

# R E C A P

## greg the preacher

*Preaching Christ Publicly with Courage, Compassion & Clarity!*

It's been said, "If you want to make God laugh just tell Him your plans." Well, I'm not going to argue whether that's Biblical or not, but I will say this, last year I think we all clearly had different plans for 2020. This year has not only challenged our comfortable "normals," but hopefully it's flipped some of our priorities right-side-up. The Scriptures teach it's not unusual for God to radically change people's plans and for those changes to sometimes cause great frustration and even disappointment. In the 1st century many God-fearing Jews assumed the Messiah would deliver them from Roman oppression. They were disappointed when He didn't. Even after the disciples had developed great trust in Jesus, the day of His crucifixion was also a day of disappointment. But only God knew that wasn't the end of the story.

One of my favorite lines from the TV series, "The Chosen" is when Peter says to Jesus, "But this is different!" And Jesus says to Peter, "Get used to different." 2020 was certainly different from 2019, but we shouldn't be in despair. The story is not over. Fear, hopelessness, anxiety, doubt and disappointment are common feelings among the people of God, but they should not be controlling feelings. We have been born again to a "living hope!" 1 Peter 1:3. In Christ we have every reason to be optimistic about the future and eternity. Jesus said, "All authority in heaven and on earth *has been given to Me...*" Matthew 28:18. He won't be muzzled, He won't be masked. He can't be cancelled by media or quarantined in heaven. He's not waiting to be elected, He *already is* the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, and the Bible says He "works ALL

things together according to the counsel of His will." Ephesians 1:11. God has a plan! As believers we can be marked and driven by "faith, hope and love," not by the fear, hate and lies that unfortunately dominate the culture.

"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."

-2 Timothy 1:7

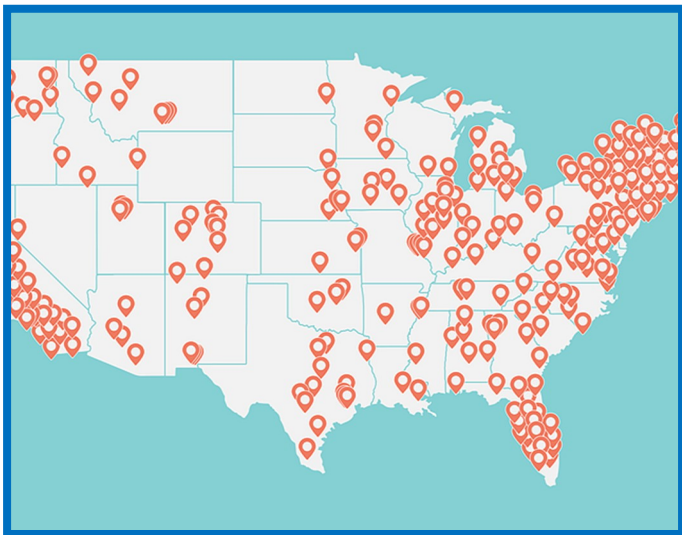
Our mission hasn't changed one bit. Every Christian is still an essential worker for the Lord! There's no unemployment in the Kingdom of God. So in 2021 we will continue to preach the Gospel, make disciples and equip the saints. Thank you to all of our generous supporters & prayer warriors! **We ♥ you!**



**A Year of Challenge & Change** The coronavirus ended up closing the colleges, cancelling city events & unfortunately causing citizens to live in fear & isolation. Business as usual came to a screeching halt, except for abortion. Abortion centers remained open & busy. With campuses closed, cities on lock-down, & fewer people on the streets, I decided to partner with “Love Life” 5 days a week to engage more local churches & Christians to actively end abortion in our cities.



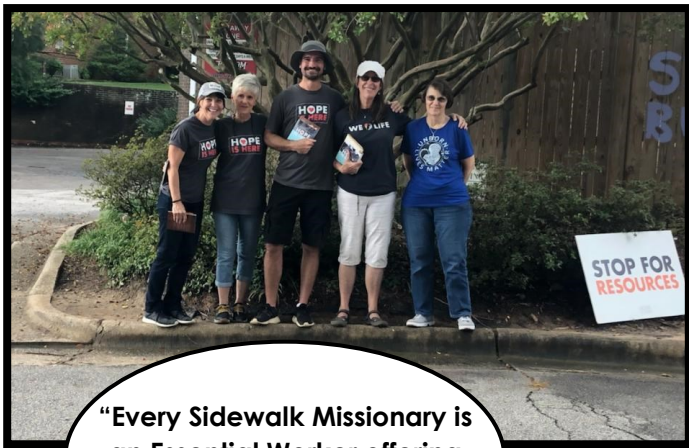
**Love Life's Vision** comes from Nehemiah ch.1 & 2. When Nehemiah HEARD about the tragic truth of what was happening in his city he was broken hearted & began to PRAY & fast. Then he went to GO see it for himself. He built & CONNECTED a team of all kinds of people to rebuild the ruin. (HEAR, PRAY, GO & CONNECT) Similarly, Love Life calls churches to preach on the tragic truth of abortion so people can HEAR, then fast & PRAY for abortion to end. Finally they GO out to the clinics, see it first hand & CONNECT with others to help rescue or rebuild lives ruined by abortion.



**Mission America** There are around 700 abortion centers in America today. 200 of those abortion centers have a regular Christian witness, the other 500 do not. We are praying that God would raise up local churches & missionaries to cover every abortion center in our nation. The abortion center is the only place in our city where you know when & where broken people are showing up regularly & children are being scheduled to die? Love Life Sidewalk Missionaries bring the hope of the Gospel & the help of the local church to anyone coming to an abortion center.



**Boot Camp** Last July I was able to attend the first “Love Life Sidewalk Missionary Boot-Camp” where I was trained with 14 others in sidewalk ministry. This kind of ministry requires a unique blend of pastoral counseling, evangelistic zeal, apologetic wisdom & prophetic clarity. God truly blessed us with experienced Love Life leaders who demonstrate this gift-set with humility & love.



“Every Sidewalk Missionary is an Essential Worker offering Urgent Care to pregnant moms & unborn babies!”



**Local Sidewalk Missionaries** My role as a Love Life Sidewalk Missionary for Raleigh & Chapel Hill has been to help shepherd & train new volunteers for sidewalk ministry, meet with local pastors, share the vision, engage new churches & help lead the weekly prayer walks & events. Lord willing we will continue to see God expand the network of local churches & Christians active in ending abortion in these cities. This is essential to sustaining a healthy & balanced local abortion ministry outreach.

**Essential Workers** To the left, top to bottom: Kim, Becky, myself, Sharon, Fran, Luke, Kyle & others have been outside the abortion centers weekly in 2020 trusting God to use our collective efforts to rescue babies & reach lost souls for the glory of God. There are human beings made in the image of God alive today because of these great saints ministering outside the darkest & deadliest place in our city! I am so honored to be able to serve with such wonderful & gifted servants of the Lord.

**Chapel Hill LOVE LIFE “Week 40”** This year we launched a new work in Chapel Hill outside a very busy Planned Parenthood. For our LOVE LIFE Week 40 Prayer Event God really blessed the turn out! We had nearly 60 people in total turn out to pray, worship & seek God to end abortion locally. We gathered in prayer on Planned Parenthood’s front yard. At least 10 different churches & 10 different cities were represented that day. And many of those who came were first timers! We’re excited to see God take this momentum & establish a powerful local church presence outside these abortion clinics in 2021. We will occupy the devil’s front porch & pray that God continues to defund this deception. The pictures below: Left– A powerful team of prayer warriors who came to stand united in Christ, for the unborn & pray together just a few feet from where kids are being killed. Right– Outside the Planned Parenthood in Chapel Hill praying for over an hour that the Church would awaken & repent, revival would come, abortion would end, local churches & Christians would get involved & that our leaders would legislate righteousness in our great land.



# Thank you!



As missionaries in 2020 we had no idea how the virus or lock-downs or unemployment would affect us or our ministry support team. Looking back I can say that God provided exceedingly & abundantly the entire year through our generous supporters. THANK YOU SO MUCH! Your sacrificial giving, your prayers, your friendship, your trust in us & your desire to see the Gospel advance & abortion end in our nation has kept our boots on the ground. We are very humbled & thankful that God would allow us to do this & that He would cover us with such faithful supporters. It is a priority for us that we are responsible with your donations, frugal in our spending, generous in our giving & accountable to others with every area of our lives. We are optimistic about 2021 & know that in Christ we are essential workers & have exactly what every person needs, JESUS! Thank you for sending us out as missionaries to America!

## Praise Report!

- Over 100 babies saved this year @ 2 clinics
- New sidewalk missionaries are raised up
- More local churches are joining the fight

## Prayer Requests:

- Spiritual protection over our family
- A fruitful partnership with LOVE LIFE
- Open doors to preach Christ publicly

## Partner with Us:

All support is tax deductible & can be given to us at:

**Garner Christian Fellowship**

**P.O. Box 744**

**Garner, NC 27529**

\*Please make a note to "Greg Stephens/Evangelism" with support.

**You can also give electronically by going to:**

**[www.garnerchristianfellowship.org/give/](http://www.garnerchristianfellowship.org/give/)**

Click on "Evangelism Donation." Thank you!

**[www.lovelife.org/greg](http://www.lovelife.org/greg)**

**[www.gregthepreacher.com](http://www.gregthepreacher.com)**



James, Angela, Jonny, Greg & Rylan

**"Fear not for I am with you," says the Lord. "Do not be dismayed for I am your God. I will help you, Yes, I will strengthen you. I will uphold you with My Righteous Right Hand." -Isaiah 41:10**