

## Returning to Worship & In-Person Events

Our Executive Committee met again on Sunday, February 14 to discuss our plans as a church family to re-open our physical doors and begin in-person worship again. Here is our plan: **Beginning March 7, 2021**, we will be meeting again for in-person worship while also streaming it online for those who cannot yet come back to the building.

*continues on page 2*

small  
groups

onsite  
online  
offsite

exciting things happening!

*small groups update*




 **Grief Share Group** 13-week session Wednesdays on Zoom from 1:00-2:30 pm. Each session is standalone so please feel free to join in at any time. Contact Pam Woodson for more information at [pwoodson@fbctucker.org](mailto:pwoodson@fbctucker.org).

 **Core Seminar** will begin on March 3, 2021 and will be held on campus in the Main Street Fellowship Hall, from 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm, and will also be recorded and posted online for anyone who cannot come in person.



## Upcoming Events

March 3	Core Seminar, MSFH, 6:00-7:30pm Grief Share, 1pm
March 7	In-person Worship Sanctuary, 11:00am
March 9	NTO Drive Thru Luncheon (RSVP)
March 10	Core Seminar, MSFH, 6:00-7:30pm Grief Share, 1pm
March 7-14	Annie Armstrong Week of Prayer (see pages 7-12)
March 14	In-person Worship Sanctuary, 11:00am
March 17	Core Seminar, MSFH, 6:00-7:30pm Grief Share, 1pm
March 18	Tucker Book Club MSFH, 10:00am
March 21	In-person Worship Sanctuary, 11:00am
March 24	Core Seminar, MSFH, 6:00-7:30pm Grief Share, 1pm
March 28	In-person Worship Sanctuary, 11:00am
March 31	Core Seminar MSFH, 6:00-7:30pm
April 4	Easter
April 7	Core Seminar, MSFH, 6:00-7:30pm

**ANNIE ARMSTRONG**  
EASTER OFFERING®  
FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS

Pastor Andrew is Encouraging FBC Participation in this Special Mission. Please Read Insert on Pages 7 - 12.

If you call FBC Tucker your faith community, we ask that you pray about giving financially to support, and grow our ministries. You can give online by visiting [www.fbctucker.org](http://www.fbctucker.org)




*"Returning to Worship & In-Person Events" continued from cover page*

The church staff has been using this time to adequately prepare the building for these gatherings, prepare equipment for better online streaming, and fill you all in on what to expect. The reality is, all the COVID-related data is trending in the positive direction (positive meaning down!), but there are still cases. This means that we can resume meeting in person together, but that we must exercise wisdom and be responsible about it.

Below are some precautions we are taking, hopefully showing you what to expect on campus.

## SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

- There will only be one entry/exit—the sanctuary doors, facing Lavista Road.
- When you arrive, a designated greeter will welcome you, scan your hand for your temperature, and ask you to use hand sanitizer.
- Masks will be required. 
- The Gathering Room will be roped off, guiding you directly into the Sanctuary, so as to avoid the temptation to gather in groups, which we all so desire!
- Please enter the sanctuary building and find your seat upon arrival.
- At the conclusion of the service, we will dismiss everyone row by row, much like a wedding ceremony.
- You can place your offering in the boxes on your way in or out of the sanctuary building.

## MAINSTREET KIDS

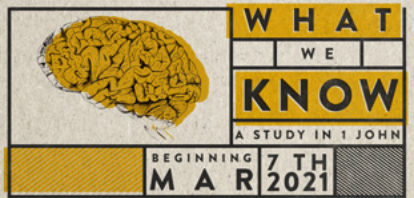
We're happy to announce that beginning **March 7**, when we return to corporate worship, we'll also be offering **Mainstreet Kids** for the littles! Hillary, our new Children's Ministry Director, has been working hard to prepare this ministry for return. We'll begin with one larger class, with the goal of breaking into 2 smaller classes based on age in the month or so to come.

When you and your child arrive, we will have you check in your child, answer a few brief COVID-related questions, and their temperature will be checked.

*continues on page 3*

**MAINSTREET**  
**KIDS**  
SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 11  
FOR CHILDREN THROUGH 5TH GRADE

## SERMON SCHEDULE



MARCH 7  
**"A Message for the Whole World"**

1 John 1:5-2:2

MARCH 14  
**"Knowing and Obeying"**

1 John 2:3 -11

MARCH 21  
**"The Love God Hates"**

1 John 2:12-17

MARCH 28  
**"Truth and Lies"**

1 John 2:18-29



APRIL 4  
**"Easter – This Changes Everything"**

1 Corinthians 15:12-58



*"Returning to Worship & In-Person Events" cont'd from page 2*

## SUNDAY SCHOOL & MINISTRIES

For any **Sunday School class** meeting on campus, we simply ask that everyone wear a mask, and do their best to social distance. The Main Street Fellowship Hall provides ample space to spread out safely.



**NTO will host a "Drive-thru" event** on March 9th, as opposed to meeting totally in person, and will then host an in-person event in April, again observing all necessary safety protocols (*i.e. temperature checks, masks, social distancing and limited reservation spots*).

Our first **Core Seminar** will begin on **March 3, 2021** and will be held on campus in the Main Street Fellowship Hall, from 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm, and will also be recorded and posted online for anyone who cannot

come in person. Again, masks will be required and there will be plenty of space to spread out and social distance.

Remember, the goal is to get back to meeting together in person. Therefore, we will all have to observe various policies and procedures that we may not love. But they are necessary for what we desire. We simply ask that if you come to worship or Sunday school, etc. in person that you joyfully observe the precautions we've put in place.

If you feel that you cannot come back safely at this point, that is ok! Please don't feel pres-sured. We will not shame anyone for choosing to stay home. Again, we are working to make improvements to the live streaming for you.

Thank you all for your continued patience and understanding as we seek to navigate the days ahead! As always, if you need anything, please don't hesitate to ask!

With Much Love,

— Your Pastors, Staff, & Executive Committee



## A Continued Need for Food and Monetary Donations

NETWorks continues to experience increased requests for food assistance as well as assistance with rent & utility payments because so many of our neighbors are out of work, or have had their hours cut back. There is a constant need for shelf-stable food, but considering the difficulty now for you to shop and/or drop off your purchases, please consider making donations directly to NETWorks. We have several faithful young volunteers who can do the shopping. You can either make your donation through the church office (indicate on your check that you want it to go to NETWorks) or you can mail a check directly to NETWorks at 2380 4th Street, Tucker, GA 30084. You also can make secure donations online at:

[www.networkscoop.org/donate](http://www.networkscoop.org/donate)



# NTOUCH

A SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF TUCKER

## NTO MARCH LUNCH TAKE-OUT EVENT



### **Ann Sarubbi's Cooking!** **Tuesday, March 9th at 11:30 a.m.**

At the moment, the menu is a mystery, but you can rest assured Ann Sarubbi will be providing you with a delicious lunch. Don't miss the chance to get out of your house for a few minutes, let someone else do the cooking, and maybe win a Door Prize. (See below information on donating.)

**LUNCH IS \$8 PER PERSON • EXACT CHANGE PLEASE**

**To-Go Orders by Reservation Only**

**RSVP via email at [nto@fbctucker.org](mailto:nto@fbctucker.org) or call 770.938.1688, ext 217.**

## MAKE YOUR RESERVATION

Send a message to [nto@fbctucker.org](mailto:nto@fbctucker.org) with "RESERVATION" in the subject, or leave a message on the NTO reservation line 770-938-1688, extension 217. (Please use this extension; there is no one in the office who can help you with reservations.) **PLEASE** be patient regarding your confirmation. If you make a reservation by email, your confirmation will also be by email, so remember to check your email (and maybe your Spam file) for your confirmation.

*A Message from the President*

### **GOOD NEWS! WE ARE BACK!**

*We are coming back, first, with a Take-Out Event on March 9th. I hope you all are as excited as I am to be back at First Baptist, even if you are just driving thru. Second, we will be back in person in April. At this meeting we will have the Memorial Service usually held in January to celebrate the lives of members lost in 2020. In May, we will be celebrating our Mothers. Be looking for your favorite picture to share.*

*As we return to in-person meetings, we will be observing safety protocols (see below). Even with restrictions, the return to in-person meetings is extremely exciting news. It gives us a reason for hope; hope that soon we will be able to have everyone together again, hugging and talking face to face. I hope that you will support our Take-Out Event as you have in the past and look forward to seeing you in the drive-thru line. In April, I will see you inside.*

**— Becky Fortenberry**







## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COUNCIL MEETINGS will resume on Tuesday, April 6th.
- THE HEALING PLACE is planning to reopen on Monday, April 4th. Watch for future announcements.
- BOOK CLUB will resume meeting in March (yay!). See article.
- FBCT SERVICES: First Baptist is planning to return to in-person Sunday Services at 11am on March 7th. If you cannot attend, services can be seen live on Facebook and YouTube.
- NEWSLETTERS: If you receive your Newsletter via U.S. mail, please be aware that if you have not renewed your subscription, this is your last newsletter. To subscribe, please make your check for \$8.00 to FBCT and send to **FBCT, 5073 LaVista Road, Tucker GA 30084**. Write "NTO Newsletter" on the envelope **and** check memo line.
- DOOR PRIZES are getting limited. If you have a new or gently used item you would like to donate as a door prize, please drop off at the church office, Monday through Thursday 9am – 3pm.
- SAFETY PROTOCOLS for meeting in person: Yes, this does seem like a long list of rules, but Covid-19 is still a very serious concern. We want to keep everyone safe, so, even if you have had the vaccine, we are asking you to follow these guidelines in order to attend the meetings.

If you are uncomfortable with these guidelines, we ask, **WITH LOVE**, that you postpone attending until these protocols are no longer required.

1. Reservations are required and are limited. (*A maximum of 75 people is allowed in the building during the meeting; this includes NTO volunteers and kitchen staff.*)
  2. Remember that should you experience any of the following symptoms you should stay home: runny nose, fever, cough, headache, body aches, or sore throat.
  3. Wear a mask, PROPERLY. This means wearing the mask to cover BOTH your mouth and your nose. You will need to wear your mask at all times, unless you are eating.
  4. Temperatures will be taken at the door.
  5. There will a sanitation station. Please sanitize your hands prior to entering the meeting space.
  6. Stay at safe distances. Do not gather in crowds, however tempting it may be to fellowship with friends you have missed. Be mindful of crowding while waiting for the door to open. Stay six feet apart while in line waiting to pay. You are encouraged to have your conversations outside where it is safer.
  7. Limit number of members at a table to 4.
  8. Please be graceful if someone needs to remind you of these protocols.
- PRAYER: Please pray for all our members who are confined to home, in nursing homes, or ill or suffering long term health problems. Pray that we will be able to meet in safety and will soon be able to open our doors to all who want to attend.

## LENTON MESSAGE

In many ways it feels like we've already been on a Lenten Journey for 341 days, and frankly, our community doesn't really need to be reminded of our mortality on Ash Wednesday as our community has experienced a lot of death and grief over the past several months. But, then again, maybe we need the ash cross to remind us of the hope of the end of the journey. Maybe we need to be reminded of the reality of death to truly embrace the hope and power of resurrection. For me, I cannot fully celebrate Easter without journeying through Lent. A wise woman once told me, "a Spring flower gives hope to Winter." I will add that Easter resurrection gives hope to Lent.

- William Deal, Feb. 17, 2021





## Tucker Book Group Resumes In-Person Meetings

The FBC Tucker Book Group will resume in-person meetings starting in March. Our first meeting will take place on **Thursday, March 18th** at 10:00 a.m. in the Main Street Fellowship Hall. The book for that month is *The Island of Sea Women* by Lisa See.

We meet on the third Thursday of each month. If you would like to join us, please get in touch with

Kathy Ray and she will make sure you get the book list for the year. Our theme this year is **Courageous Women**.

If you don't feel secure in attending the meetings but would like to add your thoughts, you can email Kathy and she will share these at the meeting. All precautions and safeguards will be in place, and we can socially distance in the Fellowship Hall.

Good Readings!

**Kathy Ray** / Kathy.ray1955@gmail.com / 770-605-2498



### Sympathies To...

- » **Julie Howson and her children** in the death of her former husband, **Pete Howson**.
- » **Barbara Browning and family** in the death of her husband, **Gene Browning**.
- » **Dillard and Jeanette Medlin** in the death of Dillard's sister, and long-time member of FBC Tucker, **Francis McMahan**.
- » **Hazel Wright** in the death of her brother, **Grady Nichols**, who died from COVID.

Our office is open Monday through Thursday, 9 AM to 3 PM.

Should you need to see a staff member, we ask that you call the church to make an appointment.

All of our staff are practicing social distancing and request that you wear masks when visiting the office. Calling ahead allows us to open larger rooms where we can meet in a healthy and safe way.

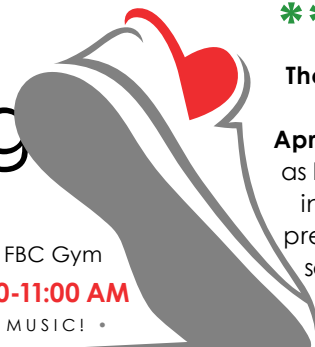


## The Healing Place

Walking & Exercise in the FBC Gym

**Monday-Thursday 9:30-11:00 AM**

• AIR CONDITIONED! • MUSIC! •



### \*\*\*UPDATE\*\*\*

The Healing Place has *tentative plans* to reopen on **Monday, April 5th from 9:30am – 11:00am**, as long as COVID cases continue in a downward trend. Previous precautions will still be in place: social distancing, masks, and hand sanitizing strongly encouraged.

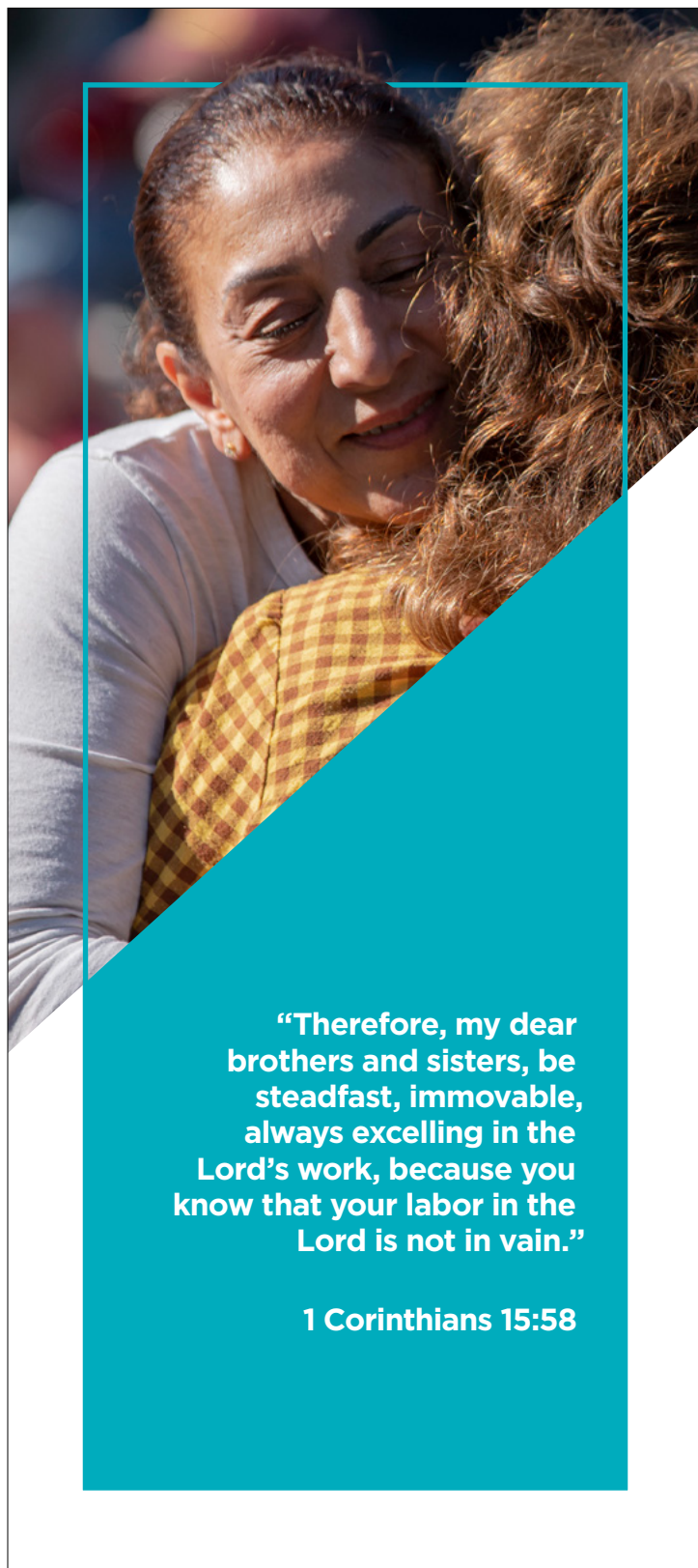


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**The  
mission  
moves  
forward**



**2021  
PRAYER GUIDE**  
WEEK OF PRAYER FOR  
NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS



**“Therefore, my dear  
brothers and sisters, be  
steadfast, immovable,  
always excelling in the  
Lord’s work, because you  
know that your labor in the  
Lord is not in vain.”**


**1 Corinthians 15:58**

*continues on page 8*





"Annie Armstrong" continued from page 7



Across North America there are 366 million people. It's a daunting challenge to reach such a diverse mission field of cultures, languages and religions. Add the uncertainty of a pandemic and you begin to realize the challenges faced by your North American missionaries. Against all odds, they continue to move forward in their gospel mission and see lives transformed.


This week, you will read unique stories of missionaries from British Columbia, Louisiana, Massachusetts and beyond who are persevering to plant churches and meet tangible needs. These missionaries represent thousands more who are fueled by your prayers and sacrificial giving.

**366 million people in North America**

**350 languages**

**275 million without the hope of the gospel**

Statistics from U.S. Census Bureau and NAMB Center for Missional Research



**DAY 1**

**SHAHID & MAROOFA KAMAL**  
DELTA, BRITISH COLUMBIA

## Sharing a Living God

Shahid Kamal's God is a living God—One who answers prayer. Shahid and his wife, Maroofa, spend their lives introducing Him to the more than 300,000 South Asians who call the Greater Vancouver area home.

"Hindus have many visible gods, and Sikhs have many gurus," said Shahid, who planted South Asian Community Church in Surrey, part of metro Vancouver. "In the midst of this complex situation, we are trying to help them to know, believe and receive Jesus Christ."

And over and over again, the Kamals see that transformation happens through prayer.

"Our prayer ministry is one of the successful connecting points," Shahid said. "Many came to our church for the very first time for prayer. They have specific prayer requests. And, praise God, God answered them and showed them that He's a living God."

**PRAY**

For the church's prayer ministry to continue to open doors for the gospel.

For South Asians in Surrey to be drawn toward Jesus.

**FIND MORE AT**  
**[ANNIEARMSTRONG.COM/KAMAL](http://ANNIEARMSTRONG.COM/KAMAL)**

continues on page 9





"Annie Armstrong" continued from page 8



## Loving a Diverse Community

DeKalb County, Georgia is a picture of diversity—and vast need.

There's a beautiful array of cultures but also brokenness. Many homes don't have dads in them. The abortion rate is high. There's division from racial and socioeconomic tensions.

When Ryan and Tricia moved their family to Atlanta to plant Gospel Hope Church, they wanted the congregation to reflect the multicultural community. To do that, Ryan worked with a diverse team of people who shared this vision.

But diversity isn't the ultimate goal, disciple making is. "The mission is to help those we come in contact with to take their next spiritual step and to be a church that loves all kinds of people, and let God bring all kinds of people."

"We believe the gospel brings hope to be reconciled to each other and to God," Ryan said.

### PRAY

For the McCammacks to reach the diverse communities in their area.

For church members to display Christ's reconciling love.

FIND MORE AT  
[ANNIEARMSTRONG.COM/MCCAMMACK](http://ANNIEARMSTRONG.COM/MCCAMMACK)



## Finding Identity in Christ

Victor and Ludmila Moura were comfortable in Brazil. He was a pastor of a growing church, and she was a government lawyer doing well in her career. Over time, though, they felt God leading them in an unexpected direction—to plant a church for Brazilians in Boston, home to one of the largest immigrant populations in the U.S.

Their goal is for the new church, with services in both Portuguese and English, to be a place where those struggling to find their identity can find it in Christ.

Identity issues are a complex problem, especially among second- and third-generation Brazilians who feel they don't fit anywhere, Victor said. But the church's most powerful strategy is a simple one—community. Missional house groups are their greatest outreach opportunity.

"The Millennials, they hate superficial stuff," he said. "I think the most effective strategy to reach them is being a friend."

### PRAY

For Victor and Ludmila to successfully reach young Brazilians.

For new believers to grow into strong leaders.

FIND MORE AT  
[ANNIEARMSTRONG.COM/MOURA](http://ANNIEARMSTRONG.COM/MOURA)

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“Annie Armstrong” continued from page 9



## A New Start for a Dying Church

Moving from Denver to a small town they had never heard of in Idaho was not in Anders’ and Jessica’s plans. But it fit where they felt the Holy Spirit was guiding them—to help a dying church come back to life and reach its community.

In 2018, they launched the replant of Calvary Church Nampa. The neighborhoods around the once-vibrant church are now aging and declining with a mix of Anglo and Hispanic residents. Drugs are a big problem—so are poverty and depression.

With a strategic outreach to get to know and serve their neighbors, the Snyders are seeing God move. More than 100 are now worshipping and growing in faith together.

“We’re reclaiming ground that was already once won for the kingdom. It tells the story of a resurrected Christ in that the church can come back from the dead,” Anders said.

### PRAY

For the Snyders to have wisdom in how best to serve and reach their community.

For neighbors to be drawn to the hope of the gospel.

FIND MORE AT  
[ANNIEARMSTRONG.COM/SNYDER](http://ANNIEARMSTRONG.COM/SNYDER)



## A Light in Darkness

Joshua Valdez says his city is a place of emotional and spiritual darkness. It’s a melting pot of culture and religion. Its residents are mostly Hispanic and Navajo, and the Navajo are very much “a forgotten people,” said Joshua, who also has both heritages.

The people have one common struggle—they often battle feelings of despair or worthlessness. He observes that as a church planter and at his job as an intervention specialist at a local high school.

“I see the hopelessness of the youth,” he said. “Most of them are coming from really rough situations.”

But many have grown to trust Joshua and visit his church plant, Higher Ground Church. During youth group gatherings there, he intentionally teaches the Bible verse by verse. Many are hearing it for the first time, and it’s changing their lives.

### PRAY

For more students to join Joshua’s Bible studies.

For the members of Higher Ground Church to be a light to their community.

FIND MORE AT  
[ANNIEARMSTRONG.COM/VALDEZ](http://ANNIEARMSTRONG.COM/VALDEZ)

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"Annie Armstrong" continued from page 10



## Picking Up the Pieces

Bobby and LaKeisha Williams have a simple goal—to meet the deep need of New Orleans with the even deeper love of Christ.

In the city, some buildings are still boarded up from Hurricane Katrina in 2005. The area around the Williamses' church plant is predominantly African American and low-income. "A lot of what we strive to do is provide resources," Bobby said. "We try to educate people spiritually, financially, intellectually, you name it."

That's how their church—Next Level Church—got its name. They want to see people take their life to the next level starting right where they are. The church provides its neighbors with multiple forms of assistance from health fairs to meal distribution, all with the goal of creating community and leading them to Jesus.

"Despite the challenges we've been able to make an impact, and we want to do even more," Bobby said.

### PRAY

For Bobby and LaKeisha to persevere in ministry.

For the church's compassion ministries to open doors to share the gospel.

FIND MORE AT  
[ANNIEARMSTRONG.COM/WILLIAMS](http://ANNIEARMSTRONG.COM/WILLIAMS)



## Reaching the "Lost Cause"

Jacob knows the homeless, drug addicts and gang members of Sanger. He used to live among them before he went to jail and met Jesus there.

Now he and his wife, Francine, are reaching those who "would scare people who go to most churches," Jacob said. Through Set Free Church, they take the gospel to the streets to reach the people others might see as a "lost cause."

Church members distribute food, hot meals and hygiene supplies several times a week along with an invitation to worship and Bible study. Their acts of compassion are growing the church and changing lives. Jacob also connects addicts with Biblically based recovery centers and continues their spiritual growth through Set Free Church's discipleship house.

All of it, Jacob said, "is God"—God gave him a heart to help those without hope "because I was there once myself."

### PRAY

For God to transform hearts in Sanger with the gospel.

For resources to maintain and expand the discipleship house ministry.

FIND MORE AT  
[ANNIEARMSTRONG.COM/ZAILIAN](http://ANNIEARMSTRONG.COM/ZAILIAN)

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*"Annie Armstrong" continued from page 11*

**DAY 8**

## Steadfast On Mission

**Kevin Ezell, NAMB President**

Being a missionary is never easy. Whenever Christians answer the call to go to the mission field, they expect to encounter challenges, but no one could have planned for a global pandemic that would bring the world grinding to a halt.

Even so, I'm grateful to say that Southern Baptist missionaries have continued to see the mission move forward. By the grace and power of God, they did not stop when the pandemic restrictions went into place.

They changed course, innovated and discovered ways to continue sharing the gospel and making disciples. When needs in local communities arose, these missionaries stepped up to bring material help and eternal hope.

As these missionaries continue to reach North America for Christ, we pray that the coronavirus pandemic has opened doors for ministry that may have never opened without such a major crisis.

Our missionaries have displayed courage and vision to persist and even thrive in the midst of great challenges.

### PRAY

That times of crisis have opened new doors to the gospel.

That they, and we, would not grow weary in sharing the gospel.

Your gifts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering support North American missionaries.

Learn more or donate online, at:  
**AnnieArmstrong.com**

 North American  
Mission Board

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