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Here at Journey we believe we have an opportunity to be a part of changing the world and that the church is God's plan—or His method of choice—to make change. As Christ followers, we are each asking ourselves: Do I want a piece of that change?

Our pastors, our board, and our leadership teams are all answering YES!

Now we're inviting each of you to come "Live the Journey" with us...

Small Steps. Big Impact.

by Heather Klein

Each weekend Journey Kids Director Sara Patrick oversees more than 500 kids looked after and learning from more than a hundred staff members and volunteers.

It's a responsibility and a calling she doesn't take lightly. In fact, she says she views it as an incredible opportunity to teach them about the "awesomeness" of our Creator, while creating a safe place for them to feel loved and ask the questions that will build a foundation for them to lean on as they grow up and face their own individual struggles.

"Jesus served others and cared so much about children. I want to teach kids to do the same and prayerfully help them grow into adults that want to impact the lives of future generations," Sara says.

But when Sara has to tell a child, parent, or volunteer in a wheelchair that they can't go upstairs with the other kids, she worries they'll feel not as valued as everyone else.

"I want them to know they matter," Sara says. "We have kids in wheelchairs that we can't get up the stairs. This is just not OK."



Sara Patrick on the Kids Center stairs.

"Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.'" Matthew 19:14

She has another problem with the kids who need to get downstairs. It's where the only bathroom is, and with about 60 five to eight year olds upstairs, there are plenty of last minute emergencies.

"We really take for granted something as simple as a restroom being easy to get to when we need it, but when you're a little kid relying on an adult to get you there—and—it's all the way downstairs, Yikes!" She says. "That's why I get so excited about the impact *I Live the Journey* can have on the lives of our kids and volunteers! We want kids to LOVE church because it's fun, because they know they are loved by our leaders and volunteers, and because they're learning about Jesus in a safe and caring environment."



Sara teaching 5th and 6th graders in Edge 56.

fun fact!

The JCC property was never built to house a church, much less a church this size. The Corner Room was once a Law Office, the Thrift Store was a paint shop, and the Journey Kids area was a giant copy business called Lasers and Copies!



What is My Part?

By now you've probably heard something about this *I Live the Journey* campaign and our goals to install solar panels, update the worship center, create a greenbelt conversation area, welcome center, needed room renovations, and improve our Journey Kids' area. As the commitment opportunity time approaches, many of you may be asking, "What is my part in all of this?"

That is a question that each one of us can only decide through prayer and partnership with God. The pastors and leaders are asking every single person involved with Journey to seek God and ask Him, "What can I do?"

That's it. Whatever comes out of that conversation with God, we are good with. No effort will be made

by anyone at church to advise someone else on what he/she/they can give.

Any commitment made is "over and above" your regular tithes. Remember, our tithes support our day-to-day ministries. The needs being met by this campaign are over and above our church's daily needs. That may mean *sacrifice*. Only God, as the source of all we have, can determine what the sacrifice should be for each one of us.

fun fact!

Did you know back in the day Pastor Tic was on *Family Feud*? His family lost, but Tic got a five-year supply of car wax, boxer shorts, and Rice-A-Roni! We are still trying to pry the VHS tape of it from him to see his mop of thick black hair and stash!

campaign CALENDAR

MAY
4
to
29

Guided Experience Through Scripture—Beginning May 4th, the entire church body will read a daily devotional together for four weeks. It will focus on faith, vision, sacrifice, and the power of everyone. Make sure to get a copy today!

MAY
8
&
9

24-Hour Prayer Vigil—Come participate for one or more hours on Journey's campus starting Friday, May 8 at 6 pm through Saturday, May 9 at 6 pm. Each hour will have a facilitator leading the focus on prayer. Let us know when you can attend by filling out the sign up card located in your program or in the lobby at the ILTJ table.

MAY
29
&
31

Celebration Service—This can be thought of as a commitment service. It's where commitments will be made for both First Fruits Offerings and ongoing pledges. Everyone who calls Journey home is encouraged to attend this event!

JUNE
5
&
7

First Fruits Offering, All Services—The weekend after our Celebration Service, we will take a special First Fruits Offering.

"Honor the Lord from your wealth and from the first of all your produce..."

Proverbs 3:9

What on earth is a First Fruits Offering?

In the Old Testament, the Lord tells the Israelites to bring the first fruits of their harvest to the priest.

In Israel, it was more than likely barley. By springtime, the barley crop would begin to be ready for harvesting. The Israelites were called to bring the first of their field to God *in faith* that the rest of the field would come in. Remember, it wasn't uncommon for weather or a locust swarm to wipe out an entire field. By making the offering out of the first barley harvested, they were saying they trusted God to provide the rest.

Here at Journey, we want to start our *I Live the Journey* giving with a First Fruits Offering—trusting that God will see us through this entire two-year initiative. June 5th and 7th we will take this special First Fruits Offering during our worship service. By offering a "kick-starter" gift during this service, you will help us begin our solar panel installation by July, which will allow us to qualify for a \$125,000 government rebate!