

Reality Ventura Mission Update - January 2019

Rhythm of Rest

Eternal Eyes

Active Availability

Deep Digging

Intentional Investing

- Today is a Mission Update.
- We will talk about money.
- **Why we should care:**
- **Because God cares**

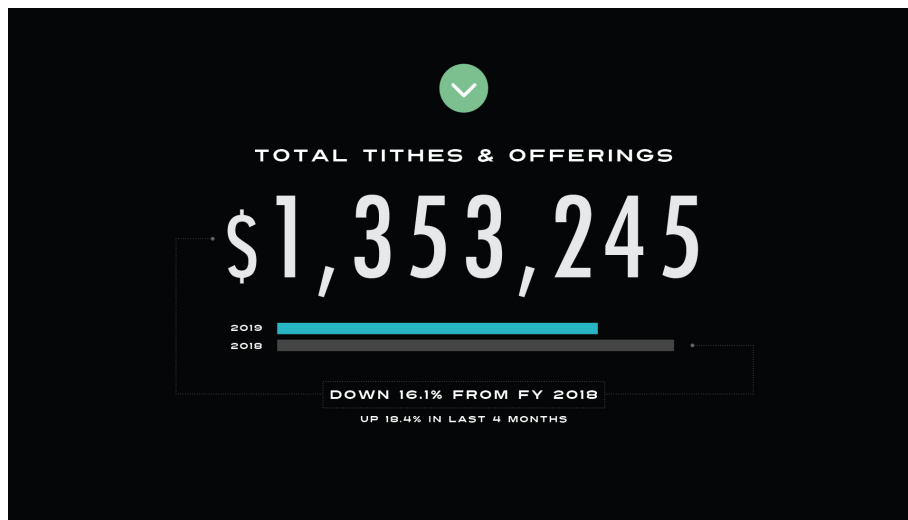
- God doesn't talk about money so often because He loves money. He talks about it so often because He LOVES us, and He wants to make sure that we have a right relationship with IT.
- **If we do not put it in its proper place, and use it the way that God intendeds, money will consume us.**
- **God cares about the church budget, but He cares even more about the church body.**

- As church leadership, we are required to care about the budget, and we DO.
- We don't keep track of what comes in and goes out, ONLY because we are called to be **good stewards of the budget.**

- Engaging in worship, being in Christian community, hearing the word of God... these are all metrics that measure our spiritual health. But they're not the only metrics that measure spiritual health.
- **Generosity is a barometer for spiritual health and maturity.**
- **2 Cor. 9:8,11** "And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others... Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous."

FINANCES:

- 1. How is our giving/generosity at Reality Ventura?
- 2. How are we, as a church, financially investing in the Kingdom?



- **There's two reasons usually why this number would decrease:**
 - 1. People are giving less (that would be a generosity issue)
 - 2. There's less people giving.
- For us, it's number two. There are less people giving.
 - There was a 15% decrease in attendance this last year.
- When there is a decrease in **attendance**, we should ALSO ask the question, "Why?"
- Why did people leave?
- If it was good reasons, cool. If it was disgruntled reasons, we need to address things.
- In this case, all good reasons. But still we should ask:
- **"How is the health of the church?"**
- **Answer: Reality Ventura is probably as healthy as it has ever been.**
- **Sometimes in life, there is an excess, and sometimes there is a deficit. There are seasons of growth and seasons of pruning.**
- There are seasons of pruning. There are times in life when everything seems to be going wrong.
- There are seasons of scarcity in the life of the Believer.
- In scripture, we see times of sowing, times of reaping, times of pruning, AND times of dying.
- **Those are times of "decrease", or so it appears.**
- **And in times of the "apparent decrease", you must ask yourself:**
- **Is God trying to kill me or prune me?**
- **John 15:1-2 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit."**
- In life, and in the church, there's pruning. And does the pruning hurt? Not usually. Does it hurt? Yes. However:

- **Proverbs 3:11-12** “Don’t reject the LORD’s discipline, and don’t be upset when he corrects you. For the LORD corrects **those he loves**, just as a father corrects a child in whom he delights.”
- So when there are changes like this, we must ask: **“Is this exposing a problem, or is this just some pruning?”**
- **If there’s spiritual fruit, then it’s most likely not a problem that needs to be resolved, but a pruning that needs to be received.**
- **So there was a decrease, but there’s obvious spiritual fruit.**
- **So, is it a problem or a pruning?**
- The best we can discern, this is a pruning.
- **Here’s what is most important about this \$ number:**
- What does this number say about our spiritual health, as a people? Not just our financial health, as a corporation... but our spiritual health as a people?

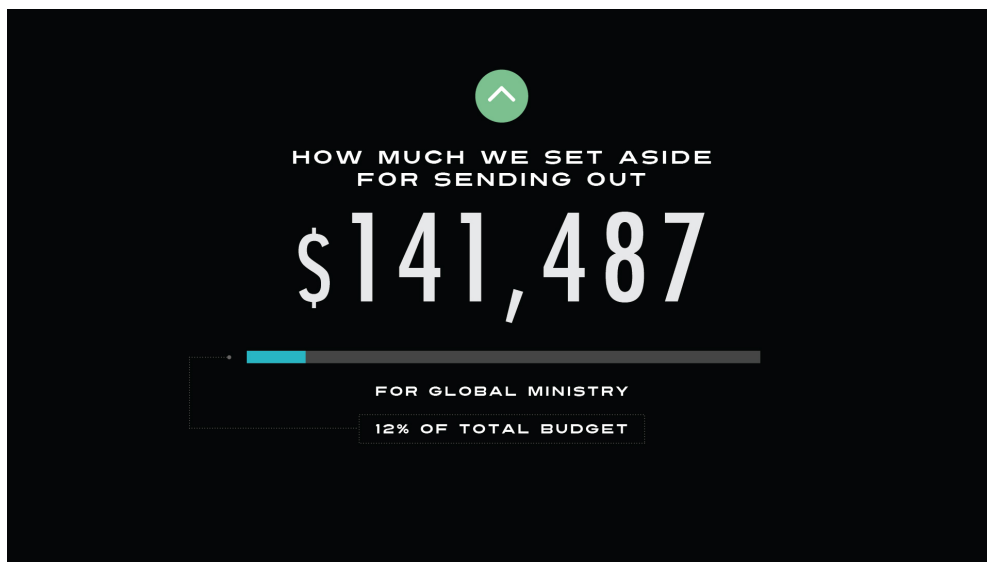


- **This says “We are a generous, maturing, people.”**
- Here’s why it’s generous and maturing.
- **A higher percentage of people at our church gave in 2019 vs. in 2018.**
- Of those who did give, the average person gave almost \$3k this year (same as year before).
 - Some of us gave quite a bit more. Some, quite a bit less.
 - For some of you the little bit that you gave this year, HURT, but you chose to be generous and walk by faith, and there were MORE people choosing generosity and faith in FY 2019, than the previous year, which is good!

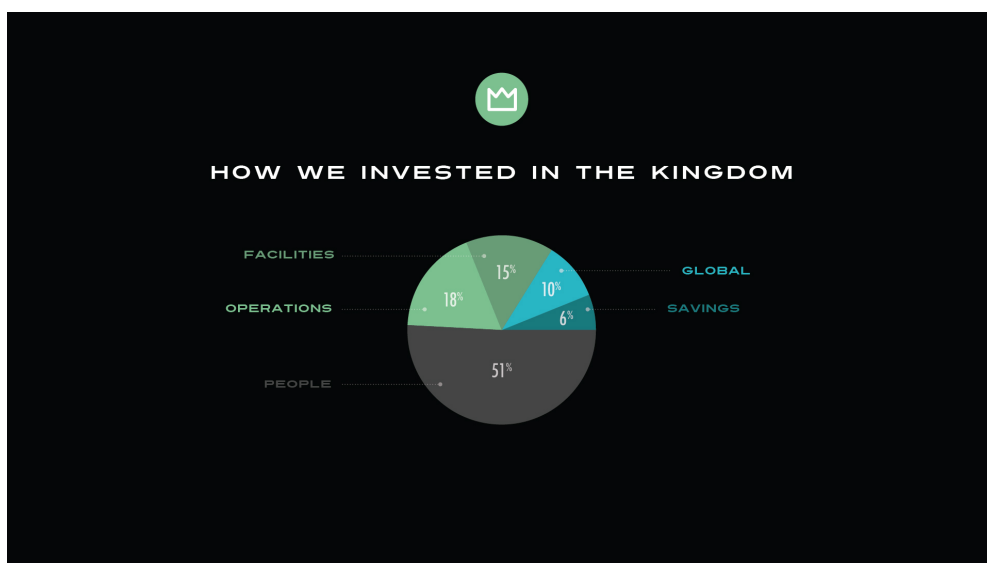
- When we start giving away what we have been given, we get HEALTHIER, HAPPIER, AND MORE ALIVE.
- AND:
- When we are generous, we are living out of our identity as image bearers of God, because God is generous in nature.

How are we financially INVESTING that money in the Kingdom?

1st: We are committed to investing in others



2nd: We are committed to investing in people



- **This is why 51%** of this pie chart is dedicated to our paid staff and team. 51% of our budget went to investing in Kingdom people within Reality Ventura, that is our staff and our team, who then in turns invests in other people.
- **10% to global.**
 - Sometimes, this number will also contribute to helping to plant other Reality churches around the world, but because we are not planting any churches right now, this year was specifically focused on global ministry.
- **15% of our budget went to facilities**
- **18% of our budget went to operations**
- **We were able to save 6%.**
 - We reserve these funds for big ticket facilities items like fixing a leaking roof and saving for a future buildout of the next door space.
- Web: realityventura.com — happenings — bottom of page (most recent quarterly report)

The team:



- Jesus is at the center because we really do believe that what the Bible says is true: Jesus is the Senior Pastor of the Church.
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**Chaddick said this phrase when he was here: “Stir our affections for Jesus.”
Everything we do at church in for the purpose of stirring our affections for Jesus.**

Let these things stir out affections for Jesus:

- God's presence at our gatherings
- Response when the Word of God is preached
- People worship with intent
- Sense of family among the worship team
- Raised up an another worship leader (a 1yr process)
- Culture of Kingdom Family
- Culture of Community
- 250 people gathering Comm Groups weekly
- Hundreds of Women's Lives Impacted
- 30 new leaders and teachers identified
- God is transforming lives (marriages spared, relationships healed, people saved)
- Finally Found the Youth Guy
- Students bringing their unsaved friends to church Graduated seniors now Jr. High youth leaders
- Students falling in love with Jesus
- We are sending people to the nations
- Ethiopia
- Central Asia
- Macedonia
- Northern Africa
- Ethiopia
- Uganda
- Vietnam
- Thailand
- Mainland Mexico
- Hosted Perspectives
- People are being miraculously healed
- People deciding to follow Jesus for the first time
- 75+ People were baptized last year
- THERE'S MORE!!!

Here's the charge:

THE KING IS ON THE MOVE

HE ALWAYS MOVE THROUGH HIS PEOPLE

ARE HIS PEOPLE R.E.A.D.I.?

That word READI was not JUST for last year. That is a life word.

God has been faithful to us, and to this church.

“Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them." The LORD has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy. (**Psalm 126:2-3**)