

# Encounter Church Annual Report 2020-2021





## Annual Ministry Reports

June 27, 2021

As Pastor John and I consider the last 12 months; we see the Lord's hand of grace and love on Encounter Church. In our seventh year as a church in Natomas, we have become a body of believers that truly love Christ and seek to walk in the Spirit. Each ministry continues to advance the gospel in our community and around the world. We have witnessed the lost get saved, the sick get healed, babies dedicated, couples marry and believers baptized.

Although we are not a perfect church, we strive to be conformed to the image of our beloved Savior, Jesus Christ. We set our eyes on Heaven and pursue all things to the glory of God. We trust that the Holy Spirit is sanctifying us individually and collectively as a church.

Although the lamp of Encounter Church shines bright, we have a long way to go to truly shine the light of Christ in this dark world.

It is clear to us as shepherds serving the Lord, that God has tremendous things planned for this church. It will not be easy. The enemy will fire his darts. However, if Christ is with us, who could stand against us!

There is more joy, more peace, and more love in store for us this year! Let us love God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength! For He is faithful and will build His church!

Pastor Joe  
Pastor John

*"For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen."*

*Ephesians 3:14-21 ESV*

## Children's Church

**Kerrie Cabral**

This last year has been a little crazy with COVID, but our teachers and helpers have been faithful and consistent. We have had changes in teachers and helpers throughout the past year and God is continuing to provide the help as it is needed. We have also implemented a couple of changes with the schedule of the morning as well as our point system to keep the kids encouraged in learning and memorizing scripture. We also added a check in system that has been helpful for both teachers and parents and hope this check in system will help parents know their children are safe and accounted for while they are in our care.



At this time, we are celebrating how God is providing teachers and helpers as needed. We are also excited for the way that God is moving in the ministry in the hearts of the children. We are also very excited for our digital check-in system!

Over the next year, our hope is to add more classrooms as the preschool begins to expand. We are hoping to separate the age groups a little bit more so everyone is able to follow along better.

As we add more classrooms, we will need to find more teachers and helpers. Please be in prayer for that, as well as for the current teachers and helpers. Our prayer is that the teachers and helpers are in prayer for the students they are serving in this ministry.

*Support Team: Sue Walters, Liz Bentley, Sarah Salhotra, Sam Bounma, Peggy Chapman & all of the AMAZING teachers and helpers!*

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## Construction

**Brian Lutolf**

Who would build a new church building in the midst of the worst pandemic in 100 years? Those were the thoughts running through my head as we began to prepare for construction. I had managed construction projects for my employer for several years. It was never part of my primary job function and I always asked myself how I got into this position. What I realized was that God was preparing me for such a time as this, to be part of something much bigger than I could imagine. I could not have managed this project without the other church members that I worked alongside. God had been preparing them too for such a time as this, with their own unique gifting and experiences.



As with any construction project, there are many details and issues that need to be worked out. With the addition of COVID-19, it made things more difficult. There were delays, the site was shut down due to exposure, governmental agencies were slow to approve requests, material had long lead times. We experienced these issues all the way up to the very last construction day with only 48 hrs left before our first Sunday service. We had already removed the A/V equipment from the old building and installed it in the new building, so if we didn't get the inspection approved, neither building could be used. At the last minute, we were notified that we needed an additional signature to get occupancy which we hadn't scheduled. Our contractor called the inspector's office and the inspector said they were about to leave

for the day and if we had called 5 min later she would have been gone. She agreed to do a Zoom inspection and we got the building occupancy! There were so many stories like this where God revealed his sovereignty and His hand in this from the very beginning.

So who would build a new church building in the midst of the worst pandemic in 100 years? The faithful children of God, for the sole purpose of giving glory to our Father. I remember the first Sunday so vividly, so much anticipation and excitement; the church was full as I stood in the back of the room. The worship band steps to the stage, I hear the guitar strum as the worship leader begins to sing words of praise and the congregation joins in unison. Tears rolled down my face; this was the moment I realized that generations will come here to worship him. God is truly building his church.

But God's plan for Encounter isn't finished yet; we quickly transitioned to the expansion at Learning Pointe, the men of the church came together to demo the old building over several weekends and we are currently under construction with a completion date of mid-August.

Please be in prayer for the safety of the construction workers and children in the preschool while construction is underway. That construction costs are controlled & within budget, and that the expansion will be complete in time for the new school year. Lastly, but most importantly let's give thanks and praise to our Father and all that He provides us.

*Support Team: David Goodwin, Rachel Minyard, Sue Walters, Will Gaines*  
Special thanks to the Tile team!

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## **Finance**

### **Pastor Joe Walters**

One year ago construction began on 2408 and now we have 2406 being remodeled. This has been a faithful journey where the LORD has blessed us greatly. Orchard Alliance partnered with us to get the loan and has generously worked with us to reach our goals! Encounter congregants have been faithful to their offerings and their pledges toward the expansion of the Encounter campus.



We are celebrating God's faithfulness to take a struggling little church and grow us into a financially vibrant church. We expect to see the LearningPointe classrooms open and full of amazing kids. This is the first step of many to become a christian education center!

The finance team is discussing with elders how to best use the proceeds from the expanded school. With a surplus each month we know that we can safely launch the private school. However, we are considering the prudence of paying down and maybe consolidating our 2 mortgages.

Please pray that we be the best possible stewards of the Lord's resources and that we will make wise financial decisions.

*Support Team: Elizabeth Bentley, Peggy Chapman, Vanessa Silva, John Stone*

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## FLIPT Youth Ministry

Brian & Kelsey Jang

COVID had no wins here! After graduating out the students of 2020 we decided that enough was enough and began to meet again with our students at the park. We were able to see our students again, enjoy fellowship and games, all while growing in the knowledge of Christ. After meeting in the park for a couple weeks we were back in our old building. Some wore masks, some did not but we saw an increase in our numbers and were even able to serve teens attending churches whose groups had not yet started back up again. Getting to see students come together from around the greater Sacramento area to worship and learn about God was a blessing to our core group of students and we as a staff are looking for new ways to partner with other youth groups in Sacramento to better grow a wider sense of camaraderie and fellowship amongst young believers.



We continued many of our FLIPT traditions like the Burger Bonanza as well as the Christmas Jamz Party but some traditions looked a little different. See You At The Pole (SYATP) looked different this year as it was held in front of the State Capitol as opposed to on our school campuses. We were unfortunately unable to host the 30 Hour Famine for lack of a location, but more on that later. FLIPT also had to get a bit creative with our Mexico missions trip, instead of being able to go over the border and deliver Christmas gifts to the House of Grace face to face we Skyped in and had a party together online! We also were able to do new things like FLIPT's Friday Funnigans which enabled us to see students more frequently during a time where they weren't able to get much fellowship anywhere

but FLIPT. Thankfully we have seen our numbers grow throughout the year and are currently hosting over forty students a week. It's a fun bunch of students and we look forward to the coming year and how God sees fit to grow and move in and through us.



Currently FLIPT is celebrating the fact that several students from Casa de Oracion join us on Wednesday nights, they are a great bunch and we are blessed to be able to serve them and see our students become friends with those who meet in our building but we do not always get to see. Sarah and Kimley Filaciar have also come back, now married, to join our staff and we've welcomed a new staff member, Reyna Peralta, who will oversee the 6th and 7th grade girls! Praise God Reyna's group has already grown as so many of our kids from the children's ministry have now graduated into the FLIPT ministry!

This year we were not only graced with planting seeds but harvesting as well! We have seen the advancement of His kingdom and were able to witness the baptism of several students over the last year as well as new faith commitments made. We have also been encouraged by the students who are taking their walks with the Lord more seriously and giving up negative influences like social media, toxic friend groups and music that dishonors God.

Like I mentioned previously, we were unable to have our students participate in 30HF for lack of a location but as Brian and I now have space to host a large event we plan to do a 30HF type event at our home. Unfortunately we were not able to attend any summer camp this past year and it looks as though we will not be attending one this year either. Our students are being encouraged to get their families to go to family camp where Brian and I will host events specifically for FLIPT students.



As we continue to look forward, a guys and gals lock in as well as a pool party to help our Fliptsters see more of each other now that school is out are in the planning process. When school begins in the fall, FLIPT will start up an after school program on Wednesday's where students can come to study and seek tutoring between the hours of 3 to 6:30. We hope to use this new ministry as a way to reach more students who do not yet know Christ by providing a quiet, encouraging space for them to come and get work done while getting to know our tutors and sharing a meal together.

Please join us in prayer as we are in need of a 9th grade guys and 9th grade gals leader. Pray God would prepare the heart of those He has called into this ministry. We would love for the pair to be a married couple but of course are open to where God may lead!

*Support Team: Reyna Peralta 6th and 7th gr. girls, Emily Chapman 8th gr. girls, Kelsey Jang 10th gr. girls, Sarah Salhotra and Sarah Filaciar 11th gr. girls, Monie Vongnangam 12th gr. girls, Junior Goode 6th and 7th gr. guys, Mason Walters 8th gr. guys, DJ Carias 10th gr. guys, Brian Jang 11th gr. guys, Niko Chapman, Woodkimley Filacier 12gth gr. guys, Rohan Salhotra - Worship, Emmit Saiyarath -Media and Sound, Childcare - Peggy Chapman, Donna Graf, Hannah Graf, Breanna Lutolf, Sandra Meyers, Tiffany Ruvalcaba, Mele Umana, Sue Walters*

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## **FLIPT Academy** **Joe Walters**

FLIPT Academy is a ministry established to disciple high school graduates. Our mission is to encourage young adults, in love, to have the full assurance and knowledge of Christ and to joyfully follow God with excellence, glorifying him in all they do.

We are celebrating continued growth in numbers and in devotion to the LORD. We have seen members get married, get baptized and grow in their faith.

Our ministry goal is to reach as many young adults as God wills and to teach them a clear biblical worldview. FLIPT Academy is a small remnant of faithful young Christians in a big world of secularism. They are being equipped to enter into that world with the truth of the Gospel and the love of Christ.

Please pray that we lead this ministry well and for unity in the body. Also pray that as each of these young adults navigates the world of education, careers, relationships, and marriages, that they do it wisely seeking the will of God in their life.

*Support Team: DJ Carias, Rohan Salhotra, Jared Stone, & Sue Walters*

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## Go Team - Missions

**Tomas Garcia & Brian Lutolf**

*Report submitted by Brian Lutolf*



With the continued impact of COVID-19 around the globe, it has limited the ability for our Missionaries, aka EMT (Encounter Missionary Teams) to share the Gospel with those who need it the most, and this can be discouraging. We found our focus this past year was missionary care. The Missions team continued their focus on bringing our EMT's prayers to the congregation for intercession on their behalf and bringing awareness to the activities of those we partner with. There were significant transitions for some of our EMT's, as follows:

- The Liberti's who served with Proclaim in eastern Europe for 10 years, returned to the United States to take on new roles within the organization. Steve will continue his ministry and travel when needed. As the Liberti's arrived back in the US, several congregation members flew to Florida to help them unload their shipping container. But the container was delayed, so we spent the next few days sitting on lawn chairs in an empty house where we were able to minister to them.
- The Rossi's are headed back to Canada for home assignment after spending 5 years serving in Laos. Their leadership and passion for sharing the gospel will be missed in Laos, but we pray that this is a time of rejuvenation for their family. We have weekly meetings with Dan Rossi to show our love and support for them.
- Mary Stone, after spending several years back in the US recovering from health problems, has returned to Chad! Praise God for her willingness to return to the mission field and finish well.

In January, our pastors, leaders, and young adults went to Mexico to spend time at Radius International, which is a school that equips missionaries for the field. We had been trying to visit for some time; however, COVID-19 prevented us from getting there. Our purpose of our trip was to identify if this was a school that we would consider as part of our missionary development program. We spent several days living with the students and going to classes with them. We were impressed by the curriculum, the staff and students. We were also able to make connections with other churches that had developed missionary discipleship programs.

Encounter is blessed to have such a large group of individuals with a heart for Missions and we want to continue to cultivate and develop those young adults that have expressed interest in going into the missions field.

Please pray for the 2 billion people who don't have access to a Bible, a church, or someone that can share the Gospel with them. They are called the unreached, denied of knowing anything about Jesus, therefore without hope. Pray for more workers to be sent into the fields, pray for those that are currently serving in the field and that God gives them strength, wisdom, discernment, and perseverance to finish well. Pray for Encounter's continued passion for Missions and that we would raise up and send workers into the field.

*The Missions Team: Samantha Bounma, D'Angelo (DJ) Carias, Curtis and Peggy Chapman, Mckenzie Chapman, Nemo Chapman, Tomas and Jennifer Garcia, Brian and Breanna Lutolf, Brad and Sandra Meyers, Reyna Peralta, Rohan and Sarah Salhotra*

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## Laos Team

### Lay Vongnangam, Ministry Lead

Report submitted by Brian Lutolf

While it's safe to say it has been a unique year for most people around the world due to the impact of COVID-19. Despite all the challenges that we have faced, we still have reason to find joy and thankfulness for God's provision in our lives. Such is true with our ministry to the people of Laos. We began 2020 by sending an Encounter team to Thailand to host a leadership retreat for some leaders which we met in a previous trip and then we moved on to Laos to hand off Nemo Chapman, our first Encounter Missionary to Laos! I still remember the evening we said goodbye to him; we stood in the street as he walked away into the darkness of the night. That darkness that engulfed him was a reminder of the spiritual darkness that grips this country and its people. Our hearts were heavy that so many didn't know Christ, but so proud that we could send one young man, called by God, to share the Gospel.



It was shortly after that the effects of COVID-19 began to be felt and Laos went on lock down. Nemo continued to encourage us with stories of his experiences and how God continued working among his people. Unfortunately, his time was cut short which was also followed by the departure of our missionaries Dan & Ruth Rossi as they were heading back to Canada for home assignment. There was a sense of discouragement, but God never stops working and we waited for Him to open the next door.

In the meantime Pastor Elilam continued developing relationships with other Laotian Pastors. One Sunday, he shared about a Pastor in Thailand who left Laos after being persecuted for his faith and was now ministering to Laotians who live in Thailand. We began developing a relationship with him and he connected us with some Christians in a village in the province of Savannakhet. God had opened the next door for us and we have been able to minister to Laotians in both Thailand and Lao.

As we look forward to what's to come, while we are deeply connected to Dan & Ruth's ministry and are hopeful they will return to the field soon; we are grateful about the new opportunities we have with these house churches in Thailand and Laos. It has been difficult for these communities during lock down and food supplies have been scarce. Basic items such as rice and clean water are lacking, so members of our church and Lao community gathered funds to buy rice and have plans to build wells in three villages. What we are most excited about is the opportunity to share the Gospel with them. Brian Lutolf and other team members will give messages twice a month and work to mentor the pastors.

Pray that the stronghold the enemy has in this country will be destroyed, and one by one, every spirit house, idol, and temple will be destroyed. Pray for wisdom and discernment as our team explores these new opportunities so that we may glorify God. Pray that our messages are not ours but that of the Holy Spirit.

*Support Team: Mark Hofer, Scott deMoor, Elilam Nosaphangthong, Lay Vongnangam, Nemo Chapman, Penny Saiyarath & Brian Lutolf*

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**Learning Pointe Preschool**  
**Vanessa Silva, Director**

Learning Pointe is wrapping up it's eleventh year of operating and serving the Natomas community. We have a team of teachers who love God and love what they do. They show up everyday and are present with the children we serve. Our goal is not only to prepare our students academically but to share the gospel with them. It's very rewarding when we hear stories from parents that their children are coming home and sharing the stories from the bible that they are learning at school. We are living in times where God is needed more than ever in the schools. We are extremely blessed to be able to teach a curriculum that is Christ centered.



We are so excited for the expansion of Learning Pointe, this has been a desire of ours to grow our program in order to serve more families. We have had to make many last minute changes in order to continue to operate during this phase of the construction. We are thankful to have a team of teachers who have been the hands and feet of Jesus and parents who truly love Learning Pointe, that they've been so understanding during the last few weeks.

We started the school year slow as far as enrollment due to COVID but we are at full capacity with a waiting list of over 60 families hoping to enter our program this fall. Many other childcare/preschool programs unfortunately have had to close their doors in the last year that we feel blessed to be still operating and expanding at the same time. Learning Pointe was able to give our staff a 10% pay raise, along with two yearly bonuses. We also had our existing classrooms painted during our week off.

Looking to the future, we are hoping to add infant care as part of our program this fall along with another two additional preschool classrooms. We are excited for this growth and truly trust that God has been and will continue to make a way for this to take place.

Please pray for:

- The licensing process for the additional classrooms along with applying for a new license to serve infants
- For additional staff who love the Lord and love children to fill up the new classrooms
- God to prepare our hearts and mind to serve the new families entering LP this fall
- The 16 students who will enter Kinder/TK elsewhere in the fall, that they can continue to be a light to others and they continue to grow



*Support Team: Peggy Chapman and John Stone*

*Teachers: Dulce Jimenez, Raj Heaton, Daisie Beltitis, Sandra Marquez, Taylor Figuera, Victoria Goodwin*

## Men's Ministry

Curtis Chapman & Jon Maves

Moving into the summer of 2020, the men's ministry had stagnated partly due to COVID and also feeling the need to gather as leaders to re envision what is next for the men's ministry. In September a group of men's leaders began meeting together every week to pray and seek God for how to revive and refocus the men in the church. One of the key things that God brought forward was the Shema found in Deuteronomy 6.



- What would it look like to be men who authentically loved God with all of their heart, mind, soul and strength?
- How would God have us walk together on that journey?

As the leaders continued to pray and wrestle through how to practically do this with the men of Encounter, the idea of triads came up. In January we shared this vision with all the men in the church and called them to commit to one year with a group of men to journey together to grow in our love for God and be radical in our pursuit of Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

Since January we have, for the most part, met every week as triads and spent 12 weeks on loving God with all of our heart and are currently in another 12 week cycle of loving God with all of our mind.

Currently, we are celebrating that over 60 men committed to meet every week with other men and are trusting that God is going to transform us collectively and individually in powerful ways.

We desire to finish strong with all of our triads meeting faithfully every week. As we look to the future, one of the verses that is shaping our thoughts is Hebrews 12:1-2. We desire that the men of our church would run the race to win the prize and that we would throw off the sin and weights that hinder us in our pursuit of Jesus.

Please pray for the following areas:

- Some of the triad groups are doing really well but some of them aren't as consistent so please pray for willingness and discipline to finish what we started
- Pray for the leaders to not lose heart and be given for the men in their groups
- Pray for honest, confessional relationships to grow in the triads
- Pray for spiritual vibrancy amongst all the men

*Support Team: John Caampued, Jeff Goode, Mike Graf*

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## Nursery Ministry

Choy Phongmany

Throughout the year, we had many highs and a few lows. I lost a few volunteers due to fear of Covid and had some schedule conflicts with Children's Church. After we returned from Church at Home, we were able to recruit 5-6 additional families and/or individuals to volunteer.

We have many new families added to the church and therefore, our nursery numbers have grown, We are at 8-12 babies/toddlers each Sunday. After church, when parents pick up their child, our volunteers

chat/connect with the family, both new and existing members. If they are new, and have not been greeted, then that is another opportunity for them to be greeted by our church members.

*As our facilities grow*, We are hoping for a TV or system where the nursery workers can hear or see the service while we are serving in the nursery. We are also working toward better communication with Children's Church so we don't have schedule conflicts with our volunteers.



Please pray we would be able to possible to have a system where we can hear or see the service while we serving in the nursery.

*Support Team: Awesome volunteers, Sue Walters (weekly text reminders), Sarah Sohotra (Church Communicator)*

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**Prayer Team**  
**Adrian Frias**

We have had an interesting year and yet through it all, our Lord is on His throne. This is where, as disciples of Christ, we find our hope and strength. I would like to encourage you not to lose hope or confidence in your prayers. They are needed more than ever. We as a church have many prayer requests.



First off, let's hold up our pastors and elders in prayer. They are in need of our love and prayers. There are many different ways to be praying for our church.

1. Sammy is still in the hospital recovering from a COVID. As I write this, one of his lungs is damaged and the other is operational.
2. The construction and the start of the new preschool. Pray for a smooth process during the construction. Since the school is expanding. That means we need to add the the staff
3. Our missionaries, orphans and Pastor John sabbatical. Some of our missionaries are in a transitional period while others are in the front line. Needless to say they need our prayers. Many of you have taken up the responsibility of loving and helping financially an orphan. We rejoice that so many have in heart to do so.
4. Last but not least our Pastor. Let us ask our Heavenly Father that Pastor John and Lauren heart, mind and strength are renewed in this time

Our community needs our prayers. My prayer is that we be obedient to the words of Jesus and go forth and make disciples and to seek the lost. We hold the greatest news ever, the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Let us take heart and evangelize our community. We must begin in prayer.

*Support team: Liz Bentley, Samantha Bounma, Curtis Chapman, Smitty & Sue Eppler, Xay Phongmany, John Stone, Joe Walters*

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## Service / Hospitality Team

### Xay Phongmany, Ministry Lead

Our service & hospitality team has been serving well this past year. Since the opening of the new facility, our service/hospitality team added a Porter service component to the team. We have created a Porter schedule and set up a rotation so we can serve the children well.



Along with the new porter schedule, we have a new rotation schedule for set up/refreshment. It's working for our ministry so far. More people are stepping up to help serve on our team and that's a great celebration!

Looking forward, we are hoping to design a service/hospitality team t-shirt so our members & guests know who we are to better serve them. We would like to have more young adults from FLIPT Academy to serve in our team. We are also looking for better ways for the new faces and guests to connect with us.

Please pray for our service team to have more involvement from our young adults to step up and serve in different ministries.

*Support Team: Samantha Bouma, Joe Chin, Julius Henderson, Sam Maokhamphiou, Daniel Minyard, Elijah Minyard, Kyu Phongmany, John Qu, Josh Speaks, Tee Vongnangam*

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## Small Group Ministry

### Gericho Rico

In my opinion, overall the Small Group Ministry has been on a plateau, however, the last 6 months, it's slowly been on a declining trend. This assessment is based of course on the leader (me). My personal trials and tribulations have been affecting the ministry. I

appreciate the grace given to me by the pastors and the small group leads. It's just been very challenging for me since January as far as my home life, and things are still getting more difficult. To be honest, the pastors and the SG leaders have been the driving force and lifeline of this ministry this year. Though they have not been given much support from me, they continue to lead well, teaching soundly, living holy lives, witnessing to the lost and serving the body of Christ. As of right now, the goal is to prepare the small group members and leaders for a small group "reboot", which includes more emphasis on community service (i.e. serving Natomas families on the south side, at risk youths, prisoners, etc.), rather than bible study sessions and fellowship. Pastor John had shared with me that he would like to see small groups become more involved in serving our community, meeting outside the usual small group home setting. The plan is to spend the summer months identifying, doing prayer walks and praying for specific community groups and creating strategies, asking God to lead us to people groups whom we can serve and build relationships with. Then in September 2021, launch this new campaign churchwide and make it the emphasis of the small group ministry for the next year. I think with California opening again, this



new focus and vision would spur us forward. I envision this campaign as “Together Again”, or at least that is the desired experience.

I have been looking at a few different preparatory materials on how to bless our immediate community post COVID specifically, and would like to recommend them to the SG leaders. However, I have been struggling to finish reading and screening these books. My hope and prayer is to have some form of a tangible and realistic plan set for the ministry between July and August. I will spend the rest of the month of June preparing and praying for God’s leading in this new focus and meeting with small group leaders.

I think the greatest celebration this year is that we were able to face the challenges of COVID together. COVID has allowed us to appreciate one another more and pursue Christ in every season. In our struggles, we grew closer together.

The Sunday night group led by the Lutolfs has been growing. We were able to finish, what I thought was a great study, on incredible couples in the Bible and at the same time provide training on how to prepare bible study lessons and lead a small group discussion. The Lutolfs have expressed that they would like to change their role as small group leaders and would like to step into a more of a mentor/coach role for prospective small group leaders. I think this is an incredible thing to celebrate and I am excited for them. I would love to formally celebrate their transition with the church during one of the church services or perhaps have a small group party. But I truly thank them for all their love and support, especially for me, personally. They have been such an encouragement even today, as I try to navigate through this season with my family.

Penny’s women’s group recently finished an incredible book on “Revelation” by John MacArthur, which I believe has been very fruitful. The women’s groups have been meeting and I praise God for their fire and contagious zeal for the Lord.

Pastor Joe’s Men’s Tuesday Group has been reorganized and is doing incredible things with the triads. I praise God for their faithfulness and consistency.

We are looking forward to building momentum for the September relaunch and to brainstorming with the SG leads and pastors regarding this launch.

COVID has really affected everyone from a mental health standpoint. I am praying for a small group lead who can lead a small group for parents going through it with their children. I have asked some people to co-lead the SG ministry with me. However, I didn’t follow through with it because I wasn’t sure if God still wanted me to lead in this capacity. But after much fasting and prayer, God is leading me to keep pressing on and lead this ministry. So I am going to reach back out to those individuals if they will be willing to lead with me.

As we continue to move forward, I would like for us to:

- Revisit past goals
- Create an ongoing training program for current and prospective leaders
- Implement a sign up process
- Build a resourceful and user friendly SG website
- Build a resource library

Please pray for the September small group relaunch. Lets pray that our community may know Christ through our love for one another. Pray for unity and a deep conviction to serve. Pray for me and my family, especially my daughter's mental and spiritual health. Pray for all the small group leaders. Pray that we may all continue to press on and pursue holiness.

Please also pray for a small group co-leader, a new believer small group/class and whoever wants to lead either in a micro group setting or one to one and for the Salhotras, Meyers and the Speaks families to hopefully be trained and become small group leaders.

*Support Team: Pastor John and Laura, Pastor Joe and Sue, Peggy and Curtis Chapman, Brian and Breanna Lutolf, Tomas and Jenn Garcia, Penny Sayarath, Brad and Sandra Meyers, Adrian Frias.*

*Babysitters: Rachel Rico, April/James Lutolf, Krsiten Ho*

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## **Women's Ministry**

### **Penny Saiyarath**

With God's faithfulness, we were graced with one of the best and most exciting years despite COVID-19 and it's guidelines. We were able to successfully come together for our annual Tea Party/Retreat in September of 2020 (which we had prayed would happen). Our attendance was more than ever with many upcoming young ladies joining us. We had the pleasure to hear from our lovely Mckenzie Chapman as she shared her testimony. We had an opportunity to support one of our sister's businesses in a very fun way, and we were spiritually fed as Peggy Chapman shared the word of God with us. Best of all we were able to use this event as a platform to share the love and good news of Jesus Christ with those not yet saved.



In December of 2020 we held a Christmas Celebration and launched the Twelve Extraordinary Women Bible Study which we will conclude with a celebration in December, 2021. The study consists of 12 women from the Bible whom God had chosen, favored and transformed into an extraordinary woman. We come together once a month to discuss, teach, and learn about these examples. We have been blessed with about 40 to 50 women in attendance each month in person and via Zoom, including our sisters who are doing missions across the globe (Laos, Hawaii, Florida, Chad, & Uganda). Despite the time zone differences, and having to wake up in the wee hours of 4:00/5:00 am, our missionaries are very dedicated and committed to the study and consistently attend the meetings. They each have also graced us with their individual testimonies. Furthermore, we have been given the privilege and opportunities to support the education of the children in Uganda and the needs of all our missionaries alongside other ministries of Encounter.

In addition to our Extraordinary Women Bible Study, we are also meeting in small groups for Bible Studies. In our Tuesday Night Bible Study, I've seen transformation, growth in knowledge and faith, a new sense of hope, and beautiful relationships taking root. We laugh together, cry together, eat together, and pray together.

We also have women who hike and walk together weekly every Saturday as a pathway to encourage and spur each other on. Moreover, these walks and hikes have created bondings amongst our women and have produced many beautiful friendships.

Over the last few months we have also had opportunities to love on several of our young moms as well by hosting baby showers, providing meals and childcare, and other needs as they arrived. Likewise, a lot of our young moms also are all very involved in various ministries when they themselves are exceedingly busy with their little ones. How admirable and awe-inspiring to us they have been. In conformity with Titus 2:3-5, we have seen older women teach and urge the younger women “to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.”

These are all the things we are currently celebrating and praising God for. We thank Him for His faithfulness and goodness. We thank Him for His provisions and His protection. We thank Him for His undeserving grace. His blessings have indeed overflowed. To Him be power and glory, for ever and ever. Amen.



As in previous years, we are now once more planning out our Annual September Tea Party in hopes that it would be even more successful and fruitful than ever. It is still our desire to also be able to find a Women’s Retreat or put on our own retreat this fall. Also, it is our goal to see every woman, young and advanced, at Encounter be involved in bible study(ies), serving in at least one ministry, being disciplined (or discipling) through the one on one discipleship, committed to support at least one of our missionaries or ministries, and know the word of God, that His word would

take up residence in our hearts, by daily reading and memorizing Bible verses, so that we would grow in our faith and our love for our Lord Jesus Christ.

Please pray for all our goals listed above, for spiritual growth and transformation, for more beautiful relationships to take root and flourish, for hearts of service, and for all that we do, we do it for His Glory.

*Support Team: Peggy Chapman, Jennifer Garcia, Breanna Lutolf, Sandra Meyers, Tiffany Ruvalcaba, Laura Stone, and Sue Walters*

**Worship Ministry**  
**AVL (Audio/Visual/Lighting)**  
**David Goodwin, Team Lead**

This year has been an incredible testimony to God’s wonderworking power and faithfulness to the church. He has shown me what it means to trust in an all knowing, omnipotent God and to walk humbly under his wing. Over the past year we have had some major changes not only in the context of our worship team, but clearly in the migration to the new building and all the wonderful opportunities that came with that. Moving across the street opened the opportunity for a reevaluation of our gear, allowing us to check the current state of all of our equipment and do some restoration where needed.



Thankfully, for the most part we were able to retain the use of the majority of our equipment from the old building. With the help of faithful volunteers and Alive Media, we were able to move across the street within the week of migration. Our sound system was taken in to be serviced and is now in operation at the new building alongside our brand new projection system which has allowed us to create beautiful, vibrant backdrops for our services. There have been many other improvements made including the lobby TVs, our “in your monitor” system, our drum cage, our stage pockets, our server room and storage in the back, I could go into great detail about how the Lord has provided for us immensely!



With regards to our volunteers, the Lord is doing incredible things within the worship team ministry. We have been working on a way for our volunteers to work more effectively while also allowing time of rest for each team member at least once a month. This has shown to be revitalizing to our team members and has been really encouraging to see. I am so thankful for each and every member of our AVL, and worship team and look forward to seeing what the Lord does through all of them for his Kingdom.

There has been much to celebrate over the past year with regards to what God is doing through this ministry. Noting a couple, I am seeing so much growth in the hearts of our worship team members. It is so encouraging to see the Lord move in their lives while they serve in this ministry. It is also so exciting to see the Lord work in the hearts of the congregation every week! I have discussed with our team and many have shared the joy it brings them that they are able to serve the church in a way that allows the body of Christ to come together in unity and praise our King.

The Lord has done so much for us and I look forward to seeing what he has in store for the future. With regards to our gear and equipment, we look forward to implementing stage pockets into the stage to reduce the amount of clutter and cabling that runs across it every Sunday. There are also plans to improve the acoustics of the sanctuary to allow for better worship in the environment by creating a more balanced sound in the room. We also look forward to being able to update some equipment that we have found to be close to the end of it's life that is in need of replacing.

With regards to team members, I look forward to the continued growth within our ministry and look forward to seeing the fruits of practicing rest for our team. I am also excited to see new members of the church coming forward with the desire to serve. I plan to implement practical training to improve the ability of our new and current team members as well as a Bible study that will hopefully prepare our hearts for worship on Sunday mornings While continuing to grow unity within our team.

As I thank God for our team and the work that we are able to do for his kingdom, please continue to pray for the hearts of the congregation to be drawn closer to Him as we gather for worship. I also ask that you pray for the unity of our team members. My desire is for the hearts of our volunteers to be pointed towards Christ and not inwardly, with a heart to serve him alone and not self interests.

*Support Team: D'Angelo Carias, Niko Chapman, Aerreon Castanares, Will Gaines, Mike Infantino, Sara Lofrano, Rachel Minyard, Amy Peralta, Gericho Rico, Christian Ruvalcaba, Rohan Salholtra, Devyn Sigurdson, Gino Videchi, Mason Walters, Amanda Whitmore*





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