projects. One will be a construction project to help build a home and put several roofs on homes that do not have them. A second project is medical. Physicians and nurses will run a clinic to seek to help with the needs of the people who come. Last, we will help run a Vacation Bible School to help teach children about Jesus. I will likely be helping with the construction team. With all the tasks, our hope is to help encourage the people and help them know and feel God's love for them.

I wanted to ask you if you might help support me and our team in two ways. First, is to pray for us while we are in Haiti and ask God to use us to fulfill the purpose for the trip. Second, would you consider helping provide some funds for the trip and our projects? It is costly to go and I would appreciate help with the cost of going but we also are providing \$8000 worth of building materials, \$3000 of medical supplies to use and leave in Haiti, and \$3000 for materials to be used for the Vacation Bible School. If you can help with this you can send a check payable to Third Church, 500 Forest Avenue, Richmond, VA 23229, marking on the memo line "Haiti Trip."

We will be in Haiti July 12-18. I would love to tell you how the trip went when we return. Thanks for considering supporting me in this time of service.

Yours,

## **Note of Response**

I will pray for you and the team while you are there \_\_\_\_\_

I want to participate with you by supporting the work \_\_\_\_\_

I am enclosing \_\$ \_\_\_\_\_ toward the project.

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Name

Make out checks and send to Third Church, 500 Forest Avenue, Richmond, VA 23229, marking on the memo line "Haiti Trip."

You can also donate on line at: [thirdpres.securespsites.com/WebPages/Online%20Registrations.aspx](http://thirdpres.securespsites.com/WebPages/Online%20Registrations.aspx)