

Dear HillSong Family,

Our leadership team (Staff, Elders & Deacons) began 2010 by challenging the church to follow Jesus' lead in living compassionate lives. Our specific focus was on showing compassion to people (local and in other parts of the world) through prayer, through financial and material assistance when needed, and through missionary activity. I am pleased to share that HillSong Church members have responded to this challenge with great energy. Our church has been compassionate and mission-minded for many years, but making missions a special focus has expanded our outlook and our activity in wonderful ways. Below is a report of the specific actions our church has taken from January-April 2010. Read to see what we have done, and as you do, pray and dream about what God will do in our church this summer and throughout the rest of 2010.

God wants you to be involved. This report is not made to brag about what we have done, but rather to celebrate what God has done among us. We hope you will read this and feel the call of God. We pray that you will be inspired to want to a part of the compassion ministries in our church through your giving of your time and talents, through your prayers, and through financial contributions. Giving in all these ways will uplift your heart, expand your faith, and connect you with people in ways you might not have previously imagined.

Read and be blessed. Respond to the prompting of the Holy Spirit and be changed.

Pastor Rob Tennant

### **1) Adoption of Missionary Family—Insights Sunday Morning Small Group**

The Insights Sunday Morning Small Group (formerly the “Intergenerational Class”) has adopted the Phillips Family. Dale and Carmen along with their children Justin, Karina, Rebecca, and Gregory are missionaries Eastern Europe (based in Budapest, Hungary). HillSong Church contributes to the Phillips' work by sending quarterly financial contributions. The Insights class corresponds with Dale and Carmen and the kids. They email, send letters, gifts, and sometimes contribute by purchasing and sending things they need on the mission field. The prayers and relationships are as important as the stuff the small group sends to the Phillips. If you would like your class to adopt a missionary family, we can help you. The HillSong staff can connect your group so that you also can support missions in this way.

### **2) Mission Trips & Individual Projects**

After we began the emphasis on showing compassion, several of our members became directly involved in missions. David Sanders, a member of the Tuesday Men's Bible study began sponsoring a child in Uganda through World Vision. Several in the medical field went on mission trips: Laura Booth (Uganda), Cathy Sander (Haiti, post earthquake), and Tony Roche (Uganda, Haiti—2 trips).

### **3) Testimonies during Morning Worship**

The first seven Sundays of the year examined the compassionate life of Jesus in the Gospel of Luke. On each of those Sunday, we had someone who had gone on a mission trip in 2009 share testimony: Beth Robert (CBF—Alabama), Laura Shrewsbury (North Carolina

Baptists—Ukraine), Vickie Seng (World Changers—Roanoke), Tony Roche (Duke Hospital—Uganda), Bob & Betty Thompson (World Medical Mission/Samaritan's Purse—Kenya), Josh Asbill (World Changers—Roanoke), and Brenda Stiles (World Changers—Durham).

#### **4) Mission Trip to Haiti and Follow-up Work—Cathi Sander, Tamara Baker**

After Cathi, a physician, returned from Haiti and shared with our church a first-person account of the post-earthquake devastation, she made an appeal in church (February 14). She had become friends with a husband and wife, Marlene and Vlad, two Haitian doctors. They could have fled, but were determined to stay and help rebuild their country. Cathi appealed to our church to help her new friends.

The church responded by raising well over \$4,000 the Sunday Cathi spoke. Tamara Baker set up a website and established a relationship with an outdoors outfitter in Raleigh, Great Outdoor Provision (<http://greatoutdoorprovision.com/>). They gave us exceptional discounts so we could purchase a high quality tent that Vlad and Marlene would live in. Cathi and Pastor Rob met another team of doctors going with North Carolina Baptists down to Haiti. We prayed with them and they delivered the tents.

To learn more about the work Cathi did and the continuing work in Haiti, please go our blog, caring for Haiti (<http://caring4haiti.blogspot.com/>). There you'll find a picture of Vlad and Marlene standing in front of the tent we sent to them.

#### **5) Helping Hand Report (January 2010 thru March 2010—Laura Shrewsbury, Phil Partin, Kathy Johnson, Jane Barlow**

Those who serve with the Helping Hand ministry have the opportunity to minister one-on-one to those who have financial needs. We can do this because of the generous giving of the HillSong family. Meeting the financial need is only part of our service. The most important part is showing the love of Jesus to all who come. We talk with them and pray together sharing our faith, and many times they share their faith walk with us as well. We always invite them to worship with us at HillSong.

During January through March 2010 we saw many people who had higher utility bills due to the very cold weather. One lady is disabled, lives alone and is in a wheelchair. She is usually able to keep up with her utility bills, but this year she needed some help. Together with two other area churches we were able to prevent gas cut off. We also assisted a lady who is an assistant teacher working with autistic children and is also a licensed foster parent. She and her husband have been able to keep up the bills until his job ended and his unemployment checks hadn't started yet. We were able to prevent gas cut off so they could have heat.

During January thru March we received a much larger number of requests than usual. We were able to assist 39 people during this period. Total monies distributed were \$2,501.91, with \$1,600.00 given for rent and \$901.91 given for utilities.

In addition \$180.00 was given in Food Cards.

Thank you for allowing us to minister in this way through your gifts.

#### **6) Habitat for Humanity—Gary Howe**

During the spring, 2010 building campaign with Habitat for Humanity of Orange County, Jim Church and Gary Howe have been volunteering on Saturdays as crew leaders.

This involves leading a team from one of the partnerships to accomplish a specific task assigned by one of the Habitat site supervisors. Construction tasks include floor decking, framing walls, roof sheathing, roof shingling, vinyl siding, and interior painting. There are nine homes under construction at Phoenix Place in the Rogers Road area of Chapel Hill. Several of the homes that Jim and Gary have helped with have involved partnering with Karen refugee families who will be homeowners after spending 300+ hours of "sweat equity" in working on a Habitat house. Under the leadership of Laura Shrewsbury, HillSong has ministered to one of these Karen (from Burma) families in the past.

### **7) Dental Bus—Laura Shrewsbury**

**<http://www.ncmissionsoffering.org/index.php?id=1258>**

The Dental Bus was at HillSong on Saturday, Feb. 27, 2010. We served 27 patients, some having more than one procedure done. They started lining up at 7:30 a.m. and we had to stop registering patients by 9:30 a.m. because the schedule was full.

We were able to touch lives for Christ through this ministry. We had White American, African American, and Hispanic men, women, and children patients. We had dentists, dental hygienists, dental assistants, and dental students from UNC and the community. We gave out health kits with Bible verses and HillSong information. We had many HillSong volunteers who prepared and served lunch, provided transportation, made x-rays, operated the ultrasonic cleaner, registered patients, talked with the patients while they waited, set up the portable dental chairs, set up the children's area, set up and cleaned up the areas, and others who did whatever was needed at the time--all showing the love of Jesus.

This is one of the many ways that HillSong Church practices "putting life in our words."

### **8) Ethiopian Orphan Sponsorship—Candy and Rob Tennant**

On Saturday, March 6, Peter Abera, an Ethiopian man who works with Children's Hope Chest stayed with the Tennants. Around twenty people came and heard Peter's story and heard the desperate plight of children in Kombolcha, Ethiopia. This is one of the regions Candy visited on her trip to Ethiopia in December 2009.

On Sunday, March 7, Peter shared his testimony in the morning worship service at HillSong. We learned how families can sponsor an orphan in Kombolcha. Sponsorship provides funds to make sure children have uniforms (required for participation in school), writing pads (also required for school), and adequate food (many of these children eat just once a day). After hearing Peter, we invited HillSong members to consider sponsoring orphans in Kombolcha. To this point, Hillsong families have sponsored 37 children in Kombolcha. Also \$200 was given in special offerings to support the work of Children's Hope Chest in Kombolcha.

If you would like to be involved in this ministry, go to this link on the HillSong Church website for more details, <http://www.hillsong.org/missions3.htm>.

### **9) Delta Jewels—Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Arkansas**

**<http://www.cbfar.org/> & <http://www.deltajewels.com/>**

The Delta Jewels are necklaces, bracelets, and earrings made by girls who live in and around Helena, Arkansas. In 2009, HillSong Church sent a team of 10 to work alongside

CBF missionary Ben Newell on construction missions in Helena. Ben is trying to help people in the economically depressed area through “business as missions.” With CBF funding and help from churches like ours, Ben tries to train people to use their skills (like jewelry making, cooking, or farming) in business. It is a creative, sustainable way of getting out of poverty, putting food on the table, and contributing positively in society. Here Ben describes more thoroughly this program: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=akp91fPai0k>.

To provide a context for success, we sell the jewelry. Three Sundays in 2010, Delta Jewels have been sold at HillSong. There has been over \$1,000 in sales (all the money going to extremely poor families in rural Arkansas). Candy Tennant will continue to set up the Delta Jewels sales table throughout 2010.

### **11) Jonathan Elwing—Operation Inasmuch, Church and Community Clean-up**

On Saturday April 10<sup>th</sup> 2010 a number of HillSong Families arrived early to provide some much needed clean up on the church grounds. The majority of them spent their time spreading mulch on the playground and pulling weeds out of the numerous flower beds around the parking lots. Meanwhile the youth with several adults left out from the playground circling the property with construction grade trash bags with the goal to clean up the rest of the property. For the next couple of hours they proceeded to fill eight bags with trash from along the road, parking lot and through the woods behind the church.

### **12) Operation Inasmuch/Restoration Carrboro-Chapel Hill**

Ru Sen, pastor of Grace Community Church, and Rebecca Clendenin, administrator of Grace brought together a dozen churches from Carrboro and Chapel Hill. The project was intended to be a collaborative effort involving predominantly Caucasian congregations and predominantly African American congregations working together to improve the lives of some of Carrboro’s poorest citizens. We began on April 10 by working on a widow’s house, doing badly needed home repair.

The volunteers came from six different churches. HillSong member Tom Timmons was the supervisor over the entire project. Other HillSong members to participate included David Seng, Gary Howe, David Sanders, and Roger Sit. To see pictures of the work done, check out this site: <http://nclendenin.com/photos/rcch-foggie-day1/>

### **13) Thirty-Hour Famine—Jonathan Elwing**

Friday April 16<sup>th</sup> 7:30 a.m. One hundred and thirty five teenagers across Orange, Durham, Wake and Chatham counties began a fast as a sign of solidarity with hungry people around the world. Each young person had sponsors donating money for the hours they went without eating (30 hours in total). The money raised will go to children in earthquake ravaged Haiti. These American teens discovered what it is like to be hungry and in the process they helped children they will likely never meet.

The evening of April 16<sup>th</sup>, all of these teens and their youth leaders would descend on HillSong Church where they would experience some of the many hardships the children in Haiti were experiencing including sleeping in cardboard boxes outside on the parking lot. We had one hundred and sixty people sleeping in the parking lot that evening. This included well over 30 HillSong members. The total amount raised was \$9,201.

Saturday morning the teens departed HillSong headed for the mission field where they all took part in different service projects in Carrboro or Chapel Hill or Durham. The

teens from HillSong and Farrington Road Baptist Church teamed up to canvas the neighborhoods around the church campus collecting canned foods for the North Carolina Baptist Children's Home. We were able to collect well over 500 pounds of food for the Children's home that afternoon thanks to the generosity of our community. We capped the weekend off with lunch donated by a Chick-fil-A (<http://www.chick-fil-a.com/#home>), sandwich and chips to break our 30-hour fast.

#### **14) Hosting Watoto Children's Choir**

<http://www.watoto.com/home>

The Watoto village is a project in Uganda that provides permanent homes for orphans and street children. The village is located in Uganda. There homeless, abandoned children of all ages and grouped into foster families and mothered by a Ugandan woman who adopts them and is a mother to them.

One of the programs of Watoto is the touring choir. They travel all over the world performing tremendous Christian music and raising the issue of awareness of orphans in Uganda. During the United States tour, the Americans who book for Watoto had nothing planned on Tuesday night, April 27. It was too short notice for HillSong to have them for a concert. However, four HillSong Families (the Roches, the Logans, the Sanders, and the Tennants) were able to have Watoto choir members in their homes.