

# #JOURNEY

## CHURCH 2013-2014

WHERE  
WE'VE  
BEEN

WHERE  
WE'RE  
GOING



# #JOURNEY

## COMMUNITY CHURCH

[WWW.THEJOURNEYCC.COM](http://WWW.THEJOURNEYCC.COM)

# THE JOURNEY

What a year! One year ago we were in the process of becoming “one church in multiple locations.” There was excitement, anticipation and a little anxiety too at what God would do. We are already seeing new people take steps in relationships, not religion.

This past year has been filled with great stories of God at work in the lives of people along the lakeshore. As a church our Networks continue to grow in their impact, and Journey Night Classes were developed and are helping people take steps. With the launch of a second location, more and more people are taking ownership in the mission of The Journey.

In the pages ahead, you'll see a snap shot of what God is doing in and through us at The Journey! The numbers you see in this book represent real people with names, stories and steps they've taken with God. Each one of those names is a person that matters deeply to God and their story is a story that God is writing. We're looking back to celebrate all that God has done, anticipating all that He wants to do among us this next year, and the role we all can play in this mission!

*The best is yet ahead!*



## NUMBERS REPRESENT

A NEXT STEP

SOMEONE'S STORY

A CHANGED RELATIONSHIP

# BAPTISM

Baptism is an outward expression of an inner change.

It's a symbol of beginning a relationship with Jesus.

**BAPTISMS THIS YEAR**

**24**

**10 YEAR TOTAL**

**175+**



## BAPTISM STORY

“We never went to church or talked about God. I knew there was something else out there but I didnt know what it was... 3 years ago my life was falling apart and my friend invited me to The Journey...We knew our life would be better if we followed God. Getting our life back together was hard work but having God in our life made it easier. If it wasn't for coming to The Journey and finding God, I don't know where my life would be today. I still have a lot of questions but I'm ready to let God lead my life.” -Wendy

# VISION & GOALS

Our mantra is all about relationships, not religion. We don't want to just do some religious things. We want everyone to experience their best life in a relationship with Jesus. Our church & individual goal is to become a group of people who have Jesus at the center of our lives, look beyond ourselves, do life together, live generously, invest & invite, and own & live out God's mission.

## CORE ESSENTIAL GOALS FOR THIS YEAR

**2,000** HOURS

**LOOK BEYOND YOURSELF GOAL**  
Serve in the community through Networks.

**700** AVERAGE ATTENDANCE

**INVEST & INVITE GOAL**  
See more people connect in relationships, not religion.

**100** DIFFERENT PEOPLE IN NIGHT CLASSES

**DOING LIFE TOGETHER GOAL**  
Taking steps in our relationships.

The Journey's Core Essentials



# 1 CHURCH 2 SITES

## NORTH ON M-120

In March 2013 we became one church with two locations. We recently celebrated our first anniversary and God has done great things. You gave last Christmas to buy a seat and those seats are being filled. We have seen new people at the North on M120 site who have begun a relationship with Jesus and have been baptized. The impact is happening.

Let's pray for greater things in year two. In this next year we are exploring a more permanent location with more space to reach more people. We want to take steps to be self-sufficient. It's our desire for each site to fall into a 70-20-10 program with 70% of offerings covering expenses, 20% to central support & 10% given away to make an impact.

## YEAR TWO GOALS

SELF SUFFICIENT

REACH MORE PEOPLE

A MORE PERMANENT PLACE

70% EXPENSES

20% CENTRAL SUPPORT

10% GIVE AWAY

## JOURNEY STORY FROM NORTH ON M-120

"Last year was my year. This is when I opened my eyes to God. I became part of a church and church FAMILY at the North M120 site. I was baptized this summer and this was the most amazing experience in my lifetime. Since last year and joining The Journey, my relationships at home, with God, with friends, and with my patients have changed tremendously for the better. My hope for 2014 is to continue on this path, trusting more in Him and less on myself, and giving more of myself to others. I am loving every next step". - Sarah

**160** FEBRUARY 2014 AVERAGE ATTENDANCE

2013 TOTAL AVERAGE 492

FEBRUARY 2014 TOTAL AVERAGE 513

**60%**

OF M120 ATTENDERS ARE NEW TO THE JOURNEY

# NEXT STEPS

## RELATIONSHIPS, NOT RELIGION

It's our mission for people to experience their best life in relationships, not religion. This is a process of helping people take next steps. We provide resources and environments to help people take next steps.

## TOTAL VOLUNTEERS AT BOTH SITES

# 300+

Volunteering at The Journey gives us an opportunity to look beyond ourselves and play a part in the mission.

## JOURNEY NIGHT CLASSES

This past year we launched Journey Night Classes. It's not about doing religious stuff. It's about taking next steps. Journey Night Classes help us take steps in life and in our relationship with God and others.

## NIGHT CLASSES INSPIRE STEPS

IN LIFE

IN RELATIONSHIPS

WITH GOD

# 12

CLASSES WE OFFERED  
THE FIRST YEAR

# 121

DIFFERENT PEOPLE  
ATTENDED NIGHT CLASSES

# NETWORKS

Networks provide regional opportunities to impact our community by helping people in need. Networks also help people take next steps through Connection Nights or Journey Groups. Below are a few highlights from the 25+ projects our Networks did in their communities.

## NETWORK GOALS

TAKE NEXT STEPS

IMPACT YOUR COMMUNITY



**FRUITPORT NETWORK** Cookie Bus, Painted and yard work at Beckhorn's home, The Hope Project.



**NORTON SHORES NETWORK** Kick off concert and garage sale for Food Trucks, Christmas Dinner for people in need, Painted house and various projects for WWII vet.



**TRI-CITIES NETWORK** Love Inc. Garden for people in need, Cookie Ambush, Prep medical equipment with International Aid.



**NORTH NETWORK** Community Garden, Food Drive, Improvements at Reeths Puffer School.

# 260+

IN NETWORKS

# 1600+

HOURS IMPACTING COMMUNITY

## NETWORK STORY

"The Network Connection Nights allow me to break out of my comfort zone and meet new people. I love hearing everyone's stories as well as sharing ours. It is encouraging to know we are not alone. Also, the Network projects allow for us to give back to the community! This is when I feel closest to God and I believe it is also a way to thank Him for the miracle He performed in my family's life." -Hattie

# JOURNEY KIDS

HELPS KIDS GROW IN

FAITH  
WISDOM  
FRIENDSHIP

HELPS KIDS KNOW

GOD MADE THEM  
GOD LOVES THEM  
JESUS IS THEIR FOREVER FRIEND

Journey Kids is all about guiding kids to connect with Jesus and celebrating their next steps. This year we saw families coming to church regularly, kids bringing friends, and volunteers serving in all kinds of roles to invest in families and look beyond themselves. Journey Kids volunteers are making a huge impact by building a foundation for our kids' best life ahead.

ACTIVE  
VOLUNTEERS

116

VOLUNTEERS  
SERVING EACH WEEK 40

FIRST TIME  
VOLUNTEERS 42

AVERAGE  
WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

127

FIRST TIME KIDS  
174

CHILD TO  
VOLUNTEER RATIO

5:1

## JOURNEY KIDS STORY

"The Journey Kids leaders really make it so easy and fun. The lesson plans are ready for you, the supplies are already in the room, all you need to do is show up ready to teach, learn, and have fun with the kids. Being a part of Journey Kids has made me more aware of things that I should be incorporating into my home life with my little one as well. It is so awesome to get to know the kids, as well as their parents, and be able to be a part of showing them what Jesus has done for us! Even though it is a little scary for me to try new things, I find that when I do, I've grown with every step. It has been awesome to see how God has been working in my life, as well as how he can work through me!" -Lisa

# STRATEGIC PARTNERS GLOBAL & REGIONAL

## HOUSE OF HOPE ORPHANAGE KENYA

18 JOURNEYERS SERVED  
IN KENYA IN 2013

41 JOURNEYERS HAVE SERVED  
IN KENYA IN LAST 5 YEARS

AMOUNT GIVEN IN  
SUPPLIES SINCE '08  
**\$62,000**

We have a strategic partnership with The House of Hope Orphanage in Kenya. It's about looking beyond ourselves globally.

## A FEW WAYS WE MADE AN IMPACT IN KENYA IN 2013

BUILT A COMMUNITY CENTER IN A REMOTE VILLAGE

PAID INITIAL COSTS TO BRING 2 ORPHANS TO THE HOUSE OF HOPE!

BOUGHT CLOTHES, SUPPLIES FOR THE KIDS

BUILT A NEW CLASSROOM FOR THE ORPHANAGE

## VERVE CHURCH LAS VEGAS

28 BAPTIZED AT VERVE  
CHURCH THIS YEAR

300+ PEOPLE  
ATTENDING VERVE

PERCENT OF VERVE  
PREVIOUSLY UNCHURCHED

70%

For the last 4 years, we've been partnered with Verve Church in Las Vegas as they reach out to those who work on The Strip. Our partnership is making a real difference in the lives of so many people.

"Thank you so much Journey for your support of Verve Church, where we're sharing Jesus in the heart of Sin City. We are seeing people meet God for the first time, give their lives to Him, and see their lives changed dramatically. We're helping the desperate find hope, marriages find healing, and lonely people find community. And you are a big part of that! Through your support of us, you are making an eternal difference in Las Vegas. Thank you!" - Vince Antonucci, Pastor at Verve Church

# BUDGET

Our budget is set up for maximum impact. We value transparency, fiscal responsibility and generosity because we want to see every dollar count in a way that impacts our community & world.

## OUR BUDGET IS

**35%**

LESS THAN MOST CHURCHES  
OUR SIZE

**100%**

FUNDED BY OUR GIVING  
AND OFFERINGS

BUDGET LINE	LAST YEAR	THIS YEAR	CHANGE
PERSONNEL	\$325,386	\$302,993	-\$22,393
GENERAL EXPENSES	\$70,725	\$75,225	\$4,500
FACILITIES	\$130,160	\$125,310	-\$4,850
OUTREACH	\$51,800	\$59,400	\$7,600
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$578,761</b>	<b>\$562,928</b>	<b>-\$15,143</b>

## BUDGET GROWTH

'04 -'05

**\$125,000**

'09 -'10

**\$300,000**

'14 -'15

**\$562,928**

# GIVING

One of our Core Essentials is to live generously. We believe God is the blessing who blesses us to be a blessing to others. We want to live with open hands as individuals and as a church. Below are some numbers that represent our desire to live generously:

**TOTAL OFFERING**  
**\$487,800**

**TOTAL GIVEN AWAY**  
**\$53,000**

**NATIONAL AVERAGE FOR GIVING  
PER/PERSON PER/WEEK:**

**\$21.60** PER/PERSON GIVING NATIONAL AVERAGE

**\$12.91** PER/PERSON IN 2012 AT THE JOURNEY

**\$15.41** PER/PERSON IN 2013 AT THE JOURNEY

**OUR HOPE CHRISTMAS  
PROJECT GOAL:**

**\$25,000**

**WE EXCEEDED THAT WITH OVER**

**\$29,000** TO BRING HOPE GLOBALLY,  
REGIONALLY & LOCALLY.



# FIRST 10, NEXT 10

This past fall, we celebrated our 10 year anniversary. God has done more than we asked or imagined in our first 10 years, so we are dreaming big for the next 10 years.

## 10 DREAMS FOR THE NEXT 10 YEARS

### A BUILDING WITH A PURPOSE



We aren't exactly sure how this would play out yet but we're looking to leverage our location & buildings to make a difference. What if we had a building that we used 20% of the time and it somehow provided a service to the community the rest of the week? Maybe it would be a coffee house that could provide funds for kids in Kenya, a community venue for events, or an affordable day care.

### 3 MORE NETWORKS



We want to add 3 more Networks to our 4 current Networks that impact the community with projects like providing food trucks, home repairs for people in need, working with local organizations and supporting local schools. They also create relationships to help each other take next steps.

### 300 PEOPLE BAPTIZED



Our main goal is to help people begin a relationship with Jesus. Baptism is a symbol of that relationship. This would double the number of people from our first ten years.

### 2 MORE SITES ALONG US 31



We have a dream that we call the 31 Initiative. We are working to have Journey sites along US 31 from South Holland to Whitehall. This provides more space for people to explore God, more impact in local communities and more opportunities for people to experience God working in & through them as they serve, volunteer & reach out to friends and family along the lakeshore.

### GIVE AWAY 15% OF GENERAL BUDGET

We currently give away more than 10% to make a difference. We think 10% is great but we would like to give away more and have it written in our budget for a greater impact.

# FIRST 10, NEXT 10

### FROM NO CONNECTION TO HELPING OTHERS



We want more people to go from exploring God, to taking steps to reach out to their friends and family, invest in our Journey Kids, lead a Network & help other people explore and experience Jesus. We're working on strategic steps to see more people walk through this process.

### KIDS/TEENS - NEXT GENERATION'S LEADERS



In the next ten years, our current teens and kids at church will be all grown up. As we continue with Journey Kids & Teens, we're dreaming and investing in them to be the next generation of leaders, volunteers and Christ-followers who will continue to reach our community.

### MORE OWNING & LIVING OUT THE MISSION

As we grow as a church, we all need to take steps to make Jesus the center of our lives, to live generously, look beyond ourselves & serve others, do life together and to reach people disconnected from Jesus. We all have a part to play.

### KENYA IMPACT SPREADS TO THE COMMUNITY



We have provided rain tanks, water systems, classrooms, cows, chickens, kitchens, bunk beds and we've sent 3 different teams to the House of Hope orphanage in Kenya. We're excited to see a family from our church who is currently raising support to teach at Rift Valley Academy in Kenya. We want to see the impact spread from the orphanage into the community through education, investments & sharing God's love in words & actions.

### RESOURCES TO MATCH VISION



This is a two-fold dream. We want to provide more resources, environments, opportunities, tools, classes and projects to help people take steps along their journey with God. The second part is that we have these big dreams but we don't have the resources, workers, or finances to match our vision. We are dreaming and praying for God to provide for the future.

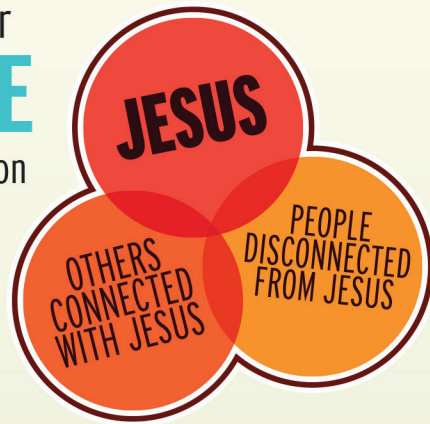
We are so excited about what God has done in our first 10 years & we believe that our best is yet to come in the next 10 years.

our mission is to connect in  
**RELATIONSHIPS, NOT RELIGION**

 **SO EVERY ONE**  
can experience their  
**BEST LIFE**

As we live out the mission, we focus on

**3 KEY**  
relationships



We want to take steps in all our relationships, but especially in these 3 areas as they represent the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) & the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:36-40) and how we can find our best life living out relationships, not religion.

As you live out the mission of relationships,  
**WHO ARE YOU BECOMING?**

Our **CORE ESSENTIALS** define who we want to become as we live out relationships, not religion:

**MAKE JESUS THE CENTER** Following Jesus by listening to Him & doing what He says in every aspect of our lives.

**INVEST & INVITE** Intentionally investing in others to help them find life in a relationship with Jesus.

**LOOK BEYOND OURSELVES** Seeing life & people from an eternal perspective.

**LIVE GENEROUSLY** God is the blessing who blesses us to be a blessing.

**DO LIFE TOGETHER** You help others, others help you.

**OWN & LIVE OUT THE MISSION** We all have a part to play.



**THE JOURNEY**  
COMMUNITY CHURCH

YOU CAN GET A RELIGIOUS  
EXPERIENCE ANYWHERE  
**BUT WE ARE ABOUT  
RELATIONSHIPS**

**RELATIONSHIPS,  
NOT RELIGION**

A RELATIONSHIP WITH EACH & WITH PEOPLE  
**WITH GOD OTHER IN NEED**

WE DESIRE TO BE A **SAFE PLACE** FOR EVERYONE TO **EXPLORE & EXPERIENCE**  
GOD NO MATTER WHERE THEY ARE IN THEIR SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

**THERE ARE NO PERFECT PEOPLE ALLOWED** **WE ARE A CHURCH OF SECOND CHANCES**

IT'S A JOURNEY SO WE WANT TO KEEP TAKING  
NEXT STEPS TO EXPERIENCE OUR

**BEST LIFE**

WE AREN'T INTERESTED IN JUST DOING SOME  
RANDOM ROUTINES **IT'S NOT ABOUT JUST DOING** **IT'S ALL ABOUT WHO YOU'RE BECOMING**

