

# FINISH STRONG

"NOW TO HIM WHO IS ABLE TO DO FAR MORE ABUNDANTLY THAN ALL WE ASK OR THINK, ACCORDING TO THE POWER AT WORK WITHIN US, TO HIM BE GLORY IN THE CHURCH AND IN CLORY IN THE CHURCH AND IN CHROLGHOUT ALL GENERATIONS, FOREVER AND EVER, AMEN." - EPHESIANS 3:20-21

## ANDREW HOPPER LEAD PASTOR

It is surreal to think that For His Name launched a year ago this month! For His Name was our church's response to the growth God was giving here at Mercy Hill. Last year we realized that if we were to see God continue to move we needed to take significant steps towards making room for new people. Together we took those steps and God continued to bless. However, For His Name is not over. As we look to the end of this year, we have the opportunity to finish strong and in so doing take additional steps towards reaching the Triad.

God did amazing things in the past year and can do amazing things in the year to come. Through For His Name this year we saw the capacity of both our worship and kids space double. These are huge blessings and countless lives have been changed. New people have come and heard the Gospel along with more children learning that the most exciting life possible is found in following Jesus. We praise God for these things. As we wrap up this initiative we have the opportunity to take the next step in sending people out to start a new Mercy Hill location in a different part of the Triad. Mercy Hill, God has blessed us beyond measure! Now is the time that we begin the process of sending that blessing to different parts of the Triad. This book and series will lay out what it's going to take to get there. I hope and pray that you will spend time familiarizing yourself with the For His Name initiative and opening your heart to whatever God may call you to.

I am amazed and thankful for all that we have seen in the last 3 years! But, I believe with my whole heart that we have just scratched the surface of all God wants to do in and among us in the Triad. That's why my family has bought in to this project deeply. I don't just mean with our emotions and energy, but with our finances as well. For Anna and I, we praise God for this opportunity to sacrifice for the mission because we know not every church has these strategic opportunities. We want to make the most of this opportunity in our lives. I pray you do as well. It is clear that God is moving among us and we must continually ask, what does "far more abundantly than all we ask or think" look like for the Triad? As a pastor, I always want to push us to expect great things from God. I believe with all my heart, now is the time to attempt something great for God as well.

#### - Andrew Hopper, Lead Pastor

# HISTORY OF MERCYHILL

September 2012, Mercy Hill officially celebrates their launch! The month's average attendance was 157 meeting at night at Bur-mil park.

May 2013, Mercy Hill sends out its first international mission team to the Yanesha people in Peru.

April 2014, Mercy Hill moves to an upfitted fixed location in a strategic area of the Triad. In conjunction with the move, a 3rd service is launched.



May 2012, The Summit Church in RDU commissions and sends a team of 30 Summit members to plant Mercy Hill Church.



March 2013, Mercy Hill celebrates its first Easter breaking previous attendance records with 331 in total attendance.



September 2013, Mercy Hill celebrates its 1 year birthday. The month's attendance averaged 367 and a second service was launched. September 2014, Mercy Hill celebrates its 2 year birthday with over 1000 in attendance for the first time!

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September 2014, The 100th person is baptized at Mercy Hill.

April 2015, Through the For His

Name initiative, the upfit of a new 600 seat worship venue is

completed. Mercy Hill moves into

its current worship space.

*July 2015, As Phase 2* completes for the For His Name initiative, the Mercy Hill Kids space is fully renovated.

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September 2015, The 45th Mercy Hill Community Group was launched. This represents 884 people connected to a Community Group.

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November 2015, In the month of November, Mercy Hill had its highest attendance record to date with 1,420 people on campus.

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September 2015, Year-to-date 124 people have committed to following Jesus in baptism. Since 2012 we've seen 242 people baptized.

# 13 🔘

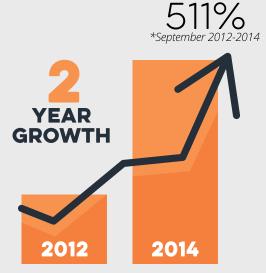
October 2015, Year-to-date, Mercy Hill sends 70 of its members on mission to six different countries taking the gospel to the nations. (Since our launch in 2012, we've sent out 172 people on mission).



For His Name is an initiative we started in November 2014 to expand our current facilities. As a church we grew 511% during 2012-2014. Throughout this time, our attendance exceeded 80% of the capacity of our space which makes it hard for people to come and stick. Walking into a room already full gives people an unintended, yet loud and clear, message that there is just no place for them at Mercy Hill.



As a church we thought it was unacceptable that God would be drawing people to Himself and our church not make room for them. In light of the gospel, we called our church to radical generosity to meet this need. By God's grace and through our church's generosity, we were able to upfit our new worship space which doubled our seating capacity and allowed us to keep our same strategic location.





# **NEW VENUE**

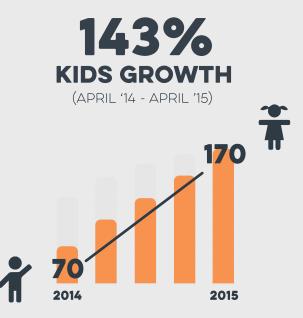
CAPACITY 600

DOUBLE THE SEATING CAPACITY

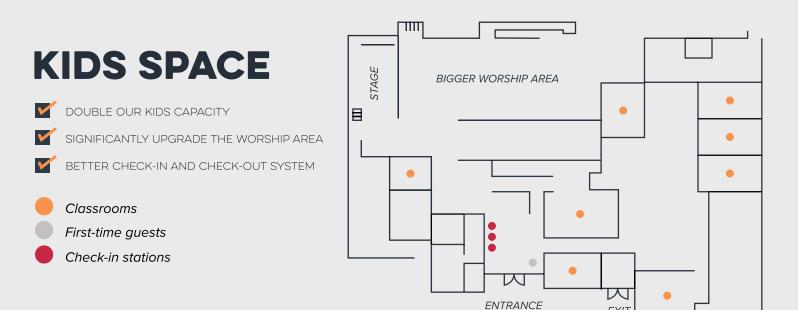
# PHASE 2



During this time our kids ministry continued to grow rapidly as well. We saw 143% growth during that year (April 2014 - April 2015). We decided we would have to upfit their space to keep up with the growing number of families coming to Mercy Hill. It was our dream that our kids would have a great worship experience to praise Jesus. The new space included more classrooms, a bigger worship space, and a better check-in and check-out system. We believe the most exciting life that a child can live is a life lived for Jesus.



EXIT



SEPTEMBER 2016





# **CENTRAL GSO CAMPUS**

We believe that now is the time for Mercy Hill to multiply across our city and that now is the time to expand our sending capacity as a church. In September 2016, Mercy Hill plans to launch its first campus. This campus will be located in central Greensboro.

Pile Change Since For His Name Began...

If you weren't a part of the For His Name initiative when it began last November, here are just a few things that have happened in the past year. If there was an open seat for you when you walked into our worship space, it was a direct result of the generosity of our congregation through the For His Name initiative.





**1,078** FIRST TIME GUESTS





#### **BAPTISMS**

Baptisms represent people who have placed their faith in Jesus as Savior and are following Him as Lord – willing to do what He says do and go where He says go. In the past year we've baptized 124 people.

### ATTENDANCE

Since moving into our new worship space we have seen 1,078 people visit Mercy Hill for the first time. In November 2015 we had our highest attendance with 1,420 people.

## **COMMUNITY GROUPS**

At our last Grouplink in September 2015, Mercy Hill launched its 45th Community Group. This now represents 884 adults that are currently in Community Groups.

### SENDING

Over the past 12 months we have sent out 70 people internationally to countries like Peru, India, Southeast Asia, East Asia, Asia Minor and Canada.

# AND JESUS CAME AND SAID TO THEM, ALLAUTHON AND ON EARTH HAS BEEN GOVERNOUS CAME AND ON EARTH HAS BEEN GOVERNOUS CAME AND ON EARTH HAS BEEN ALL NATIONS, BAPTIZING THEMIN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND OF THE SON AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. -MATTHEW 28:18-19



At Mercy Hill we believe that success is measured more by sending capacity than seating capacity. In order to reach more people with the gospel we plan to start a new Mercy Hill location in September 2016. This campus will replicate the experience of our current campus. We hope to send 300 people to launch this new location!

### **GREATER ADVANCEMENT OF THE GOSPEL**

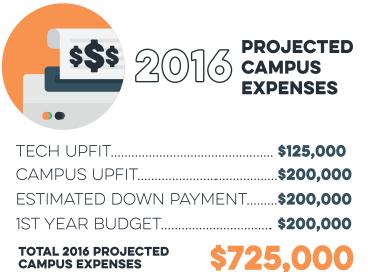


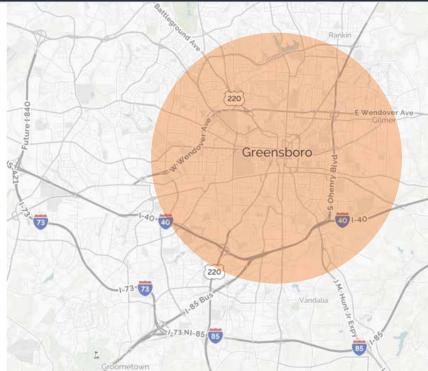
### V INCREASED SEATING AND SENDING CAPACITY



Randy Titus - Campus Pastor

Gary Rivers - Associate Pastor





# FINISH STRONG?

HOW DO WE

As we finish up the For His Name initiative at the end of 2015, our primary goal is to finish strong! We believe finishing strong will be the first step in launching our new Mercy Hill central Greensboro campus. Every dollar that is given to the For His Name initiative will go towards helping start our new Mercy Hill location. There are \$200,000 left in commitments to the For His Name initiative. It is our hope to meet the goal of total commitments and even go well beyond this goal.



# **200K** BY END OF DECEMBER 2015

# **HOW DO I GIVE?**



Checks can be made out to Mercy Hill with *"For His Name"* in the memo. Mail to:

**Mercy Hill Church** P.O. Box 39209 Greensboro, NC 27438



Mercy Hill has the ability to receive stock gifts. For some this is the most effective way to use their resources.

\*Make sure to designate your gift to "For His Name."



We make it easy and convenient for you to give online through our website or through your mobile devices. To give online visit:

www.mercyhillgso.com/give

\*Make sure to designate your gift to "For His Name."



During our weekly services we offer you the opportunity to give by placing your gift in the offering bucket. For your convenience, offering envelopes are available at each of our services.

\*Make sure to designate your gift to "For His Name."





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## THE GOD WHO SAVES

#### **Opening Question**

We saw on Sunday that Abraham was tested and found willing to give everything (even his own son).

Is there anything in your life that you would struggle to give to God if He asked you to sacrifice it?

#### Read: John 3:16

#### **Discussion Questions:**

What does John 3:16 tell us about God and his attitude towards man?

• How does this portrayal of God contradict the accusations our culture levels against God?

The love shown by God in John 3:16 was a sacrificial love.

- What are some ways we sacrifice for those we love here on earth?
- What are some of the things that God calls us to sacrifice so that others may know of His love?

John 3:16 tells us that God's great love resulted in Him giving His only son.

• Love and sacrifice are always connected. How would you explain the relationship between what we love and what we sacrifice?

What are some of the different motivations to give? In what way is the gospel the greatest motivation to give? Share.

#### **Closing Question:**

In what ways do you foresee yourself sacrificing to see the new Mercy Hill campus started?

#### **Prayer Requests:**

1. Take time to thank God for saving you through Jesus. Thank Him for His love, mercy, and provision.

2. Pray that God would reveal to us what He is calling us to sacrifice for the start of the new Mercy Hill campus.








## THE GOD WHO CALLS

#### **Opening Question**

What are some of the common reasons why we often resist a lifestyle of generosity?

Read: Romans 12:9-13

#### **Discussion Questions:**

There are 13 commands in these 5 verses in Romans 12.

- Generally speaking, what are some different motivations for obedience in the christian life?
- Are there good and bad reasons for obedience?

Sometimes obedience is easy and sometimes it's very difficult.

• How is motivation often the determining factor between one or the other?

Verse 10 commands that we, "Love one another with brotherly affection" and "Outdo one another in showing honor."

- What do you think this looks like practically in the christian life?
- In what way is loving one another with brotherly affection and outdoing one another in honor a form of generosity?

Verse 13 commands that we contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. However, it can be difficult to give to something we don't feel will directly benefit us.

- How have you benefitted from giving to needs outside of yourself?
- Practically speaking, what are some different ways that we can fulfill the commands of verse 13?

#### **Closing Question:**

Discipleship boiled down is simply obedience.

What do you feel like obedience in generosity should look like in your life?

#### **Prayer Requests:**

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1. Knowing that the gospel is the primary motivation for obedience, pray that each of us will have a deep sense of God's love and sacrifice for us as we think about generosity.

2. Obedience as it relates to the new campus will look different for each person. As God calls each of us to evaluate how we will be involved, pray that we will be obedient.







## THE GOD WHO SENDS

#### **Opening Question**

In John 17 we see that God has saved us to send us out.

Where do you feel like you are "sent" in your life (i.e. job, family, new campus, mission field, unreached people group)?

#### Read: John 17:6-26

#### **Discussion Questions:**

In verse 15 Jesus said, "I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one."

- How does Jesus' prayer recognize the difficulties christians face through the world and through the evil one?
- How should this portion of Jesus' prayer for his disciples (and for us by extension) give us confidence to be on mission in light of those difficulties?

Verse 18 says, "As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world."

• In what ways do you see Mercy Hill being able to send more people through the new campus?

Jesus' words in verse 26 were some of His last words before He went to Calvary.

- It's clear from this text that Jesus had spent His life making known the name of God to His disciples. How do you struggle to make known the name of God to others?
- Who in your life most needs you to share the name of God with them?

#### **Closing Questions:**

The Bible is clear that all christians are involved in sending and going.

- Do you see yourself being more involved in "sending" or in "going" in regard to the new Mercy Hill campus?
- What do you see "sending" looking like? What do you see "going" looking like?

#### **Prayer Requests:**

1. Pray that we would see our sending capacity increase exponentially through the new central Greensboro campus.

2. We are praying that 300 people would intentionally go to help start the new campus. Prayerfully consider what your role may be in the new central Greensboro campus.








## THE GOD WHO GIVES

#### **Opening Question**

In Luke 12 the idea of a "steward" or "servant" is explained as one who has been given someone else's possessions to take care of.

What are some of the things God entrusts us with to steward well?

#### Read: Luke 12:35-48

#### **Discussion Questions:**

We live in a culture that believes whole heartedly that the things we have are ours alone.

 In what way does a biblical concept of stewardship differ from that sort of mindset?

Verses 43 and 44 say, "Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions."

- Do you think this same principle applies to one who is a good steward of their finances?
- What do you think it means when the text says, "to whom much was given, much will be required"?

All of life is for God's name and His glory.

• What are some practical ways that you can be a better steward of the blessings God has given you (whether monetary or otherwise)?

#### **Closing Questions:**

The Bible teaches us that good stewards use what God has given them to bless others.

- How do you see your personal stewardship advancing the gospel through the new Mercy Hill campus?
- In what ways do you see our city being blessed through a campus in central Greensboro?

#### **Prayer Requests:**

1. Pray that as we steward well the resources that God has given us, that we would not only meet but exceed our financial goal of 200K by the end of 2015.

2. Pray that we would see amazing stories of gospel-fueled life change as we start a new campus in the coming year.



LIVE SUFFICIENTLY, GIVE EXTRAVAGANTLY

