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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 *ILTJ* go?" This final newsletter will focus on specific ways *I Live the Journey* will help lay the foundation for MORE of what God has for us.

more

We've 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.

Last week we took a closer look at some changes that will make our campus MORE welcoming such as the new Welcome Center and the installation of an elevator and upstairs bathroom in the Kids Center.

Today our focus is on changes that inspire MORE CONNECTION.

more Connection by Jason Denison

At Journey you may have occasionally heard from the stage how important *presence* is. When we say *presence*, we are talking about the presence of God, plus you and I *fully present to Him*. Another way to say this is *connection... connection to God and to each other*. MORE CONNECTION is the value behind the following three improvements God has led us to make to our physical landscape as a part of the *I Live The Journey* campaign:

- Creation of a greenbelt/conversation area between the new Welcome Center and Journey Java
- Creation of a mid-size space that can host a diverse set of gatherings
- Reorientation of the Worship Center to a half circle configuration and technical infrastructure upgrade

The greenbelt has been a long time coming. For so long Journey has blended too well with its industrial surroundings. It's great for parking cars but it doesn't

leave people with a lot of options to hang out, meet new people and connect. Journey Java was a huge step forward in this direction. We see the addition of a greenbelt with shade and ample park seating as the critical next step in making Journey the kind of place where people are encouraged to linger; where its easy and comfortable to have a conversation with someone.

Often our mid-size gatherings are squeezed into a room that is too small or they are dwarfed in the Worship Center because it's way too big. We are excited to create a necessary room with roughly a 200 to 300-person occupancy to hold any one of the many mid-sized gatherings we host throughout the year. We'll have a place for dinners, receptions, mini conferences and training events as well as any number of ministry gatherings.



Creating space for mid-size meetings, events, and life-long connections

So this is how it will work, the thrift store will move to where "The Other Room" currently is. It will be located with the other retailers on our campus, next to Shear Illusions and Red Sea Marketing. The new and



New greenbelt with park seating

continued on other side

more Connection — continued

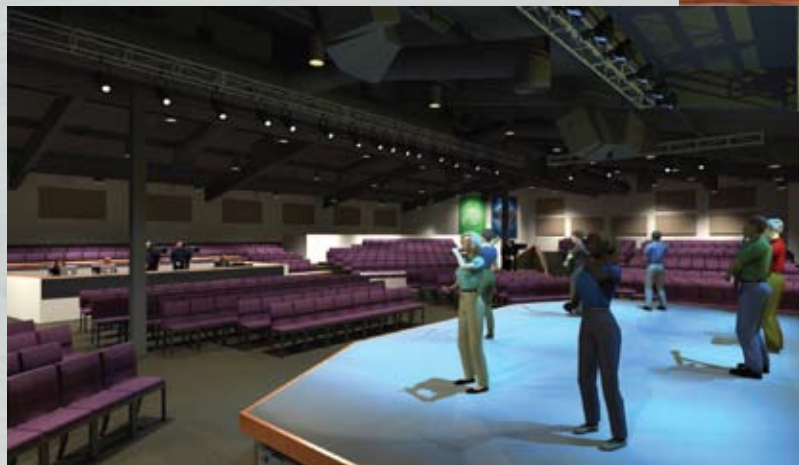
expanded Other Room will be moved into the old thrift store space that opens up directly to Journey Java and the greenbelt with doors that face the Worship Center. All our main gathering places will be...connected.

One of the biggest goals we have for *I Live The Journey* is the reorientation and technical infrastructure upgrade of the Worship Center. Technically we are operating cameras, scan converters and projectors that are slowly breaking down. A replacement of this equipment will enhance the worship experience and we will no longer live in fear that we are a half step from a total crash of all of our production technology. The room reorientation is going to give us increased optimal seating which is going to have a critical effect on our church experience — on our connections.

Back in 2011, the U2 360 Tour came to Los Angeles. When asked what makes their shows so special, Bono answered by saying (paraphrase), “we get the audience to notice each other.” They really do. If you have ever been swept up in a concert or football game and found yourself high fiving and dancing with complete strangers you know what he

is talking about. We were created to be present with God and each other, and when that happens, the community and individuals thrive.

In college I attended a church that was in a half circle configuration. In fact, it’s the same church that inspired our project designer’s drawings for our new Worship Center. Every week you couldn’t help but *notice* the others in the room, which had a tremendous effect on how I experienced God. Many times someone’s extended hands and earnest singing was a barometer for what God was doing in the room. I was able to see through the others in the room what God was up to. Every week it brought home the reality of what Jesus said in John 17: “(may) all of them be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be



Closeness to the stage and to each other invites greater connection.

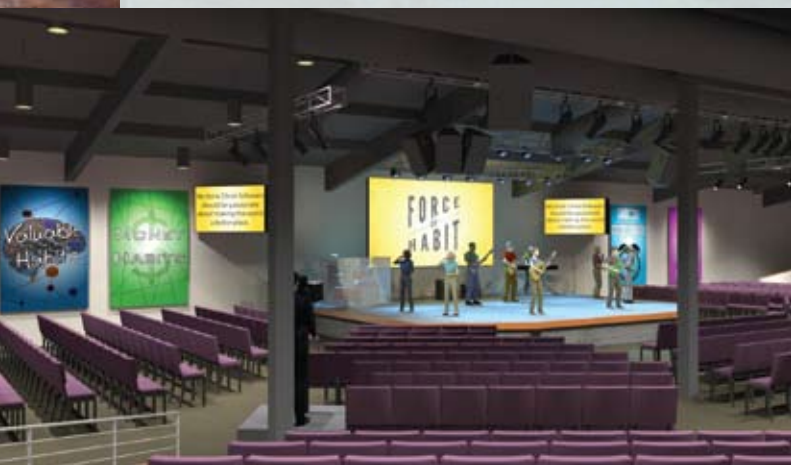
in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.” Being one is cool, but the inevitable first step to that epic place is a simple one – noticing. But not just noticing, it’s also considering. Perhaps that is why Dallas Willard defines love as “an earnest consideration of the beloved.”

In a while, when your sight line in church inevitably causes you to see the dude on the other side of the room worshipping God with all he’s got, let him be a reminder that God is at work. And when you are sipping coffee while enjoying a great conversation under a nice tree cover or sharing a meal after a friend’s wedding in the larger redesigned Other Room, be encouraged that the connection you are experiencing in that moment is what Jesus prayed would happen more and more so that the world would see and believe.

The goal with any worship space is that it should enhance participation and intimacy. Worship is about participation whereas performance is about watching and listening. Worship is about seeing and engaging, not only the leaders on the platform, but also others in the congregation.

The architecture or “body language” of a worship space has a huge impact on the sense of intimacy and ability of the congregation to engage in worship. The seating layout, for example, can help to enhance the worship experience or it can become a barrier. Our goal for Journey is to provide a very intimate space where people feel welcome, engaged and connected.

~ Vance Breshears
Director of Consulting, Idibri Design



The back of the room won't be so far back!