

# First Presbyterian MISSIONS

2020 CELEBRATION REPORT

**G**od worked mightily through FPC missions in 2020 despite it being a year where the devastation of pain, isolation, loss, fear, and division were felt globally. As this New Year begins, we are humbled to take a look back through 2020 to see God's faithfulness and provision, as we prayerfully anticipate how He will continue His mission of redemptive restoration through the Church in 2021.

## Global MISSIONS

We praise God for the innovative ways we have been able to co-labor with the global Church through our FPC Global Mission Partners! Though we have been unable to travel to be with our ministry partners in person, God has opened doors to allow us to grow in deeper relationship and serve in mission in a variety of ways.







## Virtual Mission Trips and Connecting:

Our desire is to grow in relationship with our ministry partners across the globe as we see how God is moving through the global Church, and discern how he has equipped us for this moment. This year, Global Mission Ministry Champion Teams were developed to help us care for, serve with, learn from, and strengthen our relationships with our FPC Global Mission Partners.

While plans for summer mission trips were canceled, we were able to travel via Zoom.

- We were able to “travel” with Food for the Hungry (FH) to the “El Cercadillo” Community to learn about their work toward holistic restoration in the Dominican Republic. The group enjoyed a traditional Dominican dish, fried plantains, as they connect with and prayed for this community.
- Our FPC Youth students spent a week building relationships with children in Mexico through the AMO Mexico program. It was a blessing for FPC Students as they helped teach, and for the AMO students as they learned more about Jesus.
- The FPC KEYS Group has also hosted several calls with our ministry partners to learn more about how God has been working through them and how our FPC might come alongside them.
- Our FPC Family was able to join in a powerful time of prayer and fellowship several of our Global Mission partners from all over the world in the FPC Virtual Prayer Room! Download the Global Missions Prayer Guide at [bit.ly/FPCGMPrayer](https://bit.ly/FPCGMPrayer).



## Covid Relief

FPC Global Missions was able to continue regular funding for our Global Mission Partners through 2020. In addition, financial support in excess of \$125,000 was provided to our partners who were continuing to care for their communities as they shared the hope of the gospel.

- Financial gifts from FPC helped YPM to complete several food distributions to families in the Yucatan through local churches. Other gifts helped our partners who were caring for ill family members, and provided medical and sanitation supplies for ministry to continue safely. Additionally, Covid relief provided scholarships for families so they could attend AMO training as they provided education for their children during lockdown.



## Translation Projects

Over the last year, FPC continued to partner in the work of translation through three ministries. With FPC's support, four Reformed books were translated and published by Pars and Tolle Lege, and a team from Wycliffe is working on translations of the Bible into the Nualu language in Indonesia. We continue to pray for these ministries and the people they are able to reach with Scripture and theological resources in their native languages.



## Education

We believe the equipping of current and future leaders in the global Church is essential to the growth and multiplication of disciples around the world. FPC is thrilled to partner with several ministries, globally, who work to empower and equip leaders.

- Instituto YPM developed the only licensed Protestant Seminary outside of Mexico City in Leona Vicario.
- FPC has begun collaborating with Tolle Lege, the Reformed Church of Poland, and the College of Theology and Social Sciences in Warsaw to offer a Reformed Seminary Program in Warsaw, Poland. This is the first Seminary in Poland to offer training to evangelical and Reformed pastors.
- FPC was able to provide support for a conference through Tolle Lege called "Puritans: Doctors of souls, Theologians of spirits." In addition to financial support, our senior pastor, Bob Fuller was a featured speaker. The full conference recording can be accessed at [bit.ly/TolleLegeConference](http://bit.ly/TolleLegeConference).
- AMO continued to train teachers online through 2020, where they trained over 800 Christians in Latin America, the Caribbean, Spain, Turkey, Canada, and the USA.
- Ministries like YWAM N. Africa, Pars Theological Centre, and RPC Haiti developed ways to continue equipping leaders and discipling through online platforms as they continued to reach new believers!



## Growing Churches

- Genesis Presbyterian Church in Mercedes, TX, will be breaking ground on a new church building in 2021, and we look forward to celebrating with them!
- We pray for God's provision as RPC Haiti works in collaboration with other local churches to develop a national presbytery in Haiti.





## Water

FPC and YPM broke ground on a Clean Water System in Leona Vicario in February 2020. The installation will be completed in early January (2021) and will provide clean water to around 1,000 families daily, as it also provides work to local people. We are thankful for the opportunity to partner with YPM to bring clean water to this community as they continue to share news of the Living Water!



## Mission South

The Mission South Task Force has continued their work to focus on empowering the Church in Mexico and along the South Texas Border.

- The Task Force was able to provide \$27,000 to 35 pastors and organizations to care for their families and congregations in the wake of the pandemic and tropical storms. These gifts provided valuable support and helped us to build new relationships in the region.
- The Task Force developed a scholarship program to empower seminary students in Mexico and has provided one scholarship so far.
- They are prayerfully planning to host a conference to empower leaders in 2021.



As our city went into lockdown in early March, God opened doors for our FPC Family to serve with and care for our Local Mission Partners in many ways. We give thanks for our ministry partners and church family who continued to answer the call to Love Jesus Christ, Love One Another, and Love our City.

## Covid Relief

- We were able to respond to ministry partners including CAM, Pay It Forward, and others by providing weekly staff lunches. We also provided emergency funding to Faith Based Institute and Daily Bread Ministries who were working to provide necessary food, shelter, and resources.
- Several members of our FPC Family shared hope through the Gospel as they wrote weekly devotionals that were shared with our neighbors at CAM and the SA Hope Center. CAM shared thanks as 40-50 of our neighbors eagerly received these devotionals each week.
- Our church came together to care for hospital and frontline workers as we prepared over 2,500 cookies and 600 cards for the entire staff of SW General Hospital.
- We were able to provide frontline workers with over 200 masks, sewn by our FPC Family.





- Our FPC Family generously provided resources and encouragement to care for our neighbors through ministries such as SA Heals, YoungLives, Servant Partners, and the Kingdom Restoration Lab (KRL).
- FPC's Foster Families were cared for as the FPC L.O.V.E. Initiative team provided meals, resources, encouragement, and prayer.



## The KRL

The Kingdom Restoration Lab (KRL) has been serving our neighbors in collaborative, holistic ministry for two years! There has been remarkable growth in partnership through 2020 as we have been blessed with new resources to serve in a time of increased need due to the Covid Pandemic.

- Through 2020, we have had over 2,500 appointments with over 750 being with new guests.
- As the SA Hope Center has added staff members to serve increasing needs in jobs and housing, Any Woman Can has increased their capacity to provide counseling and care to our neighbors. The KRL has also grown in partnership as we have welcomed Canines for Christ, YoungLives, and STCH (formerly South Texas Children's Home) Ministries.
- The SA Hope Center received a grant for over \$340,000 from the State of Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) to provide rapid rehousing. This grant is historic for our congregation, empowering of our mission, and affirming of the steps of faith we have taken as a church! (read the full story at [bit.ly/KRLHousing](https://bit.ly/KRLHousing)).
- FPC served in collaborative outreach with the SA Hope Center, South Alamo Regional Alliance for the Homeless, CAM, Canines for Christ, Chris Madrid's, Any Woman Can, Haven for Hope, The Faith Based Institute, KLOVE, the SA Christian Dental Clinic, and the FPC Prayer Committee during Hunger and Homelessness Awareness week to bring awareness to our church and the city, and to serve our neighbors.
- Any Woman Can partnered with the KRL to share in food, fellowship, and prayer with our neighbors just before Christmas. Any Woman Can provided 300 meals from Heavenly Q BBQ!
- The Chalmer's Center, a leader in equipping churches to address the root causes of poverty, wrote a feature article affirming the Lords work through KRL. Read the full article at [bit.ly/ChalmersKRL](https://bit.ly/ChalmersKRL).

## Connecting:

- Local Mission Champions continued to strengthen relationships with our Local Mission partners as they reached out regularly to share encouragement and prayer as they learned how our FPC Family might come alongside in mission.
- The Local Missions Encouragement Project is helping us to connect with our Local Mission Partners as we care for the staff of each of our Local Mission Partners. Our FPC Family has written over 450 cards for four ministries, and we look forward to continuing to reach all of our ministry partners in 2021!





## RTC

The Redeeming the Crisis Task Force (RTC) was developed in 2020 to empower care for individuals and families in our congregation and city who are afflicted by casualties cascading from the Covid-19 Crisis. As the task force continues to learn and discern needs and opportunities, collaboration teams led by FPC Covenant Partners are focused on holistic restoration in our congregation and city in the areas of: Spiritual Gifts Assessment and Deployment, Financial Health, Work Transitions, Mental Health, Children and Families in our Congregation, Children and Families in our City, Marriage, and Neighbors and Neighborhood.

**As our teams continue to prayerfully discern next steps, here are some celebrations from 2020:**

- The FPC Spiritual Gifts and Talents Survey has been completed by nearly 100 of our Covenant Partners. It is our prayer that our Covenant Partners are blessed as they learn more about how God has equipped them to serve in this moment, and in the life of FPC!
- 22 FPC Covenant Partners were empowered as they learned how to be intentional with the resources God has provided through Financial Peace University. Class members came from every age and life cycle and started taking steps toward goals for financial health, empowering them and their relationships.
- There are currently eight team members being trained in NAMI's Bridges of Hope Program to learn how our Church can better care for those affected by mental illness. We are also thrilled to welcome STCH Ministries onto the FPC Campus in 2021!
- FPC, along with Unicity and Decade of Family, hosted the State of Family Forum to hear from leaders as the Church was called to discern their role in caring for families.
- An immediate impact during the Covid Pandemic was to open a Virtual Learning Site on FPC's campus. Several FPC Volunteers were able to teach these children through the Fall Semester as the children's parents returned to work.
- FPC participated in a food drive and served with Catholic Charities to distribute food to 1,061 families and 4,606 total people served. An estimated 75,000 pounds of food were given out!
- As the KRL re-opened, FPC was able to respond to needs in our city with a \$90,000 gift to hire a Security Host and a Job Readiness professional through the SA Hope Center.



## KRL Celebration Stories

- Chris, the KRL Security Host, is a blessing as he shares in the burden of caring for our neighbors as they seek resources and care in the KRL.
- Trish Sicari joined the staff of the SA Hope Center as a Job Specialist in the KRL. God has blessed this role through several job placements!
- Randy, pictured to the right (with Abby, our new K-9 for Christ volunteer), went through the KRL job readiness training with Trish (and Chris gave him a haircut as a reward). Randy was placed in a job as a security guard and after the first week, the company contacted Trish and asked for more workers like Randy!
- An FPC elder asked if the KRL could contact a warehouse he works with that was in need of employees. Within a week the KRL placed workers there!



# FPC MINISTRY PARTNERS

## Global

- Agape, Russia
- The Antioch Partners (International)
- Antonio Alvarez, Mission South
- Ashraf Abdou, YWAM N. Africa
- Chris and Francelia McReynolds, AMO Mexico
- Cristina Inchaustegui, AMO Latin America and the Caribbean
- Food for the Hungry (El Cercadillo, DR)
- Genesis Presbyterian Church, Mercedes, TX (Mission South)
- George and Anne Harper, AIM Philippines
- IJM, DR
- Steve and Barbara Johnson, YWAM Budapest, Hungary
- Mission India
- Pars Theological Centre
- Partnerships in Asia
- Partnerships with Mexican Seminaries (Mission South)
- Reformed Church of Poland
- RPC Haiti
- Tolle Lege Institute, Poland
- Vets With A Mission, Vietnam
- WSTS – College of Theology, Poland
- World Renew, International
- Wycliffe Bible Translators, Nuaulu Project, Indonesia
- Yucatan Peninsula Mission, Mexico

## Local

- Any Woman Can
- Christian Assistance Ministry (CAM)
- Faith Based Institute (FBI)
- Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA)
- Habitat for Humanity
- Haven for Hope
- Mission Road
- Morningside Ministries
- National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI)
- One by One Ministries
- Presbyterian Children's Home and Services (PCHAS)
- Pay it Forward
- The SA Christian Dental Clinic
- SA Heals
- The SA Hope Center
- The San Antonio Marriage Initiative (SAMI)
- San Antonio Metropolitan Ministries (SAMM)
- School Connect
- Servant Partners
- South Texas Alliance for Orphans (STAFO)
- The Porch
- Young Life and YoungLives San Antonio Central
- The Kingdom Restoration Lab (KRL)
- The FPC L.O.V.E. Initiative