



Samantha Trimble

F@H Ambassador & Coach

Samantha@HillsideCovenant.org

2060 Magnolia Way,
Walnut Creek, CA 94595

Partner with Me Through:

Prayer

- Please pray that our upcoming Intergenerational Ministry Forum would be well-attended and would be a time of blessing, encouragement, and inspiration for those who attend. Pray also that the attendees would have a fire in their hearts lit or rekindled towards a passion to see the fullness of the Kingdom at their churches or ministries as all generations worship and serve together.
- Please pray for the members of leadership at Sunset Church that I am working with, as they discern how we can best come alongside the families in their community groups and give them a taste of and a hunger for living more into their faith at home with their families. Specifically, please pray for wisdom in how we will use our time when we meet with each of these community groups.
- Please pray for The River as they manage significant transitions in their leadership team. Pray that God would bring team members that have the same heart for Faith@Home that the church is trying to foster and that God would bring these people in time for them to be a part in bringing about the vision they have



Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. Eph. 3:17

Dear Friends and Partners,

I am so excited to begin sharing the journey with you all in this way. I look forward to updating you regularly on what God is doing through this ministry and how you can join in. To the left you will see a partnership section where I will include current prayer requests, updated support information, and other ways for you to live into the journey. The first three months of this ministry have been full and rich. Here are some highlights....

BASS Convention & The River in San Jose

The Bay Area Sunday School (BASS) Convention has been a highlight of my year ever since I first moved to California. It is such a rich, rare, and accessible resource for any believer, especially those looking to grow and be encouraged in almost any facet of ministry. (If you are in the Bay Area, I highly recommend that you check it out! www.bassconvention.org) These past few years, BASS has been especially significant for its opportunities to connect and network with others who might enrich or benefit from this Faith@Home (F@H) ministry. This year was no exception.

BASS fell on my last weekend as the Director of Children's Ministries at Hillside and it was the perfect picture of my transition as I got to spend one day hosting a group of Hillside's teachers while the other day was spent with my F@H "hat" on. This day was spent fostering existing relationships (especially those I have with David C. Cook & the Sunset Church of San Francisco, which you will be updated on later) and developing new relationships. One of those new relationships that came out of BASS this year led me to The River in San Jose.

During a workshop, a gentleman shared about his desire to find staff members who had a heart for F@H-focused ministry. I felt God nudging me to talk to him, so I walked over and introduced myself. Not only did it turn out that he has a great respect for Mark Holmen and Faith@Home Ministries, but he also shared that his church, The River, has been considering the possibility of joining the Covenant denomination. We quickly identified a divine appointment and decided to have lunch together. This has led to two meetings with his leadership team and a vision of building their ministry around F@H principles. Currently, their staff is in transition upon transition, so be sure to check out the prayer requests to the left and pray for The River!

David C. Cook & Faith@Home

David C. Cook (DCC) is an awesome non-profit publishing company that did an overhaul in recent years so that they and their resources could really live into F@H principles and support churches and families who are doing the same. Byron Ragains is a national representative for DCC and he and I have been crossing paths for years (in NorCal, SoCal, Illinois, & even Texas!) This May, DCC held a family ministry conference in Costa Mesa & invited Mark Holmen (the head of F@H Ministries) to be a keynote speaker. So this meant that not only did I get to spend time reconnecting with Mark and planning future ministry, but I also got to connect with many people who were hungry for support as the championed a Faith@Home focus in their ministry context. After a breakout seminar of Mark's, I overheard a woman getting very excited about one of F@H's resources (*Take It Home*), I could see her heart for F@H and knew she was someone I needed to talk to. As I introduced myself and explained that I work with Mark to come alongside others as they live into F@H and that my services were completely free, she began to cry. She expressed how isolated & under-resourced she has been feeling and knew that God was sending her the encouragement and help she needed. Although there were so many

for the new school year.

- Please pray for Lui and his family. Please pray that God would lead his family to make decisions that put him first and keep him safe. Pray also that God would continue to work on his mother's heart and that anything that is working against God's will for Lui and his family would be bound up and made powerless when compared to all of God's continued goodness and faithfulness to them.

Support

Samantha's ministry is 100% support-dependent. If you would like to become a regular financial supporter of the ministry or to make a one-time donation, please follow the below link to Hillside Covenant Church's donation page.

<http://www.hillsidecovenant.org/ministries/group/business-administration/donate-now/>

IMPORTANT:

Please be sure to **specify "Faith@Home"** via the "Add any special instructions" link or in the memo line **BEFORE** you complete your donation or your donation will go into Hillside's general fund.

Taking It Home!

A great way to partner with the work I am doing is to be more and more intentional about taking YOUR faith home (& to work & in the car & to the gym, etc!) So in each of my updates I will attempt to share way for you to take it home. I will try to vary my resources/ideas for different life stages, but even if something I share is not particular to your life or stage, I encourage you to think about how it could apply to you or who you could pass the idea on to.

So be sure to look for the "Take It Home!" section that will be highlighted in each newsletter. :)

rich moments and divine appointments (like making awkward small talk outside of a restroom off the beaten path and accidentally meeting another Covenant minister from the PSWC with a heart for F@H), this moment with this woman reminded me exactly why I am called to this ministry.

Take it Home: Prayer! At Crossroads Covenant

My relationship with Crossroads is a rich one! Not only are they a Covenant church that is a part of my coaching ministry with the ECC, but they have a HUGE heart for F@H to the extent that their Sr. Pastor and Director of Children's Ministries are members of the board that oversees my ministry. As part of the work I am doing with them, I was able to meet with their children's ministry team a few times in the past few months and help them to create and execute an event for all ages/stages on bringing prayer into your home in consistent and outside of the box ways. This event was "one small step in a larger vision to help families (and really everyone who has influence in the life of a child) take their faith home. To positively live out what it means to follow Jesus daily. To influence generations for Christ." I'm so excited about this church's heart and look forward to updating you more on Crossroads' journey in the future!

Young Lives

Young Lives is a branch of the Young Life ministry that comes alongside teen mothers while promoting growth towards Christ in an encouraging community setting. A dear friend of mine is very involved in the leadership of a local chapter of this ministry and during a conversation over lunch, she asked if F@H was something that the moms in Young Lives could benefit from. I was so excited by the simplicity and natural confluence of this idea! What a better marriage for F@H than with young moms who are eagerly learning what faith and motherhood looks like? And what a significant impact this could have on the faith trajectories of two at-risk generations at once! I am currently getting to know these sweet, sweet girls, their children, and the ministry. Look for more to come in future updates! David C. Cook might even be getting in on the action!

Coaching in the Covenant

Although my ministry is non-denominational, a significant piece of my work is that I serve as a coach for children and family ministry in the Pacific South West Conference (PSWC) for the Evangelical Covenant Church (ECC), namely in the Bay Area. Currently, I am working with others in the ECC to equip, encourage, and connect the people serving in children and family ministries. In March, I was able to gather a few ministers in the area and hear directly from them what they would like to see in the way of connection and what kind of resources they would appreciate. Out of this came a plan to gather this group of ministers once a quarter. I also heard a desire to have more conversation and be better equipped around intergenerational ministry, so I am currently coordinating an Intergenerational Ministry Forum as this quarter's gathering. Look for more on that and on the PSWC's Youth & Children Worker's Retreat in the next update.

Partnering with Sunset Church

As I mentioned above, BASS has been a significant place of connection for me. At the 2013 BASS, God put me in the path of Cecil Wong from Sunset Church of San Francisco. This year at BASS, he and I were able to reconnect. We have begun meeting monthly and are developing plans to introduce F@H concepts and tools into several strong family communities that they have established at their church. This seems to be the perfect chance to build a F@H culture from the grassroots of the congregation, and for these families to start living out F@H within the context of existing small group communities that can provide encouragement and accountability to each other.

Personal Update

Over Easter, my mom surprised me with a last-minute visit to California. This is the first time she has been able to visit here in over 6 years! It was so special for Lui and I to be able to spend time with her and to get to show her our home, our town, introduce new friends, and show her some beautiful parts of the Bay that she has not seen before. We were very blessed to be able to take her to Pismo Beach on Easter day where Lui loved playing on the beach & swimming with his "NiNi!" We are looking forward to seeing her and the rest of our family over Labor Day weekend when we visit for a cousin's upcoming wedding.



Take It Home!

HomeFront Magazine is David C. Cook's FREE(!) monthly resource that gives parents ideas on how to easily create fun, spiritually forming times in their own homes - even in the midst of their busy lives. This digital magazine can be sent right to your inbox each month, making it easy for parents & grandparents to shape a vibrant faith in the lives of their children. And coming soon, for a very nominal fee (\$) you can subscribe to a printed copy. Here is an excerpt from a recent issue, but I encourage you to go to <http://www.homefrontmag.com/> to check it out for yourself!

LEAVE IT BETTER

During my childhood, every trip to the park ended with this statement from my mom: "Let's leave this place better than how we found it!" I would quickly run around the park, find at least five pieces of trash, and proudly show them to my mom before tossing them in the trash. Then we'd head home. Though looking for trash felt like a fun treasure hunt most of the time, sometimes I complained about having to pick up garbage that I hadn't thrown on the ground. But it wasn't long before I took pride in our labor at the park.

My mom had successfully given me a sense of responsibility for the places we visited. Whether we were at the park, the beach, or even a fast-food restaurant, we took a few small moments to invest in our community.

Now I'm a mom, of four small children, and I want to help them feel ownership for the world God has entrusted to us. We walk to and from school every day, and I've started a tradition of collecting trash along our route. I hang a grocery bag on the side of the stroller, and the kids happily pick up bits of paper and other trash to put inside. As we walk, we talk about how important it is to take care of the earth and how God has entrusted it to all of us during our time here.

Each day, my kids get to see the fruit of their labor on our walk, and I get to watch as they begin to take pride in their work. I love empowering them to use their own simple resources to make this world a better place. I hope this small tradition will carry over to the bigger areas of their lives as they grow into God's plans for them.

Consider starting a "leaving it better" tradition with your own family. You can apply this idea to visits to the park, camping trips, and beyond. There's really no limit to the number of places where we can invest our energy—places we can leave in better condition.

by Kara Noel Lawson

