



# **STONEGATE MISSIONS PRAYER GUIDE**

# EXPANDING THE KINGDOM

## Stonegate Fellowship Missions

SG Missions exists to see disciples of Jesus made who can be developed, equipped and empowered in leadership to see the Kingdom of God multiply wherever they are sent - locally, nationally or to the ends of the earth.

We believe that God is always at work, restoring people and cultures to Himself. To join God in what He is doing throughout the world, SG Missions employs our "5 E's" of ministry:

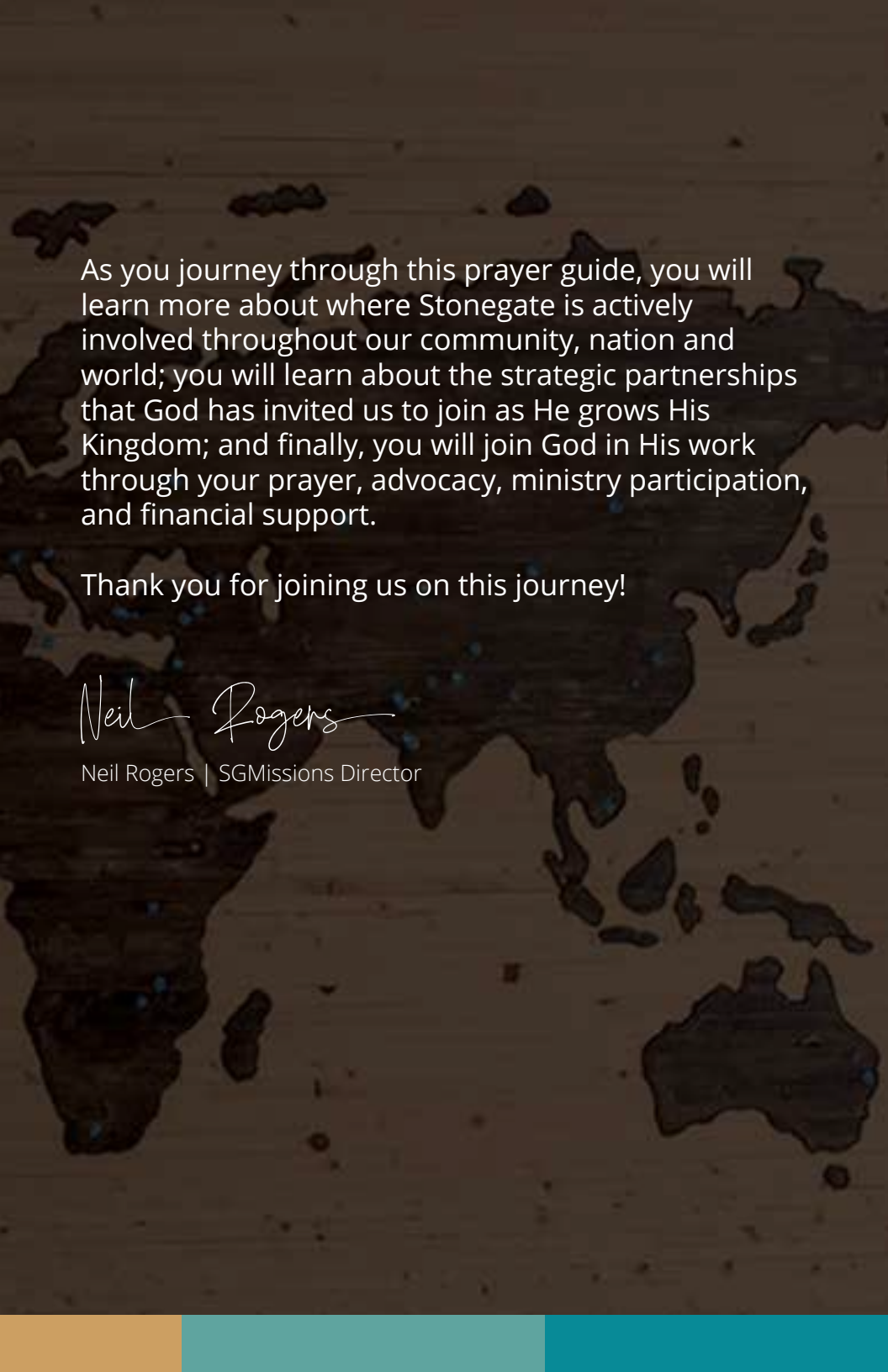
**EDUCATE** God's people about where He is at work in the world and how they can join Him.

**ENCOURAGE** God's workers as they courageously follow Him.

**EVANGELIZE** those who do not know God personally through a relationship with Jesus Christ.

**EQUIP** Christ-followers to lead God's people, wherever they are called to serve Him.

**EMPOWER** local ministers and leaders to be all they are designed, called, and gifted to be so God's Kingdom expands far beyond what we could ever do alone.



As you journey through this prayer guide, you will learn more about where Stonegate is actively involved throughout our community, nation and world; you will learn about the strategic partnerships that God has invited us to join as He grows His Kingdom; and finally, you will join God in His work through your prayer, advocacy, ministry participation, and financial support.

Thank you for joining us on this journey!

*Neil Rogers*

Neil Rogers | SGMissions Director

# WHAT IS A H.E.A.R. NOTE?

Each day, God desires to speak to us through prayer, His Word, circumstances and His Church. As we read His Word each day, we read it with anticipation and expectancy that He will use it to teach us, correct us, rebuke us and train us to live out our design, call and gift.

We all desire to HEAR from God and one of the most effective ways we have learned to do this is with a H.E.A.R. Note. Each day, as you read a passage of Scripture, look for the 1-2 verses that almost seem to stand out off the page. Write these down in the "H" section - Highlight. Then, in your own words, paraphrase an "E" - Explanation - of what this verse says. Next, ask, "What am I supposed to Obey or "A" Apply from this verse? Then, finally, "R" Respond by writing a prayer to God asking Him to help this become reality in your life and write down the name of someone you feel led to share this with.

Expect that God will speak to you. His Holy Spirit knows what you will face and will use His Inspired Word to prepare you for it. Anticipate that you will need what He is going to show you to live out your design, call and gift AND that others around you need to know these things too.

Finally, remember these 2 powerful questions:

**"What is God telling me that I am supposed to Obey?"**

**"Who am I supposed to share this with?"**



## H.E.A.R. NOTE EXAMPLE

**H** - "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Mt 28:19-20.(CSB)

**E** - God has given His children a commission - to go and make disciples of all nations. Each day, as we read God's Word, He teaches us things that apply to our lives and that He wants us to teach others to observe (obey) from His Word. He is always with us in this work.

**A** - Each day, as I read God's Word, I need to ask 2 questions: "What am I supposed to obey from this passage? and "Who am I supposed to share this with?"

**R** - Father, thank you for inviting me to be a part of Your plan to make disciples. Show me what I need to accomplish my part of the mission. Give me courage to obey and to share what You show me. Thank you that you are always with me and I am never alone in this work.



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**DAYS**  
**1-7**



## LOCAL PARTNERS

Stonegate partners with local ministries in the Permian Basin that specialize in offering assistance during hardships. These organizations serve the community by offering weekly food distribution, clothing, basic household necessities, school uniforms, prayer and many other community services.

# DAY 1

Jesus is very clear that His followers should support the poor, the needy, the oppressed and the hurting. In obedience to His direction, Stonegate partners with non-profit organizations and ministries to meet physical needs, including food distribution, basic daily necessities, and spiritual support:

## **WEST TEXAS FOOD BANK**

WTFB exists to collect, purchase, and distribute food to feed the hungry in 19 counties in West Texas. They work in partnership with volunteers and community organizations and to educate these partners and the public at large about the real face of hunger. Their vision is a West Texas without hunger. | [wtxfoodbank.org](http://wtxfoodbank.org)

## **MISSION AGAPE**

Mission Agape is an organization focused on addressing the challenges of food insecurity, that affect Midland and rural counties in the Permian Basin, through different community events and programs to demonstrate God's love in action. [missionagapewtx.org](http://missionagapewtx.org)

## **PERMIAN BASIN MISSION CENTER**

PBMC is a benevolent agency providing relief to individuals and families experiencing hardships. [permianbasinmission.org](http://permianbasinmission.org)



## PRAY

Take some time today to learn more about these three organizations and pray for them as they meet the physical needs of people in our local community.



## READ

Read John 13:34-35. If you'd like to do a HEAR note, you can find the template on the next page.

# H.E.A.R.

Create an environment to HEAR from God: a quiet place, a cup of coffee, background music, or whatever you need to maximize this time. Come ready with a pencil and journal expecting to HEAR from God.

## PRAYER

Before reading the text, pause to sincerely ask God to speak to you. Remember, we need the help of the Holy Spirit to understand the truths that God has revealed to us in His Word (1 Corinthians 2:12-14). Every time we open our Bibles, we should pray. Here is a simple prayer that David prayed: "Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law (Word)." - Psalm 119:18

- H. | After reading the passage of Scripture, write 1-2 verses for "H" (Hilight)**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- E. | Next, write a letter "E" and explain what the passage means in your own words**

### **A. | Under the "A", write the word "Apply"**

The application is the heart of the process. Spiritual health and maturity are not measured by knowledge, but by faithfulness. In this section, you're essentially asking: "What do I need to do with this?"

### **R. | Finally, write the letter "R" for "Respond"**

This is the part where you write down a specific steps you want to take to carry out the things you wrote down in the APPLY section above. Write a prayer to God asking Him to help you apply those things to your life.

## DAY 2

*The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.*  
Luke 4:18-19

### **BAPTIST CRISIS CENTER**

The goal of the center is to provide services to those in need which include: food, clothing, school uniforms, referrals for additional resources, prayer, and community involvement.

[midlandbaptistcrisiscenter.org](http://midlandbaptistcrisiscenter.org)

### **SENIOR LIFE MIDLAND**

Through Meals on Wheels, Senior Life's goal is to improve the health and quality of life of the seniors they serve so that no one is left hungry or isolated.

[seniorlifemidland.org](http://seniorlifemidland.org)

### **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY**

HFH's desire is to live in a world where everyone has a decent place to live. They operate by helping God's people in need build better homes and lives. Each year, Stonegate helps to fund and mobilize workers to build a home for a family in the Permian Basin.

[habitatmidland.org](http://habitatmidland.org)





## PRAY

Today, as you pray, take time to think about what it would feel like to be homeless, isolated or feel hopeless to improve your financial situation.

Ask God to help you see impoverished people the way that He sees them so that you can love them like He would. Consider how He might want to use you as a tangible expression of His love to the lonely, afraid and isolated in our community. Then, write down any action points that He directs you to and take the first step to make them happen this week.

## DAY 3

Two of Jesus' loving characteristics are grace and compassion. When everyone else was searching for a rock to throw, Jesus cared more about the person they were aiming at. He rarely preached at the hurting; rather, He listened, asked questions and then lovingly shared God's Truth with them. Stonegate seeks to help those who are facing emotional pain and walk with them as they walk towards God's loving arms by supporting the following ministries:

### **AGAPE COUNSELING**

ACS provides professional counseling with a Christian prospective for people with mental and emotional needs. Services are provided for ages 13 and up. Stonegate helps provide scholarship support for those in our community who need counseling.

[agapewesttexas.org](http://agapewesttexas.org)

### **HEALING THROUGH HOPE**

Therapists offer a wide range of services. In addition to traditional talk therapy they also can provide play therapy, sand tray therapy and EMDR therapy for people of all ages. Their staff includes a trained marriage/family therapist, licensed chemical dependency counselors, and a board-certified professional Christian counselor.

[healingthruhope.com](http://healingthruhope.com)

## KAIROS PRISON MINISTRY

Kairos strives to see a community spiritually freed from the effects of imprisonment. They share the transforming love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ in hopes of transforming hearts and lives of incarcerated men, women and youth, as well as their families. They prayerfully help those incarcerated to become loving and productive citizens of their communities. Stonegate supports Kairos and their Christmas gift drive for children of prisoners.

[kairosprisonministry.org](http://kairosprisonministry.org)

### PRAY

Read Hebrews 13:1-3. Take some time today to learn more about these three organizations and pray for them as they meet the emotional and mental health needs of people in our local community.

## DAY 4

One of the reasons God created the Church is that He knew we would need encouragement. In Hebrews 10:24-25, we learn that we cannot be all we are designed, called and gifted to be without others spurring us on to love and good deeds. As believers, our encouragement goes much further than we can even imagine, especially in the lives of those who serve our community and nation. To this end, Stonegate supports these organizations that provide encouragement to teachers, active military and first responders:

### **ADOPT-A-TEACHER**

The Teacher Adoption Program operates to provide Midland teachers with a voluntary community of tangible support, care, and encouragement. Teachers need our prayers and they need to know that someone has their back as they serve the students of the Permian Basin.

[midlandtxchamber.com/education-tap-program-overview](https://midlandtxchamber.com/education-tap-program-overview)

### **HONOR OUR TROOPS**

Many in our active military serve each day without the encouragement of cards, letters, or care packages that remind them they have not been forgotten. H.O.T. provides care packages and a note of encouragement to those servants throughout the world. Individuals, groups and families can help donate or pack care packages by contacting H.O.T. | [hot-honourtroops.org](https://hot-honourtroops.org)

## YMCA CHILDCARE FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

The YMCA of Midland's mission is to put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body. Stonegate provides scholarships so that first responders and hospital workers can stay on the job, knowing they have a safe environment for their children.

[midlandymca.org](http://midlandymca.org)

### PRAY

Read Hebrews 10:24-25. If you'd like to do a HEAR Note for this passage, use the template on pages 5-6.

As you pray for these local partners, ask God to show you how you can help encourage someone today. Take time to write a note, send a text, or make a phone call for the sole purpose of offering encouragement. Use the letters ICNU (I See in You) to speak encouragement into someone's life by calling out how you think God has designed, called and gifted them.

## DAY 5

What breaks the heart of God? Obviously, it is anything that goes against His created intent for people. God created each person to know Him, be loved by Him, and to experience the joy in life that only comes through a relationship with Him. However, in our broken world, brokenness thrives in darkness. Hurt people seek to use, abuse and oppress others for their own selfish gain. To this end, Stonegate supports the following ministries that serve as a voice for those whose voice is not heard in the Permian Basin:

### **REFLECTIONS**

Reflections was established with the desire to empower adults who have been coerced into a life of commercial, sexual exploitation. Their mission is to identify victims, equip cities, and provide avenues of restoration for human trafficking victims.

[reflectionministriestx.org](http://reflectionministriestx.org)

### **LIFE CENTER OF MIDLAND / ODESSA**

The Life Center is a nonprofit, faith-based, alternative to abortion organization advocating sexual wellness through three areas of outreach: teaching about sexual risks, helping through pregnancy, healing for restoration.

[thelifecentertx.org](http://thelifecentertx.org)



## SAFE PLACE

Safe Place's mission is to break the cycle of family violence by empowering individuals to make safe and healthy choices through awareness, counseling, advocacy and shelter, while promoting hope, healing and dignity.

[safeplacenow.com](http://safeplacenow.com)

## PRAY

As your heart breaks for the hurting in our community, ask God to show You how you can be a part of His restorative ministry in the Permian Basin. Commit to doing for somebody what you wish you could do for everybody and start investing your life into the life of another.



## SCAN HERE!

Watch the testimony of one of Stonegate's founders, Lisa Bownds.

## DAY 6

Education is an incredible gift! It is a key to unlocking cycles of crime, poverty, poor decision making and hopelessness. However, in order to benefit from this gift, many students need people to come alongside of them and help them work through personal obstacles, wounds and scars. Through this loving mentorship, children and students feel the love of Christ through a tangible example of His love, grace and leadership. Stonegate supports the following organizations that provide these vital mentors in kids' lives

### **KALEIDOSCOPE**

Kaleidoscope exists to mobilize believers to live out the transforming power of the Gospel with Children and families in Southeast Midland to bring about lasting hope, peace, and restoration through mentorship and after school programming.

[midlandkm.com](http://midlandkm.com)

### **ROPE YOUTH**

Rope Youth's mission is to make our community a better place to live by empowering young men and women to break the cycle of poverty and crime and make a change through mentoring and educational programs.

[ropeyouth.org](http://ropeyouth.org)

## OPPORTUNITY TRIBE

Opportunity Tribe is a mentoring community for kids to discover their value and unlock their potential to thrive. From inside local schools, to after-school groups, to Opportunity Camp, they seek to put positive role models in kids lives with the hope of introducing every child to Christ.  
[opcamp.com](http://opcamp.com)

## FCA

Fellowship of Christian Athletes' purpose is to see the world transformed by Jesus Christ through the influence of coaches and athletes by leading every coach and athlete into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ and His church.  
[permianbasinfca.org](http://permianbasinfca.org)

## PRAY

Read Hebrews 13:7-8. As you pray for these organizations today, ask yourself, "Who taught me about God and what He is like?" And, "Whose faith would I like to imitate?"

If you've been doing HEAR notes, write down the names of those who have impacted your life for God's Kingdom. In your **Respond** section, ask God to help you believe that he wants you to be the name that someone else writes down someday.

## DAY 7

Over 50% of the residents in the Permian Basin have Hispanic backgrounds. Many of these residents speak Spanish as their primary language. Equally, many of Spanish-speaking people in the Permian Basin can understand English; but, prefer to be taught, ask questions, or worship in their heart language. To this end, Stonegate Minister, Ismael Villa, seeks ways to develop leaders and support local Spanish-speaking ministries. Equally, Stonegate translates most messages, workshops and teaching into Spanish YouTube, local radio and podcasts. Equally, we partner with the following ministries to help reach Spanish-speaking members of our community.

### **PRIMERA IGLESIA BAUTISTA**

Primera Iglesia meets weekly at 507 N. Tyler Street. Stonegate seeks to walk alongside of this church in their mission to reach Spanish-speaking people in Midland by providing pulpit supply and outreach support. Ismael Villa meets regularly with Pastor Rosa for encouragement, training and support. To learn more about Primera Iglesia, go to their Facebook page: Primera Iglesia Bautista.

### **RADIO GENESIS**

Radio Genesis exists to help spread the Good News of Jesus Christ to Spanish speakers throughout the Permian Basin and all of Latin America. They accomplish this through



music & Christian teaching. 93.7 FM RADIO Online  
Streaming: [genesis937.com](http://genesis937.com) [www.genesisradio937.radio.net](http://www.genesisradio937.radio.net)

## PRAY

Pray for Ismael Villa as he ministers by training leaders, leads discipleship classes, preaches, prays with and cares for Spanish-speaking people throughout our community. Pray for our translated messages and partnerships to impact all of our community for Christ.



**DAYS**  
**8-12**



# CHURCH PLANTS

At Stonegate we are committed to Kingdom Church growth and not simply individual church growth. To this end, we believe that one of the most effective evangelistic strategies in the world is planting new Bible believing churches. Evangelistic church plants share the unchanging message of Jesus Christ with new relevant methods in new geographical areas.

## DAY 8

In August, 2020, Stonegate's Elders released a 7-year vision plan dedicated to expanding God's Kingdom. Within this plan was the commitment to help establish 4 new church congregations in the Permian Basin. These churches will be established both by sending out Stonegate members and building strategic partnerships. The first 2 churches that Stonegate will help establish are Advance Church and Common Unity Church.

### **ADVANCE CHURCH**

Throughout the world, God's Kingdom is advancing through the development of Disciple-making movements. These movements are committed to seeing new disciples made, trained and developed to quickly multiply small church congregations throughout cities and nations. Advance Church is built on the principle that the Church is a movement to advance and not an organization to maintain. They meet weekly for missional communities around the Permian Basin where they worship, study God's Word, pray expectantly, encourage one another and serve their community. Then, they return to their "oikos" or daily community relationships, seeking to live out their faith, evangelize, and invite people to participate in discovery Bible studies. All missional communities meet individually weekly to pray for the Permian Basin and corporately monthly to worship and celebrate God together. Over 50 individuals committed to leave Stonegate Fellowship to catalyze this movement. | [advancethe.church](https://advancethe.church)



advance  church

## PRAY

Read 2 Timothy 4:1-5. Pray for Advance as they launch this new church movement. Pray for hearts to be open to exploring faith through Discovery Bible studies; disciples to be made through community and service; and leaders to be developed to help multiply new missional communities. Pray for Dustin Pearce and the Leadership Team of Advance Church as they lead this growing movement.



## DAY 9

### COMMON UNITY CHURCH

Common Unity Church strongly believes that the church is a house of prayer, a place to grow as a family together, and most of all a place to worship our Father for who He is. Common Unity strives to help people in the South and East of Midland realize that Jesus Christ died for all of our sins and we now have a direct connection to the Father to pray, worship, and be filled with His Spirit. To this end, they meet at Bunch Elementary, dedicated to serving the neighborhood that surrounds them. This extends to neighborhood pizza night on Wednesday, where they worship and share testimonies together, as well as, after school Bible Clubs inside Bunch. Stonegate partners with Common Unity for mentoring, leadership training, support and sending families to be a part of this new fellowship.

[commonunitychurch.org](http://commonunitychurch.org)

### PRAY

Read 1 Corinthians 1:10. Pray for Common Unity Church as they meet weekly at Bunch Elementary. Pray for co-Pastors Elvie Brown and David Gonzales, as they lead this church along with their leadership team and future Elders. Pray for new leaders developed that can help reach the hundreds of children and families who live within walking distance of Bunch.





## DAY 10

One of the most effective evangelistic strategies that exists is the planting of new churches. This is especially true when these churches begin with a unified focus on evangelism and discipleship. Moreover, new churches are needed! In fact, even if every church in North America was both healthy and missional, we would only have 1/4 of the churches we need to reach and disciple this continent. Equally, new churches quickly hurdle boundaries of methodology that hold traditional churches back as they seek to reach unchurched people. This allows an easier and more welcoming environment to seekers and new disciples as they pursue Christian community. Over the last 20 years, Stonegate has participated in over 200 new church starts locally, nationally and internationally.

### **TORONTO CHURCH PLANTING**

Toronto, Canada is one of the most diverse cities in all of the world. God has truly brought the world to our doorstep through immigration and refugees to Canada. To this end, Toronto Church Planting (TCP) exists to help catalyze new church starts among the many unbelieving, uninspired and unchurched people that reside there. TCP helps to assess and train new church planters, provide financial support, establish mentoring relationships with other planters, and share resources such as IT support and outreach equipment. TCP is part of the North American Mission Board



and has been one of Stonegate's Primary partnerships for over 15 years. As such, Stonegate is committed to helping TCP starting ethnic churches among the unreached people groups and underserved people groups who have immigrated to Toronto. | [torontochurchplanting.ca](https://torontochurchplanting.ca)

**Please be in prayer for 22 new church plants in Toronto by the end of 2022.**



## DAY 11

### **LIFE ETERNAL ASIAN FELLOWSHIP (LEAF)**

Pastor Robin Wasti was born in Pakistan and served as the national leader of Campus Crusade for Christ. However, in 2014, the Wasti's were forced to flee Pakistan under increasing threats from Muslim extremists. Upon immigrating to Toronto, the Wasti's immediately began building relationships within the Pakistani and Punjabi people groups, leading to the planting of LEAF. Pastor Wasti is a gifted personal evangelist and disciple-maker and seeks to reach the South Asian community of Toronto through multiple outreach events throughout the year.

### **TORONTO GRACE MISSIONAL CHURCH**

Jimmy and Lydia Liu are Chinese native-born adults who came to the US to study engineering in California. After transferring to College Station both Jimmy and Lydia were invited to a house church with other Asians and soon they discovered the saving power of Jesus Christ. They continued in their pursuit of discovering more about the Christian walk and committed to serve Him full time. Currently they serve as church planters in Toronto, Ontario ministering to Chinese students at Centennial College which has over 2000 international students year round.

## FELLOWSHIP CHURCH ROUGE PARK

Finding himself in prison was never Kesavan Balasingham's life dream. Yet, as a Sri Lankan immigrant to Canada, he found himself intermixed with gang life and was soon committing crimes. The Lord has rescued Kesavan and set his life on different path. Today, with his wife and three children, they lead a thriving church plant that is multicultural and full of young families. They serve in Scarborough part of the greater Toronto area. Their focus is evangelism, leader development, one-on-one discipleship and fellowship.

### PRAY

Pray for TCP as they assess church planters, seek new locations for church plants, develop leaders, provide spiritual support and recruit funding for new churches. Pray for our other church planting partners in Toronto.



### SCAN HERE!

Watch the following video testimony to learn more about Kesavan Balasingham

## DAY 12

### **WORD OF LIFE**

Adrian Lauren immigrated to Portland, Oregon to plant a church for 2nd and 3rd Generation Romanians. Over 30,000 Romanians have immigrated to this city and Word of Life has been effective in building relationships among them. In 2018, Razvan and Oana Ghermanschi, who were integral with SGKids and groups, moved to Portland to assist in this work.

### **FBC PLUMGROVE ESPAÑOL**

Northeast Houston has become one of the fastest growing neighborhoods in the greater Houston area. Major projects of bigger and easier property acquisitions has allowed many Hispanics to move in over the past five years. Jose Perez and family are serving as church planters with FBC Plumgrove Español providing Spanish lead church services, Bible studies, community outreach and music classes. Pray for open doors to a community that seems to be distracted by materialism. Jose and his family recently joined SG on a short-term mission to Brazil.

### **ARABIC COMMUNITY CHURCH OF DALLAS**

Arabic Community Church of Dallas is focused in reaching the refugees of Arabic background. Pierre and Phoebe Bitar are from Lebanon and Cairo and use ESL (English as Second Language) to reach the Arabic communities in the Dallas area.

Their relational and community approach has allowed them to share the gospel to Muslims and other middle Eastern backgrounds. Pray for their continued refugee ministry effort and for open doors.

## PRAY

Read Daniel 7:13-14. If you would like to try writing a HEAR note, please do so for Daniel 7:14. Think about what it means for Christ's Kingdom to be one of every people, nation and language.

God has brought the world to our doorsteps. Our nation and state continue to become more culturally diverse and God desires us to leverage this for His Kingdom. As you pray today, ask the Lord to open your eyes to the diversity that is all around you in your neighborhood, at work and at school. Ask, "Lord, show me someone who you are already preparing and give me the courage to start/build a relationship with them."



**DAYS**  
**13-15**

# DENOMINATIONAL SUPPORT

Stonegate was started in 1999 as a church plant of First Baptist Church. Although SG is composed of people from many denominational backgrounds, we have kept an affiliation with the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) for the purpose of honoring our heritage, developing Christian leaders, seeing new churches planted across North America and supporting international missions.

## DAY 13

In maintaining our commitment to make disciples to the ends of the earth, Stonegate supports the following SBC organizations:

### **INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD (IMB)**

The IMB is the largest missionary sending agency in the world, employing a force of over 3600 missionaries around the world. Together, they are engaging almost 12,000 people groups around the world through evangelism, discipleship and church planting. Stonegate helps support IMB missionaries through spiritual support, prayer, and mobilizing SG members to assist them in ministry. Recently, a SG family committed to spending over 6 months of their retirement serving a missionary family in Southeast Asia.

[imb.org](http://imb.org)

### **NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD (NAMB)**

Since 2010, NAMB has planted over 8,000 churches across North America. NAMB helps to assess and train new church planters, then stands alongside of them as they plant through training, encouragement, mentoring and financial support. NAMB works primarily in strategic “SEND” cities, which include large unchurched populations as well as cultural diversity. | [namb.net](http://namb.net)

### **SOUTHERN AND SOUTHWESTERN SEMINARY**

Stonegate provides general funds and seminary scholarships for ethnic church planters attending



graduate-level seminary. Several current SG staff have attended or are attending these seminaries. Southwestern has equally developed an online Masters program for Spanish-Speaking ministers, allowing them to pursue advanced education while continuing in a bi-vocational or full-time pastoral role. So far, SG has provided scholarships for over 10 pastors throughout West Texas, Mexico and Central America. | [sbts.edu](https://sbts.edu) | [swbts.edu](https://swbts.edu)

Since 2010, Southern Baptists have planted **more than 8,200 churches** all across North America.

**2020**

A map of North America, including the United States, Canada, and Mexico, with numerous blue dots representing church locations. A large blue box with the year '2020' is overlaid on the map. An inset map shows Alaska and Hawaii.

## PRAY

Take time today to learn more about one of these organizations and pray for the missionaries, church planters and students that they serve.

## DAY 14

Statistics tell us that of the twenty-eight million people in Texas, nineteen million of these people do not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. That is a lot of people who will spend eternity separated from God if they do not choose to follow Christ. Stonegate helps to support Texas based denominational ministries in their mission to make disciples throughout Texas.

### REACH TEXAS

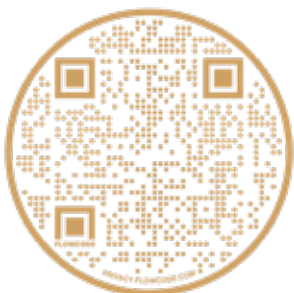
Reach Texas is an initiative of The Southern Baptists of Texas (SBTC), designed to help make disciples, train leaders and see churches planted throughout Texas. Since their inception, the SBTC made missions and evangelism the priority in every aspect of their work and have helped to fund and establish over 300 churches in Texas. Their mission statement is "Together we can do what no church can do alone." | [sbtexas.com](http://sbtexas.com)

### TEXAS BAPTIST RIVER MINISTRY

The Texas Baptist River Ministry helps to make disciples along the border of Texas. Each year, they mobilize hundreds of Christ-followers to assist in this mission via short-term trips, internships and training. **To learn more about opportunities for missions on the Texas border, please email [mario.gonzalez@txb.org](mailto:mario.gonzalez@txb.org).**

## PRAY

Read Acts 1:8. Our Judea and Samaria includes the places in our state and region where God is at work. Consider if God is asking you to give some of your vacation this year to help reach people on the Texas border. Pray that God will raise up church planters and disciple-makers throughout our state to help reach the millions of unchurched people who call themselves Texans.



### SCAN HERE!

To watch one of the 3-5 minute planting stories videos from Hope Church Woodforest.

## DAY 15

God has placed Stonegate in a strategic location, close to the border of Mexico. Yet, many people are now afraid to cross that border due to fear of violence associated with drug cartels. However, in cities like Juarez, Ojinaga, Acuna, and Coahila, faithful pastors and churches are ministering to people in their cities. Stonegate comes alongside of these leaders through equipping, pastor development, and support for special events. Ismael Villa travels frequently to Mexico and partners with this association of local leaders to reach their cities and reach across Mexico and Central America. Together, they have led men's conferences, evangelistic services, leadership retreats and pastor retreats in Mexico, Nicaragua, Honduras, Costa Rica, Guatemala, El Salvador and Panama.

Ismael Villa began working at Stonegate 16 years ago. With over 40 years of pastoral experience, he has developed a strong reputation as a Pastor to Pastors. His quiet and reserved demeanor does not hinder his ability to be a dynamic and powerful preacher and he has proclaimed the Gospel to literally tens-of-thousands of people south of the U.S.



## PRAY

Pray for the association of churches in Mexico who have self-named themselves as “Stonegate Mexico.” Pray for them as they courageously reach people in their cities and beyond. Pray for Ismael Villa as he travels throughout Mexico and Central America to proclaim the Gospel. Pray for hundreds of new Christian workers to rise up along the Mexico-Texas border who can help reach their cities, as well as the growing migrant populations from Central America.



**DAYS**  
**16-21**

# PRIMARY INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

Stonegate is engaged in making disciples around the world. However, SG Missions has designated 7 primary partnerships, in which we are deeply involved. These partnerships receive significant financial support, priority time for communication and events, and direct support by SG staff.



## DAY 16

Jesus gave us a commission to go and make disciples to the ends of the earth. SG Missions accomplishes this internationally through the development of strategic partnerships, focusing on the areas of the world with underserved access to the Gospel. Strategic partnerships require developing strong relationships, providing direct funding for ministry, and intentionally commissioning SG Ministers to help advance God's Kingdom.

Our end-goal is to see indigenous disciples made, trained and empowered so that international missions becomes local missions - new churches, new self-supporting ministries and new leaders reaching their own culture and people groups. Although we are involved throughout the world, we have developed seven primary partnerships, to help focus our efforts in specific areas of the world. These seven partnerships represent hundreds of indigenous local churches and leaders in these strategic locations.

What is an UPG? A Unreached People Group (UPG) is a group of people who hold a language and culture in common; yet, has very little access to the Gospel. In fact, less than 2% of their people group is a follower of Jesus. Therefore, they are in need of help from outside their people group to help evangelize, translate Scriptures, plant churches and build



Christian leaders. Most of Stonegate's strategic partners are focused on reaching UPG's.

## QUALIFICATIONS FOR STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS:

1. Doctrinal but not necessarily denominational agreement.
2. Quality and character of leadership.
3. A clear strategy of WHAT they are called to do and HOW they will accomplish it.
4. A system of measurement to ensure accountability and focus on their ministry strategy.
5. Prayerful understanding on behalf of SG Missions leadership that God is clearly at work in this ministry AND is inviting us to join that work.

## PRAY

Read Romans 10:14-15. Take time to thank God for the influence He has granted to us around the world. Pray for our strategic partnerships and our missions leadership as we discern where God is inviting us to join His work.

## DAY 17

### **SPOKEN WORLDWIDE**

Two thirds of the world's population need to hear the Truth. Even if you gave them a Bible, they either could not read it or would not pay attention to it because they use oral-methods to distribute important information. Therefore, Spoken's mission is to "Deliver Truth...Where written words can't go."

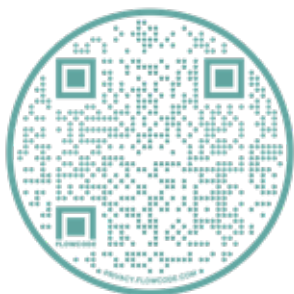
They desire to teach people in the ways that they learn best, rather than how we learn best. Utilizing Oral methods, they make disciples, train leaders, develop pastors, train other missions organizations, and create oral Bible translations for unreached people groups.

Spoken partners with other great organizations like Community Bible Study International to help provide oral versions of their Bible Study content. Equally, through Every Tribe Every Nation and the Strategic Resource group, they are helping over 20 people groups hear the Scriptures in their heart languages for the very first time. Imagine, if this was you; how would you feel if someone said you could know God personally, but you couldn't read the book that tells you about Him? Then, imagine if someone shared stories with you on .mp3 players and shared His Word with you in ways that you could understand - for the very first time!

Stonegate partners with Spoken through advocacy, engagement on the Board of Directors, and financial support. | [spoken.org](https://spoken.org)

## PRAY

Pray for Spoken and their mission to reach the 6+ Billion people in the world who are oral learners. Thank God that people are hearing His Word for the first time. Pray for new leaders to be developed that can help deliver this Truth to villages, cities and nations.



## SCAN HERE!

Listen to one of these Spoken stories.

## DAY 18

### ELAM

In 1979, there were less than 500 known Christians from a Muslim background in Iran. Today, the fastest growing Church in the world is in Iran. Church leaders believe that millions can be added to the church in the next few years - such is the spiritual hunger that exists and the disillusionment with the Islamic regime. If we remain faithful to this calling, our conviction is that it is possible to see the nation transformed within our lifetime. Because Iran is a strategic gateway nation, the growing church in Iran will impact Muslim nations across the Islamic world.

Elam's vision is that all the people of the Iran region would have the opportunity to come to know the Lord Jesus Christ and follow Him as a disciple, and that Iranians would be instrumental in taking the Gospel to other Muslims. To achieve this vision, they: train leaders for fruitful, effective ministry in the Iran region, equip the Iranian church with Bibles and resources for evangelism and discipleship (new believers are discipled one-on-one through "Safar", Elam's 30-part discipleship plan), and send the Gospel into the Iran region through trained evangelists, church planters and Christian media.

Stonegate has partnered with Elam through leadership training, having Elam leaders speak in Stonegate services, advocacy, encouragement and financial support. Neil and Celeste Rogers have traveled to the Iran-Region on multiple occasions to train and develop church leaders.

[elam.com](http://elam.com)



## PRAY

Pray for thousands of leaders who can be developed both in Iran and the surrounding region. Pray for hundreds of thousands of Bibles to be smuggled into Iran for evangelism and discipleship. Pray for ten thousand people to be discipled this year through Safar. Pray for God to continue to use the economy, corruption, and oppression in this nation to move people from the darkness of Islam into His marvelous light!

## DAY 19

### MISSION INDIA

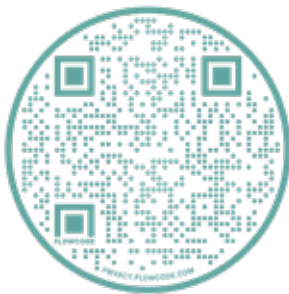
Imagine traveling to a country with multitudes of needs. As you walk down the street you experience environmental disaster, disease, poverty, idol-worship, and spiritual darkness. Hundreds of orphans surround you asking for money and/or food. What can be done for the Gospel in a place with so many needs?

The leadership of Mission India faced this reality as they sought to minister in India. As they sought the Lord, they were directed to move past the symptoms and deal with the roots of the issue. They committed to do three things which would make an exponential impact on India - Train Church Planters, lead Children's Bible Clubs and train people in Bible-based Literacy. In the last 40 years, they have impacted tens of millions of people in the nation of India and have seen millions of people come to saving faith in Christ.

Stonegate partners with Mission India simply because they are highly effective at impacting the world's most populous nation. Through their commitment to indigenous empowerment of believers and their narrow, strategic focus, they are seeing God's Kingdom advance in the midst of persecution, spiritual darkness and physical hardship.

# PRAY

Pray for Mission India's focus to train church planters, reach children, and teach literacy. All three of these foci result in the the Gospel being proclaimed and people's lives be transformed.



## SCAN HERE!

Watch the following video about India.



CHILDREN'S BIBLE CLUB

## DAY 20

### **CHINA AID**

ChinaAid is an international non-profit Christian human rights organization committed to promoting religious freedom and the rule of law in China. They believe that religious freedom is a primary freedom, which lays the foundation for all other basic human rights. By exposing the abuses, encouraging the abused, and spiritually and legally equipping the leaders to defend their faith and freedom, ChinaAid strives to promote religious freedom for all.

ChinaAid endeavors to: expose the systematic persecution, harassment, torture, and imprisonment of Chinese Christians and human rights lawyers in China, financially support Chinese Christians and their families who have experienced persecution by the Chinese government, and provides leadership and rule of law training for Christian and church leaders in China to defend their rights under both Chinese constitutional law and international law.

Stonegate stands behind ChinaAid through advocacy, having it's leader Bob Fu speak in our services, engagement on the Board of Directors, and financial support.



## PRAY

Pray for persecuted believers in China. Pray that they will be bold and courageous in sharing the Gospel. Pray for the house churches of China to continue to multiply rapidly in the face of persecution. Pray for ChinaAid as they support these churches and advocate for the basic human right of freedom of religion.



CHRIS SMITH (L) & BOB FU (R)

## DAY 21

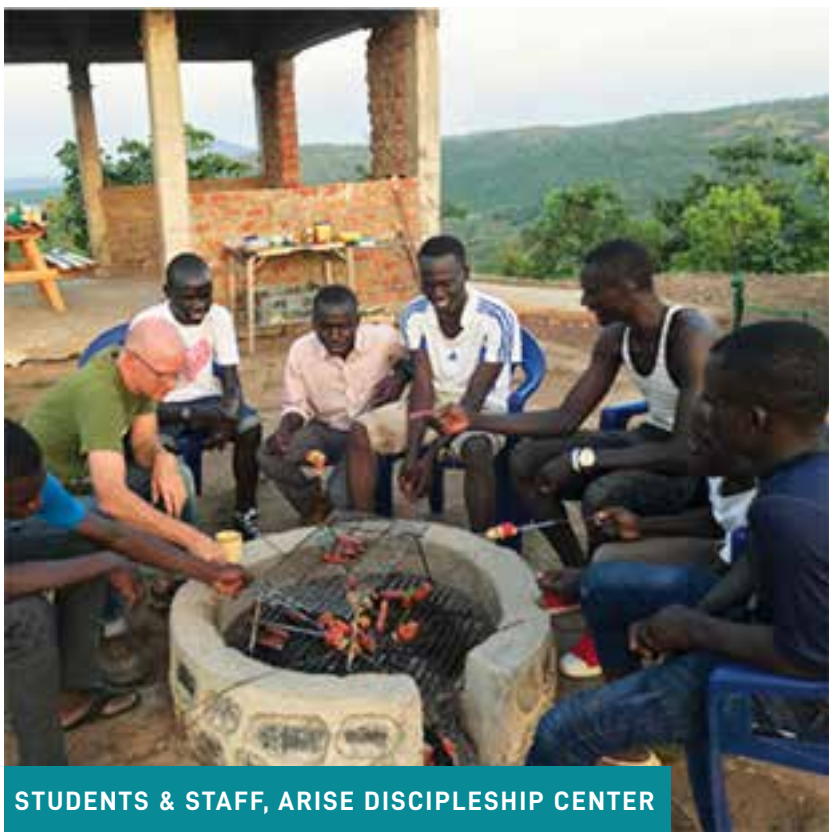
### **HIS VOICE GLOBAL (HVG)**

His Voice Global is called to work with local leaders and fulfill their vision to care for, educate, and encourage vulnerable women and children in their area. Stonegate has a long history with HVG in association with our orphanage work in South Sudan. Many of the children who grew up in these orphanages are now young adults and are attending University with hopes of being future leaders in South Sudan.

Stonegate supports 2 missionary families, the Elkins and the Harpers, who work with South Sudanese students, as well as helps to support The Arise Discipleship Center. This center will be the hub for discipleship training, out-bound ministry and student-based ministry to occur for Arua, Uganda and South Sudan. Located on top of a beautiful hillside, it will equally be a place for local missionaries and leaders to physically and spiritually rest and recharge for more effective ministry. Construction is currently being completed on the Main Hall and some surrounding buildings for lodging and classrooms.

## PRAY

Pray for His Voice Global as they continue to minister in areas with high populations of vulnerable women and children. Pray for the students from South Sudan as they study to become future leaders in business and politics inside their home country. Pray that God will use the Arise Discipleship Center to develop new Christian leaders for Central and East Africa.



STUDENTS & STAFF, ARISE DISCIPLESHIP CENTER



**DAYS**  
**22-30**

# STRATEGIC INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

Stonegate is very involved in making disciples all around the world. We accomplish this by developing strategic partnerships, focusing on the areas of the world with underserved access to the Gospel. Stonegate supports these strategic partners with leadership development, direct funding for ministry, and mobilizing SG ministers to help them advance God's Kingdom.







# AFRICA

The continent of Africa is a beautiful, diverse and complex area. Much of this continent is located within the 10/40 Window, an area between 10 degrees and 40 degrees longitude that includes the highest populations of unreached people groups. In much of this area, Islam and animistic tribal religions are dominant. Equally, extreme poverty, violence, war, and hunger affect every day life for millions of African inhabitants.



## DAY 22

### WATCH AND PRAY

Getaneh M. Getaneh, founder of Watch and Pray Ministries, is a gentle man whose radiant face belies the horrors he experienced during the red terror of the Mengistu regime in Ethiopia. After escaping prison and torture, he was able to return to Ethiopia. Currently living in the US, he returns frequently to Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa for evangelism, leader development and pastor training.



| [watchandprayministries.org](http://watchandprayministries.org)

### WATER IS BASIC

Water is Basic's vision is that every person has access to clean, safe water. They train indigenous workers to build and repair local water wells. To date, they have brought clean water to 1,500,000 people in South Sudan and Democratic Republic of Congo.

**water IS BASIC** | [waterisbasic.org](http://waterisbasic.org)

### MERCY SHIPS

Mercy Ships brings hope and healing to the world's forgotten poor through medical care and surgery via their floating hospitals, often where other medical care is non-existent.



| [mercyships.org](http://mercyships.org)

## HARVESTERS

Three keywords distinguish the Harvesters church planting methodology, namely Strategic, Systematic and Measurable. Harvesters ensures that regions are mapped out strategically so that no community is overlooked in developing new church streams. Once a Hub Church is identified in an area, the area is mapped out prayerfully by the local pastor to ensure saturation. This process of strategic and intentional evangelism is set in motion and rapid, sustainable and measurable church growth is ensured. The results is thousands of churches planted, leaders developed, and disciples made in over 50 different nations.

**Harvesters** | [harvestersministries.com](http://harvestersministries.com)  
MINISTRIES

## PRAY

Pray for our partners who are helping to meet physical and spiritual needs in Africa. Pray for Watch and Pray as they develop leaders in the Eastern Horn. Pray for Water is Basic as they “preach the Gospel with clean water” in Sudan and Central Africa. Pray for Mercy Ships as they provide vital medical care to otherwise underserved regions on the coasts. Pray for Harvesters as they build a firewall against Islam by training leaders and planting rapidly multiplying churches.

## DAY 23



### THE ELKINS

After serving as Mobilization Director for SG Missions, Mike and Megan Elkins moved to Arua, Uganda in 2015. They are currently serving with His Voice Global as team leaders for the Uganda ministry and Directors of the ARISE Discipleship Center. They have three boys Isaac, Keene, and Kohen.

Email | [mike@hisvoiceglobal.com](mailto:mike@hisvoiceglobal.com)

### THE HARPERS

Sid, Wendy and the Harper children moved their family to Uganda in 2015 to serve with Youth With a Mission (YWAM.) After completing their commitment, they joined the His Voice Global team to help disciple South Sudanese men and women. They are currently serving as Circle of Care coordinators developing the organization's holistic approach for caring for the vulnerable orphans.

Email | [sshd07@gmail.com](mailto:sshd07@gmail.com)





## THE JOHNSONS

Bill and Julie Johnson raised their family in Mali, Africa. While they returned stateside for a period of time, their hearts never left the African people. Bill is currently serving with Harvesters Ministries as leadership developer for church planting efforts. Together, they engage, train and empower indigenous, qualified leaders and pastors who have begun hundreds of churches across Africa and Asia.

**Email | [bjk3johnson@outlook.com](mailto:bjk3johnson@outlook.com)**

## PRAY

As you pray for SG Missionaries today, please take a moment and write a brief note of encouragement to one of the families listed. Take time to write out a prayer in the email that you are praying for them.



# ASIA

Asia is home to the world's most populous nations. From large, technologically advanced cities to small family rice paddies, Asia's people as are diverse as they are numerous. Many people groups within these nations are included in what Missiologists call THUMB Peoples - Tribal, Hindu, Unreligious (usually due to Communism), Muslim and Buddhist. In fact, the largest Muslim nation in the world is located in Southeast Asia. Strict anti-conversion laws and communist-controlled governments often result in persecution for followers of Jesus. Yet, faithful believers continue to carry the Gospel underground and millions of people are following Christ.

## DAY 24

### ADVANCING NATIVE MISSIONS

ANM works in over 100 countries reaching people with very little to no access to the Gospel. Instead of sending American Christians to other countries, they partner with native Christians who already live there. The impact: Fewer language barriers, less culture shock, and lower cost of living. Stonegate helps to support this indigenous leader training, in Asian countries within the "10/40 Window."



### MED SEND

MED SEND uses hand-held ultrasound devices which turn an everyday iPhone into an ultrasound machine. These portable devices have proven invaluable in providing medical care in remote areas of Myanmar, especially after a recent coup as destabilized national resources. Equally, each visit becomes an opportunity to share God's love by meeting needs and sharing the Gospel. Stonegate helps to provide these devices and helped to build a medical clinic in a very underserved area during 2020.



## THRIVE MINISTRIES

Stonegate seeks to help keep God's workers on the field through our support of THRIVE. Thrive hosts four retreats each year for women who are ministering overseas, allowing them to get away for a time of refreshment and connection with other women. During their four days together, between 50-100 attendees have the opportunity to experience spiritual, emotional, and physical restoration through worship, studying Scripture, prayer, self-care, confidential counseling, and more. Each year, we hear story after story of global women who were considering leaving missions recommit to their cross-cultural calling as a result of THRIVE.

thrive | [thriveministry.org](https://thriveministry.org)

### PRAY

Pray for these 3 partners, who serve the people and workers of Asia. Pray that God will use their ministry to see His Kingdom expand throughout the Muslim, Buddhist, Animistic and Non-Religious people who live in this continent.



## DAY 25

God has blessed Stonegate by allowing us to “send-out” over 20 missionary families all over the world. Our missionaries in Asia serve in large cities, filled with people who have never heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Many of these leaders serve at personal risk of being removed from the country, imprisonment and persecution. For their safety, we will refer to them only by first name and not provide contact information.

### **CHRIS & KORTNEY**

Chris and Kortney serve in one of the most populous nations in Asia. Although they are not allowed to return to this country at this time, they continue to develop leaders and make disciples via online platforms. These disciples in-turn carry out the work of ministry to their friends, family and colleagues. They pray daily to return to this nation; but, in the meantime, serve the local church in every way possible via technology.

### **WILSON & MISTI**

Wilson and Misti serve among college students in Southeast Asia. Using Disciple Making Movement strategies and the Discovery Bible Study method, they introduce students to reading and studying the Bible in hopes of leading them to Christ. Then, through one-on-one discipleship, they help build these new believers into disciples of Jesus. These disciples then seek to reach their friends and family members for Christ so that local, indigenous churches can be planted.

## **BERNEY & KARI**

Did you know that the one of the most popular city for Muslims to visit is in Southeast Asia? God is bringing the world to this extremely diverse metropolis every day. Through sports ministry, personal relationships, small group discipleship and empowerment of local believers, Berney and Kari seek daily to reach the most unreached people in the world.

## **TIM & TAWNYA**

Serving in the Asia-Pacific islands seems like paradise. Yet, away from the resorts, life rarely looks like a post-card. Tim and Tawyna work alongside of local churches to minister among women and orphans. In the midst of Covid, they seek to help local churches with relief work including food and supply distribution. Yet, frequent lockdowns make daily ministry almost impossible.

## **PRAY**

Pray for these SG Missionaries as they help make disciples in Asia. Pray for them as utilize technology to train leaders, find creative ways to minister in the midst of Covid lockdowns, and build relationships. Pray that God will bring them “persons of peace” to share the Gospel with who will invite them into their inner-circle of friends and family.





# INDIA

India is currently the world's most populous nation with over 1.3 Billion people. India was started as a Hindu nation and current government strides are designed to return it to this status. As a result, intense persecution exists for many Indian Christ-followers, including revoking land-ownership for anyone who converts, imprisonment and violence. Equally, poverty, Hindu-based oppression of women, and the recent pandemic have made life very difficult for many. Nevertheless, in the face of persecution, God's Kingdom is advancing in both cities and villages.

## DAY 26

India is a nation of exponentials: exponential sights, sounds, tastes, smells and people. Recent governmental changes have resulted in a cry to return India to its Hindu roots, resulting in severe persecution for Christians. Yet, when you are surrounded by darkness, you always look for a light. Please pray for our India partners as they brightly shine the light of the Gospel into some of the darkest places of the world's most populous nation.

### YOU CAN FREE US

Human trafficking is rampant in India, especially among women and children. Realizing that every person is someone Jesus died for, You Can Free Us fights to bring freedom, hope, and restoration to victims of modern slavery and deliver innovative ways to reduce the global slavery footprint. Their holistic approach to rehabilitation includes programs for literacy, education, vocational training, individual and group therapy, medical care, physical fitness, and life skills training.

youcanfreeus | [youcanfreeus.org](https://youcanfreeus.org)



### SCAN HERE!

Watch the following story video from You Can Free Us

## **CARMEL COMMUNITY CHURCH**

Located in one of India's largest cities, Carmel Community seeks to bring hope, education, and life to India's slum communities. Many impoverished residents can not afford to educate their children. Carmel Community provides Bible-based education regardless of the child's ability to pay. Many of their students go on to be educators, pastors and leaders who are trained to plant churches and advance the Gospel across India.



## **FUEL SPORTS ASIA**

How do you make disciples in a place where the majority of the people don't know Jesus? What if you can get them to join your traveling sports team? FUEL Sports coaches are trained on sports coaching, discipleship methods, and evangelism. They recruit children from small villages to join their teams and then live out their identity as followers of Jesus in front of these children as they coach them in soccer, cricket, and other sports.







# THE MIDDLE EAST

Christians in the West sometimes find it easy to dismiss the Middle East. However, God has made it clear that the Middle East has been and continues to be part of His plan. More than any other place in the world, throughout history the Middle East has stood as the crossroads for conquering armies and traveling merchants to enter Africa, Asia, and Europe. Where else could God's message of salvation reach such a wide variety of people? Despite what we may hear on the news, God is working powerfully in the Middle East. Muslims are experiencing miraculous dreams and visions. Globalization and technology are resulting in more freedom to explore and learn about Christ.



## DAY 27

The Middle East is often viewed as a lost-cause for the Gospel. This perceived Muslim stronghold is known for opposition and severe persecution of Christians and missionaries. Yet, God is moving powerfully in this region of the world with thousands of people coming to Christ daily. Please pray for our partners in the Middle East as they join God in this incredible work.

### **MIRACLE CONNECT**

Miracle Connect's founder was praying, "God if they won't let me in the door, show me a back window." As he looked up, he realized that every apartment had a satellite dish. From there, Miracle connect was born as a church planting, disciple-making ministry, that speaks the heart language, of Arabs with the Good News of Jesus. Miracle Connect uses satellite and internet technology to make disciples and train Christian leaders across Middle East North Africa (MENA) and the most difficult Arab nations.



| [miracleconnect.org](http://miracleconnect.org)

MIRACLE CONNECT

### **LEBANESE SOCIETY OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

LSESD's vision is to see communities transformed and churches flourishing both in Lebanon and the MENA region for the glory of God. This happens through education, work

with Syrian refugees, leadership development and pastor training. Through the Arab Baptist Seminary, they train leaders from across the Middle East who return to their home nations to minister and plant churches.



LSES & MEBO | [lsesd.org](https://lsesd.org)

## PRAY

Pray for our strategic partners in the Middle East. Pray for thousands of new Christian workers that can make disciples and plant churches throughout this region. Pray that in the midst of every closed door, God shows them a new open window for the Gospel.





# EUROPE

Did you know that less than 2% of Europe's population claim to have a personal relationship with Jesus? Beautiful church buildings fill cities and countrysides throughout this continent; but, most of them sit almost empty on Sundays. Secularism is the main religion of most European nations. However, in the midst of this, God is moving in the lives of immigrants and refugees flooding into European nations. Pastors and faithful believers are being revitalized and encouraged as they minister among these new, Muslim-background believers.

## DAY 28

### **proDEO CHURCH**

Starting as a college ministry, the founders of proDEO quickly realized a need for a church that new believers can come to without the weight of tradition. They have grown the church through college ministry, children's ministry and community outreach. Stonegate has partnered with proDEO for evangelistic college camps, children's outreach and helping to build their first building. This new building, opening in 2022, will be the centerpiece of a brand new neighborhood, comprised of hundreds of young families with children.



### **GREATER EUROPE MISSION**

Almost every village, town and city across Europe contain less than 2% of committed followers of Jesus Christ. Every city is punctuated by stunning churches, but very few are home to thriving groups of Christians. Few people have been befriended by genuine disciples of Jesus. Stonegate supports 2 missionaries - Al & Ginger Yowell and Hannah Payken - who are helping to make disciples among believers in Germany.



## SHARE

SHARE helps sent missionaries to stay on the ground where God has sent them through helping provide for their family and educational needs. Each year, through resources and an annual conference in Budapest, Hungary, missionaries can learn about educational resources and testing for their school-aged children. Stonegate supports THRIVE through providing a worship/tech team for this conference and helping with children's ministry.



**SHARE**  
Education Services

| [shareeducation.org](https://shareeducation.org)

## PRAY

Read Acts 3:19-20. As you pray for our partners in Europe, take a few minutes to do a HEAR Note for this passage. Pray for churches that have moved away from God's Word and the Gospel. Pray for a continued awakening among Muslim refugees. Pray for wounds of the past brought on by governments and political systems will be healed. Pray steadfastness over the Pastors and Christian leaders that serve in Europe.



## HANNAH PAYKEN

Hannah has a heart for children of missionaries. To this end, she serves at Black Forest Academy boarding school in Germany with GEM missions. As a resident assistant for a girls dorm, she is devoted to investing in missionary kids' lives through encouragement, love and discipleship. Each day, she enjoys interaction with children whose parents are serving in 18 different nations.

Email | [hpayken@gemission.com](mailto:hpayken@gemission.com)



## THE MANSOURS

John and Sharon, alongside their children, have served in England and Uganda for over 10 years. They are overseers for multiple ministries with YWAM both in Europe and Africa. They help to empower young Ugandans for small business as missions and have a coffee shop that helps encourage European residents and immigrants to have conversations about hope, mercy and love in Jesus.

Email | [manjosa@gmail.com](mailto:manjosa@gmail.com)



## THE YOWELLS

Al and Ginger Yowell are long-time members of Midland and of Stonegate. They have served in Next Gen ministries, groups and pre-marital counseling. During their service, God clarified a calling on their life to make disciples in regions of the world that have little access to the Gospel. They committed to serve with Greater Europe Mission in Frankfurt, Germany, where less than 2% of the population is an evangelical Christian. There, they will help reach refugees and train German leaders on discipleship and apologetics.

**Email | [agyowell87@gmail.com](mailto:agyowell87@gmail.com)**

## PRAY

Read and pray through 2 Cor 10: 14-18. As you pray for our European missionaries, please take a moment to watch Al and Ginger Yowell's testimony from their commissioning service.



## SCAN HERE!

For our Commissioning service for Al & Ginger Yowell, and Advance Church.



## THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Many followers of Jesus around the world face intense persecutions. The reasons for this are many: government policy, anti-conversion laws, religious fundamentalism, etc. In the end, these believers are persecuted because they are of our common enemy who battles and rages against the Kingdom of God. But, he will not succeed. Our enemy will be defeated and we will reign with our Everlasting King forever and ever.

Yet, in the meantime, the battle still rages.

So, as we finish this prayer journey together, please take time to pray the following things over our brothers and sisters who are facing persecution for following Jesus.

**Pray** that they will feel the comfort and encouragement of the Lord. Christians, like our friend, Chinese pastor John Cao, face incredible pain and violence for their beliefs. They are told over and over to turn from the Lord, and yet they remain strong. Pray they will be reminded they are not alone. (1 Peter 4:12-14)

**Pray** that their persecutors will come to know Christ. In Matthew 5:44, Jesus says, "... love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." (ESV) When Christians stand firm in the face of persecution, it changes the way people view the Christian faith. They begin to wonder, "What is this thing that so many people are willing to die for?" As you think about our brothers and sisters in Christ, pray that God will use their suffering to bring others to faith — particularly those who are carrying out the persecution.

**Pray** that in the midst of persecution, the church will be strengthened and continue to grow. Even though the purpose of persecution is to stamp out the church, it often has the opposite effect. Believers grow bolder and more passionate about sharing God's Word with others. Despite attempts to stop it, the global church continues to grow. Ask God to increase believers' boldness as they share the Gospel with those around them. And pray that despite all odds, more and more people will come to believe in Jesus as their Savior.

**Pray** that these believers will have access to God's Word. The Bible is full of verses on persecution and faith in the midst of trials. These verses bring great comfort and encouragement, yet many persecuted believers have limited chance to read/hear them. Pray that the Holy Spirit will use verses that they have hidden their hearts to speak comfort and courage over them. Pray that they will find Bibles in unexpected places.

