

# GATHERING CHURCH



Thank You.

I want to thank all of you who have provided financial support for the Gathering Church this past year. I am inspired and humbled to see how God is birthing a new church among us, gathering people who want to learn how to love others incredibly well, as Jesus did.

I also want to give you an update about how God is blessing your investment in this new adventure. Including the money that was given to launch the church, there has been over \$110,000 given this past year. Amazing!

Through this giving God is already using the Gathering Church to love others. The "steering group" decided at the beginning, when we received our first donations that we would dedicate at least ten percent of whatever was given to support other ministries or organizations that were serving others. We made this decision knowing that it would be sometime before we were large enough to even support ourselves. But, we trusted God with that part.

I'm thrilled to let you know that we are giving \$10,000 to five local groups and one international group to help them do really good things. At the bottom you can find a list of these groups and a web link to what they do.

One organization represents a rather unusual focus for a church's giving – Creekside Elementary School, our Sunday morning place of worship. We gave them \$1,000 to support some of their educational needs not covered by reduced budgets. One GC attendee, hearing about this added another \$1,000. The principal and assistant principal called me last week, stunned and grateful. "You're already living out your mission," were the words of the principal. We have also added food cards for the families at Creekside that we are supporting through the Christmas Gift project.

As we look ahead to 2010 we are planning an annual budget of \$180,000 to cover personnel, facility, ministry and mission costs. Our current monthly rate of giving, (\$10k) indicates that our giving needs to grow by \$60,000.

If you would like to help us get a good start towards that growth you may make a year-end donation by mailing a check to the *Gathering Church* (PO Box 16402, Chapel Hill, NC 27516).

Each Sunday I get a sense of the great potential of this Gathering Church:

- To be a church that looks like what happens when Jesus loves people.
- To be a church where lives are restored and healed.
- To be a church where people can be known, enjoyed, and loved
- To be a church that causes our greater community to honor and bless God.

Thank you for being part of it all.

Pastor Mark Acuff



**Gathering Church Giving to Other  
Ministries and Organizations in 2009:**

\$10,000

**Reality Ministries**, Durham

<http://realityministriesinc.org>

- Serving special needs individuals and area youth.

**Eagles' Nest**, Durham

- After school tutoring for Latino students in conjunction with *All Saints Church* and other area churches in the Creekside community.

**Durham Rescue Mission**, Durham

<http://www.durhamrescuemission.org>

- Hunger and Shelter Needs
- Addiction Issues

**Interfaith Council**, Chapel Hill

<http://www.ifcweb.org>

- Hunger prevention and Shelter

**Creekside Elementary School**, Durham

- Reading Curriculum Program

**Gethsemane Garden Christian Center**, Kenya

<http://www.ggcckenya.com>

- HIV/Aids affected children in East Africa