

Think
BIG

THE PROMISE CHURCH **SPECIAL OFFERING**

Community Tutoring Program | Global and U.S. Missions | Outreach @ The Promise
Benevolence and Counseling | Promise Kids Youth Ministry

NOW THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2016 | GOAL: \$10,000 | November 2015

Dear Promise Family,

Today I'm excited to introduce to you The Promise Church **THINK BIG** Special Offering that begins now and continues through January 31, 2016.

God has blessed our church in some incredible ways over the last nine years. But as we look forward to 2016 – I believe the **THINK BIG** Special Offering represents the **BOLDEST** vision God has ever given our church to deepen our impact for Jesus in our community and around the globe!

Here are the five initiatives your giving to **THINK BIG** will support:

- Fund our Community Tutoring Program, Promise Tutors, in 2016 to help us reach more students, partner with more schools, and keep our services free.
- Supporting missionaries who are taking the Gospel around the world.
- Helping meet the spiritual and physical needs of the less fortunate in our city through our Outreach Ministries.
- Supporting our Promise Kids Youth Ministry.
- Funding the 2016 Benevolence and Counseling Ministry of the church.

Please read through the enclosed documents to learn more about this exciting opportunity for us as a church to give sacrificially and expand our influence. Will you begin praying now about what God would have you give (over and above your regular giving) to this Special Offering? Allow God to stretch your faith! Together – let's **THINK BIG** like never before!

Pastor Maceo Smedley
maceo@promisechurch.org



P.S. – The enclosed documents will give you an overview of the special offering and answer many common questions. However, if you have any additional questions please do not hesitate to contact me by phone (832.303.2602) or email.

Think
BIG

THE PROMISE CHURCH **SPECIAL OFFERING**

Community Tutoring Program | Global and U.S. Missions | Outreach @ The Promise
Benevolence and Counseling | Promise Kids Youth Ministry

OVERVIEW

*(Jesus) "I tell you the truth, if you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it would move. Nothing would be impossible."
— Matthew 17:20*

The **THINK BIG** Special Offering is a call to sacrificial giving with a goal of \$10,000 for five important ministry and missions initiatives:

- **EXPAND PROMISE TUTORS IN 2016** – Fund our Community Tutoring Program, Promise Tutors, in 2016 to help us reach more students, partner with more schools, and keep our services free.
- **INTERNATIONAL & NATIONAL MISSIONS** – Supporting missionaries in the U.S. and around the world who are taking the Gospel to those in greatest need (including our online daily devotional, discoverthepromise.com that is read in several countries around the world).
- **OUTREACH @ THE PROMISE** – Helping meet the spiritual and physical needs of the less fortunate in our city through our Outreach Ministries.
- **PROMISE KIDS** – Supporting our Promise Kids Youth Ministry.
- **BENEVOLENCE AND COUNSELING** – Funding the 2016 Benevolence and Counseling Ministry of the church (to help those in the church who face a moment of crisis or emergency and need assistance and those seeking Christian counseling).

This Special Offering will be received through January 31, 2016. To give to the **THINK BIG** Special Offering, use the enclosed offering envelope. Write the amount of your gift on the red line designated "Special Offering", stamp, and mail it to The Promise Church, or drop it in the offering on Sunday.

The enclosed documents will give you an overview of the Special Offering and answer many common questions. However, if you have any additional questions, please don't hesitate to contact me or our staff at 832.303.2602.

Think
BIG

THE PROMISE CHURCH **SPECIAL OFFERING**

Community Tutoring Program | Global and U.S. Missions | Outreach @ The Promise
Benevolence and Counseling | Promise Kids Youth Ministry

TO EXPAND PROMISE TUTORS IN 2016

Last year our church offered afterschool tutorials for the first time ever. In 2016, we feel God leading us to step out on faith like never before by expanding the number of students that we service, and the number of schools that we partner with. Building on the success of our first few months, the goal will be to have more students and to be in a financial position to continue to offer our services for free. Our vision is to service all Fort Bend ISD schools within a ten mile radius of our church. In fact, we are actively pursuing a new campus now. Our vision is to dramatically impact the success of the students in our area and to improve the climate of our schools. It's a God-sized vision...and will take our entire church praying, serving, giving, participating and inviting. But we believe God is ready to do some BIG things in 2016!

PROMISE AFTER SCHOOL TUTORING **PROGRAM**



Think
BIG

THE PROMISE CHURCH **SPECIAL OFFERING**

Community Tutoring Program | Global and U.S. Missions | Outreach @ The Promise
Benevolence and Counseling | Promise Kids Youth Ministry



TO SUPPORT GLOBAL / U.S. MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM IN OUR COMMUNITY.

We are a church that supports missions. This focus will continue as we assist missionaries around the globe who are reaching out to every identified people group, especially those in highly unchurched countries. Through cooperative efforts with other mission-minded churches, we are designating a portion of the Special Offering to support U.S. and International Missionaries. As part of our missions focus – for the last six years we have been expanding our impact in our community through Houston Pregnancy Help Center and their ministry to future mothers who have been impacted by their life conditions and unanticipated pregnancy. We have helped save the lives of children whose mother was determined to abort them and have helped them with supplies for their new born. Not only do we help support them financially, we also send volunteers to minister to these future moms and help spread the love of Jesus Christ.



In addition – the **THINK BIG** Special Offering will help expand our evangelism efforts here in Fresno so we can continue to reach our city with the love of Jesus!



*NORTH AMERICAN
MISSION BOARD*

Think
BIG

THE PROMISE CHURCH SPECIAL OFFERING

Community Tutoring Program | Global and U.S. Missions | Outreach @ The Promise
Benevolence and Counseling | Promise Kids Youth Ministry

TO SUPPORT OUR PROMISE KIDS YOUTH MINISTRY

We are a church that invests in our leaders of tomorrow. And through the **THINK BIG** Special Offering we will continue to support our youth. Over the last year our youth ministry has seen its largest number of students to date. Most Sundays our children's rooms are at maximum capacity. Our numbers increased so much this past year that it was imperative that we hire two new staff members to help us facilitate this ministry. Our youth continue to astound us with their multidimensional programs and we have seen tremendous spiritual and social growth in our group of awesome young people.

TO MEET THE SPIRITUAL AND PHYSICAL NEEDS OF THE LESS FORTUNATE IN OUR COMMUNITY THROUGH OUR OUTREACH MINISTRY.

We are a church that serves the less fortunate. Through the **THINK BIG** Special Offering we have a unique opportunity to help those in the greatest need in our community (both spiritually and physically). We will partner with local organizations that are really making a difference in the lives of the less fortunate in our community. That's why we partner with organizations and schools to support their clothing and food programs for the poor and job training programs. As a church, we can make a difference in their lives through our volunteering and giving.

Las year, because of your faithful giving, we hosted our communities largest Easter Egg Hunt with hundreds of people in attendance. This event allowed us to encourage families in our community, let people know about our church and ministries, and allowed our own kids to have a great fun and fellowship.



Think
BIG

THE PROMISE CHURCH **SPECIAL OFFERING**

Community Tutoring Program | Global and U.S. Missions | Outreach @ The Promise
Benevolence and Counseling | Promise Kids Youth Ministry

TO FUND THE PROMISE CHURCH 2016 BENEVOLENCE AND COUNSELING MINISTRY THAT SUPPORTS THOSE IN OUR CHURCH AT THEIR TIME OF GREATEST NEED.

We are a church that comes alongside of those in our church who are struggling financially and emotionally. Since 2007, our church has served families during their time of greatest need. The Benevolence Ministry has allowed us to come alongside of people in distress due to difficult financial times, a loss of a job/apartment or a death in the family. In addition we have been able to provide for those who need professional Christian counseling. Dozens of marriages have been strengthened in the last year through Christian counseling because we were able to help. Because of your generous giving to the special offering, we have been able to approve all valid requests for benevolence and counseling funding. We look forward to meeting these needs again in 2016!



Think
BIG

THE PROMISE CHURCH **SPECIAL OFFERING**

Community Tutoring Program | Global and U.S. Missions | Outreach @ The Promise
Benevolence and Counseling | Promise Kids Youth Ministry

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why a Special Offering?

As part of God's plan to grow the faith of the people in His church, He calls us to sacrificial giving from time to time. This Special Offering is an opportunity for us to grow in our faith and to prepare us for what God wants to do through our church in 2015. This offering is not because we are behind on budget, but rather is to position us to make a greater impact in our community, in our church and around the world in 2016.

What's the Difference Between the Regular Offering and this Special Offering?

The regular Promise Church offering is the proportional amount (the full tithe of 10%) that we set apart on a systematic basis and give throughout the year. From time to time there are opportunities to give in a sacrificial way. This Special Offering is one of those sacrificial occasions that stretch us to grow in our faith. The special offering should be over and above what you regularly give.

How Much Should I Give?

Since the goal is \$10,000, this Special Offering will involve everyone. Please prayerfully consider a sacrificial gift that will stretch your faith. The precise amount you give is between you and God. Many in our church can give a \$5,000 gift. Others will be able to give between \$100 and \$500. The issue is not equal giving, but equal sacrifice. What amount can you give that will stretch your faith?

Why is the Goal So Large?

Since the beginning of The Journey in 2007, we have been a church that has dared to dream big dreams for God. The ministries supported by this offering are BIG:

- Fund our Community Tutoring Program, Promise Tutors, in 2016 to help us reach more students, partner with more schools, and keep our services free.
- Supporting missionaries who are taking the Gospel around the world.
- Helping meet the spiritual and physical needs of the less fortunate in our city through our Outreach Ministries.
- Supporting our Promise Kids Youth Ministry.
- Funding the 2016 Benevolence and Counseling Ministry of the church.

Big dreams require big faith and big funding. The accomplishment of these big dreams will be determined by your gifts to this Special Offering.

When Should I Give?

The best time to give will be the first Sunday after you receive this packet. Please pray about making your best gift on that day. However, you can continue to give until January 31, 2016.

Think
BIG

THE PROMISE CHURCH **SPECIAL OFFERING**

Community Tutoring Program | Global and U.S. Missions | Outreach @ The Promise
Benevolence and Counseling | Promise Kids Youth Ministry

Please use the "Special Offering" area on the offering envelopes or include a note designating that your gift is for the Special Offering. Remember, consistent gifts over time add up – a person giving \$50 per week over a ten-week period will give \$500 to the Special Offering

Can I Give Online Via Bank Check or Through Auto-Debit?

Yes. When you give at promisechurch.org via online giving, simply select "Special Offering" under the "Donate" drop-down menu. Likewise, you can use your bank's online payment option to send a check directly to the church office. Again, simply mark in the memo area that your gift is for the **"THINK BIG"** Special Offering.

Are My Gifts Tax-Deductible?

All gifts to The Promise Church, whether via the regular offering or this Special Offering, are completely tax-deductible. Your gift will be deductible in the tax year given (i.e., gifts given in 2015 will be deductible on your 2015 taxes). Please be sure to include your name and address when you give so that a receipt can be sent to you for your tax preparations. You are not required to utilize a tax-deduction for your gift, but it is available for all gifts.

How Did We Arrive at a \$10,000 Goal?

The \$10,000 goal was prayerfully set by The Promise Ministry Leaders. It is the largest Special Offering goal that we have ever set – because this is the largest vision that God has ever given us! It is approximately six times our regular weekly giving. It is a God-sized goal that can only be accomplished through 100% participation and sacrificial giving by our attenders and members. Since we are expecting God to bless this Special Offering, it has been determined that any amount over and above our goal will be divided equally between Missions and Ministry Advancement.

How Will I Know if We Reach Our Goal?

Please pray for God's guidance as we all give sacrificially. You will be updated on our giving progress during the Sunday services. Reaching this goal will be a celebration of what we can do together as we stretch our faith under God's leadership.

Have additional questions?

Please contact Pastor Maceo Smedley at
maceo@promisechurch.org, or call 832.303.2602.