# Quarterly Update Hilsong California January – March 2024



CALIFORNIA

#### **2024 Quarterly Update**



#### "Come and See"

These are the first words the disciples hear from Jesus in the gospel of John. Jesus is giving us, His church, the same invitation. "Come and see who I am. Come and see what I am doing in and through those who follow me. Come and see!"

Over and over, we've seen our church respond to this invitation. We're only a few months into 2024 and once again we've seen and experienced the faithfulness of God in so many miraculous ways. To those who have faithfully given to Hillsong California this year, I want to say a tremendous thank you.

At Mission Sunday, we announced that our theme for the year is "Maturing Disciples". Meaning, how can we continue to grow as followers of Jesus in every sphere of life? We set out to do this through gatherings, serving, groups and of course, the teaching of the Word. We're excited to share that we've already seen 497 people make decisions to follow Jesus. Praise God!

We're wrapping up our 2nd teaching series of the year; "Encounters with the Risen Jesus". My hope and prayer for you is that this wouldn't just be a topic we discuss on Sundays, but a doorway for you to encounter the resurrected Jesus every day of your life. And while I always pray that for you, I'm also confident that your generosity has helped make that prayer a reality for people in our community who you might not even know yet.

So, thank you for giving so generously. Thank you for sowing. Thank you for bringing your faith and your gift to the table. We are better for it! Let's continue to sow with expectation and believe that God has more waiting for us this Spring!

Praying for you constantly,

## **Sam and Courtney Lopez** Hillsong California Lead Pastors

# **2024 Maturing Disciples**

#### **Purpose-Filled Jesus Followers**

497 Decisions to Follow Jesus436 Bibles Given Away44 People Water Baptized12 Child Dedications





## **Healthy Church Communites**

74 groups 115 Active Group Leaders Average Group Size 19 People

#### **Significant Sustainable Social Impact**

775 People Impacted45 Volunteers Who Served525 People Fed450 Items Given Away







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## **Stories We're Celebrating**

A gal in our connect group told me she was nervous about inviting her friend to church, but when Easter came around she finally found the courage to ask her. Her friend agreed, and on their drive to church together on Sunday morning, she mentioned she was a bit nervous because women were treated very poorly in the church she grew up in. The first sentence of Sam's message that morning was, "I was raised by strong women." He then went on to talk about the role of women in the Bible, and it spoke directly to this girl. She cried the whole service and responded to the altar call at the end.





There is a woman who has been attending the Discipleship Project regularly. Last week, as we discussed meditating on scripture, we all committed to learning a verse from the Bible. She said she had never done that before. This week, she came back and said she'd found a verse that spoke encouragement over the season and challenges she's facing and that she had been meditating on it every day. It is incredible to see what God is doing as people lean into this space with a desire to mature in their faith!

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# **Stories We're Celebrating**

Three brothers attended Encounterfest from our LA location. They had only been coming to church for about a month and the oldest came up to me during Encounterfest to tell me Hillsong has not only built his faith in the short time his family has attended, but has also healed his faith. The middle brother was really shy and showed up to Encounterfest nervous about talking to new people. When he arrived, he saw one of our youth leaders who attended middle school with him. It was incredible to see God put the right pieces together for this young man to feel at home and comfortable. On Sunday, the youngest of the three was praying during the altar response and some of his leaders prayed over him. They said he had seen God do amazing things in his family, but God wanted to do something special in him, too. He told us afterward that word was just what he needed. His whole family came to church last week because they wanted to see the place where their boys are being so impacted.





#### **Upcoming Events**

May 12th	<ul> <li>Pastor Phil &amp; Lucinda</li> </ul>
	speaking at Hillsong California
May 12th	– Mothers' Day
May 19th	<ul> <li>Pentecost Sunday</li> </ul>
May 26th	– HCA Ten Year anniversary
June 11-13	<ul> <li>Sisterhood United Nights</li> </ul>



