

MISSION IMPACT

HILLSONG CHURCH GLOBAL

Mid-Year Update
June 2025





A LETTER FROM PHIL & LUCINDA

TO OUR GLOBAL CHURCH FAMILY,

As we entered the year, we felt God stirring us – in our own lives, and for our church collectively – **to take another step in faith.** This has become the language that has framed 2025. We love it because it's a mission that anyone can carry out. All of us can take another step in faith, trusting God and following His guidance. And there's always a next step that God has prepared for us.

As a church, we've truly stepped into a new season of faith and forward momentum. Hillsong is now represented in **125 locations across 36 countries**, and we continue to see God do remarkable things through His Church. As you read this update, our prayer is that your faith is stirred and your heart encouraged.

We often highlight our church's mission pillars – to develop purpose-filled Jesus followers, build healthy church communities, and create significant and sustainable social impact. It's incredible to witness these statements being outworked and bearing fruit in the lives of real people, both within our global church family and in the communities we're called to reach. It's pure joy to share some of these miracle stories with you in our first Mission Impact Update of the year. This is so much more than a report. It's a chronicle of what happens when ordinary people heed God's call and step out in faith. We hope it inspires and informs you in equal measure.

A powerful undercurrent of revival is breaking out amongst our youth and young adults worldwide. We're seeing a new generation of purpose-filled Jesus followers rising up. Our global youth ministries are connecting and uniting in unprecedented ways, young people are flocking to youth events, and Hillsong Leadership Academies are starting up in many countries around the world, creating avenues for young people to step into church leadership and ministry.

Building healthy church communities includes strengthening and expanding our existing churches, as well as pioneering new Hillsong Churches in different parts of the world. It's a huge step forward when one of our churches finds a permanent home and doesn't have to rent a space anymore. In February, I (Phil) had the pleasure of joining the opening of Hillsong Portugal's new building in Lisbon. Meanwhile, our church in Bali started a second location in Sanur because their Sunday services had been overflowing for a year. And on Mission Sunday, we celebrated the news of Hillsong Barranquilla launching in Colombia, which is the fruit of a six-year journey.

Easter this year was a deeply meaningful time for our global church. Through our Cross Equals Love campaign, the message "LOVE REMAINS" (inspired by John 15:9 & 12–13) resonated deeply within our services and across cities around the world. Before sunup on Good Friday, early risers from Hillsong Bondi gathered at Bondi Beach to draw a gigantic "Cross Equals Love" message in the sand. It was such a fun way to usher in the Easter weekend and spread this good news to everyone who visited the beach that day. For us personally, nothing compares to witnessing our church communities come together for Good Friday and Easter Sunday services to remember Jesus'



Hillsong
Sanur, Bali



Hillsong Portugal
New Building Opening



Mission Sunday
2025



Young Adults
State Night Sydney

finished work on the Cross and rejoice in His resurrection. We're incredibly grateful for every pastor, team member, and volunteer who helped bring the message of love and eternal hope in Jesus to life across the globe.

Having planted Hillsong Church in Cape Town in 2008, we remain passionate about South Africa and the continent of Africa. One of the most inspiring and sustainable social initiatives that have come out of our church in recent years is the Innovation Hub – or iHub Africa – in Johannesburg. The iHub offers a free, world-class training program in Digital Marketing to young South Africans, who wouldn't otherwise have the opportunity to study. In a country with an alarmingly high youth unemployment rate, these young people are given a chance to build better lives for themselves and their families. And they make the most of it!

We dream of expanding this initiative across Africa, and into other parts of the world, because there's a digital economy that can help uplift the lives of people.

We're so grateful that our church can sow seeds of hope and love in countries that are navigating conditions of war. Hillsong Kyiv and Hillsong City Care Ukraine have launched a remarkable after-school program to improve the lives of local children, who have been traumatised by the ongoing war in that part of the world. You can read more about Creative Space in this report and you're invited to contribute to the wonderful work they're doing by donating at the end of the article.

Our heart is to faithfully steward all that God has entrusted to us – from our churches and teams to the call to share the Gospel with the world. As we prayerfully look to the future, we're seeking the best ways to strengthen our existing church locations, invest in leadership development, and expand our church-planting efforts to reach even more people with the hope and love of Jesus.

In many ways, this Mission Impact Update is a never-ending story of eternal impact achieved through the goodness of God, the power of the Holy Spirit, and the faithfulness of people like you. The biggest THANK YOU to each one of you for being co-workers with God, building His House, and serving His people. Thank you for your faith, your prayers, your generosity, and your commitment to the journey. We honour every person who has given, served, and contributed to the life of Hillsong Church.

May God continue to bless and refresh you, Church. We pray that you will keep taking steps in faith, pressing on with courage and confidence into all the great plans He has for your individual lives, your local church communities, and our global church.

Love and blessings,

Phil and Lucinda
Global Senior Pastors

“All of us can take another step in faith, trusting God and following His guidance.”

AN UPDATE FROM TOLU BADDERS

GLOBAL CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER



We remain committed to cultivating a healthy culture and creating an environment where our lead pastors are supported and thriving. In the past year, we've made meaningful progress in strengthening our global church through the establishment of the Global Support Framework and Global Support Team, including Regional Support Leaders. These teams have been key in identifying opportunities to enhance pastoral care and provide targeted leadership support, particularly in locations where it's most needed. We have already received encouraging feedback from several churches visited by their regional support leaders, reaffirming the value of this approach. Across our regions, we are aligning around shared values and a unified vision, providing greater strategic clarity to ensure that every step we take in faith is marked by wise stewardship and purposeful direction.

GLOBAL SUPPORT FRAMEWORK UPDATE

VALUES AND BEHAVIOURS

Over the past 18 months – through intentional and prayerful conversations between our lead pastors and Global Senior Pastors Phil and Lucinda Dooley – we have refined our church's evolving identity around five core values and their accompanying behaviours. This work builds on foundational discussions initiated in Portugal in October 2023 and was developed by a diverse Values Working Group representing multiple regions and genders. These values and behaviours provide a clear guide that shapes our culture, guides leadership, and defines what healthy church life looks like. They reflect where we have come from, who we are committed to becoming, and serve as a compass to strengthen us as we navigate change and growth. In November last year, these values and behaviours were presented to lead pastors during Lead Pastors Day, receiving strong affirmation as a vital cultural anchor for our future. Since then, lead pastors have been sharing this framework with their teams, providing us with language to champion one another's growth and to identify opportunities for development as leaders and teams across our global church family.

ORDINATION AND WELLNESS

We are continuing to invest in the future of church leadership. A new global ordination model is currently being developed, focused on equipping and affirming pastors through character formation, theological depth, and leadership competency. At the same time, our wellness program has now been established to better meet the evolving needs of our pastors worldwide, ensuring they are spiritually, emotionally, and practically supported in their calling.

GLOBAL STRATEGY UPDATE

In my end-of-year update last year, I shared that Hillsong Church had engaged AE Sloan Leadership, led by Tod Bolsinger, to develop a Global Strategic Plan. Since then, we have assembled a 28-member Research and Development (R&D) team composed of lead pastors, department oversights, and church leaders from across our global locations. This team has been working closely with AE Sloan on this important initiative. The purpose of this project is to “discern and create a global strategy that will enable Hillsong and its churches to thrive within a shared global mission and become the movement that God needs it to be today and in the future.” This work is foundational to shaping our long-term strategy and structure.

Since launching, the R&D team has engaged in a comprehensive listening phase that has included surveys, interviews, focus groups, monthly virtual meetings, and two in-person gatherings. During the November Lead Pastors Gathering, Tod and his team gathered valuable insights that were further refined during a pivotal onsite session held in Australia this May. The humility, commitment, and collaborative spirit of the R&D team have been deeply encouraging and reflect strong alignment with our shared vision. We are now in the process of completing the report and gathering feedback from lead pastors. The final strategy will be submitted to the board in August.

HILLSONG CHURCH VALUES

WELCOME HOME

EVERY ONE MATTERS

We are invitational, creating warm environments with a sense of unity and belonging.

We are kind, honest, valuing, and compassionate.

We build authentic relationships and community, valuing "who" over "do".

SERVANT-HEARTED HUMILITY

HERE TO HELP

We welcome feedback and are ready to listen, learn, and grow.

We are team players who serve, collaborate, and contribute.

We treat each other with honor and respect.

JOYFUL & FUN

ENJOYING LIFE & YOUTHFUL SPIRIT

We give time to connecting, laughing, and enjoying the journey.

We are thankful, engaged, and solutions-focused.

We are quick to celebrate the wins and bring a positive attitude.

GENEROUS SPIRIT

OPEN-HEARTED & OPEN-HANDED

We are big-spirited and intentional (in word, giving, and serving).

We encourage and champion others.

We give willingly, according to our time, talent, and treasure.

EXCELLENCE

WE BRING OUR BEST

We are committed to improvement over perfection.

We work diligently and are ready to go the second mile.

We are good stewards of people, bringing out their best.

OUR VISION STATEMENT

A HEALTHY

CHURCH

CHANGING LIVES

THROUGH CHRIST



OUR GLOBAL CHURCH LOCATIONS



PRAISE REPORTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

OPEN HOUSES

Our Hillsong Network Open House conferences are for pastors, leaders, and church teams. In the first half of 2025, Open House events took place in – Buenos Aires (Argentina), São Paulo (Brazil), Barcelona (Spain), Berlin (Germany), Monterrey (Mexico), and Amsterdam (Netherlands). Hillsong Latin America welcomed a total of 160 churches, representing 22 countries, across three conferences.



CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

Hillsong Örebro celebrated a milestone 10 years since they started their first Connect Group in the Swedish city, which grew into the church they have. In South Africa, Hillsong Gugulethu also celebrated a decade of lives impacted by Jesus and a welcoming church community. (Gugulethu, or “Gugs”, is a township just outside Cape Town.) “It was a praise party!” said Pastor Xolani Ngema. “There were a lot of new people. Many of the adults who came were invited by the young people and kids, who come to church on Sundays and Fridays [for Youth and Kids Club].” (Check out Phil announcing the Gugs launch 10 years ago!)



HILLSONG SWEDEN

Hillsong Sweden's **Nights of Hope** filled one of Stockholm's most legendary theatres over three consecutive nights. More than 8,000 people gathered across Easter, hundreds of decisions for salvation were made, and even more Bibles were given out. God is moving powerfully.



HILLSONG AFRICA

In the three weeks leading up to Pentecost, Pastors Sanga and Kety Samways hosted six Nights of Anointing in Gauteng province and the Western Cape. These events focused on worship and teaching on the Holy Spirit, concluding with extended ministry in the Holy Spirit. Many attendees of the packed first night at Hillsong Braamfontein in Johannesburg returned for the second night in Wonderboom, Pretoria, where a deaf woman was healed, and repeatedly said, "I can hear." At Hillsong Stellenbosch, numerous people had encounters with the Holy Spirit, including a woman healed of a decade-long migraine battle. At Somerset West, a man was healed of heart arrhythmia. On the final night in Cape Town, long queues formed for prayer. A man with a damaged knee was healed instantly after a volunteer prayed for him. Approximately 8,000 people attended across all six locations.

OUR MISSION

DEVELOPING
PURPOSE-FILLED
JESUS
FOLLOWERS

A GLOBAL YOUTH MOVEMENT

A fresh sense of community is drawing our global youth ministries together. South African Youth Pastors Rhys and Emma Acton are helping to coordinate our global youth and have been connecting and catching up with our youth pastors from around the world. In March, they gathered over 80 youth pastors and leaders in a Zoom call with our Global Senior Pastor (and former Youth Pastor) Phil Dooley. “I loved talking to them,” Pastor Phil says. “I loved hearing some of the stories from around the world of what God’s doing. Our church is always about the next generation. We want to do what we can to continue to invest in them and give them a voice. What I was seeing was just a real wonder and a real passion to see God move in a fresh way amongst the new generations coming through.”

During the Zoom, Pastor Phil spoke about leadership and youth ministry and took time to answer questions. Some incredible praise reports were shared. A girl in Sweden gave out 300 Bibles in her school. Across Australia and South Africa, young people are leading prayer rallies in their schools. Hundreds of young people from across Portugal gathered for two historic days at Encounterfest 2025 in February. Many made decisions to follow Jesus. A month later, nearly 1000 young people gathered in an atmosphere of faith and revival for Encounter Conference 2025 in Spain.

Our church has around 82 youth locations and 116 youth pastors and leaders across the globe. “Our heart is that the Youth Team will feel they are fully part of our global community,” says Rhys. “We will look to do another Zoom later this year, as well as connecting with any of our global Youth Team who come to Hillsong Conference in Australia or London.”



Rhys, Emma, and Kobe Acton
South African Youth Pastors

ON FIRE FOR JESUS

The next generation is hungry for God. Encounter Conference 2025 in Cape Town is heading to the University of Cape Town’s Sport Centre, which can accommodate 2,500 young people, following a sold-out conference last year.

At Hillsong Conference in Sydney this year, our youth conference – formerly known as Young & Free – is rebranding, and will be known as Encounter Conference going forward. The name-change reflects what has already been happening – a new generation is meeting with God. “That is the heart of the conference,” says Australian Youth Pastor Sam Green. “We want our young people to say at the end of it, ‘I had an encounter with Jesus.’”



SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

By all accounts, State Night 2025 at the Hills Campus Epicentre in Sydney at the end of April, was an unreal experience. Young adults from all over New South Wales showed up in droves – driving, carpooling, and travelling by train to be there. Pastor Phil shared an impactful message on the topic of seemingly opposing qualities – e.g. being patient yet progressive – that build a godly life. The word resonated with its target audience. “We loved being poured into by our Global Senior Pastor Phil Dooley!” @hills.youngadults posted on Instagram. “It put passion in our bones to hear his championing heart, encouraging our generation to follow the God dreams placed in us. The young adults of Hillsong Church say yes!”



HILLSONG LEADERSHIP ACADEMIES

Our church's commitment to raising up the next generation of church and ministry leaders continues to gain momentum as we align localised, foundational, Bible-based leadership and ministry training through the global establishment of Hillsong Leadership Academies (HLAs). Supported by Hillsong College, the HLAs are run by our global church locations and offer a one-year, non-accredited, immersive ministry learning experience to enhance our leadership and ministry training.

Within local contexts, students are discipled and equipped through hands-on training across various church departments, including Youth and Kids Ministry, Events, and Creative.

We now have HLAs in South Africa, Sweden, Denmark, the Netherlands, France, Argentina, Brazil, Italy, Spain, and Portugal, with Indonesia soon to launch, and more to come in 2026. In March, Hillsong Bali hosted its first Information Night to introduce the HLA program and share insights into the week-to-week student experience. We are excited to continue investing in the next generation of church and ministry leaders, shaping the future of Hillsong churches around the world.

OUR MISSION

**BUILDING
HEALTHY
CHURCH
COMMUNITIES**

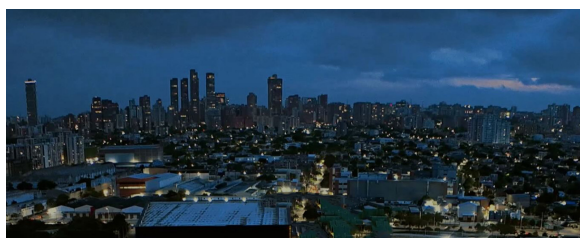
OVERVIEW

Building healthy church communities is a vital and multifaceted mission pillar. It encompasses pioneering churches in new nations, launching new locations, and adding extra services for expanding congregations. Often an actual building project is involved.

Together, we've celebrated some incredible milestones across our global church community in 2025. Whatever the journey of building a thriving church community may look like, it's always a miracle story that begins with people who step out in faith on a new adventure that requires courage and resilience.

HILLSONG BARRANQUILLA

IN COLOMBIA



A highlight of Mission Sunday was when Pastor Chris Mendez announced that Hillsong Barranquilla will be launching in Colombia in 2025. Yet the journey started over six years ago with a local Colombian couple named Joaquín and Leidy Vega. The Vegas were mentored by Pastors Chris and Lucy Mendez, who encouraged them to plant a church in the bustling seaport of Barranquilla, which is Colombia's fourth-largest city. The result was Salvation Church, a vibrant faith community that became part of the Hillsong Network.

Throughout this time, Pastors Chris and Lucy supported Pastors Joaquín and Leidy, investing in their team and congregation, and visiting Salvation Church on a regular basis. As the church went from strength to strength, talk turned to Salvation Church becoming Hillsong Barranquilla. "That was a two-year conversation," Pastor Chris says. "In the last 12 months, that conversation picked up speed and I was a hundred per cent for it, believing God is in it."

For the Vegas, it was a natural transition to become part of what Hillsong Church is doing in Latin America. Pastors Joaquín and Leidy met with Pastors Phil and Lucinda at an Open House event in Mexico. Next steps included Hillsong Board approval and a thorough process of due diligence, leading to the global announcement on Mission Sunday.

HILLSONG BALI

IN SANUR



All four services at Hillsong Kuta in Bali overflowed into the foyer and beyond every Sunday in 2024. "That place is in revival!" Pastor Lucinda Dooley said after visiting the church last year. "They have overflows in every room ... And it's just the atmosphere and the faith and the worship and the lean-in and passion that's absolutely amazing!"

To make space for everyone, Hillsong Bali launched a second campus in Sanur, which is 30 minutes from their original campus in Kuta, at the start of the year. On the first Friday in February, Hillsong Sanur had a pre-launch Worship Night at the Bali Convention Centre. Heaven touched earth as close to 1,000 worshippers – filling the venue from front to back – lifted up the name of Jesus. "God's presence was so real," said Pastor Eka Mutty. "Thirty-one people said YES to Jesus. It was a revival night."

Since their first Sunday service at the end of February, Hillsong Sanur has been going from strength to strength. A highlight of starting this new location has been that 80% of their volunteer team hadn't served before. Yet they've taken a step in faith to give their time and contribute their gifts and talents to building church and extending a "Welcome home" to others. Pastor Eka summed it up perfectly: "Sanur will never be the same again!"

HILLSONG PORTUGAL



In February, Hillsong Portugal inaugurated their new church building in Lisbon. They'd purchased an old post office distribution centre and converted the warehouse space into their new church home, which required a lot of vision and hard work.

The renovation journey began on 1 October 2024. Hundreds of church volunteers pitched in to help, generously giving of their resources, time, and skills. Instagram posts chronicling the building process regularly expressed gratitude to volunteers who were central to the renovation process. "We're building together!" an @hillsongportugal post read in November. "With the dedication of our in-house volunteers, the new building is taking shape. It's a privilege to see every wall and detail rise with so much love and dedication from our church."

"It's such an inspiring story of faith," says Pastor Phil Dooley, who preached in Lisbon on the inaugural Sunday. "The building is incredible! And hearing how many people have volunteered and served to see it come to fruition reminded me again that Hillsong Church is not built on the gifts and talents of a few but on the sacrifice of many."

The new building features a fully equipped Kids facility, offices for the Hillsong Portugal team, as well as classrooms for Hillsong Leadership Academy and local training programs. The church coffee shop – Hillsong Coffee House – is open from Tuesdays to Fridays, as well as on the Saturdays when there are activities or events at church, thus creating space for people to meet up, linger, and connect beyond church services on Sundays.

PLANTING FIJI CONNECT

Another highlight from Mission Sunday was the story of the Wood family and the planting of Fiji Connect. Daniel Wood is an aeronautical engineer with a PhD, who has worked for Boeing, and his wife Sereana is a medical doctor. They're originally from the Fijian capital of Suva, but were volunteering as Connect Group leaders at Hillsong Melbourne when God started calling them back to Fiji. They decided to speak to their campus pastor at Hillsong Melbourne, who was Pastor Tim Michael at the time. "And that's when Tim kind of blew my mind," Daniel recalls. "He said, 'Hey, Hillsong Fiji?'"

After much prayer and deliberation, the Woods took the bold step of moving back to Suva, with their two daughters, and starting church by gathering people in Connect Groups. By the end of 2018, they began meeting on Sundays. For a year, they linked into livestreamed Hillsong Church services before they had their own worship team and started preaching.

As their Sunday meetings became more established, they considered how the church could impact local communities. Now, volunteers from Fiji Connect go into schools to minister to young women. A mum from church runs an after-school reading program in her house that hosts up to 40 kids from the local settlements on weekday afternoons. Other volunteers look after and minister to street workers on Saturday nights, inviting them to church on Sunday mornings, and many come. "The church is active," Sereana says. "The church is alive. We're united and we just have to keep saying 'Yes' to whatever God has put in front of us."

TO WATCH THE FIJI CONNECT STORY FROM THE MISSION SUNDAY PRESENTATION, [CLICK HERE](#).



OUR MISSION

**SIGNIFICANT
AND
SUSTAINABLE
SOCIAL IMPACT**



THE INNOVATION HUB AFRICA

IN SOUTH AFRICA

The Innovation Hub Africa, or [iHub Africa](#), is a 10-month digital training program that's offered free of charge to young applicants from communities experiencing poverty in South Africa. The unemployment rate for South African youth is a national crisis. A shortage of jobs isn't the only problem. Many young people lack the means to obtain qualifications for existing job opportunities. In the iHub class or cohort of 2024, two-thirds of students came from households that survive on less than R1000 (around 50 USD or 80 AUD) per month, usually income from social grants, informal business ventures, or casual work.

The iHub was launched in 2019 to equip these young people to gain access to the economy. Most of the funding has come through the Hillsong SA Trust. iHub covers the cost of R100 000 (about 5 500 USD and 8 500 AUD) per student to complete the program. The majority of students are between the ages of 22–27. They're provided with one meal per day and helped with transport costs to the iHub workspace in the Media Mill, a media complex in central Johannesburg. All training materials and equipment are provided on-site.

For young people trapped in generational cycles of poverty, iHub offers a life-changing opportunity. Once students qualify, they become the financial hope for their families. "I'm excited to enter a future where I'm able to take care of my family with the skills I'm learning at iHub and use them to break into the Tech industry," says Itumelang, who is in the current cohort of 2025.

The 2025 intake of students received 3,675 applications for the 58 spots available in the program.



THE 10-MONTH PROGRAM

The year of training is rigorous and comprehensive. Given that most students haven't been employed or in educational settings for months or years beforehand, the adjustment is huge and the learning curve steep. "As hectic and different as everything was," says Motheo, a 2024 graduate, "stepping into the iHub reality did wonders for my growth, my perspective and my confidence."

Graduates learn industry-level digital marketing skills – including managing email campaigns, social media management across all major platforms, Search Engine Optimisation, building excellent landing pages, and content creation. This equips them for entry-level positions or starting their own freelance careers.

The technical curriculum is scaffolded by a core soft-skills program. Most students haven't had the opportunity to build up the store of internal and interpersonal soft skills that are taken for granted in more privileged environments. At iHub, they learn critical thinking, professional communication, leadership, problem-solving, collaboration, as well as project and time management. This further equips them to secure and maintain jobs, and advance their careers in healthy and fruitful ways.





IT TAKES A VILLAGE ...

There's an African proverb that says, "It takes a village to raise a child". Community is highly valued at iHub, and students have a strong support system. A third stream of the curriculum is a coaching program that pairs individual students with working professionals. Coaches guide students through their learning journey and help them integrate soft skills into how they approach work and life.

Since the start of 2024, iHub has employed a full-time social worker to help students navigate challenges and stay focused on their goals. Students also have access to an external referral network of professional counsellors if they require additional support.

This commitment to care is felt by the students and key to their success. "Before I became a student at iHub, I was just going through life," says Edwin, a 2024 graduate. "I didn't care much, didn't have direction. I could say I didn't really understand who I was either. As a student, it started funny cause I just wanted to learn and move from the current automation I was in. But then the community at the Hub has this thing of making people seen, and I felt they saw me and that gave me the space I needed to heal and actually start growing. My coach made sure that I understood that I have value to give and potential."



FROM LEARNING TO EARNING

The program prioritises equipping students for the working world in practical ways. The iHub workspace simulates a real-world, open-plan working environment that is ideal for collaboration and soft-skills development. Students are required to complete job-shadowing hours with companies across industries. In the weeks leading up to graduation, they attend work-readiness workshops. Days before graduation, iHub hosts an "Opportunities Showcase", where companies with vacancies pitch opportunities to graduates, who are invited to apply.

EMPLOYMENT SUCCESS

By May of this year, 65% of the class of 2024 had entered full-time employment, started their own businesses, or successfully secured work as freelancers. (This percentage is still rising.) An additional 9% of the class had enrolled for further education or training.





TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY

INTRODUCING [IHDA] AGENCY

In January 2024, iHub Africa launched [\[ihda\]](#) (pronounced eye-duh), a full-service digital agency and education consulting firm that has its offices in the same media complex as iHub. [ihda] helps to fund iHub, while also creating work opportunities.

The top achiever from the class of 2024, Rethabile Nkoko, now works at [ihda] as a graphic and web

designer with a special interest in “Learning Experience” design. “One of the standout aspects of this journey has been the unwavering support provided by the program,” she writes in a LinkedIn article. “From the facilitators to the masterclasses and even my dedicated coach Josepha Kato Fula, I’ve felt guided every step of the way.”



HEARING FROM THE COHORT OF 2025



SHAUN

“I love sound and tech. I plan on using the skills I’m learning at iHub to build my business around sound engineering. I see myself working with big brands like Red Bull and MultiChoice. I’m excited to see how these two worlds are going to come together.”



LELEGO

“I’m excited to venture into social media and content creation. I was aware of this field and had practised it before, but I was only familiar with the posting side of it. Being here has opened my eyes to see how much more there is to social media, like analytics and so forth. I’m excited to see myself in the social media world.”



XOLO

“I’m excited to see myself as an entrepreneur. iHub is equipping me with not only digital skills but also how to show up in ways that I never knew. I see myself owning a business in the digital and media industry (Tech, Talent Management and Photography/ Video-graphy), excited to see how things turn out. Shoutout iHub!”



CREATIVE SPACE FOR CHILDREN



The ongoing war in Ukraine has profoundly impacted the mental health of local kids. Their lives have been turned upside down by airstrikes, shelling, blackouts, displacement, the absence of fathers, anxiety for family members on the front lines, the loss of loved ones, and financial strain.

In response to the hardships these children face in their daily lives, Hillsong Kyiv and Hillsong City Care Ukraine launched Creative Space – a free after-school program for children aged six to sixteen – in Kyiv, in November 2024. “This idea was born out of a conversation with a child who really wanted to study creative arts, but his mom couldn’t pay for it,” says Pastor Yura Ravnushkin. “And we know that there can be a lot of kids like that, so we thought to prevent them from doing something else, we should give them this opportunity.”



THE PROGRAM

Creative Space provides a safe environment where children can regain a sense of stability and purpose. The program employs nine professional teachers and has seven volunteers. Its diverse curriculum offers classes in fine arts, chess, choreography, art therapy, Creative English, choir and vocal training, keyboard, guitar, and solfeggio (a kind of musical training). “I really like playing the guitar,” says 11-year-old Artem. “I learnt to play from scratch here, and in just six months I can play tunes that interest me.”

The idea is to nurture creativity, promote learning, and develop social skills, while also reducing stress levels and offering psychological support. The program fosters inner strength and confidence through courses such as Shine and Strength. Recently, the children had the opportunity to do Dr Robi Sonderegger’s Growing Heroes program, which focuses on building emotional resilience. “I liked the Shine program the most,” says 12-year-old Angelina, “but I also like Growing Heroes, drawing and Creative English are great too. I think I have learnt to cope better with difficult situations in my life.”

COST-FREE AND COMPREHENSIVE

Similar educational programs in Kyiv can cost up to \$150 USD per child each month – an unaffordable expense for many, especially since the average monthly salary hovers around \$600 USD. For families with more than one child, the financial burden is even greater. At Creative Space, for instance, there’s a family with seven children – six of them attend classes, while their eldest brother drops everyone off at the same time and collects them again afterwards. This highlights another benefit – all the classes happen in the same facility, which is convenient for families.

But perhaps the most unique aspect of Creative Space is its holistic approach and its dedication to the overall wellbeing of every child who attends. “In all the educational institutions that exist in Kyiv, children would not have had classes on emotional resilience along with creativity, and no one would have talked to them about their value, strength and purpose,” says Masha Sliusarenko, Foundation Manager at City Care Ukraine, who facilitates the Shine course, and other classes. “But in our Space, these children study for free and develop comprehensively.”



A LIFE-GIVING SIX MONTHS

Since Creative Space opened its doors in November, 26 children have become regular attendees, although more kids have visited. “From my personal experience, I can see how over these six months the children have started to trust us,” says Masha. “They are happy to see us; they greet us, smile more. In the beginning, they were sometimes afraid to even look leaders in the eye.”

This positive trajectory is something the children talk about too. “I really like the games we play here,” says 10-year-old Diana. “My life has become much better in these six months! I have become more courageous.” Svyat, who is 12, mentions that he’s learnt to whistle. “I liked the Growing Heroes program the most,” he adds. “Now I feel less bullied at school. During this time, I have learnt to appreciate what I have, to love more and to be less angry.” For 7-year-old Lisa, the music classes have been a highlight. “I have learnt to play the tune ‘Annoying flies’ on the keys. I like the piano and solfeggio – it’s my dream. I also made friends and one of the girls became my best friend.”



HOPES AND PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

Future plans include Bible Study classes led by Hillsong Kids volunteers; a separate class for six- to seven-year-olds, who are currently attending with the eight- to nine-year-olds; as well as branching out into sports and acrobatics. Some kids have expressed an interest in drum lessons, and these will be added in time.

At the start of the new school year in September, Creative Space hopes to accommodate up to 50 children, and to increase that number in 2026. The initiative will continue to support children beyond the war, offering them a place to prosper and equipping them to build a better future. “For us, it is a contribution to the next generation,” says Pastor Yura, “and we also believe that they can be part of our church in the future.”

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A LETTER FROM DR STEPHEN CROUCH

Dear Church,

Just over three years ago, I stepped into the role of Chair of our Global Church. That first day began in prayer. I asked Robert Fergusson to join me, and he came immediately. I asked him to pray for our church, for our board, and for me. Since then, together, we've journeyed through challenges, with faith, humility, and hope.

Over this time, significant progress has been made:

- The board has been refreshed, here in Australia and across our global structure.
- New leadership appointments have strengthened our key support teams in Australia and globally.
- We initiated multiple key independent reviews and adopted all of their recommendations.
- Like this report, we sent out many church updates to keep you and the church up to date with our progress.
- We asked specialists, independent from our church, to review our policies and adopted the changes we believe necessary for a healthy church.

I am grateful for the dedication and diligence of our board and committee members. They have worked tirelessly over these years to position our church, so our best years lie ahead.

At the start of this year, we reached a defining moment - we closed a chapter and have truly stepped into a new chapter, one of even greater faith and forward momentum.

This Mission Update, shows the unfolding grace of God around the globe and gives us fresh reason to celebrate in 2025 - from announcing Hillsong Barranquilla, to our flourishing church community in Fiji, to our new location in Sanur, Bali, all the way to the impact of our Open Houses and, of course, weekly church services across our 125 locations globally.

As you read this report, I pray you see a Father in heaven who loves us — who sees. That you see the work of our Saviour as you read of the thousands coming to know Him and being water baptised in our churches around the world. The Holy Spirit is at work - transforming children, young people, leaders, and families. Our Pentecostal roots run deep.

So now, I turn to you, our faithful and courageous church family, and ask: are you ready? God is doing a new thing in our church. He is inviting us to take another step in faith, to stand strong, and to lead courageously. To every volunteer, staff member, the Global Support Team, Phil and Lucinda Dooley, and our Global Board, I am deeply grateful. Your resilience and obedience lead us forward.

With hope and gratitude,

Dr Stephen Crouch

Global Board Chair

GLOBAL BOARD UPDATE

As the Global Board, our commitment to place a greater focus on trust, culture, and health within our church remains steadfast. In this spirit, we are pleased to provide an update on recent developments regarding our governance, culture, and strategic direction.

NEW DIRECTOR APPOINTMENT

After faithfully serving a two-year term, we extend our heartfelt thanks to **Andreas Nielsen** (Hillsong Sweden) for his commitment, energy, and contribution to the Board. We have seen great value in having Lead Pastors engaged in board governance, as it reflects our commitment as a board to remain closely connected with all our church locations.

We are delighted to confirm that **Richard van der Kolk** (Regional Support, Lead Pastor – Hillsong Netherlands) has been appointed as a Director of the Global Board for a two-year term. You can read more about Richard's experience on our [website](#).

OUR VISION, MISSION AND VALUES

The Board plays a crucial role as custodians in guiding and shaping a positive organisational culture. For Hillsong Church, this means ensuring continued alignment with our vision, mission and values. As a board, our focus remains on how the culture of Hillsong Church is shaped to foster even greater health. We are encouraged by the progress made in defining our values and behaviours, as shared within this report (page 5).

In addition, we are pleased with the progress made in the development of a global strategy. We look forward to how this ongoing work will continue to support the mission God has entrusted to us as a church – now and into the future. We would like to thank the Research and Development team for the many months of collaborative work completed so far.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support. We pray, that throughout this year, we will continue to see God move as each one of us steps out in faith.

HILLSONG GLOBAL BOARD

[Click here](#) to view bios.



Tolu Badders

Global COO
B.S, B.A,
M.A, M.S



Dr Stephen Crouch

GAICD, FCA,
B.Bus,
MEc, DBA
Chair



Russell Dacre

MBE, MBA
Deputy Chair



Phil Dooley

Global
Senior
Pastor
B.Bus



Ana Loback

CBP,
MBPsS,
MSc, MRes,
DrOP



Louise Markus

GAICD,
BSocWk



Siboniso Nxumalo

BCom,
MBA



Fadzi Whande

MSc, EMBA,
GradCertSoci
mp



Richard van der Kolk

Lead
Pastor
Netherlands
Regional
Support



Mário Rui Boto

Lead
Pastor
Portugal
Regional
Support

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS



Volunteers are truly the heartbeat of Hillsong Church. Each week, they faithfully show up to serve our church communities and reach those we are called to love and support. In every location, they are the hands and feet of Jesus, reflecting His love and building His Church in countless practical ways.

Right now, more than 14,000 volunteers are serving across our global regions, and their dedication is inspiring.

To each and every one of you: thank you for pouring your heart into something greater than yourself. Your servant-hearted generosity does not go unnoticed. It is seen, valued, and deeply appreciated.

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” (Galatians 6:9 NIV).



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