

July 26, 2023

# The Key Question(s): Why?

PRACTICAL RESOURCES  
FOR CHURCHES



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Senior Ministry Strategist

horizons  
STEWARDSHIP



# Horizons Stewardship Services

- Next Level Generosity Discovery
- Growing Annual Giving
- Pre-Campaign Development and Church Asset Strategies
- Funding Capital Needs
- Cultivating Planned Giving
- Strategic Planning and Goal Setting
- Personalized Coaching and Training









Now, about  
**YOU...**





# Cultural Change

# Technical Change





1. Why should I give?
2. Why Should I be generous?





# Why write theology of generosity?





**1**

## **Build**

Build confidence preaching and teaching.

**2**

## **Share**

Share common language.

**3**

## **Move**

Move from a numbers-driven budgeting process to a vision-driven, ministry focused strategy.

**4**

## **Provide**

Provide expectations regarding those serving on finance and generosity teams.

**5**

## **Embrace**

Embrace the concept of holistic stewardship.

# Steps to Writing a Theology of Generosity





1. Get a copy of Horizons' [Writing a Theology of Stewardship, Giving, and Generosity](#) (through Giving365 under the Webinars/Presentations tab).
2. Pray.
3. Reflect on scriptures about stewardship and generosity.



4. Ask someone from your Generosity Team to write the first draft. Bring an initial draft back to the Generosity Team to discuss. (Hint: Do not rush this process!)
5. Get input from the staff and various key leaders.
6. Get sign-off from your pastor and leadership group.
7. Make it pretty and distribute the document far and wide.





Old Mission Family,  
We give of our time, energy, gifts, emotional support, and even life itself. We are also called to give financially. This is one of the ways you can be a difference-maker. The gifts you share matter for your church, your community, and the work of the Kingdom of God that we do together.

Peace,



Old Mission takes our responsibility of stewarding resources seriously. You can target your giving in the following three ways:

#### Operating Fund

This funds our day-to-day ministries including worship, education, and mission opportunities. Nearly 100% of funding comes from free-will gifts from people like you.

#### Old Mission Foundation

The Foundation uses the interest from funds for larger church projects and scholarships. Funding typically comes from estates, memorials, and inheritances.

#### Designated Funds

You can also give for specific purposes in consultation with a pastor or our business manager.

#### Ways to Give

Give one time or recurring gifts via ACH or credit card at [oldmission.org/giving](http://oldmission.org/giving)

Check payable to Old Mission UMC

For stocks or other investments, please email [giving@oldmission.org](mailto:giving@oldmission.org) or call 913.262.1040.

OLDMISSION

Loving God. Loving people.

Old Mission UMC | [www.oldmission.org](http://www.oldmission.org) | 913.262.1040

OLDMISSION



Living Our  
Mission  
Through  
Generosity





# OLDMISSION

## **Our Mission Statement**

*Making a difference by loving God  
and loving people.*

## **Our History**

The founders of Old Mission demonstrated faith during a time of uncertainty with the outcome of WWII still unknown. Despite this, they acted on faith and chose to generously invest in the creation and construction of Old Mission United Methodist Church.

*In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. James 2:17*

## **Our Generosity Core Belief**

Giving generously and financial stewardship are central principles in living our faith journey. We are called to joyfully and gratefully share our blessings to fully realize our love for God and others. (2 Corinthians 9:12-13)



## **Generosity is**

### **Invitational...**

Through generous giving we are invited to experience and participate in God's Kingdom. Giving is a way God invites us to collaborate with His work and living out our faith. (Matthew 7:7)

### **Scriptural...**

Giving is mentioned over 1900 times in scripture. Clearly God wants us to be generous givers. (Psalm 112:5)

### **Responsive...**

Generosity is a physical manifestation of our faith. We give as a response to our faith and expression of our gratitude recognizing God understands our needs better than we do. (2 Corinthians 9:11)

### **Mysterious...**

Followers of Jesus understand that the Lord works in mysterious ways. When we trust God and others with our resources, God's Kingdom work can be demonstrated. (Ecclesiastes 11:5)

### **Transformational...**

God is faithful and kind to those who are generous. In addition, generosity can be infectious. Coupled with faith, amazing things can happen that are only of God. (Luke 6:38)

### **Eye-opening...**

When we see our lives from a perspective of abundance and blessings rather than from scarcity, fear or insecurity, we discover a desire both to be generous and to grow in our generosity. (John 10:10b)



### **Necessary...**

Generosity is essential for one seeking to be a disciple of Jesus. Our generosity to God, through the church, enables Old Mission to live more fully into our mission: "Making a difference by loving God and loving people." (Proverbs 11:25)

### **Joyful...**

No one should give grudgingly or out of guilt. God loves a cheerful giver who is generous because they want to, not because they have to. We recognize that joyful giving helps detach us from "stuff" and requires giving with no expectation of return. (2 Corinthians 9:7)

### **Individual...**

We understand that our life situations and circumstances are as unique as each of us are. Giving may look different for each person based upon many variables including the various stages or seasons of life. (2 Corinthians 8:12)



Hope Family,

In an effort to cultivate a culture of generosity, I encourage you to ask the Lord, *"What of Your resources do You intend to release through me for Your Kingdom purposes here at Hope and beyond?"*

Thank you for being a part of what God is doing in our midst. This is the life!

On this journey with you,



Stephen Kirk, Senior Pastor

*"You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God."*

—2 Corinthians 9:11

HOPE CHURCH

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Mason, OH 45040  
hopemason.org

A6

HOPE CHURCH

INVEST  
in the Church

What do we  
believe about  
giving?





## Ownership

*Everything in all the world belongs to God.*

As God's people, we recognize that even our very lives are His, and that therefore He has rightful claim to all of the abundant provision that we enjoy each day.

## Stewardship

*Everything we have has been entrusted to us.*

We do not own what we have, so, as His stewards, we wisely and faithfully invest a significant portion of His resources in His ministry and mission at Hope Church and through Hope around the world.

## Membership

*Each of us is a part of something bigger!*

As Jesus' disciples comprising Hope Church, we're each called to become engaged members of Hope as we offer a unique, dynamic expression of the Body of Christ in our Mason Plus community.

## Worship

*All financial matters are spiritual matters first.*

Knowing the immeasurable worth of God and the potential enticement of earthly

riches, we give willingly from the heart; internal devotion compels us, not external obligation.

## Faith

*Generous investment requires a step of faith.*

In giving large portions, we communicate to ourselves, our Hope family, and to God that we are more than content with His present provision and more than confident in His future provision.

## Sacrifice

*Generous investment is often costly.*

Giving lavishly is a reflection of King Jesus' self-offering on the cross and our growing satisfaction in God. We willingly give up immediate delights in order to participate in fulfilling God's ultimate desires.

## Joy

*Generous investment is the best life ever!*

Far from being an extraction that diminishes us, cheerfully investing God's resources is one of life's greatest joys. We're amazed how God gives us the privilege of participating in His work in His world.

## So What's Next?

*Make a plan.*

Affirming generous giving as biblical and wise is a start, but there's more! We tend to be faithful when we are intentional. So deliberately:

- **ask** God to give you discernment and to lead you in the specifics;
- **invite** trusted friends to share their journey into generous giving—both their challenges and their joys;
- **commit** to invest a percentage of your income in and through Hope Church;
- **assess** each year how your giving might grow progressively;
- and then **delight** in glorifying God and contributing to the lasting joy of all people.

*Resources:*

- Financial Peace University
- *The Treasure Principle* by Randy Alcorn
- Scripture references for this brochure found at [hopemason.org/giving](http://hopemason.org/giving)

**For more information visit  
[hopemason.org/giving](http://hopemason.org/giving)**



Why should  
people give to  
your church?

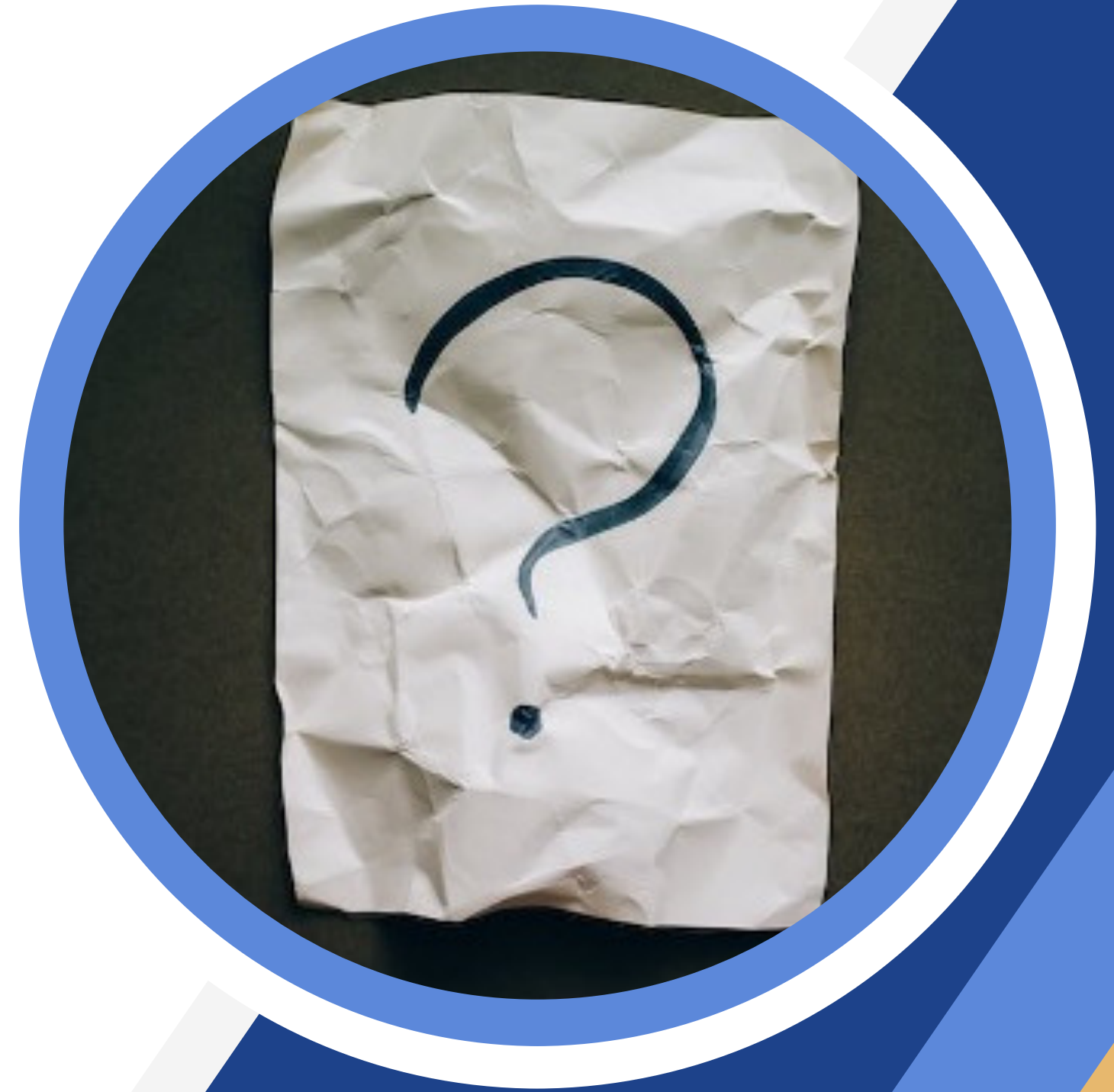


# Writing a Case for Generosity for Your Church





# The Most Important Question to Ask Yourself...



If my church  
closed its doors,  
would anybody  
notice?

Would anybody  
care?





What's your  
church's  
mission and  
vision?



# Finding Your WHY







**Michael Jr.**

**"Know Your Why"**



**Simon Sinek**

**"How Great Leaders  
Inspire Action"**



BREAK  TIME

YouTube michaeljrcomedy





What are three-  
four vision  
initiatives you hope  
to accomplish in  
the next three  
years?



What are you  
currently  
doing at a  
WOW level?





Where are you  
making a  
difference  
inside and outside  
your church?



What ministry  
dreams  
aren't being  
funded?





You now have the answer...

Why should  
people  
give to your  
church?





## NOT JUST OURSELVES

Years ago, a simple phrase guided IBC's effort to share our resources and help fund local and global mission projects: *Not Just Ourselves*. As we continued to use the phrase to describe externally focused initiatives, we came to see that *Not Just Ourselves* shouldn't be limited to special projects at a special time of year. We realized the *Not Just Ourselves* mindset should shape our ministry and sharpen our focus all year round. Everything we do at Irving Bible Church is ultimately for the sake of others, for the sake of the world—not just ourselves. As a church, *Not Just Ourselves* calls us to serve our congregation and our neighbors. *Not Just Ourselves* calls us to make missionary disciples—Christ-followers who are living out their purpose by abiding in Jesus and joining God's mission in the world.

*Not Just Ourselves* calls us to something bigger as individuals and families too. We must recognize that God has given us so much—everything from amazing grace and abundant life to spiritual gifts, skills and talents, resources, and passions—and that he has given us these things not just for the benefit of ourselves and our families, but for the benefit of others as well. When God provides for us, he's not just providing for our well-being; he's also providing us the means through which we can be a part of what he's doing in the world. This is why we serve, this is why we give, this is why we show up for one another and for our neighbors. This is why we embody hospitality and empathy in a broken world.

*Not Just Ourselves* invites us to live out the self-giving love of Jesus with generosity, joy, and compassion. As we do, we become more and more like our giving God, and our love for others puts the love of God on display for all to see. In other words, the *Not Just Ourselves* life forms us in the way of Jesus for the sake of the world.

We hope you will press into the *Not Just Ourselves* life at IBC. We also hope you will prayerfully consider a deeper financial investment into the ministry needs and opportunities we are pursuing in the days to come. We long to see these initiatives come to fruition because of the impact they will make on the people we're called to serve, and we continue to depend on your financial generosity in order to make progress.

Will you spend some time in prayer, reflection, and conversation about how God is inviting you to respond to the *Not Just Ourselves* invitation?

**BARRY JONES, SENIOR PASTOR**



# NOT *Just* OURSELVES



IRVING BIBLE CHURCH  
2435 KINWEST PARKWAY - IRVING, TEXAS 75063 | 972-560-4600





At **Irving Bible Church**, we believe God is calling us to become a multi-ethnic movement of missionary disciples, formed in the way of Jesus for the sake of the world. Our passion is to see people meet Jesus, learn to trust and follow him, and be mobilized to serve our city, our region, and our world.

As we consider where God is leading us, we have big dreams. Specifically, we believe the following lanes represent key opportunities for Irving Bible Church in the months to come:



### OUTREACH

We believe Jesus changes lives. As we move into the future, we are devoting greater planning, prayer, and resources to sharing the gospel with those who don't know him.

#### Alpha Cohorts / \$100,000

Alpha provides inviting and safe spaces where people can explore the Christian faith. We plan to launch new Alpha sites around the metroplex, gathering people together to talk about Jesus.

#### Outreach Events / \$100,000

We envision outreach initiatives in and around Irving that will empower IBCers to invite family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers to discover who Jesus is.

### RECOVERY & HEALING

We believe life in a broken world means people have wounds, challenges, and addictions. We want IBC to be known as a place where people can find real hope and real help.

#### Recovery & Support Groups / \$75,000

We believe that IBC can become known in our area as the place where people who feel stuck can find real, deep, and lasting transformation in a community of fellow strugglers.

### SERVING OUR WORLD

We believe that the hope of Jesus should be known by all people, all around the world. We're honored to support missionaries and organizations who are bearing witness to this hope.

#### Global Missions / Cost: \$350,000

We believe our global missions partners—like ALARM, My Refuge House, and Water is Basic—are changing lives in the communities they serve. By investing in their work, we will be able to meet more practical needs, drawing hundreds to the love of Jesus.



### SERVING OUR CITY

We believe God has placed us in this city for a reason. By serving the needs of our neighbors, we hope that people will notice and wonder who Jesus is and what he offers.

#### Mobilization of IBCers / \$50,000

We want to mobilize the people of IBC to make serving a part of their everyday lives. Showing up regularly to bless the city will lead to life change, both for us and for those we serve.

#### Homelessness Initiatives / \$75,000

We are passionate about addressing the significant challenges homelessness presents in our community, and we're partnering with local agencies to help.

#### Local Partner Support / \$100,000

We are committed to changing lives through our partnerships with local organizations like Laundry Love, Family Promise, 2435 Med Clinic, and SchoolWorks. With our help, these agencies serve the most vulnerable members of our community.

### CARING FOR OUR CAMPUS

We believe our campus is a ministry tool with a kingdom purpose. We are blessed to have a building where we can welcome people throughout the week, and we're committed to caring for it well.

To steward our spaces well, we follow a Differed Maintenance Plan. Tackling our most urgent campus projects below will help us serve more people by maximizing the space God has so generously provided for us.

#### Worship Center Renovation / \$1,500,000

#### Exterior Renovation / \$200,000

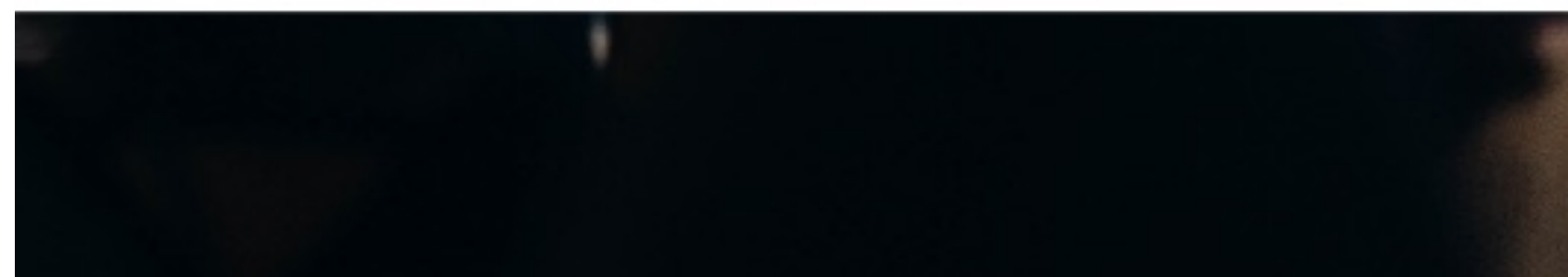
#### Children's Play Area Additions / \$150,000







*Inviting People to New Life in Christ*





Letter from Our Elders

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Where We've Been...Where We Are

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Mission & Vision

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Theology of Generosity

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Current Accomplishments

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Future Impact

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Creative Ways to Multiply Giving

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More Information





Dear Church Family,

Imagine holding a basket, but not any basket, one that harvesters use to collect fruit. Then imagine you are standing before Jesus at the end of your life, and after gazing at Jesus in awe, you slowly look down toward your basket, as you and Jesus, both inspect your fruit basket after a lifetime of collecting opportunities in the Lord's harvest field. What's in your basket? What do you want to find in your basket? What do you want to offer the Lord from the time and resources He gave you during your lifetime? What will be the yield of your life? What will be the collective yield of our lives working together, our unified harvest for our Savior?

God has planted CVC amid a great harvest field here in the greater Cleveland area. Through the life transforming power of Christ, we have seen thousands of lives impacted for the Lord's kingdom through the prayers, the serving, and the giving of CVCer's like you. We have already seen a great yield of fruit for Jesus in the time God has given us. But are we satisfied? Is it time to rest and back off after so many years of faithfulness and fruit? We are confident that a firm and resounding "No!" rises up in your spirit even as you read that sentence. As we look around at our world, and we see pain, chaos, confusion, apathy, and seismic shifts in culture, we actually feel an increased urgency to get the good news of Jesus into the hearts, lives, homes, and communities God has given us access to both near and far, at home and around the globe.

*So, what are you going to do about it? What are we going to do about this?*

It's time to intensify and accelerate our efforts to reach even more people in Northeast Ohio and around the globe with the gospel of Jesus Christ. So, we are asking if you will join us in sacrificially giving of your time, talent, and treasure to advance the kingdom of God by supporting these three critical areas financially, prayerfully and through your serving.

May we never tire of, "Inviting People to New Life in Christ." It's not a slogan for our church, but a mission for our community. A mission to yield a great harvest for our Lord. So, fast forward again to that image of standing before Jesus with a basket. What do you have in that basket today? Is it a harvest that you will be pleased to offer your Savior? Will you be part of our next steps to increase our yield for the kingdom?

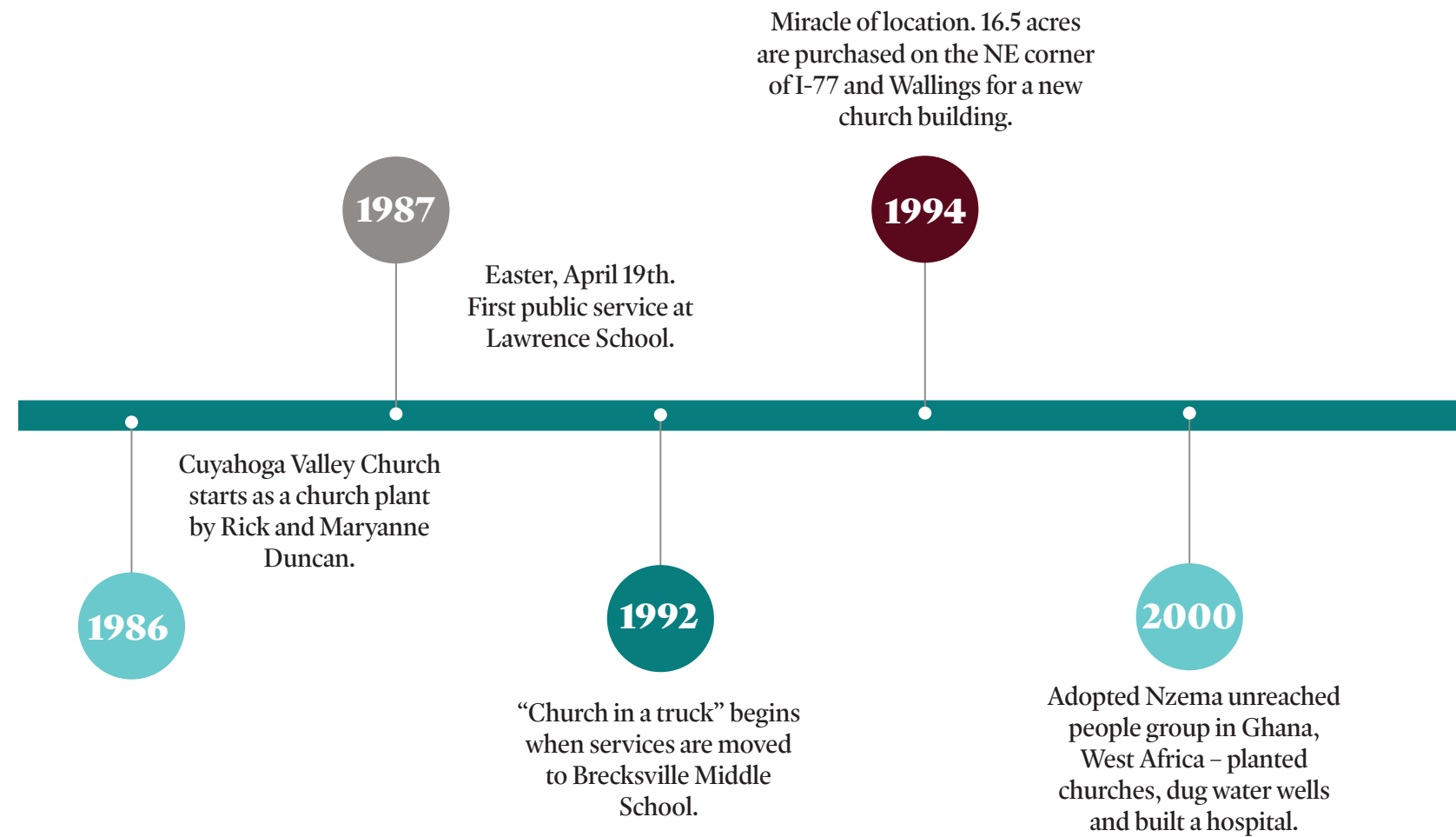
By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. (John 15:8)

Always on mission with you,  
The CVC Elder Team

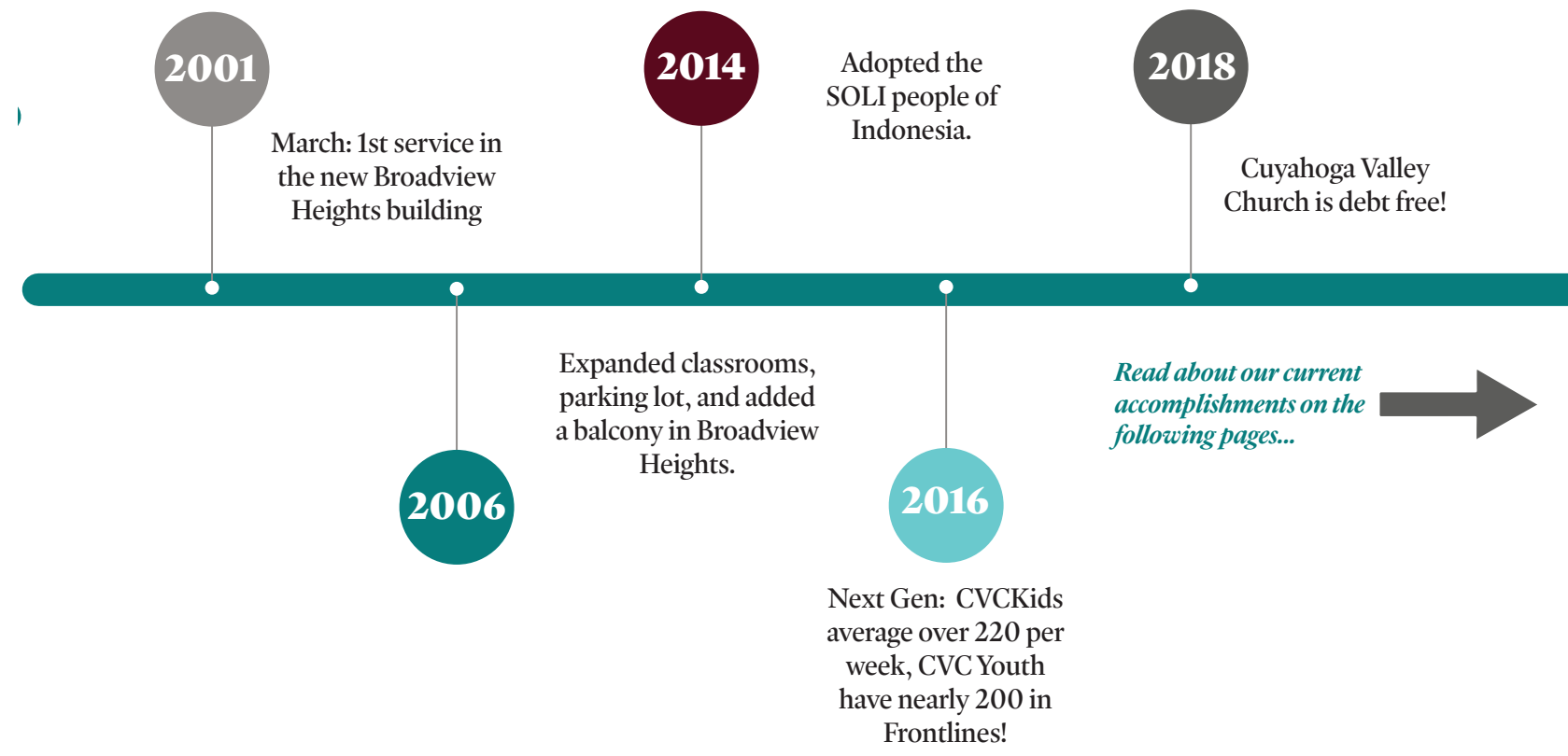




# Where we've been...



# Where we are...





The background of the slide features a photograph of several children in bright green t-shirts participating in an outdoor activity. One child is seen from behind, wearing a green visor and a green headband. Another child is seen from the side, wearing a green visor and a green headband. A third child is seen from the front, wearing a green visor and a green headband. The children are holding hands, suggesting a team-building or group activity. The text is overlaid on this image.

## *Our Mission & Vision*

We take the good news of Jesus Christ to a world in desperate need of hope, healing, and transformation. Our mission simply stated is, "Inviting people to new life in Christ."

At CVC we are passionate and intentional about continuing our efforts to make an impact regionally and globally for Christ through our discipleship strategy - Invite, Equip, Send.

Our next step as a church is trusting God to help CVC equip our communities to be faithful, fruitful disciples who are abiding in Christ, serving the Lord according to their gifts, and sharing the love and message of Jesus.





## *Theology of Generosity*

We believe that the evidence of our growth as disciples of Jesus will reveal itself in six areas which we call the “Fruit of New Life”. The fruit of new life is best understood not by our activity, but by our identity, not by what we do, but by who we understand ourselves to be. As we grow in Christ, we will see ourselves as a: Beloved Child, Self-Feeder, Servant, Investor, Discipled, and Missionary.

Therefore, at CVC we will passionately pursue the equipping of our communities to become faithful, fruitful disciples who are abiding in Christ, serving the Lord according to their gifts, and committed to sharing the love and message of Jesus. By doing this we are strategically cultivating communities of disciple-makers who are like groves of life-giving trees locally and throughout the world.

Said another way, we want to become a unified family of believers who are motivated by the Great Commandment and devoted to the Great Commission.

For more information on the CVC Theology of Generosity, please contact Brenda Leisinger at [bleisinger@cvconline.org](mailto:bleisinger@cvconline.org).





## *Current Accomplishments*

**2019**

Largest CVCKids Sport Camp in the history of the church with 1,328 kids attending and 317 volunteers. CVKids Sunday School averages 262 children.

**2020**

COVID resulted in a significant expansion of our online ministry. CVC GO increased to 250+ people. First Baptist Church Brunswick donated their church and 3 acres of land to CVC.





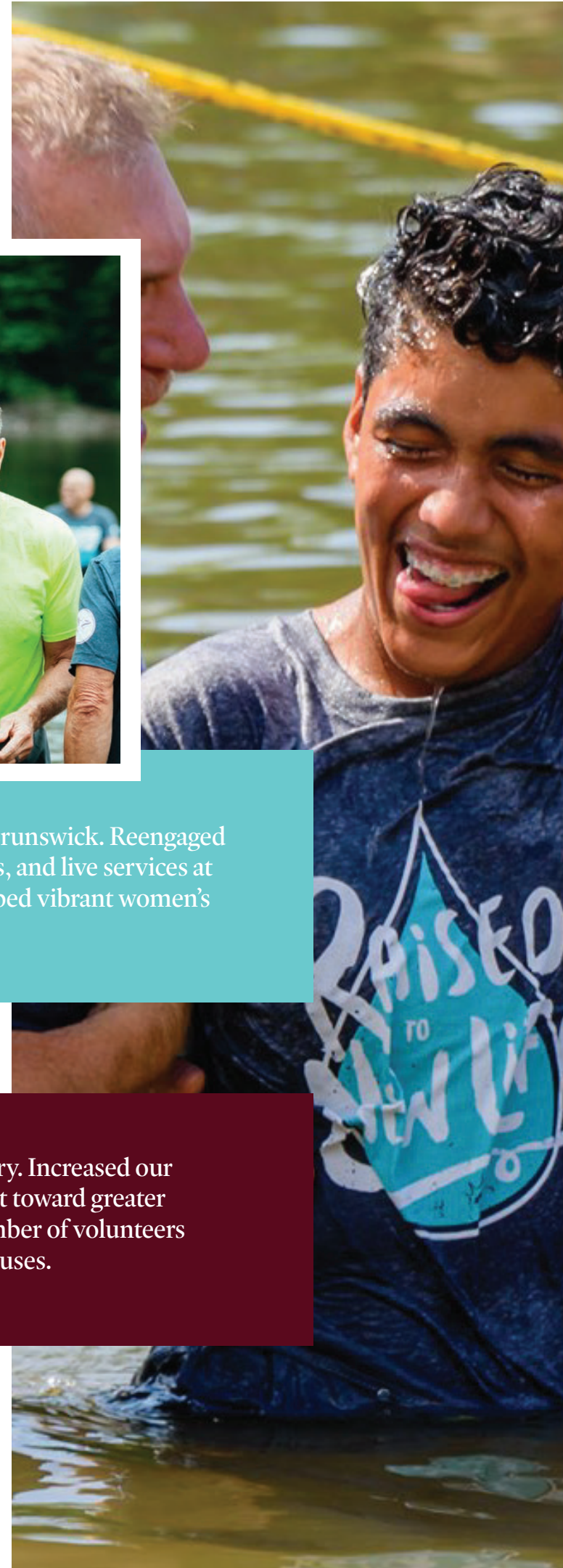


## 2021

Opened our 1st campus located in Brunswick. Reengaged sports camp, domestic mission trips, and live services at both campuses. Rolled out a revamped vibrant women's ministry.

## 2022

Expanded the Young Adult ministry. Increased our cultural diversity. Saw a movement toward greater generosity especially with the number of volunteers occupying staff roles at both campuses.







# *Future Impact*

**Invite: Caring for our campuses...**

**Equip: Investing in the  
Next Generation...**

**Sending & Serving: Impacting  
our Neighbors & the World...**





# Opportunities...



## Brunswick Campus

God amazingly expanded our kingdom impact when First Baptist Church of Brunswick generously gave us their facilities. Today we have a rapidly growing location that is already making a positive impact in the local community with new families attending this campus, new LifeGroups being launched, and community outreach efforts taking place.

## Broadview Heights Environment Improvements

Our prayer is to provide a welcoming and safe environment where we can “Invite people to a new life in Christ and they can grow in their knowledge of Jesus Christ and his plan for their life. However our building is now feeling “tired” and needs some updates.



## CVCYouth Event Subsidies

The two major events for CVCYouth - Winter Retreat and Summer Camp - cost just short of \$100,000 each year and 85% of the cost is passed along to the families of those who attend. Scholarships have been available for some CVC families with economic need but much more are needed.





## CVCYouth Internships

CVCYouth Internships have been one of the most impactful initiatives to develop equipped leadership over the last decade and is an effective recruiting tool for finding the best and the brightest for staffing our church and campus. We will need both host homes, where families from CVC graciously provide room and board for an intern for one year, as well as funding for each intern to fully implement this program.

## Equipping Parents of CVCKids & Young Adults

God calls parents to be the primary encouragers of their children's spiritual growth as they teach them the Bible, pray with and for them, and prepare them for life. At CVC we desire to help parents in that calling by expanding our discipleship of parents, teaching them to weave faith into the fabric of the everyday lives of their children.



## Church Planting

CVC Missions plants and supports North American Missions Board (NAMB) churches in prayerfully chosen locations and partners with the International Missions Board (IMB) to support church planting amongst prayerfully chosen unreached people groups.



## Bible Translations

Over the past 4 years, Cuyahoga Valley Church has raised \$340,000 to support the translation of the Bible of the Tipah Cluster project on Pearl Island. This is a multi-year/multi-phase initiative, with work scheduled to continue through 2026. Each phase of the project is estimated to cost \$350,000 and there will be at least three phases, possibly four.

Phase 2, which is currently underway, is fully funded and is scheduled to run through September 2023. At the end of Phase 2 approximately 60% of the Tipah Cluster bible translation project will be complete.

## Big 10 Missions

CVC Missions partners with organizations that express the heart of Jesus for ‘the least of these’ (Matt 25). CVC Missions also encourages and equips the CVC members/attenders to engage in the identified areas of missional focus, with the goal of raising up additional lay leaders, church planters, and missionaries from within CVC’s membership.





## *Creative Ways to Multiply Giving*

As you consider how God is leading you to give, don't overlook stored assets that you own. Gifts of appreciated property (stocks, real estate, mutual funds, collectibles, cars, etc.) often make great gifts with significant tax advantages.





## Sale of Assets

Sale of major assets, such as a house, car, land, stocks or a business provide available funds for giving.

## Bequest by Will or Trust

Leaving instructions in a will or trust naming CVC as a beneficiary.

## Retirement Plan or Life Insurance

Make a gift in your IRA or Life Insurance Policy naming CVC as a beneficiary.

## Split-Interest Gifts

Provide tax savings and a stream of income

## Corporate Gifts

Use your business as a such for giving to make significant donations







**Become a part of the vision and mission at CVC – contact us for more information on giving.**

**Brenda Leisinger  
Director, Generous Life Ministry  
[bleisinger@cvconline.org](mailto:bleisinger@cvconline.org)**



*Scan this QR code to see more information on creative ways to maximize your giving and instructions on how to give.*





*Every time I take a  
step in the direction  
of generosity, I  
know I am moving  
from fear to love.*

Henri Nouwen





Don't miss out!



## **Making Stewardship a Joy**

Next workshops:

August 30 – Thank

September 27 – Tell

October 25 – Ask





# Questions?

**Cesie Delve Scheuermann**

**[cesieds@horizons.net](mailto:cesieds@horizons.net)**

**[CesieScheuermann.com](http://CesieScheuermann.com)**





But wait! There's more!  
Shoot Cesie an email at  
[CesieDS@Horizons.net](mailto:CesieDS@Horizons.net).  
She'll sign you up for her weekly blog:  
**"Inspiring Generosity."**

To thank you, she'll forward you:  
"The Art of Writing a  
Great Thank You Letter"







**WHO'S AWESOME?**

You're awesome!

