

For the past year, we've had a sense that God has MORE for Journey. It's 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.

Raising 2.75 million dollars over the next two years is a BIG DEAL! We think it's a good idea to ask, "What does 'MORE' look like, and where will all the money raised by *ILTY* go?" This newsletter will focus on specific ways *I Live the Journey* will help lay the foundation for MORE of what God has for us.

Last week we talked about having MORE IMPACT by saving over \$100,000 a year on solar. This will require a First Fruits offering from all of us totaling \$637,000 in June to get the project off the ground and ensure we cash in on a \$100,000 rebate from the state of California.

This week we take a closer look at some changes that will make our campus MORE WELCOMING and next week we will focus on changes that inspire MORE CONNECTION.

more

more Welcoming



We all love a warm welcome. Sometimes it's with a smile, a kind word, an extended handshake or a big ol' hug, depending on the hugger of course. People welcome us, but so do places. Do I sense you want me here by what your buildings say? Does the place look welcoming? Are you giving me any help finding my way around? Have you considered my needs? Is it inviting or inspiring? Is it someplace I might want to be? Sometimes a place says as much as our words. It can work against what we say or reinforce it. We want our place to say, "You are welcome here!"

We all know that when the lobby in the Worship Center is full you can't find Guest Services, and that can be really frustrating to someone new. To make sure people

know they are welcome as soon as they step onto our campus, we are creating a Welcome Center in plain sight — something that says "start here, let us help you find your way around or answer any questions you might have."

It will be constructed where the current young children's enclosed play area is located, between the entrance to the Kids Center and the Worship Center. (Don't worry parents; we are creating a new play area in another location.) The center will sit at the end of the new green belt conversation area. It will be a permanent structure right up against the building and extending out a bit — making it fully visible.

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more Welcoming — continued

This Welcome Center will also be an information center staffed with volunteers that can answer questions about our church, services, ministries,

events, and more. They will help people find anything on campus, get connected to a Life Group, or volunteer for ministry. This will help make it easy for everyone to navigate, connect, and be a part of our church — how welcoming is that?!

Adults aren't the only ones we're rolling out the welcome mat for; we want all kids to feel welcome as well. It's important we remove any barriers which hinder them from knowing they are welcome and loved here. The first big barrier is the one that keeps kids,

parents and volunteers with disabilities out of our upstairs rooms. Our 5 year olds through 2nd grade all meet on the second floor in the Kids Center, and if you use a wheelchair you can't get there. That's just wrong. It's something that has to change and actually we are embarrassed about letting it go on this long.

Therefore, we are installing an ADA compliant service lift on the backside of the Kids Center to give kids and adults who can't use the stairs access to the second floor. This will tell them that they are welcome

here because we made a way for them to get to those rooms. Long overdue!

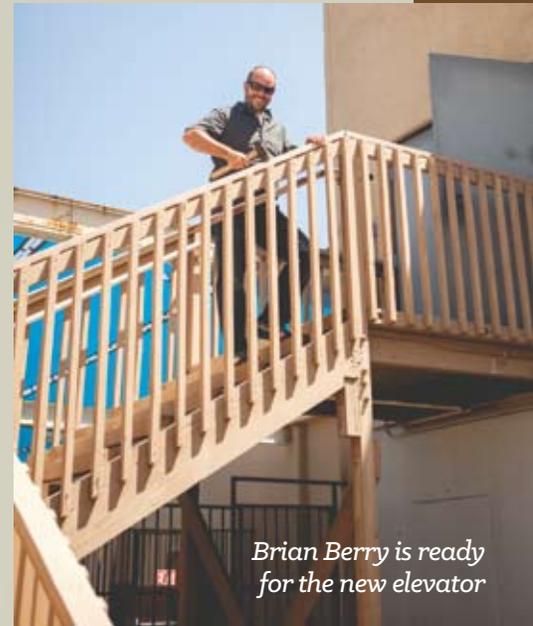
The other thing we are installing is an upstairs bathroom. Did you know that sometimes little kids have to go to the bathroom? Well they do, and there's no bathroom upstairs. When the urge hits, an adult has to leave the classroom and escort the child downstairs before disaster strikes. It's not all that welcoming or convenient! A place that tells parents we are thinking about their kids should have a convenient bathroom, and in this case that means upstairs.

Other things we think will make the Kids Center more welcoming are carpet that's not 10 years old, the right kind of play structures and properly sized tables and chairs.

There are more projects we are doing as part of *ILTJ* to make the campus more welcoming, but these are the big dogs. Here is the deal: we want our campus and our people to send the same message, "Come as you are, you are welcome here."



Navigating stairs isn't always easy in the Kids Center



Brian Berry is ready for the new elevator

more About What's Next

On May 29 and 31 we'll be meeting for our **Celebration Service** where those who call Journey home will be asked to make their commitments to the *I Live the Journey* campaign. This commitment is over and above your regular tithe, and we know it will be an act of faith, sacrifice and hopefully joy, for each of us.

We are asking you to consider your giving in two-steps to help us reach our goal of \$2,750,000.

- **First Fruits Offering:** This is a one-time gift toward our goal of \$637,000. The purpose is to raise the full cost for our solar project by the end of June in order to capitalize on a \$100,000 state rebate.
- **Two-Year Commitment:** This is what you pledge to give weekly, monthly, or annually over the next two years toward our remaining goal of \$2,113,000. The purpose is to raise the funds to complete the projects we feel God has put in front of us.

Our only real request of you is that you PRAY. If you haven't already begun this conversation with God, start now. Ask Him to show you what step of faith you can

take to live this journey. Seek God in what He might provide through you. What you decide is between you and God. All we ask is you complete the process with Him. We know God will bless the giving and we are confident He has this whole deal in His hands.

If you have any questions about the campaign, the funds, or the planned improvements, please visit ILiveTheJourney.com.

We are looking for people to donate goods and services for any of the upcoming projects. If you are interested, please contact Tic@journeycom.org.