



**NOVEMBER  
2023**

# UNFINISHED UPDATE

**“Are we there yet?”** Going around the block or across the country, someone always asks!

**We’ve covered a lot of ground over the last 11 months.**

- Two new Eastside campuses -- in Las Vegas and Irvine
- International groundbreakings for a K-12 school, a ministry training and retreat complex, and a center to serve up to 500 special needs children
- Expanded local compassion partnerships in every Eastside community.

**There’s so much to celebrate, but our journey is still Unfinished.**

- It’s now time to complete those global building projects so the doors for ministry can swing open.
- We’re gearing up for an international campus, and we’re praying for another Eastside campus in the U.S.
- Beyond that, we hope to take a big swipe at our long term debt– to free up dollars for ministry impact.

**That’s why I hope you will join me in recommitting to finish strong in this final year of Unfinished. When we bring our first and best to our faithful God, the possibilities are limitless!**

These are God-sized projects with eternal impact for thousands of others, but God also wants to change our hearts and grow our faith in the process.

*“I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.”*  
Philippians 1:6

I can’t wait to see what God is going to do – in me, in you, and in the church that we love!

Expectantly,



Gene Appel  
Senior Pastor





## UNRELENTING LOVE

Nasreen was baptized at Eastside Irvine on October 22, nearly ten years after first attending church in what was then the Journey Christian Church building. Nasreen grew up in the Muslim faith, but often played with the neighbor kids who attended Journey Christian Church.

Nasreen's friendship with her neighbors led to an invitation to church. Soon their playdates would often include going to church on Sunday mornings. Nasreen, who is now 17, first learned about Jesus' love because of her neighbors, but his love became real to her as she attended church, learning more about who Jesus is.

When Eastside merged with Journey Christian Church in the spring of 2023, it gave Nasreen the opportunity to return to church after what had been an extended time away. This fall Nasreen committed her life to Christ and was baptized - with her parents there to support her.

The power of an invitation is truly remarkable, and as we plant additional Eastside campuses it gives us continued opportunities to show unrelenting love to those who don't yet know God.



# UNCOMPROMISING FAITH

Noah's journey with HSM (High School Ministry) began on March 26, 2023, but the seeds were sown years ago when he was initially invited by his friend, Trenton, to Choctober fest at JHM (Junior High Ministry). At the time, it was just a fun event for Noah, and he didn't give it much thought.

However, life had a way of bringing Noah back to the church. Feeling like something was missing, he reached out to Trenton about church. That is when Noah started going to HSM with Trenton.

From the very start, Noah felt a sense of belonging at HSM. But, Summer Camp 2023, is really what became a pivotal moment in Noah's spiritual journey. At first Noah wasn't sure he would be able to attend due to finances, but he was awarded a scholarship and registered for camp just a week before the deadline. It turned out to be a life-changing decision.

During camp, Noah not only accepted God but also felt his presence for the first time in his life. Doubts that had plagued him were replaced by a newfound connection to God. And Noah's decision to follow Jesus at camp led to his baptism.

Noah's story serves as a reminder that there is always hope, and with the support of a caring community, lives can be transformed.





# UNPRECEDENTED HOPE

Shannon's recent mission trip to Turkana, Kenya, showcased the profound impact Global Compassion trips can have on the lives of others. That impact is exemplified by two heartwarming encounters with Paul and William.

While on the trip, Shannon encountered a young boy named Paul who was lying motionless on the ground outside the restroom. With the help of nearby students and teachers, he was rushed to medical care and was hospitalized with malaria. Miraculously, within two days, Paul was back at school. Shannon even took things a step further and began a monthly sponsorship through our partner, Missions of Hope International (MOHI), so that Paul could have access to school and care for his basic needs.

Then, there was William, a baby Shannon met alongside his mother. Upon holding the seemingly newborn baby, Shannon was stunned to learn he was actually 14 months old. Weighing only 12 pounds and measuring 14 inches, his malnourished condition was dire. Shannon was able to secure a spot for William in a nutritional program through MOHI where he showed significant improvement.

These stories are just a glimpse at the impact of global mission trips. Paul's life was saved, and William received a second chance, largely thanks to the efforts of Shannon and the team she served alongside. In communities like these, where neglect and despair often prevail, unprecedented hope offered by a compassion team can become a catalyst for change. It shines a spotlight on their needs, infusing them with resources, energy, and most importantly, a sense of value.

Shannon's journey to Kenya illuminates the boundless power of compassion and the immeasurable value of global missions in transforming lives and communities.

# Extending Limitless Impact

**1,820**

people signed up for a  
Limitless Small Group



**100,000**

mango trees planted for  
sustainability in Thailand



**6,000**

foster youth impacted through  
Olive Crest Orange County



**40**

new churches built through  
Chile-IberoAmerican Ministries



**2,232**

students sponsored in Kenya through  
Missions of Hope International

