

Alive
Alive

INVITE. **BELIEVE.** CELEBRATE.

CONTENTS

LETTER FROM PASTOR JEREMY

PART 1:

DEFINING MOMENTS

- CELEBRATING WHERE WE'VE BEEN
- TESTIMONIES
- WHAT'S COMING NEXT

PART 2:

ALIVE CAMPAIGN

- WHAT IS ALIVE?
- THE VISION
- MORE THAN A BUILDING
- INVITE | PRAY
- BELIEVE | PARTICIPATE
- CELEBRATE | GIVE
- THE GIVING JOURNEY
- HOW CAN I GIVE?
- TWO YEAR INTENT
- COMMITMENT CARD

PART 3:

APPENDIX

- FAQ
- WEEK 1 | ALIVE
- WEEK 2 | THE BURDEN TO BUILD
- WEEK 3 | IT STARTS WITH THE HEART
- WEEK 4 | DON'T MISS THE MULTIPLIER
- WEEK 5 | READY FOR RAIN

Easter – It’s one of my favorite times of the year. The flowers are blooming, the sun is shining, skin is tanning, and all the bright colors are on full display as we celebrate the greatest victory in the history of humanity. Jesus is alive and so is His church! I am so thankful to be a part of a church that is alive and growing. I believe we’re alive and growing because we’ve made it our primary mission to make much of the One who has died, risen, ascended, and now is ALIVE forevermore.

We’ve come a long way since the 55 believers that gathered together in Pace Elementary School for the first Immanuel Chapel service in 1957. To think that we saw over four times that amount of people join our church in 2022 alone is pretty incredible, and it speaks volumes about how fast God is growing our church family. But as exciting as it is to be able to celebrate a record year filled with 100 baptisms and 235 new church family members, the reality is that it has also created a great need for more space. It is for that reason we believe that God has called us to build. The good news is that we all have an exciting opportunity for everyone to partner together through the ALIVE campaign to meet our space needs!

Because Jesus is ALIVE, our church is ALIVE, and we are full of believers who are ALIVE, I am confident that we are going to do everything in our power to reach those who have yet to come ALIVE in Christ and continue to maintain an eternal focus. It is for that reason that I could not think of a better verse for our ALIVE campaign than Colossians 3:1-2: “If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.”

Because we are ALIVE in Christ, we must continue to seek after things which are above and keep our eyes focused on things that will make an eternal difference. This ALIVE campaign is an opportunity for you to be a part of an eternal legacy that will have an everlasting impact on our community and God’s Kingdom. The groundwork that we lay now is an investment into future generations, and I can’t wait to see how God is going to work through His church and our ALIVE campaign. I can’t wait to see how God is going to use His people to accomplish His plan and fulfill His mission. I can’t wait to see how our church is going to continue to grow and how many more men, women, boys, and girls are going to be reached with the Gospel and come ALIVE in Christ!

The time to act is now. The next five weeks are going to be an extremely exciting time in the life of our church. I want to personally invite you to be a part of what God is doing through the ALIVE campaign. I also want to challenge you to consider how God is leading you to partner with us as we continue to passionately pursue those both near and far from Christ. To God be the glory for all that He has done, is doing, and will continue to do through His church!



JEREMY HOLLEY | SENIOR PASTOR



1 DEFINING MOMENTS

Our Journey

We are so excited about all that God is going to do in the next few years as we continue to fulfill the vision and accomplish the mission that God has given us as a church! The same God that blessed us with the dynamic growth of the past few years is the same God that we are trusting to do a mighty work in years ahead; "Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen!" – Ephesians 3:20-21

1957-1960

1. FIRST BAPTIST OF MILTON PURCHASED LAND

The legacy of Immanuel Baptist Church started over 65 years ago on September 29, 1957. A small group of 55 believers met together in Pace Elementary School (S.S. Dixon Primary) for the first service of Immanuel Baptist Chapel.

2. IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH WAS FORMED

In 1958, the first Sanctuary (Nursery Building) was built. They continued following the Lord's guidance in the years leading up to August 28, 1960, when as a church plant of First Baptist Milton, Immanuel Baptist Church was formed. The men and women of the early Immanuel Baptist Church had a vision and a dream for reaching the Pace community with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

1960-1976

3. BUS MINISTRY & CHILDREN SPACES

From 1960 - 1976, the building containing the present church office was built, first as two separate buildings for children and eventually joined together to form the current Admin Building. In 1973, a church bus was purchased and a bus outreach ministry was begun.

4. RECREATIONAL SPACE

In 1976, IBC had a vision for a future recreational complex and built the concrete pad (picnic tables next to Activity Center) and storage building (next to playground).

1977-1979

5. NEW SANCTUARY

In 1977, construction on a new sanctuary (Gwyn Hall) seating 400 people was begun and dedicated on May 6, 1979. During these years, remodeling for educational spaces and the fellowship hall began.

1980

6. PARSONAGE

In the 1980s, a house was purchased for a parsonage and now stands as our Mission House. This building has seen tremendous outreach growth as a young adult small group space and currently as a temporary shelter for people in need.

1983-1984

7. PRESCHOOL & CHILDREN'S BUILDINGS

"Challenge to Expand" program was pledged over a three year period to construct a 9,000 square foot, two-story Preschool and Children's building, to cover walkways, pave driveways, and purchase additional land. This building campaign was completed and fully paid for in 1984.

1989

8. STUDENT CENTER HISTORY

In 1989, the church purchased the Masonic Lodge property adjacent to the children's areas. It later became the Welcome Center for new and returning guests with additional classroom space until 2022, when it was renovated and renamed the Student Center for grades 6-12.

2000-Present

9. WORSHIP CENTER & ACTIVITY CENTER

After purchasing 11.2 acres, growth and building was a big part of IBC as we continued to meet the needs of the Pace Community. The Worship Center was finished in 2003 and the Activity Center was completed in 2014. The following year, in 2015, the back fields were converted into Upward Football Fields.

TESTIM



Camren Simpson

"Coming to IBC was inspiring from the moment we walked through the doors. Immediately, people were intentional about making us feel welcome and wanted."

For me, giving back to my local church has automatically brought me closer and more connected with the church. It's so exciting to know I'm a part of the ministry here. I'm also encouraged by the direction our church is going and how open we are with what we're doing and how we're growing. I'm inspired to know that I'm investing into some of the things God is doing and growing."



David Johnson

"We always say we're in the heart of Pace with a prime location. Yet we've also heard about the potential we have here at IBC."

We have amazing potential for growth and initially that sounds good. However, as a long-time member of the church, it has gotten frustrating hearing about the potential we have to do more. Now, I get goosebumps just thinking about what the Lord is doing at IBC right now. I really believe that we have the right leadership in place and we are meeting the potential that we've always talked about. We see baptisms and salvations almost every Sunday and I think it's glorious."

MONIES



Ben Otis

"When we came here, the church was very small, running about 80 in worship. Mildred and I have been heavily involved since day one.

I'm just so excited to see what we're doing right now here at Immanuel in reaching out to the lost. I think we're reaching more people now than ever before. I'm excited to think about what we came from and what we've had in the past compared to the additional expansion of space we're building today. I think it's wonderful that we'll have more space for our classrooms and youth. I'm looking forward to being a part of this next step for IBC."



Dixie Peterson

"Honestly, the youth is where it's at. This is one of the main ways we are going to bring people in and help them grow through the rough times.

I'm excited that we're giving them a spot where they can be themselves and learn about how God has prepared a future for them. It's going to be a place for them to have a home even when home life is rough. It's a place where people can talk to them and give them guidance. When things are difficult anywhere else, we have a place for them to hear about God and feel loved. That is huge and I'm so excited to see the impact this will have on our youth."



WHAT'S COMING NEXT

Over the past several years we have seen God bless our church in some amazing ways. In a season of dynamic growth, we've watched God save souls, transform lives, and draw men and women to Himself. As a result, our family has grown, and many men, women, boys, and girls have come to know and love IBC as their church home. As incredible as that growth has been, it has also created some challenges.

The challenges we're facing are good, but they are challenges nonetheless. Just like we would do for our own families, we need to do everything we can to provide adequate space for our church family. IBC Pace is a place where grace is extended, people meet Jesus, and the lost and hurting find acceptance and love. It is a place where people can find a home and become **ALIVE** in Christ.





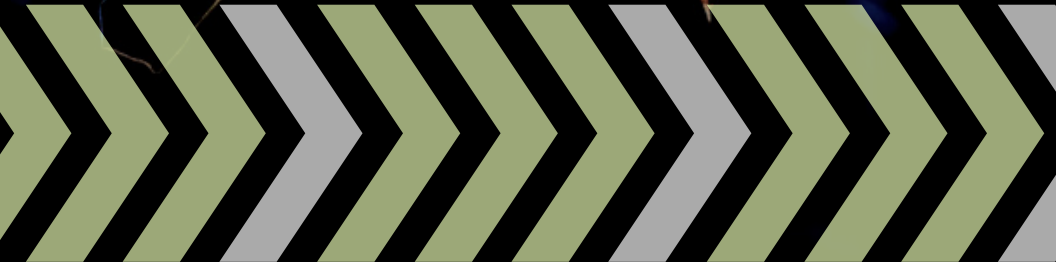
GOD HAS BEEN DOING SOME AMAZING THINGS IN
OUR CHURCH OVER THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS.

BUT WHAT IF HE'S JUST GETTING STARTED?

WHAT IF ALL OF THESE LIFE-CHANGING
MINISTRIES ARE JUST THE BEGINNING OF WHAT
GOD IS GOING TO DO?

WHAT IF GREATER THINGS ARE ON THE HORIZON
AND THE BEST REALLY IS YET TO COME?

WHAT IF ALL OF
THIS HAS BEEN
PREPARING US
FOR WHAT IS
TO COME ...



Alive
Alive

INVITE. **BELIEVE.** CELEBRATE.



ALIVE CAMPAIGN



WHAT IS ALIVE?

Through our ALIVE campaign, you have the opportunity to partner with us on a two-year journey to help reach the next generation, enhance our community and connection environment, and provide much-needed space for students and senior adults so that we can help them become more fully devoted disciples of Christ.

THE URGENCY

There are over 200,000 people that live in Santa Rosa County, but less than 100,000 of them attend church. This means there are over 100,000 people in Santa Rosa County who didn't go to church anywhere last Sunday, many of whom are lost without Christ. We believe the harvest is plentiful, and the time to reach them is now!

God has given us a big vision and we are stepping out on faith, believing that God is going to use His people to achieve this big goal.

ALIVE is a church-wide initiative and we need YOU to join us in order to achieve our goal!

OUR VISION

We will passionately pursue those both near and far from Christ through preaching, missions, and evangelism because we believe that Jesus is the world's only hope, the Bible is God's Word, and eternity is at stake. We will celebrate what God has done, is doing, and will do; and invite others to JOIN US IN OUR CELEBRATION.

"The Bible is God's Word"

"Jesus is the only hope for the world"

"We've been called to make disciples of all nations"

"God is able"

"Eternity really is at stake"



THE PRIMARY GOAL: 100% ENGAGEMENT

Our primary goal in ALIVE is that every person at Immanuel Baptist Church would engage the fight for trust, obedience, and generosity by asking what it means to put God first.

ALIVE is going to take all of us!

THE SECONDARY GOAL: \$4 MILLION

We are trusting the Lord for \$4 million over the next two years to accomplish this God-sized vision.



The ALIVE campaign is not just about building a building; it's about building a home for those God is welcoming into our church family. "Welcome Home" is more than just a slogan; it defines who we are.

In a world where so many people need a place where they are loved and valued, IBC seeks to be that home for them. We rejoice and give God glory, as more and more people are calling IBC Pace "Home".

As our church continues to grow, each of us is being challenged to grow with God. He is calling us to sacrifice for our church family and to put Him first in every area of our life. Our prayer is that every person who calls IBC home will commit to being a part of ALIVE. We are asking everyone to do three things:

Pray | Invite God's Presence
Participate | Believe in God's People
Give | Celebrate God's Blessing

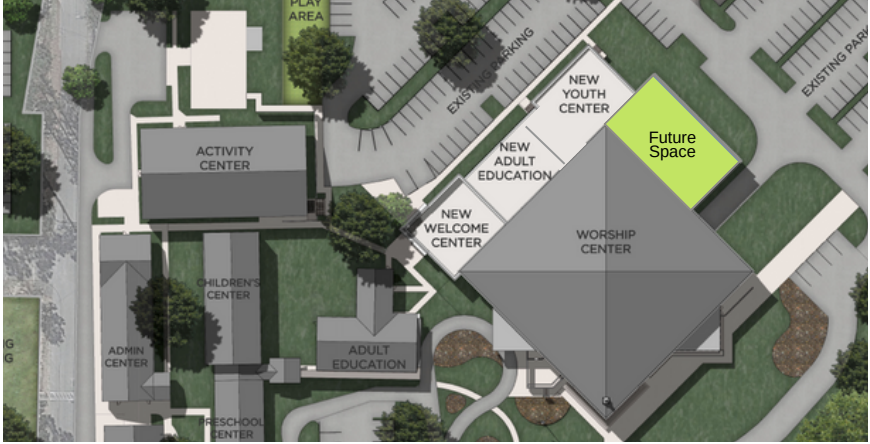
OUR MISSION

Invite. Believe. Celebrate.

These are more than just words on a page; it is the core of who we are. The ALIVE campaign helps us accomplish our mission as a church. This initiative will enable us to better equip our church family to live out their faith through discipleship and community, while we encourage deeper relationships with one another. As we provide additional community space, classroom space, and student space, we are making room for more people to be part of our family, and to grow in Christ.

"If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth."

-- Colossians 3:1-2



More than a Building...

COMMUNITY SPACES

Our new community spaces will be modern inviting spaces designed to enhance our relational focus. They will help us promote relationship-building and improve our effectiveness in being hospitable to guests and members as we continue to grow.

SMALL GROUP SPACES

As the church continues to grow larger, we must grow smaller. Life Groups are the primary way we do that as a church, and we are currently over capacity. By creating a new Life Group space, we will establish a welcoming presence and gain the ability to house up to 500 more people. By modernizing and expanding our classroom space, we will be better equipped to keep our large church small.

STUDENT SPACE

The new Student Center is designed to reach middle school, high school, and college students. Our student and college ministries have grown rapidly and continue to outgrow the spaces our campus has available. The new Student Center will give us the ability to continue reaching our next generation as we prepare the way for the future and continue reaching our community for Christ.



INVITE.

BELIEVE.

CELEBRATE.



Invite

God's presence



PRAY

There is absolutely no way we can do any of this without the Lord. This is His plan, His people, and we are fully dependent upon His provision.

THERE ARE 3 THINGS WE ARE SPECIFICALLY ASKING YOU TO PRAY ABOUT.

- Pray that God will stir in the hearts of His people and help them understand the urgency behind this project and the importance of reaching our community with the hope we have in Christ.
- Pray that God will pave the way as we trust and follow His calling on our church to expand and continue to grow.
- Pray that we will achieve the goals that God has laid on our heart.

IN ADDITION TO THESE SPECIFIC ALIVE PRAYER PROMPTS, WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN OUR STAFF IN OUR (850) INITIATIVE.

At 8:50am every morning, we will be praying for these specific things as a staff:



**THE LOST
OUR COMMUNITY
LOCAL CHURCH
GLOBAL CHURCH
OUR STAFF**

A man's heart plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps.

Proverbs 16:9



Believe

In God's people

PARTICIPATE



While we understand that God is fully in control and we are fully dependent upon Him, we know that God accomplishes His work through His people.

- We want you to participate in what God is doing, not just through Immanuel Baptist Church, but through this two-year initiative. As you participate, join us in believing in God's people. Believe that other brothers and sisters in Christ will make the same sacrifices that you're willing to make to partner together and do something that not one of us can do on our own.
- This is an opportunity for you to be a part of an eternal legacy that has an everlasting impact on our community and God's Kingdom.
- This 2-year spirit-filled initiative gives us the opportunity to invest in future generations.
- When we see our church, let's not just see it next Sunday. Let's see it 10, 20, 30, 50 years from now. Let's see the future generations that are going to come sit in those seats.
- The ground work that we lay now is an investment into the future generations – Now is the time for us to invest in the future and think about leaving a legacy.

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Ephesians 2:10

Celebrate

God's blessing

GIVE

We can't wait to see what God has in store for us at IBC. We can't wait to see how God is going to bless your faithfulness to invest in His Kingdom.

As you give, you are helping us provide a place for the people God is bringing to us:

- A lighthouse for a dark world
- A safe place of refuge for a broken people and a fallen world
- A place of truth – We are going to continue to be a people who are grounded in the Word of God.

God has grown our budget exponentially, and this has made all of the ministry that we've seen over the last 14 years possible.

GOD HAS GIVEN US A VISION FOR EVEN GREATER THINGS...

Year	Budget
2010	\$ 1,157,050
2011	\$ 1,306,695
2012	\$ 1,452,075
2013	\$ 1,472,358
2014	\$ 1,381,206
2015	\$ 1,373,697
2016	\$ 1,212,532
2017	\$ 1,265,771
2018	\$ 1,235,000
2019	\$ 1,245,000
2020	\$ 1,275,000
2021	\$ 1,375,000
2022	\$ 1,463,000
2023	\$ 1,711,080

But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

2 Corinthians 9:6

THE GIVING JOURNEY

GROWING IN GENEROSITY

Our prayer is that God would help each of us become more fearless and generous for the sake of Jesus and His mission. Where do you find yourself on this giving journey?

CONSISTENT GIVER

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

A Consistent Giver is someone who decides to give something and gives it consistently to exercise the discipline of regular giving. Often, this is someone who determines to give a recurring gift online at www.ibcpace.com/waystogive. Those who do not give online can become consistent givers, also, but doing so requires more discipline.

INITIAL GIVER

2 Corinthians 8:7-15

An Initial Giver is someone who decides to give for the first time in response to God's Word about giving. This is someone who decides to give something and trusts both God and church leaders with their gift.

INTENTIONAL GIVER

Luke 14:28-35

An Intentional Giver starts to make their giving an intentional choice that reflects how they prioritize and spend their money. The point of intentionality may occur when someone begins to tithe (10% of your gross income).

SURRENDERED GIVER

Colossians 1:15-18, 22-23

A Surrendered Giver is someone who recognizes the price Christ paid for them on the cross and is surrendered to honoring God with 100% of their resources as a result. Their giving governs their spending and saving rather than their spending and saving governing their giving.



KINGDOM GIVER

1 Timothy 6:6-19

Someone who strategizes about the long-term impact of their generosity. They are less concerned with what they ARE giving than what they are NOT giving and why. They make strategic financial decisions about spending and saving that allow them to increase their capacity to give more generously. They see the sum-total of their giving over their entire lifetime as a strategic and eternal Kingdom investment, which is where their ultimate legacy and citizenship lies.



AND GOD IS ABLE TO MAKE ALL GRACE ABOUND TOWARD YOU,
THAT YOU, ALWAYS HAVING ALL SUFFICIENCY IN ALL THINGS,
MAY HAVE AN ABUNDANCE FOR EVERY GOOD WORK.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:8

HOW CAN I GIVE?

HERE ARE A FEW CREATIVE WAYS YOU CAN PARTICIPATE IN THIS SPIRIT-LED INITIATIVE.

STEP ONE

Pray!

Pray that the Lord would help you discern your role, and give you the discipline and creativity to find ways to join in this ALIVE journey!

STEP TWO

Think about Lifestyle Changes

Adjust some current spending habits so you can give to ALIVE! Include the whole family in this conversation-it's an important discipleship opportunity.

SELL YOUR CAR BUY USED FOR LOWER PAYMENTS	\$
EAT OUT LESS PER WEEK ORDER WATER	\$
GIVE UP HABIT (ALCOHOL, COFFEE, ETC.)	\$
CANCEL STREAMING CUT THE CORD	\$
SCALE BACK VACATIONS FOR 2 YEARS	\$
COMMIT TAX REFUND FOR 2 YEARS	\$
DO OWN HOUSEKEEPING / LAWN CARE	\$
DELAY MAJOR PURCHASE FOR 2 YEARS	\$
PAY OFF DEBT & GIVE IT TO ALIVE	\$
OTHER	\$
SUB-TOTAL	\$

TOTAL EXPANDED GIVING | Over

HOW CAN I GIVE MY ASSETS TO ALIVE?

Real Estate: Ownership can be transferred as long as there are no liens on the property. Real estate gifts will be initially credited at a value determined through an appraisal obtained by both the donor and the church. When the property has been sold, the church will notify the donor of the sales price. The amount credited to the donor will be adjusted accordingly and the donor will be informed of the adjustment.

For additional information on Gifts in Kind & Appreciable

STEP THREE

Actively Consider your Assets

Bring a generous, even sacrificial gift!

HOMES	\$	CAMPERS/RVS	\$
LAND/PROPERTY	\$	ARTWORK	\$
STOCKS & BONDS	\$	JEWELRY	\$
SAVINGS ACCOUNTS & RETIREMENT	\$	MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS	\$
CRYPTOCURRENCY & NFTS	\$	ITEMS TO SELL ONLINE	\$
COLLECTIBLES (COINS, ANTIQUES)	\$	GARAGE SALE	\$
VEHICLES (BOATS, CARS, MOTORCYCLE)	\$	OTHER	\$
SUB-TOTAL			\$

STEP FOUR

Invest Your Time + Talents

Consider putting your time and talents into play to generate resources.

GO BACK TO WORK	\$	EARN MONEY FOR CREATIVE HOBBIES	\$
WORK +1 DAY/WEEK	\$	DELAY RETIREMENT FOR A YEAR	\$
START A SIDE BUSINESS	\$	OTHER	\$
TAKE A SEASONAL POSITION/JOB	\$		\$
SUB-TOTAL			\$

the 2-year ALIVE campaign

\$

Marketable Securities: Stocks, bonds and mutual funds can be given to the spiritual initiative without incurring capital gains on these assets. For example, if the stock was purchased for \$100 and has appreciated in value to \$1000, you would be liable for a capital gains tax for the \$900 of appreciation. If donated the contributor avoids having to pay the capital gains tax, and still receives a \$1000 tax deduction.

All Other Assets: We ask that gifts in kind (jewelry, cars, art, etc.) be sold first and then the proceeds donated to ALIVE. As with other cash gifts, the proceeds are 100% tax-deductible

Assets, contact our church business office at (850) 994-6152 or email GRuedy@ibcpac.com.

Look at One Family's Plan for Creative Giving!

POTENTIAL RESOURCES

ELIMINATE 1 MEAL OUT PER WEEK

ELIMINATE 1 STARBUCKS PER WEEK

REDUCE NUMBER OF STREAMING SERVICES

REDUCE ENTERTAINMENT / SHOPPING

REDUCE CHRISTMAS BUDGET

REDUCE VACATION BUDGET

GARAGE SALE INCOME

EVERYONE'S SPARE CHANGE EACH DAY

MOW A NEIGHBOR'S YARD

50 STOCK SHARES FROM OUR PORTFOLIO

INCREASE CASH GIVING





WEEKLY	YEARLY	2 YEARS
\$35	\$1,820	\$3,640
\$4	\$208	\$416
\$12	\$624	\$1,248
\$10	\$520	\$1,040
---	\$250	\$500
---	\$300	\$600
---	\$200	\$400
\$5	\$260	\$520
\$35	\$1,820	\$3,640
---	---	\$5,000
\$50	\$2,600	\$5,200
TWO YEAR TOTAL		\$22,204



TWO-YEAR INTENT

Gifts Needed	Gift Level
1	\$300,000
1	\$150,000
1	\$100,000
1	\$75,000
4	\$50,000
6	\$35,000
8	\$25,000
10	\$20,000
16	\$15,000
18	\$12,000
20	\$10,000
25	\$7,500
30	\$5,000
35	\$2,400
50	\$1,200
MANY	\$500

\$4,000,000 GOAL



TWO-YEAR ALIVE COMMITMENT

Join the Mission COMMITMENT CARD

I am fully engaged in the mission of Immanuel Baptist Church. I believe in the ALIVE mission and commit to support it in sacrificial ways. I will be generous and sacrificial with my time and energy to the advancement of this mission. I will be generous and sacrificial with my public support of this mission. I will be generous and sacrificial with my finances to reach the financial goals of this mission.

NAME:

ADDRESS:

PHONE:

EMAIL:

TWO-YEAR ALIVE INTENT \$

In addition to my/our annual giving

I/WE PLAN TO MAKE OUR GIFT AS FOLLOWS

Choose One

- A ONE-TIME GIFT MADE ON
- 2 EQUAL AMOUNTS MADE ON &
- MONTHLY GIFTS OF \$ STARTING ON

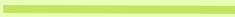
ADDITIONALLY

Mark all that apply

- I WILL MAKE MY GIFT IN CASH OR BY CHECK OR ONLINE GIVING.
- I WILL MAKE MY GIFT IN STOCKS/SECURITIES.
- PLEASE CONTACT ME ABOUT OTHER TYPES OF PLANNED GIFTS.

3

ALIVE APPENDIX



FAQS

Q. WHAT WILL BE THE COST?

A. The total budget of Phase One is projected to be approximately \$4 million. Any decrease in costs or surplus in funds raised will be used to pay down the cost faster.

Q. HOW WILL WE PAY FOR IT?

A. From 2023 to 2025, we will engage in a campaign to raise the resources to support this Spirit-led initiative.

Q. WHAT IF I'M NOT A MEMBER OF IBC?

A. These are exciting days at IBC and will no doubt be remembered for years to come. You are here and we would love for you to come with us on this amazing journey of faith. If you watch and wait, you won't be able to truly share in the joy of this season or experience all God has for you. We believe God brought you here, and we want you to be a part of all God is doing at Immanuel Baptist Church. We need you on the team, and this is a perfect time for you to put a stake in the ground and make IBC your church with us on this amazing journey of faith.

Q. WHAT IF I'VE NEVER GIVEN, OR DON'T REGULARLY GIVE AT IBC?

A. This would be a great time to start! The primary goal of ALIVE is 100% engagement of everyone at IBC and that includes you. We are praying this will be a disciple-making, faith-building, life-changing experience in our church and in your own heart and life. To get anywhere, you must start somewhere, and ALIVE is a great place to start your giving adventure.

Q. WHAT IF I'M NOT IN A GOOD PLACE OR POSITION TO GIVE TO ALIVE RIGHT NOW?

A. The reality is, there will never be a "better time" to begin the faith journey, or take the next step in giving to the Lord, than right now. God calls us to action in times of hardship as much as He does in times of abundance. ALIVE is about a heart change -- one that is only accomplished by surrendering our lives completely over to God in every area, including the area of giving. Believe God, walk in obedience, and trust Him to provide as you sacrifice and work towards fulfilling your commitment.

Q. WHAT IS THE "RIGHT AMOUNT" TO GIVE?

A. 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 says, "But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver." Everyone's situation is unique but we are all called to give. Our challenge, no matter what you currently give, is to take a step forward in your generosity journey.

Q. WHAT IF MY CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGE DURING THE ALIVE INITIATIVE?

A. A commitment to the Lord and to ALIVE is an important step of faith. We shouldn't make any commitment without prayerfully seeking the Lord. However, since none of us know the future, faith is required. A change in our circumstances will be no surprise to God. Of course, your commitment to ALIVE is voluntary and non-binding, but enter this exciting phase of our journey totally committed with faith and not fear. God is able!

Q. WILL WE BE TAKING ON LONG-TERM DEBT?

A. Our hope is that we will be able to fund the initiative entirely through the contributions made by our church family. However, even if we do reach our goal, at a minimum, we will need to secure bridge funding to enable us to begin the project while the monies committed come in. To be good stewards of our financial resources, it is imperative that we begin construction ASAP. This will reduce the impact of inflation on the labor and materials that are likely to increase during the two-year initiative. If more funds are needed to accomplish our goal, the team is not averse to incurring a smaller loan, but our commitment is to pay it off as quickly as possible. We believe we have been prudent by implementing forecasting and a strategy to minimize debt and accelerate debt retirement.

As we count the costs, we realize interest will be paid on borrowed funds, but we truly believe the cost of not borrowing is greater -- lives that will be lost for eternity if we do not expand our capacity for reaching them.

Q. WHAT IF WE DON'T REACH OUR GOAL?

A. First, we wholeheartedly believe that God has given each of us the resources we need to accomplish this vision together! We believe that "Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be the glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen." (Ephesians 3:20-21). If for some reason we don't achieve our goal, our leadership teams would need to prayerfully consider scaling back the scope of the project.



IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH
www.ibcpa.com