

The Author's Storybook



Annual Report

2013 - 2014

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An introduction to The Story . . .

Have you ever considered the power of a good story? We all know someone who is appreciated and loved for their ability to tell an amazing tale that captures the imagination and attention of everyone in the room. A good story can be the lifeblood of a family dinner and can reunite friends after years apart. Stories are our way of staying connected to the past, to each other, and to something bigger than ourselves.

But what if story was even more important than connecting us to each other. What if the inventor of story, the first author in the truest sense of the word, was, is, and will always be using story in more ways than we could ever dream or even understand?

God is writing His story in us.

God is writing His story through us.

We tell stories to declare who God is.

We tell stories to make sense of what is going on in our lives.

Jesus used stories to accomplish his ministry.

Jesus is the opening act, the central plot twist, and the concluding scene in a story that He himself authored.

Everyone has an opportunity to be a part of God's story.

Everyone's story is important and valued in light of God's overall story.

God's story is somehow both complete and incomplete,

We believe that the story God is writing is one to celebrate. It's one to tell again and again and again. It's a grand, sweeping epic of laughter and joy, pain and desperation, separation and falling, rescue and putting back together. It's a story that we are still in the middle of, and yet we know exactly how it ends. It's a story that can't possibly have CliffNotes, and yet it can be distilled into a simple truth: **THE AUTHOR OF IT ALL IS CONSTANTLY REDEEMING EACH AND EVERY CHARACTER.**

In the coming pages, we will tell the little story of what God did in our church last year. To do this with good perspective, we need to let the bigger narrative guide us. So we look to a songwriter, a storyteller in his own right, to give us a reference point on what to do with such an amazing story that has been opened up in our hands.

Let each generation tell its children of your mighty acts;

let them proclaim your power.

I will meditate on your majestic, glorious splendor

and your wonderful miracles.

Your awe-inspiring deeds will be on every tongue;

I will proclaim your greatness.

Everyone will share the story of your wonderful goodness;

they will sing with joy about your righteousness.

Psalm 145.4-7 (NLT)

A Story of Restoration

In March 2011, God gave me the wake up call of a lifetime. After distancing myself from my family and God, it was time for my lies and unfaithfulness to be made known. I was a broken man. Everything else was gone, and what remained was God and my wife.

In the middle of this chaos, we heard about a sermon series at Christ's Church on Romans and grace, so we came to check it out and before long made it our church home. For me (Jason) I realized that accepting grace meant allowing God to put my shattered pieces back together. For me (Piper), I knew that my suffering wouldn't be wasted and that God could use all this bad for his glory.

Soon after joining Christ's Church, I (Jason) heard about Men's Encounter. I didn't want to go and subject myself to more shame and embarrassment in front of strangers. My life was still a mess and I was unemployed because of my actions. Fortunately, I went and learned that I'm not alone in my struggles. We all sin and fall short of the glory of God. BUT... Jesus Saves!

I (Piper) decided to attend Women's Encounter. It played a huge role in my healing and forgiving process. I was able to leave my baggage and hurt at the foot of the cross. I came away with new commitment and trust for God's plan. This has led me to serve at Women's Encounter, where He has used my story to help other hurting women find freedom in Christ.

We got further involved by joining a life group and the creative arts team. Through these outlets we have made dear friends and grown deeper in the Word and our marriage. God's faithfulness was on full display as the church came alive in the form of faithful believers who were willing to listen, love on us, and walk with us through our suffering. We are so thankful for Christ Church of Oronogo and its ability to love people as Christ loved the church.

Faithfully His,
Jason & Piper White

... let the stories begin.

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Handwritten notes in the middle of the page, including the number 2013.

Handwritten notes in the bottom left corner, including the number 2013.

July 2013 - June 2014
by the numbers

132

BAPTISMS
at Christ's Church



35 Missions Partners

993

Baptisms from Missions Partners

● = 10 people

average worship attendance on

SUNDAY



→ 2,410

● = 10 people

average total attendance on

SUNDAY



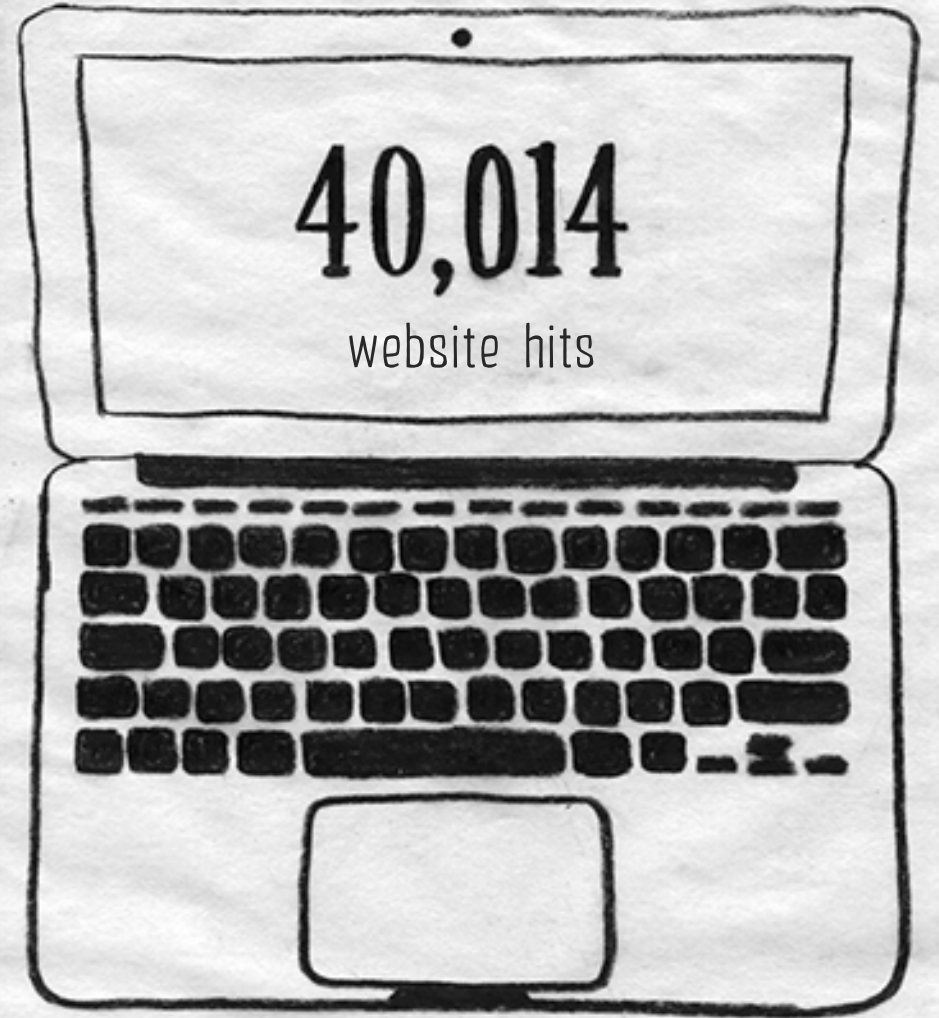
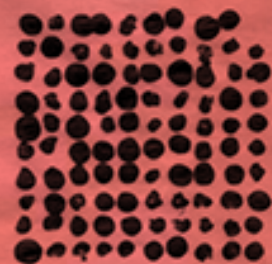
↓
2,930

average overall attendance on

WEDNESDAY

● = 10 people

→ 987



47,721

SERMON PODCASTS
listened to



409

average weekly adult Bible Study attendance
(Sundays & Wednesdays)



25 LifeGroups



258 people in LifeGroups

average college lunch attendance:



5 college age Family Groups



42 Students in Family Groups



111

ELEVATE: 5th-6th grade



258

ECHO: 7th-12th grade

average Wednesday attendance

750

students on trips and retreats

A Story of Mission

After holding the 2nd Ignite India 5K in October 2013 as a junior in high school (a race to raise money for church planting in India), I knew I wanted other high school students to experience the same joy of fundraising and partnering with the global church as I had. I spoke with my youth minister, Luke Green, about getting other students involved in the planning process of the 5K. In the early months of 2014, I met with each individual discipleship group (a small group of students and leaders that we call a 'd-group') to share my testimony and explain what Ignite India 5K was all about. The avenue of d-groups at Christ's Church made it possible for me to share my heart for Ignite India and get other students involved.

With enough students interested, we formed a committee where we are currently in the process of planning the 3rd Ignite India 5K. I want this committee to be a way for students to share ideas and learn more about the church. I want to teach them the in's and out's of how to plan and execute a 5K so that after I graduate, Ignite India 5K can still continue to raise money for the global church in India. The community at Christ's Church has uplifted me in times of doubt in this process and celebrated with me in times of joy. I am thankful for my church family to be present and alive in my life as I walk the story God is so beautifully scripting.

Delaney Melaven

A Story of Worship

This past summer I spent a week in Topeka, Kansas leading worship for a camp of all ages. It was to be a completely different situation from my usual comfort zone; which was cause for stress. The Christ's Church family, though, was supportive and joined me in prayer for the week. My main prayer was that I would not be concerned with myself and what I sounded like, but keep my focus on God and forming relationships with the people I would be surrounded by.

When the week finally came, I was anxious. The music went well, but the pastor and I didn't see eye to eye on the plan for the week. Without much experience in this area, I was uncomfortable working and communicating with this man I didn't know.

We both prayed that night, and God did some awesome things! The rest of the week we both had completely different attitudes. We got along great and spent a few minutes every night in prayer asking God to make us less so that he could be glorified. I had prayed for humility, but God taught me that lesson in different ways than I had expected.

One night one of my cabin girls came up and asked if they could sing a song with me at some point that week. I loved that idea and we planned for them to come up and sing with me the next night. God had orchestrated this beautifully because halfway through the set our speaker system completely quit working. It turned into an incredible moment when 16 young girls came up and helped to lead everyone in the room in worship without a sound system. Time and time again God proved Himself faithful. I am so thankful for the way Christ's Church has not only invested in me and taught me about worship leading, but also for the way the family genuinely cares about my relationship with God, and demonstrates a life dedicated to him. I have been blessed beyond measure.

Thank you!
Madison Smith

Kingdom
Kritters

209

Kingdom Kritters
(birth - pre-K)

average Sunday attendance

232

Kid's Klub worship
(K-4th grade)



A Story of Blessing

Growing up as a pastor's son, God was the focus and center of our family. Today, God is still the fiber of every aspect, every part of my life. Being asked to share how God is moving in my life feels deflating, because it feels unspectacular. My life has not undergone major change or catastrophic grief this year, so the words that come to mind are "common" and "bland". Yet these words do not describe our God. These words do:

During the "Message" series, Mark Christian challenged us to think of ways that God was moving in our hearts. Leaving the service, my wife confided that she had been feeling led to start a clothing ministry for foster families. During this year God has moved through this ministry in ways we previously thought unimaginable.

God has led me to a career "return". Three years ago I embarked on a journey to become a school administrator, but this year God revealed to me the impact I'd had as a classroom teacher and reminded me of my passion for working directly with children. With the prayers and encouragement of the Christ's Church Children's Ministry team, I faithfully accepted a position back in the classroom.

Due to drive time and a growing family, we thought about leaving Christ's Church a few years ago, but the Children's Ministry team has been a wonderful support for my family. They have consistently guided and encouraged my development as a leader and teacher, which has allowed me, in turn, to do the same for others.

God has been moving in my life through the sermon series and relationships I've built at Christ's Church in a deeply personal way. I've realized that we are blessed beyond measure and we must be willing to sacrifice that blessing for God's kingdom. We so easily forget that Jesus truly is enough.

Looking back I know that none of this is "common" or "bland" but life-altering. God has a plan for my life and it is wonderful, even when I don't understand His ways or thinking.

Zach Holden



87

kids attending Foster Parent Night Out



51

volunteers serving at Foster Parent Night Out

† + \$

graduates from Faith & Finances
financial literacy class:

7

254

people assisted through

RIGHT HERE RIGHT NOW

A Story of Loving

Last fall we signed up to become a “friendship family” through the International Student Ministry at Christ’s Church. We weren’t sure what it entailed, but knew God was calling us to open our home and family to an international student. We asked God to allow us to be a blessing to this student and share the Good News of Jesus Christ with him or her. God definitely answered our prayers.

We were nervous to meet Alex, a young man from China. We took him to lunch one Sunday after church. Since Chinese families don’t typically have many children, we feared our family of 7 would overwhelm Alex, but he asked if he could call us Mom and Dad. We loved this and he immediately became a member of our family.

Over the next several months, we got to know Alex better. He weekly came to church with us and to our house for lunch. He taught us more about his hometown and took part in many family activities, including a trip to Galveston, Texas for Thanksgiving.

Although Alex’s English is very good, it is difficult for him to understand the sermons, so we bought him a Bible with Mandarin and English translations. “Dad” often gives Alex Scripture to read to help him understand the Gospel. We shared how sin came into the world, how God loved us so much that He didn’t want us to be separated from Him forever, so He sent His son Jesus. We could tell that the Holy Spirit was convicting Alex and helping him grow in understanding. It was really fun to teach someone who was so eager to learn more about God, and it was amazing to see how God was revealing Himself to Alex.

After a few months, Alex told Dad that he knew he was a sinner and wanted to become a Christian. He was baptized around his birthday in March!

We daily thank God for Alex and for allowing us to be his American family. He has truly been a blessing to us.

Chris & Jeane Roberts



42 families matched with international students
in Friendship Family Program



RETURN

This past year we began a new chapter in the story of this church. The RETURN Challenge is our current 2-year giving challenge to accomplish six new initiatives that God is laying before us. This is the next story in a long line of stories of faithfulness by the members of this church. The characters have changed and the plot has taken all sorts of twists and turns over the years, but the central theme is still the central theme. When God asks this church to respond in faithfulness to what He is doing, we follow his leading and step out in faith!

God gave us a challenge to give at a higher level to accomplish the vision He put in front of us. You can see a detailed view of the giving for the RETURN Challenge on page 31, but the short story is that at the end of this past financial year we were on track with our commitments for the RETURN Challenge!

HERE'S A BRIEF UPDATE ON EACH OF THE SIX INITIATIVES WE SET OUT TO ACCOMPLISH:

1 Plant a new church in Joplin: On April 6, Hope City Church opened its doors in South Joplin! After months of planning, prayer, and preparation, the faithfulness of God was on full display when Hope City held their first worship service. With a great facility to call home and a dedicated team of staff and amazing volunteers, the first few months of life for this young church have been full of joy and wonder at the blessings of God. Through the blessing of God within our first launch, we are excited to see what God might do with church planting in the future.



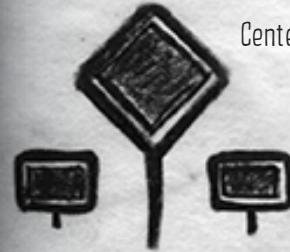
2 Build new student ministry space: Work began in May on a new student building on our campus, and the plan is to be able to use it for programming by the start of next school year. This 21,000 sq. ft. building will be home to our 5th-8th graders. It will form a "mini-campus" with the current Student Ministry Center that will be home for all Student Ministry activities. To see the progress, just drive onto the northeast side of our campus!



3 Develop new missions partners: With your giving, we were able to provide 100% of the funding for the construction of a new school building for Haitian Christian Mission. In addition to this project with HCM, we continue to maximize other existing partnerships across the country and around the world. For more information on all of our missions partners, visit ccochurch.com/missions-partners.



4 Improve the facilities on our campus: This past year we were able to improve our Children's Ministry worship space, improve our WiFi access and internal network system, add security cameras, improve the plumbing system, add a Connection Center in the Student Ministry Center, purchase a floor cleaning machine, enhance our video editing capabilities, and add main lobby window treatments. We still have a list of needs on our campus that we will be tackling in the coming year, including building signage, a remodel of our office space to accommodate our growing staff, parking lot improvements, and numerous other upgrades to our facility and processes.

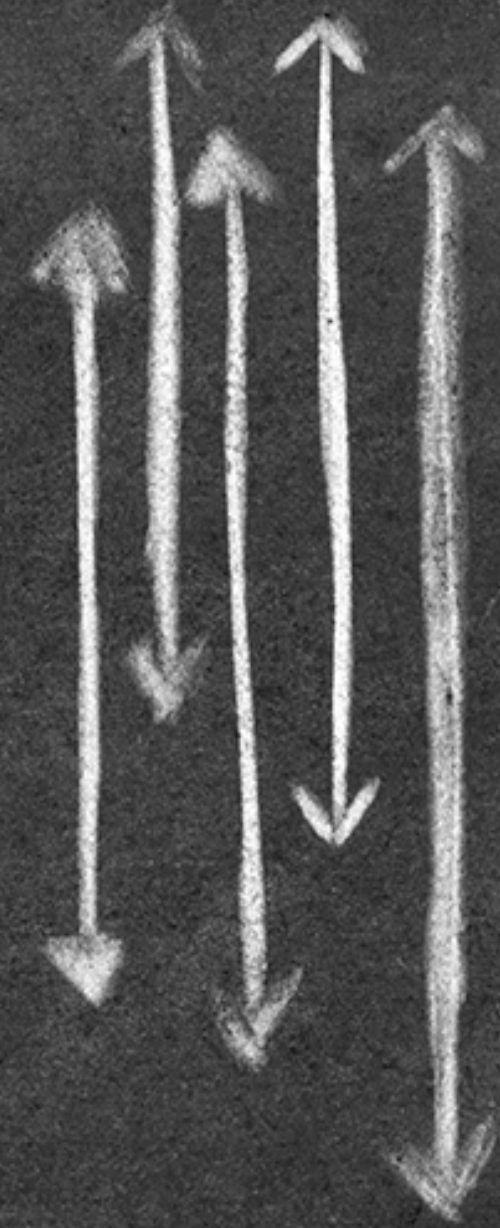
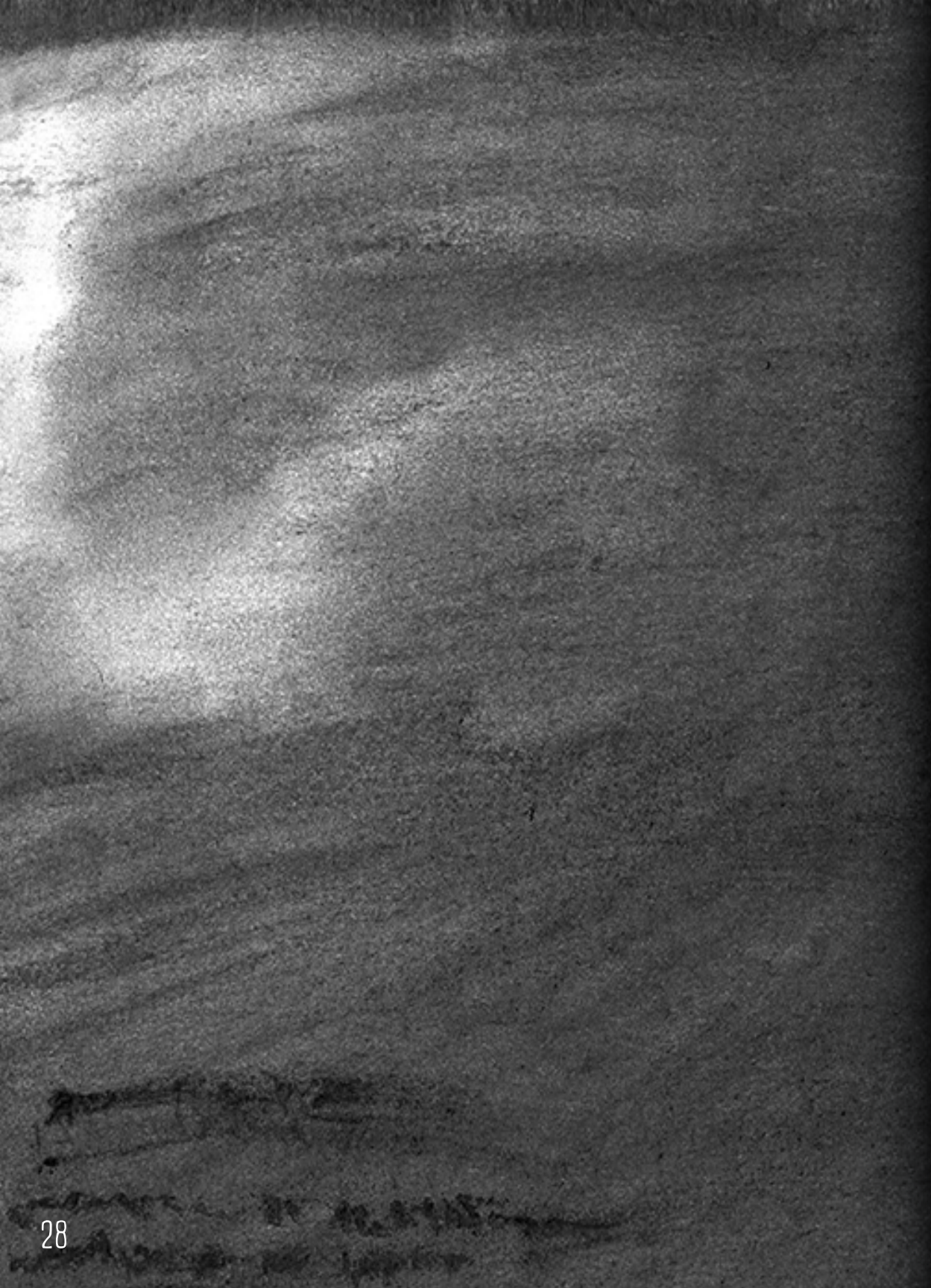


5 Increase our ministry staff: We were able to hire a number of new or replacement staff positions, including a worship minister, high school minister, middle school minister, and support staff in our Children's Ministry and in our Administration office.



6 Reduce current debt: Our plan is to apply all RETURN Challenge giving exceeding \$9 million to reducing our debt. We believe that God is leading us to pay back our building debt faster than required by the bank, and our goal is to do this in addition to funding the other new initiatives.








A look at the financials\$

JULY 2013 - JUNE 2014

Expenses


Outreach Ministries	
Current Missions	374,322
 New Missions Projects	50,444
Right Here Right Now	141,103
Bible College Scholarships	42,924
 Hope City Church Plant	312,296
Community Impact	26,412
	<hr/>
	947,501
Christ's Church Ministries	
Children and Students	144,691
Adult	70,068
Worship	43,048
	<hr/>
	257,807
Personnel, Benefits, Staff Development, & Leadership	
	1,521,277
Property, Insurance, & Administrative	
Utilities, Repairs, Maintenance	179,471
Capital Improvements	382,752
 New Student Building	209,470
Insurance, Office, Administrative	226,716
	<hr/>
	998,409
Debt Service	
	290,911

Total = \$4,015,905

 = a RETURN Challenge initiative

Giving





God's story is His to write. Throughout this book you've gotten a chance to meet some of the characters and get a closer look at some of the plot twists that have made this last year such a rich and beautiful story. Through Christ's Church of Oronogo, God has weaved a story of hope through the truth of the Gospel.

But this is not the end. We look forward, and like the prophet Isaiah, see that God is already beginning a new work where rivers and streams of hope flow like water through the desert. The story is not over. This is not the end. And God continues to author a perfect work within each and every one of us!



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