

New Life Church cannot refund donations made to its missions program for several reasons and is not simply a policy but the law.

First, New Life Church operates as a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that allows a tax credit for every donation. When a donation is made, a tax deduction is given. Undoing a tax credit for a donation refunded places us in violation of our 501(c)(3) requirements under the tax code. Further, no donation made to NLC may "inure to the benefit of an individual." Doing so would be a violation of our 501(c)(3) requirements under the tax code. Therefore, a donation to NLC missions is not for the benefit of sending an individual on a mission trip, but to the missions program itself.

Second, the money raised has already been used to reserve airfare, insurance policies, and secure reservations for the mission host organization of the trip. Therefore, the money donated is no longer being available for any other use much less a refund.

Third, The participant was notified prior to their execution of the trip application and included in their trip application that "All donations received are non-refundable." The participant further acknowledges all money raised from whatever source is for the cause of supporting missions and not funding a trip for themselves.

We are sympathetic for any misunderstanding but we are only able to distribute information through training the trip participants to communicate this very strict policy to those from whom they seek donations.

Sincerely,  
Bryan Christian | Pastor/General Counsel