

Q&A/FAQ

BEYOND

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly BEYOND all that we ask or imagine, according to the power that works in us... *EPHESIANS 3:20.*

WHAT IS OUR MISSION AND VISION?

- Our mission is to: 1) Love God, 2) love people, and 3) make disciples.
- Our vision is to be a healthy, life-giving, biblically-centered, Spirit-led, and missionally-engaged family of believers.



WHAT IS BEYOND?

- **Debt is a thief.** Over the last 11 years, Pastor Stephen Perry led the Glad Tidings church family in an unprecedented, decade-long initiative to eliminate our debt believing that the Glad Tidings family would more effectively advance the Kingdom once the church family was debt-free.
- **"BEYOND"** is the Spirit-inspired word Pastor Perry chose to capture the purpose of this One Fund Initiative with the goal of pushing the Glad Tidings family across the debt-elimination finish line.
- The word, **"BEYOND,"** comes from Ephesians 3:20-21 (MEV), "Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly BEYOND all that we ask or imagine, according to the power that works in us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen."
- **"BEYOND"** is now our opportunity to take up the baton and run the final laps across the debt-elimination finish line—while ensuring that our next generation ministries (children and youth), our local outreach, and global missions' efforts are fully resourced.

WHAT IS A ONE FUND?

- ONE FUND is a **financial** stewardship model that more effectively equips and unites the Glad Tidings family to accomplish who Jesus has called us to be--today, and into **our next season of fruitful ministry, and BEYOND.** There are several reasons for this change. First, this approach reminds us that we are ONE church with ONE mission. With a God-sized goal of six million dollars, every dollar given will count as part of our ONE mission to be part of God's story in the world. Second, when we give to different church funds, we inadvertently place greater value on some giving and less value on other giving. When we separate "children's" or "youth" giving from "supporting the church," it is easy to forget that support for the local church IS support for the ministries that God has for us. The local church is Christ's "Plan A" for reaching our community and the nations with the Gospel (and there is no **"Plan B"**).

HOW WILL BEYOND ONE FUND AFFECT MY REGULAR GIVING? TO MISSIONS, YOUTH, KIDS?

- During this two-year period, every generous contribution to God's work through the Glad Tidings family is a contribution to the BEYOND ONE FUND initiative. Every aspect of our current ministry and every aspect of our future ministry will be funded through our ONE FUND. There will be no separate funds. Therefore, every weekend becomes an opportunity to celebrate and contribute towards what God is doing in and through Glad Tidings as we give for our community, our culture and our world.
- Our commitment--with the help of the Lord and with 100% participation of the church family--is to ensure that every ministry we operate and support is properly resourced.

AS WE MOVE THROUGH THIS PROCESS, WHAT ARE THE MAIN VALUES THAT GLAD TIDINGS MUST BE SURE ARE PRESERVED?

- We need to continue to have the uncompromised Word of God proclaimed and taught.
- We need to continue to be a Spirit-led congregation with freedom in worship.
- We need to continue to be welcoming to all--without judgement.
- We need to continue to be focused on young families by providing outstanding children's and youth ministries.
- We need to continue to be missions-minded--committed to The Great Commission--by serving our community, making disciples, and reaching the world.

WHY ARE WE DOING THIS INITIATIVE?

- We believe that God wants to do "BEYOND" all that we could ask or imagine in and through the Glad Tidings family! Therefore, our "BEYOND" initiative is our effort to position our church family so that we may experience God's "BEYOND!" There are 4 areas we hope will feel the immediate effects of our "BEYOND" initiative:
- **Paying off our debt.** This was Pastor Perry's dream, and this is now our opportunity to propel the Glad Tidings family into its next season of fulfilling God's purposes in Lake Charles, all of Southwest Louisiana, and around the globe.
- **Fully resourcing next generation ministries.** There is nothing more important than successfully passing on our faith to the next generation. We want to fully fund and resource our children's and youth ministries so that we can create environments where children and teenagers are inspired and equipped to live their entire lives for Christ.
- **Renovating and upgrading our facilities.** The Glad Tidings facilities have served the Glad Tidings Mission and family well. It is time to give the exterior and interior of the facilities some much needed attention. We believe God's house deserves our very best, and we want it to be a welcoming environment of excellence for every new pew God will send our way.
- **The financial strength to engage in creative, life-giving, Spirit-filled ministries designed to advance the Kingdom of God in Southwest Louisiana.** We believe that a healthy church is the hope of a sick and dying world. But, real ministry requires real money. We believe that a well-resourced church will not only make an impact in the lives of the members of the church but will also attract new families, transform the community, and advance the Kingdom of God.

IF I AM ALREADY TITHING, ISN'T THAT ENOUGH?

- Knowing that we should give can be easy, but knowing how much to give presents a greater challenge. God has always had His people give the "first fruits" of His provision back to Him. Throughout the Old Testament, this took the form of the tithe. Approximately 400 years before the Law was given, both Abraham and Jacob offered the Lord a tithe of everything that He had given to them. The word "tithe" simply means "a tenth." In response to the provision and the promise of God heroes of the faith offered the Lord not merely a tenth of their income but a tenth of everything God had given to them.
- While The Law codified the "pre-Law" principle of tithing, it also made provision for peace offerings and freewill offerings to the Lord. Even "The Law" encouraged the people of God to exceed the tithe.
- Christ fulfilled the promise of The Law. This does not imply an excuse for no longer giving a tenth; rather, it motivates us to give in grateful response to God. God keeps His promise and allows us the joy of being a part of His plan for meeting the needs of His people. In Acts, the Church did not follow a legalistic reading of the tithe--limiting their generosity. Instead, they saw the immense needs among the Body of Christ and gave generously.
- In short, "first fruits giving" is a universal biblical principle. The tithe is a good place to start for many believers, but it should never be viewed as a limit to our generosity. The principle that should guide us as we give is this: "for you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you by His poverty might become rich: (2 Corinthians 8:9). The King of Kings left Heaven to give His life. So, how then shall we give?"

HOW WILL I KNOW IF I'M GIVING ENOUGH OR IF GOD WANTS ME TO DO MORE?

- The Scriptures promise believers that they will know the voice of their Savior (John 10:3-5). Trust that God will speak to you in a way that you will understand. Giving should be an act of faith. Faith comes when we act on what God is speaking to us (Romans 10:17).
- Confusion is not how God leads his children (1 Corinthians 14:33). If you're feeling confused or conflicted, that is not the leadership of the Holy Spirit (2 Timothy 1:7). God leads us with His peace (Philippians 4:7).
- As you pray, open your heart to God. He will lead you in faith and in peace.
- As you discern God's leadership, come into agreement with your spouse (if you're married).
- Do not give out of guilt or fear. Only give out of faith, peace, and gratitude. Give only because you have an open, cheerful, and willing heart.



WHAT ARE YOU ASKING ME TO DO?

- Pray about your part in our all important mission and vision
- Commit to being at Glad Tidings each Sunday during the **BEYOND** Series
- Join a small group
- Determine the next step for you as a "BEYOND" disciple of Jesus

WILL YOU GIVE ME IDEAS ON HOW TO GIVE AND WHAT TO GIVE?

- **Initial Giver** / 2 Corinthians 8:7-15 / An Initial Giver is someone who decides to give for the first time, out of a response to what God's Word says about giving. This is someone who decides to give something and trust God and the leaders of the Church with this gift.
- **Consistent Giver** / 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 / A Consistent Giver is someone who decides to give something and give it consistently to exercise the discipline of giving on a regular basis. Often, someone who decides to make their gift an online recurring gift, will be someone who is learning the behavior of consistency. Non-online givers can be consistent givers as well of course; it just requires a little more discipline.
- **Intentional Giver** / Luke 14:28-35 / An Intentional Giver is someone who begins to think about their giving in relation to other things on which they spend their money. For example, this type of giver begins asking the question, "Why am I giving more to AT&T than I am giving to God? Should I be giving to God more than I give for my car payment each month?" This giver starts to make their giving an intentional choice that reflects how they prioritize and spend their money. This may be the point of intentionality when someone begins to tithe, reflecting intentionally about a certain amount/percentage they want to give to God.
- **Surrendered Giver** / Colossians 1:15-18, 22-23 / A Surrendered Giver is someone who recognizes the cost Christ paid on the cross for us and is surrendered to honoring God with 100% of their resources as a result. A Surrendered Giver gives in a way that changes them. Their giving governs their spending/saving rather than their spending/saving governing their giving. A Surrendered Giver isn't concerned with what they ARE giving but more concerned with what they're NOT giving and why. A Surrendered Giver makes a conscious and intentional decision that their spending will no longer determine their giving, but rather their giving will determine their spending. They seek to honor God with 100% of what He has given them, whether direct monetary giving or a God-honoring use of an existing resource like a home or a vehicle.
- **Lifetime Giver** / 1 Timothy 6:6:19 / A Lifetime Giver is someone who thinks about the long-term effects of generosity rather than month-to-month generosity or even year-to-year. A Lifetime Giver makes decisions in the short term which have longer term effects as it relates to their generosity capacity. They think of what home they buy, what car they purchase, how much savings they choose to keep, all in relation to their generosity capacity. A Lifetime Giver might be someone who has a lifetime giving goal which governs their larger-ticket decisions. Much like a Surrendered Giver makes a commitment that will govern his/her monthly and annual decisions, a Lifetime Giver makes a lifetime or longer-term giving commitment that governs his/her larger-item purchases like homes, cars, investments, and the like.

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HOW DO I BEGIN TO GIVE: Give in person at a weekend service, setup a recurring gift online at gladtidingschurch.com/give, or mail a check to:

Glad Tidings Church
3400 Texas Street
Lake Charles, LA 70607

