

## RVTA Mission Update - January 2021

Mission, Money, Movement...

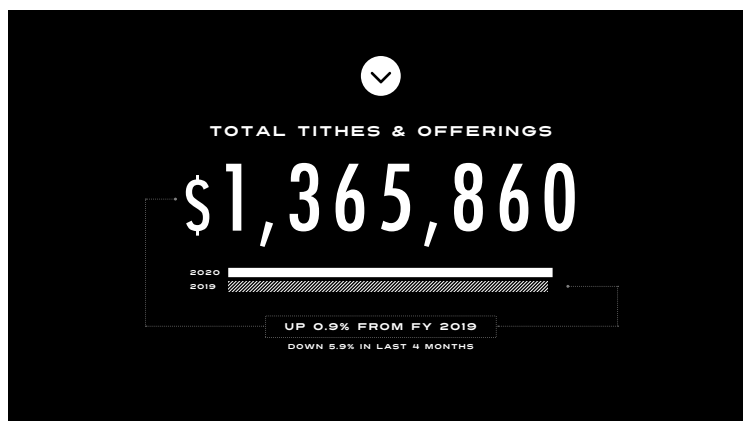
God's Mission, God's Money, and God's Movement

### MONEY

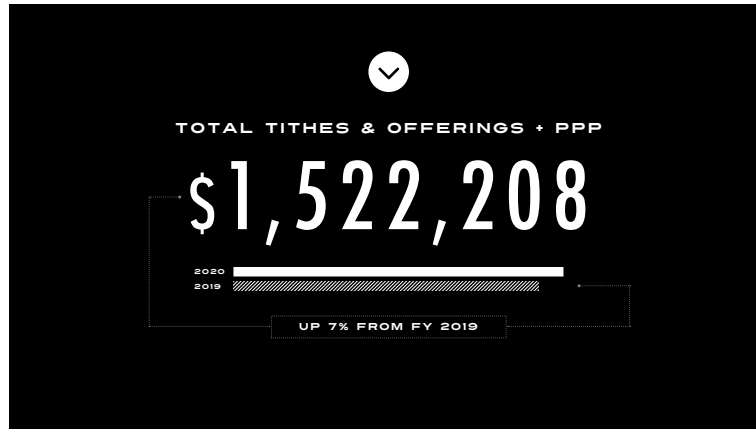
- **Why should we care about money (church finances)?**
- Because God cares.
- God doesn't talk about money so often because He loves it. He talks about it so often because WE LOVE IT, and He loves US, and **He wants us to have a right relationship with IT.**
- **All money is actually GOD'S MONEY.**
  - **James 1:17** every good and perfect gift comes down from God, in heaven.
  - **Psalms 50** owns the cattle on a thousand hills.
  - **Eccl. 2:24** God who has put it into the heart of man to work hard and enjoy the work of his hands.
  - **Our job, as leaders, is to simply steward that money, for the purposes and mission of God.**
- God DOES care about the church budget, **He cares even more about the church BODY.**
- So, we don't keep track of what comes in and goes out, ONLY because we are called to care for the budget, but because we are called to care for the body.
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- **Generosity is one barometer for measuring spiritual health and maturity (2 Cor. 9:8,11)**

### MONEY:

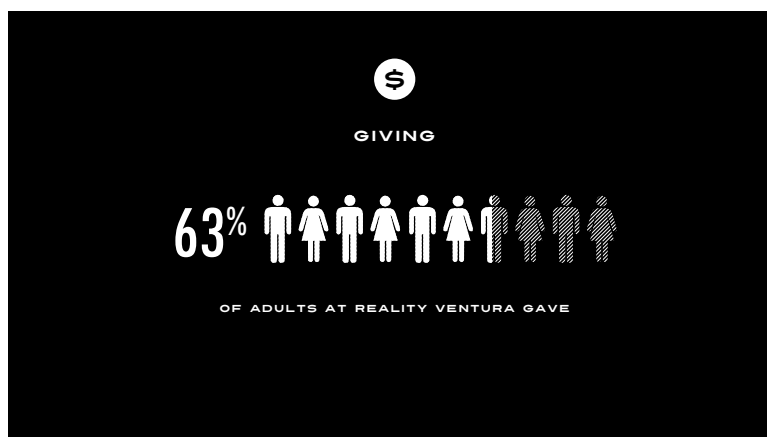
- 1. How is our giving/generosity at Reality Ventura?
- 2. How are we, as a church, financially investing that money, in the Kingdom?



- The above number (\$1.36 million) is what the **church** gave. This is YOU contributing to Kingdom work, in and through RVTA, this year.
- The United States govt. ALSO contributed to Kingdom work, in and through RVTA, this year, whether they like it or not.
- As most small business, non profits, and churches did... at the beginning of the pandemic, we applied for the PPP (paycheck protection program) loan from the govt. and we received \$155k, in order help the church stay above water, incase finances significantly decreased.
- That loan was forgiven, and has turned into a GRANT
- When we include the PPP...that 1.36M number increases to about \$1.52M.

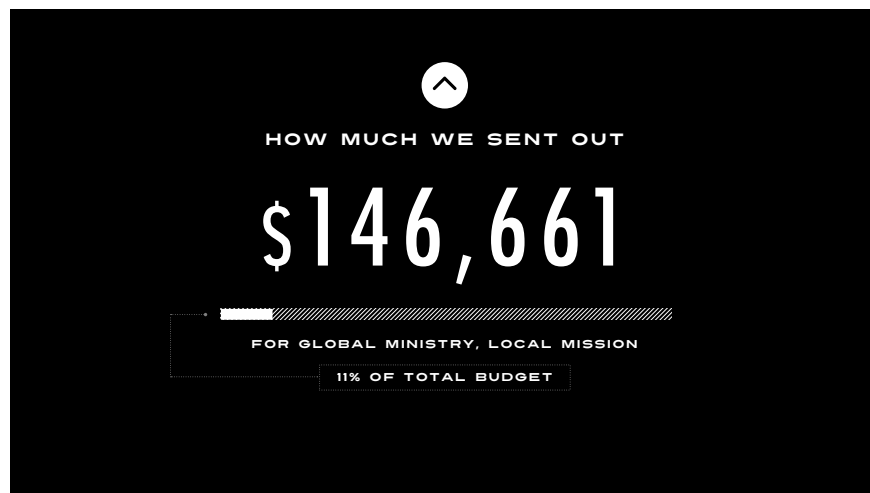


- **What do we make of the 5.9% decrease in the last four months?**
  - Does that mean that RVTA is now LESS spiritually healthy? Or that we CANNOT continue mission, as planned?
    - No. We don't believe this has anything not do with the spiritual health of the church. This has to do with the worst economic downturn in decades.
  - **Will it affect what we can and cannot do as a church?**
    - In a normal year, we would look at a decrease like that and ASSUME that that trend would continue in the coming months (and that may be what happens), but because we are in the middle of a world wide pandemic, we just don't know what to expect, yet.
- We are keeping an eye on all of this, as we strive to be led by BOTH faith AND wisdom.



- The above was actually a difficult number to calculate because it's based on weekly Sunday attendance, but half of the year, we did church online, and even now, there are several hundred people attending church online, but we don't know exactly how many people are actually "coming" to Reality Ventura. So we used data from before the pandemic hit.
- This is our BEST guess, and it's encouraging to us.
- Whatever you gave... it required **some level** of faith. It required you trusting God, in some way.
- The Bible says that God loves a cheerful giver... but the Bible ALSO says that God honors FAITH (ref. Hebrews 11).
- God sees that, and will honor that. AND it WILL produce fruit in your life.
- Everything that is received in the Kingdom, is meant to be given, and **when we start giving away what we have been given, we become healthier, happier, and more alive.**
  - **This is the way that God intended it.**
  - **Kingdom generosity actually increases spiritual vitality.**
- **AND, when we are generous, we are actually living out of our identity as image bearers of God, because God is generous in nature.**

### How did RVTA invest that money in the Kingdom?

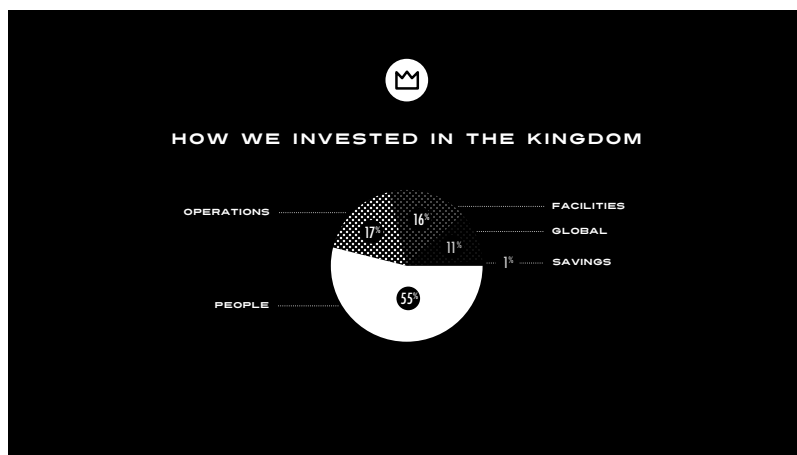


- **We always put aside at least 10% of what comes in, in order to send it OUT.**
  - What that looked like in FY 2020 was us sending out 11% of the \$1.36M.
  - \$137k of that, we invested in ministry happening in the nations...
  - We have global partners in 5 different countries, and global friends and connections in 4 different countries, all of which we support financially, as a church.

- We gave about \$10k local mission groups like Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Young Life, Tender Life, Teen Challenge, the Center for Faith and Sexuality, the Pregnancy Center, and the Kingdom Center.
- We will also often give to our Reality church plants around the world.
- Reality Ventura is part of a FAMILY of churches which means that we all chip in to financially support our new church plants, until they are self sustaining.
- We didn't actually send out any church plant support in 2020, but we have plans to do so in 2021.

### **We are also committed to investing in people**

55% of our budget in FY 2020 went to investing in Kingdom people at Reality Ventura.



- That is our staff and our team... who then in turns invests in other people.
- **17% to operations**
  - Operations are anything from the youth, worship, women's kids ministry budgets, to replacing broken office equipment.
  - This year we had to spend a some additional money on getting the live stream up and running, and adapting our parking lots for gatherings, all of which come out of operations budget.
- **16% to facilities**
  - This is within in the normal range for churches in America, if you're wondering.
- **11% that went to global ministry and local mission.**
- Saved just **1% of tis year.**
- We reserve this for for big ticket facilities items like fixing a leaking roof and replacing AC units.
- We are also saving for a hopeful, future buildout, of the next door space.

## The church's most current financial report:

- [realityventura.com/happenings](https://realityventura.com/happenings) >> bottom of page

## MISSION

- This is not about what "Reality" has done, or what "your money" did.
- It's fine to know those things, but we share this PRIMARILY to praise God for the work He has done. Just like the money is His. The MISSION is also His.
- "Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples. (Psalm 96:22-23)
- Let's declare just a few marvelous deeds here, from the last year.
- Salvation and Prodigals Returning to Jesus
  - We have been quarantined and confined physically, mentally, emotionally, (some of us), even spiritually.
  - But JESUS has NOT been quarantined. And power and presence and Kingdom have not been confined.
- More people hearing and receiving the Word
  - Share about online stats, etc.
- City wide prayer
  - Seven week prayer tour across the whole city of Ventura. It was incredible.

A sense of:

- God's presence during our gatherings
  - God has used the crazy medium of YOUTUBE, to still show up in people's lives.
  - And if you're here in person, it's the same thing. It doesn't matter if we're inside or outside.
  - God is HERE when we gather. There is a real sense of his nearness and presence and power.
- RVTA Music
  - Some of our worship leaders began writing, recording, and producing original worship music, this year.
  - More of that coming in 2021.
- A Culture of Kingdom Family
- A culture of Community
  - even in crazy corona season (some online, some onsite) people are in community, investing their lives in one another, caring for one another, wrestling with life issues, working through hard things together, praying for one another, pointing each other to Jesus.
  - 220 people gathering in RVTA Comm Groups weekly (some online, some onsite), but even in this weird season. It's beautiful.
- Hundreds of Women's Lives Impacted
  - Online, onsite, on zoom.

- Kelly and LA, did such an incredible job, immediately reaching out to their network of 600 women, when this pandemic hit, connecting them with one another, linking up mature mentors with mentorees, and coordinating counseling for women.
- They pivoted and held these really beautiful outdoor gatherings this fall.
- Later this month, we're actually launching our first ever **online** women's Bible study, which is going to be awesome. Stay tuned for info on that.
- **Youth Ministry Growing and Thriving**
  - I don't know if I've ever seen that many Junior Highers here.
  - They're showing up and they're hearing people talk and sing about Jesus.
- **Supported and Sent People to the Nations**
- Global partners in:
  - Ethiopia
  - Central Asia
  - Macedonia>>Arab Peninsula
  - Northern Africa
  - And now:
    - Mainland Mexico
- Global connections and global friends in:
  - Ethiopia
  - Uganda
  - Vietnam
  - Thailand
- es there's been struggle. Yes PEOPLE have been confined, but the Kingdom of God will NEVER BE CONFINED, and CANNOT BE CONTAINED.
- This kind of mission that is happening TELLS ME THAT King Jesus is STILL ON THE MOVE.
- **And the third "M" word:**
- **MOVEMENT**
  - Specifically God's Kingdom movement.
  - Note trite. The King is on the Move.
- **There is Kingdom movement happening. And it's happening everywhere if you just step back and look.**
  - God has been moving his people into strategic position this year, like a great war commander places his troops in just the right locations before he attacks his enemy.
- **There's Kingdom movement because the King is moving.**
- **God is moving His Kingdom people into Kingdom position for His Kingdom purpose.**
- When we look at this Kingdom Money report, and this Kingdom Mission report, we should only make one conclusion: there is a Kingdom MOVEMENT happening. The King is on the move.
- It's still Harvest time, and Jesus is still ruling!

- And if Jesus is still ruling, then “Let us not grow weary while doing good. For in due season we shall reap, if we do not lose heart.”
- Don’t give up. Don’t lose heart. He will be faithful to complete all that He has begun in you and your family.
- Keep your hands on the plow. It’s still Harvest time, in your heart, in your life, and in the lives of those around you.