



## SPECIAL OFFERING 2017 OVERVIEW

*"You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus:  
'It is **more blessed** to give than to receive.'"* Acts 20:35

Start Date: **October 29, 2017** | End Date: **January 14, 2018**

The **MORE BLESSED** Special Offering is a call to live and give sacrificially with a goal of raising \$300,000 to fund and support four important ministry initiatives:

- **Expand God's Kingdom** by planting new churches and extending the reach of our missionaries and missions partners
- **Empower the Poor** by caring for the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of underserved people locally and globally
- **Equip Our People** by mobilizing VRBC attenders to engage in our mission through catalytic training events and growth opportunities
- **Extend Hilarious Hospitality** by building bridges to the community through investing in outreach events and enhancing our facility

### THE FOUR MINISTRY INITIATIVES

**65% of the Special Offering will:**

#### **1) Expand God's Kingdom: Plant new churches and extend the reach of our missionaries and missions partners**

*"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."* Matthew 6:33 NIV

- **Fund 12 global, domestic, and local missionaries** who are
  - sharing the gospel in red-light districts, unreached countries, and Muslim contexts;
  - discipling and mobilizing the next generation for missions; and
  - planting and leading new churches.
- **Resource our missionaries to further their reach through special ministry projects**, such as:
  - funding the rescue and restoration of a young girl who has been victimized by human traffickers; and
  - providing hands-on missions and leadership training for 10 international students living in Indonesia who will be equipped to take the gospel back to their home countries.
- **Plant a new church in the Rio Grande Valley** in partnership with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and fund Buckner's Family Hope Center in the Valley where underserved families go to find hope, support, and empowerment to reach their fullest God-given potential.
- **Fund pioneering and critical mission work around the world** through the Baptist General Convention of Texas, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, Dallas Baptist Association, and Southern Baptist Convention.
- **Bring on a new missions partner, the Gaston Christian Center in East Dallas**, which houses several ministries, including six different ethnic congregations, a thriving refugee ministry

called Gateway of Grace, and a rapidly growing medical clinic to care for the diverse and disconnected in the area. This year, Gateway of Grace began a Wednesday night Bible study for former Muslims and others who wanted to know more about the Bible, and from it, a worshipping community has emerged with 50-60 in regular attendance.

- **Expand funding to Mission Arlington** as they serve the poor, share the gospel, lead Bible studies in 349 locations with over 4,500 people attending weekly, and train everyday missionaries with over 35,000 people volunteering in 2016.
- **Fund Access Life**, a ministry that builds bridges to individuals with disabilities and their families throughout the Metroplex, serving 1,039 people this past year at the North Texas Access Life Expo in June.

## 2) Empower the Poor: Care for the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of underserved people locally and globally

*“Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward them for what they have done.” Proverbs 19:17 NIV*

- **Build bridges to serve and share the Good News with the poor locally and globally through the Christmas Store.** While we continue to partner with Cornerstone Baptist Church, this year we are increasing the number of local guests served to 525 children who are coming from every elementary school in Coppell and Valley Ranch.
- **Fund Cornerstone Ministries** to resource the homeless through the Clothes Closet and Cornerstone Kitchen. Last year, 232 volunteers from VRBC served 1,200 homeless men and women by providing clothing and warm showers at the Clothes Closet. Additionally, 144 VRBC volunteers served 2,400 lunches to the homeless at the Cornerstone Kitchen.
- **Work with a new ministry that rescues women out of slavery and commercial exploitation,** provides psychosocial care and holistic healing, and helps them to re-enter society. VRBC will be sending a short-term team to minister alongside them in October 2018.
- **Fully fund the VRBC Benevolence Ministry and provide additional financial coaching** to help those struggling financially get back on their feet.
- **Train the unemployed or underemployed through our Jobs for Life Ministry.** Over the last three years, 24 students have graduated from this empowerment ministry.
- **Double our funding to Christian Community Action, Metrocrest Services, and Irving Cares** to serve and share with the poor in our area. CCA offers a wide-range of services designed to assist struggling families in overcoming challenges of changes to the family structure, unemployment or underemployment, major illness, or any situation that limits a family’s stability. Metrocrest Services provides emergency aid, financial assistance, and other services to support independent living for individuals, families, and seniors, along with seasonal programs including distribution of school shoes and supplies, summer food for hungry children, holiday food and gifts, and holiday baskets for seniors. Irving Cares supplies food to 727 families per month through its Food Pantry and provided rent/mortgage assistance to 171 families in the past year.
- **Provide 200 backpacks for students in need of school supplies and mobilize 43 mentors and 43 prayer partners** to build bridges at Tom Landry Elementary School, Barbara Bush Middle School, and other local schools.
- **Feed more hungry children through Sack Summer Hunger.** In 2017, we served 22 families with a total of 52 kids, and we hope to expand this number significantly in 2018.
- **Increase funding to Common Hope**, a non-profit in Lima, Peru, which empowers poor students through camps, mentoring, and trainings.

**35% of the Special Offering will:**

**3) Equip Our People: Mobilize VRBC attenders to engage in our mission through catalytic training events and growth opportunities**

*“Now may the God of peace . . . equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.” Hebrews 13:20-21 NIV*

- **Send 140 students and volunteers on mission** to minister to the poor and bring hope to the hopeless through the 86:12 Mission Trip.
- **Offer economic empowerment courses** like Financial Peace University, The Legacy Journey, and Smart Money, so that all of our members and guests can give, save, and live in a way that honors God.
- **Deliver top-tier leadership training through groups, classes, and the Global Leadership Summit** to equip our congregation to lead like Jesus. Additionally, we will fund The Global Leadership Summit in South Sudan, Africa, to train dozens of local pastors and business leaders in this impoverished area.
- **Provide new focused discipleship training in Grow Deeper classes** at VRBC and additional books and resources to equip Grow Group leaders.

**4) Extend Hilarious Hospitality: Build bridges to the community by investing in outreach events and enhancing our facility**

*“When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.” Romans 12:13 NLT*

- **Renovate VRBC's outdoor playground** to create better educational spaces and functional equipment for our Weekday Preschool and Children's Ministry, which combined minister to more than 225 children each week.
- **Expand Vacation Bible School** this summer to serve over 250 children and their families.
- **Provide funding for transformative camps and retreats for children and students** (such as, Student Life for Elementary Kids at Austin College, High School Fall Retreat to Glen Rose, Middle School Retreat to Pine Cove, and Winter Weekend), which reach dozens of diverse and disconnected children and students.
- **Equip us to offer additional ESL classes at VRBC** this year to build bridges to more international residents in Valley Ranch and Coppell. We now offer six levels of classes and we are reaching record numbers of students (66 in the first week, with new students added weekly).
- **Provide new exterior and interior signage** at VRBC to increase the warmth of our welcome and extend our invite further into the community.
- **Extend hospitality through our Welcome Ministry, Invite events** (Game Day, Summer Bash, and Family Fall Festival), **and special Weekday Preschool programs**, which will impact the lives of more than 1,200 diverse and disconnected people in our city.
- **Increase our hospitality at worship services on Big Days** (Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, and Christmas Eve) and at large Grow Group semester kick-off events.
- **Provide guest gifts** on the weekend and at Newcomers Receptions to help connect hundreds of diverse and disconnected people to our church.