



Mail: 2649 N Francisco Ave, Chicago, IL 60647

Phone: (773) 463-6222

Fax: (773) 463-6222

www.thenewcom.com

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1 Timothy 6:17 Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. 18 Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. 19 In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

Dear New Community Family,

Over the past 14 years, we have seen New Community grow from a church of a handful of people to one that is impacting a multitude of people from all walks of life. Along the way, we have seen lives changed by the power of God working through you, as well as through others in our church. We have seen marriages restored, brokenness healed, loneliness defeated and lives transformed by the Gospel of Jesus Christ! We praise God for His faithfulness all these years!

At a time in which the economy is struggling and every person in America is experiencing the financial "pinch," our natural tendency is to hold back. However, at New Community, we have always believed that our hope and trust are not in the economy or the government, but in God's gracious provision for our lives. This trust has enabled men and women of New Community to give sacrificially during tough economic times, allowing us to continue our ministry of bringing hope and redemption, both spiritually and physically, to many in the Chicagoland area.

Which brings me to this. As we come to the end of 2016, we will be collecting a special "Christmas Offering." The purpose of the offering is twofold. **First, we hope to close a budget gap and finish the year on a strong note.** What a testimony it would be to say at the end of this year that we trusted God for His provision and met our budgeted goals! **Second, we want to join God in the wonderful work that He is doing among us, and position ourselves to grow and multiply our ministry in 2017. More specifically, your generosity will help us offer multiple Sunday worship services, expand our Youth and Family Ministries, develop and launch additional Small Groups to disciple men and women and better care for "the least of these."**

But what we can do corporately for the city of Chicago and then the world through our ministry, will be determined by what we do individually for the ministry through our gifts and resources. Will you begin to pray now about what God is calling you give over and above your regular giving to this special offering, and thus, allow God to stretch your faith and trust in Him?

Your Pastor

Peter Hong