

Gifts Report

According to the biblical pattern of I Chronicles 29, we would like to tell you what you and our church staff-leaders have given and committed to give over 36 months in our ETV Offering.

50
Million

TOTAL GIVEN & PLEDGED


by Saddleback staff: **\$5,000,000**

by members: **\$45,000,000**

- including over \$17,000 in gifts and one-year pledges from our Junior High students!

TOTAL COMMITTED SO FAR: \$50,000,000!

QUESTIONS? CALL (949) 609-8000



SADDLEBACK CHURCH
1 Saddleback Parkway
Lake Forest, CA 92630

Update #3: News & Information ...to help us celebrate our Giving Weekend Miracle!

God is still in the miracle business! The past six weeks at Saddleback have been proof of that. God used you in a miracle of generosity. In one of the most materialistic counties in the entire country, we've pledged together to give \$50 million through the Extending the Vision emphasis. When you declared, "Whatever It Takes" on April 17, 2005, at Angel Stadium, you meant it!

But it is not about the money. The miracle happened in your heart before you gave – as you prayed for God's guidance. You chose to trust God and give to Him in faith. You may even be holding your breath right now wondering how you'll keep your commitment. You can't believe the number God popped in your head. But your faith has got to be making God smile. (Hebrews 11:6)

If you have not yet made a commitment, don't miss this opportunity for your own spiritual growth and to participate in what we are doing as a church!

God will use our commitments to change lives, to transform our community, and to change the world! At Saddleback it has never been about buildings. They are simply tools for God to use. But what incredible tools these buildings will be in God's hands. They will provide a place for our youth to grow in God's purposes, space so we can better reach our community, and a base to change the world through the Global P.E.A.C.E. Plan.

Our best days are ahead of us. So hang on for the ride of your life!



Celebration Weekend - \$50 Million Given and Pledged



Your Questions Answered

Q Is it easy to do online giving? I'm not really that good on computers.

A We have made it as easy as possible! Just go to www.saddlebackfamily.com, and click on "My Giving." Then, follow the simple instructions. All you will need in front of you is one of your checks, so you will have your account number. If you would like someone to walk you through the quick process, call Dottie at (949) 609-8073.

Q What if I still want to give some property and other assets that I just didn't get organized to give yet – how do I do it?

A Many people have asked us about giving their **stock, bonds, coin collections, real estate, fine jewelry, and other items of value** to the ETV emphasis. If you'd like to give a tangible asset, please keep in mind the following:

1. It is better to give an **appreciated asset** to the church instead of selling it yourself and giving the money. By doing this, you avoid capital gains tax.
2. It is better to sell a **depreciating asset** yourself and give the cash to the church.
3. For assistance in this area, call Pastor Chris Goulard's office at (949) 609-8203.

The P.E.A.C.E. Plan Update

You don't have to wait until October to prepare and begin The P.E.A.C.E. Plan! Here are 3 easy first steps you and your small group can take to begin now. Additional steps will be available in the weeks ahead.



1. P.E.A.C.E. Briefing Night, May 25th and June 2nd, 7:00–8:30 PM, Saddleback Worship Center

Top 5 reasons you and your small group want to be at the P.E.A.C.E. SPECIAL BRIEFING

1. Learn how your small group can prepare and launch into Local and Global P.E.A.C.E. now.
2. Meet the P.E.A.C.E. Staff and discover easy 1-2-3 steps to get your small group started on the P.E.A.C.E. path.
3. See which countries small groups will focus on in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Europe, and Latin America.
4. Hear from other small groups who have tested The P.E.A.C.E. Plan—how it worked for them and what they did.
5. Discover how your small group can bond together, grow spiritually, and potentially add new members through participating in P.E.A.C.E.

Register online at www.saddlebackfamily.com events and calendar section.

2. Join the P.E.A.C.E. Prayer Network by emailing peaceprayernet@saddleback.net.

3. Take C.L.A.S.S. 401 on Saturday, May 14th or Sunday, May 15th and learn how you can begin to live Personal P.E.A.C.E. Register online at www.saddlebackfamily.com events and calendar section.

Extending The Vision Testimonies

Notes and emails continue to pour in to our church. Here are just a few:

- After 10 years of being casual attenders at Saddleback Church, we have finally taken the steps to become members and grow as Christians. The year 2004 brought us a complicated pregnancy in which I spent a month in the hospital lying flat on my back. I was able to read *The Purpose Driven Life* and learn about who was in control, while I was feeling out of control! I quit my job and came home to care for my 3-year-old and premature baby. When we were ready to go back to church, we heard Doug Fields' sermon on tithing. We got it! It was all part of trusting God and giving up control to Him. We immediately started tithing 10%. (0 - 10%! Wow!) In the year I've not worked, the first three months we tithed are the first three months we've made ends meet! God is taking care of us! We gave to ETV. It's not a huge pledge, but enough to where we still have to have faith! Thank you God for taking care of us and for this church that teaches the truth.
- ETV means investing in my grandchildren's future. They love this church, and all of our children need spiritual guidance more now than ever before. My grandson wrote a letter to Jesus. He was a finalist on KKLA radio and got to read his letter on the air. He told of his love for Saddleback Church and how it is guiding him.
- My wife and I prayed separately for weeks in preparation for our ETV gift. When we came together to reveal to each other what God had put on our hearts, we were amazed but not surprised that He had led us to the same number. This is the most either of us has ever given to anything, but we know that God will bless us with so much more than we could ever give.
- I've been shown that I can realistically give 10% of my income right now, given that I am a single woman with a huge heart for God and this church. Since January, coming here has changed my life 180 degrees, and I have dedicated my life to serving the Lord and loving others.
- At first when my \$ amount for Extend the Vision came to mind, I figured it was just my imagination! I began a strong discussion with God; this was simply too much money for my little family. My arguments with God over my commitments have ended, because as I held up my "Whatever It Takes" sign at the stadium, I knew God would keep His promise to this single mom. I have explained this sacrifice to my son. We can't wait to see what God will do!

If You Have Not Yet Made Your Pledge, You'll Want to Read This!

You may have been out of town, ill, or unable to make your commitment decision. If so, you can ask yourself these five questions to encourage God to impress upon you a specific amount to give:

- 1. Does this amount really stretch my faith?** "God is able to make it up to you by giving you everything you need and more...."
2 Corinthians 9:8 (LB)
- 2. Does this amount represent a genuine sacrifice?** "...for I don't want to offer to the Lord my God burnt offerings that have cost me nothing."
2 Samuel 24:24 (LB)
- 3. Does it express my gratefulness for how God has blessed my life and family?** "I will sacrifice a freewill offering to you; I will praise your name, O LORD, for it is good."
Psalm 54:6 (NIV)