

Bring in the Tithe/Message from the Chair of Deacons

As evidenced by the Bring in the Tithe Sunday receipts, **HillSong Church does not have a giving problem.** On a per capita basis, the steadfast support given is solid, strong and broadly shared. **Neither does HillSong Church have a spending problem.** Each expense is documented and reviewed as it is disbursed and monitored in monthly statements reviewed by the Deacons. The Budget has been designed to be sustainable without deficit spending and each line item of expense is scrutinized.

I encourage you to take a look around the next time you attend church. The Deacons are charged with cost effectively maintaining the buildings and grounds. HillSong Church does not have gold gilded trim work or highly ornate building furnishings. HillSong Church is the *people* not the building. HillSong Church is blessed with a building which is safe place for HillSong Church's *people*. The Deacons realize building upkeep and maintenance are not all that glamorous, nor motivating. However, we will continue to be good stewards of the building and keep it in a fashion where it is an inviting place for the congregation, guests and community peoples.

In this year of 2016, HillSong Church has simply experienced a mathematical 'numbers' challenge. With as few as 10 additional 'giving units' any shortfall in income would likely resolve without impacting reserve funds. What this translates to is replacement of recent members who have gone on to places of other service with new community. Please invite those in your circle of influence to attend HillSong Church. God is not done with His Kingdom work until His son Jesus returns. If it be God's will, HillSong Church will continue to operate and participate in God's Kingdom work.

Finally, for the base (core) operations of HillSong Church to remain unencumbered in 2017, a definite increase in tithe and offering income is needed because there is a \$22,683.92 projected deficit in the 2017 Proposed budget. The plain fact is HillSong Church ministries including its payroll and buildings and grounds costs real money. The main source of the money is largely from tithes and offerings and to a smaller extent, from parking and building use fees. There is a growing consensus to view the 2017 Proposed Budget as a challenge and faith exercise, relying on new family's to join HillSong in the coming year, and the steadfast support of the current congregation.

Respectfully,

Todd Baker, Chair of Deacons