

No. 4 • May 8 & 10, 2015 • ILiveTheJourney.com • Journey Community Church by Tic Long

For the past year, we've had a sense that God has MORE for Journey. It is almost as if His spirit is whispering in our ear, "there are things to do and places to go!" Partnering with God in MORE of the beautiful things He is doing through Journey in La Mesa, San Diego and to the ends of the earth is the reason we embarked on the *I Live the Journey* campaign.

Because this is a big deal, we think it's a good idea to ask, "What does this look like, and where will all the money raised by ILTJ go?" For the next three weeks we will focus on specific ways *I Live the Journey* will help us to have MORE IMPACT, encourage MORE COMMUNITY, and become MORE WELCOMING.

more

more Savings with Solar

The solar project is a good place to start this conversation because it is what actually got the ball rolling, and it will be the first project we tackle.

Here's how the idea sparked. We have a team of skilled volunteers who love Journey and help us determine a way forward with repairs, aesthetics, safety, function, construction projects and improvements as well as an overall master plan. A member of this team suggested we look into solar to save money on our large electric bill, which — despite putting several energy saving measures in place — was **\$111,000** last year.

Initially, we were going to buy our power from a third party supplier who would install the solar at their expense and sell the energy it generated back to us at a reduced rate. With no out of pocket costs we could save \$24,000 a year. Being behind budget, this appeared to be the most affordable option. We were moving in this direction when another person spoke strongly that we should consider buying our own solar system because the savings would be so much greater — over \$100,000 a year!

That is a huge difference! After further research, countless meetings and much prayer, we felt purchasing a solar system was something we **had** to do. However, the upfront cost of over \$600,000 wasn't something we could add to our yearly budget.



After looking into different financing options, it became clear that raising the money **together** was the thing to do.

We were, however, feeling trepidation about raising the funds. After more meetings and a lot more prayer, we decided this was the move we needed to make, and not only this move, but other moves—all which led to this *I Live the Journey* adventure. This is a move of faith, one that we feel God has called us into, and it's really exciting.

more Immediate Benefits

Not only are we certain of our decision to make this investment in solar, we are also certain that *now* is the time to do it. The huge motivation behind this push is a **\$100,000 rebate** from the state of California. Acting now guarantees we will get this rebate — but we have to begin installation in July!

This is why we are asking for a "First Fruits Offering" to kick-start this project. The cost, including the roof repairs needed before installation, is \$637,000 (\$512K for the solar, \$125K for the roof), and we need to raise the full amount this June. If we are able to move forward by July 1, the project should be completed in October, barring any unforeseen issues.

more Ministry Impact

Each year we say “no” to a lot of things we would like to do but don’t have the budget for. Solar is an obvious solution — saving \$100,000 a year for the next 25 years will generate \$2,500,000 that can go directly toward ministry. There are so many directions the \$100,000 could go in any one-year period. Some examples include:

- Increasing our benevolence fund to help more individuals and families in desperate and emergency situations.
- Helping more students go on mission trips and get to the camps and retreats our Generation Ministries provide.
- Providing more of the needed help for our Care Ministries.
- Hiring part-time staff to grow ministries that need more attention.
- Providing more materials and resources in our Kids Ministry.
- Supplementing our food bank with more items.
- Providing more specialized training for our volunteers and staff.



Journey Food Bank in action

more Interesting Numbers

Our completed system will consist of 587 solar panels installed on five of our six buildings. It will provide 286,311 kWh annually, which is designed to meet 100% of our electrical needs.

This whole solar thing is just good stewardship and helps us as caretakers of God’s creation. Our move to solar will prevent 70,976,497 pounds of Carbon from entering the atmosphere annually. This is equal to 4,302 cars being removed from roads or 3,658,582 gallons of gas not being used or 5,951 homes powered or planting 26,484 trees!

This is a great move for Journey and one I think we can all get behind for financial reasons, for ministry reasons and for environmental reasons. It is a win, win, win!

SAVE THE DATES

JourneyFEST - May 23rd 7am - 2pm

Celebration Service - May 29 & 31

First Fruits Offering - June 5 & 7

One more thing: We are now starting the process of repairing our roofs before the solar project. If you have expertise or are with a company who would like to help make this happen, please contact Tic at 619-464-4544 or tic@journeycom.org.

more from our ILTJ Leaders



We are excited about this huge endeavor in our church because of what it will do for ministry in our family, our church and our community. Solar itself may not sound exciting — but the benefits of what will come from the savings are vast! As fellow committed Journey attendees and a board member (Keith), we think it’s important for you to know this has been prayerfully considered, the research has been extensive, and the facts are compelling, which is why we have complete confidence in our leadership to move forward. We, like you, expect JCC to be good fiduciaries of the money we give; we trust this is the right move for our church and are proud to be part of it. ~ Keith and Sheri Keyeski