

Christmas 2017

Dear Destination Family,

I am excited to share with you important details regarding our Special Christmas Offering that begins now and continues through December 31, 2017. We have the opportunity through this offering to impact our city and the world!



Over the last few years we have seen our church grow from just a handful of people to a church that is impacting other nations. It's such a thrill to participate in God's grand work.

With this Special Offering we have the opportunity to increase our impact in Chicago and deepen our efforts to reach those who don't know Jesus around the globe.

Here are the ministry categories that giving to the Christmas Offering will support:

- Our global mission to make Jesus famous in every nation.
- A local Chicago organization that assists the poor and needy.
- Support for crisis relief around the world.
- To fund the 2018 Benevolence Ministry of Destination.
- To assist the Destination Children's Ministry with future one-time costs.

I hope you will carefully read over the enclosed documents to learn more about this exciting opportunity for our church to give sacrificially and show God's love to those in spiritual and physical need.

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!

Many blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matt Sweetman', written in a cursive style.

Matt Sweetman, Pastor
connect@destinationchurch.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 us.

This Christmas Offering is a call to sacrificial giving with a total goal of \$20,000 for these ministry initiatives:

- To support the continued growth of One Tribe, a Newfrontiers church in Nairobi, Kenya.
- To support Mercy Home for Boys & Girls and their work breaking the cycle of neglect and abuse for children and teens in Chicago.
- To support the Joseph family as they rebuild and relocate after the devastation of hurricanes Irma and Maria.
- To fund the 2018 Benevolence Ministry of Destination.
- To assist the Destination Childrens' Ministry with future one-time costs.

This Special Offering will be received now through December 31, 2017.

There are two ways to give:

1. Please use the special Christmas envelope and select "Christmas Offering." Without marking this, a gift intended for the Christmas Offering will be designated to the general fund. Please be certain to clearly designate your gift to the special offering.
2. Give online at DestinationChurch.org/giving and select "Christmas Offering"

NOTE: If giving by check, please mark your check memo with "Christmas Offering."

The Purposes of This Offering

To support our global mission

We consider ourselves to be a "church that helps churches" and a church that supports our mission in other nations. This focus will continue as we have a great opportunity to assist missional leaders around the globe who are reaching out to every identified people group. Through our Newfrontiers family of churches we have the specific opportunity to bless Mbonisi Malaba (Bones) and his family as they continue to build One Tribe church, which they planted in Nairobi, Kenya in early 2016. More information about this is attached.

To support local organizations that assist the poor and needy in Chicago

We have a unique opportunity to help those who are in great need in our city. We want to partner with local organizations that are really making a difference in people's lives and at the same time sharing the love of Jesus in a very practical way. That's why we are partnering with Mercy Home, because they have consistently made a difference in people's lives and demonstrated effectiveness in their organization. We want to invest in them and join them in making a big difference in meeting important and significant needs in our city. This offering will go to support their efforts. More information about this is attached.

To help survivors of Hurricane Maria in the Caribbean

As a church that desires to reach the nations, we see a massive need to help those affected by the devastating hurricane season this year, specifically on the Caribbean islands in the path of Hurricanes Irma and Maria. We have decided to give this portion of the offering to a specific family, The Joseph family on the islands of St. Maarten and Dominica, who were especially affected by the storms. More information about this is attached.

To fund the 2018 Benevolence Ministry of the church that supports those in our church at their time of greatest need

Since our start Destination has been serving people at their time of greatest need. To date, we have been able to approve all valid requests for benevolence funding due to your generous giving. The Benevolence Ministry allows us to be ready to come alongside people in difficulty and distress due to hard financial times, a death in the family or a need for Christian counseling. We want to anticipate and prepare for the continued increase in benevolence requests each year.

To assist the Destination Children's Ministry with future one-time costs.

We want the kids at Destination Church to have a great time while learning about Jesus, and sometimes a well-placed, one-time expense can really help breathe new life into a program. The Children's Ministry has a budget for ongoing expenses, but we want to be especially generous to the kids at Destination and the Children's Ministry volunteers, and we want to ensure they have what they need to thrive.

FAQ

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 2018. This offering is not being collected because we are behind on budget, but rather its purpose is to put us in a position to make a greater impact in our city, in our church and around the world in 2018.

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

The regular Destination offering is the proportional amount (a tithe of 10% or more) that attenders and members 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 Christmas Offering should be over and above what we all regularly give.

How is the offering going to be managed?

The Christmas Offering will be deposited into our church bank account but recorded separately in our books. We will then seek to send funds to the various ministries as soon as the offering is complete.

The Christmas Offering is our second annual Special Offering. Our building fund offering, TANGIBLE COMMUNITY, continues this coming Easter Sunday 2018. Unlike the Christmas Offering, gifts towards TANGIBLE COMMUNITY are deposited into a separate church savings account. We plan and manage these two annual offerings this way because we want everyone in the church to prepare and budget for them, and for each person to maximize their generosity as God directs.

How Much Should I Give?

Since the goal is \$20,000, 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. Some people can give much larger gifts of many thousands. As examples, others will be able to give \$100, \$500, \$1,000, \$2,000, or more. The issue is not equal giving, but equal sacrifice. What amount can you give that will stretch your faith?

Is the Goal Too Big for Our Church?

Since the beginning of Destination we have been a church with God-sized dreams. The ministries supported by this offering are BIG – supporting global mission, local organizations that assist the poor and needy, crisis relief, funding the 2018 Benevolence Ministry, and supporting our Children's Ministry. Big dreams require big faith and big funding. The accomplishment of these big dreams will be determined by your gifts to this Special Offering. Earlier this year we raised nearly \$30,000 for our Second Service fund, so \$20,000 is within our capability, but still big enough to cause us to rely on God to supply it. In faith we can actually give much more than \$20,000, so let God stretch your faith!

When Should I Give?

The best time to give will be the first Sunday after you receive this packet. Please pray about making your greatest gift on that day. However, you can continue to give until December 31, 2017. As each week of the offering goes by, you may feel stirred to give again. We want to encourage you to remain open to the leading of the Holy Spirit in this. It is not unusual for many people to give multiple times during this period of sacrificial giving.

Please use the special Christmas envelope and select "Christmas Offering." Without marking this, a gift intended for the Christmas Offering will be designated to the general fund. If giving by check please write "Christmas Offering" in the memo section. Remember, consistent gifts over time add up – a person giving \$60-\$80 per week over several weeks will give a total of \$400-\$500 to this Special Offering.

Can I Give Online?

Yes. When you give online through DestinationChurch.org/giving, simply select "Christmas Offering" from the options. While we do make it possible for people to give with credit cards because of its convenience, we also discourage it for two reasons. If you are not paying off your card please do not give with it. Also, we pay a processing fee up to 3% on credit card giving. Over time this really builds up. In 2016 Destination had to pay about \$2,800 in processing fees. We want to make giving easy for new people to start, but for those who start to give regularly, we encourage them to switch to give via bank automation or ACH bank transfer. Go to DestinationChurch.org/giving for instructions.

You can effectively use your bank online payment option to send a check directly to the church's PO Box. This incurs no fees. Again, simply mark in the memo area that your gift is for the Christmas Offering. Our mailing address is: Destination Church, PO Box 1492, Chicago, IL 60690-1492.

Are My Gifts Tax-Deductible?

All gifts to Destination, 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 2017 will be deductible on your 2017 taxes). Please be sure to include your name and address when you give so that we can issue your year-end giving statement for your tax preparations. You are not required to utilize a tax-deduction for your gift, but it is an option for all gifts.

Can I give in-kind gifts of stocks or bonds?

Of course! Since Destination Church is a 501c3 organization there can be tremendous tax benefits for you by giving in-kind gifts. For information on this type of giving, simply email giving@destinationchurch.org.

How Did We Arrive at The Goal?

The \$20,000 goal was prayerfully set by the Destination Church leadership team. It is a God-sized goal that can be accomplished through the full participation and sacrificial giving of Destination attenders and members. Since we believe God's blessing is on this Special Offering, it has been determined that any amount over and above our goal will be divided equally between our primary cause (One Tribe church) and our general ministry budget in 2018.

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 progress each Sunday 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 email connect@destinationchurch.org

One Tribe Church - Nairobi, Kenya

Why Nairobi?

Nairobi is a booming city. It's absolutely heaving with people (3,138,295 approximately). It is the 14th largest city in Africa and incredibly influential (politically and financially) in East Africa as well as in the wider continent. Apart from being the nation's capital and a tourism hub, it has also earned the nickname "the Silicon Savannah" as a result of it being a key tech startup hub. Kenya as a whole is also very strategically placed in terms of the interface between majority-Christian and majority-Islamic Africa. There is a lot at stake in this city! One Tribe currently has three amazing and heroic families leading the church as they meet every Sunday in a hotel conference room, with a recent average attendance of over 150 adults and children! Learn more at onetribe.church.

What about "doctoring"?

Bones is currently in his final month of training as an orthopedic surgeon, and is scheduled to write his board examinations in the first week of December. Nairobi and its surroundings offer some of the finest surgical training available in the East and South-Central African region and he is excited about the possibilities this may open up in the future for kingdom advance.

As a church, Destination can be a blessing to Bones, his family and all of One Tribe and see big things happen in the name of Jesus. Our generosity can make a tangible and lasting impact in a place with so much opportunity for gospel advancement. As we give, let's also be in prayer for a few specific needs Bones has shared with us.

- Please pray for Bones and Tash and their kids, and for God to bless their marriage and family. Bones is very busy with his medical studies, and their whole family needs strength and perseverance.
- Pray for more people to join their team, both believers and new people to be saved.
- Pray for their university student ministry to grow. Recent outreach events have allowed approximately 1200 students the opportunity to hear the gospel!

Mercy Home For Boys & Girls

Mercy Home has been answering the Gospel call to minister to children and families in need since 1887. They're dedicated to changing the future for the boys and girls, ages 9-21, who turn to them for help in their most critical hour.

Mercy Home gives the young people in its full-time care the tools they need to develop as people, as students, and as contributing members of society. They also assist hundreds more by connecting them to a vast network of accredited professional service-agencies throughout metropolitan Chicago.

They partner with their children's families to promote emotional and psychological healing. And, they are committed to raising the public's awareness about children in need.

Mercy Home saves young lives by providing a safe, nurturing residential treatment home, AfterCare support for former residents and their families, community-based and site-based youth mentoring, and by promoting therapeutic, educational, vocational, spiritual and life skill development. Learn more at mercyhome.org

Hurricane Marie Relief Fund for the Joseph Family

Jason Joseph was raised in New Jersey, but has close ties with his family on the islands of Dominica and St. Maarten. After hurricanes Irma and Marie drove through the region, he learned that his family had been caught in their path. Their homes were destroyed and taken away by the storm surge. His uncles, aunts, and cousins were fending for their lives. Water had rushed through windows and doors from two overflowing rivers meeting the sea. They were trapped. They managed to open another door to reroute water in a chance for escape as they fought to get to higher ground. Tragically, the storm claimed the lives of two of Jason's young cousins, Yahkira and Destiny.

In order to help his family survive the aftermath of the devastation, Jason created a GoFundMe campaign to help his family with their living and relocation expenses, as well as to ease their emotional burden. We as a church can have a specific and lasting impact on the lives of the Joseph family, which is why we've decided to give directly to Jason's campaign. Learn more at destinationchurch.org/joseph

Join us as we give outside of ourselves this Christmas season!

The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 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 9:6-8