



Play a Part

A guide for playing a part in Growing In Faith



Start Here

On February 26th, 2006, during the Sunday service, we challenged each member to make a financial commitment to the future of our church. Specifically, we asked each person to bring two things to church that day:

- 1) A one time gift - We asked our members to bring the largest one time gift possible, via check or cash, to give during a special offering at the Sunday service. As a church, we raised \$533,965 on that day! This money has since been used for the down payment on our new property and for the beginning stages of the building process.
- 2) A commitment card - In addition to the one time gift, we also asked members to make a commitment to give "over and above" their regular giving for the next three years, ending in February, 2009. Our members committed to give more than \$644,000 over this three-year period toward the building of our new church facility! Our members continue to give faithfully every week toward our new church home.

This is where you've come in - we hope you will join us in this ongoing project we call "Growing In Faith!"

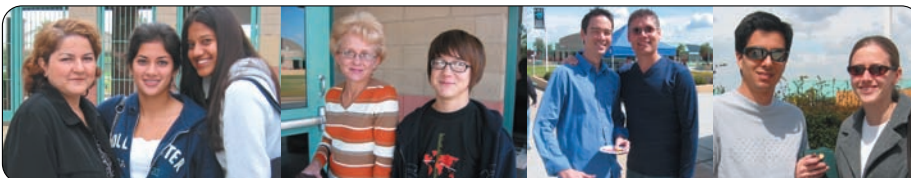
3 Steps for Getting Involved

The purpose of this guide is to prepare you to play a part in this all-church step of faith. It contains "nuts and bolts" information about making a commitment to Growing In Faith. To keep it simple, we organized it around three simple steps:

1 Pray about your part

2 Plan your gift

3 Prepare your commitment



see inside for more on these three steps



1 Pray About Your Part

*Pray continually: give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.
1 Thessalonians 5:17-18*

Success

The success of Growing In Faith will be based on our willingness to listen to God and do what He says. That's why the starting point for each member is to go to God in prayer and ask "What would you like to give through me?" In that way, your giving decision will become an act of worship.

Perspective

There are two basic approaches to giving:

1. I can give based on *REASON*. Reason asks, "What can I afford?" This means, I look at what I have, figure out what I can reasonably afford and commit that amount. It takes little faith to give by reason.
2. I can give based on *REVELATION*. Giving by revelation doesn't start by looking at my bills. It starts by looking to my God. This means I determine my gift by praying, "Lord, what do you want to give through me?" This requires faith. When you make giving a matter of prayer, your decision becomes an act of worship.

The difference: The difference between giving by reason and giving by revelation is the starting point. Instead of sitting down and thinking, what can I reasonably give, go to God and say, "Lord, everything I have belongs to you. How large of a gift do you want to give through me?" The Bible says to seek first the kingdom of God. Make prayer the starting point for your gift.

3 Prayers for Seeking God

Prayer #1 - God, I'm willing to give sacrificially. Show me the amount.

How do you determine sacrificial giving? You don't – God does. It's different for everyone. This means we need to go to God and ask, "What do you want to give through me?" Ask God to impress upon you an amount to give. If you're married, this should be a family decision.

Prayer #2 – God, I'm willing to give generously. Show me how.

God may challenge you with a faith-stretching goal. That's where faith kicks in. Just asking God for the amount can leave you feeling overwhelmed. So, we need to pray a second prayer, "God if this is from you, I know that there will be a way. I'm willing to give, please show me how."

Prayer #3 - God, I'm willing to give obediently. Give me the faith to follow through.

There is a high probability that you'll make a decision in faith, and then your car will break down or some other financial hardship will cause you to reconsider your commitment. You can count on your faith being tested during this period. If God has in fact shown you an amount to give, stand firm in your faith. Ask God to give you the faith to follow through.



Two questions to consider in sacrificial giving

Will giving this amount result in a change of life-style?
"I will not sacrifice to the Lord my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing." (2 Samuel 24:24)

Is the amount I have in mind faith-stretching? Will God have to come through for me to follow through on this gift?

2 Plan Your Gift



Creativity

Most of us don't have large amounts of money just sitting around. That means, if we're going to give generously, we're going to have to give creatively. At first thought, most people do not think they have much cash. But with a little creativity, many of us can give more than we imagine.

Examples



Quenching that Frappuccino craving every day can sure add up. What if you gave up just two per week? What a difference 3 years makes!

$$\text{X } 156 \text{ weeks} = \$ 629.00$$



Love movies? Staying home and renting a DVD could help you give a gift of over 1400.00. (the pop corn is cheaper too!)

$$\text{X } 36 \text{ months} = \$ 1400.00$$



If you were to sacrifice one McMeal per week, that could become a gift of over \$685.00 over 3 years. (You might even lose a few unwanted pounds)

$$\text{X } 156 \text{ weeks} = \$ 685.00$$



Try taking the long way to work once a week and listening to that book on tape or leadership cd you haven't had time for.

$$\text{X } 156 \text{ weeks} = \$ 1092.00$$

Ideas

Here are some specific ideas that our members came up with for giving.



- 1) Dedicate all or part of an upcoming raise to the Lord.
- 2) Switch from premium cable (HBO, etc.) to basic service.
- 3) Wash your car by hand instead of taking it through the car wash.
- 4) Bring lunch instead of buying lunch one day a week.
- 5) Cancel subscriptions to magazines you don't really read.
- 6) If you're a big reader, borrow instead of buying books.
- 7) Begin recycling.
- 8) Hold a garage sale. One study showed that the average person has at least \$500 worth of stuff in their garage.
- 9) Sell a portion of a coin collection, jewelry, or some other collectible.
- 10) Postpone a major purchase for a few more months in order to give more.
- 11) Give stock, bonds, or other investment instruments.
- 12) Sell unused cars, RV's, or other major items.
- 13) Take a second, part-time job for one month.

3 Prepare Your Gift

Once you have decided to get involved with Growing In Faith, there are a handful of specific steps you'll need to take to prepare your commitment. Below are the details for giving to Growing In Faith.

Fill out the commitment card

Here is where to record any one-time special gift. This is the gift that is also included in the envelope.

Please let us know if you plan to make your ongoing commitment weekly, biweekly, or monthly.

One member asked us about making a gift from an expected income tax return in April. If you are making any secondary gifts, this is the place to let us know.

growing in faith
commitment card

Name _____ Date _____
Address _____ State _____ Zip _____
City _____ Phone _____

My One-Time Gift

I plan to give \$ _____

Weekly
 Bi-weekly
 Monthly

For a period of _____
Between now and February, 2009

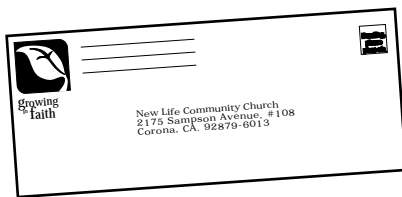
Weeks
 Months
 Years

Other Gift Comments Please describe _____

Be sure to include your name, address, phone number and the date you filled out your commitment card.

Also, use this section to make any special notes that will help us understand your unique commitment. For example, a church member may have proceeds from the sale of a rental home next year to give. This is the place you would let us know of any special circumstances

Use the Special Envelope



Place any one-time gift, and/or ongoing gift and commitment card in the Growing In Faith envelope. Using this envelope will help us stay organized and ensure that your gift is correctly recorded. These envelopes can be found on the lobby tables on Sunday, and should be used for making regular gifts toward Growing In Faith, especially if giving cash. Be sure to also record any Growing In Faith giving on the memo area of your check to ensure accurate recording.

Bring your gift to church

You can include your special gift with the regular offering that is collected on Sunday morning. Just put it in the offering bag as it's passed by - and we'll do the rest!

You can also mail your gift to the church office. Our mailing address is:
New Life Community Church
2175 Sampson Ave., #108
Corona, CA 92879

Thank you for supporting Growing In Faith!

If we can help you with any other information, please give us a call at 951.736.5433 or email us at growinginfaith@newlifecommunitychurch.net.

