

be found in the irresistible **wild.Bright.** *Awakening*

COLOUR CONFERENCE TWENTY-20

London
April 30-May 2, 2020
The SSE Arena, Wembley

colourconference.com/london

SCAN HERE:



HOUSE UPDATE

THE PERSPECTIVE ISSUE

INTERVIEWS, STORIES & UPCOMING EVENTS

HOUSE UPDATE

THE PERSPECTIVE ISSUE
fourth issue of the House Update

HILLSONG UK

contents

6

Last Season
Recap

12

Interview with
Lisa Harper

Meet Lisa, a masterful communicator with a powerful
story to share the faithfulness of God.

56

Business Collective

From floristry to tech, we hear from five entrepreneurs in
the life of our church.

38

Fruit Of The Spirit

Exploring the fruit and how to cultivate it throughout
life's twists and turns.

18

Rwanda and Qatar
Worship Nights

The Hillsong London Worship Team swap stories from
two life changing concerts last year.

62

Eunice's Story

34

Meet Aisha Jawando

10 questions with the West End's Tina Turner.

64

Convos With Cathy
+ Erwin McManus

22

Mind Body Soul

The art of being

68

Meet the
Host Team

First impressions and making church feel like home;
meet the friendliest faces in church.

48

Vision Rescue

Breaking the chains of poverty and bringing hope to
Mumbai's largest slums.

5

Noticeboard

71

What's Ahead
in your location

THE PERSPECTIVE ISSUE

Hey Church,

Welcome to the fourth issue of House Update, a magazine designed to keep you in the loop with everything that's going on in the life of our church. In this issue you'll find some moving stories from the amazing people within our community and details about the various gatherings and events that are taking place over the next few months.

As a church, we had a great end to 2019. December was filled with incredible moments, including an awesome time at Wembley for London Carols and a truly memorable Christmas Day, hosting 130 individuals for our annual Christmas Care Leavers' Dinner. We hope you had a restful break over Christmas and New Year, and that you're recharged, excited and expectant for all that's in store for 2020.

We titled this House Update 'The Perspective Issue', as we want to start the year with a fresh mindset and new outlook on all that God is doing – both in us individually and through us as a church. The Mind, Body, Soul feature focuses on the importance of keeping each aspect healthy and the piece on the Fruit of the Spirit will hopefully show you how aligning yourself with the things of God will maximise your life.

Other great articles include an interview with Lisa Harper, a phenomenal communicator with a heart on fire for God and people alike, and a look into the inspiring and extraordinary work of Vision Rescue and all they're doing this year.

We hope you enjoy reading through this issue, and that the content helps, encourages and inspires you as it has us!

Gary and Cathy

HOUSE UPDATE



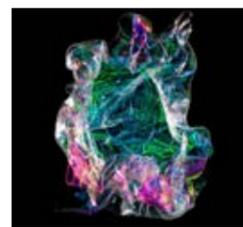
Lead Article	Team/Class	Special Features	Ask Us
Lead Article: The Perspective Issue	Team/Class: [Details]	Special Features: [Details]	Ask Us: [Details]

HOUSE UPDATE



Lead Article	Team/Class	Special Features	Ask Us
Lead Article: [Details]	Team/Class: [Details]	Special Features: [Details]	Ask Us: [Details]

HOUSE UPDATE



Lead Article	Team/Class	Special Features	Ask Us
Lead Article: [Details]	Team/Class: [Details]	Special Features: [Details]	Ask Us: [Details]

The House Update Magazine is published three times a year by Hillsong UK.

For more content and stories curated just for you, head to hillsong.co.uk/houseupdate

For any enquiries or to get involved, send us an email at houseupdate@hillsong.co.uk

NOTICEBOARD



01



02

01 ENCOUNTER CONFERENCE

21-22 February 2020: Youth (11-18yrs)
28-29 February 2020: Young Adults (18-30yrs)
Across London and Edinburgh
hillsong.co.uk/encounter

02 EASTER

12 April 2020: Across all UK locations
hillsong.co.uk/easter



03



04

03 COLOUR CONFERENCE

30 Apr 2020 – 2 May 2020: The SSE Arena, Wembley
hillsong.co.uk/colour

04 COMPASSION SUNDAY

7 June 2020: Across all UK locations
hillsong.co.uk/compassion

EDITOR IN CHIEF Dan Blythe | **MANAGING EDITOR + CREATIVE DIRECTOR** Janina Victoria | **CONTRIBUTING ARTIST** Nicola Luk | **HEAD OF WRITING** Elle Redman, Phoebe Ede | **PRODUCERS** Joel Reardon, Lloyd Lawson | **WRITERS** Abi Smoker, Alexia Demetriades, Camomile Shumba, Carine Harb, May Hirst, Nicole Muza, Patience Abladey, Rochelle C King, Savannah Mullings-Johnson, Shekinah Asamaoewei, Tati Bueno, Zachary Peatling | **COPY EDITORS** Alex Cameron, Abbey Moore, Clara Abigail, Lara Akpojiovwi, LaToya Harding | **PHOTOGRAPHERS** Ayomide Adebambo, Fitria Tjandra, Jenae Stretton, Jess Withey, Lydia Rachel, Natalie Jennings, Sarah Partain, Svenja Kruger, TJ Stretton, Valeria Vintimilla, Yasmin Rona | **VIDEOGRAPHER** Caleb Butler | **ART DIRECTORS** Alexia Demetriades, Jess Grimmett | **STYLIST** Olivia Igwe | **MUA ARTIST** Rose Cira | **PRINT PRODUCTION** pageprinters.co.uk

Looking how to get connected?

GROUPS

Groups happen every week and are a great place to meet people and make friends. To find a group near you, head to hillsong.co.uk/groups.

ENGAGE

Engage is a place where you can get connected, involved and learn about who we are. It happens after every service across all our UK locations. We can't wait to meet you! hillsong.co.uk/engage.

TEAM

Serving is not only a great way to meet people but it's a huge part of making church happen every week. To join a team, head to hillsong.co.uk/teams or chat to our team in the foyer.

AFTER-SERVICE HANGOUT

Looking for a fun, relaxed way to meet new people at church? Then join us at one of our after-service hangouts! Chat to someone on team and they'll let you know where it's happening.

LAST SEASON RECAP



SISTERHOOD UNITED

In November, we got together with all the girls and guys from our UK campuses at our Sisterhood United Nights and our Men's Day to empower and inspire one another ahead of the New Year.



MENS DAY





HILLSONG LONDON CAROLS

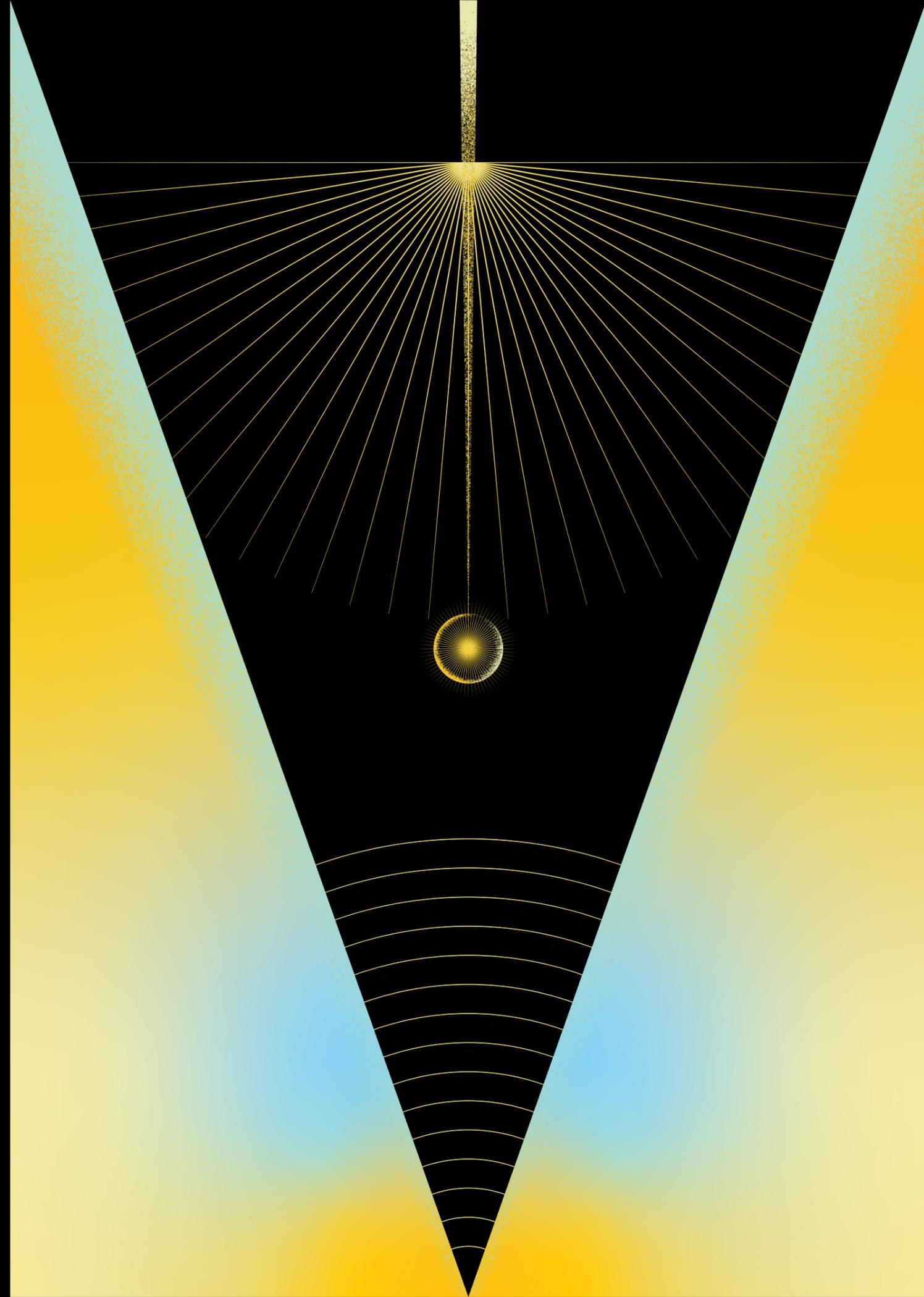
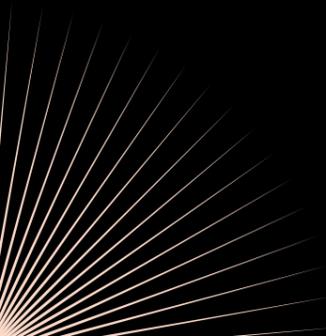
In December, we gathered together in the SSE Wembley Arena for our annual Carols production, featuring our favourite festive songs, incredible costumes and plenty of Christmas cheer. Our Performing Arts and Production team came together to put on three spectacular shows in one day for over 30,000 people, with a special thank you to the hundreds of volunteers who made the day a huge success.

CHRISTMAS CARE LEAVERS' DINNER

For the second year running, we hosted a Christmas dinner at our Warehouse in South London for people in the care system. We had a delicious roast dinner cooked up by our own chefs from the Hospitality Collective, along with Christmas movies, presents and board games to boot.

To get involved in the Hospitality Collective, visit hillsong.co.uk/hospitality.

The human heart is a home of hope,
beckoning for belonging amidst disunity;
it paints its dark walls crimson for the broken,
it cements its bricks in compassion;
waters its plant pots with dreams
so that in due season they will sprout.
The human heart is a radiating room,
and there are many rooms in its house.



INTERVIEW

with

LISA HARPER

Q&A

You have an incredible story and have overcome so much to be where you are today. What has been the biggest thing you've learnt about God on your journey from a difficult past to leading women's ministry and bringing God's word to thousands of people?

It's so gracious of you to say I've overcome so much but I don't think I can call it 'overcoming'. What really happened is God pulled me out of the pit that I'd dug myself, put me over His shoulder and took me to a new place. All because He is so kind. I've been really slow to learn and I was scared for a long time, ruled by fear. There are so many things I would have missed because I was afraid; I would have missed motherhood, I would have missed freedom but I feel like God has been unfolding me like a flower my whole life. He has been wildly redemptive in every chapter. I've only responded to His mercy. I can't even say it was based on obedience on my part, it was just based on me being a recipient of and continuing to be a recipient of His incredible mercy.

What would you say to someone who has come from a difficult situation and can't seem to separate their past from their future?

Firstly, I wouldn't separate past from future. The book of Deuteronomy in the Bible is all about remembering, and when I look back I realise that God has never turned His back on me. God may have been quiet but His silence is not indicative of His absence. He is always present with us and that's one of the things I like about being on this side of 50, I'm old enough to have perspective. Even in those seasons where I felt bereft, I can look back and see how thick God's presence was during

that time. I can see what He was doing, I just didn't have the eyes to see it then. Once I had perspective on my past, I realised what He was orchestrating to get me here. I see so much sovereign mercy that I'd say don't vilify your past. Even if you were an unrepentant sinner, you'll see the rescue and mercy of Christ in the redemption of all of our pasts.

I think we tend to think that when you're in a posture of praise with hands raised, then everything is going great; and you're grieving when everything isn't going so well, when actually you can have a torn robe, a broken heart and a raised hand at the same time. In my life I've discovered that my joy is commensurate with how much I've trusted God in the really low places. When I've trusted Him in a dark season, my joy is abundant; when I doubt God in a dark season, my joy is stifled. I've been through some pretty dark places and I have never experienced the absence of God. It may be hard, but He is with us. He is Emmanuel. I think sometimes I'm even more aware of Emmanuel, God with us, in the dark places than on the high points.

You have an admirably humble attitude towards everything you've achieved so far. Has this been something you've had to consciously cultivate?

I have made enough mistakes in my life, that I see His mercy in the mistakes more than I do the applause of people. Applause comes and goes but it's never the accolades that matter. If you go from applause to applause, you're only as good as your last good performance, but if your life is framed by the kindness and presence of God then even your failures don't mar you. Your failures are yet another example that He loves broken

people. I've failed a whole lot so I sometimes can't quite believe I get to do what I do.

The word humility comes from the Latin word humilis meaning 'of the earth' which I think is so stinking cool. God says that we are dust and it's really the dirt in us that keeps us in the right posture in the glory of God. The posture to recognise that God breathed life into me, He put His thumbprint in me, but He also put His thumbprint in the dirt. Everybody, whether they acknowledge God or not, bears His thumbprint. So I look for his thumbprint in other people, even when they're getting on my nerves. It helps me be kinder to people, but it also helps me realise what a miracle it is that He put His thumbprint in me.

Women in ministry can be a controversial topic for some. Have you ever experienced a similar reaction to your ministry? How did you overcome it?

There's been criticism since the very first day I stepped into vocational ministry right out of undergrad. When I was in my early 20s I worked for a guy who believed he should pay me exactly half of what the guys on staff were paid but expected me to do twice the work, otherwise God would be displeased with him. Now, he was not a bad guy, he just had bad theology. But as a 22 year old kid, brand new to ministry, I thought that God loved me less because I'm a woman. I thought that's what the Bible said. So I spent years thinking I was second best because I had ovaries. It took me a long time to realise that if we read God's word from the proper perspective, we'll see that He has always been redeeming man and woman. He doesn't love His daughters any less than He loves His sons. If you study God's love for His daughters you will see there's no second best in the economy of God. Sometimes we have different functions, but the older I become, the more peace I have with the fact that He calls me the hope of His glory and He also calls me to share the hope that lies within me – that is Christ Jesus. My authority is in God.

A lot of women in our culture have got 'empowered' confused with 'enraged'. There are a lot of women who have been treated as lesser by men who have bad theology, but actually, the authority God has imbued in His daughters has nothing to do with anybody else acknowledging that authority. It's about running hard towards Jesus and if there are people clapping, that's great, and if there are people jeering, run for your Father because it's for His glory that we run. I don't want to be enraged, I want to be empowered and that comes from the Holy Spirit.

What advice would you give to a young person who looks up to you and is feeling the call to go into ministry?

First of all we have to understand that in the narrative of scripture, God uses the weak and the foolish to illuminate His power and His glory. This is why you don't need to worry if you feel like you don't have what it takes to be in ministry. I'd say it's important to do two things: plant yourself in a great church, and don't confuse platform with calling. Sometimes God calls you to a platform where you have a microphone and thousands of people leaning in to listen; other times God calls you to a Sunday school class with four little ragamuffins under the age of five. Neither has more glory in the economy of God. People may clap more in a big, platform environment but ministry is doing what God has called you to do. Whoever you are, whether you're a hairdresser, a secretary, a doctor or you're in sales – all of us are in ministry because we're ministers of the new covenant in Christ Jesus.

“I THINK WE TEND TO THINK THAT WHEN YOU'RE IN A POSTURE OF PRAISE WITH HANDS RAISED THEN EVERYTHING IS GOING GREAT, AND YOU'RE GRIEVING WHEN EVERYTHING ISN'T GOING SO WELL, WHEN ACTUALLY YOU CAN HAVE A TORN ROBE, A BROKEN HEART AND A RAISED HAND AT THE SAME TIME.”



In April 2014, you brought your daughter Missy home from Haiti after a difficult two year adoption journey. Could you tell us more about how this story unfolded?

I lost two adoptions before I started the process with Missy. I had no idea it would take two years and of course for some it takes much longer. I didn't think I deserved to be a mother. I was really foolish in my 20s and 30s; I was drawn to abusive men and had a string of toxic relationships, so it wasn't until I was in my 40s that I realised I'd probably missed the window of motherhood. I can still remember when the doctor told me that I couldn't have children. It was almost like an 'oh by the way' comment, as if my doctor thought that it wouldn't affect me. I acted like I was OK until I got to the parking lot and sobbed for an hour in my car. The reality of the fact that I wasn't going to be a mom was devastating.

But no good thing does He withhold. By the absolute grace of God He restored unto me the years I'd served up to locusts. God had really laid adoption on my heart. When I was 17, my best friend and I made a vow, that we would both adopt when we got older. She struggled with infertility, but now has two kids through the process of adoption. She was married in her 20s and here I was in my 40s thinking I'd blown my chances of adopting.

Some women in church told me that I couldn't adopt because I was single. One woman told me I should go to the Nashville Humane Society and adopt a dog. She said I wouldn't be a good mom because I had sexual molestation in my background, so there could be a chance I unwittingly transfer the trauma I experienced onto a child. I was told that, I wouldn't make a good mother and I believed it for years. I really wrestled with whether it was even appropriate for me to begin the adoption process or not.

I then lost two adoptions. I lost one baby four days before I was supposed to bring her home. I was eviscerated. It was a season when I felt like I wasn't sure I'd be able to peel myself off the pavement.

Two weeks after I lost that child, a friend who I hadn't seen in years called. She had just come home from Haiti. In a rural village that she was visiting, one of the moms had died from HIV, leaving behind a two year old daughter. The daughter was really sick; she had HIV, cholera and tuberculosis. The doctors told her she would live for just another two months. She needed somebody, anybody, to step in the gap, so she could have access to medicines and a chance to survive.

My friend asked me if I would pray about stepping in the gap for this child, and I said, 'nope!'. I had been praying about this for 30 years, so instead I said 'sign me up!'. As soon as I got off the phone with my friend, I was hit with the fact that I had no idea how to adopt a dying kid from Haiti! I didn't even know where to begin. But I sensed God's voice saying, 'just do the next right thing, just take the next step'. Obedience is taking a long walk in the same direction.

Six weeks later I landed in Haiti. It was hot, like 50 degrees hot. I travelled on a hot, diesel bus to a rural village, where I stepped off the bus and saw Missy's great aunt, who was keeping her alive, standing there with Missy. She shoved Missy into my arms. Missy was two and a half years old and weighed 18 pounds. She was teeny tiny. Now, Missy didn't want to come to me, I was just this big white lady; she was glaring at me and probably thinking, 'who in the world are you?'. She was so much sicker than I expected but in that moment when I looked down at her, I knew this was the daughter I prayed for when I was 17. Then after about 30 seconds, she was still glaring at me but she reached up, grabbed my pinky finger and said, 'allo mama

blanc', which means 'hello white mama'.

From that day in April 2012, it took two years to bring her home, and it was a hard two years. I almost lost her several times. She got really sick and had to move to an orphanage. I didn't know this at the time, but the orphanage nannies staged a coup, saying they would quit because they were afraid that if they touched Missy they would catch HIV and eventually AIDS.

There were some moments that I thought I couldn't have stayed faithful, but it's God who gives grace when we just take the next step. In April 2014 I got to bring Missy home. I remember landing at Miami airport and getting down on the floor in the airport and repeating, 'thank you Jesus, thank you Jesus'. Missy is, other than my salvation, the most extraordinary gift. She is a miracle. I can't believe God restored all of my mistakes and gave me this. Motherhood keeps me in a posture of gratitude because everyday I look at my healthy child who loves me and I just can't believe that God is this kind. I could talk for years about the glory of being a parent because it is extraordinary. Over and over again I see the kindness of God. But Missy is not my hope; Jesus is my hope. Missy is not my joy; Jesus is my joy. She is a gift from my greatest joy, who is Jesus.

At Colour Conference 2019, you brought Missy on stage with you; that must have been such a special moment. Could you share a few of your favourite moments of your Colour experience so far?

I love every moment of Colour. My favourite moments are when I get to see women encounter Jesus for the first time. Those women who have been invited by a friend or who don't even know they're going to an event where Jesus is going to be talked about – when they encounter Jesus I always feel like we see a true miracle.

The moment at Colour with Missy was really special. I am still undone that I get to talk about Jesus to anybody much less with a microphone, with lovely women leaning in: but then to see my daughter, who I don't deserve, among those women is just so special.

Colour feels like a family to me and Missy loves it. To her, Colour is normal. She doesn't realise that not everybody's experience is like Colour, with thousands of women worshipping Jesus. And that's the other miracle to me; when I was Missy's age I was so scared and had an orphan spirit. My child doesn't, even though she is a literal orphan. She knows that she is loved, she knows God loves her and at an experience like Colour, with all these women running hard towards Jesus and loving each other – Missy thinks that's home.

What encouragement would you give to anyone who has never been to Colour or is thinking about registering for Colour 2020 this April?

I would say whatever it takes, go. I've been to events all over the world – Colour is unique. Colour is special. And I'd say to the woman who isn't sure, who is perhaps worried about her backstory being a bit sketchier than everyone else's: you fit in more that you realise because Colour isn't a place for perfect people. Perfection is not a prerequisite for a relationship with Jesus. Colour is a safe place. So whatever it takes to get there it's worth it, because it has the capacity to change the trajectory of your life.



FOR THE WILD BRIGHT AWAKENING ACROSS THE NATIONS



love
COMPASSION
EMPATHY
GRACE
AND
CHANGE.

SIGN UP TO SERVE AT COLOUR-20!
hillsong.co.uk/volunteer



RWANDA *and* QATAR WORSHIP NIGHTS

We sat down with Jay Cook and Fadila Hale to hear about the team's recent trip. From amphitheatres to military camps, they share their experience of leading worship in Qatar and Rwanda, and tell of what it was like to see the work of Compassion in the local community.



You were recently invited to hold a night of worship in Qatar. How did that opportunity come about?

Jay- We actually went there for the first time a few years ago. This was the first time any worship night had been put on in such an open space in Doha. We were in this big outdoor amphitheatre.

On the night of the event, you were nearly shut down by the authorities. Can you tell us what happened? What was going through your mind at the time?

Fadila- There were concerns from the local authorities about mentioning Jesus, and so at one point we thought we had to change all our song lyrics to not mention Jesus.

Jay- I was having to rethink the whole night and what we were going to be allowed to do, it was a bit mad.

Fadila- Jay told us we needed to change the words of the songs, so we were like, 'Ok cool'. We worked on that for a while and Jay had an idea of the songs we could do and the songs that maybe wouldn't work. We were trying to serve the city and serve the people as best we could. Fortunately, just before we went on, Pastor Gary came to let us know that we can actually sing whatever we want, but there would be no song words on the screen.

Jay- It was a bit of a concern not having lyrics on the screen because what we do is congregational. We're not putting on a show for people, it's all about people singing along in worship, but we had to quickly get over it and just make sure we were picking the songs everyone would know best. You know what, it was unbelievable. It was such a great night and there were moments where the whole stadium was full of people singing at the top of their lungs. There were no lyrics on the screen, but the amazing thing was they knew all of the words.

What was the overall response of the night? We'd love to hear your highlights.

Jay- I can't remember one particular moment but I remember glimpses of the whole place. There were about 9,000 people there, but it felt like every single person came ready to worship. They didn't really care that there were no song words on the screen, that's not what they came for. It felt like there was a real sense of God's presence in the place. At the end of the night, all 9,000 people were jumping and praising. To see praise in that country, with the things that they face when it comes to practising Christianity, was so inspiring for me. I walked away saying, 'This is amazing'.

Fadila- We get to worship every week in the way that we do, and for many people in the stadium, this might've been their first or only opportunity to be part of something like this.

Going to a military base must have been a surreal experience. What was it like being on site?

Jay- I had very little expectations of the whole experience, if I'm honest. I didn't know what to expect, and I remember as we were driving into the base, it felt very surreal. We met some of the military there and they were some of the nicest people. The military are away from their homes, and what was funny is that they were so thankful that we were there. As the day went on, we grew more thankful that we were able to be there. The night was so different from anything we've done before - it was almost like creating an atmosphere of respite. Also, there was no pretence about anything. We weren't asking them to do anything, be anything, or worship a certain way. It was more like 'you guys need a touch from God, you go

through things we have no idea about, and we believe God is going to invade this place.'

Jay– And He really did. It was one of the most incredible nights I'd ever experienced in worship. It felt like this was a 'selah' for all of them – it felt like we actually stepped into a different world. I definitely went in thinking everyone was going to be really proper, but they were so welcoming, so lovely and so accommodating. The General of the whole camp came to visit us and we didn't really know what his role was, but he was so grateful.

Jay– The chaplains who were hosting us had never met the General. So, even to have the General of the whole base come with his wife and kids, just to say hi, was such an honour – it was the cherry on top for the whole of the trip. We weren't meant to stay, we were meant to be coming back the night before, and then we were asked to do this. Then, literally as soon as the night finished we had to go back to the airport and fly back for church [on Sunday], but it was just incredible.

Gary was asked to share on the subject of suicide due to loneliness and trauma being extremely prevalent on the army base. Did this affect the way you led worship on the night and if so, how?

Jay– We definitely took a gentle approach to the whole thing.

Fadila– I think we knew there were going to be a lot of people in the room that weren't Christians and that they would be coming with tender hearts. There actually was such a vulnerability in the whole place as we worshipped, and I felt vulnerable too.

Jay– We got to chat with some of the guys afterwards and they were telling us their stories. I thought, 'These guys are amazing, what they do and what they have laid down to serve their country and their people is amazing.'

As well as having the opportunity to lead worship in Qatar, you also travelled to Rwanda. What were your first impressions upon arrival in Rwanda?

Fadila– I just didn't think it was going to be so beautiful. It was a beautiful country – the people were so friendly and accommodating, it was incredible, so lovely.

Jay– They have an immense history and although I knew some stuff, I did a bit more reading. You realise there is still so much brokenness, and they are still living through some of it 25 years on from the 1994 Rwandan Genocide, but at the same time, there is just so much hope there. There is such an openness to allow Jesus to come and heal wounds and heal the scars that are still there physically, mentally and spiritually.

Whilst in Rwanda, you were able to spend some time with the Compassion team. Could you tell us a bit about this?

Fadila– We obviously know a lot about Compassion because we partner with them as a church. Actually, to see the work that our church does in Rwanda was so cool. We went to a mother and baby group where they were worshipping God so full of joy regardless of their circumstances, it was really cool.

Jay– I've wanted to visit Compassion for so long and being in Rwanda was the perfect opportunity to go and see the work they do first hand. My wife and I have sponsored a couple of children for a while, so we were able to go and see the impact Compassion has not just on the kids but the families as well.

Fadila, you and your husband Ben were able to meet a child you sponsor – how was that experience?

Fadila– It was surreal, I can't even think of the words. In the weirdest way, it felt like I was stepping into my family's home. It was amazing to see their gratitude and absolute humility.

After seeing the inspiring work of the organisation firsthand, what advice would you give to someone considering sponsoring a child with Compassion?

Jay– What Compassion does is well worth the money, and well worth the sponsorship. They're making a huge impact not only on children and families but also within their communities. So I would say, don't think about it too hard, know that what they are doing is incredible, and it makes a real difference.

What impact would you say the trip had?

Fadila– I think our team walked away understanding the freedom we have and the freedom we give when we lead worship. We encourage people in worship – we're not just singing songs.

Jay– I felt within the team there was a real sense of gratitude to be a part of what God is doing. It's the same God who moved in those worship nights that moves in each one of our locations every Sunday. It's really about taking what we do as a church week in, week out, and taking it out into other countries. The worship nights are a lot of fun, but we leave knowing that God has deposited something. If we don't believe for the 'freshness' of God, it's simply a concert. If the God factor isn't there, we're just singing songs. We know they aren't just songs because every time we step onto the platform, God is in us. Also, we want people to know that God is with them.

If you'd like to get involved in Compassion or find out how to sponsor a child, visit hillsong.co.uk/compassion.





MIND BODY SOUL

Breathe deep, rest often, walk regularly, and laugh daily. We can't always cultivate a perfect way of life, but perhaps the ever-complex formula of achieving a healthy being is more simplistic than we once believed. Here, Simon Stevens, Ana Loback and Gio Galanti speak of the continuous flow and connection between the physical, mental and spiritual, describing how we can carve out more space in our lives to care for ourselves well - mind, body and soul.

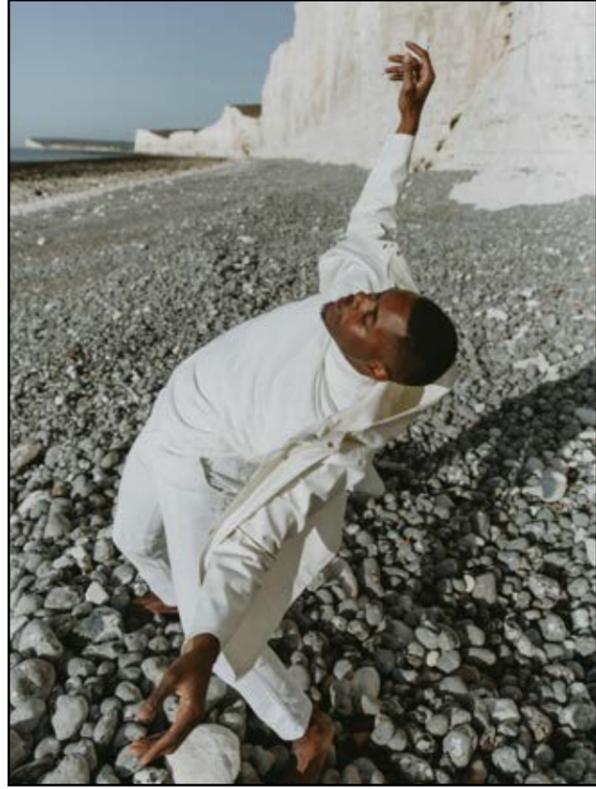
of MIND

*in conversation with
Ana Loback, Psychologist*

The fourth industrial revolution has brought big changes in the pace of our lives. There's a new generation growing up in a hyper-connected society, though disconnected from the things that really matter. Mental health is defined as a positive state of mind and body characterised by feeling safe and able to cope. If, therefore, the way that we think shapes our choices, influences our behaviour, inspires who we become, and affects our physiology, we cannot look after our minds without also looking after our bodies. The way we think has an impact on every aspect of the human experience. We profit from happiness and gratitude. Truly, the more we pay attention to the positive around us, the happier we feel; and the more opportunities for positivity we see, the more grateful we become. What we focus on grows - by choosing to see the good, we strengthen the neural pathways in our brains, creating a positive mindset.

Almost 2,000 years ago, the Greek philosopher Epictetus said that "we are disturbed not by things but by the views we take of them." He was referring to the importance of our mindset, how our thinking shapes our experience of life, our feelings and our emotions. Proverbs 23:7 says that "For as he thinks within himself so he is." Our thoughts may have more to do with how we feel than what is actually happening in our lives. The Apostle Paul knew of this link between our mindset and our spirit, as he wrote in Romans 12:2, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." Our spiritual life is shaped by our mind-set which is why it's so important to seek transformation and renewal.

The Bible often speaks of the direction of our thoughts. God cares about the mind because this is His design. In fact, our brains have been wired for faith, to believe in what is not there, to see the unseen. In the study of perception there is a theory of the mind that is called Gestalt - a German word that means 'organised whole that is perceived as more than the sum of its parts.' According to the Gestalt psychology, our brains have been set to recognise patterns and perceive the complete picture. When you listen to a piece of music you recognise the melody and identify the song rather than the separate notes; when you see a painting you recognise the motif and even with abstract art, your brain looks for patterns to identify the shape. This means that we join the dots and naturally crave for closure - we see the future, although it doesn't really exist. The only reality that we have is the present - the future is not reality, the future is hope, and yet as humans we all understand this complex construct and are drawn to things like vision, imagination and art. We find pleasure in the abstract because of how we've been designed, it's the 'imago dei' in each of us, pointing us towards Him, drawing us back home. Our minds are so important to God because this is where we find our way back to Him, this is where we see Him, where the 'Gestalt' is complete.



of BODY

*in conversation with Simon Stevens,
Fitness Coach & Nutritionist*

It's all about starting with small steps. If you want to take care of your body but you're not sure how to, start by researching, asking questions, gaining wisdom, trying things out and taking it slow. Don't rush the process – begin by walking every day, ten minutes a day, and by making small sacrifices that you can sustain and carry. Small changes make a big difference.

Sleep, diet and exercise all contribute to a healthy being. Sleep gifts our bodies with the time to repair and recover, and both diet and exercise are important elements in supporting our mental well-being – even lifting us from depression. When I suffered from depression, I didn't always feel like exercising. Though we all think and feel differently, I think creating a good routine is one of those things that helps us feel stronger. Looking after ourselves by finding a sport we love can also help us move our minds and attention away from the things that pull us into the wrong direction. It gives us a new focus.

Rest is key to anything we do in life, whether you're an athlete or working a full-time job, it never loses its importance. We live in a world where it's undervalued, and we often convince ourselves that we don't have time, but it's essential to embrace both physical and spiritual rest. Spending ten minutes less on our phones every day means that we can spend ten minutes more in rest.

When it comes to eating, we can find a lot of good information online, but we can also find a lot of misinformation. The best advice is to eat the food given to us by God. We're going to have a healthier and more balanced life if we utilise the food God gave us. Adopting an eating plan can really change your thought process towards food.

2 Timothy 2:3 speaks of a soldier, an athlete and a farmer. To be a soldier, you need to take command, follow orders and go to battle. To be an athlete, you need to be committed and devoted to whatever you're seeking to achieve – you have to work really hard, put the effort in, and develop endurance. To be a farmer, you have to be patient and wait in the seasons. When you look at physical health, the characteristics of a soldier, athlete and farmer all come into play. On the journey of faith, a lot of endurance is required in the face of struggle. We all need to know how to take guidance, listen well and wait through the seasons. Being in a relationship with God allows us to live differently. We have a richer sense of peace within ourselves as we are filled up with goodness.

Regardless of your past, what you've done, or what you do in life, it's never too late to start fresh or implement new and healthy habits. It's never too late to leave behind old cycles and habits, as we have this luxurious ability to break them and start anew. Remember that you are never too old to begin again.





of SOUL

*in conversation with Gio Galanti,
Creative Pastor*

The spiritual part of ourselves is in fact our true self, one with God and one with all of His creation. When we live from our true selves, we can say that we live from home itself. An unhealthy soul, therefore, is one disconnected from its source. The outer manifestations of an unhealthy soul vary according to each individual's unique circumstance, but there are three common underlying hallmarks in most cases: an absence of true peace, an inability to experience deep joy, and a certain level of crisis in the realm of identity.

Treadmill after treadmill, and performance after performance, our souls have been left in desperate need of replenishing and refreshing. The recurring biblical themes of rest, quietness, stillness, and silence are resonating greatly across the world today because humanity is weary, worn out from the struggle and striving to be enough, to do enough.

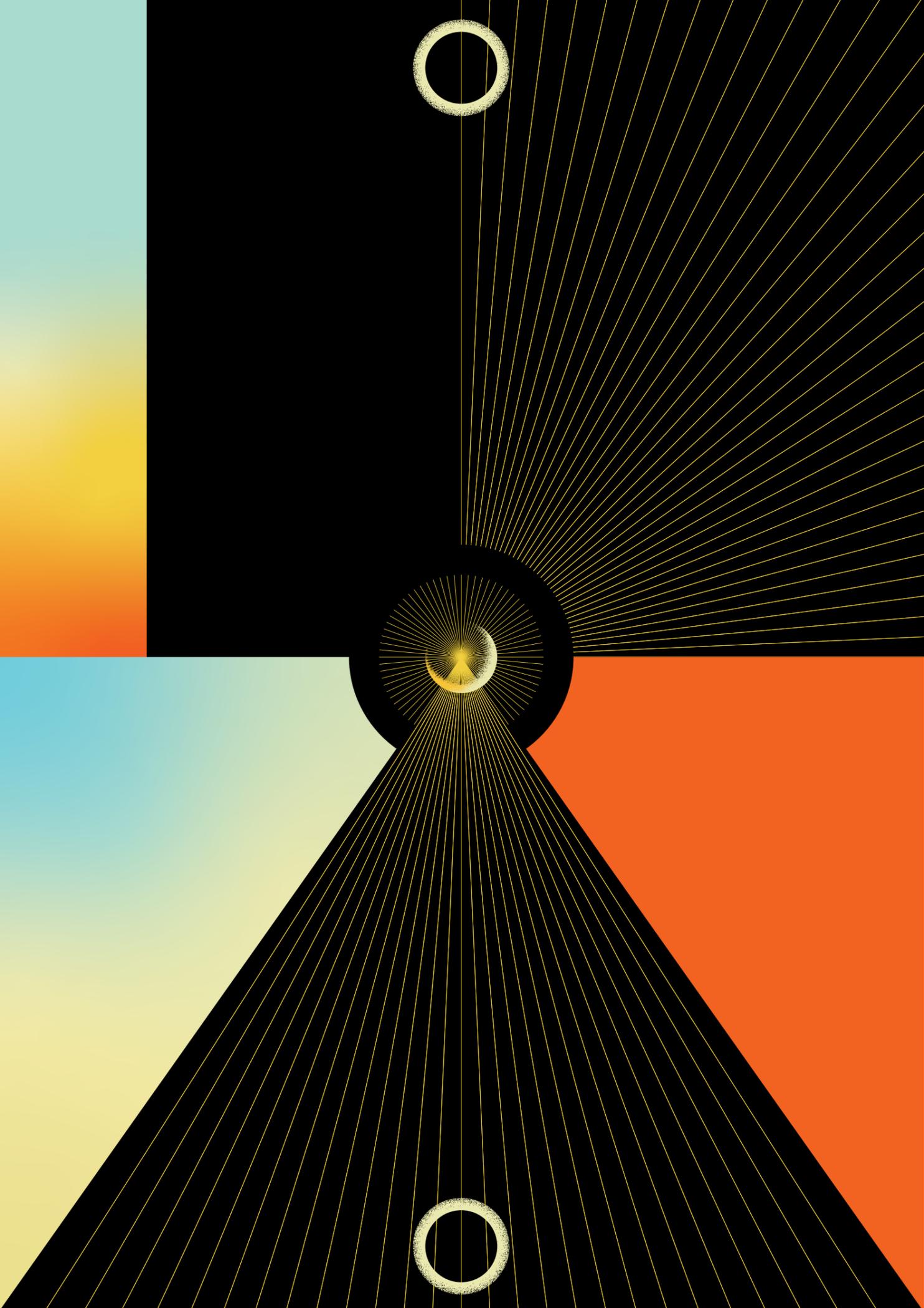
So how can our souls find peace? And how do we come home to the one true source of it all? Isaiah 30:15 says "In returning and rest you shall be made whole, in quietness and in trust shall be your strength." True inner peace is not to be found in external things. When speaking of this unbreakable peace, Jesus said "not as the world gives do I give." It's this "peace that passes understanding," that enables us to remain at rest through even the greatest of storms, that empowers us to say "it is well with my soul," even in the midst of overwhelming tragedy and loss. The way to cultivate this peace is to abide in the place it comes from – the presence of God.

The things that war against us always seek to remove us from the present moment. Any regular practice throughout the day where we take even a moment or two to become fully conscious of where we are, what we are doing, and who we are with, will help us to strengthen our ability to stay in the vine, despite the clamour and the noise. Momentarily focusing on our breathing, even for just three or four deep breaths, in moments where we would otherwise be prone to distraction, is a good daily habit to cultivate. It is through this contemplative practice of resting silently in God's presence in a state of wordless communion that we learn to live fully in the present moment, where time meets eternity. I like to see this, metaphorically, as a "breathing in". The Mirror translation of Psalm 23:3 is profoundly insightful: "By the still waters of reflection, my soul remembers who I am." By quieting the relentless chatter of the egoic mind through a period of stillness and reflection, we emerge from the fog of forgetfulness and return to the sense realm with the external posture of a secure child of God – highly favoured, greatly blessed, deeply loved. This sowing of contemplation reaps a harvest of action as we now "breathe out".

As we begin to live with a continual remembrance that as children of God, we already have all we will ever need, that all grace abounds to us in all things and in every situation, we cease from all our striving to be accepted, to be loved, to be recognised, to be worthy. This is truly 'entering the rest' and the fight of faith will keep us there. This enables us to navigate the most turbulent storms of life with a profound poise and inner tranquillity.

So, to refresh our souls is to simply rest in pure being – that state of quiet surrender where we know who we truly are, where we "take no thought" for food or drink, for what we wear, or for tomorrow. It is here that we are refreshed with all joy, all peace, and all wholeness of identity.





The mind thinks in colours, it has no in-between,
the ability to imagine allows it to see the unseen,
its immense power to both pain, and dream,
allow the mind to attach itself to a common mission,
because it has been given something that is finer than gold

-Vision.



MEET AISHA JAWANDO

Faithful, fierce and dedicated. Aisha is a talented performer within the life of our church, currently playing the lead role of Tina in the West End production 'Tina Turner' at the Aldwych Theatre, London. Starting when she was just 12 years old, she's been serving on the Performing Arts Team for the last 14 years, participating in productions such as King of Heaven, London Carols and creative items at Colour and Hillsong Conference.





Q&A

1. When did you first fall in love with performing arts? Can you recall your first on-stage memory?

I was about 5 and my first on-stage memory was probably about 7 – I did a dance showcase with my local dance school.

2. You're currently playing Tina in the West End production of Tina Turner the Musical. What's your favorite scene and why?

The Megamix (which is right at the end) because everyone gets involved and it's great to see everyone together.

3. Do you have any pre-show routines or rituals?

I don't drink lots of water because I'll need the toilet. I also take a spoonful of Manuka honey.

4. If you could sing a duet with anyone, who would it be and what song?

I want to duet with India Arie and the song I'd like to duet is... I tell a lie, I'd probably duet with Tori Kelly and sing any one of her songs because they're pretty cool and they're good lyrics.

5. Give us a glimpse of Aisha's mind. What do you daydream about?

Boards on my Pinterest, a big house, a family, a big career, and things that are completely out of my reach right now.

6. If you could have a gigantic billboard in the middle of Piccadilly Circus, metaphorically speaking, getting the message out to billions – what would it say and why?

"I LOVE EVERYONE!" because I think people need to know that they're loved. I think there is a lot of 'I love you but', 'I love you if' or 'I love you when', and it divides people. I don't like that, I like unity where we can learn more about each other, discover more about each other and love one another truly, from a place of openness.

7. How does your faith play a part in your career as a performer?

To keep stepping out in faith; 'faith without works is dead' and so the more I work, the more my faith is working and the more of a testament it can be.

8. You're part of a very fast paced industry and still create space to be part of the Hillsong Performing Arts Team. Is this something you intentionally prioritise and if so, why?

I do things like Carols tired, extremely tired, but I think that if I didn't do it, it wouldn't keep me grounded. For me, giving to the church the way I do in Performing Arts, not a lot of people get to do that, and to be able to use this in the house of God is great.

9. Dream big, where do you see yourself in 10 years' time?

In movies.

10. If you could star in any movie, what movie would it be?

I would love to play Princess Tiana in a live action Princess and the Frog.



Life is lived on an interesting path, holding twists and turns, some ups and many downs. There'll be great times and there'll be tough times, and there'll be learning – a lot of it. You'll mature, you'll grow and you'll encounter some beautiful moments along the way. In all its simplicities and complexities, life is amplified by what Paul speaks of as the 'Fruit of the Spirit'. The fruit will equip you to maximise your life, build your character, strengthen you from the inside out and help you to navigate life's many different seasons – the good, the bad and everything in between.

F R U I T OF — THE S P I R I T



LOVE

There is a fundamental difference between the concept of love dictated by the Word and love dictated by the World. In our societies, on our screens and in worldly culture, we are often led to believe that love is comprised of and founded upon feelings. What makes you feel good or what makes you feel loved? Do you feel

like loving someone? Alternatively, love as a fruit of the Spirit goes far deeper than any easily swayed feeling. The love that the Holy Spirit encourages us to extend into our individual worlds, is a love that roots itself in choice. When love is merely a feeling, it will thrive in the good times but flee in the bad. However, when love is predicated on the discipline of choice, it is able to endure even when your feelings cannot. It may not always be easy but this kind of love opens us up to humility and self-sacrifice. When love is a choice, it often means prioritising the other person – even when it hurts, even when it's inconvenient.

Sowing the kind of love that is spoken of throughout the scriptures cultivates a totally others-focused love: A love that isn't dictated by arrogance or preference but a love that simply exists for the need of the other. It's a love you can't fall out of and a love that never ceases. Look at the love of Christ – I'm quite certain that if He loved based on merit or what He felt like, He wouldn't have endured the cross for a world that wanted little to do with Him. After all, why would He? Why would anyone? Yet, the love He urges us to replicate in our relationships with friends, spouses, children, colleagues – whoever we encounter – is a love that gives and gives and gives. It's a love that requires discipline, humility and at times, a quiet strength when it gets tough.

**BUT IT'S A LOVE THAT
FULFILLS, A LOVE THAT
LASTS AND A LOVE SO
SELFLESS, IT MIRRORS THE
VERY ESSENCE OF CHRIST
HIMSELF.**

JOY

Often confused with happiness, joy is believed to be something one can only experience when the situation is good. However, it runs far deeper than this. Joy, unlike happiness, is something we can experience regardless of circumstance, so long as we choose to make it a

fundamental part of the foundation from which we cultivate our attitude towards life.

Joy, originally defined as 'inner gladness and delight', is a key element in the act of praise, which is an essential component in our relationship with God. The most beautiful thing about praise is that, when extended from a joyful soul, it can be completely independent of any kind of circumstance. This is demonstrated so many times throughout the scriptures, where we see people praising God in the midst of chaos, crisis and confusion. Take David for example. Famous for how he loved, revered and praised God – at his highest and his lowest all the same. In Psalm 112: David exclaims: "Praise the Lord! Blessed are those who fear the Lord...They will have no fear of bad news; their hearts are steadfast, trusting in the Lord. Their hearts are secure, they will have no fear." Here, David displays the outworking of a joy so indelibly etched within his soul, that no matter the heartache or the concerns of his day-to-day, he knew how to lift his hands and exclaim God's goodness.

I wonder how different our lives would look if we were to diligently nurture joy. Our troubles may not disappear and our circumstances may not get easier, but I do believe our eyes would be far more inclined to look heavenward and our hands persuaded to be lifted upward. From the outside, a simple gesture, but in the eyes of God, a declaration of true gladness and delight and a statement of unaltered praise.

PEACE

The world seems stuck in an inexhaustible cycle of stress that almost everyone seems to be consumed by. With anxiety and depression rates higher now than they've ever been before, it's no wonder that the idea of having peace often seems a thought too distant to comprehend. Imagine if someone told you that even amongst the cacophony of fear and fret, you could experience a

peace like no other? A peace that Philippians 4:7 declares can surpass all understanding. A peace that is not budged by burden but rather sticks it out, even in strife. This is the peace that is promised by the Spirit and the peace we have access to 24/7, 365 days of the year.

But where do you find this kind of peace? Firstly, it is best cultivated when you engage in God's Word and actively remind yourself of who He is and what He promises. Remember that Jesus is named the Prince of Peace. This name is not only so powerful because of what it declares about peace, but there is so much power in what it declares about fear. Jesus, The Prince of Peace, rules over fear, giving it no right in His kingdom nor in His people. Regardless of the circumstances you may find yourself in the midst of, know that it is God's deep desire for us to have long-lasting peace, even if the world around us does not.



PATIENCE

Patience often feels like a foreign term. A term that our busy, instant-gratification-seeking selves are not too familiar with. It's funny that the very creation process of a fruit requires patience. You start with the small, seemingly insignificant seed that is planted in the soil, watered and left to grow. Then, over the course of time it will begin to spread, one half reaching far down within the soil and the other finding its way to the surface. It produces a seedling, then a stalk, then a tree and eventually a fruit. Until finally, it is slowly ripened so that it may

be eaten in its full splendour. This process has patience woven all throughout it.

We respect and expect the gradual rhythm of its growth, yet, when it comes to our own lives, we are too soon to discard patience in the hope of finding a quick-fix solution often packed full of consequences. Throughout the Bible there are numerous examples of men and women who patiently endured through prayer, obedience and praise as they waited for their breakthrough. Patience will take a great deal of courage. God understands that. But He knows that the lessons and internal strengthening gained through patience, are worth more than any short-sighted shortcut one could ever accomplish. Trust in God's timing, even when it seems late. And trust His Spirit to guide you each step of the way, no matter how long or how short the process may be.



KINDNESS

It's easy to skip past kindness. From a young age, we are conditioned to be kind towards those around us, and rightfully so. Often though, there is a self-directed kindness many of us are missing. Kindness is something which should be a part of our daily life, both externally and internally. Psalm 23:6 says, "Surely goodness and loving-kindness will follow me all the days of my life. And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." The first thing we often think about when we meditate on kindness, is who we can be kind to, but I think a greater challenge for many of us

is how to be kind to ourselves. Although God's kindness is constantly extended towards us, we are often our own biggest critic and our own worst enemy, beating ourselves up and robbing ourselves of the gifts that kindness brings.

For a moment, look at your internal language. Is it helpful? Does it build you up? Does it echo the way God cares for you? If not, perhaps it's time to reset. Remember, we are far more effective with kindness when it comes from a place where it already exists, dwells and flourishes.

GOODNESS

Have you ever considered the various words used to describe God? Throughout the Bible, God is described as 'good'. At a glance, this can seem bland and insufficient for the creator of the universe. In Psalm 135:3, David says that we are to "Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good; Sing praises to His name, for it is lovely." This sentiment is echoed throughout the scriptures and multiple times God is described as a good God who does good works. If goodness is an integral part of who God is and what He does, surely He would want us to uphold this same quality in our own lives? In our decisions, our encounters

and every work we put our hand to, do we demonstrate a divine goodness? Do we engage the core characteristics of God and broaden their reach to every aspect of our lives? Goodness does not just stand as the opposite of that which is bad, but rather, it should become the filter through which everything we do and all that we are is poured through, thus allowing us to introduce something beautiful, something heavenly and something different to the world around us.

FAITHFULNESS

If asked to summarise the message of the Gospel, many would say that it all boils down to us putting our faith in the finished work of Jesus; meaning that all that matters is our faith in, or, our faithfulness to Christ. Here, the emphasis is put on us as the ones who accept what Jesus has done. However, have you ever considered that perhaps the overarching theme of the Gospel is not necessarily our faithfulness to God, but rather His faithfulness towards us? In Romans 3:22, Paul talks about how God's righteousness is ours through the 'pistis tou Christou', which can be translated as "Christ's faithfulness" for all who believe. In other words, our faith, our salvation and our right standing before God is defined first by God's faithfulness towards us. It is a gift of grace, a faithfulness that is so unconditionally offered towards us

regardless of performance and in spite of circumstance. When we generate faithfulness, we can know that we are simply modelling the way in which God has shown Himself towards us, faithful through and through, unrestrictedly in every way.

GENTLENESS

Gentleness can often be confused with weakness or fragility when in fact, it is quite the opposite. In all His might, even God Himself, the creator of time and space and everything in between is gentle. A beautiful example of His gentleness towards us is when Elijah stood on the mountain and the voice of God manifested itself before him. When I think of the voice of an almighty God, the first idea that comes to mind is that it would be breathtakingly powerful, like the roaring wind, the grandiose earthquake or the blazing fire. Yet, it was none of these things. The voice of God rested in the still and gentle whisper that followed these raging forces (1 Kings 19:11-13 NIV). Let us not be mistaken, gentleness is not weakness. Perhaps it is included as a fruit of the Spirit

because of the quiet yet magnificent strength it holds. In our world, strength is often only seen through the narrow lens of brute force or impressive might. But perhaps strength, true strength, is found in the tenderness of compassion, the sweetness of humility and in the warmth of mercy, just as it was found in God's still small, gentle whisper.

**THAT IT WOULD BE
BREATHTAKINGLY
POWERFUL, LIKE THE
ROARING WIND, THE
GRANDIOSE EARTHQUAKE
OR THE BLAZING FIRE. YET, IT
WAS NONE OF THESE THINGS.
THE VOICE OF GOD RESTED
IN THE STILL AND GENTLE
WHISPER...**



SELF-CONTROL

Self-control is a blind spot many of us fail to notice because, well, it is a very self-speculating fruit. Not through arrogance or vanity, but in a way that urges us to look at our lives, our desires and how those desires are expressed within our lives. Self-control is a bit like a breakfast buffet. At a distance, it seems irresistible, too good to be true! Why wouldn't we want to dive in, knives and forks at the ready? Surely unlimited servings of every food imaginable is a dream come true? Unfortunately, it doesn't take very long into plate number three to realise we should have stopped at number one.

It's tempting to live our lives with an 'all-or-nothing' attitude. In our finances, our time management, our relationships, our conversations and even our thinking; but this can very easily take us down a path we shouldn't be on. Using self-control can help steer us away from these situations, saving us the trouble of having to find a way out. With a simple prayer that asks for more of it, God can multiply this fruit throughout your life.

ALL IN ALL, THE FRUIT IS A GIFT FROM GOD, CULTIVATED WITHIN US THROUGH THE TENDER WORKINGS OF HIS SPIRIT. AND, WHILST THE FRUIT IS AVAILABLE TO TAKE A BITE OF, GOD WANTS MORE FOR US THAN JUST TO TASTE IT FROM TIME TO TIME.

HIS DESIRE IS THAT WE TAKE THE FRUIT, LEARN HOW IT GROWS, AND USE IT TO BRING COLOUR AND FLAVOUR TO EVERY ASPECT OF OUR LIVES, ALLOWING IT TO SEEP THROUGH INTO AN OFTEN DULL, BLAND AND DESPERATELY IN NEED WORLD.





VISION RESCUE

Vision can change everything, even the cycle of poverty. For many years, Vision Rescue has set out on a journey to raise the people of Mumbai's slums into a life free from abuse, vulnerability and exploitation. We sat down with Ralph Boer, who looks after our Social Justice partnerships at Hillsong, to hear about the team's recent mission trip to India.

The slums of Mumbai. The broken, pieced-together shelters; tarpaulins hanging limply over hurting, hopeless people; the swarming mass of children, parents, aspirations and dreams, battered by rain, hunger and exploitation. It may not look or feel like home, but to 54% of Mumbai's population, it is home nonetheless. Drug abuse and vulnerability to trafficking are very real and present threats.

Walking through the streets lined with tightly packed ramshackle, jigsaws of buckets, dust-infested tarpaulins, brightly coloured clothes strung up, enclosing small doors into the homes of those in poverty, it can be easy to "see the injustice and feel powerless," Ralph explains. "Seeing people sitting on the street eating from one plate together, you think to yourself: 'OK I want to help, but the need is so overwhelming because the slums are so massive. There are millions of people in those slums.' But, encased in the hardship is a kind of resilience, a quiet strength, where the people "still make the most of life, they still do as best as they can, they just haven't been given a vision of what could be for their lives."

By partnering with Vision Rescue, Hillsong looks to change this. "To free children from all forms of poverty and exploitation by engaging and sustaining them in education," is the motivation and goal for Vision Rescue. Founded in 2004 by Biju and Secu Thampy, Vision Rescue has set about to make food and education widely available for those living in these slums. "They started by handing out food and doing classes on the street, in the station, and in the slums in Mumbai," Ralph explains, "They then started taking school buses to different slums so they could reach more people. In the last three or four years, there has been a shift from school buses to community centres, and now they're in a number of slums in Mumbai."

These community centres are able to reach more people than ever before. They hold school classes for children who aren't in education, to get them out of the slums and set up for the formal education system. Their vision is that through this, the children will be empowered to "define their own future and break out of the cycle of generational poverty." It is breaking this cycle that is one of the main aims in Hillsong's partnership with Vision Rescue; to raise these children from squalor and hardship into hope and the possibility of a future.

But, they don't stop there. "They do sports programmes such as a football academy that has different teams in a league," Ralph tells us. "They help with parents who are addicted to drugs or dealing with substance abuse. These services aim to help the family around the child as there are often various reasons why a child isn't in education. It may be that their parents are on drugs or it may be due to a sole income, so they also support the family."

Visiting Mumbai for the first time in 2010, Ralph saw this work first hand. In Mumbai, the divide between rich and poor is undeniably visible. Like oil in water, the split is so stark, the disparity so clear, that one can't help but be left speechless. "Seeing that firsthand makes you angry at the injustice, that these people have not been given a chance! But seeing Vision Rescue educating them and giving them possibilities to get an education, to get into a profession that means the world to them, it's awesome and inspiring to see the impact Vision Rescue is having."

On this trip, the team would meet in the mornings and have a time of reflection. "You meet some of the team, who often have their own stories on how they got into Vision Rescue. Some were substance abusers and now have a job and a new life. The trip is pretty full on. We see a lot of Mumbai, a lot of

the projects and meet a lot of the team, so it can get quite tiring and emotional."

To see the growth and the progression of Vision Rescue, their projects and their team, "has been quite amazing." Ralph continues, "to see the scope of it and the change from bus to community centres having more impact, having staff that know what they are doing, who are professionals, and that are really supporting the children and their families."

"We go into some of the poorer slums, and the situations and conditions that they live in is awful. But just seeing them have so much hunger to learn and better their future, they are fully absorbent of anything that the teachers tell them. The teachers are just incredible. How they work with the kids, the love they have, the passion they have and seeing them in action, is actually a real highlight."

Along with this however, Ralph has noticed that, as a "Church or Christian organisation," "it's getting more and more challenging." He explains that "we've noticed over the years, that we can't be as free walking around in the slums as we were ten years ago, so there's a lot of stuff happening politically in India". And yet, the fight continues. The need is still there, the people are still hungry, and Vision Rescue and Hillsong are not finished yet. Currently, Vision Rescue supports 2,000 children and 10,000 community members. That's just the beginning. "They want to expand in Mumbai to more slums, but that

requires funding to make it happen." This is where Hillsong and everyone in the church comes in. "£10 a month" Ralph explains, "will help one more child access a learning centre." But it's not even about the amount, "regular giving, no matter how much it is, helps with expanding the work of Vision Rescue."

"People can volunteer if they have the right skills." There is a process to it, but volunteering gives you an opportunity to help people while experiencing the slums for yourself. Reaching people has always been the goal, and the more people ready and available to help with that, the wider the impact can be.

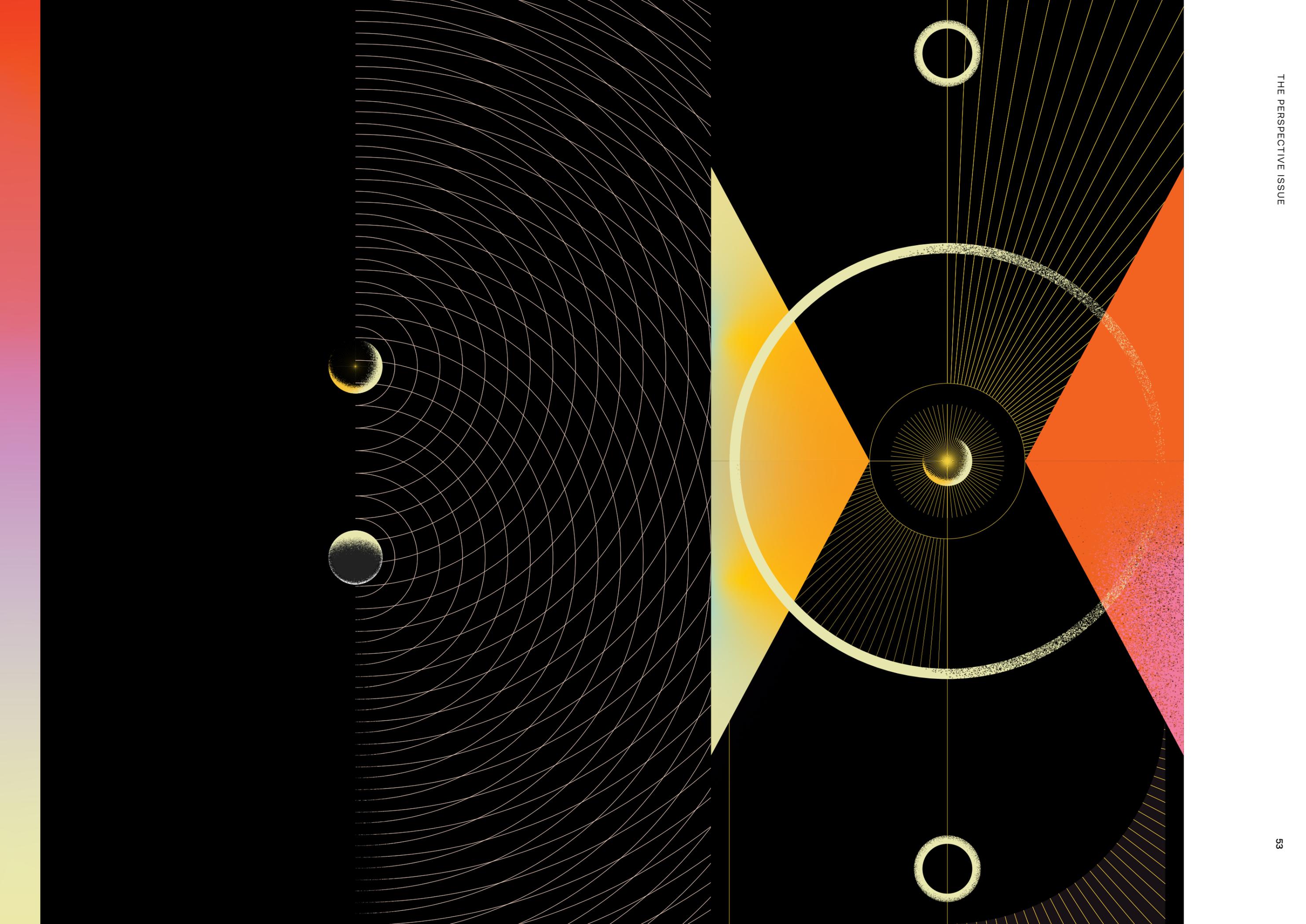
One of the most powerful ways to help, however, is prayer. As Ralph explained, as a Christian organisation, it can be increasingly difficult to work as freely as before. So prayer for Vision Rescue, for encouragement and perseverance, to carry on the fight, and to carry on the hope – is much needed. Prayer for Biju and Secu, the pioneers of the cause, is readily accepted. Praying for support and for continued and sustained impact.

It's been an incredible rise from 2004. The growth in impact and reach has been phenomenal. The partnership with Hillsong has grown and flourished into one that has seen real fruit and effect.

And that's all thanks to people like Biju and Secu, Ralph, and you.

To find out ways to contribute to Vision Rescue, visit hillsong.co.uk/visionrescue



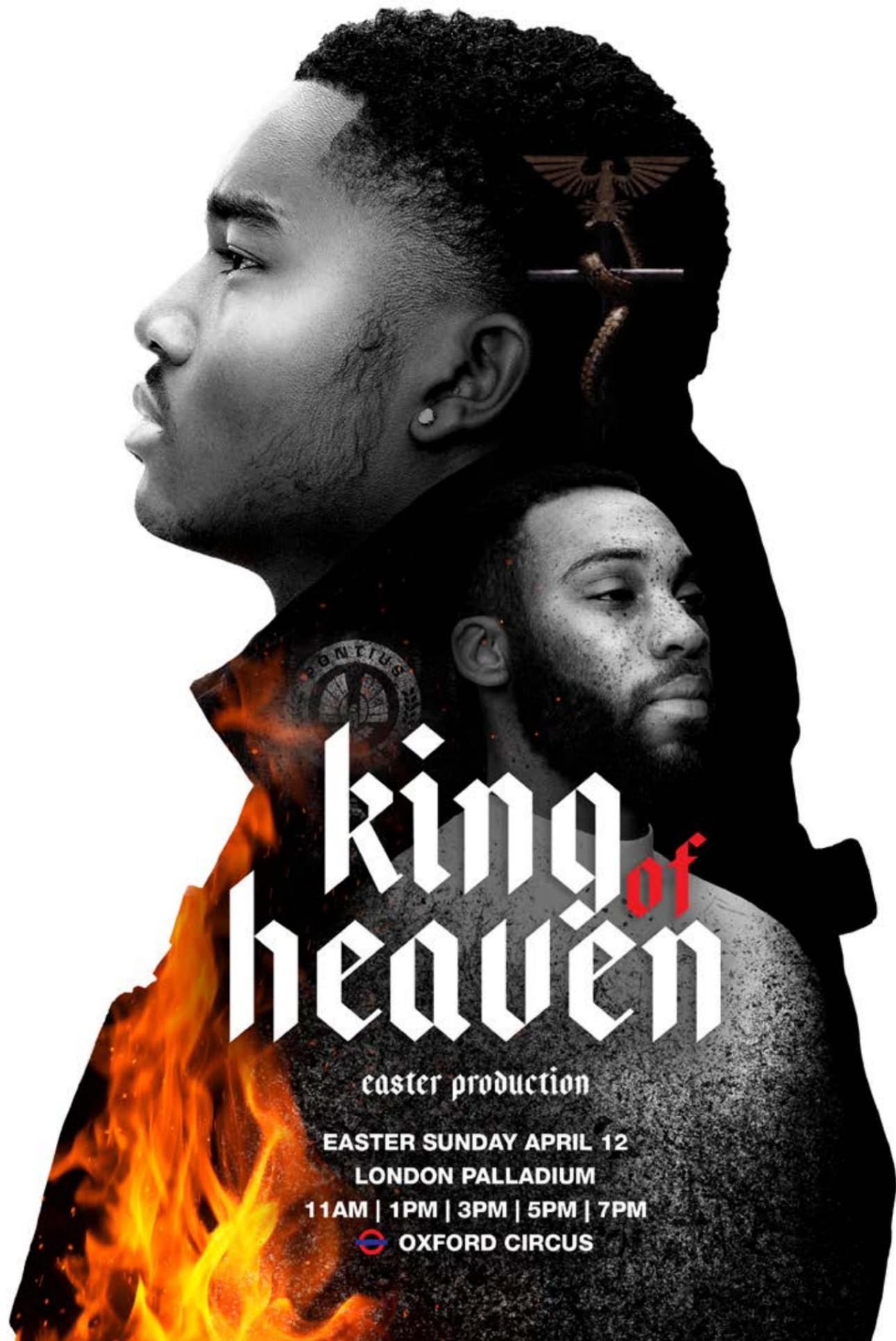


hillsong london presents

BUT THE
GREATEST
OF THESE.

† = ♥

CROSSEQUALSLOVE.COM



king of heaven

easter production

EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 12
LONDON PALLADIUM
11AM | 1PM | 3PM | 5PM | 7PM
OXFORD CIRCUS

BUSINESS COLLECTIVE

Business Collective is a community for entrepreneurs and business owners in the life of our church, aiming to create an inclusive space to connect, share ideas and advice, and encourage one another.

We talked to Zuzanna Kurtycz, Ben Towers, William Adoasi, Stephanie Murphy and Dave Bagheri to gain some insight into both the most rewarding and most challenging parts of running their own businesses and what it's like to navigate entrepreneurship and faith.

BEN TOWERS CEO OF TAIORA HEALTH

At age 11, Ben Towers began building websites in his bedroom, and developed his first business before he'd finished school. Ten years later, he has been described by The Times as one of the most influential entrepreneurs in the world. He has built and sold his own marketing company and is now embarking on a new and exciting challenge of launching his tech startup. Ben is also taking on the role of leading the Business Collective, envisioning a space where entrepreneurs from a wide range of fields can connect, learn and grow together, generating a positive impact on the business landscape.



It's been 10 years since you first began your business. What do you love the most about it? And can you share any challenges you've faced along the way?

For me, there is nothing better than seeing someone in my team thrive or having clients who believe in my mission. To be a successful entrepreneur, you need to become an expert in managing your time. I started in business when I was 11 years old, so trying to convince brands to pay me to deliver a marketing contract for them was scary and uncomfortable at times. I had to quickly build a portfolio of work that I could use to build trust with clients. I think the best way to overcome a challenge like this is to build a network of people who can vouch for you and what you're creating.

According to The Times, you are considered to be one of the most influential entrepreneurs not only in the UK, but globally. What has helped you achieve your success?

Networking is so important! Successful entrepreneurs always have a network of experts they can learn from, grow with and support. From the age of 13, I have been speaking at business conferences across the world about young people in business which has naturally led to me having the opportunity to meet and work with some of the world's most influential people. These relationships have led to me working with various governments across the world and the Royal Family.

What compelled you to start Business Collective? In what ways has the collective inspired and encouraged you in your career?

Life as an entrepreneur can be lonely. The Business Collective is designed to create a community of entrepreneurs who can connect, learn from and celebrate one another. The purpose is to create authentic connections that help make life as a Christian entrepreneur much easier. This also enables us to build God's Kingdom by empowering both current and future business leaders.

Why should an entrepreneur join the Business Collective?

The collective is for anyone who is already in business or is looking to start in the near future. Within the collective, there are subcommunities of people who run companies in specific industries, so when someone comes along, we are able to connect them with people within their field that they can relate to.

What excites you about the future of the collective?

I really believe the Business Collective is going to change the landscape of entrepreneurship that we see today. It's exciting that the collective is creating and nurturing a wave of entrepreneurs who are positively shaping God's Kingdom, empowering and unlocking opportunities for employees, and leading more people to Christ.

We host various collectives across Hillsong, each in a different sphere of influence, which serve to connect, inspire and empower people who share the same passions and interests.

To find out more about the different Collectives and how to join one, head to hillsong.co.uk/collectives

Other Collectives:

**MEDIA COLLECTIVE
EDUCATION COLLECTIVE
ARTIST COLLECTIVE
CITY COLLECTIVE
SOCIAL JUSTICE COLLECTIVE
HOSPITALITY COLLECTIVE**



WILLIAM ADOASI
VITAE LONDON, FOUNDER + CEO

You didn't take what some might call a 'traditional' route into business. How did you end up becoming an entrepreneur?

I think I've always been entrepreneurial at heart, and I've been running small side businesses and programmes working with young adults for a long time. After my wife took a trip to Port Elizabeth, South Africa and saw how there were charities out there having a profound impact on young children, she wanted to find a way to make a long-lasting sustainable contribution, which inspired me beyond belief and encouraged me to bring Vitae London to life.

Social justice is at the heart of your business. How are you embracing entrepreneurship to make a difference in the world?

It's so important to encourage, love and support people who need it most. The fact that I get to incorporate my love for design, fashion and jewellery with changing lives and giving people the power of education, is something I will never take for granted. It's a privilege and an honour to equip the next generation with the tools they need to create a much more even playing field and an even more incredible life.

How does your faith influence the way you run your business?

My faith is deeply rooted in the foundation of the business, so we try to portray that through everything we do. God has opened doors and presented me with opportunities that have come my way only through God's grace.

What is the most challenging part of being an entrepreneur?

Deciding which product to release next and when to release it! I'm always coming up with new ideas and products, and I just want to release them all at once.

What has been the highlight of your career so far?

One of the highlights has been meeting the President of Ghana. It was an honour to be able to present him with a watch and to talk about all the work we have been doing in Ghana. I know that this is only the beginning of what God has in store for me!

@vitaelondon
vitaelondon.com



What's your favourite aspect of being an entrepreneur?

I have the opportunity to create a brand that reflects who I am and my values, a brand that honours God. Running my own business is like painting on a blank canvas. I get to take it whichever way I want it to go and make it into whatever I want it to be. That's pretty exciting.

What are some of the biggest lessons that have impacted the way you work?

I learned to be generous with my time, trying my best to get to know my couples and understand their vision, so that I can make it a reality. I am very detail-focused, and I always do my best to make sure my arrangements are of high quality. It usually equals some sleepless nights but if gorgeous weddings and happy couples is the outcome, it's so worth it.

How do you distinguish yourself from your competitors?

When I think of other florists, rather than seeing competitors, I see a community who support each other, who can learn from one another and encourage each other along the journey. There are so many talented florists out there and of course everyone's style of floristry will be different. The amazing feedback I get from my clients and suppliers I get to work with just makes my heart sing and it reassures me that I am where I'm supposed to be.

How would you define success?

I think success is a journey, not a destination. Each of us had a different start in life, we were given different opportunities and faced different challenges. So, I would define success as being in a place where I can look back at where I used to be and be overjoyed about what I have accomplished.

@bloomantic_
bloomantic.com

ZUZANNA KURTYCZ
BLOOMANTIC, WEDDING FLORIST



DAVID BAGHERI
BUSINESS AND SOCIAL ENTREPRENEUR

What inspired you to start your business?

I felt business was the pathway for me to take in order to help grow the church's influence and impact. I see building a business as my ministry and a part of the purpose God has placed on my life, particularly by getting behind Kingdom initiatives that positively impact poverty and help uplift the vulnerable.

Did you experience any setbacks or failures? If so, what did you learn from them?

I've had many setbacks and failures along the way which have shaped who I am today. I have tried to launch a couple of initiatives in my spare time which haven't taken off. It takes focus, resource and investment to launch something new. It's hard to focus on too many things at once, so I've become more realistic about what it takes to get something off the ground.

What is the most rewarding aspect of your career?

I love working with people. I think the most rewarding aspect of my role has been seeing people develop their potential, take on responsibility and achieve success. Getting a group of like-minded people together, focused on achieving a common goal and giving people space to express their gifts, means that great things are possible.

Your business is people-centred. How do you determine your goals for the company and what are they?

It starts with a clear vision of knowing where we want to go. First, we work out the right order of things and the building blocks that will help us get to the ultimate goal. It's knowing what the right next step is that will be the difference between achieving those overarching goals or staying at the same level.

What is a unique aspect of your business and what inspired you to start it?

After recognising that well designed accommodation was in short supply, we began to lease average properties and then, through innovative interior styling, we turn them into accommodation that people can really appreciate. I have always loved interior design and I have always felt strongly that property is a dependable vehicle to build business.

What part of your job do you find the most rewarding?

The finished result: when we have taken something average and re-imagined the space into something special. The project I'm most proud of has been our three-bedroom apartments in Manchester. Having put in the hard work and our guests appreciating it means the world, particularly when their feedback has to do with the interior styling!

Where do you see your business in five years' time?

I see Opulent Living being recognised across the UK for providing top quality serviced accommodation. I would like to have the opportunity to use the influence of the business to reach people I wouldn't normally be able to reach and to use the finance generated to give back to the Church and community (I'm particularly passionate about the homeless in our major cities). We also want to be able to help others build financial security through property.

How does your faith influence the way you navigate working in the business world?

There's been many moments in the beginning of this business venture that required me to step out in faith and overcome my own personal fears, particularly with starting a business in the first place. There are always risks involved, and it's about believing in yourself and in your vision to push you through. It's not always been an easy ride, at times it's been overwhelmingly stressful, but that's where my faith has provided perspective, brought peace beyond understanding and wisdom for my next move in the right direction.

What is the most challenging part of being an entrepreneur?

In the beginning, everything rises and falls on you. You wear every hat and lead every department. There's a lot of pressure when it's your business and if you're not a part of a community. There is so much involved with running a business that you'll never be able to understand or fully comprehend until you're immersed in it.

@opulentlivinguk
opulentlivingnow.com

STEPH MURPHY
OPULENT LIVING, FOUNDER & DIRECTOR





EUNICE'S STORY



Growing up as a pastor's daughter, Eunice thought she knew everything there was to know about God. In a string of events that would lead her to question her own faith and beliefs, Eunice shares her moving testimony of overcoming heartache and developing a new relationship with God – one that would change every aspect of her life.

"I remember vividly the night I cried out to God. I remember being alone, pleading to a God that now, looking back, was someone I didn't really know." In a moment of pain, Eunice questioned God: "If You are who You say You are, I need You to show yourself to me, because I can't go through this turmoil at home, then on Sunday at church, hear about how powerful and great You are." For Eunice, her questions were spurred on by a family incident which took place hours earlier. "My father, a pastor who became increasingly abusive over the years, one night suddenly in a fit of rage, lashed out on me and my older brother, simply because an argument didn't go his way." In a split second, she quickly discovered that this was no ordinary exchange of a few harsh words. Life as she knew it was about to change.

"My life growing up was interesting. When me and my older brother were young, my mother attempted to commit suicide. God stepped into her life at one of her darkest moments. Jesus appeared to her in a dream and halted any plans she had to end her life. God echoed the words, 'there is another way,' and from that point forward, my mother decided to follow God." Church became a regular routine for Eunice and her family, as she goes on to explain the detachment she once felt: "Church was all we knew as children. Every Sunday, we had no choice but to go. It was a place we attended and

met with a distant God who we understood to be full of rules, regulations and instructions. To us, experiencing challenging situations meant you weren't doing something right, because God's children didn't experience hard times. I often felt judged."

It was during her mid-teens that the complexities of life became almost too difficult to cope with. "I was struggling with my studies, my parents got divorced and I was abused by a family friend. With so much going on in my home life and still attending church, I couldn't help but wonder where God was in all of this. The night my father physically and verbally abused my brother and I, I reached my breaking point." Desperately wanting to know the Father that everyone sang so passionately about during worship, she found herself questioning who God was, leading to 2014, when she received an invitation to Hillsong Conference.

"I didn't have a reason to refuse the last minute invite. Though I didn't know what to expect, I joined my friend. I remember walking into a packed arena and being stunned. I was amazed to see so many people lifting their hands in worship, and others just being lost in God's presence. I kept nudging my friend in amazement and fascination. What is this? Is this church? It was so far removed from anything I had ever experienced before."

Enjoying the vibrant atmosphere, she began to feel at ease and allowed herself to embrace a different kind of worship experience. "As I started to take everything in and listen intently to the sermon, I heard God speak to me, His voice so clear that I couldn't help but take notice. It was a God

encounter that can only be described as hearing a familiar and comforting voice." A voice she had been longing to hear all her life: "It was a voice of love."

Moved by the gentle words of encouragement, Eunice decided to get to know God for herself, and admits the journey has not been a conventional one. "I guess at this point in the story, you're probably expecting me to say I joined Hillsong Church straight away, but I was hesitant. Still traumatised by my past, naturally, I was afraid and wanted to protect myself. But I couldn't shake the curiosity, so a year on from the conference, I began to regularly attend the youth nights held at the Hillsong Bermondsey campus." Eunice jokes about how she would calculate with military precision the exact time when she needed to arrive and leave without having to speak to anyone in the room. "I knew if I got into a conversation with anyone, it was game over. My fears would be confronted and I would probably end up joining church, which I was reluctant to do."

In spite of her resistance, her heart towards church began to soften, as her new surroundings challenged some of her previous beliefs. "As the months went by, I discovered the truth about God's promises. As my eyes opened, so did my understanding of God's love and freedom. I finally decided to join church, and developed authentic friendships with people that I can now call family. It was the first time I felt people cared about what was going on in my life – physically, spiritually and mentally, and I knew I could be honest with them and not feel judged. I feel accepted for being me. Growing up in the church environment and during school, the friendships I made would never venture beyond those

settings. Now I have friends who I can phone and hang out with during the week. Walking through those doors at church feels like coming home. I feel like I finally belong. I don't feel I need to put on a mask or even be someone I'm not. It's like a weight lifted off my shoulders."

"As a teenager, you are often expected to act a certain way and attach labels to yourself. But from the very beginning of my faith walk, God showed me my identity. Through my experiences and life's struggles, God has shown me that my identity in Him is separate from my past, my childhood and society's expectations."

"I really hope to see people get to know God on a personal and intimate level, because it's intimacy that changed my life. I used to be very fearful but now I walk in confidence, knowing my identity and living a life filled with purpose. When we walk in boldness in spite of shortcomings, knowing that we are children of God, we're able to bring light into hopeless situations. If we can bring heaven into places such as the government and the media industry, I believe heaven will come on earth – just by us pursuing the vocations and paths we have been called to. We can all make a difference."

If you've got a story to share, we'd love to hear it! Send us an email to mystory@hillsong.co.uk.



CONVOS WITH CATHY

ERWIN MCMANUS | GUEST

HOST | CATHY CLARKE

CAN I ADMIT DEPRESSION?

In this interview, Cathy Clarke, and much-loved author and pastor of Mosaic, Erwin McManus, discuss depression, peace and life in all its complexities, as well as Erwin's most recent book 'The Way of the Warrior: An Ancient Path to Inner Peace'.

Erwin, you're a successful pastor, innovator and author. Your most recent book titled 'The Way of the Warrior: An Ancient Path to Inner Peace' delves into finding peace, spirituality and mental health. In this, you talk about how discovering Jesus guided you to find inner peace. Was this something that shocked your publishers?

When the publishers got the book, they told me 'we're surprised you talk about Jesus so much'. I don't really begin my books with an agenda. I'm trying to deal with real issues in life and see where it takes me. But I couldn't write about peace without running into Jesus every single time, and so the book really is beautifully interwoven with the story of Jesus. But it wasn't that I was using the book to suddenly talk about Jesus, it's the other way round. I was talking about inner peace and it always led me to conversations about Jesus.

Inner peace refers to a state of psychological or spiritual calm despite the presence of stress, yet so many of us struggle to experience it as we fall victim to the secondary factors that contribute to anxiety. So is it really possible to achieve peace?

Everything is on a spectrum and inner peace is not a constant, even if you know Jesus. There are two extreme misunderstandings; one if you know Jesus, you will always have inner peace and the other being if you don't know Jesus, you can't have inner peace. But, both of them are in a world of chaos and turmoil and the challenge with trying to find inner peace without Jesus, is that no one can get into your soul except for you. So you are fighting a battle all by yourself, and that's why people end up giving up and surrendering themselves to last. When you open your life to God and you invite Jesus into your life, you now have the Prince of Peace fighting for the peace inside of you. You have invited the most powerful warrior who has ever existed into your inner world to fight the battle with you and for you. That to me is the most powerful thing. That I don't have to fight this battle alone. So the question isn't can you have days of peace, and days of war? The question is, are you going to fight this battle every single day of your life alone or are you going to allow the God who created you to fight it for you?

The most recent Psychiatric Morbidity Survey found that 3 million people in the UK are currently living with anxiety. Would you say that anxiety is prevalent now more than ever before, or something we're simply talking about more frequently?

The world is moving terribly fast. A 10-year-old has more information about global issues than a president did 100 years ago. So, you're trying to ask a child with an underdeveloped psychological framework who doesn't have the tools to deal with terrorism, global warming, wars, societal conflict and stability in government. That child doesn't understand all that, they just feel the pressure of it all. I think what's happening is that we have an accelerated amount of psychological pressure on us but we do not have an accelerated amount of resilience within us. So our level of resilience has actually been decreasing and our level of pressure has increased, which is what's creating anxiety.

Our world is becoming increasingly urbanised. Though we can't roll back time, do you think disconnecting from the outside world can help us become more stress-free?

Mobile phones are creating an unhealthy extroversion, where you're not taking time to go into your inner world to reflect, to pay attention to who you are and deal with the health inside of you. It's not that we have all these pressures around us, it's that they're pulling us out, when sometimes we need to pull ourselves in and deal with the health and strength of our inner soul. Neurologically, you will find that if a person takes an hour a day and disconnects from all outside activity their brain will heal faster.

Talking about depression isn't always easy, though it's something that many of us struggle with on a daily basis. How can we learn not to feel ashamed of our emotions, and admit that we are simply not okay?

I think it's important to realise that depression does not put you in a separate category. Being depressed does not make you different to everyone else. It actually makes you just like everybody else once you realise that it is normative and you are not broken so badly that you can't be healed. You are

broken but in the same spectrum of every other human being. I feel like depression comes when we realise that we do have options, and we end up not being able to reconcile if we lost the future we longed for or if someone has stolen it from us, which creates this tension of internal turmoil.

What is the significance of questioning what we are in control of and why is taking ownership of our lives so important?

People who displace responsibility or blame move towards depression. When you take responsibility for your life and you take ownership of your choices, you develop resilience, so I tell people 'it may not be your fault, but it is your responsibility'. Life is unfair but you have to decide what you will do with the life you have. A part of anxiety is trying to take control of things out of your control, and refusing to take control over things that are in your control.

You can listen to the full podcast at hillsong.co.uk/convos. Here you will also find other inspiring podcasts and stories! Follow [@convoswithcathy](https://twitter.com/convoswithcathy) to join the conversation.



MEET THE HOST TEAM

Across every location, the Host Teams play a vital part in making people feel at home. Walking through the doors on a Sunday, whether you're in Edinburgh or Kent, you'll no doubt be greeted by smiling faces, ready and willing to welcome you inside. We spoke to Chris Lunella, who leads the Host Team at our Central London location about what it's like to serve on the team.

"Hosting is far more than helping people find a seat, it's noticing and valuing every individual that comes into our church. We know that we're not just filling a building, but purposefully connecting people to a community."

The message of 'welcome home' covers everything that we do as a church and the Host Team is a key part of this. Chris is reminded constantly of the impact that his team can have through the countless stories of people whose lives have been impacted by finding true friends at church. "Welcoming people home never grows old and never loses its value. I recently received a message about a couple who had just settled in London and were still trying to find their fit in church. After receiving a friendly introduction in the foyer, one of our hosts chatted with them and introduced them to a group of people. The couple really connected well with them, met them for lunch later that week and have now also started coming along to their Group. This is just a snapshot of the sort of community that can be created when we focus on engaging and connecting people".

"Everyone goes through the highs and lows of life and people on the team are not excluded from that, so before we start in the morning we gather together to share an encouraging word and pray for one another. I think it's important to acknowledge where we're at so that we can relate and empathise with others. Every person who walks in the door could be the result of someone praying that they would meet Jesus. We believe that if we can offer a kind and warm introduction to our church, then it will be easier for them to encounter the loving God that we all know".

Some of the key times of the year for our Host Teams are our three largest events; Colour, Hillsong Conference and Carols. The teams' responsibilities grow from a single service to a stadium full of people, and when set with the task of organising 20,000 people into seats at the O2 for example, providing a friendly introduction as well as an efficient one, can have a huge impact on people's overall experience. "The friendly welcome that people receive is countercultural and not something that you normally expect when you attend concerts or other large events in everyday life."

"We're a family, and our aim is that everybody can make genuine friends and feel a sense of belonging. Whilst Sunday is just one day, we are connected and doing life together throughout the week too".

To find out more about joining the Host Team or any of our other teams listed below, head to hillsong.co.uk/team

Other teams you can join:

Production

Bump

Worship

Environments

Kids & Families

Interpretation

Visual Arts & Media

Performing Arts



UP
2020

COMING
IN

21st - 22nd February 2020
Encounter Youth
The Warehouse Project, SE16 3LP

28th - 29th February 2020
Encounter Young Adults
The Warehouse Project, SE16 3LP

28th - 29th February 2020
Encounter Edinburgh
204 Rose St, Edinburgh EH2 4AZ

12th April 2020
Easter Services
Across all locations

12th April 2020
King Of Heaven Easter Production
London Palladium, W1F 7TF

30th April - 2nd May 2020
Colour Conference
The SSE Arena Wembley, London

20th - 23rd May 2020
XCC Challenge (Men's Character
Challenge) Scottish Highlands

29th June 2020
Marriage Night
Across all locations

30th June 2020
Parenting Night
Across all locations

2nd July 2020
Relationships Night
Across all locations

22nd July - 24th July 2020
Hillsong Conference
The O2 Arena, London
(Save £15 when you register
before 1st of March)

21st - 22nd August 2020
Fuel Camp
(11-14)

24th - 26th August 2020
Wildfire Camp
(14-18)

27th - 29th August 2020
Young Adults Summerfest
(18-30)

18th September 2020
NXT LIVE (Showcasing emerging artists)
The Warehouse Project, SE16 3LP

9 - 10th October 2020
YxYA Nights (Youth and Young Adults)
Across various locations

17th October 2020
A21 Walk For Freedom (a21.org)
Across various locations

7th November 2020
Men's Day
The Warehouse Project, SE16 3LP

27th November 2020
Sisterhood United
Across various locations

20th December 2020
London Carols
The SSE Arena Wembley, London

31st December 2020
New Years Party
Across all locations

WHAT'S AHEAD

SEE WHAT'S COMING UP IN YOUR LOCATION

Hillsong Central London

DOMINION THEATRE, W1T 7AQ

  @HILLSONGCENTRALLONDON

Thursday, 20th February
Women in Leadership Breakfast
7:30am, EC2V 8AS
Connect with other like minded women in leadership over breakfast.

Sunday, 23rd February
Marriage Prep Course
10:30am, Dominion Theatre
For couples looking to get married, to help develop keys that contribute to a healthy marriage.

Thursday, 27th February
City Collective Gathering
7:30-8:15am, St Mary Woolnoth (Bank Station, Exit 6)
Praise & worship, a short message and prayer!

Monday, 2nd March
Artist Collective
Time & location TBC
@artistcollectiveldn

Friday, 9th March
Men's Hour of Power Prayer
7:30-8:30pm
The Warehouse, SE16 3LP
Recharge and refocus with prayer and acoustic worship.

Friday, 13th March
Friday Social (30+)
Time & Location TBC
Our 30+ community hanging out together.

Thursday, 19th March
Women in Leadership Breakfast
7:30am, EC2V 8AS

Friday, 20th March
Real Talk (Sisterhood)
7pm, Location TBC
A gathering in central London for every woman in every season of life.

Tuesday, 24th March
Media Collective London
7:30pm, Ninety One, Living Room, E1 6QL
@mediacollectivelondon

Thursday, 26th March
City Collective Gathering
7:30-8:15am, St Mary Woolnoth (Bank Station, Exit 6)

Friday, 13th April
Men's Hour of Power Prayer
7:30-8:30pm
The Warehouse, SE16 3LP

Friday, 24th April
Friday Social (30+)
Time & Location TBC

Friday, 24th April
Artist Collective Social
Time & Location TBC
@artistcollectiveldn

Friday, 11th May
Men's Hour of Power Prayer
7:30-8:30pm
The Warehouse, SE16 3LP

Thursday, 14th May
Women in Leadership Breakfast
7:30am, EC2V 8AS

Friday, 22nd May
Real Talk (Sisterhood)
7pm, Location TBC

Thursday, 28th May
City Collective Gathering
7:30-8:15am, St Mary Woolnoth (Bank Station, Exit 6)

Friday, 8th June
Men's Hour of Power Prayer
7:30-8:30pm
The Warehouse, SE16 3LP

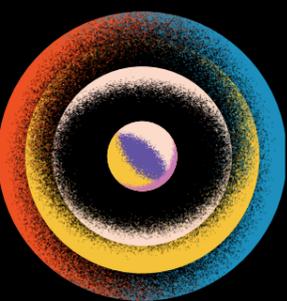
Groups: Happening every week, head to hillsong.co.uk/groups to join one.
Crews: Happening every week. Email mclaren.lewis@hillsong.co.uk for more information.

For more information or to register for any of these events, visit hillsong.co.uk/centrallondon

Evening College (for all London locations)
7 week course running 5th January - 8th April
7:30pm, Kings College London, WC2R 2LS

Hillsong Evening College is ultimately designed to empower you to impact the world and to gain a greater understanding of theology, life and leadership in your Christian journey.

Register online at hillsong.co.uk/eveningcollege



Hillsong New Bermondsey

THE WAREHOUSE, SE16 3LP

Sunday, 23rd February
Baby Dedications
The Warehouse, SE16 3LP
Celebrate together as we dedicate and pray for some of the children in our church.

Friday, 28th February
Church Party
Time & Location TBC
A casual social environment with food and drinks. Chilled vibes, new friends, good times.

Monday, 2nd March
Artist Collective
Time & location TBC
@artistcollectiveldn

Friday, 9th March
Men's Hour of Power Prayer
7:30-8:30pm
The Warehouse, SE16 3LP
Recharge and refocus with prayer and acoustic worship. Raw, real and punchy.

8th - 29th March
Marriage Prep Course
The Warehouse, SE16 3LP
For couples looking to get married, to help develop keys that contribute to a healthy marriage.

Sunday, 15th March
Baptisms
The Warehouse, SE16 3LP
If you've made a decision to follow Jesus, getting baptised is a great next step in your journey of faith.

Friday, 20th March
Sisterhood Local Night
Time & Location TBC
A night for every woman in Church to worship, pray and build community together.

Tuesday, 24th March
Media Collective London
7:30pm, Ninety One, Living Room, E1 6QL
@mediacollectivelondon

Thursday, 26th March
City Collective Gathering
7:30-8:15am, St Mary Woolnoth (Bank Station, Exit 6)

Groups: Happening every week, head to hillsong.co.uk/groups to join one
Crews: Happening every week. Email jake.moores@hillsong.co.uk for more information.

For more information or to register for any of these events, visit hillsong.co.uk/bermondsey

Hillsong North London

BERNIE GRANTS ART CENTRE, N15 4RX

Wednesday, 26th February
Refugees Football
A social football activity for young refugees in North London.

Monday, 2nd March
Artist Collective
Time & location TBC
@artistcollectiveldn

Thursday, 5th March
Refugees Football

Friday, 9th March
Men's Hour of Power Prayer
7:30-8:30pm
The Warehouse, SE16 3LP

Thursday, 12th March
Refugees Football

Thursday, 19th March
Refugees Football

Tuesday, 24th March
Media Collective London
7:30pm, Ninety One, Living Room, E1 6QL
@mediacollectivelondon

Thursday, 26th March
Refugees Football

Thursday, 26th March
City Collective Gathering
7:30-8:15am, St Mary Woolnoth (Bank Station, Exit 6)

Groups: Happening every week, head to hillsong.co.uk/groups to join one
Crews: Happening every week. Ask a youth leader for location.

For more information or to register for any of these events, visit hillsong.co.uk/northlondon

  @HILLSONGBERMONDSEY

Friday, 27th March
Church Party
Time & Location TBC

Sunday, 12th April
Baptisms
The Warehouse, SE16 3LP

Friday, 13th April
Men's Hour of Power Prayer
7:30-8:30pm
The Warehouse, SE16 3LP

Friday, 24th April
Artist Collective Social
Time & Location TBC
@artistcollectiveldn

Friday, 11th May
Men's Hour of Power Prayer
7:30-8:30pm
The Warehouse, SE16 3LP

Thursday, 28th May
City Collective Gathering
7:30-8:15am, St Mary Woolnoth (Bank Station, Exit 6)

Friday, 8th June
Men's Hour of Power Prayer
7:30-8:30pm
The Warehouse, SE16 3LP

  @HILLSONGNORTHLONDON

Friday, 13th April
Men's Hour of Power Prayer
7:30-8:30pm
The Warehouse, SE16 3LP

Friday, 11th May
Men's Hour of Power Prayer
7:30-8:30pm
The Warehouse, SE16 3LP

Thursday, 28th May
City Collective Gathering
7:30-8:15am, St Mary Woolnoth (Bank Station, Exit 6)

Friday, 8th June
Men's Hour of Power Prayer
7:30-8:30pm
The Warehouse, SE16 3LP

Hillsong Guildford

G-LIVE, GU1 2AA

Sunday, 15th March
Baptisms
3:30pm, G-Live, GU1 2AA
If you've made a decision to follow Jesus getting baptised is a great next step in your journey of faith.

Thursday, 19th March
Power Night
7:30pm, University of Surrey, GU2 7XH
Join our Young Adult community to talk about issues that students and young adults are facing.

Friday, 20th March
Youth Night
7:30pm, Guildford County School, GU2 4LU
A night of food and social time, praise & worship and life-changing teaching from the bible.

Groups: Happening every week, head to hillsong.co.uk/groups to join one
Crews: Happening every week. Ask a youth leader for location.

For more information or to register for any of these events, visit hillsong.co.uk/guildford

Hillsong Oxford

ODEON CINEMA, OX1 3AE

Friday, 7th March
Men's Breakfast
9am, Four Candles, OX1 2BE
Come and join the men of Hillsong Oxford for breakfast on the First Saturday in March.

Friday, 13th March
Youth House Party Oxford
7pm, Dean Court Community Centre, OX2 9DG
An awesome night with a DJ, message and way more. We can't wait to have a good time!

Sunday, 15th March
Baby Dedications
11am, Odeon Cinema, OX1 3A
Celebrate together as we dedicate and pray for some of the children in our church.

Groups: Happening every week, head to hillsong.co.uk/groups to join one
Crews: Happening every week. Ask a youth leader for location.

For more information or to register for any of these events, visit hillsong.co.uk/oxford

 @HILLSONGGUILDFORD

 @HILLSONGUKGUILDFORD

Friday, 29th May
Youth Night
7:30pm, Guildford County School, GU2 4LU

Friday, 29th May
Church Party
7:30pm, Komo Bar, GU1 3YA

Sunday, 31st May
Baby Dedications
11am, G-Live, GU1 2AA

Friday, 19th June
Youth Night
7:30pm, Guildford County School, GU2 4LU

Friday, 26th June
Church Party
7:30pm, Komo Bar, GU1 3YA

Friday, 27th March
Church Party
7:30pm, Komo Bar, GU1 3YA
A casual social environment with food and drinks. Chilled vibes, new friends, good times.

Sunday, 29th March
Baby Dedications
11am, G-Live, GU1 2AA
Celebrate together as we dedicate and pray for some of the children in our church.

Friday, 10th April
Good Friday Football
1-4pm, Surrey Sports Park, GU2 7AD

Thursday, 14th May
Power Night
7:30pm, University of Surrey, GU2 7XH

Groups: Happening every week, head to hillsong.co.uk/groups to join one
Crews: Happening every week. Ask a youth leader for location.

For more information or to register for any of these events, visit hillsong.co.uk/guildford

  @HILLSONGOXFORD

Sunday, 12th April
Easter Sunday & Baptism Service
11am, Odeon Cinema, OX1 3AE
If you are wanting to be baptized, just let your Group leader know!

Sunday, 26th April
Families Lunch at Leon
11am, Leon, OX1 3HA
Come & join families from across church for Lunch! We'd love to meet you.

Sunday, 14th June
Baby Dedications
11am, Odeon Cinema, OX1 3AE

Saturday, 6th June
Men's Breakfast
9am, Four Candles, OX1 2BE

Saturday, 4th April
Men's Breakfast
9am, Four Candles, OX1 2BE
Come and join the men of Hillsong Oxford for breakfast on the First Saturday in April.

Friday, 10th April
Good Friday Easter Egg Hunt
Time and Location TBC
Speak to the family's team to join good Friday Easter Egg Hunt!

Hillsong Newcastle

WESTGATE HALL, NE4 5QD

2nd Saturday Of Every Month
IKEA Breakfast
10–12pm, IKEA Gateshead, Metro Park West, NE11 9XS
Second Saturday of every month, a great opportunity for our Impact (30+) Community to connect.

Monday, 2nd March
Church Party
7:30pm, All Bar One, 51 Grey Street, NE1 6EE
A casual social enviroment with food and drinks. Chilled vibes, new friends, good times.

Friday, 13th March
YA Hangout
Time & Location TBC
All the young adults in our church hanging out together.

Monday, 16th March
Renew (50+)
6:30–8:30pm, COSTA in NEXT Metrocentre, NE11 9YR
Our over 50 community gathering to share friendship and coffee.

Friday, 25th March
Influence Hang Outs
7:30pm, Mother Mercy, 44 Cloth Market, NE1 1EE
For young adults between 21–35.

Monday, 6th April
Church Party
7:30pm, All Bar One, 51 Grey Street, NE1 6EE

Monday, 20th April
Renew
Time TBC, IKEA Metrocentre NE11 9XS

Friday, 24th April
Influence Hang Outs
7:30pm, The Botanist, Monument Mall, NE1 7AL
For young adults between 21–35.

Saturday, 25th April
YA Breakfast
Time & Location TBC
Young Adults having brunch together.

  @HILLSONGUKNEWCASTLE

Monday, 4th May
Church Party
7:30pm, All Bar One, 51 Grey Street, NE1 6EE

Monday, 11th May
Renew
Time TBC, COSTA in NEXT Metrocentre NE11 9YR

Friday, 22nd May
YA Hangout
Time & Location TBC

Friday, 29th May
Influence Hang Outs
7:30pm, The Holy Hobo, Three, Jesmond Three Sixty, NE2 1DB

Wednesday, 10th June
YA Groups Hangout
Time & Location TBC
All YA groups coming together for a social time of communion and prayer.

Hillsong Croydon

FAIRFIELD HALLS, CR9 1DG

Friday, 28th February
Church Party
7:30pm, Location TBC
Chilled vibes, new friends, good times.

Monday, 2nd March
Artist Collective
Time & location TBC
@artistcollectiveIdn

Tuesday, 24th March
Media Collective London
7:30pm, Ninety One, Living Room, E1 6QL
@mediacollectivelondon

Groups: Happening every week, head to hillsong.co.uk/groups to join one

For more information, visit hillsong.co.uk/croydon

Hillsong Reading

ST. MARY'S MINSTER CHURCH, RG1 2HX

Tuesday, 10 March
New to Team Night
Happening across Reading
Contact James at james.mowle@hillsong.co.uk for more info

Friday, 13th March
Men's Curry Night
Contact James at james.mowle@hillsong.co.uk for more info.

Thursday, 26th March
City Collective Gathering
7:30–8:15am, St Mary Woolnoth (Bank Station, Exit 6)

Friday, 27th March
Church Party
7:30pm, Location TBC

Sunday, 5th April
Baby Dedications
Fairfield's Hall, Park Ln, London CR9 1DG
Celebrate together as we dedicate and pray for some of the children in our church.

  @HILLSONGCROYDON

Friday, 24th April
Artist Collective Social
Time & Location TBC
@artistcollectiveIdn

Friday, 26th April
Church Party
7:30pm, Venue TBC

Thursday, 28th May
City Collective Gathering
7:30–8:15am, St Mary Woolnoth (Bank Station, Exit 6)

  @HILLSONGREADING

Tuesday, 14 April
New to Team Night
Happening across London

Friday, 24 April
Church Party
7:30pm, The Market House, RG1 2EQ

Tuesday, 12th May
New to Team Night
Happening across Reading

Friday, 29th May
Church Party
7:30pm, The Botanist, RG1 2HB

Groups: Happening every week, head to hillsong.co.uk/groups to join one

For more information or to register for any of these events, visit hillsong.co.uk/reading

Hillsong Tonbridge

THE RIVER CENTRE, TN9 1RE

Friday, 13th March
Dynamic (45+)
7:30pm, The River Centre, TN9 1RE
If you're 45 or over, come and hang out with us!

Friday, 20th March
YXYA Night (11–17)
7:30pm, The River Centre, TN9 1RE
An opportunity for our young people to gather together, worship and encounter God.

Friday, 20th March
Church Party
7:30pm, The River Centre, TN9 1RE
A social gathering giving you the opportunity to meet people in a casual and relaxed environment.

Friday, 27th March
Sisterhood Local Night
7:30pm, The River Centre, TN9 1RE
A night for every woman in Church to worship, pray and build community together.

Sunday, 12th April
Baptisms
The River Centre, TN9 1RE
If you've made a decision to follow Jesus, getting baptised is a great next step in your journey of faith.

Friday, 17th April
YXYA Night (11–17)
7:30pm, The River Centre, TN9 1RE

Friday, 25th April
YXYA Night (18–30)
7:30pm, The River Centre, TN9 1RE
Come and join us for a night of great food and hanging out together.

Friday, 15th May
YXYA Night (11–17)
7:30pm, The River Centre, TN9 1RE

Friday, 15th May
Church Party
7:30pm, The River Centre, TN9 1RE

Friday, 12th June
Sisterhood Local Night
7:30pm, The River Centre, TN9 1RE

  @HILLSONGTONBRIDGE

Groups: Happening every week, head to hillsong.co.uk/groups to join one
Crews: Happening every week. Ask a youth leader for location.

For more information or to register for any of these events, visit hillsong.co.uk/tonbridge

Hillsong Edinburgh

THE ROSE THEATRE, EH2 4AZ

Wednesday, 4th March
DNA Night
7pm, The Cellar At Kimpton's, Charlotte square, EH2
For everyone who calls Hillsong home, come find out how you can play your part!

Friday, 20th March
FNS
7pm, City Centre
Join us at one of our Friday Night Socials across the city. There's something for everyone!

Wednesday, 1st April
DNA Night
7pm, The Cellar At Kimpton's, Charlotte square, EH2

Friday, 24th April
FNS
7pm, City Centre

Wednesday, 6th April
DNA Night
7pm, The Cellar At Kimpton's, Charlotte square, EH2

Groups: Happening every week, head to hillsong.co.uk/groups to join one
Crews: Happening every week. Ask a youth leader for location.

For more information or to register for any of these events, visit hillsong.co.uk/edinburgh

Hillsong Liverpool

HINTERLANDS, L8 5AF

Sunday, 23rd February
Families Connect
1pm, Kid's Building
All the families in our Church hanging out together.

Thursday, 27th February
Creative Team Night x Reuben
7pm, Location TBC
Join us for a night of epic praise & worship and life-transforming teaching from the bible.

Friday, 28th February
Men's Groups
7pm, Location TBC
An opportunity for the men our Church to connect and share life with other men.

Tuesday, 3rd March
DNA Night
7pm, Hangar 34
Anyone that wants to hear more about our church, what we're doing and how we're doing it.

Friday, 13th March
Sisterhood Local Night
7pm, Hangar 34
A night for every woman in Church to worship, pray and build community together.

Friday, 13th March
Hillsong Football
8-9:30pm, Location TBC
Great for fitness and a great way to meet guys at Church.

Saturday, 21st March
Impact Brunch (30-45 age group) 11am, Location TBC
An opportunity for our Impact Community to gather and connect.

Sunday, 22nd March
Families Connect
1-2:30pm, Kid's Building
All the families in our church hanging out together.

Thursday, 26th March
Creative Team Night x Reuben
7pm, Location TBC

Friday, 27th March
Youth Night
7pm, Location TBC
Food, social time, epic praise and worship and life-changing teaching from the bible.

Saturday, 28th March
Men's Breakfast
11am, Location TBC
All the men in our Church having breakfast together.

Tuesday, 7th March
DNA Night
7pm, Hangar 34

Saturday, 11th April
Easter Egg Hunt in the park
Time, Location TBC
A fun way for families to connect, enjoy and celebrate Easter together.

Saturday, 11th April
Impact Social (30-45 age group)
Time & Location TBC
30+ community getting together for drinks.

Friday, 17th April
Hillsong Football
8-9:30pm, Location TBC

Sunday, 19th April
Families Connect
1-2:30pm, Kid's Building (Life Science's)

Friday, 23rd April
YXYA Night
7:30pm, Hangar 34

Sunday, 26th April
Sisterhood Afternoon (Sisterhood)
1-2:30pm, Location TBC
A gathering of girls from every season of life.

Groups: Happening every week, head to hillsong.co.uk/groups to join one
Crews: Happening every week. Ask a youth leader for location.

For more information, visit hillsong.co.uk/liverpool

f @HILLSONGLIVERPOOL

Hillsong Birmingham

ROYAL BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE, B4 7XR

f @HILLSONGBIRMINGHAM

Tuesday, 3rd March
DNA
7pm, Location TBC
Anyone that wants to hear more about our church, what we're doing and how we're doing it.

Friday, 20th March
Sisterhood
7pm, Location TBC
We regularly gather the girls in our church for a fun night and to hear from Bobbie and Cathy.

Friday, 27th March
March Hangout
7pm, Location TBC
Come as you are, no matter where you feel you fit in our church family. We'd love to see you there.

Sunday, 29th March
Baptisms
3pm, Location TBC
If you've made a decision to follow Jesus getting baptised is a great next step in your journey of faith.

Tuesday, 7th April
DNA
7pm, Location TBC

Friday, 24th April
April Hangout
7pm, Location TBC

Sunday, 26th April
Baptisms
3pm, Location TBC

Tuesday, 5th May
DNA
7pm, Location TBC

Friday, 29th May
May Hangout
7pm, Location TBC

Saturday, 30th May
Families Hangout
11am, Cannon Hill Park, B12 9QH
Frisbee, football and great hangs, bring some food to share and enjoy the start of summer.

Sunday, 31st May
Baptisms
Location TBC

Groups: Happening every week, head to hillsong.co.uk/groups to join one
Crews: Happening every week. Ask a youth leader for location.

For more information or to register for any of these events, visit hillsong.co.uk/birmingham



STAY UPDATED

• CHAT TO OUR TEAM IN THE FOYER

• VISIT HILLSONG.CO.UK

• DOWNLOAD THE HILLSONG APP TO SEE WHAT'S COMING UP IN YOUR LOCATION

• JOIN OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER TO RECEIVE LATEST UPDATES AND BREAKING STORIES CURATED JUST FOR YOU:
MYHILLSONG.COM

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



ACADEMY

THE FUTURE AWAITS

Give a year of your life to develop character, learn leadership principles and pursue practical ministry as you immerse yourself into the life of Hillsong Church London.

Streams:

- Pastoral
- Youth & Young Adults
- Production
- Worship
- Performing Arts
- Media

Term starts on 28 September 2020 and ends on 28 August 2021.

hillsong.co.uk/academy

LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

20/21



MAUREEN, 2011 - 2015

I can safely say attending HLA was one of the best years of my life. The programme was full of challenges for sure, but also growth. Before I started the Academy I had no interest in leadership but it felt like it was something God wanted me to do. I learned things in that year that have made me who I am today. I grew a passion for ministry, learning and people that I never thought I would have. I would recommend the Academy to anyone as I know for me it genuinely changed my life.



KANSU, 2017 - 2018

The Leadership Academy gave me a great insight into the unseen work that makes our church happen beyond Sunday. You will receive leadership training that is not taught in many educational establishments and skills that are easily applicable to your personal life, career and family. You will not regret the adventure! If I could sum up my experience - creativity will be drawn out of you, initiative expected and hard work a given. But in the end, you will be rewarded greatly with what you learn and the growth you experience. You will receive wisdom that will stay with you for the rest of your life.



HANNAH, 2019 - present

I wanted a year of my life to be fully focused on serving God. I really wanted to do something outside my comfort zone and that's exactly what these past 5 months have been. They have been very important for my personal growth and my relationship with Jesus. I've learned a lot about leadership and how to disciple people - thanks to all the amazing leaders that have walked beside me these past months. To summarise these months in a few words: Challenging, tired eyes, fun memories, and growth.

