

# Quarterly Financial Update



April - May 2014  
thejourneycc.com

## BECAUSE OF YOU

So far in 2014 we are seeing some amazing things happen at The Journey. We have seen our attendance increase consistently

### **TO OVER 600.**

It's great seeing more people finding their way back into church to explore God. We've also seen a group of people who have gone through the Beginnings Class and are now planning to get

### **baptized this summer.**

We love seeing people go from exploring God to following Him!

From our Network's impacting the community, to the awesome experience in Journey Kids, to all the coffee, videos, music and environment on Sundays, everything we do is **100% funded by your giving**. When we celebrate our growth & lives being changed, you have a part to play in this process. Because of you and the part you play, more people are experiencing relationships, not religion along the lakeshore. Two of our core essentials is for our church to own God's mission and to live generously. Let's all keep taking steps to see God do great things in and through us. **He is the blessing who blesses us to be a blessing to others.**

## STORY: GIVE BACK

A couple years ago a young couple at The Journey went through a difficult time. Because of the benevolence offerings that Journeymen provide, we were able to help them with a couple hundred dollars. It made a difference for them. This past Christmas, they were doing much better. The wife couldn't get the thought out of her head that she needed to "pay it forward". She confirmed with her husband the decision & brought a couple hundred dollars to The Journey for us to give to someone in need. We knew a person that had been taking steps at The Journey and had a need, so we approached them that Sunday morning with an envelope of money. Here's the rest of the story from that person:

*"In the past, I have not been real good about giving at church. I do give, but when something comes up, that's where I tend to cut back. I had committed to myself that I would give a specific amount weekly regardless of what might come up and leave it to God." So when car problems arose for this person, they thought about cutting back from God, but decided to keep giving. So when they received this "pay it forward" benevolence offering they responded like this: "I was so appreciative. I thought that this is how God is helping me. It ended up fully covering the repair with exactly \$40 to spare! Then the next day, both headlights quit working at the same time & the relay switch replacement cost was exactly \$40. The money had covered my car repairs right to the penny! Amazing! Thank you so much for the money and for the part that you probably didn't even realize you were playing in God showing me what He can do if I just trust Him."*

# Finances for this Fiscal Year

## THE #'s

### April-May

Finances at The Journey

Income: \$64,752

Expenses: \$80,854

Difference: **-\$16,102**

Deficit per Month: **-\$8,051**

Our Fiscal Year runs from  
April 2014-March 2015

## Take your next step in the GIVING PROCESS

## YOU NEED TO KNOW

We are really excited about the numbers and the stories from the front page. But as you can see from the financial numbers on the left, we have started out the fiscal year in the red. Our numbers have been trending like this over the last 6 months. We obviously can't continue long without significant changes if we continue to be \$8,000 in the red each month. As part of our church, we thought you should know this information. Our Lead Team takes the responsibility of fiscal integrity very seriously. In fact, our budget is 35% less than churches our size and we are spending even less than what is budgeted. We never want to put pressure on you to give and that's why we don't pass a plate at church. However, if you have had a positive experience at The Journey, consider paving the way for our future, your kids, yourself & others to continue to experience relationships, not religion. We're asking everyone to please consider one of the steps in the giving process below by the end of this month. We hope that as you take steps in this process that you will experience God as the blesser who blesses us to be a blessing.

### FIRST TIME

As you consider giving for the first time, we know this is a huge step. Many people have felt burned by the church when it comes to money. We want you to know that there is no judgment & it's between you and God. Our Lead Team will continue to focus on being the best stewards of our finances to keep our budget set up for maximum impact. As always, there are four ways you can give: in the boxes at church, on the website, at the kiosk or with the mobile app. Thanks for taking this step & for paving the way for more people to experience God.

### INTENTIONAL/ AUTOMATIC

We automate a lot of things in our lives: alarms, bills, sprinklers, DVR & more. It's a good idea to automate the important things. Intentional or auto-giving might be your next step. You can set up auto-giving to continue to make investments in the mission at The Journey. You can set up auto-giving on your debit card on the donate page, at the kiosk or through the bank. The bank form is available at church or online. This next step might be intentional increasing your giving to take steps toward tithing.

### TITHING

The Bible lays out the concept of tithing as giving 10% of our income. It's really bringing it back to God. This also comes with a promise. When we live with open hands, we will be blessed. It's really a step to say you trust God with everything, even your finances.

We know this is a big step of commitment, but we whole-heartedly believe in it. So we offer a tithing challenge that comes with a money back guarantee. You can find more details and a form for this at the Next Steps Center or on the donate page online.

### GENEROSITY

We want to continue to take steps to live generously. Generosity means going beyond our tithe and seeing our money & lives in such a way that God is the blesser who blesses us to be a blessing to others.

Being generous beyond your tithe means not only giving to invest in God's mission through the church, but also helping others in need through opportunities that you encounter. Generosity isn't birthed out of wealth but out of a life focused on God. There are details on the Living Generously Core Essential Page online.