

# To My Dear Friends **AT RIVERTREE JACKSON,**

A recent conversation I had reminded me of the importance of our dream here at RiverTree Jackson. I was chatting with a local funeral home director and as we talked he told me story after story about violence, division, and hatred breaking out between family members during funeral services he had directed. He then told me that it seemed to him that he was having to call the police or hire security on a more frequent basis these days. When I asked him why he thought the increase in hostility was happening, he said, "Scott, the truth of the matter is quite simply that a growing number of families are completely dysfunctional these days."

As soon as he spoke these words, I was reminded of our **dream at RiverTree Jackson** to reverse the decay happening in the world right around us, decay caused by dysfunctional families, mediocre marriages, disconnected neighborhoods, and the aimless, frenzied living that so often defines our suburban lives. Our short conversation infused me with another dose of renewed energy to see these areas of decay completely erased by the hope, the life, the salvation, and the purpose that only Jesus can offer. I left that conversation more fiercely committed than ever to give my life to our dream of erasing the decay around us by sending a missionary to every street and a missional community to every neighborhood here in Jackson Township and in all of our surrounding communities.

I also left that conversation **more grateful than ever to be on this journey with all of you.** It is such an incredible blessing to be part of a church that gives so much time, energy, and money to see more and more people experience new life through Jesus. Thank you for giving your lives for our dream—for supporting our church financially, for living as missionaries every day, and for serving so faithfully on all of our volunteer teams.

## **Take a look at some of the many ways God has used YOUR COMMITMENT to bring NEW LIFE TO OUR COMMUNITY THIS YEAR:**

**1657 people (on average) worshiped** with us every weekend.

**106 people experienced the new life** of Jesus through Christian baptism.

**980 people live out our dream** through three simple acts of mission every week: be a blessing, share a meal, and do a prayer walk.

**60 people received physical healing** through our prayer teams.

**300 people regularly use our new discipleship toolkit** to more intentionally Discover the Way of Jesus in their lives.

**450 people in 24 GoCommunities** live on mission in various neighborhoods, networks, or areas of need in our local communities.

**979 households fund our dream** through their generous and consistent financial donations.

As this year comes to a close, **I simply want to say, "THANK YOU!"** Thank you for living the dream with us. And thank you in advance for all I know you will do to make 2019 a year when we will see God do even more. You see, I don't believe God is anywhere near finished with us yet. I believe he wants to bring more people to worship with us on the weekends, see more students become real disciples of Jesus, raise up more missional community leaders, and expand our mission to bring the life Jesus offers to more neighborhoods and to more streets.

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To see God continue to do all of these things and more, I'm asking you to prayerfully consider taking a step up in your financial commitment to RiverTree in one of two ways:

- **Commit to increase your 2019 contributions** to RiverTree by 3%, 5%, 10%, or 20%.
- **Make a generous year-end gift to RiverTree** above and beyond your normal giving. See the bottom portion of this letter for options on how to make a year-end gift.
- **We are so grateful that you choose to make our dreams possible through your committed participation and your generous giving.** Thank you for prayerfully considering giving even more of yourself and your resources to God's work in RiverTree in 2019. God bless you.



Scott Nelson  
RiverTree Jackson Campus Pastor

## CHRISTMAS SERVICES

### Special Offering



**100% of our annual special Christmas offering blesses a local or global ministry partner.**

This year we are excited to announce that our special offering will support the \*Enhance Church Planting Partnership—a cooperative effort between RiverTree, Stadia, and an amazing church planting partner on the ground in India. This partner has a goal to reach the 500 million people who have never heard the Good News of Jesus by planting 100,000 churches by 2030.

**Our goal is to raise \$167,000** during our Christmas Services to fund **25 church planters over 3 years** which will then multiply to approximately 100 church plants. RiverTree will continue this partnership into the future and connect regularly with these pastors.

**Please prayerfully consider how you can join us in giving generously to our brothers and sisters in India.**

*\*name changed for security purposes*

## 2018 FINAL CONTRIBUTIONS

The RiverTree finance office will be open December 26 through December 31 at Noon to accept final contributions in person. Mailed contributions must be postmarked by December 31. Online or RiverTree app gifts must be made by December 31. The IRS stipulates any donations received on January 1, regardless of check date, must appear on your 2019 statement.

### 2018 Tax Deductions & Contribution Statement

To ensure the deductibility of your church contributions, please do not file your 2018 income tax return until you have received a written acknowledgment of your contributions from the church. We will mail RiverTree Contribution Statements before January 31, 2019. You may also get a copy of your most recent annual contribution statements at [rivertreejackson.com/statement](http://rivertreejackson.com/statement)

### Donating Stock

Gifts of stock are a great way to make church donations. Donors may be able to claim a charitable contribution deduction in the amount of the current market value of the donated stock while avoiding taxes on the appreciated value of the donated stock. The church pays no capital gains tax when it sells the donated stock so the entire amount of the gift furthers the church's mission.

### Online Giving and Mobile App

Online Giving and the RiverTree App allow you to do anything from making a one-time gift to automatically sending your tithe on the dates you choose each month! Recurring giving is especially helpful when you are serving or away for a weekend. We would also encourage you to explore this option as a convenience to you and your personal budget planning as well as enabling us to plan and budget more accurately.

### 2019 Offering Envelopes

We will be conveniently mailing 2019 offering envelopes to your home each quarter. If you are not receiving offering envelopes and would like to, email your request to [envelopes@rivertreechristian.com](mailto:envelopes@rivertreechristian.com)

Questions? All questions regarding charitable contributions contact Tracy Preston at [prestont@rivertreechristian.com](mailto:prestont@rivertreechristian.com) or 330.494.1860 ext. 121.