



## *preacher's podium*

“... take the time to click on the Transforming Church Index box for instructions on taking the TCI.”

There are so many things I'd like to visit about with you today. Let me start by addressing two areas in one. Our Kingsway Web site has been totally reworked and the team that has worked on it has done an incredible job. So if you haven't yet checked it out, let me encourage you to do so. For one thing, you can get acquainted with every member of our staff as well as all our elders. While you're checking out all the new features, take the time to click on the Transforming Church Index (TCI) box for instructions on taking the TCI. We need every Kingsway member and attender, 15 years old and older, to participate. It shouldn't take you more than fifteen or twenty minutes. This is a totally different survey than the Spiritual Life Survey that we all took a year ago.

That survey was of tremendous help in affirming our spiritual strengths as a congregation and exposing our deficiencies. As a result we were able to aggressively address some of those deficiencies over the past several months.

The Transforming Church Index is designed to help us understand the makeup of our church and how we can better minister not only to our present membership, but to strategize for the future in more effectively reaching our community for Christ. With the transition in leadership from myself to Matt, it is the perfect time to rethink what we are doing, build on what we are doing right, and lay the groundwork for doing even better. I want you to know that I am wholeheartedly on board with this approach. I've had the privilege of serving as your pastor for nearly 36 years, and my hope is that Matt will enjoy a lengthy and impactful ministry. However, we get only one shot at doing this transition right. So far it is hard to imagine things going any better. Your participation in this survey will be of tremendous benefit in helping us transition well.

If you were here this weekend you heard me report on our missionaries in Haiti. Etienne Prophete, Jonas Dorlus, Monas Files, Destine Pierre, and their families survived without injury. However, one pastor associated with Haitian Christian Mission (HCM), Crispen Pierre, was killed, as was the 19-year-old daughter of Pastor Brousseau. The HCM high school building was destroyed, the elementary school will have to be rebuilt, the large church in Port-au-Prince was seriously damaged, as was the village church in Drouillard. No doubt many other village churches were seriously damaged as well. The Fonds-Parisien campus of HCM which includes a hospital is currently hosting hundreds of the hungry, the wounded, and the homeless. Etienne closed his most recent e-mail to me by saying, “With the KINGDOM in mind, the best is yet to come.” Knowing the faithfulness of the Christian community in

Haiti and the dedication of the pastors associated with HCM, I believe that is true.

What can we do? We can pray and we can give. You can actually add to the tens of thousands of dollars already given by Kingsway people by giving online on our Web site or pick up a Haiti Relief envelope from the Church Office, enclose your gift, and place it in the offering plate next weekend.

I want to once again thank you for your prayers for me in regard to the last couple of weeks in India. Whenever I work with CARE India, I know that things are going to be well organized, and I also know I won't be wasting any time. Let me repeat the brief summary of the trip I gave this past weekend. I led two pastors' conferences; one at the Girls' Home in GVR Palem, and a mini-conference in Kinigiri. There were over 100 pastors and most of their wives present at the first, and around 30 at the second. I never cease to be amazed at how eager these Indian pastors are to learn, sitting cross-legged on a concrete floor hour after hour each day, taking voluminous notes, eager to apply what they've learned to their ministries. I also preached for a two-night evangelistic crusade in Kinigiri. Held right in the middle of town, a crowd of 700 to 1,000 attended each night with approximately 160 making decisions for Christ. I had the privilege of personally baptizing 55 people, and others will be baptized as they are taught further by the local pastors. I also had the honor of preaching the dedication service for a new church building that was funded by James and Ginger Boyce. There were other speaking assignments including services in both village and city churches. We also met with the latest class of women in the tailoring school in Chennai. Perhaps the most enjoyable part of the trip was just hanging out and having fun with the boys and girls of the children's homes, especially Nandini, the precious little girl that Jan and I sponsor. Remember, it was your gifts that made possible these homes. They house an incredible group of kids, and the joy of the Lord is found in abundance there.

My daughter-in-law, Lise, and her friend Laura Dingman, both of Indian Creek Christian Church, accompanied me on this trip. While it was their first experience in cross-cultural missionary work, they did an outstanding job. They led a seminar for pastors' wives, spent a great deal of time teaching, working with and enjoying the kids, and led a village-wide Vacation Bible School which was an incredible success. God kept us from danger and from illness. The journey was long and exhausting, but the rewards were great.

Yours for a soul-winning church,

John



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## ***decisions for Christ***

- Tom, Nancy and Tyler Morris were baptized and placed membership.
- Donna Groce and Steve and Jeanette Roetter transferred their membership to Kingsway.
- Brian Higgins and Rebecca Smith came forward to rededicate their lives to Jesus.

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## ***glimpse of growth***

Preaching and Praise	2,269	<u>General Offering</u>	
Bible School	622	Weekly Budget	\$98,731
Decisions	8	Given this Week	\$71,028
New Members YTD	33	Haiti Relief	\$13,380
Surge	71		
QUEST	56		

To give online, please visit [kingswaychurch.org/giving](http://kingswaychurch.org/giving).