



“During my junior year in high school I had the opportunity to join a GO Team for the first time. One of the biggest challenges for me was raising funds. I was absolutely terrified to send out support letters, fearing that my relatives and peers would feel pressured into giving money, or be offended by my asking. I sent out my letters despite my fears, and put an emphasis on my need for prayer because I truly believed it was the most important form of support I could receive. Even with my fears, doubts, and worries God provided for my trip in ways I never would have imagined. I got letters from loved ones expressing their support, and in the end my entire trip was paid for.

The next year I was blessed with another opportunity to join a GO Team, but this time I felt God calling me to an even more daunting task when it came to paying for the trip. As a senior in high school I felt God calling me to raise all of my funds myself, and consequently putting my upcoming trip to South Africa as my highest priority. I worked 30 hours a week on top of my school work; I gave up worldly possessions, and going out with friends (a task not easy for teenagers). In the end I saved over \$4,000 and was able to pay for my entire trip. God used this as a tool to disconnect me from the worldly desires of my heart, and to connect me to Him and His desires for my life.

There are thousands of things I have learned by joining a GO Team, but one thing is for certain: God is my provider. He may not provide in the way that I see fit, or in the way that is most comfortable for me, but in the end, His way is better than anything I could ever imagine. To be honest I did not want to give up all of the things that I had to in order to travel to South Africa, but in the end every hour worked, every worldly desire put aside, and every hard earned penny spent was worth watching God move in my life, and in the lives of those I met along the way.”

**- Courtney, South Africa, 2012**

“It was my second trip to Limpopo and my third GO Team trip. I was very concerned because I felt like I had just gone and that people wouldn't be as open to giving. I also felt led to do what I hadn't done before, which was share with my work colleagues and give them an opportunity to contribute. I sent out all the letters to the same people I had for the first two trips... and found that many who had not contributed before joined in giving and many of my previous supporters contributed again. And then the funds stopped. I found myself \$500 from my total and really worried because for over two weeks not a single donation had come in.

After that two weeks of worrying, I had someone remind me it was FAITH and finances, and I increased the faith part and prayed for God to be in control instead of me. That same week, a co-worker approached me in the office and asked how my fundraising was going. I shared that it had been really good, but that I was still some distance from my total. I didn't say how much though. He told me he and his wife had been praying about where to give money they set aside every year from his bonus for charitable giving and they wanted to give to my trip... in the amount of \$500. In that one act, my total was reached. And in the next two weeks several more donations came in that enabled me to help others on team reach their total!”

**- Amber, South Africa, 2010-2012**

“Just like everyone, I had the same fears and doubts. How would I come up with the money? How would I find a way to make this happen? How would I convince my friends to support me? I was lacking the ability to see that this was something far beyond my control. I had to let go, give it over to God, and trust that if this was part of his plan for me, the funds would come in. I did my part, I sent my support letters and I did a bake sale, but it was God who softened people's hearts and led them to give. It was amazing to see the money come flooding in and from the most unlikely sources, from the people that I never thought for a moment would be called to give. God provided me with exactly what I needed, not more, not less, but exactly what I needed.

I am currently preparing to go on another trip with Horizon in March. Again, I am stepping out in faith and trusting that he will provide. I move confidently forward knowing that he will make a way because caring for the oppressed, the widow, and the orphan is the heart of Jesus. I implore you to step out in faith, to see how he can provide immeasurably more than you could ask or imagine and see yourself be transformed by his might. You'll never regret it. It will change your life. It will increase your faith. AND that's only about a quarter of how the whole rest of the trip will change your life. Go! See what God has to show you.”

**- Abby, Zambia, 2012**

“Because we were both going, it was a larger financial impact than if it was just one of us. We mailed out support letters to family and friends, posted updates on Facebook, and prayed that God would provide at least half of our total trip cost.

I think the most amazing donation we got where we could really see God orchestrate was with my dad. He is not in the best financial position, and I had not expected him to donate. One day I got a letter and a check from him - his cousin had sold an extensive coin collection that their aunt had left to all the cousins and he had gotten an unexpected check from her for his share, which he promptly sent to me - \$1000! He could have easily kept that for himself, or at least part of it, but God nudged him to give it away - what a blessing!

We were able to raise ALL our money and then some! Over \$6000 raised, and our \$1200 down payment was able to go towards others on the trip who had not raised all their money. We were overjoyed and overcome with blessing!

I would encourage anyone who feels a nudge to do a GO trip to take the step of faith. You NEVER know what GOD can do because he is a God of the humanly impossible. He takes a mountain and turns it into a mole hill for us, and we are blessed and able to be a blessing to others in return!”

**- Robyn, South Africa, 2012**

“I couldn't imagine how I possibly could put together \$3000 for the trip, and still to this day I find it crazy how I was able to pay for it all. When I got accepted to go, I was very anxious, somewhat nervous about who would be on the trip with me, being so far away from home, not knowing anybody on my team, and only having a few months to put together my funds.

God blessed me with a new job that I started in June right before I went to Nicaragua. The new job provided me with a much larger salary. When I moved I had no idea I would be planning a trip to Africa, but as soon as God told me I was to be on the October trip I started setting money aside. I budgeted my monthly incomes and sat down and made a plan to where I could pay bills and set

aside enough money to pay for the trip. I believe God provided me with my new job to be able to pay for the mission trip in October, and now my next trip to Nicaragua here in March. I believe God called me to not seek out others for funds, but to use my income to pay it.

I also dealt with some spiritual warfare. The devil made me doubt that everything would come together, but I shared my fears with supportive, Christian friends and church family. A few weeks before the trip, I paid the trip off, but I literally had no extra spending money to go on the trip or left over until I returned. I received a card and check for \$125 from a friend wishing me well and to use the money for any remaining needs. I couldn't believe it. God provided everything and more for the trip and I have him to thank and praise.

I am a living testimony that God uses all for good and that He takes ordinary, broken people and uses them in mighty, powerful ways. He changes people, like me, into vessels that can spread His Light to people in need. I have never felt so close to God in all my life and I am forever grateful for Him hand picking me to be a part of the greatest love story I have ever been a part of.

### **- Meghann, South Africa, 2012**

People that support missionaries through prayer or funding become a part of the sending team and will be blessed by God for their contributions and sacrifices. Some people may be hesitant to request such support. What we have come to realize is that if we do not ask, the answer will always be "no". But beyond that, we are missing an opportunity for these people to join in God's work and to be blessed in the process. Some people are at the point in their lives where they think they can only be senders, but only God knows the plans He has for those who are truly His children.

### **Mark, South Africa, 2012**

When I first heard of the opportunity to go to South Africa on a GO team I prayed about it, and I knew God was calling me there because it's exactly what my heart breaks for. The only obstacle bothering me was the price, \$3000. For a teenager who is amazed by getting paid \$20, I was dumbfounded on how I was supposed to obtain that amount of money. I knew what God was calling me to, so I knew the only way for this to be possible would be for me to put all of my faith and trust in the Lord, knowing that he is faithful and that he would provide. I prayed and prayed, and I was overcome with a feeling of peace. I knew God was going to pull through. After all, when all things belong to the Lord, who are we to say he can't provide us with \$3000?

Check after check of funds came in, and I was so thankful each time. Unfathomably, I raised over the amount I needed, and can now put the extra towards my trip this year! How awesome is our God?! Ask and you will receive, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened. The Lord wants us to depend on him, and I learned that I can't depend on him until I give up control, and put all my faith into him.

Over the course of the trip I learned so much more about my God and his heart. His aches became my own and my life was forever changed. I could never put a price tag on the awe-filled experience that I had. I would strongly encourage anyone who feels led to prayerfully consider joining a GO team with a heart full of trust and faith. God comes through, always.

### **Maddie, South Africa, 2012**

Last year my son asked me to go to South Africa on Spring Break with him. I was very concerned with the financial portion of the trip. Not only did we need to raise his support, we had to raise mine as well.

We prayed extensively about the opportunity and decided that we needed to trust Him.

The total amount we needed was about \$6000. We ended up with over 80 prayer supporters and 45 financial supporters. We were able to raise all but about \$1500. God is Good and he provided. We had several people support us that we never would have thought of.

God uses Kingdom economy to remind us of who is really in control. It was the best week of my life and completely changed my relationship with me and my son.

### **Jon, South Africa, 2012**

It was a lot of money and we were in the process of trying to save money to adopt our second child. But I just KNEW I was meant to go and I KNEW God would provide.

Now, let me say this, while I did believe God would provide, I didn't WANT to raise funds. I was very nervous about asking for money. Finally, I told myself I had to let go of the idea of fearing what other people may think if I asked for funds. And because I took that leap, the letters I sent turned out to be the biggest blessing to me and taught me yet again about God's unfailing love and his promise to provide. He delivered BIG TIME! I received money from friends who are in similar financial situations as me who gave with huge hearts - more than I personally would give to a missions trip and they taught me the lesson of generosity and humility.

In addition to letters, a friend helped come up with many fundraisers for our trip. We worked on a joint garage sale with donations from family and friends (and additional donations along the way). Friends drove from miles to come and check out our sale to support us. We sold car wash coupons and we made and sold lasagnas (again, people donated far more than we were asking). We did have to work hard, but God blessed us. In the end, my friend and I raised over \$7,000! It was far more than we needed!! In fact, when we returned home from our trip, we both received another check. I have already started my account for when God calls me to another trip!

I hope this letter encourages you to GO despite the fear of the fundraising. I can tell you, if God wants you to go and you put forth the effort, you can GO (and let me say, it's completely worth every bit of sacrifice. The trip is life-changing). Please don't let the cost rob you of a huge blessing for yourself, the people you will help, the people that will help you, and the opportunity for God to say, "Well Done!" God is faithful and true.

### **Jen, Zambia, 2012**

I had no clue anything about, GO Teams, until just 3 months before the trip and it all fell right into place... I had nothing. I even tried to fight it... I was scared, nervous about what was going to happen and how things would change in my life. Well I felt him calling me and things defiantly changed and I've loved every minute of it. Well maybe not every minute, but that's the awesomeness of our God. The experience was amazing.

### **Geoffre, South Africa, 2012**

I was really nervous about writing letters to ask family and friends to partner with me, but when I would mention my experience about receiving this call from the Holy Spirit they would want to know when I was going and I felt that was an open invitation to send a letter. I also prayed that God would lay upon my mind people that I should send a letter to, even if it was someone I hadn't see or talked with in some time.

I was absolutely amazed and overwhelmed by the response I received. I had received about \$2000, with about 4 weeks left to deadline and I was worried. Now remember I was told not to worry. I was on my way to get my medications and my yellow fever injections for the trip not knowing what this was going to cost and if my insurance was going to pay because some do not, when I get a phone call from Horizon telling me I had an anonymous donation for a substantial donation.

My husband was in shock that I had raised not \$3000, but \$4000. To God be the Glory. I knew not to doubt His word and promises yet we are human and it is our nature to do so. I am in complete trust of His word today and know if He wants something done it will be done. I know too that if you are being called to His work He will provided the means necessary.

I am looking forward to a future trip and am starting fund raising ideas now. I pray for guidance and know that with Him all things are possible.

**Cynthia, Zambia, 2012**