

XPONENT TRIP

Sample Support Letter

February 2013

Dear _____:

[Personal 1st Paragraph] Hope you are well...

God has opened the door for me to go on a short-term mission trip to *[Country]* with XPONENT Ministries *[Dates]*. We will be working with existing churches and fellowships in the city of *[City]* that are equipping the believers, sharing the gospel, healing the sick, and prayerfully start new little churches there. I will be teamed up with other Christians there as we go door-to-door telling people about Jesus Christ through translators and bilingual literature and assisting our team to make an eternal difference in the lives of those we encounter. To see this become a reality, your help is needed! This is a team project, and you are needed on the team. First, we need your prayers for the spiritual battles ahead. Second, your help is needed to help cover part of the cost for this trip.

The total cost is \$_____. Please consider investing \$____ or \$_____ in this team project. Much of this amount is due on _____.

If you would like to join us in this, please make your check payable to "XPONENT Ministries" and return it to me in the enclosed envelope. XPONENT will then send you a tax receipt.

If I do not hear from you by _____, I will attempt to contact you to see if I can answer any questions you may have at that time.

You are very important to me-that is why I wanted you to be a partner with me for this trip. Together we can make an eternal difference! Thank you for praying about being part of our team.

Sincerely,

Dan

SAMPLE TESTIMONY

Use this as a guide for writing your testimony.
Feel welcome to use some of the same phrases!

Hello, my name is Joe DeCitizen.

I live in the city of Dallas, Texas, in the USA.

Before following Christ, I tried to become happy by making money, going to parties, and living my way. But these things only made me empty. I knew I was sinning against God.

I realized I needed for God to save me from my sins.

(How I became a Christian) Then some friends showed me that the Bible says that God loved us so much that He sent His Son Jesus Christ to die on the cross to pay for our sins. Jesus was buried, and after 3 days God raised Him from the dead. The Bible says that those who trust in Jesus to forgive their sins will have eternal life with God. So that day, I put my trust in Jesus alone to forgive me of my sins.

Today my life as a Christian is full of joy, peace, and purpose. I know that God loves me and has forgiven me. Best of all, I know that I have eternal life with God.

Would you like to know how you can have eternal life with God?

Key Points to Remember when Writing Your Testimony

‘Before following Christ’: Be *general* about your life before Christ. You don’t want the hearer to dwell on your sins. Describing feelings is helpful (e.g., pain, loneliness, emptiness, uncertainty of eternity, etc.), but avoid needless sin details. If you say, “I was a [thief / etc.]”, then the hearer may think, “I’m not *that* bad – I don’t need Christ the way *s/he* does.” General descriptions of sin have broader impact. If you say, “I was rebellious and sinned all the time,” then the hearer may identify by thinking, “I bet *s/he* was a drinker, like *me*.” And finally, don’t spend 5 minutes on sin versus only 30 seconds on salvation and your new life!

(How I became a Christian): Make sure this section gives the *gospel!* Your testimony may be the only chance for someone to hear it! *The gospel is:* we are sinners who are saved only when we put our faith in Christ, who died for our sins, was buried, and raised. Scripture does *not* say that we were saved by ‘walking the aisle’, or ‘asking Jesus into our hearts’, or other Christian-ese jargon. Be clear. Avoid ‘churchy’ terms.

‘Today my life as a Christian is’: This section should show benefits, not problems! Tell of the joy, peace, and forgiveness Jesus gave you – instead of “since trusting Christ, I have had nothing but problems”. If you really must mention the problems, a better approach would be, “After I trusted Christ, He has always given me strength and peace, even when I have problems.” But *never* dwell on the problems!

WRITE YOUR PERSONAL TESTIMONY!

Your testimony is a **vital tool** that you will use as you share the gospel. XPONENT would like for you to write it **briefly** below for your benefit and also in case we need to translate it for any reason for your trip events.

See the "SAMPLE TESTIMONY" and instructions first (from page 7).

IMPORTANT! Use only this form so the testimony will be an appropriate length for practical use.

Hello, my name is _____

I live in _____

Before following Christ, _____

I realized I needed _____

(How I became a Christian – include a BRIEF gospel) _____

Today my life as a Christian is _____

Would you like to know how you can have eternal life with God?