



HILL COUNTRY  
BIBLE CHURCH



# 20 23 ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year | September 2022 – August 2023

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**Together, our vision is to be a movement of changed lives that impacts greater Austin and beyond for Christ.**

**Hello,**

As I reflect on how boldly and mightily God moved in and through Hill Country Bible Church this fiscal year (September 2022 – August 2023), I'm humbled and honored to have witnessed our vision in action. We are "together, a movement of changed lives that impacts greater Austin and beyond for Christ." As this powerful movement continues to gain traction, I'm increasingly excited to be a part of it, knowing that countless lives will be impacted by Jesus' love.

I'm consistently in awe of and inspired by the faithfulness of this church body. It's a privilege to experience the continued and generous giving of time, talents, and treasure as we live out our passion to see lives transformed. This fiscal year was another exciting one as we continued to build out our lay servant leader teams we call "One Church Teams," more people said "yes" to serving and sharing the love of Jesus on Sunday morning, and we hired the next lead pastor. These are just a few of the highlights you'll read about in this annual report, which celebrates life-change stories, financial generosity, and authentic community all in the name of Jesus.

As you enjoy this annual report, I hope you're reminded and encouraged that as active followers of Jesus you're a part of something much bigger. You're a part of God's good works, which He prepared in advance for us to do.

Looking ahead, I'm incredibly hopeful for how God is going to continue to pave the way for Hill Country Bible Church.

In Christ,

Justin Rasberry



**Justin Rasberry**  
Senior Executive Director





## HILL COUNTRY BIBLE CHURCH

We're a community marked by God's grace and committed to sharing the good news of the gospel with those around us. We believe God accomplishes His purposes through ordinary people like us — individually, through small groups, as we expand locations, as we plant new churches, and through partnerships with like-minded ministries in our city and beyond.







### **Our Mission**

Each of us, together...  
saturating greater Austin  
with the love of Jesus.



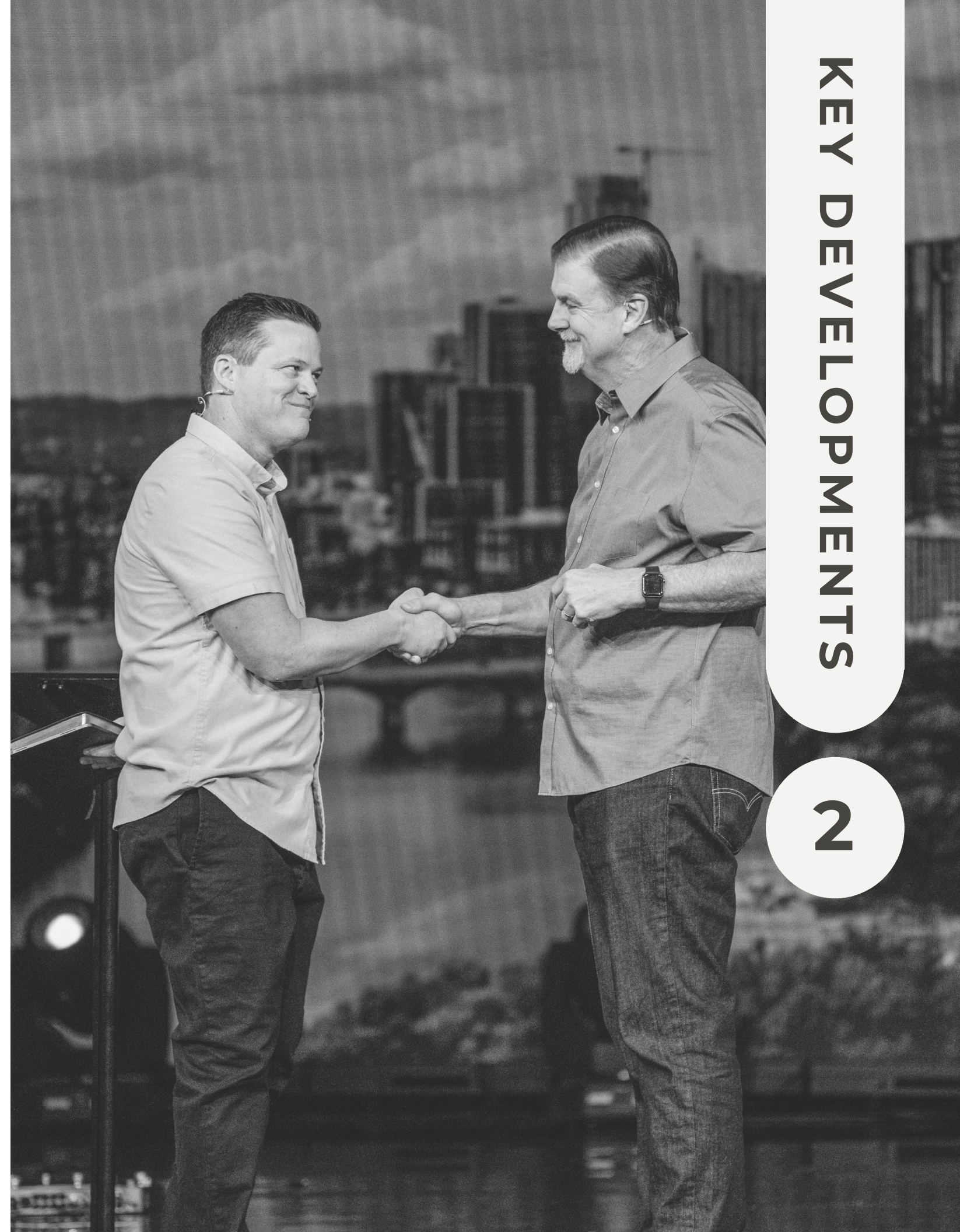
### **Our Vision**

Together, our vision is to be a  
movement of changed lives  
that impacts greater Austin  
and beyond for Christ.



### **Our Core Values**

- Responding to God's Word
- Engaging Generations
- Celebrating Life Change
- Thinking Beyond Ourselves
- Loving Our Neighbors





## OUR NEXT ADVENTURE IN FAITH



During Hill Country's 38 years, we've embarked on many adventures in faith where we've fully trusted God to shepherd and provide for us. This year was no exception. Last fall, we began the search for the next lead pastor of Hill Country Bible Church. After much prayer, fasting, and an extensive interview process, our elders unanimously believed they found the person God called to our church — Tim Kuhl. The elders invited Tim to be our new Lead Pastor, and the members overwhelmingly affirmed the elders' hiring of Tim.

The process that led us to Pastor Tim was deeply rooted in prayer. Our elders, a group of nine men who played an integral role in the process, are committed to leading our church according to 1 Peter 5:2-3. Called to care for God's people and lead them, our elders dedicate countless hours of prayer and service to Hill Country.

As we welcome Tim Kuhl to Hill Country, we thank Tim Hawks and his wife Cindy for consistently modeling how it looks to passionately follow Jesus, love people, and share the gospel. Tim's faithful leadership over the past 35 years will continue to positively influence how we, as a church, seek to saturate Greater Austin — and beyond — with the love of Jesus.



## ONE CHURCH TEAMS

Last year, we refocused our *one-church-in-multiple-locations* model, creating greater unity and living out Ephesians 4. Committed to unleashing people to live out God's calling for them to make an impact, we saw 153 people accept the call to be a part of a One Church Team. These teams lead their respective ministries across all locations to help advance the gospel.

For example, the Church Planting One Church Team is one of the teams making a huge impact in our city and beyond. Having established a church-planter development pipeline, each member of the team has an assigned area of focus in the pipeline that aligns with their personal gifting.

**“** *I believe local churches are the most effective tool at spreading the gospel within a community, and I wanted to be a part of that.*” — Jake Ridley, In response to why he's excited to be a part of his team.





OUR CORE VALUES

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Our core values are at the heart of our ministries, driving our passion for every man, woman, and child to experience the life-changing reality of Jesus.



# RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

The Bible is God's Word, and therefore it is trustworthy as the complete and final authority for our beliefs and actions. We allow it to challenge and shape us through teaching, groups, in our daily devotion, and through ongoing disciple-making.

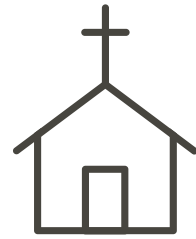
From corporate worship to small groups to men's and women's Bible studies, we offer a variety of ways for people to connect and grow in authentic community. Sunday morning in-person attendance increased this year, as more individuals and families are both attending Hill Country and returning to corporate worship, following a season of attending online.

## Experiencing Corporate Worship & Community



**15,956**

people at Christmas  
Eve & Christmas



**3,632**

average Sunday morning  
in-person attendance



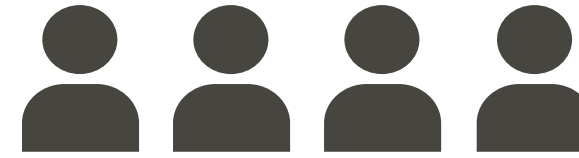
**10,179**

people at  
Easter



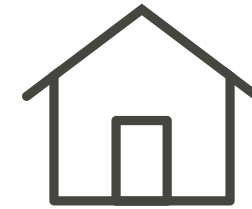
**1,888**

average Sunday  
online attendance



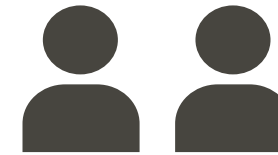
## Making Disciples

**214** people engaged in discipleship groups, with **39** of those being new this year



## Growing Together in Biblical Community

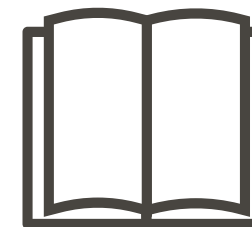
**198** small groups, **367** leaders, and **2,015** members, with **29** new small groups and **75** new leaders trained



## Creating Community Through Dedicated Groups for Men and Women

**600** women in Bible studies

**250** men in Bible studies



## Helping People Grow Spiritually

**403** people explored their next spiritual step in Discover Hill Country, with **320** people making a commitment to the membership covenant

# ENGAGING GENERATIONS

**We think past our individual life stages, extend connections, and build bridges. We are committed to being a church that ministers to all ages, supporting effective ministry to all seasons of life.**

We have a place for people of all ages and stages of life to belong, whether they're in a small group with others in their same season or they're a mature adult serving the next generation.

This is particularly important in a culture that's running fast in the opposite direction of Jesus. One way we do this at Hill Country is with our Courageous Parenting Community, which is committed to being disciples of Christ and raising kids who are disciples of Christ rather than products of the culture. Within this community, Courageous Parents are making the brave, counter-cultural choices and forging the supportive community necessary to grow kids and families who stand out with the love and character of Jesus rather than fit in. In our first wave of Courageous Parents, we have **250** parents (126 family units) and **26** mentor-leaders, making **21** groups. We anticipate adding another **110** parents (55 family units) and **20** more mentor-leaders, making approximately **10** more groups.

*“Having a medium to come together as a group and discuss what's worked in parenting for others who are further along has been so life-giving. Engaging in a community around us as we learn to parent our children in counter-cultural ways is a huge encouragement and instrumental in our success doing so.”*  
— Courageous Parenting participants Brandon and Mary Grey



## Building a Child's Foundation Through Faith, Family, and Fun

**652** servant leaders cared for and shared the gospel with **2,647** kids  
**49** couples and parents made pledges at the Parent Child Dedications

## Preparing Students' Futures Through Faith, Family, and Friends

**123** sixth-grade students and their parents participated in The Plunge  
**808** students attended 512 Night to play games, hear testimonies, and learn about the gospel  
**133** high school students attended Winter Camp  
**137** middle school students participated in ATX Weekend  
**63** high school seniors launched  
**290** students being disciplined through small groups, Bible studies, and prayer groups  
**52** servant leaders and **42** student leaders helping to lead and serve our students  
**724** students participated in Great Adventure

## Offering Counseling & Support

Approximately **1,040** adults and **310** students attended the Holy Sexuality and the Gospel Conference with Christopher Yuan, who provided practical wisdom for anyone in the LGBTQ community, as well as anyone experiencing same-sex attraction.

Provided **3,610** counseling sessions to individuals seeking biblical support and guidance

## Responding to God's Call to Serve

**397** people responded to both God's call and the change in their own life to begin serving on Sunday morning.



## CELEBRATING LIFE CHANGE

God has greatly changed our lives, and we want everyone to experience His life-changing love. We intentionally share the good news of Jesus and help others follow Him, celebrating as God transforms lives.

At Hill Country, we believe that life-change is something to be celebrated. One way we celebrate God at work is through baptisms.

### Publicly Proclaiming Faith Through Baptisms

This year, **178** adults and students took this important, public step in their faith journey.

A story of life-change involves Lori and her sister Kim. Lori had been attending Hill Country online, when she felt a nudge to re-engage and get baptized. Excited about her baptism, she invited her sister Kim to attend church on that day to celebrate. Kim was reluctant to come to church; however, through a series of conversations with Lori she not only came to experience her sister's baptism, but she decided to be baptized that day, too.

### Accepting Jesus as Their Lord and Savior

God moved the hearts of **380** people during Great Adventure, the SXSW event, and Hill Country's Benevolence Ministry, leading them to place their faith in Jesus.

## THINKING BEYOND OURSELVES

We are passionate about seeing the gospel saturate our families, our communities, and our world. We adapt ourselves to the needs around us — looking for opportunities to stretch ourselves, giving generously, and yielding to God's desire to expand. We believe the good news of Jesus is meant to be shared both locally and around the world.

### Sharing the Love of Jesus Through Strategic Events

**3,500** people attended a SXSW event where Hill Country engaged with teams on the ground, served on the Advisory Committee, provided financial support, and partnered with churches in Greater Austin through prayer. We're celebrating the **100** gospel decisions.

### Saturating Greater Austin Through Online Engagement

**249,012** total prayers recorded for neighbors, with **523** gospel shares in the BLESS Every Home platform

Roughly **7.6 million** virtual invitations to learn about Hill Country

### Reaching the Nations for Christ

We're committed to equipping and deploying the people of Hill Country to personally engage in the Great Commission to make disciples of all nations, focusing on the unreached.

**\$716,072** given to global mission partners

Partnered with **two** new missionary families (1 Asia, 1 Europe)

**192** individuals participated in short-term mission trips, almost triple last year





# LOVING OUR NEIGHBORS

Every person matters to God. We invest in the people around us in the places that we live, work, and play — living out God’s design to love our neighbors and embracing all generations, cultures, and ethnicities.

## Sharing the Gospel Through Great Adventure

Every summer, we put on Great Adventure — a series of events and activities for everyone to grow spiritually and share the good news of Jesus in our community and around the world.

**303** students at Boot Camp

**3,796** children and students attended BYBC, Special Needs Bible Clubs, and Xtreme Adventure

**124** leaders and participants on GO Mission Trips

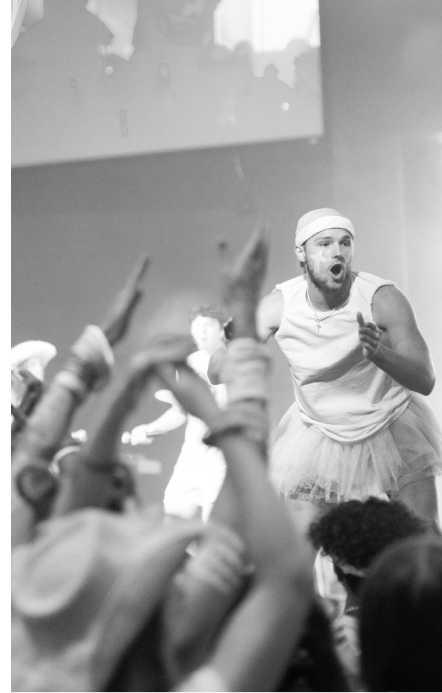
**3,000** people attended SummerFest

**727** adult servant leaders, with **179** of those serving for the first time at Great Adventure

**4,144** people heard the gospel

**259** salvations

Hill Country’s students dedicated their time and energy this summer to pour into the next generation by sharing the gospel, an experience that impacted both the students and the participants.



*“A kid went over to hear more after the gospel lesson and then accepted Jesus into their heart for the first time!”*



*“Our team truly has the heart of Jesus for these children!”*



*“BackYard Bible Clubs has been such a rewarding experience. It’s such a joy to see God at work in the younger generation, which gives us hope!”*



# LOVING OUR NEIGHBORS CONT'D.

## Impacting Our Community Through Education Initiatives

With schools in every local neighborhood, we have a tremendous opportunity to reach many neighbors in the name of Jesus by serving the students and families in these schools.

Through Education Connection, **186** literacy partners from our church are reading weekly with **558** students in over five districts in our community.

This year, **3,213** LISD students were given new backpacks filled with school supplies through Backpack Attack. More than **100** servant leaders were involved in planning, unpacking, assembling, and distributing backpacks.

*“Three out of my four students who had a weekly literacy partner experienced positive growth. One grew more confident as a reader; one saw a huge increase in reading ability; and one was provided with an outlet for communication. Our literacy partners are invaluable to our school!”*

## Ministering to Those with Spiritual and Physical Needs

God calls us to minister to the least of these and allows our relationships with others to be an avenue to help meet their spiritual and physical needs.

Through our partnership with Reveal Resource Center, we helped provide food to **22,178** families and **83,902** individuals, and diapers to **7,175** families, with more than **100** servant leaders serving with this ministry.

In partnership with two other local churches, servant leaders from our church family came together for a Feed My Starving Children initiative to assemble **272,000** packs of food to feed **746** children in Guatemala for the year.

**276** families and children were given Christmas gifts through Tree of Lights.

Our Benevolence Ministry had **290** appointments, gifted **\$424,113** to individuals and benevolent ministries, and led **three** people to faith in Jesus.

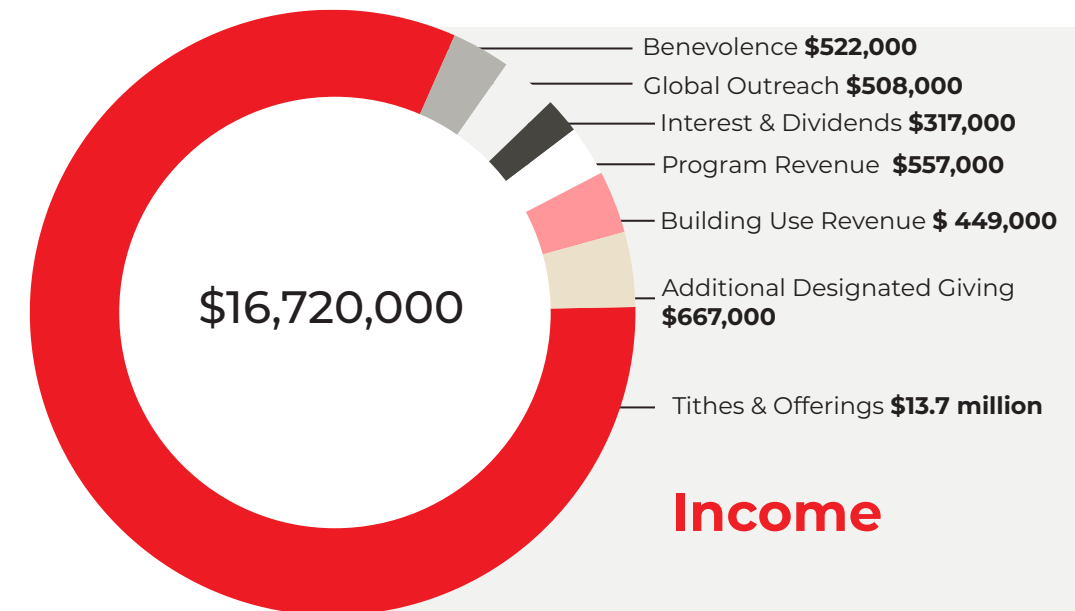






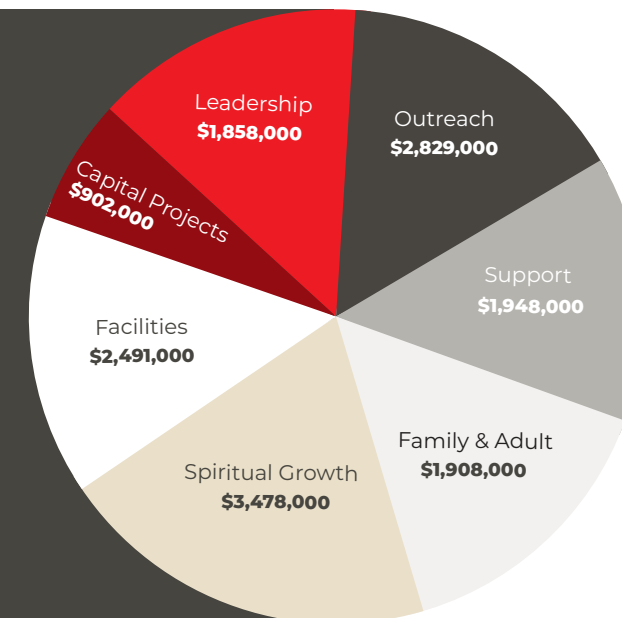
## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

**Faithful and Generous Giving**  
 Our church family's continued and consistent generous giving allows us to both share the love of Jesus in greater Austin and beyond and to operate debt-free.



## Expenses

Total: \$15,414,000



**Financial Stewardship**  
 Hill Country is committed to stewarding well the resources God has entrusted to us. We are led by a board of elders who oversee our budget and ensure we are held to high standards of fiscal responsibility. Every year, we voluntarily submit our finances to an independent company for review.



Hill Country is a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability. For more information, please visit [efca.org](http://efca.org).





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