



REACH 
CONTINUES WITH *Me*

THANKS TO YOU, WE ARE FUELING A MOVEMENT

2020 has been quite a ride – and it’s not over yet! But the Lord – who has not been surprised by any of the twists and turns – has graciously sustained us. And we know we can trust Him as things continue to unfold.

I am writing to thank you for your support during the last year. The church has faced its own challenges, and has needed to undergo several pivots, but your ongoing support ensured that we have been able to march on. As you will see in this REACH update, there are many things to celebrate.

Enclosed you will find your giving statement through October. Please let us know if you have any questions or corrections. And please consider Christ Church in your year-end giving plans.

I look forward to life after we can be back together and have settled into the new normal. For now, know that (though our numbers are limited) we continue to meet in person as well as online.

It is a privilege to work alongside you as we seek to *Fuel a Movement that Reaches People and Renews Communities.*



Press On,
Mike Woodruff
Senior Pastor / CHRIST CHURCH

98,548
SERVICE HOURS
**July 1, 2016-October 31, 2020*

269
BAPTISMS
**Since July 1, 2016*

11
MATTHEW
HOMES
currently in progress

\$14.9M
COLLECTED
April 2018-March 2020

**QUESTIONS REGARDING
YOUR GIVING?**
finance@christchurchil.org

**AUTOMATE YOUR
REACH GIVING**
christchurchil.org/give



LAUNCHING A CHURCH DURING A PANDEMIC

When the newest campus in Vernon Hills launched, the team aimed to make a big difference in the community. But launching a church during a pandemic created some unexpected road blocks. Undeterred, Pastor Jonathan and the team have gotten creative in the many ways they're reaching out and serving. From blood drives, to family movie nights, to Hispanic Heritage concerts, this church's compassion and love shines through everything they do.

This past September, the team hosted a mobile food pantry in the church parking lot to help those hardest hit by the pandemic's economic fallout. The new church, though small, rallied together with over 40 volunteers stepping up to direct traffic, fill food boxes, pack trunks, and even pray for the families as they drove through the church parking lot. So many incredible stories and heartfelt thanks came from the people who were served by the Vernon Hills volunteers. And several families returned to worship at Christ Church Vernon Hills the following Sunday.

CHRIST CHURCH

VERNON HILLS



AKATSI, GHANA

The Akatsi church plant has emerged from the Covid-19 lock downs with increased attendance and increased evangelistic and outreach activities, not only in Akatsi, but in ten surrounding communities. Training for leaders in evangelism and discipleship is taking place. Accounts of people receiving Christ are occurring with one man who was delivered from alcoholism and another who was healed from sleeplessness. A plot of land has been purchased by the church with plans to build an open-air pavilion by the end of the year.

SOGAKOPE, GHANA

Even though the Sogakope Church was closed for several months due to Covid-19, the leadership continued to reach out to the people in the community through food distribution and local outreach meetings. Leaders are being trained in discipleship and much needed counseling is taking place. One story reported to us was that of a woman convert with three children who was abandoned by her drug addict husband. Even though her challenges are overwhelming, she has found a new family at the church and her faith is growing day by day. She is attending discipleship and baptism classes and is active in the life of the church.

CHENNAI, INDIA

The shift from a physical location for this church plant to a digital strategy has produced a host of blessings. In the midst of Covid-19, most businesses and schools remain closed, however, the HBI digital ministry is in full swing with online training of cell leaders for the new church, online courses for the school's Education Without Borders program and enhanced production of quality recordings that will benefit the outreach to the IT community. A specific strategy has been developed to reach professional IT workers who find themselves in the position of working from home.

ISTANBUL, TURKEY

Recently, a group of Christ Church short-term team members participated in a weekly virtual experience for the month of October with some of the key leadership of our Afghan church plant. We were privileged to interact with several American workers and one Afghan woman who had come to faith. The challenges and joys of birthing this church came alive to our small group who hopes to travel to Istanbul next year to host a retreat for these dear people.