

ANNIE ARMSTRONG

EASTER OFFERING®

FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS

**The
mission
moves
forward**



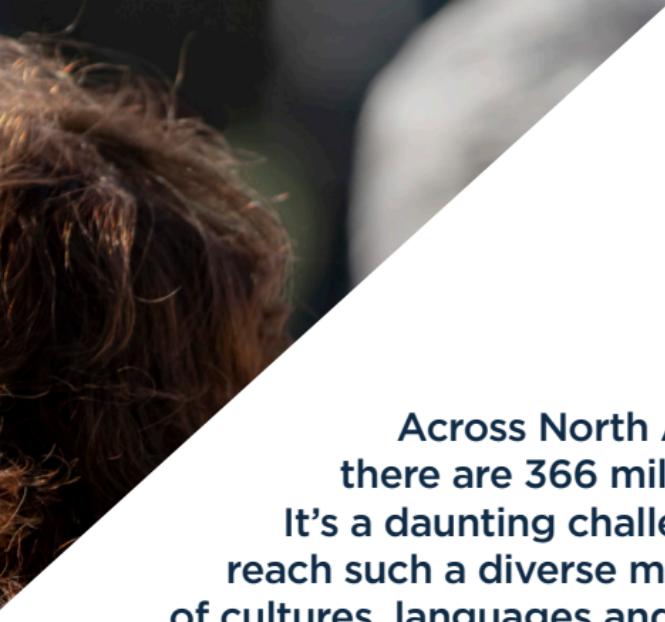
**2021
PRAYER GUIDE**

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



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



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.

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ANNIEARMSTRONG.COM/KAMAL



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.

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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.

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ANNIEARMSTRONG.COM/MOURA



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.

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ANNIEARMSTRONG.COM/SNYDER



JOSHUA
VALDEZ
FARMINGTON, NEW MEXICO

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.

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ANNIEARMSTRONG.COM/VALDEZ



**BOBBY & LAKEISHA
WILLIAMS**
SLIDELL, LOUISIANA

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



JACOB & FRANCINE
ZAILIAN
SANGER, CALIFORNIA

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

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



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