

CITYLIFE
CHURCH

BE ABOUT IT.

VISION FAQ BOOKLET





WE REFUSE TO JUST
TALK ABOUT IT, WE WILL
BE ABOUT IT.

"Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?"

- Jesus

LUKE 2:49

WE WANT TO **BE ABOUT IT.**

Our heart has always been to not just be a church in our city,
but to be a church for our city! We want everyone in the
San Francisco Bay Area to have the hope of Jesus!

God has given us a vision to **BE ABOUT IT** at City Life.
We believe what Ephesians 3:20 says, "God is able to do
immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine." This will
require 100% of us to step out in faith and participate in radical
generosity to raise \$5 million over the next two years.

This generous giving will allow us to **SECURE** our future ministry,
engage in **STRATEGIC** ministry expansion, and **STRENGTHEN** our
current ministry.

A photograph of two men standing outdoors in front of a church building. The man on the left is wearing a cap, glasses, and a dark jacket over a white t-shirt. The man on the right is wearing a light-colored sweater. In the background, a tall sign reads 'CITY LIFE CHURCH'. Other people are visible in the background, including a woman in a grey uniform. The entire image has a green color overlay.

WE ARE EXCITED TO SEE GOD DO "IMMEASURABLY MORE..."

We want **YOU** to **BE ABOUT IT** !

WHY? We want to see MORE people transformed by Jesus. This requires us to join the journey of radical generosity over the next two years. We will spend 5 weeks (October 8th 2023 – November 12th, 2023) focusing on opening and preparing our hearts to be led by God into what He wants to do through each of us.

BE ABOUT IT is our two-year generosity campaign to lead 100% of the people at City Life Church to a place of 100% trust in God so that we can raise \$5 million dollars.

OUR THREE PRIORITIES TO FUND



SECURE OUR FUTURE MINISTRY

Funding the purchase of our SF campus, being rooted in the city!



STRATEGIC MINISTRY EXPANSION

Funding our prophetic vision, primarily focusing on the new East Bay campus!



STRENGTHEN CURRENT MINISTRY

Funding more outreaches, more church planting, more missions, and more reaching the next generation for the next 2 years through our various ministries.

TOTAL NEED:

\$5 MILLION

This represents 100% participation of all-in giving for two years.

*One Vision
Funded by One Fund
By One Ask*

*THIS IS NOT **JUST** A TWO-YEAR GENEROSITY INITIATIVE BUT A TWO-YEAR DISCIPLESHIP **JOURNEY!***

OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS, WE WILL FULLY DEPEND ON GOD AND EXPERIENCE HIS POWER, PRESENCE, AND PROVISION IN OUR LIVES!

We believe God is on the move, working through City Life Church.

*Transformation in Jesus is happening here! We are certain God could do more through us that we could ever imagine, but we know we can't do it without prayerfully following God's leading. And we can't do it without **YOU**. This will require 100% participation in radical and courageous generosity. For that to happen, we will have to open our hearts to what God wants to do through us in the next 2 years.*

We can start now toward an open heart that leads to an open hand by praying, "Lord, what do you want to do through me?"

A photograph of a man wearing a dark baseball cap with the number '47' on the side, smiling and hugging another person from behind. The man is wearing a dark hoodie. The background shows an outdoor setting with trees and a building. The entire image has a green color overlay.

BE ABOUT IT.

IN OUR TIME.

IN OUR DAY.

IN OUR CITY.

**THERE ARE SO MANY PEOPLE
WHO DO NOT HAVE THE
HOPE OF JESUS YET**

WE WILL

BE ABOUT IT.



INTRODUCING THE ONE FUND APPROACH

“But since you excel in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you – see that you also excel in this grace of giving.”

1 CORINTHIANS 8:7

Traditional giving is separated into categories such as tithes and offerings, missions, special offerings, building campaigns, etc. You prayerfully consider what to give to each fund separately or participate in some giving categories and not others. This tends to lead to preference giving rather than prioritized giving. It tends to fragment giving rather than focus on giving to important outcomes.

Over the next two years, we will take a “one fund” approach to giving, meaning that all giving to City Life Church will go towards our one mission – “leading people to become fully alive in Jesus.”

Thus, we are calling City Life Church to fund our vision as it expresses itself in 3 key priorities (Securing the Future, Strategic Ministry Advancement, and Strengthening Current Ministry). This will require us to move beyond our current giving levels into expanded giving, and stored resource giving so that we can double our giving over the next two years from \$2.5 to \$5M.

This **ONE FUND** approach calls the entire church to be ALL IN for the ONE MISSION.

The **ONE FUND** is the unifying **ONE COMMITMENT** that everyone makes so that we are, all of us, ALL IN for ALL ministries, missions, projects, and priorities.

The **ONE FUND** puts us on **ONE MISSION**, as **ONE CHURCH** to honor God, reach people, and grow people in the San Francisco Bay Area and across the world. Our faith is to see many more people become fully alive in Jesus.

The **ONE FUND** is a single fund, to unify the generosity of everyone within the church. Through a concentrated time of spiritual discipleship, God will reveal to each one the ONE number that will represent their total, radical, sacrificial generosity to the kingdom of God over the next 2 years.

The **ONE FUND** will fund all existing ministries, expanded ministries, paying down of debt, and capital projects over the next 2 years.

The **ONE FUND** will have as its primary goal 100% engagement in the spiritual journey. The secondary goal will be the financial need to fund all priorities at 100% with \$5 million.

The **ONE FUND** unifies the entire church toward the fulfillment of ONE MISSION, ONE VISION.

“Bring the best of the first fruits of your soil to the house of the Lord your God.” Exodus 23:19



Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others.

1 TIMOTHY 6:17,18



BE ABOUT IT.

GIVING CHART

EXTRAVAGANT GIVER:

Generosity above regular giving/tithing that will outlast you and bless the generations to come.

SURRENDERED GIVER:

Your best as a tithe to the local church before spending and saving. All your assets are available to God.

CONSISTENT GIVER:

Giving a percent of income on a regular basis.

OCCASIONAL GIVER:

Giving only when you have margin after spending and saving.

FIRST TIME GIVER:

Taking your initial step of faith and giving for the first time.



HOW DO I RESPOND?

LIVING A LIFE OF **GENEROSITY**

BE ABOUT IT is our 2-year generosity initiative to raise \$5 million to expand our capacity to do **MORE**. We exist to lead people into becoming fully alive in Jesus and we are excited to see more lives transformed! We believe that God is going to stir you, empower you, and challenge you to step out of your comfort zone. As we go on this journey together, we want you to do three things.

1. **PRAY**

We believe that 100% participation in prayer is vital to our success. As we ask, seek, and pray, God will speak to us! He will show you in your quiet moments, through worship, in prayer and in many other ways how He wants us to participate in **BE ABOUT IT**. If you don't know where to start, start by praying this: "Lord, what do you want to do through me?"

2. **PARTICIPATE**

Our goal is 100% participation in sacrificial generosity. Maybe you've never given before. This is a perfect time to start, and to see God's faithfulness. This is a whole new way to trust God! It will likely be challenging. We know that not everyone can give the same amount. Our hope is not equal giving but equal sacrifice.

3. **MAKE A COMMITMENT**

Sunday, November 12th is our Commitment Sunday. We all want to take these faith commitments very seriously. We want everyone to participate in what God is doing and make a commitment on Commitment Sunday.



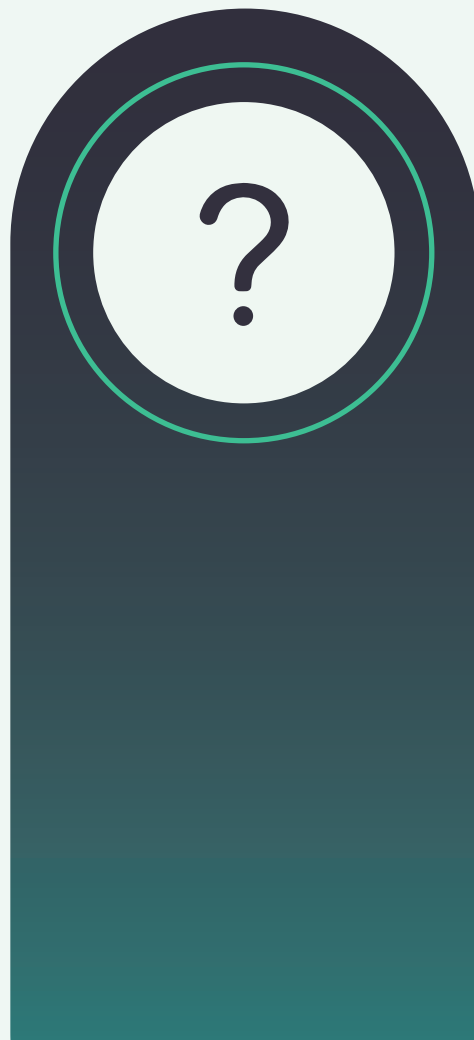
**WE ASK, SEEK, AND PRAY.
GOD WILL SPEAK TO US.**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

*A word on **FAQ**. We have a high priority of making sure everyone within our church is fully informed regarding our new season of ministry entitled:*

BE ABOUT IT.

*We know the pathway to the heart often travels through the head. To that end, here are some questions and answers that will help you wrap your mind around what we are doing, that will position you to engage in the spiritual journey from **Oct. 8th – Nov. 12th**. We would love to answer any questions you have, submit them to isaac@citylifesf.com*



WHERE DID THE TITLE " BE ABOUT IT " COME FROM?

It is rooted in our history...

We refuse to be a church that just talks about compassion and reaching people. Throughout our history, we have decided that we won't just talk about helping others in SF, the Bay Area and beyond. Instead, our commitment is to give ourselves everyday, 24-7 to be about what Jesus was about – "The Father's business." That means loving and serving the people at our workplaces, communities and cities. We will be a people that both show and share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

We will embark on a two-year season of generosity, underpinned by guiding verses from Ephesians 3:20-21. *"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably MORE than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!"*

With these words, Paul challenges the church at Ephesus to embrace faith and possibility. In Christ, nothing that He calls us to will be impossible. It does require us to embrace His vision for us, to respond to the His power in us, and to rise up and participate. It's a call for God's people to not be satisfied with what is, but to continue to stretch out and accomplish God's purposes by "being about it." These are the words God used to stir Pastors Jon Jon and Elana to rise up, lead City Life into the future, and to tackle a generosity initiative to accelerate ministry expansion. God is still at work encouraging His leaders and His Church to take on the challenges of being His bride in our world and for the world.

WHAT ARE OUR GOALS FOR BE ABOUT IT?

Our goals are two-fold. First, 100% engagement in spiritual journey leading to all-in generosity. Our second goal is to see \$5 million given over the next 2 years to secure our future through debt reduction, strategize new ministry expansion centered around our guiding prophetic word, and to strengthen current ministries by doing more outreaches, more church planting, more missions, and more reaching the next generation.

WHY NOW? ISN'T THIS BAD TIMING?

Throughout all of history, God has chosen to work powerfully in challenging times. His leading is the criteria for moving forward rather than circumstances. This is genius on His part because it requires us to exercise faith, trusting in Him and depending upon Him to show Himself strong on our behalf. So, it isn't certain and prosperous times do not determine when we conduct campaigns. Instead we follow the leading of God. We sense and feel God's pleasure, favor and delight on us to expand our ministry.

ISN'T THIS CHURCH BIG ENOUGH?

City Life Church exists to lead people to become fully alive in Jesus. It's never been about size. If a lot of people experience life transformation through our church, our church is going to grow. People keep telling others about how God is changing them through relevant biblical teaching that can be applied to real life. Given our mission, we will never "arrive"—not until everyone is reached in the SF Bay Area and beyond.

THIS GIVING CAMPAIGN SEEMS DIFFERENT. I AM USED TO BUILDING CAMPAIGNS BUT NOT THIS!

Giving campaigns are derived from the giving campaigns found in the Bible. In looking into these, you discover that giving campaigns were used for both building projects and funding increased ministry. Our generosity campaign does both – strengthening current ministry, strategizing new ministry expansion, and securing our future through investing in the SF campus purchase and paying down debt. So, you could call this a vision campaign. What distinguishes this generosity campaign or initiative is that we are asking our church to go all-in in their giving for 2 years. That giving will be placed into one fund to resource our current ministry budget (strengthen), expand ministry (strategize), and reduce debt (secure). So, our Be About It Initiative is stepping into radical faith and extreme generosity and sacrificial giving that includes current giving, expanded giving, and stored resource giving. Our commitments will be for 2 years of all-in giving.

HOW MUCH IS ALL THIS GOING TO COST?

Our funding need is \$5 million in 2 years. Although this amount can seem like a daunting figure, it is absolutely reachable with the partnership of all God's people who have a burden for their city and their region. It will take everyone finding their next step in generosity and becoming much more intentional in taking that next step. Guiding us is the prayer, "Dear Lord, what do you want to do through me?"

WHAT ABOUT GIVING TO THE UNDER-RESOURCED AND TO MISSIONS?

The unanimous and unwavering commitment of our leadership team is to continuously give to missions, church planting, community outreach, reaching the next generation, and giving to the poor. This has been one of our top values at City Life Church and this will never change. Something to consider: When we were a small startup church we were able to give and invest generously each year into missions and benevolence. As our church has grown so has our capacity to give, and our missions giving has increased proportionally. The progression is obvious. As we grew, so did our own outreach giving. As we grow even more, we have incredible faith that our giving will continue to increase and accomplish more than we have ever done before!

HOW DOES STARTING CITY LIFE EAST BAY EFFECT OUR SF LOCATION?

It only strengthens us as we expand campuses throughout the SF Bay Area. As our SF and East Bay locations grow, so will our ability to launch new locations and new churches. So will we continue to do that as God guides us. What we do know is that God is calling our church to courageous generosity so that we can continue to deepen our church family in the areas of community, connection, discipleship, equipping, and specialized ministry, which will produce additional growth and strength to better serve other cities with church plants and campuses.

ISN'T THIS ABOUT BEING A "MEGA CHURCH"?

Our church is about reaching people for God and seeing lives transformed as they embrace faith in Jesus and the commandments of God. It would be easy to say that we are full—that there is no more room; that we are big enough and if we get any bigger, we might not like it here anymore. But if we don't share God's love with them, who will? Who else can extend the hope and healing of Christ's mission? Embracing the misconception that large churches are somehow "bad," or that a movement of God has gotten "big enough," is a significant roadblock to Jesus' Great Commission. It abandons potential. It puts limits on the movement of the Holy Spirit. It gives opportunity for the devil to squelch what God wants to do through His people. People will always find a home in the presence of God, and no matter how many gather on Sunday, we will continue to grow deeper and healthier through life groups, discipleship, and genuine relationships.

WHY DO WE NEED TO SPEND SO MUCH MONEY ON THESE THINGS? THIS SEEMS LIKE AN OVER-THE-TOP VISION?

Remember when the woman who worshipped Jesus poured out the expensive perfume? Judas said, "What a waste, the money could have been given to the poor!" Jesus knew Judas' heart, however, and reminded the thieving disciple that as Jesus left the earth, the Church would need to take on His mandate. Our goal is to facilitate this by creating new ministry and new locations that accurately represents the greatness, provision, and excellence of the God we serve. Our expanded giving will provide better ministry and ministry spaces that will enable us to reveal God to our city and region. While we will never overspend on unnecessary things, we will choose excellence – while seeking the most effective way to use the resources God has entrusted to us. We are, after all, ensuring that WE are following God's direction to be good and faithful stewards of what He has given. Ultimately remember: It's never about dollar amounts, but the faith and obedience of God's people.

WON'T PEOPLE JUST COME FROM OTHER CHURCHES?

Our goal and our mission is to reach people who don't know God or who have walked away from Him. Although sometimes it can seem like we are attracting people from other churches, in reality, those people are seeking out where they are to be. So, attracting other church attenders isn't our intent. We have always been intent on transforming people who are lost, broken, hurting, and searching for answers. When we look at the SF Bay Area demographics, the potential for every church to reach people is enormous. We all need each other. The harvest is plentiful. The reality is, there are so many more people than there are churches to reach them.

HOW DID THE PURCHASING OF OUR SF BAYSHORE CAMPUS HAPPEN?

God called Pastors Jon Jon and Elana to create a church that impacts the SF Bay Area and beyond. This means becoming "salt and light" in one of the most influential cities and areas of the world. As COVID19 and all the social unrest occurred, many felt the need to move out of the city or had to move out. But that was never a thought in our pastors' minds, no matter how challenging the city dynamics have become. It is fascinating that in the midst of all of this, God has opened the door for us to purchase our current location. Wow! Our sense is that God is honoring our commitment to San Francisco and the SF Bay Area by providing us with a permanent home. It's appropriate to call it a miracle of provision and opportunity. Now in response to what God has done, we must rise up and meet the need for expanded giving to fulfill the financial obligation we have taken upon ourselves.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE DETAILS ABOUT OUR NEW BUILDING?

Our current building was miraculously purchased at \$5.5 million. We have a mortgage of approximately \$3.8 million. Our desire is to pay down the debt on this building, leverage our building for multiple services (already happening) and eventually use this building as a ministry hub as we expand out to other locations in SF and the SF Bay Area in the future.

WHAT DOES THE ONE FUND MEAN?

Instead of multiple giving funds and multiple asks, we are putting forth a 2-year funding vision. All giving to City Life Church will go into that one ministry fund to fuel the 2-year vision. The vision is to fund 2 years of our ministry budget, expanding ministry, and to pay down debt. One vision will be funded by one fund.

WHAT IF I HAVE HAD A BAD EXPERIENCE IN A GIVING CAMPAIGN?

This would not have happened at City Life Church. But we understand that that has been the experience of some in other settings. This is unfortunate. This shouldn't deter you from participating in our Be About It campaign. To let that govern your response would be making that experience your guide - a controlling experience rather than allowing Jesus being your Guide and Lord. Instead, let that bad experience go and engage in this new endeavor praying, "Dear Lord, what do you want to do through me?" Giving Initiatives do stretch you. And that is biblical. Paul said to "grow in the grace of giving" meaning that on our own we won't be generous without grace empowering us to do so. Know that we will do our best to use our Be About It campaign to be a means of challenge and spiritual growth, not because we want the gift as much as we want the benefit that giving the gift returns to you. That is what Paul said in Philippians 4:17 - we benefit from our generosity!

CAN YOU DEFINE SACRIFICE?

A simple definition of sacrificial is to give up something I want, something I need, or something that represents security. Most likely, your commitment comes from excess income, decreased spending, liquidating assets, generating more money with time and talent, or sacrificing something. It is deciding on what I can give up, do without, postpone, or alter in order to give to the mission of City Life Church.

IS THE SACRIFICE OF MONEY A BIBLICAL PRACTICE?

Absolutely! In 2 Samuel, King David says, "I will not offer burnt offerings to the Lord my God that cost me nothing." The essence of sacrifice is that it COSTS us something. This type of giving is pleasing to God because it demonstrates our reliance and faith in him.

THE GIVING LADDER IS INTERESTING TO ME.

It's actually grounded in 2 Corinthians 8:7 where Paul tells the church to, "grow in the grace of giving" or another way to say it is, "excel in the grace of giving." What this means is that grace which is the enabling power of God is made available to every believer to start giving, become consistent, grow into tithing, includes the release of stored resources, and letting God be the owner while we are simply the stewards.

WHAT RESOURCE WILL HELP ME?

Well, a great place to go on the spiritual journey with others in community is jump into a life group. City Life Church will be augmenting the **BE ABOUT IT** MESSAGE SERIES (Oct. 8th-Nov. 12th) with a study of the principles found in the book by Robert Morris called, **THE BLESSED LIFE**. Our website will have more information at citylifefsf.com/groups

RECAP IT FOR ME?

At City Life we are always open to the leading of the Holy Spirit. It was clear to Pastors Jon Jon and Elana that God was calling City Life to aspire to a higher level of effectiveness in building the kingdom of God on the earth. This call was initiated by God to us and facilitated through three open doors – the purchase of our SF location, expanding ministry into the Eastbay, and the growth that required adding a second service in SF. This calling and these opportunities placed a demand upon us as a church to resource and fund these strategic ministry endeavors. When presented with these opportunities from God, the resounding inner desire has been that we will **BE ABOUT IT**. And we will expand our giving to fund it. So, our generosity initiative is our response to God's leading.

SO, WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?

Glad you asked! You should feel no pressure, stress, manipulation, coercion, or worry throughout this journey. We are leaning heavily on the Holy Spirit to guide our entire church body through the days ahead. We want you to: 1) Pray, "God, what do you want to do through me and my family?" 2) Position yourself to be available and willing to do what God asks you to commit to do. 3) Fill out a Commitment Card when it is time – in obedience to what God tells you to do!

WHAT IS THE GUIDE FOR MAKING A COMMITMENT?

Our Be About It Initiative Commitment Card will ask you to: 1. Determine what your current giving is. 2. What God is calling you to expand that giving amount to be. 3. Take that new giving amount X 2 years. 4. Add in what stored resources will be liquidated. Finally, 5. Write in your total. So, after you have taken the preparation steps of faith and prayer and arrive at a dollar amount that you are committed to invest over the next 24 months, the commitment can be paid however and whenever works best for you – weekly, monthly, annually, or multiple installments.

HOW DO YOU GO ON A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY?

First, don't think about dollars right now. We just want you to accept the challenge to engage in the journey. Start by praying for people in your life yet to be reached. Pray for what God would want to do in and through you. Let Him speak to your heart and simply respond to his leading. Secondly, attend all the **BE ABOUT IT** activities and message series. We will provide resources to help you interact with life group discussions, prayer, and a commitment guide. We're asking each individual or household to evaluate their priorities and spending, consider their current and future resources, and to determine how much could be given in addition to their normal general giving that would reflect true sacrifice. We are not believing for equal giving, but equal sacrifice.

WHEN DO WE MAKE COMMITMENTS?

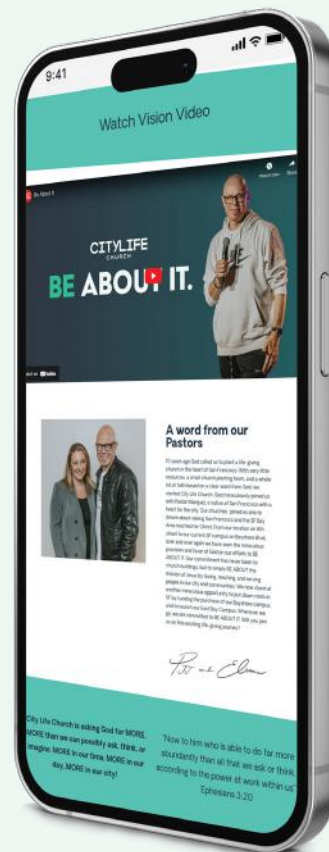
Commitment Sunday is Nov. 12th. Everyone can do something and become part of something truly amazing. God wants to multiply the efforts of his people beyond their greatest dreams. And finally, "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably MORE than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!" Amen."

BE ABOUT IT.

For more information visit our webpage at:

citylifesf.com/be-about-it

JOIN THE VISION



THANK YOU

As we reflect in tremendous gratitude for what God has done at City Life Church, God has truly been so incredibly faithful. From very small beginnings to God's incredible tenacity to create a thriving church in the city, we have seen so many lives transformed by Jesus. City Life was God's vision, and we simply were asked to

BE ABOUT IT.

God has done abundantly MORE than we ever would have dreamed. We are so thankful. We say it time and time again and it will forever be true, "It's all about Jesus!" Our greatest desire in this season of **BE ABOUT IT** at City Life is to be united. United in our mission, in our vision, in our future. We are not asking anything of the church that we are not first leading in.

We seek full unity in this generosity initiative, 100% participation to accomplish what God has called us to be about, doing it all together.

Please spend thoughtful and prayerful time on this spiritual journey of **BE ABOUT IT** and be faithful to what God is calling you to do. God can do so much MORE with our resources than we can.

Let's do this together and watch God blow the lid off our expectations!

PASTORS **JON JON & ELANA**