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DAY 5

CHINESE CHURCH PLANTER WESTERN U.S.

It Takes Time

John* came to Christ in China, a communist country known for its atheism. John came to the U.S. for seminary training and planned to return to his home country. But God burdened him for Chinese immigrants chasing the American dream.

John knew they needed the gospel. It was challenging to plant the first Mandarin-speaking, SBC church in a city that was home to thousands of Chinese Americans. John and his wife reached out to their community, and the church slowly grew.

"Some of our members left China for better lives. Some were brought by their parents. They all valued accomplishment and believed their worth was earned. Yet they all felt something was missing," said John. Gospel hope was the missing piece.

**Name changed due to security concerns.*

PRAY

For the nations God is bringing to North America to gain spiritual understanding of His freely given grace.

For Chinese church planters to reach their neighbors with the gospel and for strength to face cultural challenges.

ANNIEARMSTRONG.COM/CHINESECHURCHES



DAY 6

MUCHE & DIAMONE UKEGBU MIAMI, FLORIDA

Beauty in Suffering

Muche grew up in the inner city of Houston, where his brother was murdered as a young man. That experience gave Muche a unique perspective when he felt called to plant a church in Miami.

"Because of my history, I have more patience as I walk with people," says Muche. "As Miami became more diverse, most churches left and moved to the suburbs. Nothing was left to take the church's place—not anything good, at least."

The Ukegbus planted The Brook Church, which now has four city groups and is preparing to launch more.

"When Diamone and I moved here, Miami broke our hearts. But we found something beautiful. Many look at this city and want to begin fixing the sin and depravity. But what we see here are people made in God's image, and we desire to tell them that."

PRAY

For God to expand the ministry of The Brook to build strong faith communities in Miami and teach people to passionately follow Jesus.

For Muche and Diamone to wisely mentor and raise up leaders who have a heart for the city.

ANNIEARMSTRONG.COM/UKEGBU



DAY 7

LUIS & BEATRIZ SOTO WEST VALLEY, UTAH

Stronger in Numbers

Born in Puerto Rico, Luis had a love for missions. He moved his family to Utah, where Mormonism touches every part of the culture, including the more than 300,000 Hispanic residents.

Most Hispanics work two or three jobs in West Valley. When Luis sees hardworking men come to a weeknight church event, he knows they are serious about the Lord and hold potential to become new planters.

"We need more planters to start more churches that can communicate truth," says Luis. "In a place where it seems like everyone is Mormon, it's easy to feel alone. But I know our church, the people we're sending out and the many who support us through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering are part of something bigger. One day very soon, we're going to have Hispanic churches sharing the gospel all over Utah."

PRAY

For Luis and Beatriz's daily wisdom to share the gospel and raise up more leaders.

For the residents of Utah's hearts to be open to discovering Jesus as the only way, the truth and the life.

ANNIEARMSTRONG.COM/SOTO



DAY 8

In Need of Hope

Kevin Ezell, NAMB President

Every step our missionaries take across North America, they are faced with increasing secularism. Many cities have become so irreligious they could reasonably be deemed pre-Christian. Even in the region once deemed the "Bible Belt," Christianity is being pushed to the margins.

North America is also rapidly becoming more diverse culturally and ethnically. Every day, the nations come here. Many are from people groups whose home countries are extremely difficult to reach. We cannot let these gospel opportunities pass us by, and missionaries desperately need the prayers of God's people to succeed.

PRAY

For missionaries to make connections with people who can help build relationships in new neighborhoods.

For encouragement in the middle of social pressure and loneliness.

For God to provide more Christian leaders who will help share the missionaries' loads.



SENDING HOPE

2019
PRAYER GUIDE
WEEK OF PRAYER FOR
NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS

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FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS

"...He has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

1 Peter 1:3, CSB

The North American mission field is vast, and the needs can seem overwhelming. But there is hope. This week you'll read about miracles in our missionaries' lives, and how God is using them to send hope to cities, small towns and college campuses. Your prayers are the spiritual fuel for these missionaries and many more. Through prayer, God is opening doors and lives are being transformed.

Your generosity through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is another way you support more than 5,000 missionaries. Every dollar goes directly to the mission field to resource their work.

363 million people in North America

350 languages and more than 14 religions

273 million have no relationship with Jesus

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

DAY 1

Sending Hope

People search for hope to give their lives meaning. They need hope that, in spite of circumstances, things will get better. They place their hope in relationships, jobs, money and what the world has to offer. But the apostle Peter tells us where we can find true, lasting hope. It's lasting because it is living and can be found only in Christ.

Millions live in the United States, Canada and territories of Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam and American Samoa. More missionaries are needed. Although we're not all called to full-time missions, every person can send living hope.

It starts with prayer.

PRAY

For God to strengthen missionaries and call more to go to the most unreached places.

To be burdened for the lost in your community and to intentionally engage in gospel conversations.



DAY 2



JORGE & REBECA SANTIAGO
COMERÍO, PUERTO RICO

Generating Faith

Addiction left Jorge empty. He ran from Comerío in search of hope and a better life. He found it in Christ. With faith, Jorge and his wife, Rebeca, returned to launch a new church in his hometown. Many there were still seeking refuge in drugs and alcohol. Then Hurricane Maria hit. Comerío was stripped to its bones—no electricity, no water. How was he supposed to plant a church here?

NAMB's Send Relief compassion ministry sent Jorge a generator. Few were on the island.

"We suddenly could help people do basic things like laundry," says Jorge. "We helped re-open an elementary school that had been closed because of no electricity. This created lots of gospel conversations." As Jorge shared Christ, people began to respond and, out of the adversity of a hurricane, One Church Comerío was born.

PRAY

For restoration and revival to come to Comerío and the island of Puerto Rico.

For physical, spiritual and emotional strength for Jorge and Rebeca as they minister to a hurting community.

ANNIEARMSTRONG.COM/SANTIAGO

DAY 3



PHILIP & JUMMAI NACHE
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Big Plans

God has always had big plans for Philip Nache. In 2010, Philip left Nigeria and came to the U.S. to attend seminary. Shortly after his arrival, he was approached by a group of South Sudanese who were living in Minneapolis. They wanted help starting a church. "They were like sheep without a shepherd," Philip says. "And I was captivated by the idea of reaching out to the Africans here."

Minneapolis has more than 100,000 African refugees and immigrants, and Philip has now started two churches in the Twin Cities. But he's certain God has even bigger plans.

"We don't just want converts. The Great Commission is about disciples," he says. "So many of our people want to be trained. They want to reach out to their people and plant churches here in America and in Africa. Now, we have the opportunity to impact the world with the gospel."

PRAY

For endurance and wisdom as Philip and Jummai train and disciple future church planters.

For God to call more Africans to share Christ and plant churches here in North America and in Africa.

ANNIEARMSTRONG.COM/NACHE

DAY 4



ROB & LISA WARREN
MADISON, WISCONSIN

The Domino Effect

Madison, Wisconsin, is a college town—one of the most liberal in the nation. "There are more than 40,000 college students, and most are unreached by the gospel," says Rob. "So many people have tried to start churches here and failed. Maybe we should feel nervous about that, but we're excited."

Rob and Lisa love college students because they exist in a season of life where they can question everything and often are open to discussing spiritual issues. The family moved from Ames, Iowa, to Madison to plant Doxa Church in the fall of 2018.

"The amazing thing about planting in a college community is that we don't just make converts; we make missionaries. Many accept Jesus and see their lives change in college. Then they graduate and share the good news to others in their workplaces and neighborhoods."

PRAY

For Rob and Lisa's boldness to follow the Spirit's leading in reaching Madison for Jesus.

For God to open doors and hearts on campus, creating a receptivity to the gospel.

ANNIEARMSTRONG.COM/WARREN