

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 called "The Treasure Principles". 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.

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 super-natural 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.



For more information please
feel free to contact:

Roger Goble
rsgoble@comcast.net

Chris McDaniels
chrisandbetsy@comcast.net

Mark Frego
mfrego@therivercc.net

