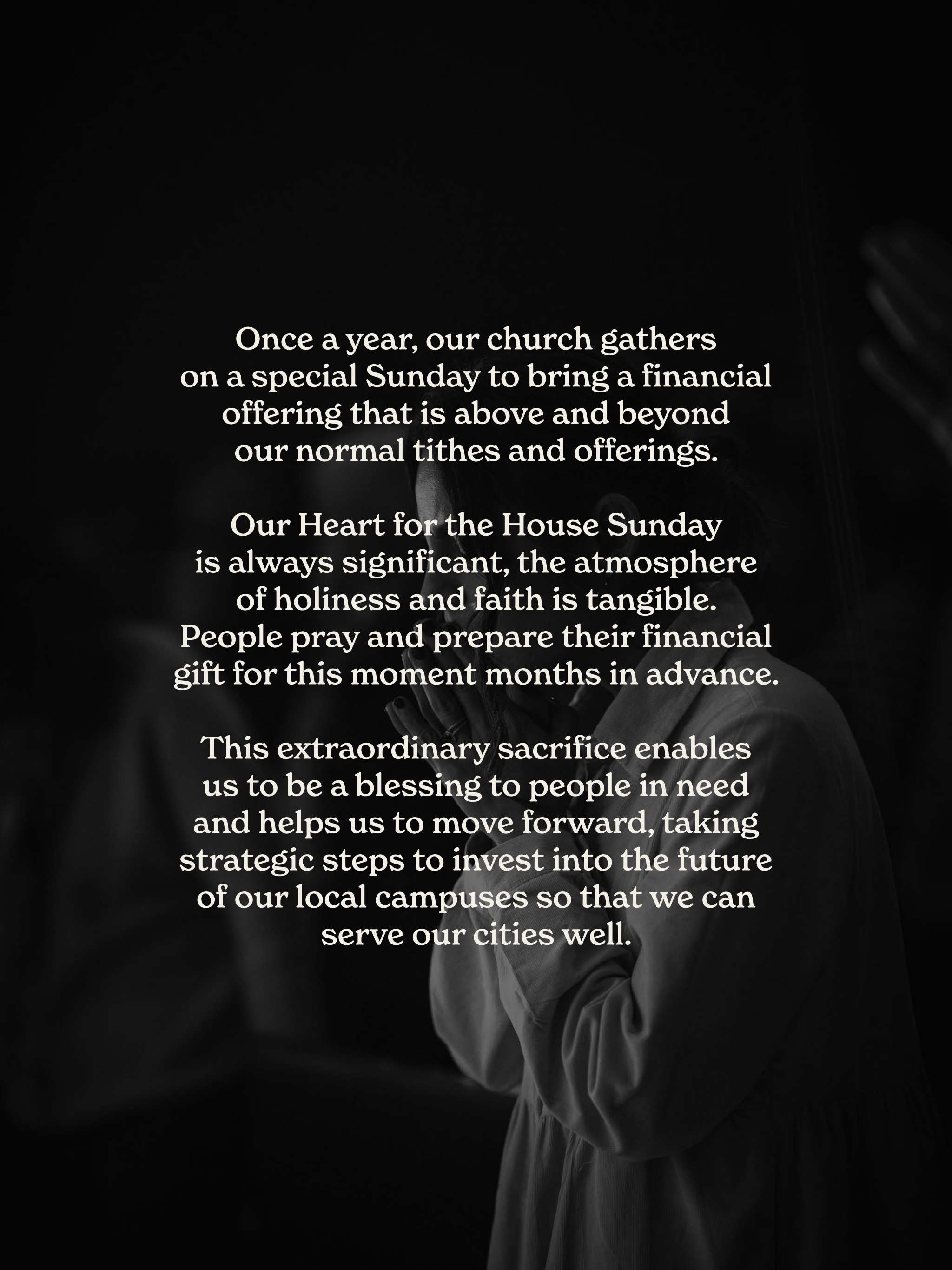




HEART FOR THE HOUSE

12.11.2023

A person wearing a white robe is shown from the chest up, with their hands clasped together in a prayerful gesture. The background is dark and out of focus.

Once a year, our church gathers
on a special Sunday to bring a financial
offering that is above and beyond
our normal tithes and offerings.

Our Heart for the House Sunday
is always significant, the atmosphere
of holiness and faith is tangible.
People pray and prepare their financial
gift for this moment months in advance.

This extraordinary sacrifice enables
us to be a blessing to people in need
and helps us to move forward, taking
strategic steps to invest into the future
of our local campuses so that we can
serve our cities well.

Hi Church

We are entering into our Heart For The House season and it is an opportunity for us all to accelerate our ability to realise vision.

It is our 18th year from our first service in Paris which we still remember the enthusiasm, the presence of God and sense of future before us. After all these years that sense of future is still very clearly present!

The theme of this year is: **We are living stones.**

Every stone is unique, and every stone is shaped, formed and able to build something magnificent. Stones that build a foundation, stones to build places of worship and living stones that cry out and give all praise to God.

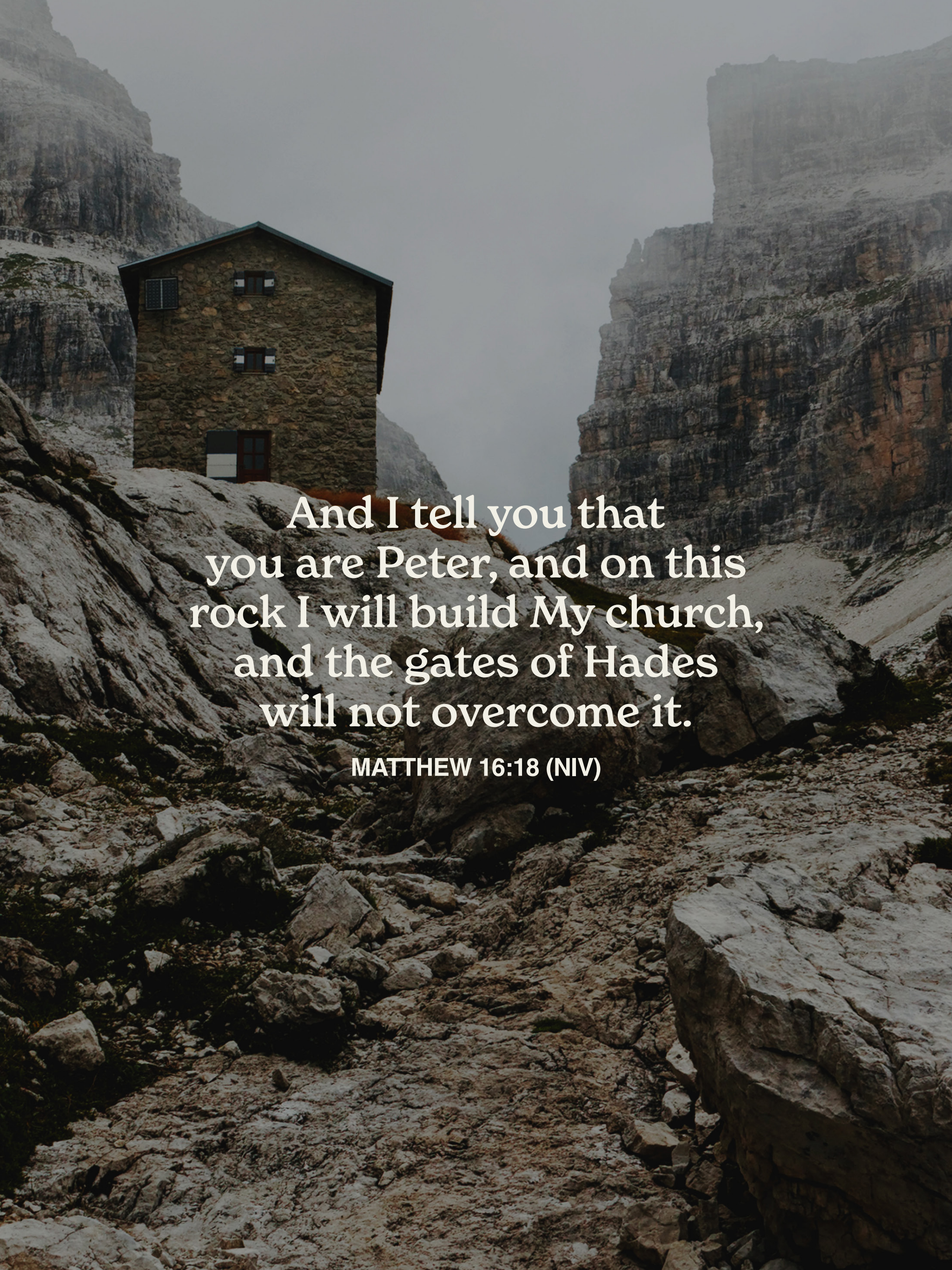
Through this year's Heart For The House, I pray that you, as a living stone for God, will realise your important role in being a building block for the Kingdom of God in our world today!

Heart For The House gathers those who are new on this journey and others who have been there for many years. It is a time that we look to see vision advance, bringing strength and provision for campuses, establishing and equipping departments in the life of church, helping us navigate the challenging times, helping us reach out to see people's lives transformed, making a social impact, and strategically preparing to buy a building to be our permanent home, a church for the generations to come!

Church, we encourage you in considering your part as a living stone this year so that together we can see the vision advance and many lives transformed.

With love,
Brendan & Camille White



A photograph of a stone building with a dark roof and several windows, situated on a rocky mountain peak. The building is surrounded by steep, rocky cliffs. The foreground is a rocky, uneven path. The sky is overcast and grey.

And I tell you that
you are Peter, and on this
rock I will build My church,
and the gates of Hades
will not overcome it.

MATTHEW 16:18 (NIV)

Early the next morning
Jacob took the stone
he had placed under his head
and set it up as a pillar and
poured oil on top of it.

GENESIS 28:18 (NIV)





ROCKS & GEOLOGY

God created the Earth creating a foundation for it: rocks and stones. Humanity and all things that inhabit the Earth are able to build and live out their lives on this solid foundation.

Geology – the science that deals with the earth's physical structure and substance – shows us the elements that have shaped them such as water, winds and waves, seasons, pressures and unique substances that have formed them. From the commonest pebble to the precious stones like diamond, every rock or stone tells a story.

LIVING STONES

Rocks tell a story.
You tell a story.

God's word declares that you are a living stone.

Jesus is described as the cornerstone upon which we are called to build our lives and He is the rock. Over the ages rocks have been the simplest of materials to put together available, to build a house, to form weapons and daily utensils and to build altars to bring worship and Glory to God.

In a world of so much uncertainty and shifting times, the Bible brings this incredible metaphor: **to be a stone, a living one, immovable, of substance and value, a precious stone that fulfills its contribution to God's plan.** This is how God sees us and wants us to take on the nature seen in this metaphor.

The Bible also talks about stones coming to life. Stones that seem so lifeless, yet God fills them with His purpose. God poses the rhetorical question to Nehemiah: Can these stones that seem lifeless come to life?

We see that, with God, yes, a stone without purpose can become a stone full of life to give God praise and worship! I believe this is something we can allow to speak to us as living stones: that we be filled with God's purpose.

A stone is an image of diversity, carved out by time, shaped by seasons. No matter what your age is or where you have come from, the Almighty God knows your uniqueness and all you have walked through and wants you to be involved in bringing Him Glory and Praise!!

Stones can be immense like a mighty mountain showing a vast nature of an awe-inspiring God, but also as tiny as a pebble lining the common roads of life, creating a path for us to walk on and reach our destiny.

God describes us as living stones that build up a spiritual house. This is a beautiful image of God's desire for us, as a church community.

As you come to Him,
the living Stone —rejected
by humans but chosen
by God and precious to
Him— you also, like living
stones, are being built into a
spiritual house to be a holy
priesthood, offering spiritual
sacrifices acceptable to God
through Jesus Christ.

1 PETER 2:4-5 (NIV)

A church made of beautiful stones of all different shapes and sizes, that God has added in His perfect time, joined together to be an incredible house. Can you see yourself in the building? When you look close enough you are one of the 1000 or 10,000 unique stones, connected with the stone next to you, forming His church.

A church formed by individual stones that fulfill their God-given purpose. Stones picked up by a King, like the ones that King David picked up and placed in a sling shot, that became a powerful weapon for God. **You are a living stone today. You have a divine calling, perfectly shaped by God for such a time as this, to bring down giants and see victories.**

A church with stones that are markers for the future generation. Stones that are not perfect but are set apart to be witnesses for God, to tell of His wonders, and what He has done and will accomplish for the generations to come. We are living stones that are here to declare to those that come after us, and to those who are watching us now, those that need the encouragement of a living stone, full of faith declarations and testimonies!

You are a living stone.

My prayer is that in this Heart For The House we will all take our unique place, realising our calling, purpose, and knowing how to add strength as a living stone to give praise and glory to God across all our campuses.



TOUJOURS
CHANGEMENTS
NOUVELLES



MEET
PHIL & JANELLE
from our Lyon campus

Phil & Janelle, tell us who you are.

Hello. We are Australian by birth, and both grew up in the suburbs of Sydney. We have 3 beautiful, now adult, children, who are all based in Paris. Janelle works as a fashion designer, and at church helps with translation, stage and foyer design, and a connect, while I, Phil, work at Hillsong Lyon on the pastoral team. We came to France over 20 years ago, following a dream that we believe God placed in our hearts for this nation. And we love that we get to express our love for this nation through our local church Hillsong Lyon.

Janelle as a designer how did you discover and develop your uniqueness to serve God?

To be honest, I'm continually discovering my unique way of serving God. My heart is to express the deep gratefulness I have to God by echoing His heart for the people He brings across my path. As far back as I can remember I have always expressed my heart more easily through creating with my hands. Over time, as I

would spend time with Jesus, I would have glimpses of His heart for different people and the Holy Spirit seemed to share how I could bless them. Responding to those glimpses has led me on a journey of sharing in God's delight in creating, and through this, blessing people.

This then leads to me wanting to know His heart even more deeply, and through His generosity I'm able to take part in sharing His unique love. I think developing any gift stems from pursuing and knowing Jesus deeply; to catch glimpses of His beauty. How else could we respond, but with an overflow of loving and serving others.

What encouragement would you give to people about their part to play in Church? What gifts are you seeing developing in yourself and others that give glory to God?

Janelle

I see us as individually and uniquely called to a corporate purpose. 'Living stones that God is building into His spiritual temple' (1 Peter 2:5). One stone becomes a building when built together with other stones; a home is home when filled with life. So, whether we gather on a small scale or large scale, theory becomes practical, we get to take part in the building process. We have received such loving kindness from God, an overflow of our thankfulness to Him can be expressed through serving one another. I don't think we can ever underestimate the gift of kindness we have been given, this is powerful and



can lead people to Jesus.

I am stunned when I see people come in and join church and out of deep affection for Jesus are overwhelmed that they get to serve others. Recently a young girl realised she could be part of the translation team. From the second she joined her first response was to welcome foreigners with such joy; she had found a place where the kindness she had received from Jesus could flow and be a rich blessing expressing God's heart. It was beautiful to watch as, once again I stood amazed at God's kindness.

We just celebrated our Lyon campus' 10 years. What has it meant to you to be part of our church over these years?

Phil

We heard from friends that Hillsong was starting something in Lyon. I think that was a Saturday, and the following Tuesday night we were straight away there for what was probably the second or third Connect. This was over 11 years ago, and we have been there ever since.

I think for me, I've grown to passionately love who we are as a church. Our expression, as Hillsong, of this household of God. And I just love seeing God constantly meet with people, in 1000s of different ways, but where they end up changed, or transformed by God. And it is such a privilege to be involved. Personally, what's impacted me the most is seeing people respond, and say yes to Jesus, as He moves in their hearts. There is nothing, for me, more

precious than this.

What does it mean for you to help your 3 children to discover their God uniqueness and gifts and use them to glorify God in this generation?

It is really important for us to steward these three incredibly different and unique children whom we have been blessed with. Each of our children are different and express their worship to God and their expression of who He is to others equally uniquely. Making room for these differences is crucial. Encouraging them that they are carriers of God's presence in their particular fields is something we have endeavored to communicate, encouraging them to lean into Jesus' heart when faced with misunderstanding and opposition.

Speaking life and hope when the circumstances show few signs of either is essential in this generation in particular.

In what way do you see your calling to be living stones individually and collectively?

Phil

Jesus was the first « living stone », and we have an individual responsibility to see that in our lives individually we become more like him. It's actually His presence in my life, and our lives, that empowers this process of spiritual growth and development. And so I want to represent him well everywhere I go, whether it be at my work, or with my neighbors or even



at the shops.

Janelle

We, as the church, as God's Living Stones, have the privilege, and responsibility, of being this voice of hope to the generations; a true, dependable, safe, life-giving expression of the goodness of our abundantly kind powerful God.

This is for both being the church unit itself but, as this body of living stones, we are also called to pour out our hearts on behalf of the lost and broken and pour out God's heart on these wandering lost ones. We have the greatest riches of all eternity to share. 'As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for He called you out of darkness into His wonderful light' 1 Peter 2:9

In different seasons how have you seen God bring life into areas of your life?

Phil

I think one of the things that I've noticed is that sometimes when you are going through a hard season, you are not always sure what's going on, or you are

not sure where you are going. And when you're not sure where you are going it's actually hard to navigate. I remember at one point we asked someone about this, and they asked a question in return, "what's the last direction you feel like God gave you? Take this and use it as your North Star".

So God helps me personally navigate things by placing North stars in my heart for particular seasons. At the moment it's this phrase that "God is good".

Psalms 119:68 declares, "You are good, and what you do is good". And as I meditate on this, or place it as my North Star, I see God's goodness come alive. For example, at the moment, He is doing little things, that for anyone else might not seem for them significant, but for me, it is God seeing the secret desires of my heart and showing me He can do more than I can ask or imagine.

Speaking about keeping established throughout the seasons, any wisdom for people to keep a solid foundation as a living stone?

Phil

I think that the Church is so crucial in God's plan. His church, established on Him, Jesus, as the cornerstone. I'm so aware that it's so easy to get distracted from it being all about Jesus, even in Church. Revelation 2 talks about how the Ephesian church got so much right, but that they forgot their first love. How do we keep a solid foundation as a living stone? We keep Jesus as our first love.

Our number one love. And I have a personal responsibility in this, and there is also a corporate responsibility in this. All about Jesus.

What are your hopes and aspirations in this next season?

Janelle

I hope to know Jesus more and more deeply. I would love to see His people filled with awe and wonder as they see Him more clearly. As we then express His powerful loving kindness through acts of service and miracles, on the inside of this living building as well as overflowing outside, we announce, 'the endless treasures available to them in Christ' and express His manifold wisdom.

Phil

I love this imagery that we are using for Heart for the House of us being living stones. Being used to build a home, with Jesus as the corner stone and where God dwells. And this idea of God dwelling in our midst, as we gather together as the local church, blows my mind a bit. My hope is that we experience even more of His presence as we gather. But I also dream of seeing us take His presence with us as we go into our cities, so that His presence transforms other people's lives. And then as they hear about this, what God is doing, that they find themselves drawn to gathering places, that God has given us, where people can come at any time, not just on a Sunday morning, to find answers, and hope, and community. Places where people can meet living stones, meet the living God, and hopefully become living stones themselves.

**ICI
POUR
SERVIR**



MEET
KADIATOU
from our Paris campus

Who are you?

My name is Kadiatou and my husband is Bruno. We have four children: two sets of twins aged 21 and 15. We've been at the Paris campus for 6 years.

Tell us how you met Jesus?

I was a Muslim when Jesus touched me, and it changed my whole life. Before, I used to pray without knowing why, just automatically, because of the way my parents brought me up. I didn't feel the presence of God for 20 years, during my time as a Muslim. The day Jesus touched me, I felt an incredible and powerful relationship that I'd never experienced before. I didn't know that God could speak to me directly with visions or touch me to tears. From that moment on, I felt alive. This Jesus had just awoken a stone that had been asleep for years. He fuelled my thirst for Him. I saw the hand of Jesus in my new job, even offering me a business, which is starting to bear fruit, while I was clinging on to my old job.



How have you seen God's hand on your children?

Our children have always been in church since they were babies, praying with us at home and also serving at Sers Ta Ville. When they reached the age of majority, they started to let go of everything slowly, which coincided to the Covid period when our habits had changed. They gave up their schools. They were in total opposition to us on every subject; my husband and I were overwhelmed by events. It was impossible to get them to come to church; they preferred to go out with their friends and work to earn money, completely abandoning God. I thought putting them in a private Christian school would be enough to keep them in the ways of the Lord!

Today I realise that Jesus is the only Master of the whole Universe and He knows absolutely everything, right down to the number of our hairs! God is the Creator, and as it says in Proverbs 3:5 : "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;". As we trust in Him, He acts.

One day, one of our eldest sons came to a worship night and, after queuing, decided to leave in a huff. This saddened me, because I thought that the enemy had won a battle, but I remembered that the final victory always belongs to Jesus. So, I listened to His voice, which said to me: "Did I not command you: 'Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go' —Joshua 1:9. I let go

and God began to heal my heart, encouraging me with other scriptures.

We continued to pray for them, but we couldn't see any change in their actions. I began to pray in a different way, a simple and sincere prayer, saying "Lord, not my will, but Your will, they don't belong to me, but to You. Take over, Lord, because I'm tired".

Then, last summer, I told my husband that I'd had enough and that by September there would be a change in our elders, that they were going to come back to Jesus. He told me that 2 months wasn't long for a transformation. I replied in faith: "Yes, for us, but not for Jesus".

I knelt down and took the authority that Jesus had already given me, praying for a change in their lives and for their return to the house of God. I put all my trust in God. In any case, I could no longer force our elders to return to church. I had understood that God wanted to transform me, through our children, by teaching me to let go too. Jesus is in control of their lives. They had to discover God for themselves.

And then, recently, the 11th of September 2023, I invited our elders to the YouthFR concert. One of our sons said he'd come with his girlfriend and a friend. I was so happy that I wanted to leave them to themselves, but they asked me to stay. So I stayed. It was for moments like that that the Lord wanted me to stay: to see with my own eyes the answer to my prayers, to bear witness that He is the Almighty, He is

God. I watched our son during the evening: he was praising with passion and joy, raising his arms all evening, something he had never done before. I was so surprised and happy! God had touched him, even more than I'd hoped! As if that wasn't enough for my poor, wide-open eyes watching these three young people, the worship leader asked the question: "Has God spoken to anyone this evening? And I saw our son raise his hand. Jesus always does more than you can imagine!

Our son told me later that he had received these words from God: "Let yourself go, I'm there through the good times and the bad. Don't worry, you'll be fine". This was similar to the verse the Lord had given me all year in Joshua 1:9, and yet I had never mentioned it to our son. Today, our son is back at church and has plans for his life.

Then, at the Youth Service in October, our other twin son came with two friends. He also raised his hands to God. They're not twins for nothing! He said to me, "Mum, you heard what Pastor Ben said: 'Step by step, one step at a time'". I replied with a touch of humour: "Yes, by moving forward, not backwards". The final victory still belongs to Jesus, because the two prodigal sons have returned to the house of the Father, the living God, with four other friends!

Through this, Jesus taught me patience and perseverance, because I had a tendency to want to help God by giving Him a hand because He wasn't moving fast enough for my liking. In the end, His time is always the best.

What do you like about church?

“What I like about church is the freedom to come as we are, without judgement or constraint, while taking the time to let ourselves be involved at the right time and without pressure. I also love our moments of communion in prayer early in the morning. I love the courage of our pastors despite the turbulence of life for the body of Christ. I also love all those people who devote themselves body and soul to the service of our Lord, for His kingdom. When I see them, I can’t stay without wanting to serve, even if I’ve come with wounds from my past and “fear in my stomach”. At the end of the day, we set out focusing on God. Because the road with Jesus is not an easy one, but He is always by our side through the good times and the difficult.

When did you feel the desire to get involved in the Sers Ta Ville outreach teams?

Before I came to Hillsong Church, I’d already got into the habit of cooking and making cardboard boxes full of food. I used to go out on my own and walk around my house in Montparnasse, along the cemetery where the tents for the homeless used to be. I’d hand out my little boxes and chat with them, and it did me a world of good to see how happy they were to receive. It also made me feel useful. Talking to them, I could see that there was no calculation, everything was said and done naturally, which I didn’t find

in other areas of my life. I immediately felt at ease in their company. And this despite the warnings of those around me, because it was potentially dangerous to go there alone. I didn’t feel any danger, but rather the love that emanated from them. Then, when I came to Hillsong, I heard about Sers Ta Ville. I went straight to the person in charge and joined the team: it has been 6 years now.

What led you to take helping people to heart?

I think that’s where Jesus wants me, on the outside, talking about Him and praying for those who are suffering. I’m very sensitive and my sensitivity always directs me towards the suffering of others. Being there for the less ‘honourable’ in this world, for my neighbour, makes me happy and honours Jesus, because I always try to think what Jesus would do in that situation.



This question helps me a lot: what would Jesus do? Jesus was always with those whom the world rejected, disliked or hid. I've always liked to go in that direction, against the tide. My God has always shown me that you have to persevere, even in the "little things", even if it seems repetitive.

I also went through suffering, when I was affected by Crohn's disease. But Jesus healed me after a week of Daniel's fast. Paradoxically, this fast is characterised by eating vegetables and fruit, even though this illness contraindicates them. Jesus did it! Glory be to God! Amen!

Could you share a Street Team story that has stuck with you?

During Covid, we had our ups and downs. I put on two pairs of gloves and started all over again, because I felt a word from my God that became obvious to me: "I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink [...]", in Matthew 25:35-46. I told myself that I had to forget about the danger and just go. Jesus will protect me and that's what he did. We made attestations and got together, even during the Covid. We served and prayed with our friends on the street. We handed out pancakes, cakes, coffee and hot chocolate. What joy on their faces! But deep down, I was telling God that we were praying and continuing to meet with them without seeing any change.

It was as if we were going round in circles; some were still drinking and lying unconscious on the floor. Sometimes I felt desolate, but we always continued to serve and pray with them, praying at home for them too. Then, after that summer, we met up again and went back to serving, as usual, with joy and love. We were serving tea and coffee when a young man came up and asked for tea — he was well dressed and completely unrecognisable. I served him, then one of my sisters in Christ said to me: "You didn't recognise him? It's [his first name]!" It was incredible! I asked him if it was really him and he replied: "YES, it's me", calling me by my first name. I started thanking God! He'd met someone who had found him a job and he wasn't drinking any more. He had undergone an instant transformation. We hugged him and thanked the Lord for His work of transformation. I was like those disciples on the road to Emmaus, who walked with Jesus but didn't recognise him after his resurrection. This young man was always lying on the floor with a cap on his head, completely drunk, and had been for a few years, but he was still enthusiastic about praying with us even though he wasn't a Christian. Jesus loves and touches everyone. It put a smile back on my face and I said to myself "just one person saved is a victory for us".

When you hear the statement "you are living stones", what does it make you think of?

I immediately think of Jesus, who is the main stone, and we, His brothers and

sisters, are the living stones, His Church, that is to say His body, and Christ the head. The Church is not a stone building that stands still on Sundays. We are the Church, living stones destined to move around the rest of the week to serve our God everywhere. By giving up our time to listen to the sufferings of others and handing them over to Jesus to deal with. By going into homes to visit the sick. By talking about Jesus. By loving others. By simply being like Jesus. Because today's world needs our Saviour God more than ever. Jesus just wants to be our faithful friend, to have a relationship with us. His faithfulness is unfailing when we confide in Him with an open heart.



REQUINS

TIGRES

OH LA LA



LIVING FOR A DIFFERENT MISSION

Rocks and stones that play their part
to build houses where people live.
Rocks and stones that make a church
where people worship and communities are reached.
Rocks and stones that make a pathway for people to stand on.
Rocks and stones that give foundations for the future.

REPORT

Heart For The House 2022

Through people's generous contribution in the last year's Heart For The House we have been able to strengthen the campuses.



CAMPUSES

We were able to buy equipment in Paris, Massy, Lyon, Marseille and help bring resources to Kids ministry in Geneva. We were able to continue to support our the younger campuses in Marseille and Luxembourg.



FUTURE BUILDING NEEDS

We were able to set aside a proportion of funds towards our future.



SOCIAL IMPACT

Through Heart For The House 2022, we were able to help families in need in our church in Kiev and provide heating systems especially through last year's winter, as they are facing war.

Through Sers ta Ville, church supports and helps people in need and associations.

FUTURE PROJECTS

Heart For The House 2023

As we come around this year's Heart For The House, we wanted to show you how your contribution will add strength in the following areas: practical campus needs, future building needs, support for church planting around the world, social impact and mission support.





Campuses needs & support

Paris

We want to increase regular services for youth and young adults. We want to improve the Fuel area and the Kids's area to make them more welcoming and attractive. We would also like to improve the signage in the foyer and corridors to make 13^e Art feel more like home!

Massy

We would like to make the lighting and foyer more welcoming and provide screens and video equipment.

Marseille

Our Marseille campus is going from strength to strength in its tithes and offerings. We will continue to provide financial support through this year's Heart For The House offering.

Lyon

The church needs an office for its weekday activities. It also needs new computers, a swimming pool for baptisms and equipment for Hillsong Kids.

Luxembourg

This is our most recent church plant and we will continue to invest in it through this year's Heart for Home offering. We also want to improve the Espace Parents to bless families with newborn babies.

Geneva

We want to invest to see the Sers Ta Ville and Kids & Famille ministries as well as the pastoral support team and young adult community strengthen and grow.





Future buildings

Over the past 18 years, we have diligently set aside resources and will continue to do so with this year's Heart for Home offering. We believe that one day we will own buildings in every city where we have campuses, and we want to be ready for the right opportunity when it comes.

We also appreciate your prayers as the team and building committee look for future buildings for our campuses.



Church planting

This year we will help rebuild our church in New York
and support our church plant in Tel Aviv.



Social impact

At our Vision Sunday in February, we announced that a key focus of our mission is to make **a lasting social impact**. As part of this global initiative, we want to start developing this mission more and more on our local campuses.

City Care (local)

We want to make a difference in our cities, moving towards developing the Serve Your City ministry in the life of the church! This will include existing and developing programmes at a local level, as well as helping people on our campuses.

City Care (international)

This year we will focus on supporting Vision Rescue and A21





Support in ministry

We want to be a blessing and support, even on a small scale, to a student studying at Bible College or to a missionary; to help them in their endeavours to serve God.

As we look at all these projects and the use of these resources, we also want to encourage you to consider tithes and regular offerings as we approach the Heart For The House offering. We have indicated above our desire to invest in certain areas with our Heart For The House offering, but there may be campuses where we need to use some of this year's offering to help balance the budget if we do not see an increase in tithes and offerings to cover general operating expenses.

HOW CAN I PLAY MY PART?

Everyone is welcomed and encouraged to take part in this offering. Giving is more about definitively expressing a desire and passion to build God's House and His Kingdom, rather than the amount.

Pray

Please take time to pray and ask God to show you what you could bring.

Prepare

Set a **faith goal**, write it down and hang it in a place where you can see it.

This will remind you to pray and encourage you meet your goal.

Bring

Join us on the **12th of November** for Our Heart For The House Sunday, and give **full of faith**, for God will use your offering to build His Kingdom.

You can also give online up into the end of the year.

WAYS TO GIVE

App

Download **HILLSONG GIVE** and select your campus location. Be sure to choose 'Heart For The House' from the drop-down options.

Envelope

Use the 'Heart For The House' envelope **placed on your seat** in church on Sundays.

Bank transfer

For your campus bank details, visit [**hillsong.fr/donner**](https://hillsong.fr/donner).

Online

Giving online is simple, fast and secure. Visit [**hillsong.fr/offrande**](https://hillsong.fr/offrande) and click on the 'DONATE' button.

*For any other means, please contact our team.
France — finances@hillsong.fr or +33 (0)9 74 77 75 75
Switzerland — finance@hillsong.ch or +41 22 810 85 97*

