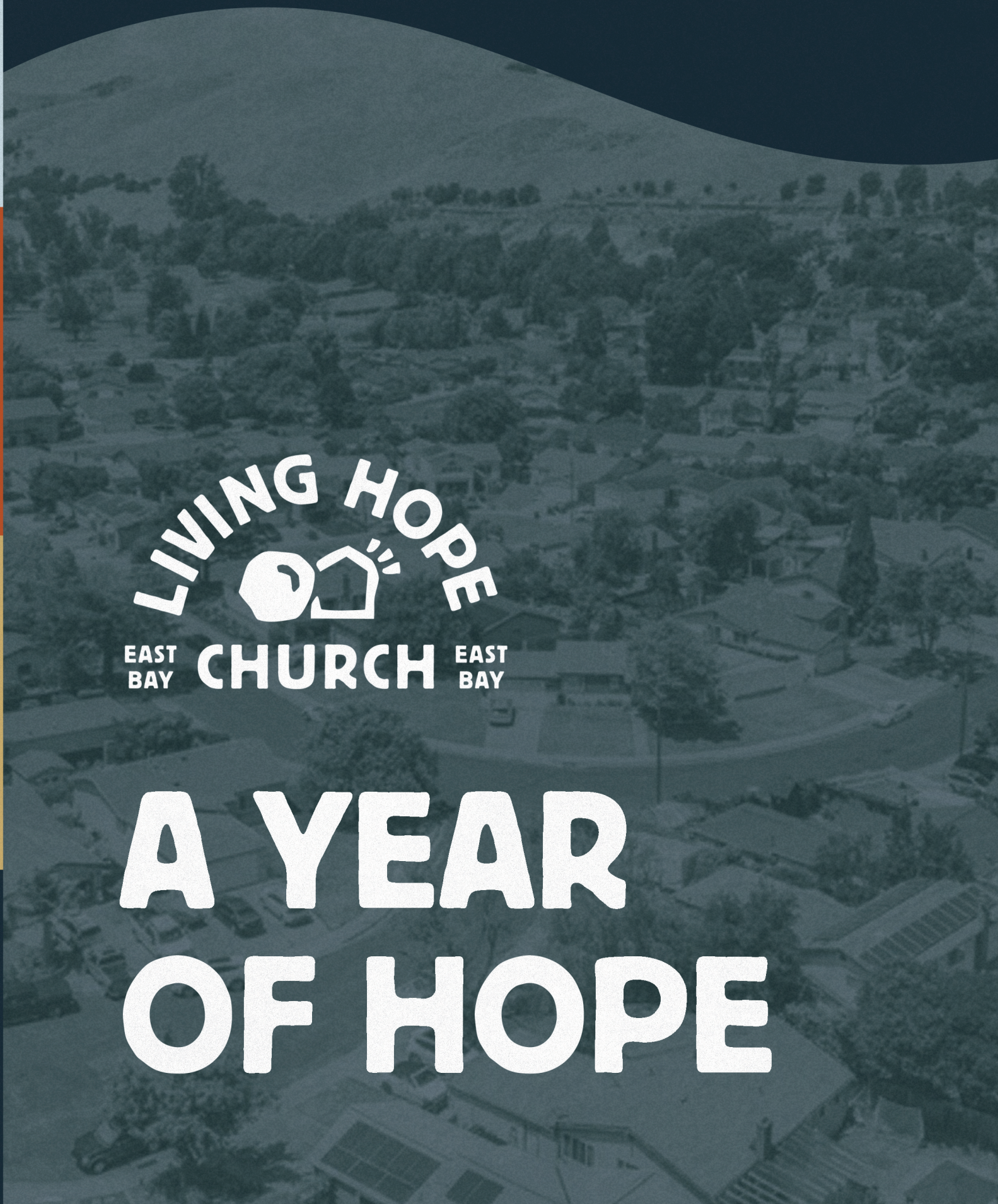


LIVING HOPE EAST BAY CHURCH

A YEAR OF HOPE

A NOTE FROM MAX

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.’”

ACTS 1:8, NIV

On June 14th of 2025 we held our first public preview service at the Union Landing Century 25. Thinking back on that moment now, it’s all a bit hazy - the frenzy of setting up for service in a movie theater for the first time, recruiting a team, directing traffic on folding tables, coffee urns, and microphones. But one thing I do remember is a feeling that I had standing out on the sidewalk in front of the movie theater, watching cars filled with strangers passing by - I felt foolish. What am I doing out here? What have I gotten myself and my family into? Who is going to come to this service?

We’ve had over a year of Sundays since those initial moments, and God has brought us SO far by His grace! People from the neighborhood have found and started attending our services. People have driven by, felt compelled to come in and join the service, and encountered the living hope of Jesus Christ for the first time. God has stirred faith and a fervency for prayer in me in a way that He never has before, and we’ve seen miracles large and small. You will get more of a sense of the movement of God in this brief window into God’s working in our midst that you now hold in your hand.

But back to that feeling - even as our core team grew and solidified, as more visitors came and decided to join us in the work of being a church “together on God’s mission in our place and time,” the feeling of foolishness persisted. I would feel anxious as I approached the theater, pulling a large trailer filled with all of our equipment. Stepping out in the name of Jesus to take ground for the Kingdom can be scary. There is opposition and hardship, and new burdens and needs that can feel unrelenting.

But several months back, as I was driving up to the rear entrance of the theater, I noticed something - I wasn’t so anxious anymore. And I brought that feeling up to the Lord and asked Him for insight into what had shifted in my spirit. And what I discovered was this: I’m not afraid anymore because I don’t come here alone. My friends and I, the family of God, empowered by the Spirit of God, gather here. We gather and seek first the Kingdom, and are zealous to see Jesus do what He said He would do - build his church. It is an honor to be on this journey with you, and I hope and pray it blesses and encourages you to hear of what God has been doing in our midst!

Max Critchfield

LEAD PASTOR
LIVING HOPE CHURCH



LIVING HOPE CHURCH OF THE EAST BAY

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.'"

ACTS 1:8, NIV

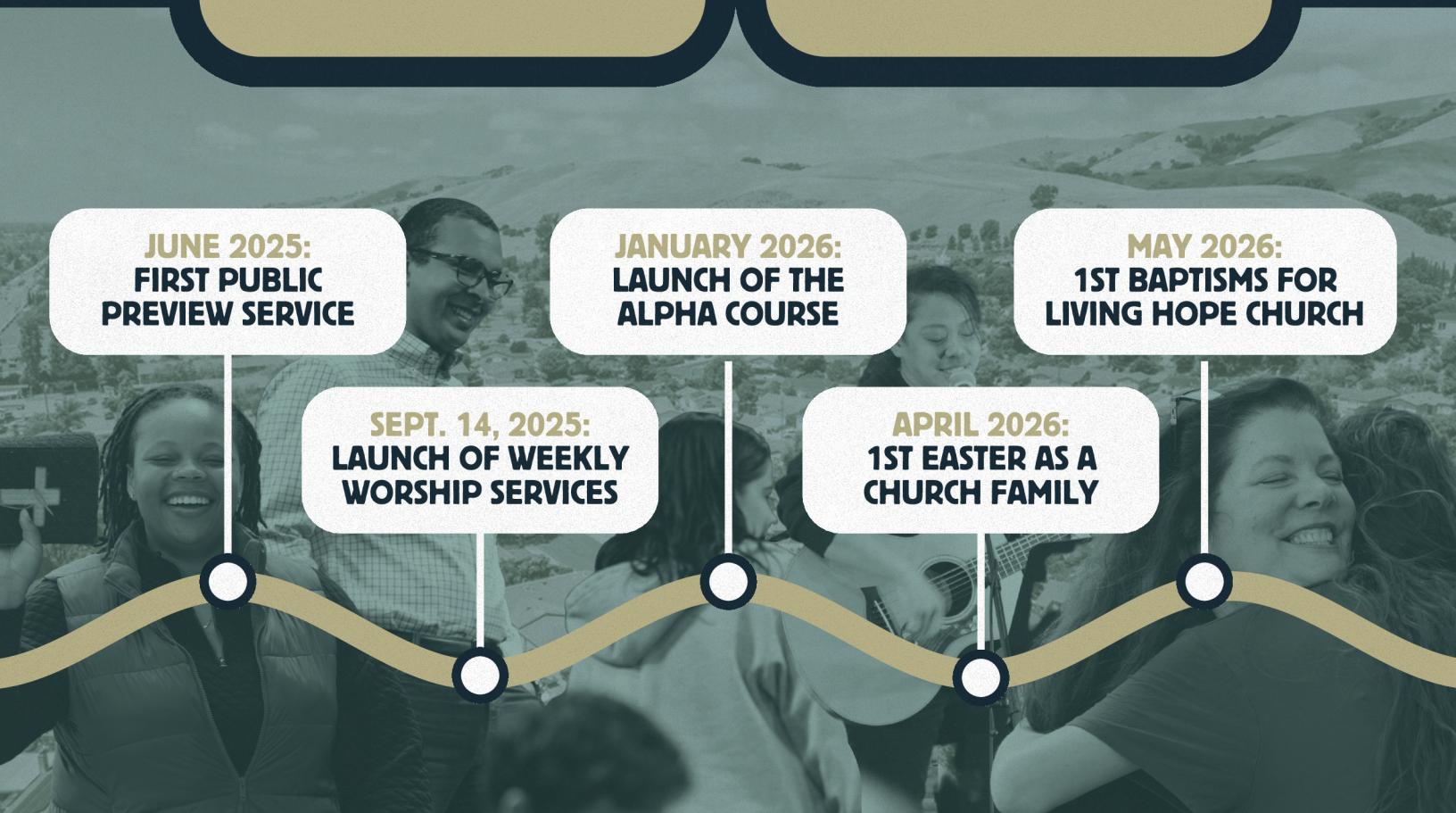
LIVING HOPE DEVELOPMENT

MISSION:

TO BE A CHURCH TOGETHER ON GOD'S MISSION IN OUR PLACE AND TIME.

VALUES:

EXPECTANCY.
JOY.
HOSPITALITY.
AUTHENTICITY.



JUNE 2025:
FIRST PUBLIC PREVIEW SERVICE

SEPT. 14, 2025:
LAUNCH OF WEEKLY WORSHIP SERVICES

JANUARY 2026:
LAUNCH OF THE ALPHA COURSE

APRIL 2026:
1ST EASTER AS A CHURCH FAMILY

MAY 2026:
1ST BAPTISMS FOR LIVING HOPE CHURCH

DISCIPLESHIP MAP



Something else that we were excited to develop this year is our **discipleship map.** It's our articulation of the Bible's answer to the question, "Okay, I'm a Christian... what now?" We help people to grow and mature as disciples of Jesus by thinking about these 4 destinations where God wants to encounter us and grow in Him: **Know God, Grow in Godliness, Connect in Community, and Mobilize for Mission.**

Having articulated those destinations for every disciple of Jesus, we've begun the fun process of building structures and rhythms that help people reach those destinations! We ran the Alpha course for the first time last year to create an environment for people curious about faith to encounter the truth of the Gospel and have a safe space to ask the questions on their minds and hearts, that they might **KNOW GOD** for the first time. We've been faithfully preaching from the Scriptures and gathering to worship weekly with an eye toward **GROWING IN GODLINESS** as a community.

We launched missional communities - small group gatherings in homes where we pray for our impact, our witness, and one another, and engage with truth together as we **CONNECT IN COMMUNITY**, and we have **MOBILIZED FOR MISSION** with daily and weekly prayer rhythms, the **PABST** model of personal engagement and impact, and support of local compassion and church planting projects across our region!

LIVING HOPE BY THE NUMBERS

IN 2025, WE LAUNCHED LIVING HOPE CHURCH WITH

25 COMMITTED LAUNCH TEAM MEMBERS

THERE HAS BEEN SO MUCH TO CELEBRATE IN THIS YEAR OF LIVING HOPE CHURCH.

TODAY:

50 ADULTS & **15** CHILDREN AND YOUTH

CONSIDER LIVING HOPE THEIR HOME CHURCH!

5 PEOPLE BAPTIZED

11 PROFESSIONS OF FAITH

40+ ADULTS REGULARLY ATTEND ON SUNDAYS

35+ PEOPLE SERVING ACROSS OUR VARIOUS SERVE TEAMS : WORSHIP, TECH, OPERATIONS, KIDS, AND HOSPITALITY

OVER 150 UNIQUE VISITORS SINCE OUR LAUNCH SUNDAY

LIVING HOPE ON MISSION

COMMUNITY PRESENCE:
met and blessed dozens of families at Union City community events

LOVING OUR NEIGHBORS:
$5,000+ raised to provide backpacks filled with supplies for 275 children in need

MISSION MOMENT:
regular, mission-focused prayer together every week

KINGDOM PARTNERS:
$1,000+ to Converge for church planting; family aid via Compassion Network

LIVING HOPE STORIES



"Living Hope brings me joy, and has taught me just how good God is. Living Hope's mission of being part of God's plan is definitely felt, and I know that God has so much more in store for Living Hope. I really appreciate how much care and love Living Hope shows to people! All Glory to God!"

CHRISTOPHER RICO



"Being a part of Living Hope has helped me cultivate deep healthy relationships with people who love Jesus. It's been a space to be seen and known unlike anything I've had before."

TIFF LAU



"I believe that if it wasn't for the people outside the doors waving at me to come in as I drove by, I might have just drove by. I still battle with the devil sometimes, but I am putting my trust in God."

RICH



"Union City is the community I'm from & the community I serve. It's been an answered prayer to find a growing faith community in MY community. A place where I can feel included and supported, but also a place that's on mission with me to serve the community I care about."

CATHY DAY





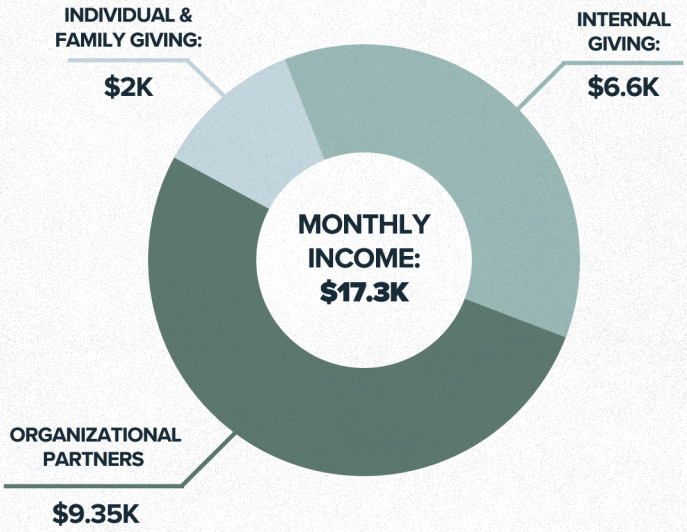
"Being part of Living Hope showed us that church is not just about going and being anonymous. It's about going on our spiritual journeys together as a church family. I feel more connected to Jesus through the relationships He has brought into our lives through Living Hope."

JAMES & IRIS ARCALA



LIVING HOPE FINANCIALS

SIX MONTH AVERAGE, JAN-JUNE 2026



50% OF OPERATING EXPENSES
NOW COVERED BY INTERNAL GIVING

$60K GRANT UNLOCKED

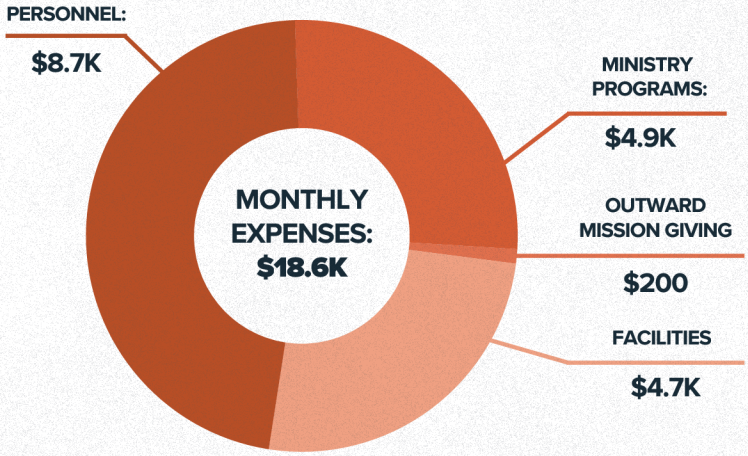
Our supporters gave $30K, which was matched by the Stratum Foundation

$95K CASH RESERVES

These reserves cover about 5 months of operating expenses

OUR GOAL IS GIVING 10%
OUTSIDE OUR WALLS

of our internal giving starting in year two, more than tripling the 3% we give today



OUR PARTNERS

Incredible organizations with a heart to see the Church grow here in the Bay Area - The Stratum Foundation, the Bay Area Church Planting Network, Converge, and Westgate Church in San Jose have provided invaluable training, guidance, and vital support as we have engaged in the work of seeing more healthy churches grow and thrive in the least churched metropolitan area in the entire United States! Our advisory board, comprised of Andrew Hoffman, Jay Kim, and Kelly Patchin has provided great stability, perspective, and wisdom as well as we've grown as a fellowship.

WHAT'S NEXT?

- CONTINUING TO REACH MORE PEOPLE AND FAMILIES IN THE UNION CITY AND GREATER EAST BAY
- DEVELOPING INTERNSHIP AND RESIDENCY PROGRAMS TO EQUIP AND UNLEASH MORE PEOPLE FOR THE WORK OF MINISTRY
- EXPANDING OUR MISSIONAL COMMUNITIES, GIVING MORE PEOPLE OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW DEEPER IN COMMUNITY
- PRAYERFUL CONSIDERATION OF THE PHYSICAL SPACES IN WHICH WE GATHER FOR COMMUNITY AND OUTREACH
- CONTINUING TO BUILD OUT WAYS FOR PEOPLE TO DEVELOP AND GROW AS DISCIPLES OF JESUS
- **FAITHFULLY PROCLAIMING THE LIVING HOPE OF JESUS CHRIST IN OUR PLACE AND TIME!**

AN APPEAL TO PARTNERSHIP

"...when I [Paul] set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid more than once when I was in need. Not that I desire your gifts; what I desire is that more be credited to your account. I have received full payment and have more than enough. I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus."

PHILIPPIANS 4:15–19

Paul, when he was writing to the Philippian church, thanked them for their support of him as he labored in the work of church planting. But he said what he was really excited for was not the kindness he was receiving, but the ways in which those who were GIVING would be blessed: "...what I desire is that more be credited to your account." As we ourselves have given to this Kingdom work, we have found this to be true - what we receive as we steward our resources to see the Kingdom advance in our place and time is a rich gift indeed! In Paul's words, it is "a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God." What we give to see the Kingdom move forward is WORSHIP, hallelujah! And in the giving we find we are blessed in ways we never could have imagined.

As we conclude, I invite you to consider giving to see us continue to be on the mission field of the Bay Area, empowered by His Spirit to be witnesses right here in the heart of the Bay! As you have seen in the preceding pages, our internal giving has increased strongly in our first year, but we are still, God willing, a year or two away from being financially self-sufficient. **Would you consider a monthly recurring contribution to see this work continue forward in year 2, and perhaps on into year 3? Or would you consider a one-time contribution to see the Kingdom work continue?**

Thank you SO much for your prayerful consideration, and for your strong support in prayer and generosity already - God's provision through your faithful prayer, support, encouragement, and financial sacrifice are the reason that we're here! May God guide you and bless you richly. Thank you for taking the time to hear about what God is doing, and to consider how He might be inviting you to be a part! Blessings to you.

Max Critchfield

LEAD PASTOR
LIVING HOPE CHURCH

GIVE MONTHLY

Become a recurring partner and help carry this work into year 2 and beyond.

UCLIVINGHOPE.CHURCHCENTER.COM/GIVING

GIVE ONCE, GET IT DOUBLED

The Stratum Foundation will match your one-time gift, doubling your contribution!

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