

# The Visionary

[www.emeraldhills.info](http://www.emeraldhills.info)

[www.teamexpansion.org](http://www.teamexpansion.org)

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## HOW DO YOU EAT AN ELEPHANT?

by Doug Lucas, President, Team Expansion

Perhaps you've heard the old saying, "How do you eat an elephant?" The proverbial answer usually comes back, "One bite at a time." To me, this adage, is only partially true. With the given size of the typical elephant, it seems to me that if I tried to gobble an elephant on my own, the one-bite-at-a-time approach might take a pretty long time, not to mention give me indigestion! What's more, by the time you got to the later stages of your meal, the second half of the elephant would have already spoiled. There must be a better idea.

There is.

Effective consumption of an elephant should involve, at a minimum, not only the "keep-it-manageable" logic (of one bite at a time), but also another common sense adage: Invite a lot of people to lunch. If there are enough villagers gathered around the campfire, eating an elephant truly becomes manageable and, in fact, a joy.

Pondering this metaphor, I can think of at least a couple of applications for Team Expansion and missions. (You knew there would eventually be a point, right?) First, they don't call us "Team Expansion" for nothing. In addition to the fact that the simple name, "Team" was already taken :-), we really do want to expand. In similar elephant-like fashion, we propose to recruit lots of teams because there are lots of unreached people groups around the world yet to reach (6,648 as of last week). So now you know why we want to invest so much time with you in recruiting, training, and coaching missionaries. Now you know why we're building out Emerald Hills as a full-blown missions nerve center with virtually unlimited

training capacity: We have a big appetite -- for tackling unreached peoples!

But wait -- there's more.

Lately, the elephant metaphor is helping us on another, completely different front as well. The first phase of building that missions nerve center has rung up somewhat of a large price tag. Fortunately, our own missionaries, board members, and close partners have already covered more than half the cost. During 2010, we're offering others the opportunity to take part. Specifically, during 2010, we're looking for 270 key partners to take responsibility for prepaying the principal of each of 270 principal payments in the 25-year loan to repay the final half of Phase I. Thank the Lord, 26 of those 270 payments have already been adopted. However, that means some 244 shares remain. Keep in mind, this is the cost of principal alone -- no interest whatsoever. But by prepaying the principal for those 270 months, our missionaries and the church worldwide will save nearly \$2 million dollars in interest alone!

Thus, to tackle these two elephant-sized meals, we're looking for partners to tackle two different, yet related, challenges: Tackle a remaining unreached people group *and* adopt one of those remaining month's principal payment. If you know of an individual, group or church that might adopt one or both of those shares, please let us know using the contact information on this publication. And, if you can help, thanks in advance! Maybe in at least these two cases, the saying should be "It takes a village... to eat an elephant!"



# PRAYER REQUESTS

- Sale of the Hopewell House **soon**
- Three more 29 partners needed
- More funds to develop the rest of the campus
- Wisdom as to how to use the campus to the best of its possibilities
- More Enlarge the Harvest captains and partners needed
- More people to Multiply the Momentum

## Creation Care Workshop

March 6, 2010 8:00 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Combine a love for the Environment with a Love for Jesus: Eco-Missions! You're invited! Team Expansion and Brigada are sponsoring a day-retreat at Emerald Hills in Louisville, Kentucky.

The focus? How to become a guardian for the planet. Study under master eco-missionologist, Ed Brown, Director of Care of Creation and author of, "Our Father's World." He helped create one of the first 'environmental missions' organizations with a goal of mobilizing the Church toward a God-centered response to the environmental crisis.



Find out how to make good use of that factor as a platform for evangelism and missions. All the while, you'll be expressing your love for God by healing and restoring his damaged creation. Learn more about Ed's organization, Care of Creation, at [www.ourfathersworld.org](http://www.ourfathersworld.org)

Register for the upcoming workshop at [eh.wildapricot.org](http://eh.wildapricot.org)

The day-retreat includes two prayer walks on the beautiful prayer trails at Emerald Hills. And now, thanks to some key donations from others, you can attend the entire day, including lunch, for just \$39.

Reconnect with creation, reconnect with God, and reconnect with missions - all at a beautiful wooded site on the outskirts of Louisville, Kentucky. Hosted by yours truly.

**Sign up today. Seating is limited.**

## FINANCIAL UPDATE: DECEMBER 2009

### Emerald Hills Fund

Balance 12-1-09	<b>-\$23,860.89</b>
December Receipts	\$41,967.27
December Expenses	\$38,128.75
Checking account Balance 12-31-09	<b>-\$20,022.37*</b>

\*Balance owed to First Cap Bank: \$1.7 million

### Receipts

Aichele, Justin	\$85.00
Andover Church of Christ	\$1,502.00
Anonymous donation	\$377.06
Center Pointe Christian Church	\$800.00
Coastal Community Christian Church	\$150.00
College Heights Christian Church	\$400.00
Fayetteville Church of Christ	\$250.00
Fern Creek Christian Church	\$400.00
First Christian Church, Sullivan	\$600.00
Friendship Class, Shively	\$200.00
Heritage Christian Church	\$100.00
Individuals	\$16,583.78
Interest Income	\$40.41
Lifespring Christian Church	\$125.00
Network for Good	\$95.25
Okolona Christian Church	\$1,000.00
River Valley Christian Church	\$7,025.00
Savannah Christian Church	\$10,000.00
Shively Christian Church	\$1,200.00
Team Expansion (Gregg)	\$100.00
Team Expansion (Peterson)	\$200.00
Team Expansion (Richter)	\$20.00
Westerville Christian Church	\$613.77
Team Expansion (Stapleton)	\$100.00

**Total** **\$41,967.27**

### Expenses

Banking Fees	\$52.76
Barn	\$156.54
Email	\$133.95
Louisville Water Co.	\$67.42
Concrete	\$234.76
LG&E	\$294.90
Misc	\$145.61
Mortgage Payment*	\$37,042.81

**Total** **\$38,128.75**

\*Made a \$11,427.73 payment towards principal and had 2 mortgage payments.