



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: JANUARY 3, 2021

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## AKEEM & JAIME SMITH

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA • NAMB

Across the bay from San Francisco, two of our North American missionaries planted a new church in Oakland, California.

They are Akeem (*say: ah-KEEM*) and Jaime (*say: JAY-mee*) Smith. Our church is supporting them and thousands of other missionaries through the Cooperative Program.

After moving to the diverse area in 2018, the couple started meeting people and sharing the gospel. They constantly connect with immigrants, and their church often provides food for those struggling to get by in the city.

The first person the Smiths baptized said he was an atheist — until he understood Jesus and the plan of salvation available to him. Now, he is a growing Christian.

Let's pray for Akeem and Jaime as they serve the Lord on the West Coast. Ask God to help them lead a strong church that will bring many to faith in Christ.



N.C. MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT: JANUARY 10, 2021

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## JONATHAN BLAYLOCK

CHURCH REVITALIZATION TEAM • BSCNC

Theological confusion is an ongoing issue in today's world.

When Pastor Jonathan Blaylock stepped into his role at North Albemarle Baptist Church in Albemarle, North Carolina, he found much of his congregation had varying beliefs.

So, he's been on a mission to clear up any theological confusion by teaching sound doctrine and expository sermons. He's encouraged the congregation to share the gospel with the local community and beyond, too.

Jonathan is also a revitalization coach on the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina's Church Revitalization Team. He seeks to help hurting pastors think through how they are discipling their flock.

"I want to encourage pastors to stay the course, faithfully preaching and teaching the Word, and faithfully leading their people to go and share the Word with others," Jonathan says.

He serves alongside his wife, Rebekah, and they have six children.

Let's pray for Jonathan's church to make disciples that are rooted and built up in Christ and established in the faith, as described in Colossians 2:7. Ask God for his congregation to grow deeper in the Word and go further in making Jesus known to the world.



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: JANUARY 17, 2021

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## AMY WILLIAMS

MACEDONIA • IMB

Today, we want to pray for one of our missionaries serving in Europe.

Amy Williams is serving in the Republic of North Macedonia, a small country with about 2 million people. Located north of Greece, the nation was once part of Yugoslavia.

Amy teaches English as a way to meet people and share the gospel. That's how she met a woman named \*Gerta.

Gerta had a hard life. She had been abused and faced major health problems. But Amy told her that Jesus loves her and has a plan for her life.

Through Bible studies led by Amy, Gerta came to understand the gospel and placed her faith in Christ. Later, Gerta helped lead her father to Christ.

When Gerta was ill in a hospital, she told others what wonderful changes Jesus had brought to her life.

This wonderful outcome was possible because our church supports the International Mission Board and our missionary, Amy Williams, through Cooperative Program giving.

Let's ask God to change many more lives in Macedonia as Amy tells people about Jesus. And let's pray that Gerta will grow in her Christian faith.

*\*Name has been changed for security purposes.*



**N.C. CHURCH PLANTING HIGHLIGHT: JANUARY 24, 2021**

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## **WESLEY THOMAS**

COOL WATER COWBOY CHURCH • SANFORD, N.C.

Today we're going to a cowboy church near Sanford, North Carolina, and we're going to pray for the man who planted it.

That would be Pastor Wesley Thomas.

On Sundays, you'll find him preaching at Hunt Springs Baptist Church, which has more traditional services.

But Tuesday nights, Wesley pulls on his boots, grabs a cowboy hat, and heads out in the country to a horse farm owned by church members Joe and Lisa Mason. Cool Water Cowboy Church meets at their barn, which they've donated for church use.

Wesley thought they might have a dozen people show up when the church was first planted, but more than 30 came. The more casual atmosphere often prompts members to bring family and friends. Soon, the church was averaging 130 at services, which have Bible-based music and strong preaching.

Wesley says cowboy churches appeal to people who love horses or just farm life. They like the simplicity. For Wesley, it's one more way to share the gospel.

Hunt Springs Baptist has also sponsored a cowboy church in Angier, North Carolina, and they have welcomed a Hispanic church to meet in their building.

Our church is helping plant Cool Water Cowboy Church — it's one of the many ministries funded by the Cooperative Program that we support.

Let's pray for Wesley and his wife, Mona, as they serve in Sanford.



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: JANUARY 31, 2021

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## JEREMY & SARAH PROEMSEY

SAN MATEO, CALIFORNIA • NAMB

Only about 10% of people in the San Francisco area have connections to an evangelical church. But a whopping third of the people have no religious connection at all — many say they are atheists.

Jeremy and Sarah Proemsey are churning the spiritual dry ground with a new church in San Mateo (*say: mah-TAE-oh*), California, about 20 miles south of San Francisco. It's just north of San José, where various tech companies are based.

The couple calls their new church Refuge Community Church. Members have been doing city outreach and providing help to the needy. The church claims they are not just *in* the city, but they're *for* the city.

Jeremy says many people have not truly rejected God, but have rejected a false image of Him. He and Sarah want to connect with people enough that the real truth of the gospel can touch lives.

Our church is helping support Jeremy and Sarah in this new church through our Cooperative Program giving.

Let's pray the Lord will keep them and their three children in His will.



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: FEBRUARY 7, 2021

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## BEN & CHRISTY PRATER

POLAND • IMB

Today, we want to pray for \*Ben and \*Christy Prater, two of our missionaries who serve in Poland. They have a passion to see Jews accept Jesus as the Messiah foretold in the Old Testament.

Seventy-five years after the Holocaust, they're sharing the gospel with Jewish people who have remained in the nation. Nowadays there's a growing number of Jews there, and Ben and Christy have learned to speak Hebrew so they can tell them about their Messiah who overcame death to bring salvation.

Jews who accept Jesus as their Savior are often called Messianic Jews. There are many Messianic Jews around the world, including in the United States and even Israel.

Sadly, there are few Messianic Jews in Poland these days. Ben says it's estimated that 250,000 Messianic Jews were killed in the Holocaust. Two of Christy's great-uncles were killed in Auschwitz, the infamous Holocaust death camp near Kraków (say: CRACK-ow), Poland.

As our church financially supports them through Cooperative Program giving, let's lift them up spiritually for their ministry ahead.

*\*Name has been changed for security purposes.*



N.C. CHURCH PLANTING HIGHLIGHT: FEBRUARY 14, 2021

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## TRAVIS BYRD

OCEAN ISLE BEACH, N. C.

If we talked about places we enjoy visiting, it's likely someone would mention Ocean Isle Beach, located on the coast of North Carolina.

But today in our prayer time, let's view this beautiful resort as a mission field.

Despite the calming ocean waves, church planter Travis Byrd has actually found many locals stressed and struggling to survive.

Sent by North Carolina Baptists, our church is helping support Travis and his new church through our Cooperative Program giving.

After Travis served as youth and music pastor for several years near Charlotte, North Carolina, he and his wife, Veronica, were called to a new ministry as church planters. They sold their house and stepped out in faith.

At Ocean Isle Beach, they began meeting as many people as possible and sharing the gospel. They started Bible studies in a sandwich shop and other local spots. Their active social media outreach helped extend their witness. Travis calls this a "go and gather" approach to church planting.

"Many of these folks are kingdom seekers, they just don't know the King yet," Travis says.

God has blessed their ministry with salvations, and Travis has been baptizing new believers in the Atlantic Ocean.

Let's pray now for Travis and Veronica, and ask God to help them grow this new church.



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: FEBRUARY 21, 2021

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## BETHANY FORRESTER

SOUTH ASIA • IMB

Deciding to follow Jesus is a hard choice in South Asia. People fear they may be cut off from their families or jobs, or they may not be able to marry.

\*Bethany Forrester, one of our missionaries in South Asia, is challenged by these obstacles to reach people for Christ.

A missionary to the deaf, she has learned a special sign language used by South Asia's millions of deaf people. All the while, she's surrounded by Asian languages, which are known to be difficult to understand.

Each week, Bethany meets with deaf people and tells Bible stories. She's found that they love stories, and God's Word contains incredible ones. Many of the deaf accept that the Bible is true.

By Cooperative Program giving, Bethany is able to keep pursuing this ministry for the sake of more people knowing Jesus.

As we pray for Bethany, let's ask God to keep her safe in this dangerous part of the world. Pray that she will have wisdom as she shares the gospel with people who fear earthly consequences more than eternal ones.

*\*Name has been changed for security purposes.*



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: FEBRUARY 28, 2021

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## KIRK & KAREN KIRKLAND

CINCINNATI • NAMB

Today, we want to pray for a home missionary couple called to inner city Cincinnati to plant a church.

Kirk and Karen Kirkland were comfortable living in Dayton, Ohio, an hour's drive north of Cincinnati, when Kirk felt called to plant a new church.

He thought it would be anywhere but Cincinnati, but that's exactly where God led them.

As a Southern Baptist, Kirk says he found planting a new church to be much easier than having an unaffiliated church.

He says as a pastor, you don't have to be alone, because there are other Southern Baptists who will provide support and encouragement.

In the days since the new church's start, Kirk has enjoyed watching it grow. He's challenged to reach the approximately 2 million people who live in and around Cincinnati. Only about 13% of the population has ties to an evangelical church.

Let's pray for the new church to grow nonstop and help thousands find faith in Christ.

Our church is supporting home missionaries like the Kirklands in other parts of Cincinnati and in most major Midwest cities like it — all through our Cooperative Program giving.

Ask God to help Kirk and Karen's ministry now.



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: MARCH 7, 2021

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## WILLIAM & NANCY POTTER

SOUTHEAST ASIA • IMB

We cannot send enough missionaries to tell the whole world about Jesus. Our missionaries, though, witness to people and disciple them so that more people will hear.

Let's pray for two of our missionaries today — we'll call them William and Nancy. They serve in Southeast Asia.

They have been discipling a man we'll call Siet (say SEET). Siet was an alcoholic. Once he got drunk and broke up his house. When he looked for help, friends told him about the gospel.

Siet quit drinking and accepted Christ. Soon he decided he should plant three new churches. But Siet did not take it seriously.

Then he was severely burned in an electrical accident at work. For two years he suffered skin grafts and other problems. But he survived and committed to be more faithful. Now he leads a Bible study attended by 10 baptized believers. William and Nancy still disciple him.

Our church helps support William and Nancy through the Cooperative Program. But do you see how they pass along the love of Christ to others and through them, still others? Missions is a great investment for our dollars!

Let's pray for William and Nancy and for Siet.



SEMINARY HIGHLIGHT: MARCH 14, 2021

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## STEVE & AMY MORGAN

NEW ORLEANS BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

As we pray today, let's think about getting prepared.

When you go to a medical doctor, you know that doctor studied very hard to become a physician. If you call someone to fix your furnace, you hope that repair person was trained and knows what to do.

How about someone who is going to minister for Christ? Well, many of us know that a school for pastors and missionaries is a seminary.

We Baptists support six outstanding seminaries that have a cumulative total of more than 18,000 students.

Steve and Amy Morgan wanted to prepare for a lifetime of ministry so they went to New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, one of our schools. He received a master's degree and she obtained a doctorate in counseling.

Steve and Amy were appointed Southern Baptist missionaries and sent to Italy. They arrived just before the COVID-19 pandemic struck in 2020, which has killed tens of thousands in Italy alone.

While Steve and Amy are safe, they have been on hold for months. Still, in all circumstances, God hears our prayers.

Let's thank God for New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary as it trains hundreds of future ministers and missionaries yearly. In addition, pray for Steve and Amy — and ask God to put their training to good use for Christ!



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: MARCH 21, 2021

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## CARLTON & CORNELIA WALKER

JAPAN • IMB

Today, we want to focus our prayers on two of our Southern Baptist missionaries who serve in one of the world's most difficult mission fields: Japan.

While the gospel has been accepted widely in some Asian countries, such as South Korea or even China, Japan has few Christians.

For more than 40 years, Carlton and Cornelia Walker have ministered in Japan. They are still praying that revival will come to the nation and for millions to know Christ.

For most Japanese people, though, cultural tradition and commitment discourage them from Christianity. They think becoming a Christian would dishonor their ancestors and make them less Japanese.

In more recent years, the Walkers have been encouraged by an increased openness to the gospel by some Japanese. They hope the Olympics — now set for 2021 in Tokyo — might be a great push for the gospel.

Let's be thankful today that our International Mission Board sends missionaries to the hard places that will become tomorrow's harvest fields. Our church supports the board and our missionaries, the Walkers, through our Cooperative Program giving.

Let's pray for the Walkers and ask God to send a mighty revival to Japan!



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: MARCH 28, 2021

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## MOJIC & MUNKO BALDANDORJ

CALIFORNIA • NAMB

Mojic and Munko Baldandorj (*say: Ball-DAN-door-jay*) came to America from Mongolia, a huge country in north-central Asia that's between China and Russia.

The couple became Christians while still in Mongolia and later moved to the United States to plant churches among the estimated 25,000 to 40,000 Mongolians who live here now.

They helped restart a church in Denver, Colorado, and are now planting a new church in Oakland, California. Our church is supporting them through our Cooperative Program giving.

One of the main ways they engage with Mongolians is through basketball, one of their favorite sports. Also, Mojic plans to meet with newcomer Mongolians in Oakland to help them adjust to life in America.

Most Mongolians are Buddhist and cling to that as a bit of home. But Mojic and Baldandorj want them to have a relationship with Jesus Christ, not just follow teachings.

Let's pray for this couple and their family as they serve in California. Ask God to strengthen their witness so many will come to faith in Christ.



N.C. CHURCH PLANTING HIGHLIGHT: APRIL 4, 2021

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## SEONGHO SONG

YEOLLIN BAPTIST CHURCH • MORRISVILLE, N. C.

Today in our prayer time, we will look at how our church is helping reach newcomers from South Korea for Christ.

Thousands of people across our state will come to faith in Christ this year because our church and many others support church planting through the Cooperative Program.

Seongho (*say: SONG-ho*) Song is from South Korea. He came to the United States in 1994 to study at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kentucky, one of the six seminaries our church supports through the Cooperative Program.

After graduation, he went back to South Korea to serve as a pastor. In 2013, Seongho returned to the United States to study in Missouri at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, another school our church supports.

Seongho served as a pastor in Fairfax, Virginia, and then as pastor of a Baptist church for Koreans in Durham, North Carolina.

He later planted a new church to reach Koreans in Morrisville, North Carolina, called Yeollin Baptist Church. Located near Research Triangle Park, many Koreans happen to reside in the area. Just a few months after the church started, attendance was averaging 35 to 40.

Let's pray for Pastor Song, who's one of our church missionaries helping reach Koreans for Christ.



N.C. MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT: APRIL 11, 2021

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## KIYOHIDE NONAKA

ASIAN MINISTRIES • BSCNC

The Japanese are some of the most affluent people in the world, yet one of the hardest to reach for the gospel.

Christians make up less than 1% of the whole population in Japan. Old religious traditions and peer pressure toward Christian converts keep many from desiring Christian faith.

However, God is moving in the hearts of Japanese people living in the United States. More than 30% of Japanese Americans are known as Protestants.

Kiyohide Nonaka has witnessed God working in these people's lives. He leads Japanese ministries in the Jacksonville, North Carolina, area. By teaching through expository preaching, Kiyohide hopes to solidify Japanese believers' faith and help them grow in the Bible. He is also training them to live out the Great Commission.

Kiyohide additionally serves as the Japanese ministry coordinator for Asian ministries at the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

Pray for Kiyohide and his ministry as he engages the Japanese population in North Carolina. In addition, ask God for Kiyohide's ministry to be fruitful as he makes disciples among the Japanese. May they spread the gospel in their community — and even to people in Japan as well.



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: APRIL 18, 2021

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## COLE ETHRIDGE

AFRICA • IMB

Our missionaries face dangers most of us never encounter — and cannot imagine.

Today, we are going to pray for \*Cole Ethridge, one of our missionaries who has served 32 years in Africa.

Let's run through some of what Cole has endured over the past three decades.

He has ministered throughout a war and during a genocide, in which many people were murdered.

Twice, people tried to overthrow the government. He has seen political insurrection and terrorist attacks.

More than once he stood up to armed bandits. He has cared for Christians facing religious persecution. He even lived on the street for a while so he could serve others there.

He was evacuated during a rebel attack. He battled and survived cancer. He survived an epidemic of meningitis. In 2020, he ministered in unique ways during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Although Cole prayed in the early days for God to send him anywhere but Africa, that's where he has served for much of his life — and he is still there. God has been faithful.

Throughout all those years and situations, our church has supported Cole through our Cooperative Program giving.

Let's pray for him now.

*\*Name has been changed for security purposes.*



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: APRIL 25, 2021

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## PRICE & ARRICA WRIGHT

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI • NAMB

Let's pray for Price and Arrica Wright, two of our North American missionaries in Kansas City, Missouri. Our church supports them through our Cooperative Program giving.

Price and Arrica are planting New City Church Loma Vista in Raytown, along the south side of Kansas City and just a few blocks from Interstate 435. The church is part of New City Church, which has groups in several locations across Missouri and Kansas.

Kansas City has become increasingly multicultural in the past few years. A recent festival drew area residents who have moved here from more than 60 nations.

Price and Arrica want to reach all of them for Christ, and they're off to a good start. The church began with a launch team of 35 people and has tripled in size within a couple of months.

Price says they're eager to see what God is going to do with them. He's creating a cycle where he discipless new believers who will then disciple more new believers.

Let's ask God to bless this new church and watch over Price and Arrica.



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: MAY 2, 2021

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## DAN & ELLA LAWLER

EUROPE • IMB

What does it take to be a missionary?

Although there are many factors, today let's pray for two missionaries who know what it means to follow God's call.

Dan and Ella Lawler serve in Europe, but they actually minister to people from Central Asia. Our church supports them through our Cooperative Program giving.

One day, Dan caught a bus home from the market. A man from Afghanistan was on the same bus. Dan spoke to him in Dari, one of the main Afghan languages. At first the man was nervous, but soon calmed down to listen.

Dan told the man God loves him and sent Jesus to provide for his salvation.

"I will pray for you in the name of Jesus," Dan told him before they parted ways.

The man did not make a decision for Christ. Dan may never see him again.

But using every opportunity to tell others about Jesus — that's what a missionary does. Every believer should do the same!

Let's pray for Dan and Ella, and for the man on the bus to be saved.



SEMINARY HIGHLIGHT: MAY 9, 2021

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## ROSS FRIERSON

SOUTHWESTERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Today let's pray for Ross Frierson, one of our Southern Baptist missionaries serving in Wales, the small nation beside England.

Sent by our International Mission Board, Ross is working alongside other missionaries at Redeemer Church in the country's capital of Cardiff, which sits about 150 miles west of London. The church is seeking to reach the thousands of refugees that have settled in the area.

Looking for safety, these refugees fled from Yemen, Syria and various other nations, including ones closed to our missionaries. In Wales, our missionaries have a unique opportunity to tell them about Jesus.

Redeemer Church now has people from 18 nations attend services.

Our church supports Ross in this hard assignment through our Cooperative Program giving. But we also helped prepare him for such a mission through the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, which our church also supports. Ross earned two degrees from the seminary, which trained him for such a time as this.

Let's pray for Ross now, and let's thank God for the life-changing work of Southwestern that's preparing men and women to serve the Lord in some very difficult places.



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: MAY 16, 2021

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## SEAN & LYDIA STEVENSON

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS • NAMB

They've been preparing for this for years.

Sean and Lydia Stevenson served eight years in Poland as Southern Baptist missionaries, and learned to speak Polish. Now, the couple is in Greater Chicago, where many locals are of Polish or Central European descent.

They are planting a new church called Elmwood Park Community Church, located in the village of Oak Park that's northwest of central Chicago. The couple was able to launch their new work in the building of a church that had closed, as most other churches in Oak Park have sadly done.

About half of their new church members are Hispanic, so Sean is studying Spanish. He's originally from New Mexico, while Lydia is from Arkansas.

This mixture of people is typical in Chicago, the nation's third largest city with some 10 million residents. Evangelical Christians number less than 1 million, so new churches are needed.

As our church happily supports the Stevensons through the Cooperative Program, let's unite in prayer now for Sean and Lydia and their new church.



N.C. CHURCH PLANTING HIGHLIGHT: MAY 23, 2021

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## RUFUS MUHIRWE

RALEIGH, N. C.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, war left thousands dead.

Rufus Muhirwe and his family fled from the fighting several times in Central Africa before making their way to Kenya. Life as refugees was hard. But Rufus had become a Christian in the Congo and clung to his faith, helping plant churches along the way.

Finally, he and his family were able to move to Raleigh, North Carolina, where they began attending Carolina Pines Baptist Church.

Rufus enjoyed how the church welcomed them and loved their children.

He started leading his family in Bible study and prayer in their own language at the church on Sundays. Rufus then began to invite other African immigrants to join. Soon, 16 families were attending and a new church was planted.

Through our giving to the Cooperative Program, our church is helping support Rufus while he grows this new congregation and shares Christ with many African immigrants.

Let's pray now for Rufus and his family, asking God to use them and help people come to faith in Christ.



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: MAY 30, 2021

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## DANIEL & TARA RICE

JAPAN • IMB

Today, let's make the Olympics part of our prayer time.

Although the Olympics were supposed to be held in Tokyo, Japan, in 2020, they were rescheduled to summer 2021 due to the coronavirus.

Two of our Southern Baptist missionaries, Daniel and Tara Rice, are stationed in the country. Their whole ministry has been to ensure that the thousands of people who come to the games will also hear the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Japanese churches will host parties in which local residents can come and watch the games. Some churches will have festivals. All of these events will include sharing the gospel.

Just outside one Olympic venue, the Rices and Japanese Christians will set up an outreach hub to talk about Jesus. There will be a full-court press, so to speak, of follow-up with all who show an interest in the gospel.

Our church supports Daniel and Tara through our Cooperative Program giving.

Let's pray that, as the world comes to see the greatest athletes compete, they will also hear the world's best story about how Jesus was sent to bring salvation.



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: JUNE 6, 2021

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## MATTHEW & ANA SILVESTRE

SALINAS, CALIFORNIA • NAMB

People told them it was too dangerous, but they moved there anyway.

Matthew and Ana Silvestre believe in sharing the gospel in difficult places, including areas known for gang activity, drugs and crime. That's why they were willing to plant a new church in Salinas (*say: sah-LEEN-as*), California, a town near the coast that's south of San Francisco.

The couple first felt God leading them to plant a new church back in 2014. Years later, they've seen that church come to fruition while raising their three daughters.

Venture Church Salinas, as they call it, is now reaching a number of Spanish-speaking people and many others as well. While Matthew and Ana have a Hispanic background, Matthew grew up in Aptos, a town just 30 miles north of Salinas.

Our church is supporting these two North American missionaries through our Cooperative Program giving as they serve the Lord.

Let's ask God to bless their church and help them reach many for Himself.



N.C. CHURCH PLANTING HIGHLIGHT: JUNE 13, 2021

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## OSMEL JIMENEZ

MONROE, N. C.

Osmel Jimenez understands the need for the gospel to go beyond church walls and to every nation.

He's a church planter near Monroe, North Carolina, a rural area southeast of Charlotte, but he often travels across the state as an electrician. As Osmel meets people, he shares the gospel and helps many come to faith in Christ.

However, each Sunday he returns home to preach to 30-plus people gathered in a room provided by Lakeside Baptist Church.

From Cuba, Osmel can easily relate to the church's Hispanic attendees. However, he's excited that the multiethnic church also includes people from Russia and Brazil.

In addition, the church has expanded its reach through internet services that have enabled more Cubans and Brazilians to watch online, along with many people in Durham, North Carolina.

The growing ministry to internationals is supported by Cooperative Program giving, and Osmel hopes to reach more people from other countries.

Today, let's pray for Osmel, who desires for all people to get connected to God and know the love of Jesus Christ.

Let's remember our church has that same vision!



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: JUNE 20, 2021

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## JOHNNY & DONNA MAUST

ECUADOR • IMB

Have you ever taken one step of faith involving your gifts and seen God continually open doors?

That's what happened for Johnny and Donna Maust. The couple is serving in Ecuador, which sits on the upper left side of South America. Our church supports them through our Cooperative Program giving.

While Johnny has stood by his wife's side, he's seen her lead the way in many activities that have enabled them both to share about Jesus.

Donna wanted to get to know people in the town where they moved so she entered a cooking contest. Her light-but-rich strawberry cheese pie won second place, and a government leader asked her to teach cooking classes in his house.

Those classes eventually led to Bible studies, which went so well that a church was planted.

Then, Donna learned to make soap and started classes teaching women how to create it. As a result, 12 women launched a soap company that sells items to hotels and stores.

Even cheese pie and soap can help us share the gospel and plant a new church if we follow Donna's example.

Let's ask God's blessings on Johnny and Donna. And let's stand by to see what Donna does next!



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: JUNE 27, 2021

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## J.C. & SYLVIA NAVA

PHOENIX, ARIZONA • NAMB

In Phoenix, people know less about the Bible than almost any other U.S. city.

That's why the ministry of J.C. and Sylvia Nava (say: NAH-vah), two of our missionaries, is so important. With few evangelical churches in the area, they've planted My City Church Phoenix. They're supported through our church, which gives dollars to the Cooperative Program that funds them.

Although many may think of Phoenix as a place for retirement, the average age is actually just 32 years old, younger than the national average.

From Mexico, J.C. and Sylvia have been able to relate to the many Hispanics in Arizona. However, they still have a desire to reach people with all kinds of backgrounds and ethnicities.

J.C. and Sylvia partner with the Valley Rim Baptist Association of churches in Phoenix, and also with our North American Mission Board.

With vast spiritual needs in Phoenix, it takes all of us — including our church — to reach the city.

Let's pray now for J.C. and Sylvia.



N.C. CHURCH PLANTING HIGHLIGHT: JULY 4, 2021

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## MICHEAL CHILDERS

THE CHURCH AT SEE OFF • BREVARD, N. C.

Today for prayer time we're traveling to the mountains of western North Carolina.

That's where Michael Childers has planted a new church that's supported by our Cooperative Program giving.

After growing up on See Off Mountain, Michael became an electrical contractor and ran his own company for almost 20 years. He and his wife, Cheryl, moved off the mountain and did not want to return.

But God called Michael to ministry.

He sold his company and enrolled in Fruitland Baptist Bible College, which is also supported through the Cooperative Program. Then, God called Michael back to his hometown of Brevard, North Carolina.

Michael was asked to be pastor of a new church plant called The Church at See Off, which is a revitalization of Dunn's Creek Baptist Church.

Michael has seen his community grow with people of varying economic status. Newcomers include many young families. But few follow Christ, and all need the power of the gospel in their lives.

Let's pray now for Michael and ask God to give him a mountaintop experience — both scenic and spiritual!



N.C. MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT: JULY 11, 2021

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## STEPHEN BRADLEY

HARVEST CHURCH • GREENVILLE, N.C.

Since 2018, Stephen and Bethani Bradley have served in Greenville, North Carolina, where they planted Harvest Church.

Nestled halfway between Raleigh and the coast, Greenville is home to East Carolina University, which serves 30,000 students annually. The city also holds Vidant Medical Center, one of the largest hospitals east of Interstate 95.

Since much of eastern North Carolina remains rural and agricultural, Greenville is the economic, medical and educational hub for hundreds of thousands of people.

Though Greenville has many churches, there are few people who have a thriving relationship with Jesus. Greenville is suffering from marital strife, racial division, false doctrines and passivity to the gospel.

Stephen and Beth have found this to be the case in multiple small towns surrounding Greenville as well. There is a desperate need to proclaim the goodness of Jesus.

That is why Harvest seeks to be a church that makes disciples, equips Christ followers, and sends out teams to plant churches all over eastern North Carolina and beyond.

Through your Cooperative Program giving, people like Kaleb have come to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Kaleb was hostile to the gospel and loving the things of the world. After building a relationship with Stephen and spending numerous hours discussing the Bible, Kaleb gave his life to God.

This is just one of many testimonies that Harvest has about how your giving has made an eternal impact. Thank you for your support.

Please pray for Harvest Church as they seek to bring glory to God.



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: JULY 18, 2021

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## JAMES & JEN CHO

CALGARY, ALBERTA, CANADA • NAMB

Let's go to western Canada today to pray for two of our Southern Baptist missionaries, James and Jen Cho.

The couple is serving in Calgary, a striking city of skyscrapers standing above the plains. The Rocky Mountains march across the horizon. As Canada's third largest city, it's a modern area that's home to more than 1 million people.

Yet culturally, many locals hang onto the ideas of cowboys and Western culture. That's likely due to the Calgary Stampede, the world's biggest rodeo, being held there.

Like most of Canada, few Calgary residents follow Christ.

Supported through our church's Cooperative Program giving, James and Jen planted The Vine Church in northwestern Calgary in hopes that many more would seek the Lord.

Both of them have a Korean background, so they understand what it's like to move to a new nation as so many have done in Canada. They've been able to share the gospel with lots of immigrants and bring them to church.

With high growth prospects for The Vine Church, let's ask God's blessings on James and Jen so they can help many come to Christ.



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: JULY 25, 2021

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## VICTOR & MADELINE HAWTHORNE

DEAF • IMB

In Chiang Mai (*say: chang-MY*), Thailand, two of our missionaries \*Victor and \*Madeline Hawthorne, have a desire to reach deaf people.

However, due to the multiple types of sign language around the world, it can be tricky to communicate with deaf people in varying regions.

With the help of our church's Cooperative Program giving, the Hawthornes planted a new church for deaf people in the nation's third largest city.

Two local deaf people, Sombai (*say: som-BUY*) and Alisara (*say: allah-SARAH*) joined the couple's church after noticing they use Thai Sign Language to translate the Bible exactly.

Sombai and Alisara were relieved to finally be able to fully understand sermons. They'd previously had a challenging time following messages at another local church that provided signed interpretation through a slow word-for-word system.

The Hawthornes have since trained them and others to plant new churches for the deaf.

Let's pray for Victor and Madeline because we want everyone to hear the gospel — through whatever that takes!

*\*Names have been changed for security purposes.*



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: AUGUST 1, 2021

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## J.D. & ANDREINA FASOLINO

TORONTO, CANADA • NAMB

Originally from Venezuela, two of our North American missionaries headed north to Canada for the sake of the gospel.

J.D. and Andreina (*say: ahn-DRAY-nah*) Fasolino (*say: fah-so-LEEN-oh*) are planting Emmanuel Baptist Church East for Hispanics in the Toronto area. More specifically, they are in Ajax, which has a large Hispanic population. It's located up the Lake Michigan shoreline from the city center.

Nearly 6.5 million people live in the Toronto area, and more than 2 million of those were born outside Canada. Within just a few blocks of the church, J.D. has met Spanish speakers from various nations.

J.D. received his seminary training in his home country, and he also has a degree in economics. Andreina is a computer systems engineer.

Let's pray for J.D. and Andreina as they serve the Lord at Emmanuel Baptist. Ask God that many will be saved and grow in Him.



SEMINARY HIGHLIGHT: AUGUST 8, 2021

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## BRITTANY HALL

SOUTHEASTERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Sometimes ministry involves wearing multiple hats.

That's what a young woman named Brittany Hall is doing as she balances being a student and serving at a church.

She's preparing for a lifetime of Christian ministry by working towards a degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, one of the six seminaries our church helps support through our Cooperative Program giving.

Simultaneously, she's serving at a new church in New York City.

Jackson Heights Community Church is in the Jackson Heights section of Queens, New York. Services are held on the second floor of a Pakistani restaurant. People from around the world — speaking more than 160 languages — live nearby.

The multicultural church has a desire for everyone to know Jesus, regardless of their ethnicity. Brittany leads worship, works with young people and shares her faith with Muslim women every day.

All our Southern Baptist seminaries have great serve-and-study options like this. What Brittany learns in class today, she may use in a witnessing situation tomorrow.

Let's pray for Brittany as she ministers in New York City. And let's thank God for Southeastern Seminary, our school that is equipping her to be effective in ministry.



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: AUGUST 15, 2021

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## WINFIELD & LORI SCOTT

CENTRAL ASIA • IMB

Although missionaries mostly focus on planting churches and sharing the gospel, a crucial aspect of missionary service includes making sure pastors and other local church leaders are strong in their faith.

In Central Asia, our missionaries \*Winfield and \*Lori Scott noticed many families were having marital problems, including multiple churches.

Supported through our Cooperative Program giving, the Scotts were able to lead a marriage retreat for national pastors and their wives.

During the first time for such a retreat in the area, Winfield and Lori taught that people must be strong in Christ as individuals before they can improve life with their spouses. They coordinated sessions that involved couples meeting together and others where men and women congregated separately. When the women were alone, Lori saw that the older women counseled the younger ones.

Let's pray for Winfield and Lori as they lead in Central Asia, and ask the Lord to keep their own marriage solid as they help others.

In addition, let's join our missionaries in praying for healthy marriages and families in churches across Central Asia.

*\*Names have been changed for security purposes.*



**N.C. CHURCH PLANTING HIGHLIGHT: AUGUST 22, 2021**

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## **MARIO MIRANDA**

CHARLOTTE, N. C.

Although North Carolina Baptists have planted over 150 Spanish-speaking churches, many more are needed. There are now over 1 million Hispanics living in our state.

That's one reason why Mario Miranda's ministry is vital. His church is reaching Spanish speakers who have moved from Central and South America. Born in Argentina, Mario knows exactly what it's like to be in their shoes.

His church was planted about two years ago in Charlotte, North Carolina, and now has 60-plus members. Although they currently don't have a building, they gather alongside another church each Sunday that's located near the west junction of Interstate 85 and I-485.

Mario is one of more than 100 church planters supported across the state by our Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. Our church helps Mario through our Cooperative Program giving.

Let's pray for Mario and his ministry as he brings the hope of Jesus Christ to those who do not know Him.



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: AUGUST 29, 2021

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## GEORGE & JOY ROSS

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA • NAMB

Although Mardi Gras and jazz draw tourists to New Orleans each year, George and Joy Ross came to the bustling city for another reason.

New Orleans is a mission field. Most of the city's 400,000 people live daily without Christ. Evangelical Christians make up only about 12% of the population.

Our North American Mission Board has sent more than two dozen people to New Orleans to plant new churches that will reach many for Christ and disciple them in the Christian faith.

Let's pray today for George and Joy, who are the cheerleaders, coaches and official encouragers of those church planters.

After watching their own church plant multiply, the couple desires to teach other church planters how they can reach others. George teaches various topics including family life, which he understands well. He and Joy have six children.

George is always looking for church planters who may be called to New Orleans, as he wants to see the whole city know Christ.

Our church supports George and Joy and all those other church planters through our Cooperative Program giving. Let's pray for them now.



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: SEPTEMBER 5, 2021

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## JOHN & LOIS WANG

ARGENTINA • IMB

Today, we are going to pray for two of our missionaries that God is using to affect the future of Argentina, located on the bottom tip of South America.

Our church supports them through our Cooperative Program giving.

John and Lois Wang are reaching university students for Christ at two major universities in Buenos Aires (*say: BWEN-ohs AIR-eez*).

Normally the Wangs would have become campus ministers, but the large schools in Argentina don't allow outsiders to have access to students. So, John and Lois became professors! John teaches engineering at one school and Lois teaches Korean at another so they can talk freely with students.

Still, it is a slow process because most students resist conversations about Jesus. To help, John and Lois started a network of churches that reach out to students and provide Bible studies.

In 2019, they began with three churches and trained their leaders. John dreams of lining up whole networks of churches to further the gospel.

Let's pray for the Wangs and ask that God help thousands of university students come to faith in Christ. May those believers turn the entire nation of Argentina towards Christ!



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: SEPTEMBER 12, 2021

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## EDWIN & MELINDA PACHECO

BROOKLYN, NEW YORK • NAMB

Some missionaries are sent to exotic places far from home, but God tells others to stay where they are.

We're praying today for Edwin and Melinda Pacheco (*say: pah-CHECK-oh*), two of our North American missionaries who serve in Brooklyn, New York, where they were both born and grew up.

Now it's where they're raising their two daughters. But they're not in just any spot of Brooklyn. They're located in the Red Hook neighborhood down by the East River — just across the river from the Statue of Liberty.

Most tourists won't venture into Red Hook, where drugs, poverty and other big city problems linger on nearly every street corner. But this is where Edwin and Melinda planted Redemption Church on Hicks Street at West 9th.

The church is tackling poverty through setting up a powerful food ministry, and they've gone all out to help the neighborhood. Consequently, the church is living up to its name "Redemption" because redemption is what spiritually hungry people want to feast on, even if they don't know what that is.

It's Christian redemption Edwin offers the neighborhood through his preaching and on the street dialogues. All the while, our church supports him through the Cooperative Program.

Let's pray for Edwin and Melinda, and that Brooklyn would be filled with the hope of Christ.



**N.C. CHURCH PLANTING HIGHLIGHT: SEPTEMBER 19, 2021**

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## **JASON BRULET**

SHINE COMMUNITY CHURCH • JOHNSTON COUNTY, N. C.

If you know Johnston County, North Carolina, you might think every church there is considered rural. And the answer may be yes, for now — but not for long.

Drive out to Highway 42 and you'll see mile after mile of new houses, apartments, grocery stores, restaurants and all the other things that make up the suburbs.

Now, who will make sure there are churches for all these new people?

Well, that would be us!

Jason Brulet, one of our North Carolina church planters, started Shine Community Church in Johnston County with the help of more than 80 members from Hephzibah Baptist Church in Wendell, North Carolina.

Not a church split, Hephzibah members approved this as part of their missions program. They all knew Jason, who served on staff at their church for more than six years.

In January 2020, Shine Community Church launched in a rented venue building with more than 300 people in attendance. Our church and thousands of others in our state are helping support this new church through our Cooperative Program giving.

Let's ask God to make Shine Church a light for Christ across Johnston County.



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: SEPTEMBER 26, 2021

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## KATELYN SUMMERS

SOUTHEAST ASIA • IMB

If you were a missionary, what would you do if you were called to a country in Southeast Asia that rejects the church?

One of our missionaries was in that situation and came up with an interesting solution.

\*Katelyn Summers set up a coffee business with the help of a church partnership in Singapore. Students sent by the church pick coffee berries and bring bags of them to Katelyn. She roasts, processes and dries the berries into coffee beans.

Then, she goes through the community and sells the beans. The coffee business helps Katelyn stay in the country, but it also provides lots of opportunities to talk with people about Jesus.

Our church helps support Katelyn in that far-off nation because part of our Cooperative Program dollars are sent to her by our International Mission Board.

How about that missions-minded church in Singapore? We helped send missionaries to Singapore for years, and now there are strong partner churches able to do this kind of mission work.

Think about this: Katelyn is selling coffee beans to folks she wants to tell about Jesus. Don't you guess they're wide awake to hear what she says?

*\*Name has been changed for security purposes.*



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: OCTOBER 3, 2021

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## EBBIE DAVIS

CALIFORNIA • NAMB

San Diego sounds like an incredible place to live, right? No doubt. But it's also a very difficult mission field.

Although more than 3 million people live in and around San Diego, less than 10% are evangelical Christians. The region is a melting pot of various cultures, and has an especially high Hispanic population.

Ebbie Davis, one of our home missionaries, is serving the city with a desire to reach everyone with the gospel.

Ebbie first went to California through our North American Mission Board. The board has a program called NextGen that sends Christian college students to missions sites in North America. The students help plant new churches and work alongside home missionaries like Ebbie.

Now Ebbie is working with eight NextGen students in the San Diego area, helping plant a new church where hundreds more are needed.

Our church supports our North American Mission Board and the NextGen program just as we are supporting our missionary Ebbie — all through our Cooperative Program giving.

Let's pray that more students will be called to missions and see firsthand how the gospel can change lives. And let's lift up Ebbie as she works with students in San Diego.



**N.C. CHURCH PLANTING HIGHLIGHT: OCTOBER 10, 2021**

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**GARY LEE**

RALEIGH, N. C.

Many prayers have been lifted for foreigners moving to North Carolina.

Today, you can see how God has answered those prayers through Gary Lee, a third generation Chinese American.

Born and raised in Sacramento, California, Gary became a follower of Christ in 1992. He was later called to ministry and served as a pastor.

But God gave him a clear calling to go somewhere else — a place where people from all over the world are coming. That turned out to be Raleigh, right here in our own state.

With close proximity to Meredith College and N.C. State University, Gary planted a multicultural church that is reaching Asians and other foreigners.

North Carolina Baptists asked God for church planters, and He has called many from across our country and beyond. Gary moved all the way from California to plant this church.

Our church supports Gary through our Cooperative Program giving. Let's thank God for His faithfulness, and ask Him to bless Gary and his new church in Raleigh.



**N.C. MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT: OCTOBER 17, 2021**

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## **MARK NAVEY**

MONROE, N.C. & WINGATE UNIVERSITY

Provision Church of Monroe needed a way to introduce their church to Wingate students. As a new church, they believe that college students are essential to the mission of their church, but they needed to find a creative way to connect with them. So, Pastor Mark Navey and their elders put on their out-of-the-box thinking caps and came up with a crazy idea to “make a big splash on campus” by hosting a duck race on the pond during the first week of the semester! College students were assigned one of 500 rubber duckies that were set loose to race.

Members of Provision Church were on hand to mingle with the students and invite them to a special worship gathering as a way to introduce them to the church. The event had a huge success allowing Provision volunteers to meet many students while building community. The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina’s Collegiate Partnerships team partnered with Provision to make this event possible. Mark and several team members were also able to participate in a Leadership Cohort focused on discipling student leaders.

Please pray for Pastor Mark and the members of Provision as they reach the next generation by making disciples at Wingate University. Pray for Christian students that they will see themselves as missionaries to the campus. Pray for all students as they are dealing with isolation, loneliness and disruptions caused by the pandemic.



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: OCTOBER 24, 2021

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## MARK & ANNIE CROSBY

EASTERN EUROPE • IMB

Sometimes you just need a friend.

That was \*Mark and \*Annie Crosby's prayer as Eastern European ministries.

They found most people in their region consider themselves Orthodox Christians, but more as an identity label than an actual faith. Supported by our church's Cooperative Program giving, the couple went to reach the many Muslims who live in a border town.

Mark and Annie asked God for an inroad — one believer who could help them. At last, they met \*Natalia (*say: nah-TAL-yah*), who teaches English at a school and is the only follower of Christ on staff.

Natalia became their ministry partner, and the missionaries were able to arrange multiple evangelistic events, including a presentation on Christmas in the gym of Natalia's school.

While some feared the Muslims would be offended during the occasion, that did not happen. The event was a success.

In the days ahead, Mark and Annie realize reaching Muslims for Christ will continually be a hard task, but they are encouraged to have a faithful partner.

Let's pray now for Mark and Annie, and ask God to help them reach many for Christ. And let's lift up Natalia, too.

*\*Names have been changed for security purposes.*



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: OCTOBER 31, 2021

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## CASEY HOUGH

ERLC

As we join for prayer today, our American culture is divided. The country is being torn apart by arguments and outright conflict.

Things change as fast as the 24-hour news updates.

Questions about right or wrong are very complicated — but of course, we who follow Christ have to reflect deeply as we seek His will. We need to understand current issues as well as the Bible's teachings.

We are going to pray for a man named Casey Hough (*say: HUFF; rhymes with rough*) because his work helps Baptists understand today's ethical issues.

Casey is a pastor in Houston, Texas, who also serves with the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission. This commission was established years ago to help Baptists deal effectively with complex issues.

Casey does research that helps the commission have the information and background it needs to arrive at Bible-based responses to questions we face.

We could call Casey a missionary for truth. And, like the thousands of other missionaries our church supports, we support him through our Cooperative Program giving.

Let's pray now for Casey and the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission.



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: NOVEMBER 7, 2021

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## CHASE & LIBBY PHILLIPS

DENVER, COLORADO • NAMB

During the Christian life, there's many spiritual mountains and valleys.

But for Chris and Libby Phillips, they're surrounded by physical mountains, too. From Tennessee, the couple heard of a great spiritual need in Denver, Colorado, and headed to the Rocky Mountains to plant a new church.

Supported by our Cooperative Program giving, they've been able to start Journey Point Church, located six miles northeast of downtown Denver and nestled in the Stapleton area.

With 75,000 new homes being built in the region, the church is among one of the largest new housing developments in the nation. It's predicted that most of these houses will be young families averaging two children each.

So, we can see the Phillips' new church is urgently needed.

With four children of their own, Chris and Libby understand the importance of kids growing up in a church.

Previously, Chris worked in medical sales until the Lord called him into full-time service. Amid the pandemic, the couple has kept in touch with church members through an app they developed.

Let's pray for Chris and Libby, and that their new church will help those in Stapleton look even higher than the Rockies — all the way to heaven — as they come in faith to Christ.



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: NOVEMBER 14, 2021

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## LIAM & NICOLE REMINGTON

EAST ASIA • IMB

Today in our prayer time we're going to East Asia, where our missionary \*Liam Remington was sent to translate the Bible into the language of an unreached people group.

Our church supports him and his wife, \*Nicole, through the Cooperative Program.

Ten years ago, Liam went to a mountain town to study the language. During his first day in the region, he met a man named \*L.T., who is part of the people group Liam was studying.

L.T. helped Liam with his translation. The two became friends as Liam returned many times for language study.

For the next decade, Liam prayed, fasted and told L.T. about Jesus. He reviewed the Bible with him, but still, no response.

One day, L.T. drove Liam and his family to the airport for a visit back to the United States.

"I will pray to Jesus for your safe travel," L.T. said as Liam rushed into the airport.

Only later did Liam reflect on what L.T. had said and recognized the meaning behind his words. L.T. had accepted Christ as his Savior!

Since then, L.T. has become a strong believer.

Let's pray today for Liam and Nicole, but also for L.T. as he grows in Christ.

*\*Names have been changed for security purposes.*



SEMINARY HIGHLIGHT: NOVEMBER 21, 2021

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## JAY MASON

SOUTHERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Today we're going to pray for \*Jay Mason, who moved to the Middle East in 2013, just as the local government gave Christian churches new freedom.

Supported through our Cooperative program giving, Jay has been able to plant a new church that has grown steadily — an incredible opportunity that has never before occurred in the area. He credits the Lord for making it happen.

Jay's ministry is more than a little difficult and dangerous. But he prepared for this journey by studying at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. It's one of the six seminaries our church supports through our Cooperative Program giving, which helps lower tuition costs for students.

Let's pray for Jay, and thank the Lord for seminaries like Southern that are equipping pastors and missionaries to minister effectively and share Christ — even in some of the most challenging places in the world.

*\*Name has been changed for security purposes.*



**N.C. CHURCH PLANTING HIGHLIGHT: NOVEMBER 28, 2021**

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## **CHRIS DORTCH**

GRACE POINT • MOORESVILLE, N. C.

Drive up Interstate 77 north from Charlotte, North Carolina, and you'll soon come to Mooresville, a prosperous area that has vastly expanded in recent years.

That's where Chris Dortch is planting a new church called Grace Point. While Chris thinks there are many good and growing churches around Mooresville, these churches cannot keep up with the rapid increase of lostness that comes with a larger population. New churches are needed.

Grace Point was created to bridge the gap in meeting the community's need for the gospel. Through gathering at the YMCA in Mooresville, church members are near large housing developments where thousands don't know Christ. From social media to signs in front yards, the church is trying various ways to grab the attention of residents.

Chris believes at least 60,000 locals are trying to navigate life without a church. He knows reaching them is not too big of a feat for a personal and powerful God.

He's already witnessed God work in many ways to move him and his family to Mooresville. He wants the new church to understand from day one that the body of Christ exists to fulfill the Great Commission while following the Great Commandment to love people.

Chris is part of our Baptist State Convention of North Carolina's church planting ministry and our church supports him through our Cooperative Program giving.

Let's pray for him now.



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: DECEMBER 5, 2021

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## CHASE & LAURA FEINDEL

VISTA, CALIFORNIA • NAMB

About 40 million people live in California, one of our greatest missions challenges.

Less than an hour's drive north of San Diego, North American missionaries Chase and Laura Feindel are serving in the city of Vista, which has a population of 100,000.

Vista is a beautiful area near the Pacific, but few people follow Christ. Out of more than 3 million people who live in and around San Diego, only about 10% say they are evangelical Christians.

Literally hundreds of new churches are needed.

Beginning to fill this void, Chase and Laura have set up home groups and are trying various ways to make their new church known in the community.

During the pandemic, they've continued meeting when they could do so safely and have moved to outside gatherings at a ranch-type conference center.

Our North American Mission Board has sent a number of missionaries like Chase and Laura to the San Diego area because of the massive spiritual needs — and more are needed.

Our church supports Chase and Laura through our Cooperative Program giving as they try to reach the lost with the love of a Savior.

Let's pray for them now.



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: DECEMBER 12, 2021

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## WADE & SHARON SIGREST

PHILIPPINES • IMB

Amid the pandemic, our missionaries are witnessing people go to great heights to know God.

Wade and Sharon Sigrest are serving across the world in Cebu (*say: SEH-boo*), one of some 7,100 islands in the Philippines.

The couple planted a house church with the hope it would be the first of many to come. High school students and brothers named B.J. and Melbert began attending.

Melbert became a Christian after reading the Bible. Then he shared the gospel with B.J., who also committed his life to Christ.

B.J. said he wanted to attend a Bible school, and so Wade began discipling him. But when COVID-19 struck the Philippines, they could not meet. Consequently, they switched their communication to cell phones.

One day, B.J. asked Wade to wait till he could get a better signal. Wade found out later that B.J. had climbed a tree and sat there for the whole lesson, just so he could hear.

Our church supports Wade and Sharon through our Cooperative Program giving. Let's pray for them now.



**N.C. CHURCH PLANTING HIGHLIGHT: DECEMBER 19, 2021**

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## **BARRY MURRY**

SPOUT SPRINGS, N. C.

Barry Murry has a desire to reach those with strong military ties through his new church plant in Spout Springs, North Carolina, located just nine miles north of Fort Bragg.

With about 80% of the community involved with Bragg, the rapidly growing area has a constant stream of new houses, stores and restaurants popping up.

But Barry says many of the people living here are lost. With two pockets of lostness nearby, he's even found it unusual to meet someone who knows Christ or attends church.

He's hoping that'll change through God in working in the body of Christ, including in his new church plant that has a core group of about 35 people. They started meeting in the city's new YMCA in 2020.

Familiar with church startups, Barry and his wife, Missy, planted new churches in Maine and served as missionaries with the North American Mission Board before returning to North Carolina.

Our church supported them in Maine through our Cooperative Program giving, the same way we are supporting them currently with the church plant near Cameron, North Carolina.

Let's pray for the Murrys and ask the Lord to help them reach many lost people for Christ.



MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT: DECEMBER 26, 2021

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## ANDY GREENFIELD

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND • NAMB

Although Baltimore has over a half million residents, its population has declined in recent years. Many people have left the city because of its problems.

Our North American Mission Board has sent many church planters to meet the city's significant needs, including Andy Greenfield.

Andy is lead pastor of a new church called Village Station North Church, located in the heart of Baltimore. They meet in a building that once was a dwindling Baptist church — until the leaders offered their space to Village Station.

Andy and his team are working hard to build a growing congregation as they reach out to the community. They're especially focused on bringing people of many backgrounds together under the cross of Christ.

Andy and his wife, Rhonda, have three children.

As our church helps support Andy and our missions board, let's pray for Andy and his family. Ask the Lord to grow a church that will stand strong for Christ in Baltimore.