

## **IRRESISTIBLE Initiative Frequently Asked Questions**

*DRAFT*

*Your input is important as we move forward together. Please email Pastor Jordan at [jordan@thelifehousechurch.com](mailto:jordan@thelifehousechurch.com) with your questions and comments.*

### **How would you explain the IRRESISTIBLE Initiative to someone else?**

The Irresistible Initiative is a three-year church-wide discipleship initiative. We're calling all in our church family to engage in step-out-of-the-boat faith as we embark on an exciting journey of generosity and sacrifice. In order to better live out our mission and reach more families around us, we will revitalize our church campus, expand ministries, and deepen our discipleship.

To build 1) IRRESISTIBLE family ministries, 2) IRRESISTIBLE mentoring relationships, 3) IRRESISTIBLE personal faith, and 4) IRRESISTIBLE campus experiences, we believe it is necessary to accomplish Phase 1 of our master plan, which includes Outdoor Updates, Indoor Updates, and Building Improvements to reach and raise up the next generation and bring Full Life for Your Family.

### **Is IRRESISTIBLE just another church fundraiser?**

On the contrary, IRRESISTIBLE is a discipleship initiative that we're praying will transform the generosity culture of our church and the relationship each person has with God and their God-given resources (time, talent, treasure, and testimony). We want to see all live with shirt-off-my-back generosity, knowing it is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35). Jesus made money and possessions a matter of discipleship when He said, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" and "you cannot serve both God and money" (Matthew 6:19-24). Thus, IRRESISTIBLE is part of our plan to grow fully mature followers of Jesus who are God-lovers, Life-givers, Community-servers, and Faith-sharers.

Overall, IRRESISTIBLE is *missional* because it helps us accomplish our mission (Giving our lives to guide others to full life in Jesus); *generational* because it impacts both current and future families; *transformational* because it creates a spiritually significant defining moment in the life of our church; and *inspirational* because we do this for the glory of God not ourselves.

### **What is the goal of IRRESISTIBLE?**

Our primary goal is 100 percent participation by everyone who considers TLC their church home and faith community. We believe that broad participation by our whole church family will result in not only the acceleration of disciple-making at our church, but will also help us reach our secondary financial goal of raising and releasing \$1 million over these next three years to update our church campus.

### **Why are we updating our church campus?**

Built in 1984, our facilities have deteriorated significantly after four decades of daily use by a busy church and the many ministries, outreaches, and community organizations that share our

campus. As the community has continued to grow around us and built many new homes and buildings, our campus has steadily grown unattractive and uninviting to young families with kids flocking to the great schools, good shopping, and gorgeous outdoor settings nearby. Our curb appeal is lacking, the parking lot and building exterior are deteriorating, and there are not sufficient spaces inside and outside for ministry expansion to families. We must update our visibility and useability to maximize ministry and reach more families around us.

### **How much will the campus update cost?**

The budget for the Phase 1 update is approximately 1 million dollars. The cost for supplies and construction is the bulk of the expense to renovate the exterior, interior, and building. Also included in this figure is a tithe to missions (the first 10% of all proceeds goes toward expanding our local and global missions with a focus on reaching and raising up the next generation here and around the world). Another 10% is targeted to help in the buyout of our 50/50 partner in our property so that we can own all 10 acres for long-term ministry and outreach expansion.

### **How will we pay for the campus renovation project?**



With Phase 1 of the campus update project approximately costing \$1 million, we are anticipating that we can raise the bulk of the funds through sacrificial giving by our congregation (over and above the tithe) over a period of three years. Any remaining funds could be raised by community sponsors or other generous donors. It is a priority for us that we do not borrow money or incur any debt for this campus update. As we all pray, sacrifice, and serve, we are confident that God will provide for all our needs (Philippians 4:19).

### **Does our 50/50 partner in our property want our campus updated?**

To update our campus is a win/win for our partner relationship, increasing the value of our property. Long-term, it is the desire for both CIF (our partner) and TLC to buy out CIF's portion of our property. This would allow our church to own all 10 acres for long-term ministry and outreach expansion. This IRRESISTIBLE initiative will help us begin to do that.

### **How will IRRESISTIBLE impact our global and local missions?**

Resources from this generosity initiative will also be dedicated to expanding God's kingdom through our *PRICE* missions plan. This means we will focus on *Planting* multiplying churches, *Reaching* the lost, *Investing* in the next generation, *Caring* for the needy, and *Empowering* future leaders.

Globally, we will be able to come along missionaries and mission partners in places like Nepal where we're rapidly planting churches amid harsh persecution, like India where we're sharing the gospel and rescuing young girls and boys in poor villages from exploitation and human trafficking, like Uganda where we're empowering the next generation of godly young leaders in midst of impoverished circumstances, like Mexico where we're caring for vulnerable widows and orphans and sharing the love of Jesus Christ, like Brazil where we're reaching the lost in the slums of Sao Paulo and raising up kids to live for Christ and provide for their future families.

Locally, we will be able to come alongside our outreach ministry partners, Everyone Matters Ministry (provides transitional housing for families in crisis and mentoring to help find jobs), Acres of Hope (help for at-risk women and children), Sierra Health and Pregnancy Center (supporting struggling moms and advocating for life), and The Gathering Inn (housing for the homeless). We will invest in the next generation by furthering partnerships with Youth for Christ which is on campus at 10 local schools to reach out to and raise up hundreds of next-generation Christian leaders, Intervarsity at Sierra College to reach young adults and connect them at TLC, and William Jessup University to provide internships and training opportunities for the next generation of ministry leaders.

### **What are you asking me to do?**

We are asking you to prayerfully consider what your total giving to The Lifehouse Church will be over the next three years. Start with prayer. Seek God and ask what amount over-and-above your regular tithing you and your family can joyfully give to the Lord. As a faithful steward of God's resources, ask Him what He would have you sacrifice and invest in the expansion of Christ's kingdom globally and generationally through the IRRESISTIBLE generosity initiative. Then, when God speaks to your heart, simply do what the Spirit leads you to do. You should not feel any pressure to give a penny more or less than what God wants you to give. After you determine how the Lord wants you to participate, we ask you to fill out a commitment card as a faith promise between you and God. As a church family, we will turn in our commitments on Sunday, March 3 during our regular morning worship gatherings.

### **Is my commitment and giving confidential?**

Yes. Only a small team of leaders who confidentially oversee the finances of the church will see actual commitment cards to process and record the totals. We believe your giving is between you and God. You will receive regular statements throughout the year to help you track your total giving to TLC.

### **Why are you asking me to fill out a commitment card?**

The Lord often asks us to do something physical after we have made a spiritual decision. A good example of this is baptism. Baptism marks the time when a believer physically and publicly identifies with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Likewise, filling out a commitment card creates a record of the faith promise you made to the Lord.

We ask that you confidentially share that commitment with us for two important reasons. First, to make wise financial decisions about the implementation of the IRRESISTIBLE initiative. The Elders need to know how much the church family has collectively committed to over the next three years. Second, it is motivational to our faith when all of us stand in unity for the purpose of passing on our faith to the next generation, declaring our faith commitment in this initiative and laying it at God's feet together to watch what He will do in and through our church.

### **How much should I give?**

As was said, you should give what the Lord directs you to give because God loves a joyful giver who obeys what the Master tells each person to do with His resources (2 Corinthians 9:7). For big goals like this IRRESISTIBLE initiative we will need to involve everyone at TLC. Please prayerfully consider a sacrificial gift that will stretch your faith. Everyone is at a different place financially. Many in our church can happily donate \$10,000 to \$20,000 over their regular giving, while others are able to share more – \$100,000 to \$200,000. Still others are in a situation where it's a stretch to give \$1000 or \$2000. Please give whatever amount God lays on your heart to give, as we trust God to grow our faith in the One who always provides for our needs.

### **Why is the goal so big?**

We worship a big God and believe He has called us to do big things. Big dreams require big faith and big funding. The updates needed for our campus are big, and it requires a big offering to support it. The ministries supported by this initiative are big and important, too, like funding church planting, serving the poor, improving our campus, and reaching our community and the next generation.

### **What plans are in place to ensure the funds raised go efficiently and effectively to the campus update?**

The Staff and Elders are ultimately responsible for the safe and secure handling and distribution of all resources. From the Staff and Elders, we have established a Generosity and Campus Improvement Task Force, commissioned to help TLC raise and release the maximum amount of funds in the most God-honoring and strategic way. On this task force are:

Mel Douglas, *Team Lead, Elder, and Deacon of Property Improvement*

Tom Hall, *Chairman of the Elder Board*

Jordan Schumacher, *Senior Pastor, and Elder*

Tami Koompin, *Director of Office, Facilities, and Volunteers*

Brian Logue, *Worship Minister*

Gary Chervis, *member of the Elder Board*

Rick Lagomarsino, *Deacon of Finance, and member of TLC's Next Generation Foundation*

Jeff Jones, *Men's Ministry Leader and member of TLC's Next Generation Foundation Board*

Paul Albrecht, *Worship Tech Director, former Elder, and member of TLC's Next Generation Foundation Board*

Whatever amount is given, our Staff, Elders, and Task Force will ensure is released to the Phase 1 campus updates and missions initiatives. If God graciously gives us more than our goal, we will strategically invest it in ministry and vision priorities, such as expanding global and local outreach, next-generation ministries, and future phases of our campus Master Plan.

### **How Do I Give?**

1. Use the postage-paid envelope in the LIFEguide and mark your checks with “IRRESISTIBLE”
2. Online at [www.thelifehousechurch.com](http://www.thelifehousechurch.com) or on our church app, and simply select “IRRESISTIBLE” under the “Fund” drop-down menu to designate your gift.
3. Your bank online bill payment option works too. It's a free and simple way for us to receive the funds. Again, simply mark in the memo area that your gift is for the “IRRESISTIBLE.”
4. You can give gifts of stocks or bonds that have appreciated. For information on this type of giving, simply email our Finance Office at [finance@thelifehousechurch.com](mailto:finance@thelifehousechurch.com).
5. Text the word GIVE to (916) 794-3310. Follow the link to select “IRRESISTIBLE” under the “Fund” drop-down menu to designate your gift.

### **Are my gifts tax-deductible?**

Yes. All gifts to TLC, whether via the regular offering or this IRRESISTIBLE initiative, are tax-deductible. Your gift will be deductible in the tax year given (i.e., gifts given in 2024 will be deductible on your 2024 taxes). Please be sure to include your name and address when you give so that a receipt can be sent to you for your tax preparations. Have any additional questions? Please our Finance Office at [finance@thelifehousechurch.com](mailto:finance@thelifehousechurch.com).

### **How long of a financial commitment are you asking me to make?**

IRRESISTIBLE is a 3-year initiative. However, we are praying that God also uses this season to enduringly transform the overall generosity culture of the church through sustained financial support. Because we are never more like Jesus than when we serve and give (Matthew 20:28), we must always grow in the grace of giving by taking the next step in our journey of generosity (2 Corinthians 8:7). The three-year period is a long enough time horizon to raise the amount needed for the campus update, while short enough to require significant sacrifice for all involved.

### **What are some creative ways to give?**

What does it look like for you to take the next step (or possibly the first step) in your journey of generosity? It may require an extra measure of faith, commitment, and creativity.

*Cash Flow.* Out of current monthly cash flow is the most common way people give. If giving money to support God's work is new to you, take the first step by putting God first in your finances. Consider God's promises about tithing and giving in Malachi 3:9-10, Proverbs 3:9-10, 2 Corinthians 9:6-11, Matthew 6:19-24, and Luke 6:38 and reprioritize your finances. For a season, consider increasing your cash flow with a second job and give that additional income to the Lord.

*Reduce Expenses.* Comb through your current budget and look for ways to reduce expenses, and then redirect that money to building the kingdom of God. You might be surprised how much Starbucks and eating out adds up over time...especially over three years.

*Appreciated Assets.* Donating appreciated assets such as stocks or real estate can save you money on taxes and free up more funding for ministry. Please consult your tax advisor and then contact the church Finance Office for questions and help with transactions ([finance@thelifehousechurch.com](mailto:finance@thelifehousechurch.com) or (916) 652-7216).

*Charitable IRA Rollover.* If you're 70-1/2 years or older, you can give a rollover gift of up to \$100,000 from your IRA without adding a penny to your taxable income — converting tax dollars into kingdom treasure! Plus, it counts toward your required minimum distribution and offers tax benefits that don't require you to itemize on your tax return. Again, please consult your tax advisor and then call the church finance office for questions and help with transactions ([finance@thelifehousechurch.com](mailto:finance@thelifehousechurch.com) or (916) 652-7216).

### **When will the update of our campus begin?**

Lord willing, as soon as we complete the public phase of the generosity initiative in early 2024 and tally all commitments from the church family on Sunday, March 3, we can proceed with the implementation of the campus renovation. The Elders are currently having conversations with church consultants, city officials, our property partner, potential contractors, architects, and more in preparation for implementation.

We will prioritize the outside, inside, and building updates, and then begin moving through each prioritized project as the Lord provides the income. This means that we will be updating the campus throughout the 3-year process of receiving funds for the initiative. If all the funds are received within 3 years, all the projects would be completed within that timeframe. However, if it takes a little longer than 3 years to receive the necessary funds, we will complete the projects as the funds become available. Throughout this process, as we are trusting God for the proper funding and timing, our prayer is: To God be the glory, now and forever, through Jesus Christ our Savior. May He guide and provide as we seek to glorify him in our lives and on our campus to pass our faith on to the next generation.

