



Celebrating God's Work Among the American Peoples

DESPITE THE PAIN, DIFFICULTIES, AND DISAPPOINTMENTS OF THIS LAST YEAR, GOD HAS BEEN AND STILL IS AT WORK IN THE AMERICAS: BRINGING HEALING, RESTORING RELATIONSHIPS, TRANSFORMING LIVES, AND GROWING MINISTRY PARTNERSHIPS FOR HIS KINGDOM AND HIS GLORY.

God Works Wondrously in the Waiting

By Aaron and Melissa Stormer

In a season of many closed doors, the Lord has taught us to wait and pray. Over a year ago, we sent our last mission team back to the States, postponed two mission trips, moved into a new apartment, and entered a lock-down. Churches shifted to meeting virtually and we began worshipping with a church located a block away from our new place in São Paulo, Brazil.

Aaron had been introduced to the pastor, João Paulo, years ago. After much prayer, Aaron contacted him and they met over coffee. He shared his heart and our vision for ministry as Pastor João Paulo shared his love for the community, along with the vision of the church. They both sensed God's guidance to continue meeting weekly.

They have also met with the owner of the school in our neighborhood, which hosts the church. The owner has a heart for reaching the school's teachers, staff, and families with the gospel. The workers and families all live within our neighborhood, which is made up of over 20 apartment buildings within an eight-block radius. Collectively, they have been strategically planning how to meet community needs and build relationships.

After joining the church, we hosted Pastor João Paulo in our home to broadcast the service. Aaron was presented as a partner in ministry. As we look back, we could have easily been discouraged that we were not able to do ministry as we had imagined it. Now, we see how the Lord has been preparing the way and orchestrating His purposes all along. Pray for our family as we serve alongside our church in São Paulo, with the long-term goal of planting another church.



Pastor João Paulo broadcasting the service and presenting Aaron to the church.

1 AMERICAN PEOPLES. Many large urban centers across the Americas remain under strict lockdowns and hospitals continue to be overcrowded. Oxygen and medicines are in short supply. Vaccines are still not available for all to receive. Pray for continued healing and progress in the Americas.



2 CENTRAL ASIAN UNENGAGED PEOPLES. The Meskhetian Turks, displaced from their homeland during Stalin's ethnic cleansing and dispersed across Central Asia, are unengaged and in need of a gospel witness. Ask the Lord of the harvest to send laborers to these industrious and hardworking, Islamic peoples.

3 HUNGARIANS OF WESTERN HUNGARY. Baptist representatives in western Hungary covet your intercession for a young church in their city that is in need of leadership. Ask the Lord to strengthen and guide the group of believers, and pray that soon they will be able to stand on their own as a strong, healthy church.

4 AMERICAN PEOPLES. Gateway cities in the Americas are using New Hope Trauma Healing groups to minister to the hurting around them. Pray for those receiving the training and beginning new groups. Pray that, as they meet, nonbelievers will be healed from trauma and come to salvation.

5 KOBE, JAPAN. Pray for a local church leader who, along with his wife, recently decided to use their giftings to make fun songs and videos declaring biblical truth. Pray that the Lord will grant them an audience of children and adults, and ask that seeds are planted unto salvation.

6 INDIA. Pray for the true Light to shine among blind communities in southern India. Blind people are often mistreated; people steal or break their canes. Some believers have supplied new canes and blankets for these people, opening up opportunities for spiritual conversations.

7 AFAR OF NORTHERN AFRICA. Man-made borders divide the Afar homeland into three countries. Pray for the good news to be available to the Afar, in the northern part of their desert homeland, through radio programs and internet sites. Pray they will meet believers who will share the truth with them.

8 AMERICAN PEOPLES. Church planting is hard work and with each step forward, there are a few steps back. Attacks from the enemy can be numerous. Some church planters are facing serious medical issues in addition to COVID. Pray for good health so they may carry out this important work.

9 DEAF PEOPLES. Anita,* a Deaf woman in Southeast Asia, was finally able to attend church! She was so encouraged that she went out to share the good news with friends the next day. Praise the Lord that Anita was able to gather in worship, be renewed in spirit, and share the gospel!

10 DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (DRC). "And what you heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful people who will be competent to teach others as well" (2 Timothy 2:2, NET). Pray for our Congo team as we begin teaching orality at a school of evangelism run by a trusted local pastor.

11 AMERICAN PEOPLES. Healthy partnering is key to reaching the lost. Pray for more national and US partners to work with IMB missionaries in evangelism, discipleship, and leadership development. Pray for both nationals and Southern Baptists to be called to take the gospel to the nations.

12 UNREACHED PEOPLES OF TIMOR-LESTE. Pray for the Idate people; many moved to West Timor in the 1990s when East Timor was fighting for independence from Indonesia, bringing their sacred ancestral items with them. Pray they come to know Jesus and not depend on any other spiritual items for eternal life.

13 GLOBAL HEALTH STRATEGIES NETWORK. The coronavirus pandemic has brought economic, healthcare, and political problems. People are falling into poverty rapidly in many places around the world. Ask the Lord to mobilize His people to meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of those around them.

14 AMERICAN PEOPLES. Victoria,* from Latin America, will be joining one of our IMB teams working with refugees in North Africa. She has experienced months of visa complications. Our God makes impossible things possible. Pray for her way to be cleared, so she may go where God has called her.

15 TAJIKS IN AFGHANISTAN. David,* currently running for local office, is a well-known, respected member of his community. During quarantine, a family began sending Scripture via text to him. As David ponders God's Word, pray for the Spirit to change his heart and show his need for a Savior.

16 AMERICAN PEOPLES. Pray for the New Hope Trauma Healing group in Madrid, Spain with couples from Ecuador, Paraguay, and Bolivia. Pray for the healing of deep wounds in their personal lives and their experiences within church life. Pray they will be able to reintegrate into church well.

17 EAST ASIAN UNENGAGED PEOPLES. Descendants of the Han Chinese majority and the Qiang minority, the Ming people live north of

Chengdu, China, in Sichuan province. Pray for the Ming, who have been untouched by the gospel, to know their identity in Christ and to reject the false gods of their ancestors.

18 SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN PEOPLES. Malabo, the capital city, is the location of the gas reserves for Equatorial Guinea. Many Middle Easterners have moved to the area, bringing their religion with them. As God brings the nations to Malabo, pray for Christians to boldly share with their neighbors.

19 AMERICAN PEOPLES. Cesar and his wife run a shelter for Venezuelan refugees in northern Brazil. Pray for them as they currently host 19 adults and 11 children, and also care for their own special needs son. Pray for more volunteers to help at the shelter and share the love of Christ.

20 ARABS OF MANY LAKES, CANADA. Cecily* came to Canada with her family seeking safety and freedom. In the Middle East, her family was forced to be Muslim. She has been attending church and having dreams of the Savior. Pray for Cecily's salvation and the spread of the gospel among these refugees.

21 PEOPLE OF EASTERN AND SOUTHERN GERMANY. Children of Baptist representatives grow up in homes where their parents are committed Christians on mission, but their peers and the culture around them are secular and unbelieving. Pray for the salvation of our personnel's children, in Germany and all over the world.

22 AMERICAN PEOPLES. Pray for theological education centers in Brazil, Mexico, and Colombia as they train lay leaders and ministry students. These men and women are the future pastors, teachers, and missionaries who may be called to lead or plant churches and bring many to Christ.

23 HINDUS OF KARNATAKA STATE, INDIA. Local believers, Vicky* and Natalie,* feel called to reach the Muslims of Karnataka. Lift up these women as they seek to enter homes, pray for households, and find opportunities to share God's Word through Bible storytelling. Pray for many to come to faith.

24 DEAF PEOPLES. James* has been meeting with Bethany* multiple times per week to learn more about Jesus. Pray against discouragement for James, who learned the local Sign Language late in life. Pray that he will understand the gospel, and also realize that he can teach it to others.



25 AMERICAN PEOPLES. There are thousands of small villages of indigenous peoples all over the Americas. Due to the pandemic, many who were previously contacted have not had any missionary presence in over a year. Pray for God's Word to spread despite limited access to these villages.

26 KARAMOJONG OF UGANDA. Pray for perseverance and protection for two western Ugandan men, Titus* and Matthew,* as they serve on a mountain in the Karamoja bush. Petition for strength and wisdom as they lead a group of pastors through seminary and train potential Ugandan missionaries.

“Look among the nations, and see; wonder and be astounded. For I am doing a work in your days that you would not believe if told.”

Habakkuk 1:5, ESV

27 UZBEKS OF POST-SOVIET CENTRAL ASIA. An app is being developed for Uzbek believers to be able to find helpful online resources in their own language. Please pray for the app to be completed and made available soon, and ask that it will be a helpful tool for the Uzbek churches.

28 AMERICAN PEOPLES. Believers from several countries in the Americas have been called out as missionaries and teachers to countries in Europe, Africa, the Middle East, South Asia, and East Asia. Pray for God to strengthen and protect these believers as they bring the good news to the nations.

29 PREGNANCY CENTER PROJECT, CHIANG MAI, THAILAND. One facet of our Pregnancy Center Team's ministry is post-abortion counseling to hurting women. Ask God to grant wisdom to a team member who hopes to have a post-abortion Bible study with a friend. Pray for the friend to find healing, freedom, and joy in Christ.

30 NORTHERN AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN UNENGAGED PEOPLES. Some Coptic Christians, the largest minority group among 95 million Egyptians, believe in salvation by grace, but many also say that good works are required for salvation. Pray that all Copts will know that Jesus saves them not by good works, but by grace through faith.

31 AMERICAN PEOPLES. In the Americas, there are “high priority zones” where multiple people groups live within one geographical location. IMB missionaries are partnering with nationals, US churches, and other Christian workers to reach these people. Pray for wisdom and creativity in this task.

New Hope Trauma Healing Provides Hope for the Hurting



LEFT: A New Hope Trauma Healing group gathers in Guadalajara.

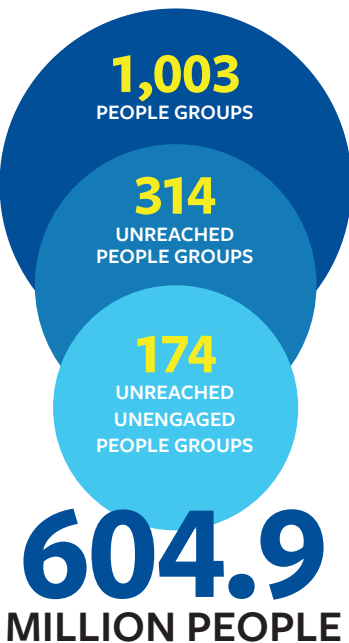
ABOVE: The group acts out a Bible story.

In an area of Guadalajara, Mexico, Robin and Charlie Janney are leading courses in New Hope Trauma Healing, which not only gives earthly hope by helping the hurting overcome trauma, but also provides eternal hope through stories from the Bible.

During a third-generation group meeting in Mexico, a woman who originally planned for an abortion decided to keep her baby after hearing the creation story. This same Bible story also helped a young man, who was feeling unloved and contemplating suicide, to realize that God had a purpose for his life. After learning the story of the woman with the issue of blood, another woman and her son were reconciled to one another.

Life change is happening and relationships are being restored through New Hope Trauma Healing. Over fifty people have been trained in the course and many are now leading groups of their own. Pray specifically for the Mexican missionaries who will receive this training and for the future training of Cuban women as well.

American Peoples



PRIMARY RELIGIONS



13
of the 100 most
populous cities
in the world
are located in
the Americas.



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The stats are drawn from Fast Facts and all numbers come from the Annual Statistical Report on 2020 Data. *Names changed CG 14M 7/21 P7483-7