



Nearly everyday, we make financial decisions. Some are small – should you get a cup of coffee at McDonald's or splurge for the Pumpkin Spice Latte at Starbucks? Some are big – which house, which car, which college? Some concern the future – how much should you spend on Christmas, which retirement funds should you choose?

Probably the most challenging decision we make with money is the decision to give. Giving creates tension. We wonder, "If I give this away, how will the gap be filled?"

That is why giving is such a big deal. Nothing invites God into our lives like giving. Giving is a tangible way we declare our trust in and commitment to God. Giving often paves the way for God to show up in our lives in a powerful way.

Giving is not just a financial decision - it's a deeply spiritual decision.

We've put this generosity toolbox together to help you consider how God has blessed you and how He might invite you to trust Him during the "PREVAIL" Campaign. You'll find all kinds of ideas that will help you pray and consider how God will have you participate. Our prayer is that you would experience the power of God in your life as you seek Him and His Kingdom first through generous giving and living.

GENEROSITY:

The most effective path to generosity is a spiritual path where you set your heart on things above. Then, your financial priorities will naturally flow out of your spiritual priorities.

People often describe this as "living a generous lifestyle." It is always a temptation to give to the Lord in such a way that it makes little impact on how you live. The challenge of living a generous lifestyle is to intentionally and prayerfully find ways to do just that – to let your giving touch your living!

King David declared, "I will not give to God that which costs me nothing." (2 Samuel 24:24)

He understood that the value of the gift presented to God is determined by its value to the giver.

A gift that would touch the heart of God must first touch the life of the giver! This is the spirit of lifestyle generosity — "If it is for my God, my gift must have meaning and value to me."

Lifestyle generosity is a level of giving that affects you – your plans, your activities, your attitude and your approach to life. It means giving up something in one area so that you can give more of yourself in another.

WHERE IS THE MONEY GOING?

All monies donated will go directly to paying down a \$4 million loan for costs associated with construction of our Phase 1 building including the following:

- **\$1.5 million in site development (infrastructure)**
- **\$2.5 million in construction costs (actual building construction)**

This generosity campaign is a 2-year commitment over and above our regular tithes and offerings.

HOW CAN I GIVE?

1. PRIORITY BUDGETING

You may choose to rearrange your priorities and give up something in your current budget in order to give more to the "Prevail" Campaign. Priority budgeting may mean postponing a planned expenditure such as a new car, vacation, remodeling, or other major purchase.

2. REDIRECT PRESENT EXPENDITURES

Often families have significant short-term expenditures for specific needs. Cash flow can be freed up when a loan is paid, tuition is no longer needed when a child graduates, etc. If a present expenditure will cease during the three-year initiative, would you consider using it towards your commitment?

3. INCREASES IN INCOME

You may receive periodic increases in salary or bonuses from your employer. The temptation is to automatically increase your lifestyle to fit the higher income. Could God be calling you to something else?

4. PERSONAL PROPERTY

Automobiles, motorcycles, art, jewelry, coin collections, and other valuable assets can be sold.

5. APPRECIATED ASSETS

Many people own assets that have achieved tremendous unrealized gains in value over the years. That is good news. The bad news is that if these assets were sold, some portion of the gain could be lost to taxation. Gifts of appreciated assets – typically investment securities or real estate – can be advantageous to both the donor and the church. Unlike gifts of cash that have already incurred an income tax, gifts of appreciated assets avoid the incurrence of capital gains tax. In addition, the donor receives a deduction for the full market value of the asset.

WHAT WILL IT TAKE?

What will it take for us to reach our "PREVAIL" campaign goal of \$1 million over two years? Certainly it will take some substantial gifts. There are also ways that we can step closer to our goal by each of us making small changes in our lifestyles to sacrifice something that has value for something we value more, in this case the construction of a ministry hub for ThornCreek Church to minister from. Here are just a few examples of how a small change could become very large if we were all in on this effort.

Activity per month	Average Cost	x 24 months	x150 families
4 cups of coffee	\$16	\$384	\$57,600
2 large pizzas	\$24	\$576	\$86,400
1 fast food meal/family	\$30	\$720	\$108,000
1 round of golf or Mani/Pedi	\$50	\$1,200	\$180,000
1 Movie & popcorn for family	\$75	\$1,800	\$270,000
Total			\$702,000

If the table above isn't enough to help you realize that this is achievable, consider the following...

\$1,000,000 divided by 24 months = \$41,666.67 per month
 \$41,666.67 divided by 150 people = \$277.77 per month per person
 \$277.77 divided by 30 days = \$9.26 per day

WE CAN DO THIS!

THE GENEROSITY JOURNEY

We must always remember there is much more to generosity than just a financial transaction. In God's eyes our growth in generosity is less about a financial transaction and more about a transformation. It is truly a matter of the heart!

The Generosity Journey can help us think about this transformation. Make no mistake; to move along this path requires a heart change.

Moving along the path does not make us super Christians; it brings us to a greater understanding of God, not a greater view of ourselves.

As you look and think about this journey, ask yourself, "What drives you to be generous?"

• Initial Giver (2 Corinthians 8:7-15)

An initial giver is someone who decides to give for the first time, out of a response to God's Word about giving.

• Consistent Giver (2 Corinthians 9:6-8)

A consistent giver is someone who decides to give something and to give it on a consistent basis to exercise the discipline of giving on a regular basis.

• Intentional Giver (Luke 14:28-35)

An intentional giver is someone who is beginning to think about their giving in relation to other things on which they spend their money.

• Sacrificial Giver (2 Samuel 24:18-25)

A sacrificial giver is someone who recognizes the cost that Christ paid on the cross for us and is surrendered to honoring God with 100% of their resources as a result.

• Lifetime Giver (1 Timothy 6:6-19)

A lifetime giver is someone who is thinking about the longer tale of generosity rather than just the shorter term of month-to-month generosity or even year-to-year.

One helpful way to consider generosity is to think of it as a journey. Where are you now on the journey? Where is God calling you to be? What would be needed for you to take the next step towards a more generous lifestyle?

Dear ThornCreek Church Family,

The challenge before us is a large one. This gift profile shows how it will be possible for us to secure our goal for this initiative. The chart reveals that even with the large task God has given us, it is possible to move forward. It also shows that every gift — no matter the size — makes a difference.

As you look at the guide, your eyes will likely settle first on the level you have been considering for the "PREVAIL" Campaign. You can see how that gift will strengthen our faith family and enable us to press forward with our vision. However, before you make a commitment on November 11-12, I would ask you to pray about moving up one step on the chart. Only you know if that step is possible, but I encourage you to open your heart in the coming days to that possibility and let God shape your response.

For the Kingdom,
Pastor Ruben

ThornCreek Church GIFT PROFILE GUIDE Two Year Commitments	
<u>\$1,000,000</u>	
# of Commitments	Amount of Each Commitment
1	150,000
1	100,000
1	75,000
2	50,000
3	35,000
4	25,000
5	15,000
8	10,000
10	7,500
12	5,000
15	3,600
Other Commitments	under 3600
Prevail Goal \$1,000,000	

**"I will not sacrifice to God that which costs me nothing."
2 Samuel 24:24**

PREVAIL COMMITMENT IS _____

PREVAIL COMMITMENT IS _____

CARD

TOTAL I/We will be giving \$ _____

This is a statement of intent and may be changed at any time.
Giving runs Dec. 2, 2017 through Dec. 1, 2019

Name _____

Understanding that all I/we possess is a gift from God, and that God delights in blessing the obedience of His children, I/we rejoice in the opportunity to participate in the PREVAIL Generosity Campaign.

I/we commit to tithing on my/our income before giving to the PREVAIL Generosity Campaign.

\$ _____ weekly x 104 weeks, or,

\$ _____ monthly x 24 months, or,

\$ _____ annually x 2 years

One-time First Fruits gift



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