



November 26, 2014

Hello NECers!

Writing our Thanksgiving and Christmas Letter has become one of my favorite things to do. It's another chance to look back at how good God has been to us, at all the amazing work that He is doing in and through us, and how, despite so much darkness in the world, His light continues to shine through us. Very cool.

Maybe it's the internet, or the ubiquity of TVs ... but it seems like this year there has been a LOT in the news about how fragile our world is. Yet, at the same time, God's hope and handiwork keeps busting through, even if it might not make the headlines ... He is real, He is working, and He is not done rebuilding and restoring His world and His people with His grace.

Right at home, here at NEC, we have experienced the same kind of mix, of hurt and hope, of faith and doubt, of struggle and strength. Just last week, we heard the story of one person who came to us in a state of total ruin and pain ... yet found Christ and His love in and through it all. I loved hearing him say, "Just a **willingness to let God in is so important** ... and everything has changed." His story is so much like the ones we hear over and over again through our Circles, in Restoration, inside Kids Zone and beyond. We are learning to 'let God in' more and more ... and then give Him away, seeing lives change, forever.

At a more organizational level, our church is having its best year ever, as best as we can tell. We **set and met** steep and significant financial goals like: no borrowing from our building fund, increasing our giving base and our giving total, raising cash reserves for enduring cash strapped seasons. God blew us away with all of that and more. We are so **THANKFUL**.

But this is no time for us to coast, resting on the past. In fact, it's time for just the opposite. There is so much more ... more people, more serving, more lives for God to change through us! As the cycle goes, year-end gifts are crucial. (We typically count on ~25% of our total giving to come in during December.) This year our December goal is \$325k, making it possible for us to fully engage God's work within and beyond NEC in 2015.

At some point in the next few days, please listen to [this message](http://newenglandchapel.org/givingsermon) and pray about how you can invest in NEC, and be part of what God is doing in and through your church ... His church.

In love,

Pastor Chris

PS *As always, our annual budget of ~\$1.3m (~\$26k weekly) is available upon request, detailing the ins and outs of supporting your ministries, your staff of 14 employees, your 30,000 sq. ft. facility and your global partnerships around God's world. All of this is *supported only by local giving* from those who call NEC their home church.