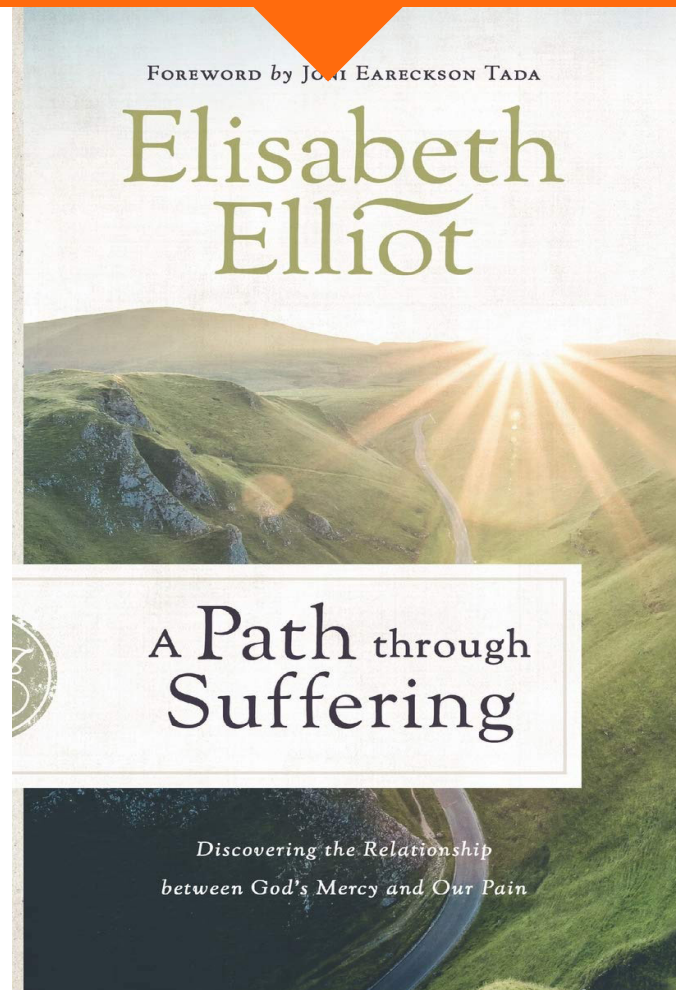


GOD AT WORK

Because Of My Health by Debbie Henley

Due to my health, I'm no stranger to using a mask and self-quarantine but it never is easy. Both are part of my life, but they were mostly episodic. March 2020 began the longest quarantine I've endured by far. And as everyone experienced, the longer it continued the more pressure it brought and everyday living was strained. On top of that, the spiritual realm is always at war and darkness battles light every day. To withstand evil and stand firmly was more challenging than any other time I can remember. Missionary Elizabeth Elliott has said that out of the deepest waters and hottest fires she came to know the deepest things about God. I don't think I can say that, but I know that life is less of what I do and accomplish, and more about how I live, and He prepares my heart for work that is ahead during present trials of today. So, while I hunkered down, God brought a good question to mind. These weren't new to me. He and I have danced in the past, but the pandemic put a new spin to the dance.

Was I willing: to release my grip to be in-person at church and ministry at Anchor indefinitely; to remain in spiritual community to the best of my ability; to accept that my best usefulness to God for now was less doing and more waiting and being quiet before God; to endure the loss of being physically present with my grandchildren, again, indefinitely; and to embrace God's way again? But the best question was and has always been, "Is the path to pursue God's presence still the most satisfying to me?" Throughout the year God gave courage and strength to pursue Him, and my heart was prepared for beautiful, unique opportunities He brought in time. In the Old Testament God said when a neighbor lost a



possession and you see it, then it is your responsibility to care for it until he asks about it. To ignore it or to look away was wrong because it was your duty to help. It's my desire to follow the same principle at Anchor. Anchor Church belongs to God, but until He comes, I will care for, tend to and look after whomever He sends my way.

FINANCIAL STATS

2021 Annual Budget	\$1,152,875	YTD Budget	\$288,219	2021 YTD Offerings	\$219,281
2021 1st Quarter: Jan - Mar		Cross the Finish Line			
Budget	\$259,397	Goal	\$76,000		
Weekly Need	\$19,954	Total Pledged	\$27,750		
March 28th	\$20,579	Collected to date	\$19,731		



Newsletter

SPRING EDITION | APRIL 2021



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PASTOR RYAN

Hey Church Family!

Life is speeding up again! Lauren and I bought a house in Crestwood and it's a fixer-upper, so we've spent long hours gutting the place. Ellie is closing out her first year of college, and thankfully she still calls us (once in a while). It's Jared's last season in local baseball as he prepares to enter high school. Cassie is finishing her junior year of high school, and her college hunt has begun. Keep our family in your prayers!

Church is speeding up, too! Our staff is ROCKING IT as we close out the school year and prepare for summer.

We are SO excited that Mark and Sarah are preparing to move to Scotland this fall/winter as missionaries! Pray that we find our new worship leader!

God is at work in our congregation, and we are excited to share a 2021 update in this newsletter. Check it out!

You are loved,

Pastor Ryan

ANCHOR KIDS

This quarter, we organized a Mother/Daughter Paint Night in February and a Father/Son STEM Night in March, which were received with enthusiasm. It was the first chance many families had in months for a social event, and it brought such joy to those who attended.

On Sunday mornings, we have seen attendance steadily grow, and have loved seeing several kids return for the first time in a year. Easter was especially exciting, with many kids gathering to celebrate Jesus' resurrection with worship, crafts, games and a gospel lesson.

Awana continues to be a highlight of the week, with many kids working hard to finish their handbooks. We had a successful, high-energy Grand Prix where we got to celebrate the kids creativity and skills.



WORSHIP MINISTRY



Good Friday and Easter were powerful times of remembrance and celebration of Christ's death and resurrection. Christ's body was broken and darkness trembled at Calvary. In his resurrection, Christ calls all the broken to come and let his love change everything. We raised our voices together to Praise the King of Kings. Our artists reflected on the Psalms Jesus quoted and created beautiful works of art for our Songs For Every Season gallery. We are looking forward to worshipping together as a church family at our outdoor services in the coming months.

MISSIONS

NSP's "Meant for More" campaign aims to reach 1 million students with the Gospel.

GCC has 121 churches in 20 countries. They are planting churches in Ireland, Scotland, Canada and the US this year.

Mark and Sarah are preparing to move to Scotland this fall/winter.

NATIONAL SCHOOL PROJECT



Over the past three months awesome things have been happening with our Student Ministry! We have gotten to do exciting activities including sledding and bowling. We also had a Hawaiian Luau, which included riding on a mechanical shark. We have continued our study through the book of John, seeking to answer the question, "Who is Jesus?" The highlight from the past few months

was definitely winter camp at Silver Birch Ranch! This was a time where the students got to worship their Savior and learn from His Word, while having a great time trying out lots of fun winter sports and activities. I praise God for all He is doing within our Student Ministry!

ADULT MINISTRY



This quarter we offered 3 Sprint Studies, which are condensed week-long Bible studies. These classes covered 1 & 2 Thessalonians, Peter, and various women from the Old Testament. Gather Nights continued on Tuesday nights with a new theme "Foolproof: Wise Living in an Age of Folly." Freedom Groups began in January, seeking to disciple people to grow in their walk with Christ and heal from challenging circumstances. Our Soul Care ministry offered a bootcamp in February to train and equip new volunteers. Finally, our Spiritual Care team continues to care for people who need help or encouragement during these challenging times through visits, phone calls, and practical acts of service.