Missions Overview
Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Hello, Highland Oaks Disciple!

On behalf of the Highland Oaks Missions Ministry (HOMM), I cannot express how excited we are for what God has been doing over the past year and a half. This overview is primarily a way for you to know how your money is stewarded throughout the fiscal year. I hope that you are encouraged by the many ways we have joined and will continue to join God on mission throughout the world, both in Asia, as well as here in our own backyard. I am grateful for our purposeful desire to be outward focused, to be a church that chooses to look for the ways God is at work in the world and accompany Him in that work.

Before highlighting our mission partners and works, however, I want to take a moment to discuss the theme for this year: **Simple: Rediscovering the Beauty of God's Mission**. Over the past few years, we have taken the time to talk about the *Missio Dei*, or the "mission of God," a concept and theological claim that makes God the central character—the "missionary"—to humanity, and the church the entity which God has invited along. In this way, God, *not the church*, is the one who does the renewing, redeeming, and reconciling, and we, the people of God, have the profound honor of being a vehicle for that work to take place.

With our theme this year, HOMM and I hope you'll consider the ways you can simply and beautifully take part in the redemptive work that God is already doing. Whether that be singing or living out a **simple song,** praying a **simple prayer**, or saying "yes" to a **simple invitation,** we can all join God in His work of mission. If you would like to revisit any of the thematic videos we provided, you can view them on our YouTube channel under the "Missions Month" playlist.

Once again, thank you for being a church, a body of believers that takes the mission of God seriously. Personally, I am honored to be a minister here at Highland Oaks and am grateful for your continued love for people, whether they be literally half a world away or the people in our own neighborhood and church. Your love for others and for God is a beautiful thing indeed.

On the next few pages you'll see information on our various mission partners and works, as well as a breakdown of the budget for the fiscal year from September 1, 2022 to August 31, 2023. As always, you can find more information on our website or talk to me.

Grace and peace,

Joshua Tracy, PhD
Sending and Missions Minister
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Mission Partners and Works

Mark Hooper, Co-Director of the Bengal Initiative
Mission Resource Network, Bedford, TX

HOCC partners with Mission Resource Network in the work of Mark and Debbie Hooper in Asia. Mark is co-director of the Bengal Initiative at MRN. This initiative focuses on the Hindu and Buddhist unreached people groups in India and SE Asia around the Bay of Bengal. These areas are less than 3% Christian and have been resistant to the Gospel for centuries. Yet, God is moving in this region.

Mark mentors and coaches leaders in the Bengal Initiative to make disciple making teams that will multiply in the unreached areas. These leaders are developing prayer networks and disciple making teams for their regions. Join them in prayer for the unreached people in Hindu and Buddhist religions. Pray for God to raise up leaders who will make disciples that make other disciples, and that churches will be planted among people who are yet to know of the Lordship of Jesus, so that they will honor the God of Creation and Redemption.

Kyle, Rebecca, Emma, and Korban Hooper
Church of Christ, Pasir Panjang, Singapore

For the past seven years the Hoopers have lived and worked in Phnom Penh, Cambodia developing relationships with persons of peace, as well as cultivating a culture of disciple-making in existing communities. Kyle has worked as a chaplain and English teacher for a mission school outside of the city, as well as a consultant and assistant to the director for the Shelter of Peace dormitory in Phnom Penh. Rebecca worked at Northbridge International School Cambodia.

In July, the Hoopers transitioned to work in Singapore with the Pasir Panjang Church of Christ, and International Community School, in order to help develop discipleship there, as well as work with existing mission points in Vietnam, Myanmar, the Philippines, India, China, and Indonesia. Please continue to pray for the Hoopers as they transition to Singapore and undertake this new work, as well as the Pasir Panjang Church of Christ, our new partner with whom we share God's mission to the world.

Mission Partners and Works

Pilgrimages

Each year, 6-10 Highland Oaks disciples embark on what we call "pilgrimages" to different places throughout the world. This year we will have two pilgrimage cohorts go to Mexico City, one in July (pictured) and one in September. While there, participants focus on their inner life with God, as well as listen to what fellow Christ-followers in Mexico City can teach us about discipleship.

Ideally, Pilgrimage cohorts remain together for four years, each year going on a different trip, either internationally or nationally, where they focus on a different aspect of discipleship with Jesus. The yearly breakdown is as follows: *Year 1: Authenticity (Mexico City), Year 2: Community (DFW), Year 3: Identity (Washington, D.C.),* and *Year 4: Mystery (Singapore/Southeast Asia)*. In between each trip, cohorts meet monthly, nurturing their relationship with one another while practicing different spiritual disciplines, furthering their own spiritual formation in Christ. Please pray that these pilgrimages and cohorts further grow disciples here at Highland Oaks.

Budget Breakdown