

**LIKE
NEVER
BEFORE**



LET GOD ARISE

JOHN 14:12

The truth is, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father.

EPHESIANS 3:20-21

Now glory be to God! By his mighty power at work within us, he is able to accomplish infinitely more than we would ever dare to ask or hope. May he be given glory in the church and in Christ Jesus forever and ever through endless ages. Amen.

JOSHUA 10:14

Never before or since has there been a day like that one, when the LORD answered such a request from a human being.



BRINGING LIKE JESUS TO PEOPLE NEVER PEOPLE TO JESUS BEFORE

We believe that God has placed WACC in this region, in this season, to **share the gospel** like never before. We believe God wants to use WACC to **disciple the next generation** like never before. We believe God has resourced WACC to **love the Whittier area and the world** like never before. God is able to accomplish infinitely more than we would ever dare to ask or hope. The question we must wrestle with is, "Will we join Him?"

God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things, when they make themselves available to him. This means that if God is going to change lives like never before, it will require something of each of us. We must choose to surrender, listen, obey, sacrifice, worship, and give like never before.

As we do this, I believe we are going to see an outpouring of incredible blessing on our community and world. I believe the doors of our church will be opened wider so thousands more can come and hear the message of Jesus in a **new worship center and chapel**. I believe the next generation will find a place where they can discover what it means to grow in grace in a **renovated children's building**. And I believe the most vulnerable families in Whittier and in Malawi will experience **incredible compassion** as we pour out our generosity toward them.

On Sunday, November 5th, we begin a journey called *Like Never Before*. Please join me in praying like never before for what God wants to do in and through you.

God bless you,



John Riley



WELCOME
OTHERS

LIKE
NEVER
BEFORE



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OUR HISTORY OF GROWTH AND EXPANSION

SUNDAY, AUGUST, 1971

Whittier Area Baptist Fellowship (WABF) began in the auditorium of McNally Junior High with 384 people. After a few months, the church moved to East Whittier United Methodist Church on Cole Road, where it soon expanded to two services.

1975-76

Groundbreaking for the Colima and Mar Vista location for the new sanctuary took place in 1975. The first service at this location took place in 1976. The church grew from 400 to 1600.

1981

Building B was built on campus providing much needed space for children's ministry and small group communities.

1983

The Gymnasium was completed and opened to create children's and youth outreach, and to be a family center for the community.

1997

The name of WABF was changed to Whittier Area Community Church (WACC) to communicate that the church existed to bless the community around it.

2005

Serve Weekend was launched and WACC devoted itself in a fresh way to love and serve the needs of its community.

2006

WACC came together to generously raise \$560k to help build the Tiyamike (translated "We praise God") Children's Ward Children's Clinic in Lilongwe, Malawi.



2010

The new parking lot was completed, tripling the amount of parking spaces to welcome many more on the campus. The infrastructure for a new worship center was installed. A new children's playground was finished to invest in kids and families.

2012

Live, online streaming services began at wacc.net allowing those unable to be on the WACC campus physically to join in the worship experience.

2014

The patio worship venue was established to increase space for guests to worship on Sundays.

2015

WACC's mortgage debt was paid off in full thanks to some courageous generosity.

2016

WACC launched the Café Service as an additional worship space for increased seating capacity. Guest Central was created to help engage with guests more personally. Christmas record attendance of 4839.

2017

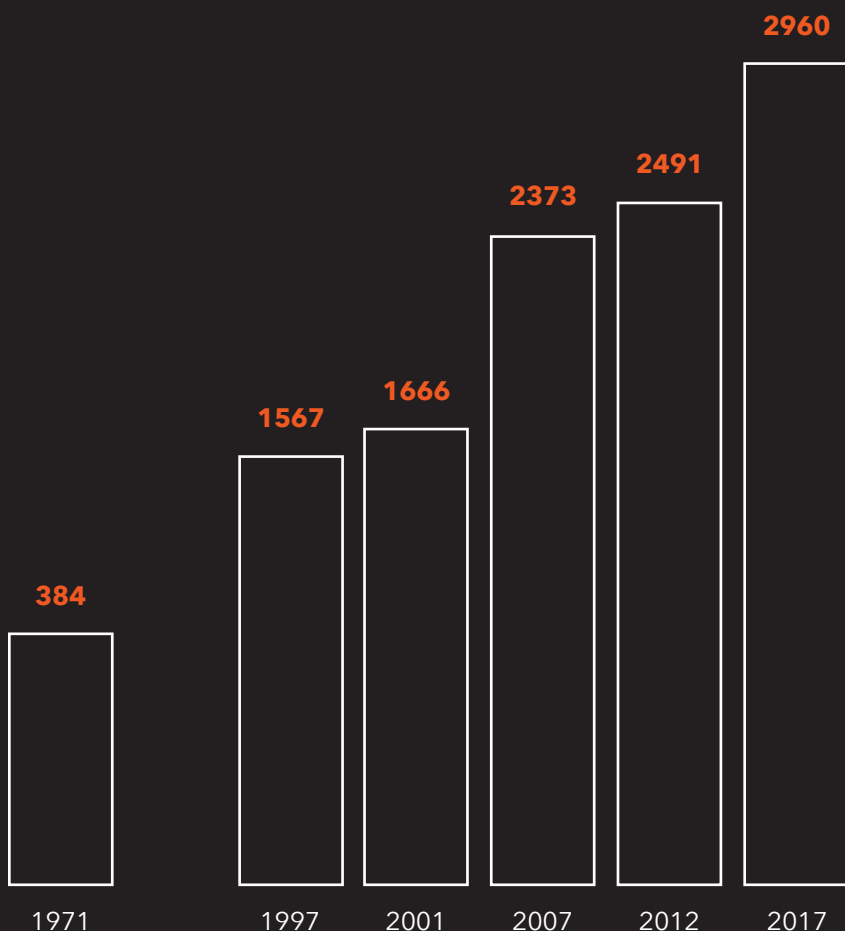
The second Café Service was launched in the Gymnasium to increase worship space for guests. Easter record attendance of 7505.

GROWTH IN THE LAST 46 YEARS

LIKE NEVER BEFORE

2016 CHRISTMAS | **RECORD ATTENDANCE** | 4839

2017 EASTER | **RECORD ATTENDANCE** | 7505





GROWING DISCIPLES **LIKE NEVER BEFORE**

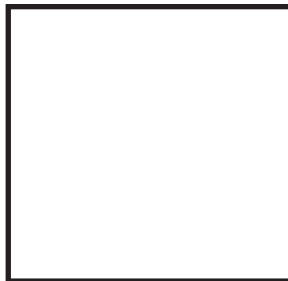
VISION

We exist to bring Jesus to people and people to Jesus.

MISSION

Our mission is to create communities
where every person is invited to
GATHER in worship,
GROW in a small group,
and to **GO** serve our world.





REACH THE **LIKE**
NEXT **NEVER**
GENERATION **BEFORE**



CORE VALUES

STAKE EVERYTHING ON GRACE ALONE

Grace is about what Jesus has already done, not about what we do. Since grace is unmerited, unlimited, and extended to all, we are a church where everyone is welcome, nobody is perfect, and anything is possible.

Ephesians 2:8-9 | 2 Corinthians 5:21 | John 8:1-11 | Titus 2:5

CULTIVATE LIVES DEFINED BY COURAGEOUS GENEROSITY

All we have comes from our generous God so we will live open-handedly with our time, gifts, and resources toward the work of God in our community and across our world. When we give what only we can give, God does what only he can do.

Psalms 24:1 | 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 | Matthew 6:21 | Acts 20:35

FOUND PEOPLE FIND PEOPLE

Christ's love compels us to set aside personal preferences so that others can come to know and love Jesus. Jesus said, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men." Since we are followers, we will share the good news and "fish." As we do this, we will be culturally relevant and doctrinally pure.

Matthew 28:19-20 | Luke 19:10 | Luke 15:1-32 | 1 Corinthians 9:19-23



INSPIRE THE NEXT GENERATION NOW

It is the responsibility of every generation to reach the next generation. We are a church that intentionally passes our faith along to the next generation, so we will approach our ministries and ministry environments with this in mind. We will open up a chair for them as was done for us.

Deuteronomy 6:5-9 | Psalm 71:17-18 | Psalm 145:4-7

COLLABORATE FOR GREATER KINGDOM IMPACT

Collaboration with the larger Church brings God's Kingdom in a larger way. WACC is just one outpost in a greater movement, so intentional partnerships with other churches and nonprofits can enhance God's work in our community and our world. The name of Jesus comes before the name of WACC.

Matthew 6:33 | Psalm 133:1 | Philippians 2:9-11

GLORIFY GOD BY GIVING OUR BEST

God gave his best for us, and he deserves ours. From the smallest task to the largest project, we seek to align our unique abilities and our best efforts to serve him wholeheartedly. There is no greater gift than to know Jesus, so we choose to give Him our full devotion. All God wants is all we've got.

Colossians 3:23-24 | Colossians 3:17 | Malachi 1:6-14



TRUSTING GOD

LIKE NEVER BEFORE



WHAT'S OUR GOAL?

Our ultimate goal is to bring Jesus to people and people to Jesus. It has been the heart of our church for the past 46 years. Our goal now is to invest in ways to do this at an even larger scale.

There are over half a million people within ten minutes of WACC, and God loves each of them. We are called to bring them to Jesus so that families grow in faith, marriages are restored, kids discover Jesus, people recover from brokenness, and each one discovers God's purpose for their lives.

HOW WILL WE DO THIS?

The next phase of our campus development involves two important areas. The first is to complete construction of the **new Worship Center and Chapel**, which will double the size of our current worship space to 1800+. This will allow more people to encounter God's grace and enable us to use our current worship center as a Community Center for special gatherings, youth events, and community use by outside groups.

Additionally, we will **renovate Building B classroom space** to expand ministry to children which will more than double the space for WACC Kids.

WHY NOW?

Our founders who brought WACC to its current location always saw a built out campus as a strategic way for God to reach Whittier and surrounding communities. That original vision still guides us today. To that end, we have been adding space now for almost 20 years by increasing parking infrastructure and expanding services in creative ways. In spite of this, our limited space continues to strain our ability to reach, disciple, and equip more people in our community. God has certainly blessed us with this incredible property, and we believe this next step further maximizes the space it provides for greater impact. We also thank God we are in a financially stable place without any debt.

ISN'T THE CHURCH ALREADY BIG ENOUGH?

When Whittier Area Community Church first began, the heart of its founders was never to pursue a large crowd or high attendance. But the church has continued to grow throughout the decades because people continue to come to experience the love of Jesus. Each person still to come needs a seat, a parking space, and for many, an environment where their child's faith can be fostered.

As we remain faithful to our mission, people will continue inviting their friends, family members and coworkers. Growth is simply a by-product. As we continue to reach attendance capacity during the prime-time when people choose to attend services, we are hindered to accomplish our mission to bring more people to Jesus.

WHEN WILL WE BE FINISHED WITH THESE PROJECTS?

If all fundraising and construction go according to plan, we will break ground for the new worship center, chapel, and renovate children's space in late summer, early fall 2018 with the goal to complete all construction by the end of 2019.

HOW MUCH WILL ALL OF THIS COST?

Our intention in the next several years is to save and raise around \$17 million in order to complete our campus and become debt free. Yes, that is ambitious, but we believe God is calling us to make this bold step forward, and for the WACC family to lean into extravagant generosity like never before. Ideally we want to see this happen within the next 3 years. If our three year journey does not reach the \$17 million mark, we will consider short-term, responsible debt, phasing, and target another generosity journey to eliminate any debt as soon as possible.

WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?


- **Pray** for what God would want to do in and through you. Let Him speak to your heart and simply respond to His leading. Pray each day using our 30 day Prayer Guide (next page).
- On Sunday, October 22, we will provide a 5-week **"Journey Guide"** which will include a project overview, a daily devotional, prayer points, and a commitment guide. Take the time to go through the materials to prepare to surrender and hear from God.
- From early November to December 3, **consider your priorities and spending**, to determine how much could be given above your normal general giving that would reflect true sacrifice. We are not believing for equal gifts, but equal sacrifice as God directs.

Commitment Sunday is December 3. If every single one of us surrenders to God and gives what only we can give, we believe that God will do what only he can do. Big, small and all, we believe God will use whatever we bring him, and he will multiply it to bring the gospel of Jesus to our community and world **LIKE NEVER BEFORE!**



30 DAY PRAYER GUIDE

1. Thank God for his unfailing love.
2. Pray for God to teach you how to worship him in your everyday life, as you put him first.
3. Pray for God to teach you to see how he sees, and to live in line with his values.
4. Pray for wisdom and strength for our pastors and staff as they lead us on this journey of growth.
5. Pray for unity in the church.
6. Pray for God to bless the children who come to WACC like never before.
7. Thank God for his grace and forgiveness.
8. Pray for our children and youth ministries volunteers as they pour into the next generation.
9. Pray to God for stillness and sensitivity to His Spirit.
10. Pray for God to help you better understand the depth of his love for you.
11. Pray for God's comfort for those broken and hurting in our community.
12. Thank God for his guidance and wisdom in your life.
13. Pray that WACC will unite in faith, so that His work will be done.
14. Pray that God shows you where He wants you to serve.
15. Pray for God's love and generosity to encourage the church.
16. Thank God for the extravagant gift of his Son for us.

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17. Pray for our global partners all over the world, for protection and fruitful ministry.
 18. Pray for an increased openness to the gospel in Whittier and the surrounding region.
 19. Pray for wisdom and discernment for the Church Board.
 20. Pray for increased life change in the small group connections throughout our church.
 21. Pray for insight into God's will and purpose for you in the Like Never Before journey.
 22. Pray for blessing and healing for the families in our community.
 23. Pray for increased faith and immovable obedience to God's leading in your life.
 24. Pray for God to open our hearts to the full measure of His love.
 25. Pray for workers to step forward to the harvest work God has in our church and city.
 26. Pray for God to fill you fresh and anew with his Holy Spirit.
 27. Pray for people to come to know Jesus at WACC like never before.
 28. Pray and ask God to give us hearts to obey him in all areas of our lives.
 29. Thank God for the many blessings he has given to WACC.
 30. Pray that God will move in your life in the coming season like never before.











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