



BRANCHES

CHURCH PLANTING IN **SAN FRANCISCO**

April-June 2020
Volume 2 Issue 2

COVID STRUGGLES & BLESSINGS



Wow. So, I would've never pictured all of this happening. And I'm sure many of you all couldn't either. I'm thinking of writing a book, "How to start a church in a Pandemic." Haha. Needless to say, It ain't been easy. Yet, God is good, all the time!

Updates: As of now San Francisco is under indefinite Shelter-in-Place orders. Many business, parks, and community centers have still not opened up. There has been some reprieve in that restaurants are going to be allowed to serve customers again as long as they have outdoor seating but still no indoor seating is allowed. Businesses can sell items for pick up only, and churches will be allowed to meet starting in July with very strict restrictions. Because the laws are less strict, we have begun to do in person services again in outdoor locations. Our first service back, we had 10 people which is half of what we had in March with a high of 20. I can see how this has hurt our momentum deeply since having to cancel our Easter grand opening because of the shutdown in March. Our plans have changed and we now plan to do smaller weekly services in our apartment for the rest of the year in hopes that by 2021 the city will have opened up more so we could do larger outreaches, and find rental spaces. However, God has done some amazing things. We have been able to spend time together as a family which has been such a gift as we went straight from the go go go during our support raising, to jumping in and trying to start a church in SF. It has been nice to just be a family for a while and focus on playing with my children.

Next, this has given MUCH needed time to better train our church planting team. In addition to our family, we have two young couples who have moved to the city to be a part of Branches. To be honest, I can see now how we would have been unprepared spiritually and emotionally as a team to have our grand opening on Easter. During the shutdown, we have been able to grow together and now, we are more united than ever in seeing God raise up a new church and save souls in San Francisco.

Finally, God has really worked on my heart to turn me to the importance of prayer. Oh, how we need prayer during these troubled times. Prayer holds no power in of itself. So, we do not believe in prayer, we believe in the all-powerful God and therefore we pray and we pray hard. This has been one of the most vital lessons I have learned. God just had to use a global pandemic in order to teach me. I can be hard headed at times.



Recently (just a week after some of the destructive protests that happened in downtown SF) I was able to help organize a prayer walk with some other pastors in our area. We walked the whole 2 ½ mile length of our neighborhood with 250 other believers! This reminded me of a gift I received from my Mother-In-Law before making the move here to SF. She gave us a picture that said, "The light always shines brightest where it is darkest" and it remains true that amidst all this darkness in our world, and in our city, we intend to shine bright the light of Jesus Christ.

Please pray for us as we continue to follow up with prospects that we are witnessing to:

- the elderly people that we have been delivering groceries to
- the people Hali has been making masks for
- the people that have been participating in our online and in person church services.

Pray we do not lose heart. Pray we keep up the good fight. Pray light shines in the darkness. Pray for the salvation and the revival of San Francisco. Pray God be glorified.

Love you and thank you for your continued prayers and support! -Jake Woodfin

We Would Love to hear from you!

Website: woodfinsf.com

Email: jakewoodfinsf@gmail.com

Address: 3131 Vicente St. Apt 201

San Francisco, CA 94116

