



THE JOURNEY'S ANNUAL SPECIAL OFFERING

NOW THROUGH
JANUARY 31, 2017
GOAL: \$237,000

Investing in global missions | Maximizing our Manhattan locations | Providing hope to those who don't know Jesus
Aiding the less fortunate in our city | Caring for those hurting in our church | Teaching the next generation about Jesus

January 2017

Happy New Year Journey Family!

As we begin 2017, I'm excited to share with you that we are close to **45%** of the way to our **IMPACT** Special Offering goal. With your help, we can reach our goal this month and impact our city and beyond for Jesus Christ!

You may be asking, "What needs to happen for us to reach our goal of \$237,000 by January 31, when the offering ends?" If 500 people were to give \$284, or 250 were to give \$568, we would reach our goal right away! It's very attainable, but it's going to take all of us giving together above our regular tithes and offerings.

Here are the **six initiatives** we will be able to fund through **IMPACT** if we reach our goal:

- **I**nvest in global missions (including our South Africa partnership and the missionaries sent out by The Journey)
- **M**aximize our three new Manhattan locations (through strategic upgrades and equipment improvements)
- **P**rovide hope to those who don't know Jesus (through evangelism to our city)
- **A**id the less fortunate in our city (through our Inner City and Community Ministries)
- **C**are for those who are hurting in our church (through our Benevolence and Counseling Ministries)
- **T**each the next generation about Jesus (through expanding our Journey Kidz Ministry)

Can I challenge you to make a personal gift to **IMPACT** today? It's easy to give; here are four different ways to do it:

1. Text "Impact" to (917) 300-1015 to make a gift with your phone. It only takes sixty seconds to register, and then you can give by sending a text with any amount to the number above (i.e. \$100, \$250).
2. Fill out the enclosed Response Card indicating the amount you wish to give and how you wish to give. Include a check or complete your payment info on the card, then put it and your financial gift in the enclosed postage-paid envelope and drop it in the mail this week.
3. Visit The Journey website and give to **IMPACT** right now: www.JourneyNYC.com/Impact.
4. It's also easy and advantageous to give through stocks, bonds or in-kind gifts. Just call us at 212.730.8300 x200 or email giving@journeynyc.com to learn more.

If you haven't been able to give yet, will you pray about making your best gift today? If you've already given to this offering, thank you! Will you also prayerfully consider giving again before January 31?

Together, let's **IMPACT** our city as never before for Jesus Christ!

Pastor Kerrick Thomas
kt1@journeynyc.com

P.S. – The enclosed documents will give you an overview of the Special Offering and answer many common questions. However, if you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or any of The Journey staff by phone (212.730.8300) or email.



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

*"You are the light of the world – like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden."
– Matthew 5:14*

The **IMPACT** Special Offering is a call to sacrificial giving with a goal of \$237,000 for six important ministry and missions initiatives:

- **I**NVESTING IN GLOBAL MISSIONS and increasing our global impact by supporting missionaries in the U.S. and around the world who are taking the Gospel to those in greatest need (including missionaries sent out by The Journey and our long-term mission partnership in South Africa to help children impacted by the HIV/AIDS virus).
- **M**AXIMIZING OUR MANHATTAN LOCATIONS by building on the initial success of our three new Manhattan locations through strategic upgrades and equipment improvements, so we can reach more New Yorkers than ever before with the love of Jesus.
- **P**ROVIDING HOPE TO THOSE WHO DON'T KNOW JESUS by expanding our evangelism efforts here in NYC so we can continue to reach our city with the love of Jesus!
- **A**IDING THE LESS FORTUNATE IN OUR CITY by helping to meet their spiritual and physical needs through our Inner City and Community Ministries.
- **C**ARING FOR THOSE WHO ARE HURTING IN OUR CHURCH by funding the 2017 Benevolence and Counseling Ministry of the church (to help those in the church who face a moment of crisis or emergency and need assistance and those seeking Christian counseling).
- **T**EACHING THE NEXT GENERATION ABOUT JESUS by enhancing our Journey Kidz experience and our family ministries at all three Manhattan locations.

This Special Offering will be received through January 31, 2017.

To give to the **IMPACT** Special Offering, use the enclosed postage-paid offering envelope. Write the amount of your gift on the red line designated "**IMPACT**" and mail it to The Journey office, or drop it in the offering on Sunday.

The enclosed documents will give you an overview of the Special Offering and answer many common questions. However, if you have any additional questions, please don't hesitate to contact me or our staff at 212.730.8300 x200 or giving@journeynyc.com.



THE PURPOSES OF THIS OFFERING

INVEST IN GLOBAL MISSIONS

We are a church that supports missions. This focus will continue as we assist missionaries around the globe who are reaching out to every identified people group, especially those in highly unchurched countries. Through cooperative efforts with other mission-minded churches, we are designating a portion of the Special Offering to support 3,000+ North American Missionaries and 5,000+ International Missionaries.

As part of our international focus, for the last eight years we have been expanding our impact in **South Africa** through the First City Baptist Church (East London) and their ministry to children who have been impacted by HIV/AIDS.



Your giving to the Special Offering is building a school in South Africa to help children whose lives have been impacted by HIV/AIDS.

We have helped to build a new school for an impoverished community and fund a care center. In 2017, Hope School, which serves underprivileged children in East London (including those who have been affected by the HIV/AIDS crisis) will be expanding to include eighth grade for the first time. Through the **IMPACT** Special Offering we will help build out space for the 8th grade and provide equipment and materials needed for this expansion. Your giving will have a tangible impact on the lives of these children THIS YEAR!



In 2017 The Journey will send two more mission teams to South Africa to partner with First City Baptist Church.

The **IMPACT** Special Offering will also directly support Journey missionaries **JC and Mindy Choi** in their work in East Asia and Journey missionary (and former NYPD officer) **Tiffany Dozier** in her efforts to fight sex trafficking in Southeast Asia.

MAXIMIZE OUR MANHATTAN LOCATIONS

In 2016 we stepped out on faith and expanded to three Journey locations in Manhattan: The Journey – Village, The Journey – Upper West and The Journey – Upper East. Moving to these locations has extended our reach across the city for Jesus.

Since the move to three locations nine months ago, we've seen over 1,800 first-time guests and 375 new believers, and over 130 people have taken the step of baptism.



Now as 2017 approaches, we hope to maximize all three of our Manhattan locations so that we can reach more people with the love of Jesus. We hope to enhance the Sunday worship experience at all of our locations through improvements to our equipment and signage and other important strategic upgrades.

We have accomplished much this year, but there is still much to be done!

PROVIDE HOPE TO THOSE WHO DON'T KNOW JESUS



A recent Barna study shows that the Northeast is the most unchurched region of the country, and New York City ranks as one of the most “post-Christian” cities in America. That’s why New York City is still our greatest mission field.

With over 20 million people living in the metro New York City area, 8.5 million people in the five boroughs and 1.6 million in Manhattan, there are millions of people in our sphere of influence who don’t have a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

The **IMPACT** Special Offering will help expand our evangelism efforts here in NYC (including our Servant Evangelism efforts and other creative outreaches) so we can continue to reach our city with the love of Jesus!

AID THE LESS FORTUNATE IN OUR CITY

We are a church that serves “the least of these.” Through the **IMPACT** Special Offering we have a unique opportunity to help those in the greatest need in our city, both spiritually and physically. We will partner with local organizations that are really making a difference in the lives of the less fortunate in our city.



That’s why we partner with organizations like Graffiti Community Ministries on the Lower East Side to support their afterschool programs for kids, clothing and food programs for the poor and job training and GED programs. As a church, we can make a difference in their lives through our volunteering and giving.

CARE FOR THOSE WHO ARE HURTING IN OUR CHURCH

We are a church that comes alongside of those in our church who are struggling financially and emotionally. Since 2005, our church has served hundreds of people during their time of greatest need. The Benevolence Ministry has allowed us to come alongside of people in distress due to difficult financial times, a loss of a job/apartment or a death in the family.

In addition, we have been able to provide for those who need professional Christian counseling. Dozens of marriages have been strengthened in the last year through Christian counseling because we were able to help.

Because of your generous giving to the special offering, so far in 2016 we have been able to approve all valid requests for benevolence and counseling funding. We look forward to meeting these needs again in 2017!

TEACH THE NEXT GENERATION ABOUT JESUS



We’re a church that loves to invest in children and families. In 2016 we saw our Journey Kidz ministry grow faster than ever before, so in 2017 we hope to continue investing in and expanding our ministry to children and their families.

We consider it an honor to help the families in our church make the best impact on their child’s life, to help them raise a child that will choose to follow Jesus and to help them have a strong home. To do this, we’ve

designed a fantastic experience for children on Sunday in all three of our locations called Journey Kidz, and we’re planning improvements for next year that will help take this ministry to the next level and continue to spiritually invest in our families.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHY A SPECIAL OFFERING?

As part of God's plan to grow the faith of the people in His church, He calls us to sacrificial giving from time to time. This Special Offering is an opportunity for us to grow in our faith and to prepare us for what God wants to do through our church in 2017. This offering is not because we are behind on budget, but rather is to position us to make a greater impact in our community, in our church and around the world.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE REGULAR OFFERING AND THIS SPECIAL OFFERING?

The regular Journey offering is the proportional amount (the full tithe of 10%) that we set apart on a systematic basis and give throughout the year. From time to time there are opportunities to give in a sacrificial way. This Special Offering is one of those sacrificial occasions that stretch us to grow in our faith, and should be over and above what you regularly give.

HOW MUCH SHOULD I GIVE?

Since the goal is \$237,000, this Special Offering will involve everyone. Please prayerfully consider a sacrificial gift that will stretch your faith. The precise amount you give is between you and God. Many in our church can give a \$5,000, \$50,000 or even a \$100,000 gift. Others will be able to give between \$100 and \$500. The issue is not equal giving, but equal sacrifice. What amount can you give that will stretch your faith?

WHY IS THE GOAL SO LARGE?

Since the beginning of The Journey in 2002, we have been a church that has dared to dream big dreams for God. The ministries supported by this offering are BIG: Investing in global missions, maximizing our three Manhattan locations, providing hope to those in our city who don't know Jesus through evangelism, aiding the less fortunate in our city by supporting local organizations that assist the poor and needy, caring for those in our church who are hurting through our benevolence and counseling ministry, teaching the next generation about Jesus by expanding our Journey Kidz ministry, and other new ministry initiatives. Big dreams require big faith and big funding. The accomplishment of these big dreams will be determined by your gifts to this Special Offering.

WHEN SHOULD I GIVE?

The best time to give will be the first Sunday after you receive this packet. Please pray about making your best gift on that day. However, you can continue to give until January 31, 2017.

Please use the "IMPACT" area on the offering envelopes or include a note designating that your gift is for the Special Offering. Remember, consistent gifts over time add up: a person giving \$50 per week over a ten-week period will give \$500 to the Special Offering.

CAN I GIVE ONLINE VIA BANK CHECK, THROUGH AUTO-DEBIT OR BY TEXT GIVING?

Yes to all. When you give at JourneyNYC.com via online giving, simply select "Special Offering" under the "Fund" drop-down menu.

Likewise, you can use your bank's online payment option to send a check directly to the church office. Simply mark in the memo area that your gift is for the **"IMPACT"** Special Offering.

You can also give to the Special Offering via a simple a text message. If you've never given to The Journey this way, just text the word "GIVE" to 917-300-1015. You will receive an immediate response with instructions on setting up this option (it takes less than 60 seconds). Then you can text the word "IMPACT" and the amount of your gift (i.e. "IMPACT 500" or "IMPACT 1000").

If you would like to make a special, one-time auto-debit over and above your regular giving, simply call 212.730.8300 x200 and speak with Shelley or email Giving@JourneyNYC.com – it's safe and easy.

CAN I GIVE IN-KIND GIFTS OF STOCKS OR BONDS?

Of course! Since The Journey is a 501c3 organization, there can be tremendous tax benefits for you by giving in-kind gifts. For information on this type of giving, call 212.730.8300 x200 to speak with Shelley or email Giving@JourneyNYC.com.

ARE MY GIFTS TAX-DEDUCTIBLE?

All gifts to The Journey, whether via the regular offering or this Special Offering, are completely tax-deductible. Your gift will be deductible in the tax year given (i.e., gifts given in 2016 will be deductible on your 2016 taxes).

Please be sure to include your name and address when you give so that a receipt can be sent to you for your tax preparations. You are not required to utilize a tax-deduction for your gift, but it is available for all gifts.

HOW DID WE ARRIVE AT A \$237,000 GOAL?

The \$237,000 goal for our Manhattan campus was prayerfully set by The Journey Pastoral Team. It is approximately six times our regular weekly giving. It is a God-sized goal that can only be accomplished through 100% participation and sacrificial giving by our Journey attenders and members. Since we are expecting God to bless this Special Offering, it has been determined that any amount over and above our goal will be divided equally between Missions and Ministry Advancement.

HOW WILL I KNOW IF WE REACH OUR GOAL?

Please pray for God's guidance as we all give sacrificially. You will be updated on our giving progress through the *This Sunday @ The Journey* weekly email updates and during the Sunday services. Reaching this goal will be a celebration of what we can do together as we stretch our faith under God's leadership.

Have additional questions? Please contact Shelley Stone at Giving@JourneyNYC.com, or call 212.730.8300 x200.