

COMMITMENT GUIDE

A young woman with brown hair and braces is smiling broadly at the camera. She is wearing a dark blue, sleeveless top with small white dots. She is holding a dark blue rectangular sign in front of her chest with both hands. The sign has the text 'LIKE NEVER BEFORE' printed on it in a bold, sans-serif font. 'LIKE' is in white, and 'NEVER BEFORE' is in a light pink color. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

**LIKE
NEVER
BEFORE**

COMMIT **LIKE NEVER BEFORE**

Beyond praying, we're asking you to consider what role God would have you play in giving toward **Like Never Before**. Can you imagine what it will be like to walk into the new Worship Center and a newly renovated Kids' Ministry building up and running in 2020, realizing that God has enabled you to give more than you ever dreamed possible over three years... that your heart expanded as you became more open-handed and generous... and most of all, that you helped open the door for thousands of people to discover a relationship with Jesus?

Over the past 46 years, Whittier Area Community Church has been marked by generous people who were willing to sacrifice their resources so that others could discover the love of God, just like they have. We know God hasn't given everyone the ability to give the same dollar amount, but he does call us to bring what we have. Mix it with faith, and be part of something bigger than yourself. Everyone can participate in some way!

Many times in life, some sort of sacrifice is required to get to where you want to be. For us to establish a larger worship center and continue to make an impact around the world, it is going to take some sacrifice. It's going to take some shifting in priorities, in spending and in giving. If we want to reach those around us, we need to make an opportunity for them to be reached. We need to open our doors and build out. We need to create an experience that will change their lives. And we can do this, but not without you!

David's Story

With a sense of connection to WACC as their home church, Dave and his wife, Cheryl, continued their faithful attendance. Then David's parents passed away. Through the pain of this experience, David discovered a new side to life at WACC. Dave's journey led him to experience the deep love and caring expressed by church friends that helped him get by during this difficult time of grieving. The healing empowered through the help and support of the WACC community made a transformational difference. As the days went on, Dave came to realize God made him for more, and he could be that support for others along the way.

Eventually, Dave professed his growing faith publicly through baptism. He recognized God's call to be a light for others. He now provides a loving presence to homebound seniors in our midst, serving to bring hope, encouragement, and grace in Jesus. His life has changed. A painful situation brought new love and support to others in need of God's presence. Through the personal love of Jesus and the community of WACC, Dave has found strength and courage to serve with purpose in Christ, impacting others with the light of the Lord.

Marissa's Story

Wrestling with self-doubt, a sense of inadequacy, and the feeling of too many responsibilities in life, Marissa was stuck. Operating on her own wasn't working. She sensed God's continued presence in her life, nudging her to take a step, to get involved in serving others at WACC, but she continued to ignore it. Never the less, the sense that God was calling her to listen closely for his direction and to trust him in obedience stayed with her. The words change and transformation connected for her over time. Eventually, Marissa chose to lean in and follow God in a new direction. She began to volunteer at WACC, learning to serve others.

Four years later, her life is changed. Volunteering transformed her life in ways she hadn't expected. She feels included and learned who she is in Christ. Awakening to the realization that God wants each person to use their gifts to bless others, she accepted that in Christ, she is loved, despite her flaws and imperfections. Life is different for Marissa as a result of getting involved at WACC. Serving has become an important part of Marissa's life, moving her to share the love of Jesus and her story of transformation with others. She is thankful to God for his patience, as he has changed her heart forever and given her a purpose in bringing Jesus to people and people to Jesus.

WHERE TO START?

The best place to begin is by talking with God about what's on your heart and mind, specifically in relation to this giving commitment. Be honest and open about it. Go through the 30-DAY DEVOTIONAL SECTION and get God's perspective.

Even in the nuts and bolts of sorting out financial questions, this is a spiritual journey. It's not about guilt or obligation. Remember, the idea isn't to figure out a mathematical formula, it's about giving Jesus access to your heart and letting him lead you in the financial decisions.

GOD'S GUIDE FOR GIVING

The Bible has a lot to say about giving, and the promises attached to it. Giving is a responsibility and a privilege. With that in mind, here are four biblical principles on giving from 1 Corinthians 16:1-2.

FIRST, EVERY BELIEVER IN EVERY CHURCH SHOULD GIVE

Giving is a universal practice. The apostle Paul told the Corinthian believers, "Follow the same procedure I gave to the churches in Galatia". In other words, Paul was saying, "They did it in Galatia—you need to do it in Corinth. They did it in Macedonia, and we need to do it here. Every church should do this." It was not just something the Corinthians were asked to do; it is asked of every believer. No one is exempt from giving.





SECOND, WE LEARN THAT GIVING IS TO BE DONE CONSISTENTLY AND REGULARLY

“On every Lord’s Day,” Paul says, “put aside some amount of money in relation to what you have earned”. The idea is to consistently take a percentage of your income and set it aside for the work of God. This is what the Scripture tells us we ought to do. And then, as you do this, you are able to invest it in God’s kingdom.

THIRD, GIVING IS A PERSONAL ACT

Paul says, “each of you should put aside some amount of money”. Paul’s point is that every one of us should set aside an amount of money to give. Even children can be taught this. Giving to God’s work is a personal act for every single follower of Jesus.

FOURTH, WE SHOULD PREPARE OURSELVES TO INVEST IN THE WORK OF GOD

The apostle Paul told the believers “put aside some amount of money in relation to what you have earned and save it for this offering”. Paul is saying to prayerfully consider how much to give. Do it in advance. It should never be a last-minute or flippant practice. Paul also says, “in relation to what you have earned.” In other words, not all of our gifts will be equal, but our sacrifice should be. Our giving should be in proportion to what we earn. Giving is an opportunity to be an obedient Christian. Take it seriously, but do it cheerfully.

Mark your calendar for **December 3**. It’s our Commitment Sunday where we’ll be turning in our **Like Never Before** commitments together as a church. The real journey will begin from there as we faithfully bring our gifts over the next three years.

DISCOVER WACC'S GOD-GIVEN PURPOSE AND YOUR GOD-GIVEN CALLING

DELIBERATE - As you talk with God

First, we ask that you go to God and ask that His will be done in your life. It's important that you are striving to follow the direction He has for you and that you find the doors He wants you to walk through.

DEFINE - What sacrifice looks like for you

What changes can you make in your life that will better enable you to invest in what you believe in?

How can you give in ways that will make a difference in you?

DETERMINE - A starting point

Like Never Before is based on "Not equal gifts, but equal sacrifice." In other words, not all of our gifts will be of the same amount, but every one of us can meaningfully invest in proportion to the resources God has given us to work with. Your three-year commitment is to be a demonstration of the definition of sacrifice that God has revealed to you.

DECIDE - Create a personal giving plan

Prayerfully come up with a three-year plan of giving that goes above and beyond your regular tithe. Remember, we are not just constructing buildings; we are investing in bringing the gospel of Jesus Christ to this and future generations.

WANT TO BE INVOLVED, BUT NOT SURE HOW?

If you're excited about getting involved, but you're not sure where to start, let us help you out! The truth is, there are several creative ways to contribute to our **Like Never Before** campaign.

DECREASE

Is there something in your daily life that you can take advantage of less frequently? By decreasing a weekly expense, regardless of what it may be, you can save a significant amount of money to contribute to **Like Never Before**.

DELAY

Are there any plans that you might be making that involve a financial commitment? If so, prayerfully consider delaying these plans and use that extra income to contribute.

DO MORE

Consider some creative ways you can do more. Perhaps it's been awhile since you've gotten another quote on an existing service. Maybe you can do some extra comparison or bargain shopping.

DONATE

Another way you can contribute to Like Never Before is by liquidating existing assets. Share the proceeds with the church.

WHAT CAN I AFFORD?

Your income

Income 1 _____

Income 2 _____

What portion of your income could you give to **Like Never Before** over the next three years?

Current surplus (income in excess of spending) \$ _____

Year 2 \$ _____

Year 3 \$ _____

WHAT CAN I SACRIFICE?

Consider some lifestyle changes, or putting some planned expenses on hold (see ideas on the previous page). The sacrifice we are asking you to make in this movement might be hard. However, not only will you receive blessing for those sacrifices in eternity, but also when you see your time, talent and resources used to affect life change right here.

WHAT IS MY STEP OF FAITH?

How is Jesus calling you into action? What's the step that helps you to trust God in a new way? Where is he asking you to trust him without a safety net so that you can experience His ability to "catch you" in a way that will radically transform your heart and faith?

"Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about the things we cannot see." Hebrews 11:1

HOW DO I GET TO MY 3-YEAR TOTAL?

MONTHLY	YEARLY	3-YEAR TOTAL
\$27,778	\$333,333	\$1,000,000
13,889	166,667	500,000
6,944	83,333	250,000
2,778	33,333	100,000
2,083	25,000	75,000
1,389	16,667	50,000
833	10,000	30,000
417	5,000	15,000
278	3,333	10,000
208	2,500	7,500
167	2,000	6,000
125	1,500	4,500
83	1,000	3,000
42	500	1,500
25	300	900 or less

WHAT WILL IT TAKE FOR WACC TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN RAISING \$17 MILLION?

There is one thing for certain. We cannot take the total that is needed and divide it by the number of families in the church and come up with an “average” gift for every family to give! That will not work! Studying other campaigns (that have already been completed) in other churches, a very typical distribution of gifts can be found. Using that typical distribution and applying it to our church we find a “model” distribution of gifts that it will take for us to be successful. This also underscores the biblical principle of proportionality. Each of us is “called” to give according to how we’ve been blessed with financial resources.

This “tool” also underscores another biblical principle of stewardship, the principle that decisions about giving should be made in prayer. Look at the chart that follows and pray the Stewardship Prayer, “Lord, what do You want to do through me? Then ask the Lord, “Where do You see me (or us) on this chart? (At what “level” of giving?). God will guide you. Just seek and ask him!

GIVING OVER THREE YEARS

\$17,000,000

“NOT EQUAL GIFTS BUT EQUAL SACRIFICE”

# of Gifts at Level	Gifts Level	Total at Level	Cumulative Total
1	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
1	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$3,000,000
2	\$ 500,000	\$1,000,000	\$4,000,000
4	\$ 250,000	\$1,000,000	\$5,000,000
6	\$ 100,000	\$ 600,000	\$5,600,000
14	Potential Commitments=\$5,600,000 or 33.3% of goal		

# of Gifts at Level	Gifts Level	Total at Level	Cumulative Total
20	\$ 75,000	\$1,500,000	\$7,100,000
25	\$ 60,000	\$1,500,000	\$8,600,000
24	\$ 50,000	\$1,200,000	\$9,800,000
50	\$ 30,000	\$1,500,000	\$11,300,000
119	Potential Commitments=\$5,700,000 or 33% of goal		
133	Potential Commitments=\$11,300,000 or 66% of goal		

# of Gifts at Level	Gifts Level	Total at Level	Cumulative Total
100	\$ 15,000	\$1,500,000	\$12,800,000
150	\$ 10,000	\$1,500,000	\$14,300,000
225	\$ 6,000	\$1,350,000	\$15,650,000
360	\$ 3,000	\$1,080,000	\$16,730,000
300	\$ 900	\$ 270,000	\$17,000,000

Remaining Potential Commitments=\$5,700,000 or 33% of goal

Total Potential Commitments=\$17,000,000 or 100% of goal

REMEMBER THE GOD FACTOR

Don't put yourself in a box! As we press into the future of Whittier Area Community Church, what are your dreams? What if God chooses to bless your future too? We think he will. So, don't forget the "God factor" that could adjust your commitment because of a new job, raise, promotion, etc. God has shown how he can take a commitment made in faith that was a real stretch for someone, and bring in the resources to meet it.

If you need assistance to dig deeper and figure these things out, please contact the church office and we can put you in touch with one of our financial advisors to help.

NUTS AND BOLTS: HOW TO GIVE

Make a Commitment

December 3 is designated as Commitment Sunday, when we will ask the congregation to turn in commitment cards that represent their potential donations. This is not a binding contract, but a declaration of your intentions, which will help us plan and secure funding. You will also be able to fill this form out online beginning December 3 at our website LikeNeverBefore.wacc.net.

Bring a check or cash

December 17 is Celebration Sunday when the total raised will be announced. We are accepting contributions to the **Like Never Before** campaign. Clearly designate on your check's memo line or envelope that the contribution (or a portion of the contribution) should be attributed to **Like Never Before**.

Give Online

Contributions may be made through the WACC website (wacc.net) and **Like Never Before** website (LikeNeverBefore.wacc.net) using a credit/debit card or an eCheck automatic withdrawal. From the main page, choose 'Give' from the menu on the left. Then, at the bottom of the page, select to either 'Give Online' to set-up an account, or choose to 'Register'. Complete the form to set-up a one-time or scheduled recurring gift. Choose **Like Never Before** for gifts to the campaign. **Like Never Before** fund will be available online for scheduled gifts beginning December 4.

SecureGive App

Give quick, straightforward one-time and repeating offerings. No login or account needed to make a one-time gift. Log in or create an account to set up recurring giving or to use your saved billing and contact info. Email your questions to likeneverbefore@wacc.net

Text To Give

TEXT: LNB plus the amount to 74483

Example: LNB 25

Direct Mail

If you choose to mail your gifts to WACC, please address the envelope as follows:

Whittier Area Community Church

Attn: Finance Department

8100 Colima Road

Whittier, CA 90605

Assets

Like Never Before is happy to consider the acceptance of appreciated assets. Generally we accept most assets, though we retain right to decline based upon our ability to liquidate the asset. Please contact the Finance Office if you would like to discuss the donation of assets.

STEPS IN THE JOURNEY

Throughout the Commitment Guide section, we have provided you with a variety of ways to pray through your commitment. To that end, here is a seven-step process that others have found helpful.

STEP ONE: PRAY

Yes, it is true, you will have to do more than pray, but do not do anything until you pray! Begin by using the following as a guide:

Adoration

Celebrate how great God is.

Confession

Admit areas in your life that may be outside of God's will for you or areas that may not be pleasing to God. You can even confess your hesitation to engage in this process.

Thanksgiving

Think about the many aspects of your life for which you can be grateful, i.e. a car to drive, a place to live, food to eat, clothes to wear, job that provides an income, loved ones, etc.

Surrender

Relinquish all that you have. This may be the hardest part of this prayer progression. The physical action of turning your open palms upward may help you visualize your willingness to let go of what God has given to you.

"Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen." Ephesians 3:20-21.

STEP TWO: EVALUATE YOUR INCOME

It's important to have a realistic starting point, so start with what is known, your income.

Income #1: \$ _____

Income #2 \$ _____

Year 1 potential raise/bonus/commission \$ _____

Year 2 potential raise/bonus/commission \$ _____

Year 3 potential raise/bonus/commission \$ _____

3-yr sub-total \$ _____

For most of us, income alone will not take us where we want to go toward making a legacy-type commitment to our church.

STEP THREE: LIFESTYLE OR ALTERED SPENDING CHANGES

Some ideas to get you thinking:

Sell car & purchase a used car with no payments	_____
Eat out less often	_____
Cut back on subscriptions	_____
Regulate the amount and number of gifts given	_____
Scale back cell phone & internet usage fees	_____
Modify type and number of vacations	_____
Adjust cable TV/direct TV coverage, packages downward	_____
Trim down entertainment, watch a video, instead of first-run movie	_____
Reduce the number of coffee runs	_____
Decrease new clothing purchases	_____
Pay off a bill and continue the payment to Like Never Before	_____
Do your own housekeeping, lawn care	_____
Other	_____
Sub-total	\$ _____

It's important in this journey to include your spouse in the conversation if married, or the entire family if you have children. It's an important step in the development of your family. Most of us think that our kids will not be willing to sacrifice, but we've seen that most kids are more comfortable than we are as adults with the process, and they have an implicit and childlike faith and belief in a BIG God.

STEP FOUR: CONSIDER YOUR ASSETS

This includes a number of different possibilities.

Think about selling an asset and sharing the proceeds.

_____	Home
_____	Land
_____	Apartments
_____	Condos
_____	Vacation Homes
_____	Stocks and bonds
_____	Collectables
_____	Cars
_____	Stamps
_____	Trading Cards
_____	Coins
_____	Memorabilia
_____	Motorcycle
_____	Clothes
_____	Boats
_____	Jewelry
_____	Artwork
_____	Things that could be sold on Ebay
\$ _____	Sub-Total

STEP FIVE: FAMILY PROJECTS

Fun ways to generate money to contribute.

_____	Lemonade stands
_____	Bake sales
_____	Car wash
_____	Homemade foods to sell
_____	Sell crafted items
_____	Babysitting
_____	Mow lawns
_____	Walk the dog
_____	Help someone with housekeeping
_____	Contribute allowance
\$ _____	Sub-Total

STEP SIX: GENUINE ACT OF SACRIFICIAL FAITH

As seen in the Scriptures, God often taps ordinary people on the shoulder and asks them to do extraordinary things. This is the sort of out-of-the-ordinary faith that can only be attributed to a prompting of God's Spirit. It's hard to suggest what this opportunity may be for you, but we believe God will lead some of us toward this very place.

A family of four's commitment strategies:

Increase giving by \$25.00/wk 3-year total	\$3,900
Reduce eating out by \$50.00/wk	\$7,800
Randy (7th grader) take lunch to school	\$450
Phil (husband) takes lunch to work	\$2,600
Teresa (wife) reduces household food budget by \$25/wk	\$3,900
Teresa foregoes pedicures	\$2,700
Melissa (HS Senior) reduces entertainment expense	\$600
Phil plays golf only once a week during Summer	\$2,400
Family reduces Christmas expense by \$500	\$1,500
Cancel one vacation	\$2,500
Vicki (10th grader) gives ¼ baby sitting fees	\$400
Miscellaneous reductions (subscriptions, fees, etc.)	\$250
Trusting God for another \$1000	\$1,000
Grand 3 year total:	\$30,000

STEP SEVEN: THE COMMITMENT - TRUST GOD!

The real journey will come over the next three years. We hope you'll keep a journal of the amazing and unexpected ways God will work and provide in your life to accomplish your commitments.

Visit <https://likeneverbefore.wacc.net/shareyourstory> where you can share your story.

It could very well be that there are dollar amounts that can be assigned to every one of these steps/categories. Total them up and give that over the 3 years. Yes, it is going to take God's help to accomplish it, but if we could do it on our own, then we very well might be tempted to take the credit for what God and only God can do!

TOTAL 3-YEAR COMMITMENT (What God wants to do through me)

*3-year commitment begins December 3, 2017
and continues to December 2020.

A CLOSING THOUGHT FROM JOHN RILEY..

Friends, way to go! If you took the time to listen, pray, read, journal and contemplate what God has wanted to reveal to you, I trust that you are not quite the same person you were when you started this journey. God is looking... "searching the whole earth for people who are totally committed to him" (2 Chron. 16:9). I believe that WACC is made of people like that! I believe that's you.

I can't wait to see what God will do in and through WACC, and more specifically in your life. It's very possible that it will be far above what we have dared to ask, hope or think. I am praying he will do his work in and through us like never before.

THANK YOU for engaging in this journey with me. God bless you!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JR' or 'John Riley', written in a cursive style.

John



[HTTP://LIKENEVERBEFORE.WACC.NET](http://likeneverbefore.wacc.net)