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What's NEXT?

A Word From Pastor John Brunette

The First Call

In 1990, my wife Julie and I, while living in California, were praying, pleading, and asking God, "What's next? What's the next move, the next ministry, the next...for us?" Dark days had even led us to question whether we should step out of ministry altogether. During this time of waiting and praying, my personal prayer had been, "Lord, please send me to a church, to a situation that would scare me." Say what? Yes, my prayer was that God would send me to a place where the challenge would be so large, the task so overwhelming, and my personal resources so lacking, that I would have to trust in God's provision, power, and presence to carry out His calling. At this point we received a call to serve at Faith Lutheran Church in Oakville, Missouri. When I came to visit the leaders and influencers at Faith, I knew without a shadow of a doubt that God was calling me to be the pastor at Faith (with lots of fear and trembling!) With 250 regular worshippers, a small building, and a secretary, we were ready to follow the Lord's leading.

When we look back a decade from now, what will be different about Oakville, St. Louis, or even the world?

What's Next?

During my 27-year tenure at Faith, I have asked similar questions many times, "What's next? What's next for us? What's next for Faith? When we look back a decade from now, what will be different about Oakville, St. Louis, or even the world? Will Faith be a church for my children? My grandchildren? Will we still have a Spirit-driven urgency to reach this generation and the generations to come?" What we do next will determine our answer.

Following the Spirit's Leading

For months, our pastors, staff, and leaders have been on a prayerful journey to follow the Holy Spirit's direction in how we will strategically connect people (the next generations) to the extraordinary life found in Jesus – one person, one family, one community at a time. It's what's NEXT. I want to invite and challenge you to participate on this journey as we seek the Lord as a Faith family, looking to His Word, celebrating around the sacraments, and responding in obedience and blessing to what He says.

I can't wait to discover what's NEXT with our Faith Family!

Partnering with you in Christ,



Our Vision

To see generations transformed by the Gospel as groups are intentionally planted to carry out their mission where they live, work, and play.

The Vision of NEXT

The NEXT Campaign is a three-year spiritual journey seeking the heart of God by answering the question, "What's next for Faith in reaching this generation and generations to come?"



NEXT Generation



NEXT Phase



NEXT Step



**We believe God is
calling us to...**



Impact the NEXT Generation

Our prayer is that Faith will establish an even stronger foundation which will prepare us to connect people to the extraordinary life found in Jesus for generations to come. We believe the work God is doing in and through us is not only bigger than our church, it is bigger than our lifetime.

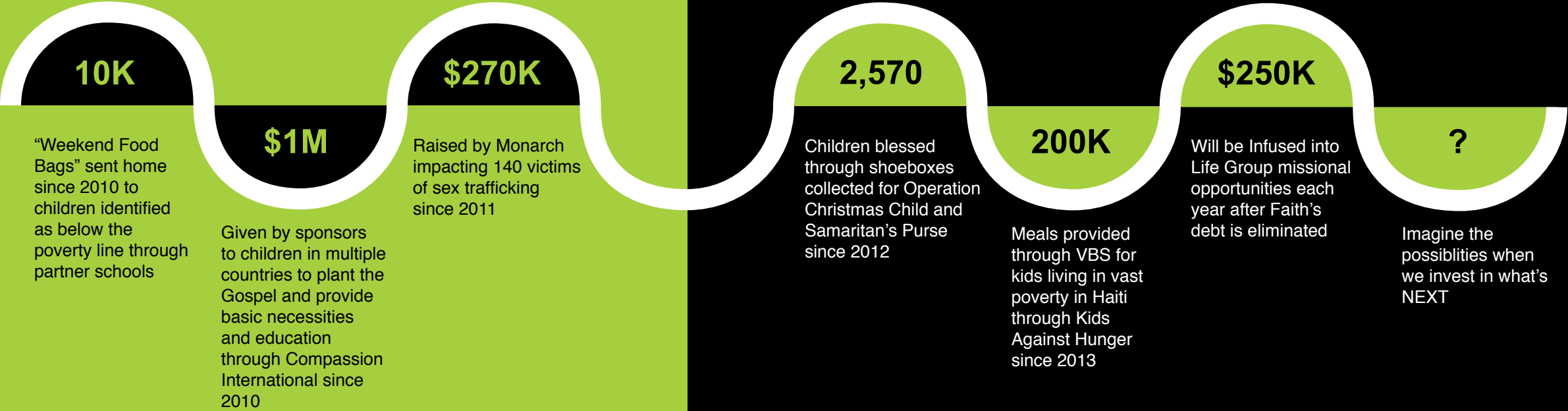
- We must make an intentional commitment to understand, engage, invite, and equip the next generations.
- We must strive to find our successors at every level for the future.
- We must make our environments, ministries, and programming relevant to the next generations.

Faith in Action

Impacting Generations

Faith has impacted generations in Oakville, Columbia, and beyond. Our prayer is that, through NEXT, God will continue to expand His mission field through Faith’s increased generosity. Below are a few examples of how God has used our individuals and groups to impact His Kingdom in recent years.

“We believe the work God is doing in and through us is not only bigger than our church, it is bigger than our lifetime.”





Enter our NEXT Phase

We must engage in strategic, Spirit-led opportunities, begging God to use us to make disciples of “all nations”, seeing unreached generations transformed by the Gospel as hundreds of groups are intentionally planted to carry out their mission where they live, work, and play.

During the next three years our goal is to...

- Infuse 20% of all the dollars received during the NEXT campaign to generously fund missional activities through individuals and groups.
 - Pay off our debt, enabling us to pour an additional \$250,000 each year into missional opportunities within our community, city, and ultimately, the world through Life Groups living on mission together.
 - Double the number of Life Groups planted to carry out their God-given mission.
 - Equip 100% of our groups to discover and engage in their mission.
-



Take My NEXT Step

If we are to impact the next generation and enter into the next phase, God's people must be willing to ask, "What's my next step?" We are asking everyone who is part of our Faith family to...

Commit to be in a Life Group on mission. Take *The Rooted Experience* to begin your journey.

Make an Initial One-time NEXT Offering and a three-year financial pledge above your regular tithes and offerings to Faith.

Join us on this journey of growing in our generosity by taking your next step as a generous disciple.

What Is My Part?

Pause to Pray

Set aside time to connect with the Holy Spirit through Scripture and prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to align your heart with His and give you direction concerning His will for you and/or your family. Pray specifically, “Lord, show me how I can leverage my time, talents, testimony, and treasure to impact the world with the extraordinary life found in Jesus.”

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight. (Proverbs 3:5-6 NIV)

Consider Your Standard of Living and Giving

As individuals and/or families, consider all that God has provided. How has He blessed you? Then ask, “What is He calling me to sacrifice in order to join in what He is going to do next in and through Faith?” We are praying that every person at Faith will consider their level of personal sacrifice (over and above regular financial giving) in order to join in His next steps at Faith. Randy Alcorn says in his book, *The Treasure Principle*, “God prospers me not to raise my standard of living but to raise my standard of giving.” Look at one household’s giving example on page 16.

Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others. By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life. (1 Timothy 6:18-19 NLT)



Take Action

We can sit, think, and pray all day, but eventually we must take action! Trust that God will keep His promise to provide. Remember that you are not giving to a church but through a church to join in transforming generations with the Gospel. Here are some ways you can live this out in the NEXT campaign:

1. **Sacrificially make an Initial One-time NEXT Offering.**
2. **Make a 36-month commitment to the NEXT campaign (November 2017 - October 2020).**
3. **Pray for God’s favor as we step out in faith to impact generations with the Gospel.**

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. (2 Corinthians 9:7-8 ESV)



**\$1.5
MILLION**

Allows us to
pay off our debt
and infuse 20%
into groups.


NEXT Giving Goals

Gift Dollar Ranges	# Of Gifts	Pledges
\$100,000 - 249,999	1	\$100,000
\$75,000 - 99,999	1	\$75,000
\$50,000 - 74,999	2	\$100,000
\$40,000 - 49,999	2	\$80,000
\$30,000 - 39,999	5	\$150,000
\$20,000 - 29,999	8	\$160,000
\$10,000 - 19,999	40	\$400,000
\$5,000 - 9,999	64	\$320,000
\$1,000 - 4,999	98	\$98,000
\$500 - 999	28	\$14,000
\$1 - 499	30	\$3,000
Total Individual Gifts	279	\$1,500,000

Each of us can trust God to do far more than we could ever do without Him.
Pray and ask God to show you what is possible with His help over the next three
years to impact future generations.

Creative Giving One Household's Example

Activity	Weekly	Yearly	3 Years
Eliminate 1 meal out per week	\$35	\$1,820	\$5,460
Eliminate 1 Starbucks per week	\$4	\$208	\$624
Eliminate 1 rented movie per week	\$6	\$312	\$936
Reduce entertainment/shopping		\$500	\$1,500
Reduce Christmas budget		\$250	\$750
Reduce vacation budget		\$300	\$900
Garage sale income		\$200	\$600
Everyone's spare change each day	\$5	\$260	\$780
50 stock shares			\$5,000
Increase cash giving	\$50	\$2,600	\$7,800
Three Year Total			\$24,350

An aerial photograph of a church complex. The central feature is a large, multi-winged building with a gabled roof. To the left and in front of the building are several large parking lots filled with cars. The surrounding area includes some trees and a road on the right side. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image, partially covering the parking lot and some trees.

*To see generations
transformed by the Gospel
as groups are intentionally
planted to carry out their
mission where they live,
work, and play.*



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