

So the adventure begins...and you might ask -

Why on earth should I write a support letter?

Well, at the beginning of any trip a bunch of things happen – planning, preparation, figuring out who is paying for the trip and generating a list of things ‘to do’ prior to the trip. For a mission trip there are some very important additions. Some of these are:

- prayer
- building community
- building team
- telling others and building a support team

Often times when we think of support we think of financial – finding and joining with people who will help pay for the trip. And while this is important, it is only one of many reasons, and over multiple trips you will take with Student Ministries or others the others are critical (really, really, more important)

So, here are my big 7 reasons to gather a support team.

1. *Gathering Prayer support-* #1 cause it’s that important. You may go, but without this it might be better to run as fast as you can into your best friend (ouch)

2. *Communicate why you are going on the trip-* nothing adds clarity like having to tell someone why.

3. *Communicate what God is doing in your life-* Sometimes we move so fast through life we forget to tell others what going on – this is your chance.

4. *Accountability-* if you tell someone you are going and why – they often ask you follow up questions like – How did it go? What did you do? What did you learn? Where did you see God? ...

5. *Dependence on God-* sending, waiting, asking and trusting shows your trust and lean on God (*a good place to be*).

6. *Your English teacher asked me to give you an assignment -***

7. *Financial Support-* it does take dollars to do all the things planned

Life is a journey that has lots of bends and rolls – writing these letters can be difficult for some and easy for others, but the opportunity to learn to connect and communicate is great. The trip will last about a week – connecting with people allows the trip to stretch into everyday life.

** not really, I just thought 7 reasons would be better than 6