



Guatemala

Acceptance Packet for Valor Christian School International



In Partnership with Real Impact Missions

Mission Trip Acceptance Packet
Copyright © 2023 by Real Impact Missions

All rights reserved. No part of this packet may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission from the author.

You made the team!

Congratulations! Real Impact Missions and Valor have accepted your application to serve as a missionary to Guatemala. We're looking forward to working in Chimaltenango to show the love of God to the community and help local churches share Christ.

We are thrilled that God has called you to GO! On every RIM trip, we help you explore God's heart for the world through **strategic partnerships** with local contacts, **intentional evangelism** that helps build up existing churches, and **experienced leadership** who pour into your life.

YOU, as an individual missionary, will have daily opportunities to do **ministry that matters**. You won't just watch other people on your team share the Gospel, build relationships, pray for healing, or finish community development projects. YOU yourself will be intimately involved in every part of the process, and your leaders will challenge you to get out of your natural abilities, comfort zone, etc. and walk in all that God has for you. By the time you return home, you will have personal stories to tell about how God worked through you to build His Kingdom around the world.

What you need to do next... Read through the entire **Acceptance Packet**, and then post a copy of the **Trip Checklist – Cheat Sheet** (page 6) on your refrigerator. This will help you stay on track with your forms and fundraising deadlines. In addition, if you need to apply for or renew your Passport, please do so immediately. **Your Passport/travel documents either U.S. or foreign must be valid for at least 6 MONTHS after the trip (9/21/24 or later)**. Remember, you can access all of the important info, links, forms and fundraising resources for your trip at www.realimpact.com/valorguatemala. You can also reach RIM Monday to Thursday, 9-5 EST at 1.800.774.6746.

IT'S GONNA BE AWESOME!!

Scott & Cara Boss

Founders of Real Impact Missions

Table of Contents

Getting Started (RIM Contact Info)	5
MUST READ THIS: Trip Cheat Sheet (DON'T SKIP!!)	6
About RIM (Team Structure, Discipline, Rules, Dress Code)	7
Important Info (Passports, Insurance, Immunizations, Training, Travel)	9
Financial Info (Deadlines, Refunds, Receipts, How to Add Funds)	11
Required Forms	14
Pre-Trip Preparation	15
Things to Bring (PACKING LIST)	16
About Ministry in Guatemala	17
Student Accounts (Tracking Donations and Paperwork)	18
How to Create your RIM Funding Page - Public Profile	19
Fundraising Guide	20
Sample Support Letter/Donation Coupon	23

*****ATTENTION PARTICIPANTS AND PARENTS*****

If you don't do anything else with this packet...

READ THE TRIP CHEAT SHEET

Bookmark www.realimpact.com/valorguatemala

It's all there, everything you need in one-page, check it out!!

If you have any questions, RIM is available by phone 9am-5pm EST, Monday through Thursday at 1.800.774.6746 or by email anytime at GoInfo@realimpact.com.

Getting Started...

Throughout the next few months, we hope that you will contact RIM if you have any questions or need help. We're here for you and want to make it easy to get on the mission field. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us!

RIM Contact Info:

- 1-800-77-GO-RIM
- 1-800-774-6746
- GoInfo@realimpact.com
- PO Box 1532, Gainesville, GA 30503

On the next page is a 1-page checklist for everything to do...

YOU MUST READ THE NEXT PAGE

Use realimpact.com/valorguatemala to submit forms or add funds!

Please note that if you are accepted to your trip AFTER one of the deadlines below, initial items will be due immediately. If you are late to sign up, you are responsible to complete all the deadlines that passed before your acceptance within 3 DAYS of your acceptance (this may include fundraising deadlines). Please contact the RIM office with any questions!

Near to your trip start, you will also receive:

- LODGING INFO** – So your family members will know exactly where you are
- EMERGENCY CONTACT INFO** – So your family can reach RIM and be put in touch with you in the event of an emergency that occurs at home while you are gone
- Ministry Supplies** – For use during our evangelistic outreaches



Trip Cheat Sheet

REALIMPACT.COM/VALORGUATEMALA

March 14-21, 2024

Beaverton Campus: \$3195, Launch city is Portland, OR

Application Process

- Apply Online**
- Submit \$95 non-refundable deposit**
- Receive email with Acceptance Packet** from RIM (is also online)

Immediately

- Apply for Passport/Verify/Renew** – If you need one, apply immediately, (*can take up to 4 months*)
Renew if it expires before 9/21/24 (RIM requires 6 months of validity beyond the trip)
- If you are not a U.S. citizen**, please make sure your travel documents are in order for the destination country(s) and for the U.S.
- Verify Immunizations** – Make an appointment soon if additional shots are necessary
- Create your RIM Funding Page** (see p. 19) & plan several dates for fundraising on social media
- Write Fundraising letter** - send them out

By November 15th

- 1st Fundraising Deadline** – Add \$1035 to your account (total of \$1130 raised)

By December 15th

- 2nd Fundraising Deadline** – Add \$1035 to your account (total of \$2165 raised)
- Online Form Due: PASSPORT UPLOAD** (Expiration date must be 9/21/24 or later)
- Online Form Due: INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE PURCHASE FORM** – buy required coverage (\$3.45 per day). See page 10 for additional information

By February 15th

- 3rd Fundraising Deadline** – Add \$1030 to your account (so total raised is \$3195)
- Paper Form: NOTARIZED CONSENT FORM** – Print, notarize and mail original physical copy to RIM, PO Box 1532, Gainesville, GA 30503. Must be received by February 15th

March 2023 – Have family **LIKE** our social media pages to see updates:

facebook.com/realimpactmissions and **Instagram: @realimpactmissions**

Real Impact Missions

About Us

Real Impact Missions is a multi-denominational Christian organization that mobilizes individuals and groups for short-term missions. We value strategic partnerships, intentional evangelism, exemplary leadership, and ministry that matters. Our heart and passion is to bring the lifesaving Gospel of Jesus Christ to the hurting and broken around the world!

Read more at www.realimpact.com!

On the trip application, participants signed to verify they read and understood RIM's policies and values. You can find our Statement of Faith, values, leadership structure, safety measures, and FAQs at: Realimpact.com/about-us.

Team Structure

Teams consist of 20-30 students who minister together throughout the trip. Each team has a Team Leaders (TL) who remain with them during the entire ministry schedule. Multiple teams may be deployed to each country.

Discipline

Be advised that RIM and your group leaders have partnered to establish behavioral guidelines for the trip. These rules ensure the safety and well-being of each team member and help teams to maintain the highest degree of Christian integrity so that they can minister effectively in a cross-cultural setting. RIM and your group leaders may send any team member home that shows disregard for rules and regulations. **THE TEAM MEMBER'S FAMILY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY COSTS INVOLVED IN SENDING THE TEAM MEMBER HOME.** This may include, but is not limited to, international airfare, hotel room and meals.

Rules

Breaking the following rules while on a RIM trip will result in a “Bon Voyage” or “BV” – Students who break these may or may not receive a warning, and then **they will be sent home:**

- No possession or use of illegal drugs, alcohol or tobacco products
- No smoking, including e-cigarettes or vape
- No use of someone else’s prescription drugs
- No fireworks, firearms or other weapons
- Never be outside of the lodging complex alone or without a leader in your group
- No romantic involvement of any kind during training or on the mission field
(No new relationships with teammates, translators or people you meet in country, and any pre-existing relationships on the team must be placed on hold with no alone time or PDA.)
- No entrance into opposite gender living quarters
- No stealing
- No pornography

If a student breaks any other church/school rules or trip rules while on the mission, he or she may be subject to disciplinary action by RIM staff and/or the group leadership. Students must not be involved in any kind of behavior that jeopardizes the mission or is a negative witness for the team or their own personal relationship with God. They must participate and actively engage with others during both ministry and team times.

Dress Code

All church/school rules regarding dress apply during the trip. In addition:

- Shorts and tank tops may not be worn during ministry (for all participants)
- Close-toed shoes (and sometimes pants) are required for work projects
- **SWIMWEAR:** Girls must wear one-piece suits or have a dark-colored t-shirt over a two-piece. Guys must wear t-shirts to/from the pool/beach.
- **CHURCH CLOTHES:** Girls must have a knee length skirt with a nice blouse or a long dress that is not sleeveless. Guys must have nice pants and a button down, collared shirt.



Important Information

Passports

If you already have one:

- Verify that the expiration date is at least 6 MONTHS after the trip (9/21/24)**
- If it expires before 9/21/24, you will need to send it in to be renewed**
 - Follow the same instructions for a new passport
 - You will need to mail your old passport in with your new application
- Upload a copy of your Passport at realimpact.com/valor now or by December 15th

If you don't have a passport:

- Apply for your passport immediately!!**
 - Get an official 2" x 2" Passport Photo taken (\$10 at Walgreens, CVS or UPS)
 - Visit <http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/passports/apply.html>
 - Fill out the online form and then print out a copy
 - Bring the form and picture to your county passport office or your local post office
 - You also need your birth certificate, social security number, parent(s) and \$135
 - Allow 6-8 weeks processing time
- Upload a copy of your Passport to RIM via the instructions in "Required Forms" as soon as you receive it

If you have a foreign passport:

- Make sure you have all needed travel documents to enter the country(s) of international travel and to return to country**
 - Be aware many countries require a visa/additional documentation for entry (i.e. proof of vaccination, etc.)
- Have all travel documents to reenter the U.S.

There are also **RUSH SERVICE AGENCIES** to get you your passport in a hurry. You can find these with a quick Google search, but they are expensive and add an additional fee (\$100+ above and beyond the cost of the passport). If you have questions, call RIM at 1.800.774.6746. We are here to help you!

International Insurance Instructions

Real Impact Missions requires all travelers to have full coverage for foreign travel that includes \$1,000,000 or more medical and emergency evacuation, repatriation of remains, accidental death and dismemberment, and a \$0 deductible. Most domestic health insurance you already have will not fully meet these requirements, so RIM is partnering with MissionSafe Insurance to make sure you have sufficient coverage. RIM leaders will have all of the insurance card information in country. If you would like a copy of the card, just call RIM and we will send it to you. Parents are responsible for any charges while overseas and will need to fill out a claim upon return to US. RIM leaders will have all of the insurance card information in country. If you would like a copy of the card, just call RIM and we will send it to you.

Immunizations

Based on the August 2023 Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations for Guatemala,

RIM requires:

- Up-to-date childhood immunizations (required)
- Up-to-date Tetanus (required, no exceptions)
- Hepatitis A (required)
- Typhoid (strongly recommended)

All information is subject to change, so we do recommend that you contact the CDC, your local health department or travel clinic, or your physician closer to the trip. You can also call RIM with questions at 800.774.6746.

Travel Days

Detailed instructions for Travel Days will be provided by email closer to the trip.

Financial Information

Trip Cost:

Beaverton Campus: \$3195 Launch city is Portland, OR

Fundraising Deadlines

Funds can be added online at realimpact.com/valorguatemala:

- \$95 non-refundable deposit due with application
- \$1035 added by November 15th (total of \$1130 raised)
- \$1035 added by December 15th (total of \$2165 raised)
- \$1030 added by February 15th / Total balance due (\$3195)

Students are encouraged to fundraise as much as possible and to begin the process early. If a fundraising deadline arrives and a student's account is short, they will be required to make up the difference by adding personal funds. If the same student later raises excess funds, no refunds are available per IRS regulations.

Missed Deadlines & Airline Surcharges

Missed deadlines can result in a \$35 late fee for each deadline. If you are concerned about a particular deadline, you must call RIM before the deadline to request an extension. In addition, an airline surcharge may be added to your trip cost if your ticket is purchased later than everyone else's airfare. This can occur if you joined the team late or failed to meet a fundraising deadline. Airfare costs (including taxes and government fees) often increase closer to the travel date.

Refund Policy

All donations received by Real Impact Missions go toward project expenses and are non-refundable. To receive a tax deduction, donations cannot be designated to a specific individual. Each individual is a fundraiser for the RIM project and the funds raised go toward project costs and participation. Funds are non-transferable.

Trip Withdrawal

If an individual is unable to participate in the Real Impact experience, the funds he or she has raised, less deposit, incurred expenses and administrative fees, can go towards a future project within the next year. Participants should notify RIM of their interest in applying for a future

project. Please note the closer the withdrawal is to the trip; the more funds have been expended. 30 days before the trip, 100% of funds have been used toward the project and therefore cannot be applied toward future projects or trips.

Extra Funds

If you make a donation and/or raise funds in excess of the amount needed for this trip, RIM cannot return that money to you or to your donors. However, you can request to use that money on a future RIM/Valor trip or standard RIM trip that you sign up for within one year of your current trip. (1 - 4 weeks long, see realimpact.com for outreach opportunities!)

Tax-Deductible Donations

Real Impact Missions (RIM) is a registered 501(c)3 organization and all donations to RIM are tax-deductible. All financial activity is filed annually on a Form 990 Corporate Federal Return. **Checks should be made payable to *Real Impact Missions*. In order to receive proper tax credit, the name of the RIM missionary may NOT appear anywhere on the check.** When sending in checks to RIM, please use the donation coupon (p. 24) or a note with the participant's full name and trip. RIM sends out donor receipts in January according to IRS requirements.

Receiving Donations & Adding Money to Your Account

Your donors may give towards your portion of the project using any of the following methods:

- **Mail a check** to Real Impact Missions, PO Box 1532, Gainesville, GA 30503
**Include a card with the participant's name and trip, but do NOT write their name on the check itself*
**Make checks payable to Real Impact Missions*
- **Give online at realimpact.com/donate/** – Enter the participant's name and trip
- **Click GREEN DONATE BUTTON on an individual's public profile link** – See page 19
- **Visit realimpact.com/valorguatemala** and click "donate" near the bottom of the page

If you prefer to collect the checks yourself and then send them to RIM in a group:

- Mail the checks in at least once a month so donors don't wait long for them to deposit
- Include a RIM donation coupon (final page of your packet) or a note w/your name & trip
- Donations must arrive before fundraising deadlines to be counted toward that deadline

Processing Time

Below are the normal processing times for various types of donations. Near to a fundraising deadline or year-end giving, please allow additional time for donations to post to your account.

- **Checks** – Mailing time + 2 business days

- **Online Giving via realimpact.com** – 2 business days
- **Online Giving via Public Profile** – Added immediately in real time, no processing needed

Note: Business days for Real Impact Missions are Monday to Thursday, 9am-5pm EST

COVID Donation Protection

At RIM we commit to stewarding each donation with kingdom responsibility. We understand the challenges and questions that come from fundraising in the Covid era, so we have worked to implement this Covid Donation Protection plan that will allow for as much flexibility as possible.

- Trip cancellations or postponements qualify for transfer of all funds that have not been expended, toward another location that year or for a future RIM trip.
- If an individual is unable to participate due to COVID-19 related issues, they also qualify for this donation protection. The funds he or she has raised that have not been expended, can go towards a future project, if done 30 days prior to the trip.

Required Forms

In an effort to keep things as simple and easy as possible, most of the required paperwork and donations for your mission trip can be submitted online. There is only one RIM notarized form to be physically turned in. To upload files, fill out forms or download physical copies to send to RIM, visit:

[Realimpact.com/valorguatemala](https://realimpact.com/valorguatemala)

CHECKLIST:

- By Dec. 15 – Complete PASSPORT UPLOAD**
 - Scan the page of your passport that has your picture on it
 - Full color, not blurry or cut-off
 - All numbers at the top right and along the bottom can be clearly read
 - Expiration date must be 9/21/24 or later
 - If applied for but not yet received, please call RIM
- By Dec. 15 – Fill out the INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE PURCHASE FORM**
 - Buy required coverage (\$3.45/day) through the form.
- By Feb 15 – Print, Sign, Notarize and turn in RIM NOTARIZED CONSENT FORM**
 - Send to RIM, PO Box 1532, Gainesville, GA 30503

PRE-TRIP PREPARATION

The following is a list of things you can do to better prepare you for your mission trip:

- **Pray** – This is by far the most important part. Begin to pray for the country, the people, for divine appointments, for your team, and for the finances to come in for your trip.
- **Research** – Research your country as much as possible; the people, history, major religion(s), culture. Travel books and the internet can give you a good feel for the country.
- **Read Your Bible** – Especially read books like Romans and John, that can help you while witnessing. Memorize relevant scriptures that you can use in personal evangelism.
- **Read** – Read Christian books that encourage you in your walk with God.
- **Prepare Your Testimony** – Practice sharing your testimony, approximately 1 to 2 minutes long. It can either be about your salvation experience, a miracle God has done in your life, a healing, or God’s provision that you’ve experienced. Make sure it’s personal. Your Project Directors and Team Leaders will continue to help and coach you.
- **Learn the Four Spiritual Laws** – The following principles are a great tool as you share the gospel message:
 1. **God loves you and created you to have a personal relationship with Him.**
John 3:16, John 17:3
 2. **Man is sinful and guilty before God, who is perfect and just. Sin has separated man from God and the relationship between them is broken. We must repent.**
Romans 3:23, 2 Thess. 1:8-9
 3. **Jesus Christ is God’s solution for man’s sin. Through Him alone you can have a personal relationship (He died in our place, rose from the dead and is the only way to God).**
1 Peter 3:18, Romans 5:8, John 14:6
 4. **We must each respond and ask Jesus Christ into our lives as Savior and Lord.**
John 1:12, Romans 12



Things to Bring List

Each participant may bring (1) CHECKED BAG and (1) CARRY-ON BAG. You may be asked to pack up to 5lbs of team supplies in your checked bag so leave space. Do NOT bring valuables you would be upset to lose, like cell phones, tablets, expensive jewelry, etc...

Carry-On Bag (Small backpack or day pack)

- Passport (with 6 months validity)
- Spending money for snacks/souvenirs
- Bible, devotional book, pens
- Prescription or personal medication
- 7 Masks (Guatemala still requires them in many locations)

Checked Bag (45lbs or less, rolling suitcase/hiking backpack, no hard-shell cases)

- (1) Nice Modest Church outfit – **Girls:** (not sleeveless, tight-fitting, or low cut) - **Guys:** a collared shirt
- (1) Swimsuit and beach towel, just in case!
*Girls swimsuits must be one-piece or have a dark-colored t-shirt over two-piece
- (8) Sets of undergarments and socks
- (1) Pair of pajamas/sleepwear
- (3) Outfits for ministry (pants, nice top)
- (3) Sets of work clothes (old jeans and t-shirts that might get ruined/stained)
- (1) Pair of heavy-duty work gloves
- (2) Pairs of tennis/athletic shoes- for extensive walking, sturdy enough for work projects
- (1) Pair of flip-flops and/or shower shoes
- Clothes to wear around lodging complex (shorts, t-shirts)
- (1) Sweatshirt/jacket
- (1) Plastic bottle of either peanut butter or jelly (grape/strawberry)
- Toiletries (shampoo, soap, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrush, contact solution, etc.)
- Contacts or glasses (if you wear them)
- 32oz Water Bottle (Nalgene or similar brand, must be re-useable and shatterproof)
- Outdoor supplies (sunscreen, insect repellent, sunglasses/hat, rain poncho)
- Tools (details announced closer to trip)
- Miscellaneous extras (mini flashlight, healthy snacks, stickers/candy to give away) – *OPTIONAL!!*

Essential Guatemala Info

The Location

A beautiful land of mountains, volcanoes and lakes with ancient colonial villages and Mayan ruins. Belonging to 60 different people groups, residents of Guatemala speak more than 42 distinct languages, but most people know Spanish because it is the country's official language. Our team will serve primarily in Chimaltenango and nearby villages where many still wear their traditional tribal garb.

The Condition

It's easy to meet people and initiate conversations in Guatemala. While many of the Guatemalans consider themselves Christians, a great number of them are only Christians in a cultural sense and do not have a personal relationship with Jesus. All it takes is a one-on-one conversation with a missionary like you to help Guatemalan students bridge the gap from religion to relationship. While working with our partner One 2 One school, ministry may include food distribution, evangelism, and construction projects. Be prepared for the Lord to use you to bring light into spiritual darkness!

The Strategy

Most people have heard of Christianity, so it is easy to start conversations about Jesus. Ask people if they have a personal relationship with Him and listen to their story! Share about your relationship with God, and how He has changed your life. As you talk, ask questions about their lives and answer questions about your own. Use your personal testimony to show them a personal relationship with Jesus. Briefly share your struggles (but don't glorify them), & focus on how Jesus saved you.

Challenges for Prayer

Begin to pray daily for Guatemala. Pray that people will truly understand the personal nature of a relationship with Jesus and the need to make an individual decision to invite him to be both Lord and Savior. Pray that God would orchestrate ways for new believers to connect to the Christian community after you go home.

Our Ministry Schedule

As we worship and serve together, our team will bring light into the spiritual darkness and help the truth of the Gospel shine brighter than ever!! The week will include:

- Construction Projects
- Evangelism
- Home visits, feedings, etc.
- Adventure Day – Testimonies, fun team outings, local markets and more...

Student Accounts

Upon acceptance, every student will receive access to their own personal Managed Missions account. These accounts are a helpful tool for students and parents to track fundraising, paperwork, goals and tasks. Please take advantage of this tool. It makes life easier!

Getting Started

Each participant will receive an invitation to Managed Missions by email once his or her application has been processed by RIM. This email will come from **GoInfo@realimpact.com**. Please add this email address to your “safe list” so that you don’t lose it in junk mail or spam.

- **Step One:** Receive email invite from RIM
- **Step Two:** Click bottom link in the email and choose a password for your account
- **Need Help?** Call RIM at 1.800.774.6746 from 9am-5pm EST, Monday-Thursday

NOTE: This email goes to the email address a student chose on their registration form and cannot go to multiple addresses. If you want to change the email address, just contact RIM.

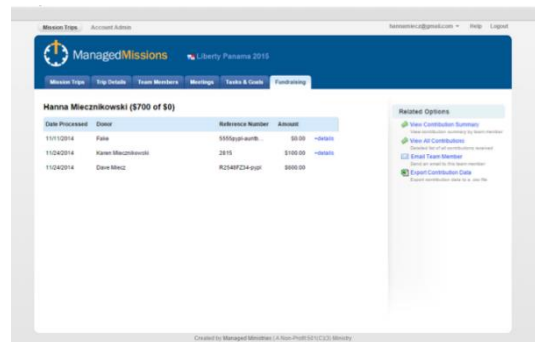
To Login

Visit <http://realimpact.managedmissions.com> and enter the student email address plus the password you selected during “Getting Started” above. Then select **Valor Guatemala 2024**.

To Check Your Balance

Login to your account and then follow these steps:

- Click the **Fundraising** tab
- View your payments and donations
- Click **+details** for additional donor info



Date Processed	Donor	Reference Number	Amount
11/01/2014	John	5186949498	50.00
11/26/2014	Marisa Miecznikowski	2815	3100.00
11/26/2014	David Miecz	82348724	800.00

To Check Deadlines

Login to your account and then follow these steps:

- Click the **Tasks & Goals** tab
- View upcoming deadlines and check if you’ve met fundraising goals/submitted forms

To Create a Public Profile

****EXTREMELY IMPORTANT: THIS IS AN AWESOME TOOL!! DON’T MISS OUT!****

Keep reading on the next page to find out how this works...

How to Create a RIM Funding Page (Public Profile)



It's called SOCIAL GIVING... Real Impact Mission's public profiles are one of the most effective tools we provide to help you raise money for your trip, and you receive **100% of the funds donated through this page** (unlike other

fundraising sites that charge a fee). The power of peer-to-peer fundraising when combined with modern technology is incredible! For example, we saw one student raise \$1,314 in 9 days and another raise \$2,400 in two weeks!

How to Create a Public Profile

- Login to <http://realimpact.managedmissions.com>
- Click **Valor Guatemala 2024**
- Click **Edit my public profile** (top right)
- Write a note to supporters
- Add a picture (clear, just you, not goofy)
- Click **Submit for Approval**
- Notice your personal **Public Profile URL** link
- Run several campaigns (ex. once a month)



How to Run a Campaign

- Choose a specific financial goal (ex. \$630 or your first fundraising deadline)
- Choose a specific set of dates (ex. 3 days the weekend after you're accepted)
- Post updates several times a day each day about your trip that includes your link
- The first few updates should tell people that you're going on a trip and need their help
- Subsequent posts should give updates about how much \$ is raised between posts
- At the end of the time, post thank you messages and final results
- Encourage your close friends and family to SHARE your posts throughout the days
- Repeat this once a month between now and your trip
- Consider using Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, Pinterest, etc.

**Note: It's important to post multiple times per day because of social media algorithms.*

FUNDRAISING GUIDE

Getting the Funds...

Often, this feels like the biggest obstacle to people as they prepare for their mission trip, but it is also the greatest opportunity to experience God's provision and miraculous intervention! Here are some practical tools and biblical encouragement as you work to raise your funds:

- **God will supply all of your needs.** Read Philippians 4:19. It's a promise! Cling to this... If God has truly called you to go on this trip, He will provide all of your needs.
- **Missions is God's heart.** He is the One who told us to "Go into all the world." God would not instruct us to do this if He didn't intend to help us complete the task.
- **Pray.** At RIM, prayer is the foundation that we build our mission experiences on. Pray for God to multiply your efforts, increase your finances and bring you prayer partners.
- **Make a list of prospective partners.** Fundraising is less about money and more about relationships. God has given us relationships for a variety of purposes. He uses relationships to reach the world! Good stewardship of your relationships means including people in what you are doing overseas. Think of all the people you know that can join with your trip either financially or in prayer. Write down names of friends, relatives, church members, local businesses, business owners, etc. that you can send a support letter to. In addition, begin to think of ways to use social media to tell even more people.
- **Prayer Partners.** Choose 5 people and ask them to commit to pray for your trip. Provide them with the schedule, country information, your personal needs (like finances) and have them pray especially for ministry effectiveness.
- **Write a letter for support.** This is a great way to let people know what you are doing and what God is doing in your life. Send letters to at least 30 people.
- **Follow your letter with a phone call.** We know this sounds scary, but it is actually really fun! 2 weeks after you send your letters, make a personal phone call to each person. Ask if they received this letter. Take this opportunity to explain more about your desire to go. Ask them for prayer/financial commitment.
- **Create a Public Profile and plan social media campaigns.** See page 19. These days, social media allows us to connect with hundreds and thousands of people who want to be a part of what God is doing around the world!!
- **Be creative.** Try some unexpected ways to raise funds... Check out the next page for ideas!
- **Trust God.** Once you have done all that you know to do, look to God to do the rest. He'll do "exceedingly, abundantly above all that we can ask or imagine." (Ephesians 3:20)

Creative Fundraising Ideas

If you find yourself at a loss for ideas, try these:

- **Sponsor a Day** – Divide your trip cost by the number of days you'll be gone. (ex. \$2,095 trip divided by 15 days = \$140 per day) Ask people to choose a date (ex. August 2nd) and sponsor the entire day. Keep track of who sponsors which day. After the trip, show them your pictures and journal entries of what happened that day.
- **Per Mile Traveled** – Have people pledge to sponsor you for a certain number of miles (that you will travel from your home city to your ministry). Example, if your trip is \$2,095 and your journey is 4802 miles, people can sponsor you for \$0.44/mile.
- **Youth Sunday/Special Offering** – Ask your pastor if your team can share during one of the services and then take up a special missions offering.
- **Sell Stuff** – Bake sale, garage sale, jewelry sale, t-shirt sale, candy sale, flower sale...
- **Serve People** – Car wash, babysit, yardwork, walking pets, cleaning houses, painting...
- **____-a-thon** – Host a walk-a-thon, dance-a-thon, rock-a-thon. Get sponsors for a 5K, etc.
- **Media Fast/Sugar Fast/Caffeine Fast** – Choose one of these to give up between now and your next deadline. Have people sponsor the number of days you go without TV or chocolate or soda or coffee. Show them you are committed to this trip!
- **Local TV/Radio/Newspaper** – See if they will support you, interview you or write an article about what you are doing and how others can get involved.
- **Tournament** – Host a golf tournament and invite local businessmen to participate for a \$100 donation as their entrance fee. Consider other spots and hosting a 5K as well!
- **Concessions** – Sell candy and soda pop at special events.
- **Stadiums & Theme Parks** – Find out about opportunities for your whole group to clean up after a game and/or run a concession stand for a whole day in exchange for a donation.
- **Design** – Create custom hats, t-shirts or wrist bands and sell them.
- **Sponsors** – Ask a local business to match other donations you receive dollar-for-dollar.
- **Auction** – Live or silent. This could be a good one to do as a group!
- **Music** – Ask a local band or drama team to do a benefit performance.
- **Coffee** – Host a coffeehouse or sell lattes after church. Why not dessert too?
- **Collect Change** – Label mason jars for your trip and have people collect spare change.
- **Recycle** – If you live in a state that encourages it, there may be money to earn from this.
- **Arts & Crafts** – Have people donate handmade items and sell the donated items.
- **Get a Job!**

The opportunities are endless... Be creative. You can do this! Trust God and work hard!!

How to Write a Support Letter

The most important thing to remember in writing your support letter is that you are not just asking a bunch of people for money. Rather, you are giving people an opportunity to go on your trip with you... to share in the experience of proclaiming God's love to people who may never have heard the Gospel before. You are giving people who can't go on a mission trip themselves a chance to be an active participant in the Great Commission!

Basic guidelines for writing your letter:

- **Share your heart.** Explain what God has done in your life to bring you to the point of going on a mission trip. In a few sentences, describe why you picked this specific trip.
- **Tell about the place.** Write several facts about the country you will serve, the ministry you will do, and how long you will be gone.
- **Relate the need.** Explain the cost of the trip and your financial need. Communicate what you will be doing on your own to help with the cost (odd jobs, babysitting, carwash, etc.).
- **Invite people to participate.** Ask potential supporters to join your team by giving or praying or both. Be sure to let them know that all donations should be made out to Real Impact Missions and are tax deductible, and they should not put your name on the check.
- **Explain how to give funds.** Provide them with details about giving online through your personal profile or the realimpact.com/donate website or by sending a check to RIM.
- **Close with thanks.** Let them know how much you appreciate them and thank them for their involvement. Encourage them to pray about how God would have them give.
- **Include a self-addressed envelope (stamped if possible)** and a commitment card for your supporters to send back. Make it easy for people. Do most of the work for them!

If you need any additional help, feel free to call Real Impact Missions at 1-800-774-6746 or to email us at goinfo@realimpact.com. We're here to help!!

VERY IMPORTANT:

Be sure to tell your supporters that your name cannot appear anywhere on the check they send or else their gift will not be tax-deductible. They should fill out the commitment card you provide or just put a note with their check explaining who it's for and what trip.

Sample Support Letter

Dear Uncle Bob & Aunt Janet,

In the past few weeks, our school has been studying missions, and God has showed me His heart to reach the lost. My youth group is going on a mission trip to Panama (your country) with Real Impact Missions (RIM) this summer, and I have decided to join the team.

Because of the US legacy in Panama, citizens who live in big cities or near the Canal have access to many things that Americans have...safe running water, cars, TVs and good jobs. Many of them also speak English, even though the official language is Spanish. But at the same time, Panama is also home to several tribes of Amerindians who live in abject poverty and don't have access to adequate educational opportunities. The distance between these two groups is mere miles. They're next door neighbors.

The one thing they have in common is their need for Jesus. Throughout Panama, most people are religious and place cultural importance on rituals and traditions, but very few know a personal God who wants to have an intimate relationship with them as Savior and Lord. My team and I will be learning an evangelistic drama that opens doors for us to perform in public schools. Following our presentation, we will use one-on-one conversations with students to share our faith. A recent team saw 1100 students give their lives to Jesus in just 3 days! RIM's main ministry partner in Panama has asked for more teams to come immediately.

*My youth group will be responding to this need. Our trip is August 1-15, 2021 and costs \$1,995. I am babysitting and doing odd jobs to earn part of this money, but I need help reaching my goal. Please consider sponsoring me with your tax-deductible financial gift and, most importantly, prayer. The deadline for my initial deadline is December 15th; so, if you can help me, please consider dropping a check in the mail today or giving online at {insert personal profile URL here or realimpact.com/donate/}. Your gift would be an investment into someone's eternal life. Please pray and do whatever God leads you to do. To receive a tax deduction, it is very important that you **do not put my name on the check**. Make your check payable to Real Impact Missions and mail it to: {insert your address or RIM's address}.*

More than anything, I ask for your prayers concerning this trip. You can see updates while we are gone by clicking "LIKE" on RIM's Facebook page [facebook.com/realimpactmissions](https://www.facebook.com/realimpactmissions). I sincerely appreciate your concern for the cause of Christ. May God bless you as you pursue Him and the establishment of His Kingdom. Together we can make a difference around the world!

Pursuing Christ,

{Your Name}

Donation Coupon

If you mail out support letters, you can have donors send their checks either to your personal address or to the RIM office. Make sure all checks are payable to *Real Impact Missions*. Send checks in to RIM as you receive them along with this page (once every other week or so). Don't wait until the last minute as processing takes longer near deadlines due to high volume of donations. If donors send checks straight to RIM, you will see the donation reflected in your student account.

RIM's office address is:

*Real Impact Missions
PO Box 1532
Gainesville, GA 30503*

ALL CHECKS OR MONEY ORDERS MUST BE SENT IN TO THE REAL IMPACT MISSIONS OFFICE WITH A DONATION COUPON or a card with your name and trip on it. Photocopy this sheet each time you send donations. Your funds received can be viewed on realimpact.managedmissions.com.

Donation Coupon

_____	_____	_____ <u>Valor Guatemala</u> _____
Missionary Name	Country	Group
Donor Name	Amount Given	Check #
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____
6. _____	_____	_____
7. _____	_____	_____
8. _____	_____	_____
9. _____	_____	_____
10. _____	_____	_____

Total (\$) Sent to Real Impact Missions: _____

Date Submitted: _____

NOTE: Missionary name should not appear anywhere on the check for proper tax-deductible credit.