



THE JOURNEY'S SPECIAL OFFERING

Expanding to 3 Manhattan Campuses | Global and U.S. Missions | The Journey – Staten Island
Inner City Ministry and Helping the Poor | Benevolence and Counseling

NOW THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2016 | GOAL: \$297,000

January 2016

Dear Journey Family,

I'm excited to share with you that we are close to 45% of the way to our **STEPPING OUT ON FAITH** Special Offering goal. With your help, we have a tremendous opportunity to reach our goal and impact our city and beyond for Jesus Christ!

You may be asking, "What needs to happen for us to reach our goal of \$297,000 by January 31, when the offering ends?" If 500 people were to give \$327, or 250 were to give \$654, 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 five initiatives your giving to **STEPPING OUT ON FAITH** will support:

- Expanding to 3 Journey Campuses in Manhattan in 2016.
- Supporting missionaries who are taking the Gospel around the globe.
- Meeting the needs of the less fortunate in our city through Inner City Ministries.
- Supporting our brand-new church in NYC: The Journey – Staten Island.
- Funding the 2016 Benevolence and Counseling Ministry of the church.

Can I challenge you to make a personal gift to **STEPPING OUT ON FAITH** today? It's easy to give. Here are three different ways to do it:

1. 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!
2. Visit The Journey website and give to **STEPPING OUT ON FAITH** right now:
www.JourneyNYC.com/SteppingOut
3. 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? And if you've already given to this offering, thank you! Will you also prayerfully consider giving again before January 31?

Together – let's commit to **STEPPING OUT ON FAITH!**

Pastor Kerrick Thomas
kt1@journeynyc.com



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OVERVIEW

(Jesus) "I tell you the truth, if you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it would move. Nothing would be impossible."

— Matthew 17:20

The **STEPPING OUT ON FAITH** Special Offering is a call to sacrificial giving with a goal of \$297,000 for five important ministry and missions initiatives:

- **3 MANHATTAN CAMPUSES IN 2016** – In 2016 our goal is to expand to 3 Journey campuses in Manhattan for the very first time! Building on the success of our new Upper West Side campus – this will enable us to have a Journey Church within 15 minutes of every person living in Manhattan and to be more convenient for those traveling from outside Manhattan.
- **INTERNATIONAL & NATIONAL MISSIONS** – 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)*.
- **SERVING THOSE IN GREATEST NEED HERE IN NYC** – Helping meet the spiritual and physical needs of the less fortunate in our city through Inner City and Community Ministry.
- **THE JOURNEY – STATEN ISLAND** – Supporting our brand-new church in NYC: The Journey – Staten Island.
- **BENEVOLENCE AND COUNSELING** – Funding the 2016 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)*.

This Special Offering will be received through January 31, 2016.

To give to the **STEPPING OUT ON FAITH** Special Offering, use the enclosed offering envelope. Write the amount of your gift on the red line designated "**STEPPING OUT ON FAITH**" and mail it postage-paid 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:

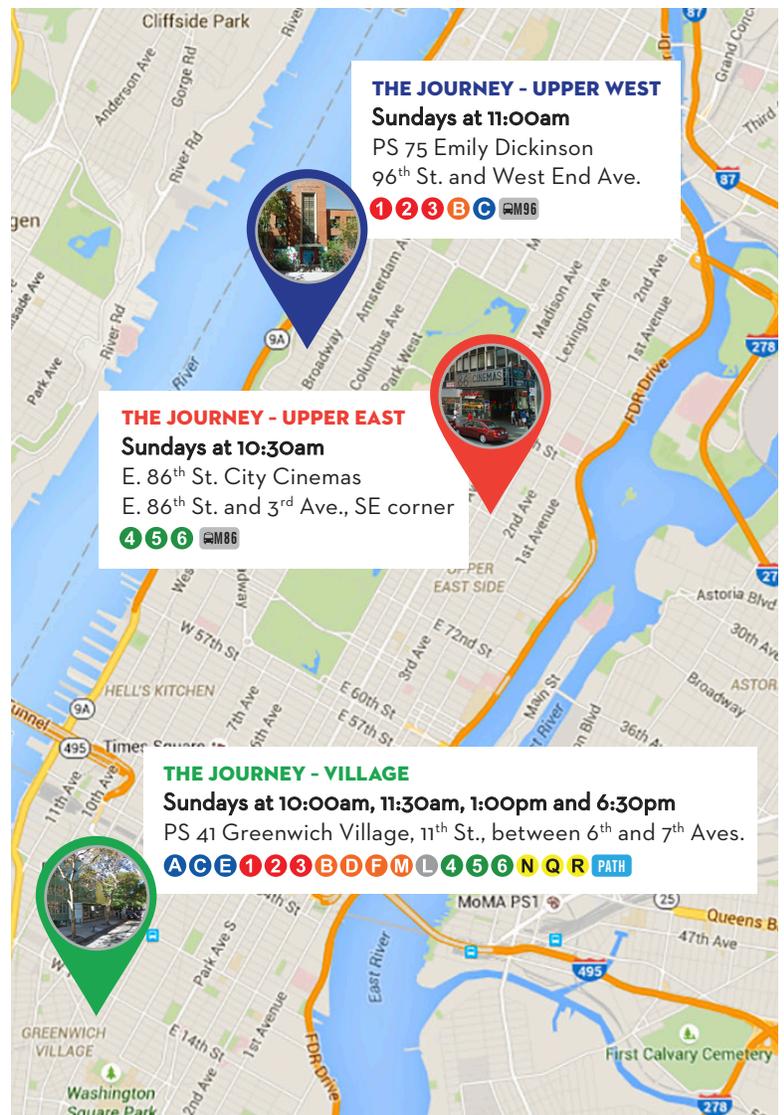
TO EXPAND TO 3 JOURNEY CAMPUSES IN MANHATTAN IN 2016!

In 2016, we feel God leading us to step out on faith like never before by expanding to 3 Journey campuses in Manhattan for the first time ever!

Building on the success of our brand-new Upper West Side campus, the goal will be to have a Journey campus within 15 minutes of all 1.8 million New Yorkers who live in Manhattan and to be more convenient for those who commute from Brooklyn, Queens, the Bronx, Long Island, Westchester County, New Jersey and beyond (*closer to the PATH Train, access to even more subways and much easier parking*).

So on Sunday, January 24 we will be expanding to three locations: The Journey – Upper West, The Journey – Upper East and The Journey – Village. Our vision is to make it easier than ever for you to attend each Sunday and to invite your friends to come with you to The Journey.

It's a God-sized vision...and will take our entire church praying, serving, giving and inviting our friends. But we believe God is ready to do some BIG things in 2016!



TO SUPPORT GLOBAL / U.S. MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM IN NYC.

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 six 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.



In 2016 The Journey will send two more mission teams to South Africa to partner with First City Baptist Church.

We have helped build a new school for an impoverished community and have helped fund a care center. Not only does The Journey support this ministry financially through the Special Offering, but we have also helped support financially two Journey missionaries who are currently serving in South Africa – **Dawn Thompson and Adam Cochran.**

We will also be directly supporting Journey missionaries **JC and Mindy Choi** in their new work in East Asia and Journey missionary (and former NYPD Officer) **Tiffany Dozier** in her efforts to fight sex trafficking in Southeast Asia.

In addition – the **STEPPING OUT ON FAITH** Special Offering will help expand our evangelism efforts here in NYC so we can continue to reach our city with the love of Jesus!

TO SUPPORT OUR NEW CHURCH IN NYC: THE JOURNEY - STATEN ISLAND

We are a “church that starts churches.” And through the **STEPPING OUT ON FAITH** Special Offering we will continue to support our newest Journey Church in NYC...The Journey - Staten Island. Staten Island is known as “the forgotten borough.” But Staten Island’s almost 500,000 residents are desperately in need of a new church as 87% of Staten Island residents don’t go to church anywhere.

Last year Journey Pastor Nick Mustakas left our Manhattan staff to begin a new church in Staten Island. Nick grew up in Staten Island and God has placed a passion and excitement in his heart to reach the people of his home borough for Jesus Christ. The Journey - Staten Island launched in February 2014 and has already seen over 100 people make first-time decisions for Jesus!



The Journey - Staten Island has seen over 100 people make first-time decisions for Jesus since they launched in 2014.

TO MEET THE SPIRITUAL AND PHYSICAL NEEDS OF THE LESS FORTUNATE IN OUR CITY THROUGH OUR INNER CITY AND COMMUNITY MINISTRY.



We partner with ministries such as Graffiti to support after-school programs for kids, clothing and food programs for the poor and job training and GED programs.

We are a church that serves “the least of these.” Through the **STEPPING OUT ON FAITH** 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 after-school 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.

TO FUND THE JOURNEY'S 2016 BENEVOLENCE AND COUNSELING MINISTRY THAT SUPPORTS THOSE IN OUR CHURCH AT THEIR TIME OF GREATEST NEED.

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.

In 2015 we received more requests for financial help and counseling than in any previous year. And because of your generous giving to the special offering we have been able to approve all valid requests for benevolence and counseling funding. We look forward to meeting these needs again in 2016!



In 2015, over 50 individuals and families were supported through the Benevolence and Counseling Ministry.



By giving to the STEPPING OUT ON FAITH Special Offering, you will help The Journey fulfill a BOLD vision to show God's love in meaningful and practical ways to our city and beyond in 2016.



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 2015. 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 in 2016.

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. The special offering should be over and above what you regularly give.

How Much Should I Give?

Since the goal is \$297,000, 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 – moving from one to three campuses here in Manhattan, supporting global and U.S. missions, starting new churches, starting a new church in Staten Island, supporting local organizations that assist the poor and needy and funding the 2016 Benevolence and Counseling 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, 2016.

Please use the "STEPPING OUT ON FAITH" 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 or Through Auto-Debit?

Yes. 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. Again, simply mark in the memo area that your gift is for the **"STEPPING OUT ON FAITH"** Special Offering.

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 simple, 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, simply call 212.730.8300 x200 and 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 2015 will be deductible on your 2015 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 \$297,000 Goal?

The \$297,000 goal for our Manhattan campus was prayerfully set by The Journey Pastoral Team. It is the largest Special Offering goal that we have ever set – because this is the largest vision that God has ever given us! 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.