

# Chase Oaks Church

Annual Report 2009

**INSIDE:**

- A Look Back
- Financial Peace
- Financial Report
- A Look Ahead



# A Look Back

By Jeff Jones, Senior Pastor



Here at Chase Oaks, we value our God-given mission to bridge people to a growing life in Christ. We do this through creating environments where people can *Come As They Are, Be Transformed*, and then *Make a Difference*. Through your generosity of time, abilities, and money, this year God has continued to work in incredible ways.

## ***Come As You Are:***

- Over 3,000 guests attended Chase Oaks this year and experienced God and church in a new way.
- More than 1,000 new people call Chase Oaks home.
- Over 800 children came to VBX this summer and over 100 of those made a decision to trust in Christ!

## ***Be Transformed:***

- Our student ministry has doubled in size and impact as we launched small groups (D-Groups) for junior high and high school students.
- The number of LifeGroups has topped the century mark as we help people get connected in relationships that will strengthen their lives and our communities as they serve together.
- Over 300 people attended *Financial Peace University* and have gotten healthier financially.
- People in tough situations have been assisted through our *Love Fund*, *Celebrate Recovery* and the new *Life Hurts God Heals* program for teenagers.

## ***Make a Difference:***

- 2,000 people were out in our community serving through efforts like *ShareFest* and in our LifeGroups who continue to change the community around us through their bridge-building efforts.



- With formal partnerships in 4 area schools, we are a support and catalyst to having hundreds of mentors investing in the lives of students.
- In Ethiopia, we currently support 68 church planters and are in the process of launching a school there that will serve as a micro-enterprise and a catalyst to bring real and lasting change to an impoverished area of the world.
- In New Orleans, we're helping two former interns of Chase Oaks start a new church plant in the area where we have been doing mission trips since Katrina.



### ***Generosity of Life:***

These past 12 months saw an economic collapse that many people never saw coming, but of course was no surprise to the One we serve. Though these months have been difficult, they've also been profoundly good. I've sensed more humility and spiritual openness than ever in my 20 years of living in North Dallas, and amazingly many people's giving has increased as they've paid more attention to their true priorities. I know the crisis has caused us to pray and depend on God much more, and God has provided.

Thanks to your *generosity of life*, our revenue exceeded our budget by \$115,831 for the fiscal year ending July 31. I pray you will be encouraged by the *Financial Report* found on page 6.

Please enjoy this report and thank God for what He has done through the faithfulness of so many of you. And if you haven't started investing yet, get on board...we hate to have you miss out...there is a lot more to come!

# Finding Financial Peace

By Cheryl Coleman, Communications Director

After experiencing a string of financial hardships, including major house repairs and mounting medical bills, regular attendees Chris and Kathy Kersey tried to make ends meet by doing what sounded like a good thing — taking out a home equity loan. However, the harsh reality set in when they looked at their monthly statement several payments into the loan, and noticed the balance was still the same as when they started. “It was frightening,” said Kathy. “We wish we had known that taking out a home equity loan was NOT a good thing!” After learning about the renowned Dave Ramsey course, *Financial Peace University*, during one of the church service announcements, the Kerseys made the decision to sign up and give it a try.

After implementing some of the practical guidelines outlined in Ramsey’s course, they began to see a significant impact to their bottom line. Historically, they had been “savers” . . . saving for their children’s college fund, retirement, etc. However, Ramsey maintains that it makes no sense to save when you have debt. So the Kerseys changed their way of thinking and reduced the college savings to a minimum. They stopped many of their other savings too, and even sold an investment fund that was flat. In doing so, within months they ended their credit card debt and paid off their van a year early!

They also changed their spending habits. Shopping for groceries with cash only and on a strict budget was time-consuming at first, but well-worth the savings in the end. Kathy became an avid coupon shopper and planned her trips to the store each week. She also commented, “I became creative in my closet and began to mix and match clothes that I had never thought of before, and people were actually complimenting me on the outfits.” For Chris, all of these changes brought both a financial and a spiritual cleansing. He felt a burden lifted and in turn began to have the desire to get back in shape physically as well.

Dave Ramsey’s

**Financial** *Peace*  
UNIVERSITY

*Financial Peace University* also helped to change their outlook on giving. While Chris and Kathy had at one time been faithful givers at another church, they stopped giving because of a bad experience there. Once they started attending Chase Oaks in early 2008 and heard about Chase Oaks' fair trade products, like the *La Mai* coffee and *Trade as One* consumables, they began to feel good again about giving to a church that desired to make a difference around the world through giving.



Chris and Kathy are now committed to giving, and their tithe is the first thing that goes out of their budget each month. They encourage their children as well in this regard by helping them to have a financial plan for spending, saving and giving. After going through *FPU*, the Kerseys are bold advocates of the program and have invited and encouraged their friends to attend as well. Kathy commented, "There is so much great information in the program, that we're attending it again ourselves just to keep refreshed."

*Are you looking for financial peace? Sign up for the next session of FPU in the Spring of 2010. Learn more at [www.chaseoaks.org](http://www.chaseoaks.org).*

# 2008-2009 Financial Report

**Giving for 2008-2009:** \$5,855,265  
**Budget for 2008-2009:** \$5,739,434\*\*

\*\* This is after the 8% cut

Thank you for your generosity this year to transform lives through Chase Oaks. In spite of a spiraling economy, your generosity along with good stewardship (a mid-year 8% budget cut) allowed us to meet the financial needs of the ministry for the 2008-2009 fiscal year. As God continues to grow the church, the needs and opportunities continue to grow which require resources. Your continued generosity will be vital for us to fulfill the mission God has given us in this next year.

**Budget for 2009-2010:** \$5,900,000

This year's budget is a little less than \$6 million, and the increases are a reflection of the growing number of adults, students, children, needs in each ministry, facilities, and our growing efforts in our community and around the world. Our staffing is remaining flat for the second consecutive year, which continues to stress the importance of key leaders throughout our church. We know God has great things ahead, and the investment we will all make with our resources this year will result in lives being changed, and community continuing to be transformed, and more people having a relationship with Jesus Christ. Thank you so much for your investment.



# A Look Ahead

By Jeff Jones, Senior Pastor

This next year brings an incredible air of enthusiasm as we try to catch up with what God is doing.

We will continue to work hard at creating a *Come As You Are* environment that is relevant and engaging for adults, students, and children. One big challenge is space constraints, so we are working creatively to address these challenges with a 4th service some time in 2010 and other innovative solutions until we can add to our campus.

We are placing a renewed emphasis on creating environments where people will *Be Transformed*. This year we are a pilot church for a whole new approach to discipleship called, “Monvee.” Look for the launch of *Monvee* at the beginning of 2010. Along with this, marriages and relationships continue to rise to the top of the needs’ list, and we will be focused on helping everyone at Chase Oaks live into healthy marriages and relationships. Much of this will happen through our small-group system, LifeGroups; in addition we’ll be starting *Sacred Marriage* groups again in the Spring, and we’re also planning a marriage conference in 2010.

*Making a Difference* is a big part of who we are at Chase Oaks, and there are so many needs and opportunities. We will stay focused globally on Ethiopia with the launch of a new school and continued leadership development of the 68 church plants. This year will also

(continued on next page)



be an exploration year as we look even beyond Ethiopia to see what God has next as an area of the world where we can make a deep and lasting impact.

Locally, we will continue to strengthen our partnerships through our LifeGroup bridges and make a lasting impact on the next generation. We want to be able to respond to every need a child or student has in our community. This has started with our school partnerships and mentoring, but this is just the beginning as we look forward to expanding and deepening our impact in the community.

Another thing we are excited about pursuing this year is partnering with other churches in our community to make an even more lasting impact. This is why we will be a part of events like *God of the City*, the *Justice Revival*, and our day of service (known as *ShareFest*) in a bigger and more collaborative way.

We've only just begun to live into our vision where God uses us to:

- Touch the 720,000 people in our community.
- Swing public opinion of "Church" in our area to a God-honoring place.
- Impact the next generation and leave our community a different, better place.
- Bring relief, justice, and compassion to the biggest needs both here and around the world.

Thank you for investing your time, energy, and finances to help God's mission be fulfilled in greater ways through Chase Oaks. It is a great privilege to be a part of what God is up to and to invest in things that will make a difference eternally. Your generosity of life is changing the world!