

November 2014

Dear Journey Family,

Today I'm excited to introduce you to The Journey's **REACH.SERVE.CARE** Special Offering, which begins now and continues through January 31, 2015.

God has blessed our church in some incredible ways since we began in Manhattan twelve years ago. 1,824 people have been baptized. We've started new Journey churches in Queens, San Francisco, Boca Raton, and our newest campus in Staten Island. Even though we're only a dozen years old, we've done all we can to "give the people of New York City the best opportunity to become fully-developing followers of Jesus."

Now, as we look forward to 2015, I believe the **REACH.SERVE.CARE** Special Offering will allow us to deepen our impact for Jesus in NYC and around the globe!

Here's how your giving to **REACH.SERVE.CARE** will help us do just that:

REACH those who don't know Jesus by:

- Supporting global and U.S. missions, and starting new churches around the world.
- Supporting our brand-new Journey church in Staten Island.
- Funding The Journey's own evangelism efforts in New York City.

SERVE those in greatest need by:

- Meeting the spiritual and physical needs of the less fortunate in our city through Inner City and Community Ministry.
- Expanding our ministry in South Africa to children who have been affected by HIV/AIDS, through First City Baptist Church and their school and care center.

CARE for those in our church who are most vulnerable by:

- Funding the 2015 Benevolence and Counseling ministry of the church.
- Funding Journey Kidz improvements and other new ministry initiatives.

Please read through the enclosed documents to learn more about this exciting opportunity for us as a church to give sacrificially and expand our influence. Will you begin praying now about what God would have you give over and above your regular giving to this Special Offering? Allow God to stretch your faith!

Together, let's REACH, SERVE and CARE for our city as never before!



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. If you have any other questions, please don't hesitate to contact me or any of The Journey staff at 212.730.8300 or giving@journeynyc.com.

OVERVIEW

"You are the light of the world, like a city on a mountain, glowing in the night for all to see. Don't hide your light under a basket! Instead, put it on a stand and let it shine for all. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father."

— Matthew 5:14-16

The **REACH.SERVE.CARE** Special Offering is a call to sacrificial giving with a goal of \$197,000 for three important ministry and missions areas:

REACH those who don't know Jesus (Matthew 28:18-20) 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).
- Supporting our brand-new church in NYC: The Journey – Staten Island.
- Funding efforts to reach people in NYC with the life-changing love of Jesus.

SERVE those in greatest need (Matthew 25:31-46) by:

- Meeting the spiritual and physical needs of the less fortunate in our city through our Inner City and Community Ministry.
- Continuing our ministry in South Africa to children who have been impacted by HIV/AIDS, through First City Baptist Church and their school and care center.

CARE for those in our church who are most vulnerable (James 1:27) by:

- Funding the 2015 Benevolence and Counseling Ministry, which helps those in our church who face a moment of crisis or emergency and need assistance.
- Investing in the spiritual growth of our children and families through necessary upgrades to equipment and Bible-learning tools in Journey Kidz (and other new ministry initiatives).

This Special Offering will be received through January 31, 2015.

To give to the **REACH.SERVE.CARE** Special Offering, use the enclosed offering envelope. Write the amount of your gift on the red line designated "**REACH.SERVE.CARE**" and mail the envelope 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. If you have any other questions, please don't hesitate to contact The Journey staff at 212.730.8300 or giving@journeynyc.com.

REACH...

By supporting Global / U.S. missions and evangelism in NYC.

We're a church that supports missions. This focus will continue as we have a great opportunity to 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're designating a portion of the Special Offering to support over 3,000 North American missionaries and over 5,000 international missionaries.

We'll also be directly supporting **Journey missionaries JC and Mindy Choi in Southeast Asia and Journey missionary (and former NYPD officer) Tiffany Dozier** in her efforts to fight sex trafficking in East Asia.

In addition, the **REACH.SERVE.CARE** Special Offering will help expand our evangelism efforts here in NYC so we can continue to reach our city with the love of Jesus Christ!

By supporting our new church in NYC: The Journey-Staten Island.

We're a "church that starts churches." Through the **REACH.SERVE.CARE** Special Offering we'll support our newest church in NYC: The Journey – Staten Island. Staten Island is known as "the forgotten borough" because it often receives less attention than the other four. But its almost 500,000 residents are desperately in need of a new church, as 87% of them don't go to church anywhere.

This year, Journey pastor Nick Mustakas left our Manhattan staff to begin a new church in Staten Island. Nick grew up there, 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 and has already seen _____ people make first-time decisions for Jesus!

SERVE...

By meeting the spiritual and physical needs of the less fortunate in our city through Inner City and Community Ministry.

We're a church that serves the "least of these." Through the **REACH.SERVE.CARE** Special Offering we have a unique opportunity to help those in the greatest need in our city, both spiritually and physically. We'll partner with local organizations that are really making a difference in the lives of the less fortunate in our city. That's why we work with **Graffiti Community Ministries** (which provides after-school programs for kids and youth, clothing and food programs for the poor, and job training and GED programs) and **Covenant House** (which helps runaway teens). As a church, we can make a difference in their lives through our serving and giving.

By continuing our ministry in South Africa for children affected by HIV/AIDS.

For the last five years we've been expanding our impact in South Africa through First City Baptist Church and their ministry to children who have been orphaned by HIV/AIDS. We've helped them build a new school for an impoverished community and have helped fund their care center. Not only does The Journey financially support their ministry through the Special Offering, but we've also supported two **Journey missionaries who are currently serving in South Africa: Dawn Thompson and Adam Cochran.**

CARE...

By funding The Journey's 2015 Benevolence and Counseling Ministry, which supports those in our church at their time of greatest need.

We're a church that comes alongside 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 help people in distress due to difficult financial times, the loss of a job or apartment, or a death in the family. In addition, we've been able to provide for those who needed professional Christian counseling. Dozens of marriages have been strengthened in the last year because we were able to help. In 2014 we received more requests for benevolence and counseling than in any previous year, and because of your generous giving to the Special Offering, we were able to approve all valid requests for those services. We look forward to meeting these needs again in 2015!

To enhance our Journey Kidz experience and other new initiatives.

We're a church that loves to invest in children and 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 called Journey Kidz, and we're planning improvements for next year that will help take this ministry to the next level and spiritually invest in our families.

We also want to continue giving the best opportunity for the people of New York City to become fully-developing followers of Jesus! To do that, we need to use the best resources and create unique and creative settings for people to consider a relationship with Jesus. In 2015 we'll need to stay ahead in our equipment, facility setup, transportation and resourcing to see this happen. We want to respond to any new ministry opportunities that God presents us in the coming year!

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 isn't because we're behind on budget, but is meant to help us 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 to give throughout the year. From time to time, however, 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 \$197,000, 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 \$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?

Why is the goal so large?

We're a church that dares to dream big dreams for God. The ministries supported by this offering are BIG: supporting global and U.S. missions, starting new churches, supporting local organizations that assist the poor and needy, funding the 2015 Benevolence and Counseling ministry and enhancing Journey Kidz and other new ministry initiatives. Big dreams require big faith and big funding. The accomplishment of these 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, 2015. Please use the **"REACH.SERVE.CARE"** area on the regular 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 this Special Offering.

Can I give online via bank check or through auto-debit?

Yes. When you give online at www.JourneyNYC.com, simply select the **"REACH.SERVE.CARE"** Special Offering under the "Fund" drop-down menu. Likewise, you can use your bank online payment option to send a check directly to the church office. Simply mark in the memo area that your gift is for the **"REACH.SERVE.CARE"** Special Offering. If you'd like to make a special one-time auto-debit over and above your regular giving, just call Carie at 212.730.8300 x200 or send an email to 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 religious nonprofit organization, there can be tremendous tax benefits for you by giving in-kind gifts. For info on this type of giving, call Carie at 212.730.8300 or email Giving@JourneyQueens.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 2014 will be deductible on your 2014 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're not required to utilize a tax deduction for your gift, but it's available for all gifts.

How did we arrive at a \$197,000 goal?

This goal for our Manhattan campus was prayerfully set by The Journey's pastors. It's approximately five times our regular weekly giving, and is a God-sized target that can only be hit through 100% participation and sacrificial giving by our Journey attenders and members. Since we're expecting God to bless this Special Offering, it's 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'll be updated on our giving progress through our 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 Carie Bashur by calling 212.730.8300 or emailing Giving@JourneyNYC.com.