

helping people in and beyond our community connect with God and others



2008

annual report



CHORUS
CHURCH

How did Chorus do in 2008?

Dear Chorus Family,

2008 has been a very good year, and this booklet represents the highlights of our ministry this past year. You'll find reports from each staff member, lots of accomplishments, some numbers, and even a few fun things that perhaps you didn't know about our ministry (how many cups of coffee did we brew in 2008??). Everything in this report points to our purpose of helping people connect with God and others through Jesus. The bottom line is changed lives, and I'm thrilled that God is truly changing people here.

I want to take a moment and say a warm and heartfelt "thank you" for your role here. Chorus wouldn't be what it is without your time, faithfulness, love, and yes, financial support. I often hear the same refrain about you all, and it goes something like this... "I love the people here. They're so warm and real." Yep, I agree and so I'll say it again...

WAY TO GO!!!

Dave Reynolds
Lead Pastor
Chorus Church



Leadership

Highlights from Pastor Dave's ministry in 2008:

Equipped and led ministry staff and teams.

Pastor Dave studied for, prepared and delivered over 93 messages from God's Word for two services in 2008!

Began a *Teaching the Bible for Today* class.

Met monthly with team of Elders.

Met weekly with Staff members.

Hosted a staff appreciation dinner.

Hosted quarterly newcomer's desserts.

Hosted Team Huddles.

Provided musical leadership and played as part of the band on a regular basis.

Led worship regularly and wrote several new songs.

Provided strategic leadership for *Southwest Church Planting*.

Mentored a child weekly with *Kids Hope*.

Developed a new growth and outreach strategy for Chorus.

Mentored several men in ministry.

Researched Chorus office opportunities, reviewed contracts, negotiated with owners.

Met with Christian and Missionary Alliance leadership.

Developed yearly budget in consultation with Elders and staff.

Interviewed and hired new staff.

Oversaw the launching of *Kids Hope* mentoring program with La Vorna Elementary School.

"Dave, there is real power in your life example. You individually, as well as your marriage, and your family life have a strong impact in a world that is hungry for hope."
— Elder Board, from Pastor Dave's annual review

"The way Dave picks a topic and reads it, explains it, and how it applies to our lives, is the first time I feel like I understood what is being said. It feels so great, like a door opening for me." — Valerie

Financial

Thanks for your faithful giving in 2008! We have been able to reach out to our community, give sacrificially to missions in Mexico and Australia, support this ministry, pay rent on our facility, and much more! This past year, we equipped people in the area of finances through a Sunday message series, a new *God's Economy Class*, and *Crown Financial Groups*. Here is a quick breakdown of the past two years. Note that our giving has grown. Way to go, and keep it up! Many thanks to our Bookkeeper, Tiffany Axene and Business Administrator, Dave Axene for their faithful service!

Income	2008	2007	Expenses	2008	2007
Congregational Offerings	\$436,600	\$390,400	Staff and Operating	\$367,800	\$313,300
Missions Support	\$44,200	\$11,200	Property and Rent	\$90,200	\$85,500
Additional Support	\$49,000	\$73,300	Missions/Outreach	\$45,200	\$43,600
Total	\$529,800	\$474,900	Groups, Youth, USkids	\$31,300	\$28,900
			Total	\$534,500	\$471,300

In 2009, we will launch our "Triple Ten Seventy" Budget, which we will give 10% to community outreach, 10% to missions, 10% to savings, and 70% for ministry expenses. Our goal is 40,000 per month in offerings, with \$4,000 each to Community Outreach, Missions, and Savings, and \$32,000 for operating expenses.

Connections



The welcoming ministry saw great progress in 2008. Jeannette Jones organized our *Holy Grounds Café* team, greeters and began our *Chorus Cookies* ministry. Pastor John Cappelen was hired in March and began to activate an overall "Connection Ministry" to help connect newcomers to our community and help them find their part at Chorus. Our wonderful team of welcome makes a great first impression!

Highlights:

Continued and improved guest follow-up with a letter, a phone call, email and *Chorus Cookies*. Since August 08 approximately 32 guests received Connection Ministry follow-up.

Curbside greeters and worship center ushers continued to welcome and connect guests. In addition, over a 100 welcome gifts were given to Sunday guests this year.

Holy Ground Café continued to provide welcoming hospitality and new refreshments options were introduced.

Connection Café was begun to welcome newcomers monthly with a casual lunch. 27 new guests have attended since September.

Newcomer's Dessert was restarted in the Fall. 38 have attended this quarter.

Discovery Classes were developed to help people learn the basics of the faith and connect to Chorus.

God's Economy class began in the Fall to help people manage their finances and connect to Chorus.

A new database was installed, Becky Gaines was hired as Database Manager and our follow-up process has greatly improved.

Jim Boyd began a pictorial directory to help us put names and faces together.

Connection
.....**Café**

"I have to say that I've been part of church most of my life but I have to date never experienced such an efficient, thoughtful, loving follow up to visitation in any church."—Laura

Children

Our USkids ministry reaches out with God's love to infants through 5th grade. *Providing a safe, attentive, fun, educational environment (SAFE)*, USkids serves an average of over 80 children and their families each Sunday. Our Children's Director, Sue Bushrow, and a team of faithful and enthusiastic volunteers makes this possible!

Highlights:

This year *The Groove* (4th & 5th) has developed under the leadership of two couples. Functioning as a youth group, The Groove has had such events as pizza parties and cosmic bowling and has developed a healthy place of belonging for these older "tweens".

35 kids went to our *Super Summer Camp* and several decided for the first time to follow Jesus.

An amazing group of committed volunteers in the USKids program (45-60)

Our *Prekinders* class (4 & 5yr olds) saw significant growth!

Our High School students led much of our *Summer Sizzlers* program this year and did a wonderful job!

We are averaging over 80 on a Sunday. Kids are bringing their friends!

Hosted several teacher training/appreciation events for our awesome volunteers.



"We have twins and the nursery was great... I think we have found our new church."

Youth

Youth ministry had a banner year with the launching of separate middle school and high school groups meeting on Tuesday nights for "411". Under the leadership of our Associate Pastor Eric Beeman, High School leaders Josh & Tiffany Axene, Middle School leaders Gary & Amy Pickard, and tireless adult volunteers, this weekly meeting was a significant leadership development experience *to help students find and fulfill their purpose in Christ.*

For the first time ever, over 30 students attended Winter Camps; Middle School attending Hume Lake and High School attending Ponderosa Pines.

Our first *Mexico Mission Youth Trip* led by Josh Axene and Ben Gaines saw 27 students and adults spend a week assisting an orphanage and migrant village. Six months of preparation and support raising yielded thousands of dollars in donations and a well prepared team. The money raised not only helped fund the trip, but also helped build an additional wing onto the orphanage and a home for a struggling family in the local village.

Our great summer camp tradition moved to Perris Lake this year. *Break Free Summer Camp* provided wake boarding, waterskiing and other watersports with a spiritual emphasis for over 40 students & adults.



Middle School's *Journey through Revelation Night* led by Gary Pickard brought out the creative efforts of our students this Halloween and was a key event where they could bring their friends. Middle School also continued to provide an interactive Bible study on Sunday mornings.

"I love that they (our leaders) are letting us into their home every week and decorate their whole garage for us so we can learn about God. It's fun."—Grant

SWCP

From our inception, the vision at Chorus has always included the formation of a church planting training center similar to the one Pastor Dave began in Vancouver, WA (Northwest Church Planting). *Southwest Church Planting* was launched this year! Under the Direction of Jim Boyd, SWCP (www.swcp.tv), has become reality. SWCP is hosted by Chorus Church in partnership with the Christian and Missionary Alliance, and seeks to *draw, develop and deploy church planters to start healthy, reproductive churches.* Monthly forums, with a free lunch, provide practical help and encouragement for church planters and their spouses. Personality and gift assessments assist leaders as they discern if church planting is God's call on their life. Mentoring opportunities support the leaders as they plant their church. A team of faithful Chorus volunteers serve in a variety of ways including welcoming, worship music, wives ministry, and administration.

Highlights:

This year 6 Church Planters Forums were held with over 160 leaders involved in SWCP.

9 new southern California churches were started with the support of SWCP.



Community Service



Chorus desires to be a church that "gives itself away" to this community. This year we moved ahead in with several new projects:

Kids Hope USA

Chorus Church is a proud *Kids Hope* partner at La Vorgna Elementary School. One child, one hour is the heart of Kids Hope. One caring adult mentoring an at-risk child one hour every week. Over 19 mentors from Chorus met weekly with 19 students. Teri Davis, Kid's Hope Director, heard over and over from teachers how they saw an immediate improvement in their students!

Adopt-a-Highway Project

Chorus Church has officially joined the *Adopt-A-Highway* program. Kevin Seay and Richard Ponce led a team of volunteers every 3rd Saturday to clean up our highway and serve our community.

Angel Food Ministries

In efforts to bring practical help during these challenging economic times, Chorus Church with the help of leaders Diane and Howard Boucher, began a partnership with *Angel Food Ministries*. All families are eligible to participate in this grocery relief program that's helping many stretch their food dollars.

Mexico Mission

Mexico Mission was launched this summer as 20 adults and high school students from Chorus spent a week assisting an orphanage in a Oaxacan Indian Migrant Village, just South of Ensenada. Josh Axene and Ben Gaines lead this enthusiastic team of volunteers on this life-changing experience!



Groups

Groups exist to *help people connect with God and others by providing a supportive community for personal and spiritual growth.* Under the direction of Elena Reynolds, our Groups Ministry began 2008 with a flurry of new groups. 10 new groups were started,



including a weight-loss group, a sexual-abuse recovery group, a marriage and a parenting group—all geared at community outreach. A major shift toward reproducible curriculum enhanced the quality, size and start-up of groups. The groups ministry provided training and support for groups with at present 89 adults involved in 9 groups. Groups continued to provide for their members loving care and support through many life changes including births/adoptions, marriage, illness (including one kidney donor and transplant!), job loss, divorce, financial crisis and grief. Hats off to our incredible group leaders!

Women's ministry hosted their second retreat with over a total of 60 women. *Men's ministry* with Bradley Waldrop at the helm, continued to host a monthly gathering while Women's ministry focused on discipleship in the women's groups and welcomed Sue Cappelen in as our new Women's Ministry Director. Mommies Café Playgroup was restarted for moms of preschoolers in the last part of the year with great success.

"My groups have provided a great deal of support during times of great need for me, connected me to people I might not have otherwise met, fostered some close relationships and made me feel even more at home at Chorus."—Andi

Communications

Communications at Chorus seeks *to inform and inspire people to connect with God and others*. Communications advanced in several foundational areas in 2008 under the direction of Elena Reynolds and several key artists, designers and technical experts. 2008 saw additional volunteers added, streamlining of repetitive tasks, improved information management, an updated website and better branding. More focus was given to individual invitations and personal contacts, versus direct mailing, as the most effective form of publicity.

Highlights:

Graphic support for 6 message series: *Clean n' Clear, Fear Knot, Sweet!, One Prayer, Love Revolution, Jump!*

Printwork and marketing for Fall and Spring Kick-offs, Christmas and Easter outreaches.

Printwork support for Mexico Missions, Men's & Women's Ministries, groups, youth, *USkids* and Connections Ministry.

52 unique weekly programs and message notes were printed and continued to help provide information and inspiration for our Sunday guests.

Better community signage brought many families to Chorus in 2008.

The Information Center organization improved by consolidating information into categories and templates.

New website design by Jessica Galbreth (copia-designs.com) improved our internet presence and helped to streamline information.

Transferred database information to our new Fellowship Technologies, LP church management system and improved our data entry and care of individuals. Becky Gaines was hired as Database Manager.

Our new Online Calendar and a new e-newsletter format provided timely information of opportunities.



"Who would've thought salvation could be delivered right to your mailbox?"

Among the ads and bills, there I found my salvation."

—Janis

Outreach

Our purpose at Chorus is to help people in our community connect and others with God through Jesus. We desire to reach out to our friends, neighbors and community with God's love. Our Sunday services are designed to offer every person real hope through Jesus Christ. In 2008 we continued to host services, events, and programs aimed at outreach and in 2009 we will continue to build bridges of service and outreach to our community. Many of the areas listed in this Annual Report have highlighted the outreach efforts of each ministry.



Of special note in 2008:

- 30 expressed faith in Jesus through baptism!! (This is more than one person every other week!)
- Average Sunday attendance: 310
- Number of people who call Chorus home: Over 400
- Average new families visiting per month: 5
- Launched *Southwest Church Planting* and now train and encourage over 50 leaders.
- Launched *Kids Hope* at LVES and serving 19 students and their families.



Worship

The Worship Ministry's purpose is *help people connect to God by providing an inspiring and distraction free environment where God can be praised. We desire to present to God a powerful and relevant offering and encourage others to join in.* Under Pastor Eric Beeman's leadership we saw the worship ministry continue to develop in 2008.

Highlights:

- Hosted 3 all-worship team gatherings to build unity and provide vision.
- Incorporated the "Planning Center Online" database/scheduling system.
- Participated in city-wide nights of worship "One Voice" and "Gospel Fest '08".
- Developed new multi-track recording system.
- Introduced new Sermonplayer podcasting software.
- The Tech Team developed under Andi & Bradley Waldrop's leadership.
- Developed 2 core worship bands that are becoming tighter every week.
- Introduced new micing techniques for guitars/drums/etc..
- Introduced over 50 new worship songs.
- Incorporated more musical illustrations to support the teaching.
- Worked with key leaders in developing our Youth Band.
- Provided musical support to small groups and youth ministries.



"Every Sunday when I hear the band sing and Dave talk about Jesus, it always gives me chills. This church is a great one and I feel that the people really just want to love God and help others to love." —Heather

OUR PURPOSE

Helping people connect with God and each other through a growing, giving relationship with Jesus Christ.

OUR VALUES

ONE SONG

Jesus is our Leader; His good news is our lyric.

MANY VOICES

Every person has an instrumental part.

TOUR

We take Jesus' message to our community through service.

SOLO

We each take personal responsibility for our own spiritual growth.

THE AUDIENCE

We remember the seeker in the crowd.

HARMONY

We're better together. We encourage groups and relationships.

PRACTICE

We do our best with what we have.

REST

We maintain and encourage margin in our lives.

CHEER

We value and encourage fun! Laughter unlocks the heart.

SET LIST

The music rocks. The message relates. The people are real.

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CHORUS BY THE NUMBERS IN 2008

30 people baptized

93 messages delivered by Pastor Dave

\$44,000 given to foreign missions

6,240 cups of coffee perked

6,760 programs printed

1,440 feet of gaffers/duct tape used

35 kids went to summer camp

27 students and adults served Mexico Mission

\$32,400 rent paid to TVUSD

65 large boxes of Goldfish crackers eaten

1,500 water balloons were filled for Summer Sizzlers

1,040 volunteers hours donated to USKids

7,800 chairs set up and torn down

1,618+ songs played by our worship ministry

12+ miles road crew boxes pushed

4 years of ministry since Chorus started

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works,
which God prepared in advance for us to do."
Ephesians 2:10

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