



# BRANCHES

Jan-March 2020  
Volume 2 Issue 1

CHURCH PLANTING IN **SAN FRANCISCO**

## Plans, Preparations & COVID-19



Good Gospel convo during  
"coffee cart" outreach

This has without a doubt been one of the busiest 3 months of my life. So, January came and the New Year started which meant it was "go time" on getting everything ready for our official start date on Easter. Sam and Mady (our team members from Ohio) moved into the city in January and they were able to stay with us for the first month as they were looking for jobs and an apartment. God provided and they were able to get a great apartment just a 6-minute walk from us. It is a one bedroom apartment at a great price (\$1900/m)...yes that is a great deal. They both have part time jobs but are continuing to search for full time employment so please pray God will give them the perfect jobs. We are thrilled to have them here they have already been a big help and a great encouragement.

In February, we were able to start some major outreaches. We started a free art club in our community center for families and we were able to see attendance double in just the two weeks with 13 kids and 10 adults in attendance. We also set up a "coffee cart" ministry along the beach path in our Neighborhood where we give out free coffee, water and dog treats a couple of times a week. We had a lot of people stop to get something to drink and they were amazed that we were doing this for free. We were able to make a lot of good connections and shared the gospel multiple times. Please be in prayer for all of the contacts we have been able to make and that they would see the love of Jesus in us.

March, as you well know, has been a very different month. If you want my recommendation, do not try to start a brand new church during a viral outbreak. ☺ We were all geared up to do some major outreaches leading up to our first pre-view service on March 15<sup>th</sup> and I was working from 7am to 9:30pm daily trying to get everything in order and ready. However, the week leading up to this service everything in San Francisco started to change due to the Coronavirus restrictions. First, schools closed which prevented us from doing some of the outreaches we had planned. Then, the Parks & Rec Department canceled all reservations to their centers meaning our Art Class Outreach and Preview service had to be cancelled as we were planning to meet in the community center. Then, the following Monday, they enacted the shelter in place order which meant we could not hold any gatherings of any type. It was a Crazy turn of events. However, God still blessed. In the weeks leading up to the shelter in place law we had 3 new families join our Bible studies. Also, we were still able to hold our Preview service on the 15<sup>th</sup> in our apartment and we had 20 people from our city in attendance! What a blessing! I've told people all through this that when God 1<sup>st</sup> gave us the calling to San Francisco 4 years ago, He knew this would all happen. He wasn't surprised by any of it, and He will still build his church regardless.

We have still been able to get out of the house for hikes so some of the people in our group went on a local hike and we had a worship service on top of the tallest hill in San Francisco on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. However, according to the Mayor that must now stop as well. This changes things as far as our timeline goes but that is ok. We will still be doing online meetings weekly and will start services in our home once the ban lifts. We are now looking to do a Grand Opening sometime in the fall, Lord willing. Through it all, God is good. He always knows best, and He is totally at work in San Francisco and around the World.

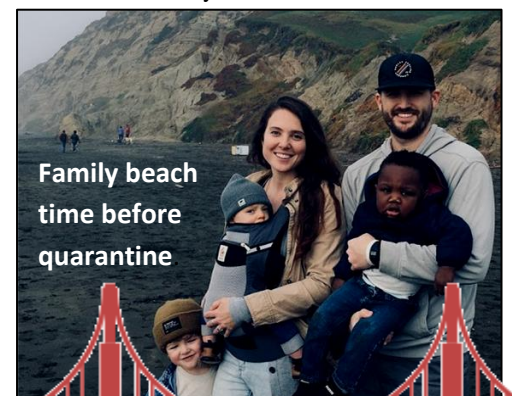
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Family beach  
time before  
quarantine

