

# UNFINISHED UPDATE

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## When God needs something done, why does He use people?

If you needed to save humanity and every living thing, would you recruit an old man and his three sons for a massive construction project? God could have built the Ark on a lark!

A Tabernacle is not too big for Him to tackle, and a massive Temple would have been quite simple for the Creator of the Universe.

Even though our God can simply think anything into existence, here is what I'm coming to appreciate in this season of UNFINISHED:

### God uses <u>people</u> to build <u>projects</u>, so He can use projects to build people.

The projects we are tackling in this 2-year season of UNFINISHED are hugely important and God-sized on purpose. We want to see more miracles in our midst, and that is why we give. I hope you'll read every word in this quarterly update and celebrate with me.

But perhaps the greatest miracle is what is happening in all of us who have stepped up to give our first and best to God to help write the next chapter in Eastside's UNFINISHED STORY. God is using your faith-stretching financial commitment for two important outcomes:

- To grow your TRUST in Him as your loving and generous Father
- To enrich your TESTIMONY to others so they can trust Him too, both now and forever

That's why our primary goal has always been 100% engagement, because God's most important building project is each one of us – wherever we are on our spiritual journey. I can't wait to see all that God is going to do -- in me, in you, and in the church that we love!

Expectantly,

Gene Appel Senior Pastor



#### **UNRELENTING LOVE**

Taking radical risks to reach people who are far from God is what unrelenting love is all about. Your generosity through Unfinished has led to the development of both our Irvine and Las Vegas campuses. These two campuses have allowed us to reach people who may not have otherwise had the opportunity to develop a relationship with the Lord.

This love is shown so clearly through Randy, who has been an Eastsider for 13 years - attending our Anaheim Campus. He recently moved to Las Vegas to be closer to family, but also to lead our Care and Recovery Ministry. Because of Randy's faithfulness, people in Las Vegas have the opportunity to talk about their hurts, habits and hangups. Randy is all in to help people in Las Vegas find the love of God and enter sobriety.



#### **UNCOMPROMISING FAITH**

Each week during the junior high service, students are encouraged to create friendships that matter, follow Jesus everyday, and make a difference in the world around them. This is a mission that Jaysin, an eighth grader who is part of Eastside's Junior High Ministry, takes seriously.

When Jaysin learned about Unfinished, he knew it was his job to faithfully commit to what God asked of him. Jaysin, who was only 13 at the time, decided he would make an impact by bringing his tithe to church each week. But, how could he tithe? He wasn't old enough to even have a job.

That's when Jaysin thought about the one dollar he gets each school day for a snack. The snack he buys is \$0.75, leaving him with an extra \$0.25 each day. He would start there. He would bring his \$1.25 to church each week to honor his Unfinished commitment.

But, that's not all! As part of his allowance, Jaysin's grandpa gives him \$15 every Friday. The first two dollars of that allowance would also go to his Unfinished commitment.

It truly is not about the amount that you give, but about the heart that you have when you give. Jaysin brings his giving each week as a reminder of what the Lord has given him. In his own words, he says, "I want to help the less fortunate. I know there are people out there who need it more than me... my tithe [goes] towards the community and makes the world a better place."



#### **UNPRECEDENTED HOPE**

With big smiles, and hugs to match, children greeted Andrea and the Eastside Global Compassion team. The team had traveled to Mathare Valley (Kenya) to provide medical care and social services. It was during this trip that God's love took on a new perspective for Andrea. She began to truly understand what it means to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

Mathare Valley is one of most populated slums in the world, and together, with our partner, Missions of Hope, we bring hope to those who call this slum home. Most recently this has come in the form of a nutrition program for malnourished children.

In late 2022, Andrea's Global Compassion team was able to assess over 300 kids in Mathare Valley, providing protein and micronutrient supplements. The goal is to prevent cases of severe malnutrition and provide a solution for moderate malnutrition.

Despite the worst drought in Africa's history, Andrea has led the way in testing a new three month nutrition program. This program is underway, and although the needs have never been greater, our hope remains unprecedented.



# UNFINISHED COMMITMENTS AND ANTICIPATED GIVING OVER 2 YEARS

\$54,712,416

#### **TOTAL GIVING TO DATE**

\$11,873,868

December 1, 2022 - May 31, 2023