



1619 E. Monte Vista Ave
Turlock, CA 95382

Dear Monte Vista Family,

As part of our First Things sermon series that runs through the month of November, the elders, deacons and staff invite you to an intentional time of prayer, reflection and conversation regarding your participation in the long term financial health of Monte Vista Chapel.

To begin, we want to say 'thank you' for your generosity. So many of you who call Monte Vista home have faithfully supported the general fund, missions and countless special projects that have arisen in our community. God's kingdom has advanced in Turlock and throughout the world because of you.

We also want to acknowledge some financial challenges in front of us. While they are serious enough to warrant special attention, God has been faithful to and through this congregation in the past, and we are confident God will do the same in the future.

As we have assembled the 2025 budget, it is \$30,000 more than last year. In and of itself, this is not insurmountable. However, current giving is below budget, and the significant savings we made from staff cuts over the past few years have been offset by the increasing costs of 'doing business' in California. This means in order to have the resources needed to engage the ministry opportunities God has placed before us, we believe giving needs to increase by a minimum of \$130,000 annually. Though this is a considerable amount, we believe the ministry that flows through MVC is worth such an investment. Scan the QR code on the enclosed card or go to MVCTurlock.com and view the MY MVC video where you will see just a few of the countless ways God is at work in and through our church. As we have begun to share the need with the congregation, the most common response has been, "What can we do to help?"

First Fruits Call To Action

While there are many ways to engage, the next step we are asking of everyone is to prayerfully consider increasing your current giving by 10%. (Example: A person currently giving \$100/month would increase to \$110/month, or \$500/month would increase to \$550/month etc). We understand some will be able to increase their giving by less, and others by more. That's OK. If everyone honestly seeks God about how they can participate, we will meet and even exceed the challenge.

Here are some additional steps that you might consider. Scan the QR code on the enclosed commitment card for details and instructions.

- Make prayer for the church a regular part of your spiritual life.
- If you have not been a regular giver, consider beginning now.
- Sign up for recurring giving.
- Give a 'one time' gift to help towards \$400,000 in long-term maintenance upgrades. Please designate your gift to 'first fruits maintenance fund.'
- Listen to Pastor Ken's November 10 First Things message on First Fruits.
- Take a class on personal finances starting in January to create the margin you need to become a generous giver.
- Inquire about giving assets or including MVC in your estate planning.

However you choose to engage, please know there will be no arm-twisting from us. Our number one desire is that you honestly lay your finances before God, and in light of scripture, listen for the Holy Spirit's guidance as to how you can support the ministries of MVC.

We have already referred to the card that is enclosed with this letter. It simply restates the above 'next steps' in a concise manner. It also contains the QR code to an encouraging video and details about your next steps. After you have spent time with God, we ask that you fill it out, and as a physical symbol of your commitment to God and to this local body of Christ, place it in one of the glass jars located in the Worship Center foyer during the month of November. Every commitment helps, and we trust that as everyone participates, God will do exceedingly, abundantly more than we could ever ask or imagine.

Blessings on behalf of the leadership at Monte Vista Chapel,



Ken