

HERE WE GO.

June 23, 2020

I hope and pray that you are doing well during this unique time and season. I speak for the whole team when I say that we've been missing you and are excited to finally regather these past few weeks!

The reason for this letter is to give you an update on the **HERE WE GO.** initiative at our Campus. Looking back to February, it was amazing to see the ways in which God moved in and through us together during **HERE WE GO.** And yet, I don't think any of us could have anticipated that directly on the heels of making our commitments together, we would find ourselves in the midst of a global pandemic. In light of these events, I can imagine you may have a number of questions about what this means for **HERE WE GO.** moving forward.

You may remember, from the very beginning of **HERE WE GO.**, we said that we are trusting God with whatever he decides to provide and however He decides to lead. We always want to do our best to plan with wisdom and vision, but also recognize that God is in control (James 4:13-16). I believe that situations, we may view as obstacles, are often also unique opportunities. I think of Paul's words written from prison (clearly something that would have been viewed as an obstacle to the ministry):

Philippians 1:12

Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel.

This is such a good reminder as it reinforces the reality that God can use any circumstance for His Glory, our good, and for His purpose. And so, we trust that God knew exactly what He was leading us into. In fact, I believe that what has transpired these past few months only reinforces the convictions God rubbed into us through **HERE WE GO.**

For example:

- We talked about the importance of investing in the next generation. COVID-19 caused us to pursue a stronger online presence and connection more actively. I believe this is no coincidence as the primary platform the next generation interacts on is the online platform.
- We talked about wanting to direct more energy towards outreach within our community and world. Through this time, we have never had a better chance to serve and love our community. This caused us to direct a lot of energy to creating "Love Medina" in which we connect the needs of our community with the people of our church willing to meet those needs.
- We prayed that God would make us a "dangerous church." I believe that the darkest moments are opportunities for the church to shine the brightest.

Considering all of this, we are not "pausing" the plans in **HERE WE GO.**, we are "pivoting." We want to adapt to the new landscape God has led us into. You may recall that within **HERE WE GO.**, we focused together on 4 campaign components and 4 involvement goals. So, what does the "pivot" look like in these areas?

4 Campaign Components

1. **Campusing:** We are moving forward in the search process for a campus pastor but will delay hiring until the current environment stabilizes. Identifying location and a launch team for the next campus will come later in the campaign as the Spirit leads.

2. **Children & Students:** We are delaying pursuing a building project and key staffing hires for the next 3-6 months. We do, however, believe that God is leading us to sharpen our online presence to reach the next generation and are exploring ways to strengthen this area.
3. **Leadership Development:** We continue to invest in our Resident and Intern Program through 30 in 30. We cannot afford to pause leadership development. In addition, the Equipping Division is developing online options for its Gateway courses.
4. **Outreach:** Our plan remains to invest 10% of the amount committed to **HERE WE GO.** into our local and global partnerships. We are excited to come alongside these partners with both financial and people resources during this challenging time. Because of your generosity, we were able to quickly meet the tangible needs of our community through Love Medina. We are currently evaluating the needs of our ministry partners and are ready to disperse much needed resources starting in July.

4 Involvement Goals

1. **Pray for Your Three:** Keep it up! Continue to pray for opportunities to share the gospel with each one.
2. **Get in a Life Group:** Our life groups never stopped meeting these past few months but stayed connected via Zoom. Personally, checking out a life group or proactively invite others. This time offers a unique opportunity to gain ground for the Kingdom.
3. **Serve One, Attend One:** If you have not finished Discovery, both in-person and virtual options will be available this summer. As we regather, look for new opportunities to serve during a service or continue to serve your community through Love Medina.
4. **3-year Financial Commitment: HERE WE GO.** was originally a 3-year commitment beginning in February 2020. Given the current environment, we are considering extending this timeline. We are thankful for the generous commitments and faithful gifts we have received these past five months! But if you cannot give at this time or need to extend your giving timeline, we understand and love you regardless.

If you have any further questions or comments, our team would be happy to help in any way. Again, thank you for your involvement in **HERE WE GO**, and thank you for your patience, flexibility, and sensitivity to the Spirit of God through this very unique season.

You are loved!

Tony Livigni
Campus Pastor

