



2023 ANNUAL REPORT



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EXECUTIVE REPORTS



LEAD PASTOR'S REPORT

We are constantly amazed by the people who call Hillsong Church home. What a privilege it is to be building God's House with such an incredible group of faithful, committed and loving people!

As a church, we have made some significant changes over the past couple of years, including the transition from our founding Senior Pastors globally to the next generation in Phil and Lucinda Dooley. Together I believe that our church will be stronger and healthier than ever. We look forward to outworking our vision of building a healthy church that changes lives through Christ.

This year, we established our three missional pillars: developing purposeful followers of Jesus, creating a healthy church community, and making a significant, sustainable social impact. We are currently developing the way we will outwork these pillars and are excited to move into our future as a mission-driven church.

One of the most significant moves for us this year was at our Amsterdam Campus with the transition to the Circa Amsterdam building on Easter Sunday. We have signed a five-year contract for every Sunday. Not only is this proving to be a great building for us, but it also provides a consistency and longevity of venue that we have never had before in Amsterdam. We believe this is also a sign of things to come for our campuses in Rotterdam and Brussels.

It has been so exciting to see a remarkable increase in the number of people putting their faith in Jesus and getting baptized this year. This, along with the impact of the summer camps on the children and youth, has been felt in our Sunday services with such a sense of faith and life. With such a hunger for the things of God, the introduction of Night School has also been a success, as people are eager to deepen their understanding of the Word of God.

Regarding social impact, it was incredibly encouraging to see how much our trip to Mumbai, India, impacted those who went. We visited the work of Vision Rescue, with whom we have been partnering since our launch as a connect group in 2009. Not having been there myself for several years, it was inspiring to see how much their work has progressed and how they consider us part of their team.



Behind the scenes, we are working hard on strengthening the infrastructure and governance of our church as we leave the start-up phase behind us. We are learning from the past and establishing a solid base from which to build our future, believing that the best days are ahead.

We have also invested in the health of our church with several visits from psychologist Dr. Rebecca Loundar, who has been training our staff and leaders in the beginnings of a wellbeing program for our staff, leaders, and teams. We have a core group of people who have emerged from the upheavals of the last few years with strong faith, steadfast purpose, and a passion for the future that God has for us. We are excited to continue investing in their lives and to see the fruit of this as we move forward.

Finally, we would like to thank everyone who calls Hillsong Church home in Amsterdam, Rotterdam, and Brussels. You are an extraordinary people and we look forward to a great future together!

Love,

Richard en Debbie

MANAGEMENT REPORT

2023 was a year of transition for us. We had a challenging start but saw a recovery in multiple areas as the year progressed. Our church services became stronger, leading to steady increases in attendance and followed by growth in income. We adapted to operating with fewer volunteers and a tighter budget in a changing world after the COVID-19 pandemic.

With new global leadership established in 2022, our church began transforming with a strong emphasis on building a healthy church, being mission-driven, and fostering a culture of collaboration. The results of these efforts started to show in 2023.

While our income grew, we also reduced costs by lowering the number of FTEs and securing lower rents for venues in Amsterdam and Rotterdam. This led to positive operational results.

This year, we made strides in improving our governance. We designed a new policy framework, drafted new articles of association, and worked on process to form a new local board. With the help of expertise from within and outside our church, all of this can be implemented in 2024.

Every year I am deeply moved by the generosity of our congregation. In 2023, we consolidated our local social justice initiatives under the name “Love Thy Neighbor,” reflecting our commitment to helping the needy in our cities. We are profoundly grateful for our global partnerships with Compassion, A21, Vision Rescue, and Africa Foundation, which enable us to make a difference for the most vulnerable. This year, we also partnered with World Vision to aid earthquake victims in Türkiye and Syria through an offering we collected in our church.

God is building His church, and it's a privilege to be part of His work in Amsterdam, Rotterdam, and Brussels. I am thankful for the vision and leadership of our Global Senior Pastors, Ps. Phil and Lucinda Dooley, and our Lead Pastors in the Netherlands and Brussels, Ps. Richard and Debbie van der Kolk.



Arjan Niemeijer
General Manager





CHURCH

COME AS YOU ARE

At Hillsong Church, we strive to create an inclusive and inviting environment where everyone feels welcome to come as they are and find their unique place within our community. No matter your background, gender, ethnicity, age, or stage in your Christian journey, you are welcomed home here. We aim to be a place where you can belong and truly understand the immense value that God has placed on your life—a place where love lives.

Our heartfelt desire is to nurture a healthy, vibrant church community that inspires positive change in people's lives, extending that transformation to the society around them. We believe that by helping people build Christ-centered lives, we can empower our church family to bring hope and practical solutions to a world in need.

OUR STORY



Back in late 2008, Hillsong London started a small group meeting in a home in Amsterdam. Richard van der Kolk, who was with Hillsong London at the time, was asked to organize these midweek gatherings. The small group quickly grew, and within a year, we started holding regular Sunday services.



By 2010, Stichting Hillsong Church Amsterdam was officially founded. The next couple of years saw amazing growth—our average Sunday attendance jumped from 30 people in December 2009 to over 200 by February 2012. That's when Hillsong Amsterdam was officially recognized as a Hillsong church.



Since we began in 2008, our community has blossomed and expanded into a church with locations in Amsterdam, Rotterdam, and Brussels.

Stichting Hillsong Church Netherlands is part of the global Hillsong Church family, which started in Australia in 1983 by Brian and Bobbie Houston.



In February 2022, Phil and Lucinda Dooley stepped into the role of Global Senior Pastors for Hillsong Church. They have been leading Hillsong Church Africa, a large multi-campus church with locations across South Africa and expanding into the rest of Africa, and will continue in this role. Today, Hillsong has locations in 30 countries around the world.

A HEALTHY CHURCH CHANGING LIVES THROUGH CHRIST

BUILDING HEALTHY
CHURCH COMMUNITIES

DEVELOPING PURPOSE-FILLED
JESUS FOLLOWERS

CREATING SIGNIFICANT AND
SUSTAINABLE SOCIAL IMPACT

SUNDAY SERVICES

We are passionate about equipping and guiding people on their spiritual journey, sharing the good news and the gospel message of Jesus Christ within our local communities.

Our Sunday services are filled with vibrant worship, heartfelt prayer, and inspiring messages from the word of God. We also have special programs for children and youth, ensuring that everyone in the family feels included and engaged. No matter your

background, we aim to make everyone feel at home by offering translations in Dutch, French, Spanish, Portuguese, and Ukrainian.

Our desire is to foster a healthy church community by encouraging positive change in people's lives that extends to the society in which they live. We believe that by helping people build Christ-centered lives, they will become an empowered church body that brings hope and solutions to a needy world.

CONNECT GROUPS

Throughout the week, small groups gather in homes and cafés all around the Netherlands and Belgium.

Our Connect Groups are a vital part of our church, making our growing community feel personal and close-knit. These groups are where you can build strong, supportive friendships, centred around the Christian faith.

In Connect Groups, everyone shares their journey with God in an interactive, family-like setting. Many groups dive deeper into the Sunday message,

while others explore Bible study courses. We also have groups tailored to different demographics like youth, women, families, and more, as well as those based on common interests.

No matter who you are, there's a place for you here. Come join us and find your community!



AMSTERDAM

2023 was a transformative year for us, especially in our Sunday services. We made a big move to our new location, Circa Amsterdam, just in time for Easter Sunday. Our Easter Celebration services were absolutely amazing, and we were thrilled to mark this new chapter in our new venue.

Our new venue at Circa Amsterdam is truly a blessing. It's spacious enough to accommodate our kids and youth programs, with a dedicated café area for Sundays, plenty of room for our teams, and even a spot for hosting our Alpha Course. The foyer and coffee bar provide a warm welcome and space to connect with people. Plus, we've made it easy to get to church with a shuttle service from the train station and ample free parking. This new space has really energized our teams!

Our Night School programs have been expanding too, adding new courses and growing our community. From leadership to identity, inductive Bible reading to living in the new covenant, we've covered a lot. Nearly 340 people have taken part in our Night School programs. This year, our "Identity & Purpose" course has been a game-changer, helping people discover their identity in Christ and God's purpose for their lives. One participant shared:

"I've realized I inherit everything from Jesus without needing to prove myself. Knowing 'Nothing can separate me from God's love,' I find peace, cut myself some slack, and experience true ease."

Our Alpha course, designed for those new to faith or wanting to explore Christianity, saw significant growth. We launched 8 Alpha groups with over 90 participants this year. Many chose to get baptized, openly declaring their faith in Jesus. We also had a powerful Saturday event focusing on the Holy Spirit, with inspiring stories of lives deeply touched.

In total, we celebrated nearly 80 baptisms during Sunday services, at the beach, and at our youth camp.

For newcomers, our Welcome to Church sessions held monthly are a great way to meet our pastors and team, and learn about our church's history, mission, and vision.

Our first worship night made a profound impact, and our Christmas services in our new building were truly memorable. As we continue to rebuild and strengthen our community, we're incredibly excited about what lies ahead.

ROTTERDAM

Throughout 2023, our volunteers in Rotterdam did incredible work as we continued to build the church. God moved in amazing ways, resulting in increased attendance, weekly decisions for Christ, and over 30 baptisms.

We kicked off the year with a powerful 21-day prayer and fasting period, hearing beautiful stories of personal impact within our church community. This focus on God extended through our Sunday services, team nights in March, Touching Heaven Night in August, and numerous other church expressions.

To strengthen our community spirit, we hosted memorable events like our Connect Group BBQ, beach baptisms, and a skyline tour to launch the new Connect Group season. We also blessed our city through our 'Love Thy Neighbor' projects around Easter and Christmas, partnering with Nico Adriaans Stichting to distribute food.

Embracing our multi-generational ethos, 2023 was an exciting year for our next generation initiatives. Programs like Young Guns for young ministry leadership, enhancing our Hillsong Kids team, and launching the Fuel Project in November were highlights. This creative approach mobilized volunteers for youth ministry (ages 11-14), resulting in the formation of a dedicated team and bi-weekly hangouts on Sundays.

In Rotterdam, there's been a growing awareness of the importance of emotional health. We've focused on nurturing healthier leadership, helping people deepen their relationship with God, and fostering meaningful community conversations.

My friend's dad who is dying
Our fertility path
My company, provision and blessing

Laurens

During one service, I encountered a man deeply moved by the message. He felt a tug at his heart when the invitation was given to turn to God. At a point in life where he sought a fresh start, he broke down, yearning to let God into his heart. His struggle with acceptance weighed heavily, but a simple handwritten message on his coffee cup, "You are accepted," spoke directly to his soul. Tears flowed as he realized God was speaking to him, bringing new life and a renewed commitment to follow Him.

Robert

During our "minute-to-mingle," I spoke with a man attending church for the first time. He was invited by a 17-year-old boy who had been part of our church since he was a troublesome 6-year-old. Despite challenges, his mother's persistence and the love of our leaders kept him connected. Now, he's actively involved in our youth group, was baptized last summer, and continues to invite others to church. That Sunday, he even brought his boss, who ended up requesting a Bible, calling it the best day of his life.

BRUSSELS

God is doing amazing things in Brussels, He's touching the church, team and many visitors who come through our doors every week. We're incredibly grateful for our amazing volunteers who keep everything running smoothly all year long.

We expanded our team of preachers in Brussels and heard inspiring messages that encouraged many in their faith. Along with our weekly Sunday services, we had fantastic local services for Easter and Christmas, which drew in lots of visitors and saw great involvement from our team.

Highlights of the Year

One of the highlights this year was our beach baptisms in the summer, a key milestone for many in their walk with God. These, along with other baptisms and baby dedications throughout the year, always bring fresh energy to our services. It's wonderful to witness the journeys of individuals and families, supported by the church and healthy friendships.

Summer Season

We had an amazing summer season, filled with strategically planned events that were truly special. Many team members stepped up, taking ownership and making these days a fantastic experience for our congregation. It was especially wonderful to see new faces taking their first steps into our church community.

Lidiane

About two years ago I moved to Belgium following my husband's transfer with his company. When we moved, I was experiencing depression, but I wanted to believe that a "change of air" would help me get better. Unfortunately, it didn't; the depression worsened, and I needed to be hospitalized.

I was transferred to a psychiatric clinic in Brazil. During my last weeks in the clinic, I was exhausted and not improving. At that moment, I gave up trying to handle it by myself and cried out to the Lord. Those days were filled with praise and Bible reading.

As my time in Brazil was coming to an end, one Sunday, I was in church, distracted and terrified at the prospect of returning to Belgium. While this thought was consuming me, the preacher, whom I had never seen before, looked at me and said, "This thing that you are avoiding, this place that you don't want to go back to, the Lord is telling me to say to you that you have to go there because there you will find what you are looking for."

At that moment, I knew I had to return to Belgium. Months later, I was, for the first time, cooking for our Hillsong Connect group dinner. I was so excited that day during grocery shopping and preparation, wondering if everyone would enjoy the food and gathering, when suddenly, at the exact moment while I was chopping garlic, I felt a voice inside me saying, "This is what you were looking for."

That was the moment I realized that what I had always been searching for was the Lord's joy. It wasn't a new job, a successful career, more money, or returning to my home country. Nothing I thought would make me happy or smile again was the answer; it was finding the Lord's joy in the little things.

KIDS & FAMILIES

A Year of Growth and Joy

At Hillsong Kids, we're committed to doing everything we can to help parents build healthy families and set them up for success. Our main goal is to create a fun and safe Sunday program where children can experience God's love and presence in their own way. Beyond our Sunday services, we offer support to families at every stage of life.

A Year of Expansion and Excitement

2023 has been an incredible year for Hillsong Kids. In Amsterdam, we experienced such growth that we outgrew our venue. With an average of 87 kids in December 2022, our rooms were getting packed.

For years, we made do with makeshift rooms using pipes and drapes, so you can imagine our joy when we moved into a new building at the beginning of April. Finally, we had bigger and better rooms for the children. This move to Circa brought back many families who had stopped coming to church, and the new, larger spaces made the children feel more relaxed. This new venue also allowed us to offer more age-appropriate programs. Previously, we had to combine the teaching part of the program, but now we can tailor teachings to each age group. By the

end of the year, our average kids' attendance in Amsterdam grew to over 120 children on a Sunday.

Strengthening Teams and Enhancing Programs


In Rotterdam and Brussels, we focused on strengthening our teams, seeing growth in both members and leadership. In Brussels, we enhanced our kids' programs by adding live worship. In Rotterdam, we expanded our leadership, which bolstered the team and allowed us to focus more on improving the creative elements in our services. These creative elements are crucial for educating children and placing them in an environment where they can encounter God. They also provide opportunities for kids to explore and develop their creative talents.

Baby Dedications

In 2023, we had the privilege of dedicating 48 children to the Lord across our three campuses: 27 in Amsterdam, 6 in Rotterdam, and 5 in Brussels.

Kids Summer Camp

Our yearly Kids' Summer Camp was once again one of the biggest highlights of the year. With the help of 56 amazing volunteers, we welcomed 96 children to Austerlitz for four days of fun, quality time, meaningful conversations, and worship. The kids left energized and inspired. As a church, we were able to sponsor children who otherwise wouldn't have been able to attend.



Testimony Cathrin, Herald & Christina
(Hillsong Brussels)

With previous experience in children's ministry back home, I joined the Hillsong Kids team. Being a Kids team leader has personally been enriching and fulfilling. As Kids team leaders, we work to create a welcoming environment where children can grow spiritually and socially.

By the grace of God, next to being part of the Kids team, we also host a connect group as a family. These opportunities have brought us closer to God and our church family.

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

Youth x Young Adults

Our Hillsong Youth and Young Adults (YxYA) department is committed to fostering an environment where those aged 11-25 encounter and experience daily companionship with God. We aim to disciple them in mind, heart, and hands, transforming them into Christ's likeness in character and power. Ultimately, our goal is to empower the youth and young adults of our church to live out Christ's story and serve as agents of change in the world through His Holy Spirit.

Powerhouse (19-25)

Connect Groups

Every Wednesday, our Powerhouse Connect Groups provide young adults with opportunities to build lasting friendships, engage in meaningful discussions about God's word, support each other through prayer, and enjoy delicious home-cooked dinners together. With attendance peaking at almost 100 during the year, we believe nurturing a close-knit community is crucial during this pivotal stage of their lives. Each young adult is supported and encouraged, equipping them with the skills needed to lead effectively and positively influence others.

Youth (11-18) RDGs

Our RDGs (or "radical discipleship groups") meet on Fridays for Wildlife (15-18) and Sundays for Fuel (11-14), offering a safe, loving, and wholesome atmosphere for youth to have fun, play games, and develop their faith. Youth are encouraged to invite friends from their schools and neighborhoods, introducing them to what a relationship with God looks like. Wildlife RDGs are held across the city, while Fuel RDGs take place during the 12:00 pm Sunday service, with a combined average weekly attendance of approximately 70 youth.

Young and Free Nights

Every two months, we host Young and Free nights in Amsterdam, bringing together around 130 youth. These youth-centered services feature games, creative elements, worship, and speakers aimed at drawing young people closer to God and His plan for their lives. Our goal is to present God's message in a relevant and engaging manner, fostering deeper connections with their faith.

Youth Summer Camp

For four days at Zonnewende camp, Youth Summer Camp joyfully welcomed 140 youth, where we witnessed God accelerating His work in their lives. Through gospel-centered messages, discussions, and engaging activities like games and tribal wars, the youth were inspired, empowered, and equipped to embrace their God-given purpose. The highlight of the camp was the concluding session, where 14 youth were baptized surrounded by supportive friends and family.

Powerhouse Summer Gathering

Held at the historic Buiksloterkerk Amsterdam, the 2023 Powerhouse Summer Gathering welcomed 190 young adults. Filled with powerful sermons, practical workshops, and faith-filled worship, the theme 'Jesus Is King' explored what it means for God's kingship to impact our daily lives and how we, as His victorious Church, can advance His kingdom in the world.

These initiatives and events are integral to our mission of nurturing and empowering the youth and young adults in our church community.





TESTIMONIES

Jonah, 23

I've been part of YxYA for five years now. Being part of this community has shaped my faith, character, and relationships in a positive way. During my study period, I always had a godly community I could count on, and I've been consistently challenged to mature and grow in my faith. I've also found my best friends while serving in the YxYA community. I'm thankful that as a young adult, I've found a place where a passionate group of peers gather around the mission of advancing God's kingdom. I'm excited for what lies ahead!

Tina, 21

It's easy to think I'm not good enough for God's plan for me. But that's where I'm wrong, because He's the one who shapes and prepares me for everything, especially leadership. At first, it felt impossible, but after witnessing how God has healed and worked in me over the years, I realized now isn't the time to doubt Him. Being a Powerhouse Connect Group leader has not only challenged me to grow in my walk with Christ but has also placed me in a community I can now call home.

Andy, 24

In my two years on the team, I've learned (and keep learning) that it's not just about loving and serving others, but also about allowing God to serve me, us. God serves me by bringing the blessing of leading a Connect Group into my life. It's brought communion, joy, and structure to my daily life. When I struggle to read my Bible or pray for myself, I find the motivation to do so for the people I serve.

Being part of the team helps me experience love. In this love, I truly understand Christ's words that "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Alyssa, 20

Growing up, my mom taught me about Jesus, but I didn't have peers who shared my faith. As a teenager, social pressures and worldly influences made following Jesus seem unattainable. Though I loved God, the fear of rejection made it hard to put Him first. I believed I could only fully commit to Him once I was older.

At 18, I moved to the Netherlands and prayed for God to place believers in my life, even if it meant letting go of old friendships. Soon after, I joined Hillsong and attended a Bible study group. I was amazed to find young adults my age who were passionate about knowing Jesus. This group welcomed me like family, prayed with me, and provided a safe space to learn about God.

Three years later, my closest friends are from that group, and God answered my bold prayer. These friendships have strengthened my faith and shown me that putting God first is a choice that can be made at any age. Godly friendships have encouraged me to step into what God has for me now, teaching me that I can honor God and positively impact my world, even in my youth.



SISTERHOOD

Sisterhood is the heart and soul of our church's feminine expression. It's a group of everyday women who, as they discover their true selves and their unique gifts, are inspired to make the world a better place.

In 2023, Sisterhood has embraced change by reimagining our vision and purpose through these key questions:

Who Are We?

We are a Sisterhood set apart for a kingdom purpose.

What Do We Do?

We are a community where you belong. "You are the body of the Anointed One and each of you is a unique and vital part of it."
- 1 Cor 12:27 (TPT)

We Gather to Grow

"So don't hide your light! Let it shine brightly before others, so that your commendable works will shine as light upon them, and then they will give their praise to your Father in heaven."
- Matt 5:16 (TPT)

We Are a Movement to Serve

"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." - John 13:35 (NIV)

Throughout this transition, we've continued to come together for Sisterhood United nights and gatherings, encouraging women to flourish in their everyday lives and active participation in church.



MARKETPLACE LEADERSHIP

Marketplace Leadership is all about empowering and equipping people in the marketplace to do three things: be role models of servant leadership, support their work communities through life's daily struggles, and grow as individuals who understand their purpose and are ready to make a positive impact.

To make this happen, we've reorganized our team and set three key priorities: building vision, building community, and building capability.

This year, we're focusing on delivering weekly encouragements, engaging on LinkedIn, and hosting visiting speakers. One highlight is Mal Fletcher speaking on "AI, the Future, and You." These activities will help us make real progress on our priorities.



CREATIVE

As Christians, we believe that we were created in the image of God, who is the ultimate Creator. Therefore, we, too, are creative beings with the potential to foster a sense of wonder, imagination, and innovation.

Our mission is to build the Church and to foster vibrant, sincere worship in our local community. We are dedicated to equipping and inspiring creative teams across various church activities, providing them with valuable resources and support.

Typically, our church experiences a significant increase in visitors during two key periods: Good Friday and Christmas. These occasions present us with excellent opportunities to

share the Good News of Jesus with a larger audience. Last December, we hosted our very first Christmas service at Circa Amsterdam, which was an unforgettable milestone. We had a fantastic, beautiful Sunday celebrating the birth of Jesus. In addition to the three services we hosted, over 200 people attended our overflow. Another unforgettable milestone was celebrating Easter Sunday as the first Sunday in our new venue in Amsterdam. We started planning our move in December 2022, and it was fully realized on Resurrection Sunday 2023. It was incredible to see the team come together, plan, strategize, and build towards that great move.



During our “Months of Miracles,” we took extra time in our services to share incredible testimonies of God’s provision, healing, and miraculous power. Our film and TV teams collaborated to produce amazing videos that lifted the faith in the room. Together as a church, we experienced an incredible month of miracles, praying for the needs in our community and praising God for everything He had done and all that is to come!

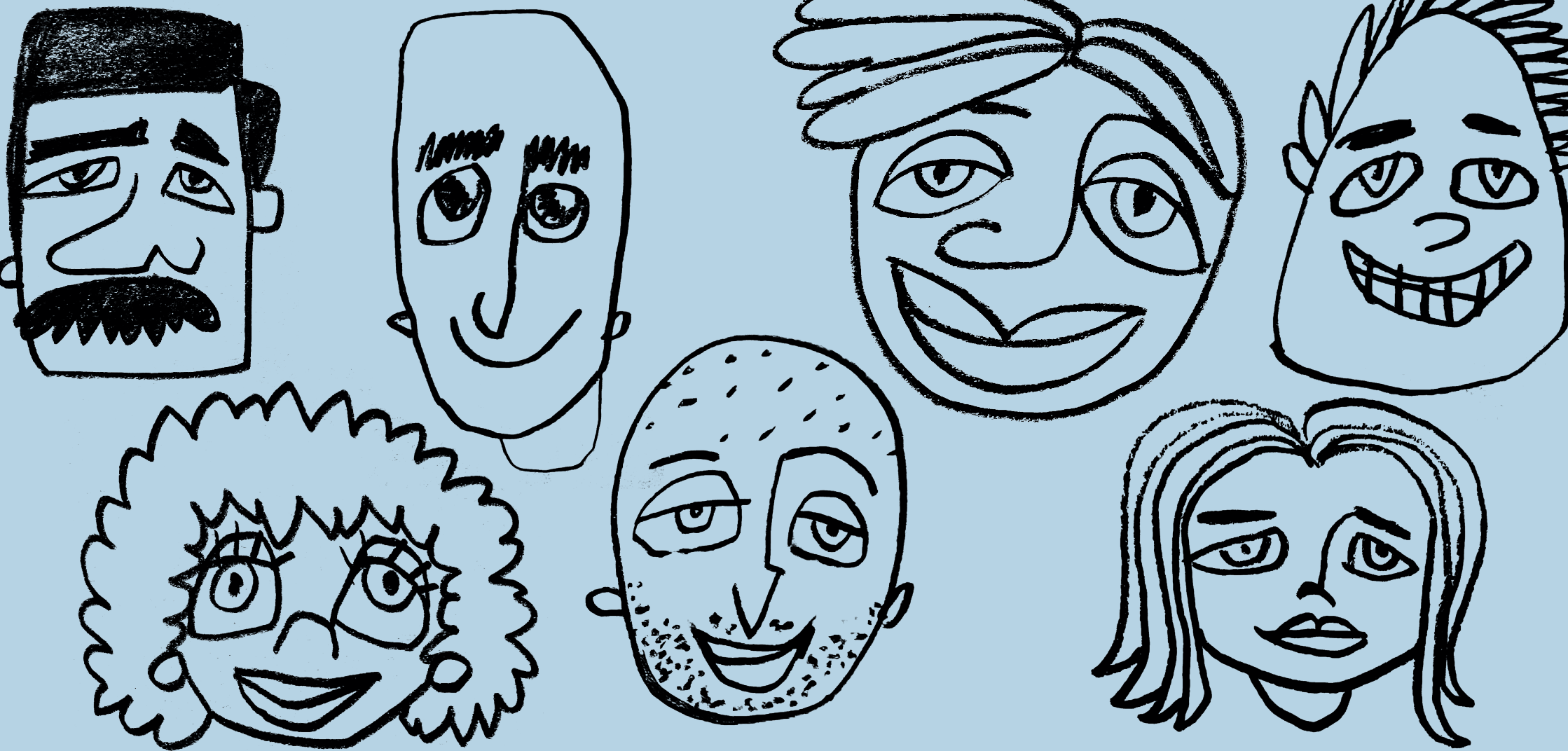
One of the stories we shared was from Lars and Valerie, who lead and are active in our production and prayer teams. Valerie was diagnosed with a rheumatic disease called

connective tissue disease, which mainly affects her joints. Later, she was also diagnosed with PID (pelvic inflammatory disease), which declared her infertile. But on October 20th, 2022, Lars and Valerie celebrated a pregnancy after the prompting of the Holy Spirit to get a pregnancy test! Today, we see their beautiful daughter Selah running and playing around the church on Sundays.

I believe that the creative team is a strong team with endurance, resilience, and grit. It has shown incredible faith as it continues to build the Church, serve, and pray for Heaven to invade our Earth.

DEAD THINGS COMING BACK TO LIFE AGAIN
LEVENLOZE DINGEN KOMEN WEER TOT BLOEI

DEAD THINGS COMING
ACK TO LIFE AGAIN



COMMUNITY

SOCIAL JUSTICE

God's heart is for every person who walks this earth, across every generation. That's why our focus is not only on being an answer and a solution to the needs of the current generation but also on building a strong foundation for future ones. Our commitment is to serve the communities where we are planted and to partner with organizations to make a global impact.

Together, we believe we can make a difference and help a needy world. Our local and global reach is supported by a portion of our regular income, 10% of which is allocated through the Hillsong Foundation, alongside the generosity of our congregation throughout the year.

Global Social Justice Initiatives

Internationally, we collaborate with four organizations that effectively impact some of the world's most vulnerable populations: Compassion, Hillsong Africa Foundation, A21, and Vision Rescue.



Compassion is supported annually through a dedicated Sunday service aimed at informing and engaging our congregation about their initiatives, encouraging child sponsorship,

and providing financial support. Compassion guides children to discover and develop their God-given talents, lifting them from extreme poverty to self-reliance. In 2022, over 100 children were sponsored through Compassion by our congregants.



Hillsong Africa Foundation's mission is to restore families and break cycles of poverty, addiction, abuse, and violence in South Africa. Their vision is to build lives that will build the nation.



A21's vision is freedom for every human being on the planet. They work to rescue people from slavery, restore them completely, and call on all of us to be 21st-century abolitionists.



Vision Rescue provides care and education for street children in Mumbai through initiatives such as their Education Bus Program, pre-primary school, mobile dental and medical units, addiction support programs, and skills training for future generations. This year, leaders from our Amsterdam campus visited Vision Rescue in Mumbai, strengthening our partnership and providing renewed insight into future development opportunities.

In addition to these partnerships, we raised funds to provide humanitarian aid for victims of the devastating

earthquakes in Turkey and Syria through World Vision, collecting over seventeen thousand euros for this cause.

Local social justice

In 2023, we brought all our local initiatives together under the name 'Love Thy Neighbor' to reflect the spirit of our community partnerships and activities.

In Amsterdam, we've been supporting THDV (Tot Heil Des Volks), focusing on a homeless shelter (Wal-125) and a temporary shelter for families in need (HVO). In Rotterdam, we've been backing Pauluskerk and Bon Sjans, and in Brussels, we've partnered with Pigment to help the homeless there.

Around Easter, we encouraged our congregation to donate non-perishable food items, which we then distributed to local food banks in our cities. Along with generous food donations, we collected over eight thousand euros for our local partners.

For our Christmas campaign, we distributed 685 gift packages to our partner organizations, blessing homeless people, vulnerable women, and children living in poverty. These packages were tailored to the specific needs of the people we served and wrapped by our congregation volunteers. In addition to the physical gifts, we raised over five thousand euro's, also for our local partners.



Suzanne, volunteer at THDV

"I had a wonderful opportunity with some of the stuff donated to Love Thy Neighbor and put together a special package for one of the prostitutes I had met in the middle of Amsterdam's red-light district. Over time, I had become friendly with her. I was able to bring the gift package to her and communicate God's love in such a special way. I prayed with her and told her how much God loved her. And that's all thanks to the kindness and donations from this Christmas project. So, I thank you so much."

PASTORAL CARE

We all face tough times, obstacles, and challenges in life. The beauty of being part of a church family is that we don't have to face these seasons alone. We believe that the best thing a person can do is to be surrounded by graceful and encouraging people who will point them to Jesus.

When struggles require more than just a listening ear, we have people ready, willing, and able to help.

For those dealing with grief, addiction, depression, disillusionment, or emotional health issues, we offer programs and courses in a safe and caring environment.

This year, we've focused on building healthy church communities and ensuring we can support our members for the long haul. We've organized trainings with Dr. Rebecca Loundar on wellness and other crucial topics for our key team, staff, pastoral team, and volunteers.

Our Pastoral Care team, made up of pastors, trained counsellors, and volunteers, responds to the needs of individuals and families in our church community as they arise.

Throughout the year, the team has organized sending flowers to encourage those who are struggling in our church. We've also arranged practical support and meals for those in need.



PRAYER MINISTRY

Isaiah 56:7b (NIV) says,

“...for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations.” In 2023, we became intentional about making prayer a central part of our church. We achieved this through teaching and organizing more weekly prayer meetings.

We introduced two courses from Ps Pete Greig through our Night School. One focused on prayer, and the other addressed the challenges of unanswered prayers.

We also launched several weekly prayer meetings: one at 7 am, another midweek, and one at 8:30 am every Sunday morning. On Sundays, we pray over every aspect of the service, and during the midweek meetings, we continue to pray over the prayer requests collected over the weekend.

Additionally, we've established a new team of dedicated individuals who pray for people at the end of each service.





GOVERNANCE & FINANCE

GOVERNANCE

Governance

The Board plays a crucial role in overseeing governance at Stichting Hillsong Church NL, focusing on compliance, assurance, and risk management. Compliance involves ensuring the church meets all regulatory requirements. The Board seeks assurance from management that risks are effectively managed, often through annual financial audits like the one conducted by WITH accountants in 2023.

Composition of the Board

The Board provides direction for governance and stewardship of finances. It comprises three members, including two senior leaders from Hillsong Church UK:

- Ray Newton – Chairman (UK)
- Adam Spies – Treasurer (UK)
- Arjan Niemeijer – Board member (NL)

Board and Staff Remuneration

Board members do not receive remuneration for their board duties, as per the articles of association. Any compensation received is for their executive roles. Staff salaries are benchmarked against the collective agreement for “Zorg & Maatschappij” and reviewed annually by both the Board of Stichting Hillsong Church NL and Hillsong Global Board.

Management

Formally, Richard van der Kolk is the General Manager of Stichting Hillsong Church NL, overseeing operations. Operationally Arjan Niemeijer, manages the operations as ‘General Manager’ reporting to Richard. Arjan leads a management advisory team that advises on foundation operations, contributes to church governance, and provides input on major decisions and new ideas.

HILLSONG FOUNDATION

Heart for the House Offering

Every year, we hold our Heart for the House offering, where our community generously gives above their regular contributions to support the Hillsong Foundation. The Foundation was established to enhance our church’s financial capacity, enabling us to prepare for the future, introduce many in our cities to Jesus as their Savior, and extend practical help to those most in need.

Financial Impact

Our regular income covers day-to-day operations, while the Hillsong Foundation strengthens our financial position, allowing us to seize opportunities we otherwise couldn’t pursue. In 2023, part of our income was allocated to cover operational expenses.

Utilization of Funds

Income from the Hillsong Foundation in 2023, aside from the 10% designated for donations, helped us address operational deficits, ensuring our financial stability. Each year, we strive to accumulate funds through Kingdom Builders for the purchase of our own building, a milestone achieved in 2023.

Charitable Contributions

Ten percent of the Heart for the House offering supports charitable partnerships, including Hillsong church plants and organizations like Vision Rescue, A21, Hillsong Africa Foundation, Tot Heil des Volks, and Pigment VZW in 2023.



FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Financial Overview of 2023

2023 marked a transitional year for us, especially from a financial standpoint. We began the year with operational losses but steadily turned the tide as we approached 2024. Strong church services fueled growth in attendance, which in turn boosted our income. Throughout the year, we learned to operate more efficiently despite financial constraints.

Budgeting Approach

We adopted a cautious budgeting approach for 2023, taking into account the economic impact of COVID-19. Income trends up to September 2022 were lower compared to the previous year. Anticipating growth in attendance, we cautiously projected a slight increase in income. For Hillsong Foundation, we budgeted for no growth, expecting giving levels similar to 2022.

Financial Performance

Despite fluctuating monthly incomes throughout 2023, we saw a notable increase, particularly in the last quarter. Our conservative income estimates enabled us to exceed our budget expectations.

Other Sources of Income

We also surpassed our projected “other income.” Moving into a new venue in Amsterdam for Sunday services in April 2023 expanded our taxable activities, such as our coffee bar, beyond our initial budget.

Cost Management

To achieve a positive operational result with anticipated income levels, we needed to implement additional cost-saving measures compared to 2022. Cutting operational costs further was challenging amidst rising prices. We scrutinized staffing and facilities expenses, although adjustments often required time due to existing contracts.

Staffing Adjustments

We continued our practice of not renewing contracts for non-essential roles and refrained from automatically replacing staff who left. By the end of 2023, we reduced our full-time equivalent (FTE) positions from 12.3 to 10.3.

Facility Management

In Amsterdam, moving to the new Circa venue proved beneficial, offering better suitability and reduced rental costs. Negotiating a favorable rent at Schiecentrale in Rotterdam also helped in managing facility costs effectively. Overall, our expenses slightly exceeded our budget, primarily due to the costs associated with relocating to Circa.

Taxation Considerations

Regarding income taxes, our main activities qualify for corporate tax exemption under Dutch law. However, income from commercial activities, such as PA rentals, ticketed events, shuttle bus services, coffee bar, and resource sales, is subject to VAT. As a Stichting registered as an ANBI (Dutch Public Benefit Organization), we benefit from tax incentives that encourage contributions to Hillsong NL.

Free disposable income and reserves

Financial Overview

In 2023, we achieved a modest positive cash flow of €24,085 after considering investments and depreciation. Our cash reserves increased by €22,436, bringing our total reserves at the end of the year to €1,863,870, with a cash position of €1,519,885.

Reserve Strategy

Our reserves are structured around three key elements. Firstly, we maintain a reserve equivalent to three months of expenditures, providing flexibility for unforeseen events and opportunities.

The continuity reserve served its purpose during the post-COVID-19 recovery phase, albeit decreasing to €223,971 by the end of 2023. Our strategy moving forward is to bolster this reserve to its optimal level, ensuring financial resilience.

Hillsong Foundation Balance

Secondly, our Hillsong Foundation balance saw growth in 2023, notably boosted by a significant VAT return from our 2020 PA system purchase, amounting to approximately €80,000. This return is allocated to the Foundation reserve and contributed €14,000 toward operational expenses, strengthening our financial stability as we transitioned to our new venue at Circa.

Building Deposit Goal

Thirdly, we continue to accumulate funds through our Kingdom Builders initiative to secure a deposit for owning a church building in Amsterdam. In 2023, we successfully retained Kingdom Builders’ income, amassing a total of €1,639,899 earmarked for future asset acquisition.

Financial Strength

As our continuity reserve decreased in 2023, our priority is to strengthen our cash reserves to safeguard our church's financial health. This will better position us to acquire property without compromising our ongoing church activities.

Future Planning

Looking ahead to 2024, we consulted with Gabriel Financiele Bescherming to explore the feasibility of purchasing our current Sunday venue, assessing financing options and strategic requirements. Our focus remains on achieving positive financial outcomes and fortifying our continuity reserve, paving the way for significant progress in our building acquisition goals.



Balance sheet summary per 31 December 2023.

Debet	2023	2022
FIXED ASSETS	€ 488,374	€ 566,214
CURRENT ASSETS	€ 1,793,024	€ 1,793,240
Inventory	€ 18,885	€ 28,377
Taxes	€ -	€ 74,366
Debtors	€ 54,450	€ 26,522
Other Receivables	€ 199,804	€ 112,525
Cash & Cash equivalents	€ 1,519,885	€ 1,497,450
	€ 2,281,399	€ 2,305,454

Credit	2023	2022
RESERVES AND FUNDS	€ 1,863,870	€ 1,917,625
Continuity Reserve	€ 223,971	€ 470,799
Special-Purpose Reserve	€ 1,638,899	€ 1,446,826
Hillsong Foundation Reserve (off which result)	€ -53,754	€ -233,184
Long-term liabilities	€ 43,871	€ 84,367
CURRENT LIABILITIES	€ 373,658	€ 303,462
Taxes and Social Security Premie	€ 36,039	€ 39,140
Pension Payables	€ 2,955	€
Creditor	€ 63,054	€ 60,719
Other Payables	€ 271,609	€ 203,603
	€ 2,281,399	€ 2,305,454

Profit and loss statement summary 2023.

P&L 2023 Summary	Actual 2023	Budget 2023	Actual 2022
Giving and Church activities	€ 1,994,787	€ 1,906,218	€ 1,946,009
Other Income	€ 168,469	€ 126,085	€ 103,837
Hillsong Foundation	€ 91,428	€ 130,000	€ 130,642
Kingdom Builders	€ 229,092	€ 191,000	€ 239,205
Total Income	€ 2,483,776	€ 2,353,302	€ 2,419,693
Personell Expenses	€ -710,637	€ -705,637	€ -772,453
Program Costs	€ -519,355	€ -385,049	€ -527,580
Administration Cost	€ -145,200	€ -88,702	€ -121,227
Facilities Costs	€ -781,031	€ -768,885	€ -847,409
Giving	€ -119,481	€ -190,622	€ -115,545
Giving H4H	€ -32,052	€ -32,100	€ -36,985
Commercial activities	€ -41,178	€ -26,420	€ -12,130
Total Expenses	€ -2,348,935	€ -2,197,414	€ -2,433,328
EBITA	€ 134,842	€ 155,888	€ -13,635
Depreciation	€ -180,333	€ -220,107	€ -210,524
Interest Financial Lease	€ -8,263	€ -3,468	€ -9,025
Net operational result	€ -53,754	€ -67,687	€ -233,184

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