

VISION



...for what can be, what must be, the what ifs, whys and how-in-the-worlds





Terry and Twix often walk and pray over the 74 acres on M59- (well we aren't sure Twix prays but we think she just might!)

Take a step from comfort to faith, and **imagine what could be.**

We are so excited, passionate and humbled by the opportunity that God has put in front of us. It is our “next step” as a church. At this time, we are seeing unprecedented growth spiritually and numerically; there is a WOW factor at The River because people are seeking God’s promptings and obeying His nudges!

God is encouraging us to take the next major step as The River On 59.

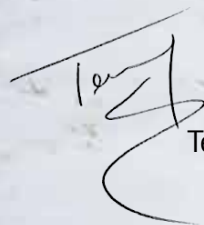
It has been quite the journey and the journey is progressing and ramping up. We have always stayed on target with our mission to turn the largest number of non-churched seeking people into fully devoted followers of Christ, and we won't deviate!

Our vision is to be a Christ-centered, high-impact church that has local, regional, national and international influence – influencing others with the life-changing message of Jesus Christ. That is why we are embarking upon the most God-sized initiative that we have ever taken at The River. We are motivated by *Isaiah 43:18-19a ... Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing!* The movement of Christ in our lives is never stagnant. We are always helping people take their “next step” with Christ. We are changing – becoming more like Christ – so the lives of those who we come in contact with can be transformed and they can be impacted by Christ.

It is not about building a building. **It is about putting together a regional center that will have global influence.** Will this stretch us? YES! Will this challenge us? Absolutely! – but I can't think of being in a better place – depending on God in ways that we have never depended upon Him before. Realigning our lives so they are in sync with Christ's Spirit.

Will you pray a dangerous prayer with me, that God will use the “My Life” journey to catapult each one of us into a spiritual dimension that we have never experienced before? I look forward to experiencing the freshness of Christ with you in a significant way in the weeks, months and years ahead.

Your partner in ministry,

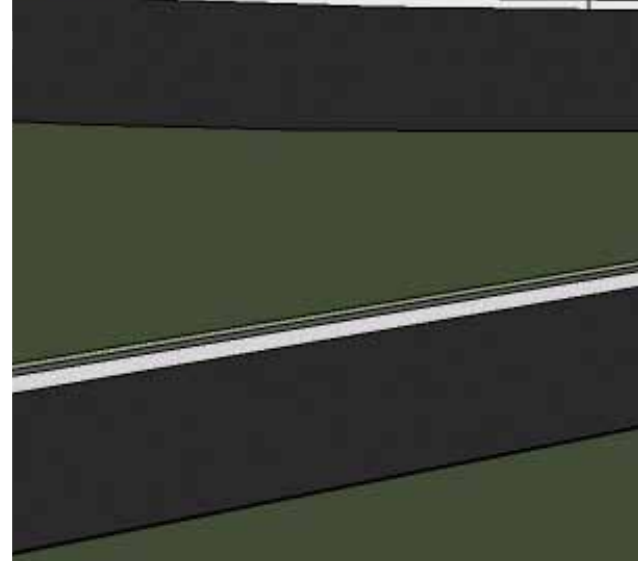


Terry Prisk ~ Lead Pastor / Founder



what if ...

...your best friend could have a place to be safe, inspired and challenged? ...more



...kids could KNOW they matter to God? ...hope could be given to a local family?



What if **You** can do something about it?

why...



"...because the Lobby is probably the first place a newcomer will experience The River. Imagine your friends enjoying a warm cup of coffee and a smiling face—in a large spacious lobby filled with cozy couches and great spots to interact—maybe even watch the Experience from a large screen. Imagine if our time and energy was poured into people instead of set-up and tear down. Entering our lobby may be the very first step a new person takes toward Christ." ~ Julie Tibus, Communications Director



"...because to reach our technically sophisticated culture today, top shelf music and visuals require state-of-the-art audio, video and lighting. The finely tuned AVL system we are planning for the new facility will enable us to present Christ with the excellence He deserves. This level of quality will excite and engage people with the greatest message they could ever hear and see." ~ Jim Jensen, Music Director



"...because in order to change the next generation, we need our students to know that they can have a personal relationship with our Creator, learn to define who they are by what Jesus says, and realize that they exist every day to demonstrate God's love to a broken world. To do this, we need to think outside the box and create a student ministry space that they can call their own. One that is cutting edge, inviting and used to build incredible friendships." ~ Kathy Virden, Student Ministry



"...because most children decide whether or not they will become a follower of Christ before they leave the fifth grade we need to be able to provide a high energy, fun, interactive and visually exciting program that speaks to them. It needs to be representative of how great and exciting our God is, and that having Jesus become their forever friend can change their life forever." ~ Randy Mannor, Director of Children's Ministry







“...and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and all Judea and Samaria,



because...

We serve people across the street & around the world.

Here at the River, compassion is more than a feeling: it's a verb meaning to take action and spread the radical love of Christ in tangible ways. We recognize the world is not all picket fences and rose gardens; in many places it is hurting and in desperate need of a people willing to roll up their sleeves, get dirty and be the hands and feet of Jesus.

The River has aimed at tackling the issues of loneliness, poverty, hunger and deterioration that exist locally and regionally. Whether it is welcoming a foster child into your home, volunteering at our annual Christmas Store, serving at community-wide outreach events, or caring for individuals in emergency situations, helping people to take a next step (physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually) is what we do! Building the church is just the start. We envision an epicenter from which compassion will flow to bring healing and hope to individuals, families and the community at large.

and to the remotest parts of the earth." ~ ACTS 1:8

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VISION: To be a Christ-centered, high-impact church that has local, regional, national and international influence.



Impacting the World is in our DNA.

Do we really send people on 14+ hour plane rides to stay in places like South Africa, Kenya and Guatemala to serve people they've never met and eat food that they can hardly pronounce?

The answer: DUH, YEAH! (or any variation of "yes" you would like). Having a global impact means working hand-in-hand with organizations like Manos de Jesus (Pray America) in Guatemala and the Pokot Outreach Ministry in Kenya. It means drilling wells to bring life-sustaining water to whole communities, building a dining hall to feed orphans, laying a foundation for a home for abused girls, providing 500 children with shoes so they can attend school, building homes for widows, or even something as simple as playing a friendly game of tag with children who have nothing!

Global mission trips are a vital part of what God calls us to do. By building a church so more can come to The River, we create opportunities for people to get out of their own small world – to become world changers for God – and to take that leap of faith to “go to the remotest parts of the earth” to share the greatest message that could ever be shared ... the life-changing message of Jesus Christ!





look after orphans and widows in their distress..." ~ JAMES 1:27

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BELONGING. SHARING. IMPACTING.

mylife

“ I can’t tell you how much I long for you to enter this wide-open, spacious
Your lives aren’t small, but you’re living them in a small way...Open up

what's next?

A Capital Campaign called “MY LIFE”. This 6 week journey will take us to a new place as a church. As individuals. As a community of Christ followers.

There is no formula for a life of stewardship (*FYI-stewardship means to manage or look after another's property, in this case God's*) The only requirement is a heart set on honoring and serving God. Our truest measure is our personal **choice** to move forward in faith, to make God's will a reality. Through this church wide journey we believe every person will discover how to meaningfully invest their time, talent and treasure in what God is doing at The River Community Church.

So what can I do NOW?

First. Commit to the journey. Move forward. Take the next step. Discover the life God intended for you to live. One of belonging, sharing and impacting this world.

Second. Prayerfully consider these questions:

1. God, what abilities have you given me to help accomplish your plan in the life of our church and community?
2. What does sacrifice look like for me?
3. What resources have you given me to manage, to accomplish Your Kingdom here on earth?



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life. We didn't fence you in. The smallness you feel comes from within you. your lives. Live openly and expansively!” ~ II CORINTHIANS 6:11-13

mylife isn't just about raising money

It's about raising our level of faith and trust in the God who owns everything. So nobody's going to think less of you if you don't participate. Your decision is strictly between you and God.

As we learn and grow through the MY LIFE weekend experiences and life groups, you'll get a clearer picture of how God wants you to respond. By making a sacrificial gift, you will be helping The River to continue to impact the world.



“God is able to make it up to you by giving you everything
your own needs but plenty left over to

Our Goal: \$3.5M

Given: Weekly	Monthly	Annually	3-Year Total
\$2,000	\$8,666.00	\$104,000	\$312,000
\$1,000	\$4,333.33	\$52,000	\$156,000
\$500	\$2,166.67	\$26,000	\$78,000
\$300	\$1,300	\$15,600	\$46,800
\$200	\$866.67	\$10,400	\$31,200
\$150	\$650.00	\$7,800	\$23,400
\$100	\$433.33	\$5,200	\$15,600
\$75	\$325.00	\$3,900	\$11,700
\$50	\$216.67	\$2,600	\$7,800
\$40	\$173.33	\$1,560	\$4,680

EVERY gift, large or small, is extremely significant. Here are 3 simple principles:

- 1** **Open-handed living.** Everything we possess is owned by God. All of our resources are temporary and on loan by God to accomplish His works. So when we give part of it back to Him it is out of gratitude.
- 2** **Not equal gifts but equal sacrifice.** Remember the woman who gave her only two pennies? Jesus said “This poor widow has put in more than ALL the others. They gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she put in all she had to live on.”
- 3** **This is spiritual, not financial.** What you pledge is between God and you. We’re simply challenging every attendee to pray the dangerous prayer, asking God what he wants them to do for this journey of faith. By taking a risk and trusting God with our finances, we grow in ways we never dreamed of.

**you need and more so there will not only be enough for
give joyfully to others” ~ II CORINTHIANS 9:8**

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when can I give?

Commitment weekend is March 25th.

The Commitment Cards will be handed out on March 18th and 25th during the Experiences. Until then, please continue praying about your financial investment in this exciting adventure, asking God what it is He would have you commit over the next 3 years.

We ask that you be prepared to fill out your Commitment card during the last “MYLIFE” weekend called MY STEP and turn it in along with hundreds of other people...***it will be a monumental moment in the history of The River on 59 and your life!***

mylife: mycommitment
BELONGING. SHARING. IMPACTING.

I believe this is a defining moment in our life together. I prayerfully commit to step out in faith and pledge to give the following above my regular tithe:

\$ _____ total over the next three years.

☐ I plan to set up automatic withdrawal at TheRiverOn59.com
☐ I'd like to make a donation of stock or other asset.
Description and approximate value: _____

I'll probably give: ☐ weekly ☐ 2x per month ☐ monthly ☐ annually
towards my three-year pledge.

Name(s): _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____ Email: _____
Ph: _____ Date: _____
Signature: _____

Questions? Call our financial office at 810-991-1116 and ask for Mark Frego, Director of Operations. All gifts are Tax deductible.
The River Community Church • 10171 Bergin Rd. Howell, MI 48843 • p. 810-991-1116
"First fruits" Sunday, where people will bring money toward their pledge or the on-line giving will start is April 15.

I was just wondering... FAQs?

What's this "My Life" stuff all about?

"My Life" is a six-week journey we are taking as a church. It will be the topic of our Sunday Experiences, our Life Groups, Student Ministry, and Children's Ministry. It is what we call a Church-wide study.

"My Life" will include a personal journal that will be incorporated into all aspects of The River as we explore how our time, talents and resources can be used to make an impact for God.

What's the purpose of the "My Life" campaign? Aren't we just trying to build a campus?

The purpose of "My Life" is to help people grow spiritually so the church can grow physically. Our prayer is that every person would consider how they can use their lives to impact the kingdom of God, using their time, talent and treasure, through a heartfelt and sacrificial gift toward God's ministry.

This campaign isn't just about a building. It's about creating a regional center for outreach with people who are spiritually prepared to fulfill our mission to "Turn the largest number of non-churched, seeking people into fully devoted followers of Christ."

Even though we've gone to three experiences, the PAC still doesn't seem full, are we sure we need a new building?

Yes. The River has simply outgrown the rented facilities of the PAC, and this goes beyond attendance (which is growing). Our ministries are expanding faster than we can currently accommodate. In order to support this growth we need to move into a larger space. From the time commitment of set up and tear down of the lobby /auditorium/children's areas to auditorium equipment issues, it's clear The River is ready for a home of its own.

What's the plan for the property on Old US-23? Didn't we already start a campaign for that a few years ago?

Yes, we did begin a funding campaign for the 27 acre lot on Old US-23. While a mortgage remains on it, we are in negotiations with another ministry to sell that land and have also publicly put it on the market.

Why would we build on another piece of land when we already own property?

The 74-acre piece of property on M-59 is a prime location for the vision of our ministry. The land became available at such a low price that we couldn't ignore it and in the end, the property ended up being donated by a patron who believes in our vision. In comparison to the 23 property this land will allow us more space for growth at a much better location.

What are we building?

The first phase includes a 750-seat auditorium and a spacious lobby that can be used for our student ministry. It will also include a children's wing, parking and site development to allow us to move into the next phases.

Should we wait for the economy to rebound?

With attendance up 15.4% year-over-year, The River is ready to move forward. Regular giving is up 28.5% over last year. At Christmas we set a BIG monetary goal for our congregation and we exceeded it. We will be able to build 12 widow houses and 20 stoves in Guatemala in 2012. Imagine if we exceed the campaign goal!

This all sounds great, but doesn't it just come down to the money? Is this really a church-appropriate conversation?

Yes. Church is about life and whether we like to admit it or not, money has a huge impact on Godly relationships, culture, family and even our work. At The River, we do not believe in ignoring this crucial aspect of day-to-day life. As we

embark on this new journey, it will take a financial commitment, beyond tithing, from those devoted to seeing our vision come to life.

I'm not even sure about this whole tithing thing and you want me to give more?

The principles of tithing are based on giving back to God a tenth of what you earn. If you would like to learn more, pick up a complimentary book at the resource center call "The Treasure Principals". Any additional gift is separate from your weekly tithe. The Bible calls this an "offering". In order to continue the ministries of The River, while still moving forward toward constructing our new campus, we must give both tithes and offerings. We understand this isn't possible for everyone and if you are new to giving altogether, we encourage you to take the first step with a weekly tithe.

We are already tight on money. I'm not sure where my gift is going to come from.

While life is challenging for those who have experienced layoffs and salary cuts, giving is not just for those who have money to spare.

We give from what we have, not from what we lack. If the Lord is blessing you financially, then give faithfully. If you are out of work or lack resources now, then we encourage you to get creative. Sacrifice that Starbucks coffee each morning for an extra \$116 to give each month, or continue to set aside that \$200-\$400 car payment each month even after the lease has been paid. Be a steward of what God has given you: influence, hope, prayer, time and energy. You can pray for your leaders, volunteers, for the church and for this campaign. Stewardship is all about managing the resources you've been given by God. God owns everything and we are his "money managers." 1 Corinthians 4:2 says "Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful." Check out Deuteronomy 8:18 and Psalm 24:1.

more FAQs? more answers.

What do you mean by “Not Equal Giving, But Equal Sacrifice”?

This is the theme of our campaign. Not everyone has been blessed in a similar way – but sacrificial giving is between you and God, not between you and your neighbor. As we continue through this journey, we will have donations of small and large amounts, but it is about the sacrifice not the amount. If we each pray about and then give a gift that represents true sacrifice, our collective efforts will be used by God in a supernatural way.

Shouldn't we spend the money directly on people in need?

The development of God's church and the commitment to the community is not an either/or situation. Our vision to build a campus is a sustainable way to make a lasting impact for those in need. Our goal is to provide a stable set of resources that people can rely on.

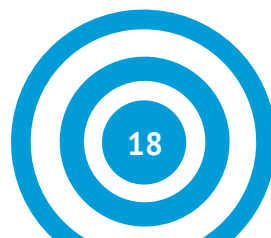
This seems like such a huge target, what happens if we fall short?

We are praying that a great transformation will occur within all of us. If we don't receive enough of a commitment, we will adjust the timeline of completion, not the projects.

When do I need to make this commitment? How long is the campaign?

Commitment Sunday is March 25 and the entire campaign will last for 3 years (2012 – 2015). The first payment will be made April 15th and you will have the option to give weekly, twice a month, monthly or annually. There is also the option for e-giving, with automatic online payments.

While the campaign is 3 years in length, it actually spans 4 tax-years, which could prove to be a great tax advantage.







“The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord.” – *JOHN 10:17-18*