

**THANK
YOU.**

LETTER FROM TIM

Thank you.

Giving to the church you are part of is a really big deal. It is what allows us to do all of the ministry we are able to do every single day here in Huntsville, and beyond. All the ministry with the homeless, preaching, kids ministry, community groups, baptisms, pastoral counseling, all of the ministry is made possible because of our giving to Essential Church. It's been said that no church has a money problem. Churches only have faithfulness problems. As Essential's pastor, I take my role very seriously. The book of Hebrews mentions that one day I'll have to give an account in how I lead. So, I want to be faithful in making sure everyone who is part of Essential is aware of God's expectations on how you use your money. **All I'm asking you to do is to talk to God about giving.** Please take the appropriate amount of time to dig into this packet and learn about what God teaches on giving and how you can be faithful. I'm thankful you've given to God! If there is anything I can do to help you better understand what the Bible teaches on this or how to practically obey God in this area, please let me know.

PS - If being faithful with your resources is important to you, and you have steady income, please take a look toward the back of this packet on how to set up recurring giving. The truth is normal people like you and me forget to give our gifts to God all the time. When that happens it slows down the ministry we are able to do. I'd encourage you to set up recurring giving (instructions on how to do this are towards the back of the booklet).

So grateful for you,
Tim

WHY WE ARE HERE

The 250,000: We believe God has called you and I to reach the 250,000 un-churched and de-churched in the Huntsville area. We believe if we do not reach them, there is a good chance they won't be reached. Projections show three startling facts.

1. Huntsville is growing.
2. Church attendance is shrinking.
3. The average age of those now attending church is 50+.

We must reach the next generation who don't go to church.

Next Generation: Recently, Lifeway did a generational study in The United States of America. They found 67% of the Builder Generation (born 1924-1945) believed in Jesus Christ. 50% of their children, the Boomers, believed in Jesus Christ. Their children, Generation X, 26% believed in Jesus. Their children, the Millennials, 15% believe in Christ. **Do you see the trajectory: 67%, 50%, 26%, 15%. What does that mean for our children today?** Unless something changes, 5-10% of the next generation will believe in Christ. Your regular giving helps us to reach this next generation.

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT GIVING

Giving is Submission to God

The reason why many are still troubled, still seeking, still making little forward progress is because they haven't yet come to the end of themselves. We're still trying to give orders, and interfering with God's work within us. -A.W. Tozer

Giving is Stewardship

Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. -Matthew 25:21

Giving is Imitating God

*Be imitators of God as dear children.
-Apostle Paul, Ephesians 5:3*

Giving is filling a Need

*That light we see is burning in my hall.
How far that little candle throws his beams!
So shines a good deed in a naughty world. -Shakespeare*

Giving is storing up Riches in Heaven

If you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? - Jesus, Luke 16:11

Giving is a Blessing

A blessing is when God gives us something to serve Him with.

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT GIVING

Giving is Strategic

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. -Matthew 6:19-20

Giving is an Investment

The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. -2 Corinthians 9:6

Giving is Truly Living

Take hold of that which is truly life. -1 Timothy 6:17-18

Giving is Worship

Worship is giving God the best that He has given you. Be careful what you do with the best you have. Whenever you get a blessing from God, give it back to Him as a love gift. - Oswald Chambers

Giving is Faith in Action

As your faith is strengthened you will find there is no longer the need to have a sense of control, that things will flow as they will, and that you will flow with them, to your great delight and benefit. -Emmanuel Teney

YOUR GIVING WILL HELP...

1. Create **A safe place for you and others to explore Jesus in Huntsville.**
2. **Open a coffee shop** (or other businesses) to help the people of Huntsville.
3. **Start 1,000 churches** around the world.
4. You, your friends, and family **grow in your relationship with Jesus.**
5. **Experiment with new ideas** on *how* to love our community.
6. **Lead other churches** to love the people of Huntsville.
7. Essential remain **Biblically centered and outwardly focused.**
9. **End homelessness** in Huntsville.
10. **Pioneer how churches start** where population is increasing and church attendance is decreasing.

TESTIMONIES

TOM: One day I was reading Mark 12:30 “Love the Lord God with all your heart, soul and strength.” I knew that’s the person I wanted to be “The Real Deal;” not living a masquerade. I then looked at all areas of my life including giving back to the Lord “financially” and decided that “I” was NOT loving the Lord with all but really just loving myself with “all.” I made a change that day that put a smile on my heart. I went beyond “tithing” and began stewarding what had been entrusted with me. I began loving and giving “all.”

KRISTIN: I first began giving as a college student, merely as an act of obedience. I never expected the heart change that would follow. God used that in my life to shape my heart and my values. I learned how to let go of things that were not important so I could begin investing in things that were. Now, giving is a huge part of our family. It's something we are teaching our kids from an early age. It brings us joy to give financially. When you begin giving sacrificially, it changes you.

HOW TO GIVE ONLINE

There are several great ways to give to God at Essential. Some choose to give during Sunday morning worship. An increasing number of people are giving online. Giving online is a great way to give because it means you don't have to remember your checkbook or cash on Sunday!

Giving online couldn't be easier! Here's how to give online now!

1. Go to EssentialHSV.com/give
2. Click "Give Now."
3. Enter amount and frequency (i.e. Once, or weekly/monthly)
4. Note: Giving using "bank account" has far fewer fees for the church than using credit/debit card.

You're all set up!

AUTOMATE WHAT'S IMPORTANT

When we forget our offering, the amount of ministry Essential is able to do decreases. And let's face it, very few of us are carrying around cash or checkbooks. If giving is important to you (as it should be to all who follow Christ), then please automate your giving. When your giving is automated, it is given faithfully and consistently. Automating your giving today, may be the single greatest thing you can do right now to grow as a faithful giver.

Please take 5 minutes and log online and set up a recurring monthly gift. Doing so will mean Essential can do more Gospel ministry in Huntsville and around the world.

ACCOUNTABILITY

ESSENTIAL CHURCH TAKES ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY SERIOUSLY.

To that effect, we have safe and healthy financial controls in place. We make sure two people are always with the money that is given.

The Essential Staff works to set the budget each year. Essential's Advisory Council oversees and provides accountability for the budget and spending.

The Advisory Council can be contacted at advisorycouncil@essentialhsv.com.

You will receive quarterly statements with records of your giving. These statements will be helpful for your own information, for tax purposes, and for accurate record keeping.

TESTIMONIES

CONNIE: Brian and I have been married for almost 31 years and during our entire adult lives have always tithed to our local church. It is a non negotiable part of our budget that comes off the top and we never once questioned whether or not we could afford it. We don't give to the church out of obligation or as some sort of insurance policy so God won't be mad at us and punish us. We believe that 100% of what we have financially is God's and if we are obedient in giving back 10% and grateful for what we have, He has been and will be faithful to provide what we need. There were many lean years as a young single income family of 6, but our tithing was without question. And we have seen God's provision over and over in our lives. We have many stories of Him coming through in amazing ways when we had a financial need. Trust Him! He is a giver and He wants us to be like Him.



YOUR GIFT IS FUEL.

All the ministry at Essential Church is possible by our giving. In the early days, other churches and individuals helped us get started financially. But now, it is only through gifts like yours that make the ministry of Essential Church possible.