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gather
Spring 2021

**Entrusting
THE NEXT GENERATION**



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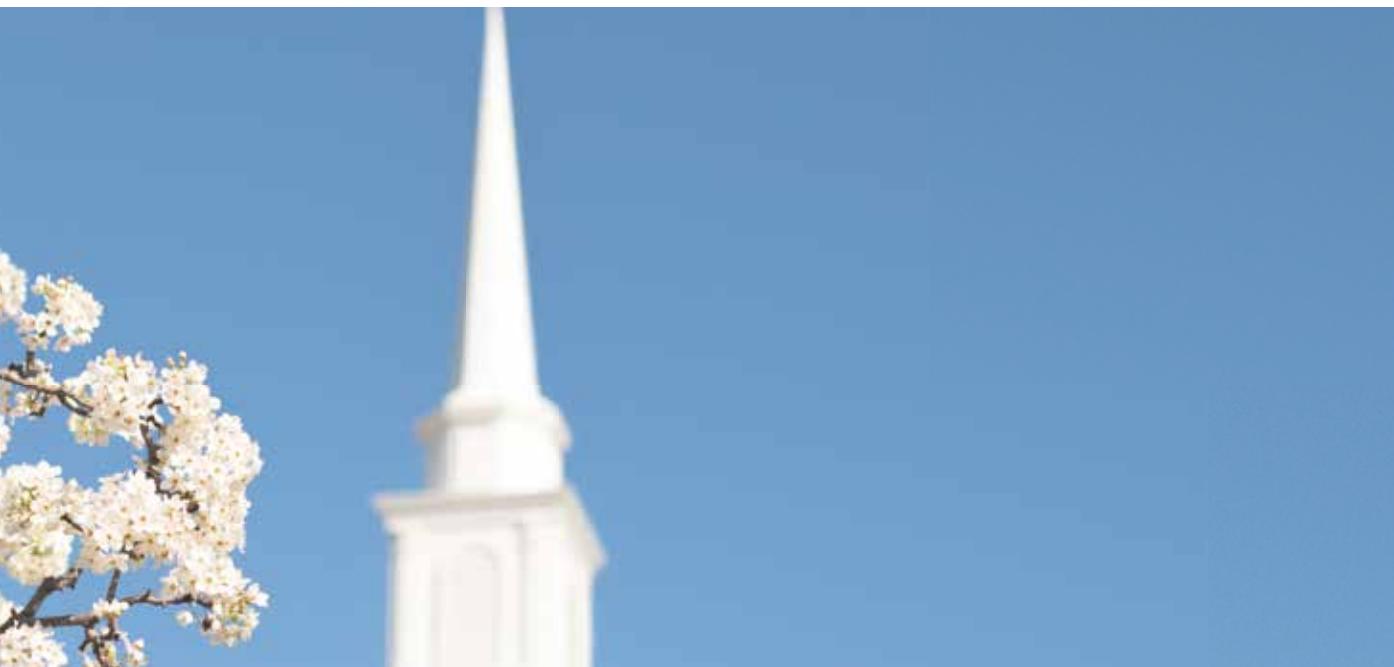
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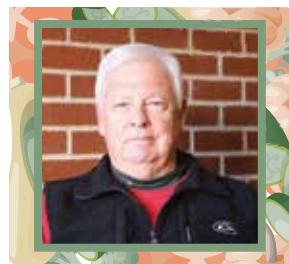
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Welcome

Walnut Street
Baptist Church
Jonesboro, Arkansas



A NOTE FROM *Pastor Grey*

I am so thankful for all that God is doing in the life of Walnut Street and in each of your lives. He has so faithfully walked with us and led us each step. Personally, I have thoroughly enjoyed our time together in the word of God on Sunday mornings, but even more so in our D-Group readings. It has been such a blessing to get questions each week about what we are reading as we roll through the Old Testament. I trust that you have found your D-Group to be an encouragement as we have had the chance to abide in the word of God and accountability together.

These days in which we live are so important, and God has given each of us a responsibility to make His name known as we continue. I was convicted in our reading from a few weeks ago of David and his dealings with Saul. In 1 Samuel 24, David has been chased by Saul for quite some time, and Saul comes into the cave where David and his "mighty men" are hiding. Urged on by his own men, David cuts a portion of Saul's cloak off. He is almost immediately convicted by God that he took matters into his own hands against "the Lord's anointed."

While Saul is still within sight and earshot of the cave, David emerges holding the portion of Saul's cloak, and though his men are there with him, Saul is among the entire army of Israel. David's 400 men were nothing in comparison. David humbles himself before Saul and confesses what he had done. Even more, he submits his own will before the Lord

saying, "The Lord, therefore, be judge and decide between you and me; and may He see and plead my cause and deliver me from your hand." Saul could have easily turned and wiped David and his "mighty men" off the earth, but God.

David was utterly dependent upon the Lord here in this moment. At a time in which, I would imagine, David was FED UP with waiting and sick and tired of the situation he was in.

Yet, he made the conscious decision to place his life and his future in the hands of God.

Since January, we have been trying to set the stage for utter dependence upon God in making His name known through us to our neighbors, coworkers, classmates, and this city. For almost three months, you have been praying by name for those you live around and with. Praying that they would be receptive to the gospel. You have prayed for God to give you the words to speak. You have learned how to share the gospel and been given tools to start those conversations. Now is the time to put those into practice. Now is the time to extend that invitation and tell someone why you celebrate Easter and how they can, too.

Let's be utterly dependent upon God, realizing that He wants to use all that we have and all that we are for His own glory.

We love y'all! Go get 'em!
Pastor Grey



sharing the 3 circles

**Let's learn to tell others about the gospel in a fun, creative way!
To follow along, you can use Wikki Stix, pipe cleaners, dry erase markers
and a marker board, a pencil and paper, or anything you have on hand.**



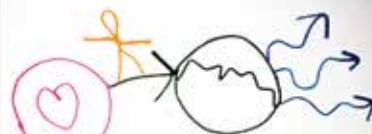
1. God's Design

Draw a heart inside a circle.
God created a perfect world including you, me, and everything in it. We were created so that we can walk with God daily and worship Him. He loves us, and we can love Him!



2. Sin

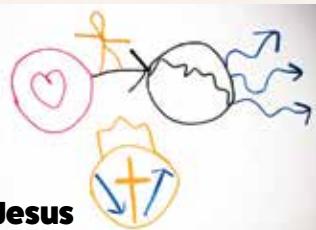
Draw a stick person on top of a curved arrow.
Because Adam & Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden, we also sin and move away from God's design. That sin separates us from Him. Sin is anything we think, do, or say that disobeys God. Every person sins no matter if they're young or old.



3. Brokenness

Draw a zig-zag line inside a circle.
Being separated from God makes us broken.

Draw three curvy arrows from the side of your circle.
We try to make things better with things like friendships, sports, or good grades in school. But then we find that running toward those things doesn't really help. They just keep us feeling broken.



4. Jesus

Draw a crown on top of a circle.
Even though we sin, God still loves us and made a way for us to spend forever with Him in heaven. God sent his son, Jesus, to live on the earth without sin so that Jesus would be perfect and die in our place. Jesus died on the cross, but He didn't stay dead! Three days later, He rose from the dead and is alive again!

Draw a cross in the middle of the circle. To the left draw an arrow down and on the right draw an arrow up.



5. Turn & Believe

Draw a curved arrow from Brokenness to Jesus.
The Bible tells us that if we Turn (write this word by the arrow) from our sin and brokenness and Believe (write these words, too) that Jesus is God's son, he came and died on the cross for us, and is alive again to give us new life then we are followers of Jesus and He is our King!



6. Restored

Draw one final curved arrow between Jesus and God's Plan.
BUT WAIT - THERE'S MORE!! After we decide to follow Jesus, we can let go of that brokenness and be Restored (write this word) to God's design for our lives. We can also Grow (write this word, too) in our friendship with Him. Just hearing about Jesus and knowing about God isn't enough. We have to make a choice! We have to admit that we sin and need to be rescued, and make the decision that we will follow Jesus and no one else. All because of Jesus we can make it back to God's design!



Egg Hunt *on the lawn*

**SUNDAY, MARCH 28
5:00PM**

We are so excited to be having an on-campus Easter egg hunt this year! Invite as many neighbors and friends as you can to join us. You can pick up Easter egg invites at either Welcome Desk or the Kid's Welcome Center. We are looking forward to a great time of community and fellowship as we focus on the true meaning of the Easter season in a kid-friendly way!



Entrusting THE NEXT GENERATION

THE THINGS WHICH YOU HAVE HEARD FROM ME
IN THE PRESENCE OF MANY WITNESSES,
ENTRUST THESE TO FAITHFUL PEOPLE
WHO WILL BE ABLE TO TEACH OTHERS ALSO.

2 TIMOTHY 2:2

Entrust the spread of the gospel, entrust discipleship, entrust the advancement of God's Kingdom to faithful men and women who will be able to teach others also. These words spoken to Timothy still ring true today.

The word "entrust" carries the nuance of making a deposit. What a clear and specific directive from Paul himself to Timothy. Remember the relationship that was playing out between Paul and Timothy? Paul as the "depositor," says to Timothy that it is his time to invest in others what Paul had poured into him. Greater context in this passage shows us that Paul possibly has the most reason to urge Timothy in this, with many commentators suggesting 2 Timothy is Paul's last letter. Paul more than likely finds himself in a Roman prison awaiting what he knows will be his execution. He realizes that if Timothy doesn't teach faithful men as Paul

taught him, the gospel - the hope for the world - would be stalled if not stopped.

All of these exhortations are given to Timothy because the advancement and multiplication of the Kingdom of God depend upon entrusting, depositing, into others.

What a challenge to Timothy, but also to us. Both individually and as a church. Make disciples who make disciples. Deposit into the hearts and lives of others what God has deposited into you through other faithful men and women who have gone before you. Honestly, as a pastor, it is so easy to say, "We must be replicating ourselves, making new teachers, volunteers, and the like." But a whole different level is required when I recognize my own responsibility to replicate myself, as a pastor, to make more pastors. And for the rest of our staff to do the same.

The picture is clear and has only gotten clearer in the last year, as so many churches have been impacted negatively, either by disbanding as a church or losing staff members or pastors. We must make more!

We are a healthy church and staff who love the bride of Christ and His work. As such, we must replicate ourselves. We must disciple more, deposit what God has deposited in us into others who are faithful, available, and teachable, and see God's church continue to advance. The picture was pretty clear before a year ago as we saw a lack of new staff and pastors coming out of seminaries wanting to go to existing churches. What a tragic statement to have to make! The bride of Christ, the one for which God sent His only Son to redeem, is very swiftly headed down a path of being in short supply of shepherds. But God knew the opportunity and has invited us to join Him in His work. As Mordecai so eloquently said to Esther as she debated what she would do, what God was leading her to do, you have been placed here for such a time as this.

God has been stirring this work we now call The Pipeline for well over six years. In that time, God has been providing for His work and His Kingdom's advancement. Walnut Street has set aside money at the end of the past two years for Church Planting/Revitalization. Churches get revitalized through staff members and pastors who plant themselves in a church or community for God's work with a love for God, the support of healthy churches, and staff to come alongside them.



The establishment of the Pipeline Residency program is a large first step forward in confirmation of all that God has been doing leading up to this point in the life of Walnut Street. God did not just do great work in us for us to remain or be content to only think about ourselves and this physical property.

God has done this work in the life of Walnut Street with a view to His Kingdom. With a view to impact every church in the state of Arkansas and around the globe with solid staff members and pastors.

It is our greatest hope that all of these staff members and pastors who go through the Pipeline program would be sent out with the backing of God and the excellent staff and members at Walnut Street Baptist Church.

In January, we had the incredible opportunity to bring Sarah back to Walnut Street as Pipeline Residency Coordinator. Our personnel team voted overwhelmingly to bring her on to help administrate this project, and the finance team confirmed that decision. Over the last month, she has begun to both establish the foundation we had worked toward and recruit faithful men and women to participate in the program. What a blessing to have someone with Walnut Street DNA working on such an integral part of the future for Walnut Street's going to every nation around the world.

What an incredible opportunity that God has been preparing for us to join Him throughout the last few years, now coming to fruition. The Pipeline is simply that: a pipeline for men and women

who feel called to ministry to commit to two years of intense mentoring and preparation with real hands-on ministry experience alongside our staff, launching them to a life of ministry in God's church. There are three tracks available for The Pipeline - undergraduate, graduate, and professional - with the opportunity to gain up to 40 hours toward a Masters of Divinity from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. We desire to do what Paul urged Timothy to do; deposit into the lives of others what has been deposited into you so that the Kingdom of God will continue to advance beyond us.

The Pipeline is an excellent avenue for us to deposit ourselves, who we are as a church, our DNA, into the leaders of tomorrow. We want to see churches around our state and the world operate multi-generationally with a missional mindset, praying for God's work, making disciples who make disciples, and equipping the saints so that God's church can go everywhere!

What an exciting time to be a part of Walnut Street Baptist Church as God has only just begun, and what He is beginning, He will bring to completion.

You can find out more about the Pipeline by visiting our website www.walnutstreetbaptist.org/pipeline or by emailing sarah@walnutstreetbaptist.org. If you or someone you know feels a call to ministry and would like to be a Pipeline resident, please visit our website and click on the application form to begin the process of seeing God's church continue.

WANTED

★ JUNE 21-25TH ★



\$269 PER CAMPER
\$70 FOR REQUIRED CHAPERONES
SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!

GATHERING



Do you know someone who should be considered as a deacon?

Send nominations to info@walnutstreetbaptist.org before April 11, 2021.

Deacon selection is taken seriously and considered prayerfully. The deacon selection committee will evaluate nominees and be in touch with those who are selected.

**HE IS NO
He has
RIS**

MATTHEW

NOT HERE

SEEN
just as He said.

W 28:6 NASB



Share with your neighborhood

**EASTER EQUIP BOXES ARE AVAILABLE
TO PICK UP AT WELCOME DESKS AND
IN THE CHURCH OFFICE.**

Pray. Make. Equip. Go. As a church we have been praying for our neighbors, preparing ourselves to share the Good News, and now it is time to go. Throughout the month of March there will be boxes available at the Welcome Desks and in the church office that contain everything you'll need to share with your neighbors in this season. Inside you'll find Easter invitations, a conversation guide, fun activities, and more. Pick up your box and share it with your neighbor today!

We #CelebrateEaster *because*



Romans 6:5 says, "For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection." So we celebrate because His resurrection is our resurrection!

Keith Baker



In 30+ years of teaching Easter lessons, I am shocked and ashamed to say I have never actually had to put this in words. My 2021 proclamation: Henceforth, my family will celebrate Easter because it is a beginning, and not an ending to life.

Jamie Griffin



I was saved on March 4, 1996, so the Easter season is always a special one for me. This year and every year, I celebrate Easter because Jesus' resurrection is the reason I was able to accept the gift of eternal life!

Jerry Parker

Why does your family celebrate?

Share your reason with us on Facebook and Instagram with #CelebrateEaster! Grab a card from the foyer or use the space below to write down why you celebrate for an easy way to start a conversation with your kids, your friends, and your neighbors.

We #CelebrateEaster
because







SENT TO South Asia

And Peter answered him, “Lord if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, “Lord, save me.” Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?”

MATTHEW 14:28-31 ESV

September 2018. The sounds of people rushing through the airport easily faded as I squeezed my family tight one last time before going through security. Then, the tears - you know, the ugly kind, where you're drawing attention to yourself, but nothing is stopping them? So many tears and, “what have I done? How will I do this?” on repeat in my mind. Isn't the Lord so sweet to meet us in those moments, though? As I cried, literally the entire way from Little Rock to South Asia, and questioned what in the world I was doing, He kept bringing Peter's story to my mind. I could imagine Peter stepping out of the boat. Maybe his feet hit the water first while his hands still

gripped the side. Faith. When Peter let go, eyes on Jesus, and trusted the Lord to do what the Lord does. I could hear the Holy Spirit reminding me that all He was calling me to do was simply step out of the boat. He would do the rest. And when I mess up and take my eyes off Him, which was sure to come, then He would catch me. It is His work. Just step out.

My plane landed in a place unlike any other. The best word for South Asia is FULL. Full of life and color, smells of spices cooking in oil, culture and religions, animals in the road, sounds from fireworks and music to persistent car horns, and full



of opportunity. In a lost place where you see burqa-clad women grocery shopping in the busy outdoor markets, a group of worshippers dancing before an idol on the side of the road, a man bowing in prayer to a tree at your apartment, or women riding on the back of motorcycles while cradling their newly purchased clay idols... Yes, in this South Asian state where 1600 people die every day apart from Christ, there is opportunity, and the fullness of it all forbids you from forgetting, even for a moment. Now how am I to adjust to this vibrant place?! "Lord, send me a friend," I prayed often in those first few months.

"Praise the Lord!" My head whipped around to see Remi* eagerly greeting me. This is a phrase only Christians use to greet each other, so I immediately said it back and

*Name changed for safety



asked if she was a believer. After some small talk, she invited me to her home to teach her family from the Bible. I went to her house that very week and through broken language worshipped and studied the Bible with this precious family. They were first-generation believers, which means they were from a Hindu family but heard the gospel and left Hinduism to follow Jesus. Their kids now are second-generation believers, raised in Christian homes! They all loved Jesus, but like so many of us, thought the Christian walk was simply about reading a Bible passage for encouragement every so often and going to church on Sunday. Our team's goal was "local ownership." In other words, we wanted to teach and train the few Christians in our area to share the gospel

Women in the flower market selling beautiful fresh flowers, many of which will be used to celebrate pagan festivals and given to gods.

Pray for the millions in South Asia who don't know Jesus as their One True God!



and make multiplying disciples so that one day it is South Asians reaching South Asians, and we aren't needed anymore. In my state, only .3% of the population is Christian. However, when the population is large, that means there is a good number of Christians to train. This family was ready to learn.

I went back every week, and that quickly turned into multiple times a week. I would sit on a bed in Remi's house made of scrap metal and tarp while she managed to cook the most delicious meals without running water. My teammate and I taught Bible stories and, through trial and error, trained them to share the gospel. Let's be honest, I really had no idea what I was doing. Remember when the Lord reminded me that it would be His work, though? That proved true in the life of Remi and her family.

My South Asian family: Remi, her husband, and their three kids. Please pray that Remi's husband would whole-heartedly repent of his lifestyle and choose to follow Jesus.

After a year of meeting regularly, teaching and encouraging them to read the Bible in context, bringing them to share the gospel, and being frustrated when it seemed they weren't grasping it as quickly as we wanted (yes, I'm an impatient sinner), something flipped in Remi's heart. A switch only the Holy Spirit could flip. Remi started sharing boldly as we went. Where did the timidity and fear of persecution go? She still went in wisdom, but now she was not only taking over when we went together and leading the discussion, but she was even going on her own and bringing her son or daughter with her. Eventually, we were sending Remi on house visits with other women as she modeled for them that it is possible to



share the Good News with people of other religions.

I wish I could share all the details of this beautiful woman who I called my South Asian mom, but for now, I'll summarize it in her words; "Before we met you, we were asleep, just going through the motions, but then God woke us up, and we understand now." The Holy Spirit woke them up to see clearly that we are on this earth, in a lost world, to share His love with others, which means sharing the Gospel story and teaching others to do the same. By the time I was leaving South Asia, I was able to entrust some of my friends to Remi for her to continue discipling them.

As I was saying good-byes in my last week, Remi's church surprised me with a going-away party. South Asians are the best at celebrating life events. This tiny church that the Lord was so greatly using fed us a big meal and shared stories to encourage and thank me for investing in their country. This little church then gave me a gift that forever humbled me in a way I wasn't

prepared for. They gave me beautiful South Asian jewelry, and they gave me money. A small South Asian church, in a place where less than .3% are believers and experience persecution every day gave me, the foreigner from a wealthy land, money for ministry in America.

"As you have invested in South Asia, we want to invest in your ministry in America. Use it how the Lord leads." WAIT, WHAT?! Those in the West are the ones who give to the East. We are the wealthy West after all, right?... Or maybe not. Maybe we view wealth the wrong way. Maybe it is actually the South Asian church who is abundantly wealthy. They get to share in the sufferings of Christ in a way we will never understand. They are in the land of "the harvest is plenty, but the workers are few." They are in the land of endless opportunity to see the Lord work miracles and save a lost people. Endless opportunity to obey the Great Commission. And now, they don't just say, "thank you and good-bye," but instead, as you, WSBC, sent me to South Asia, they were sending me back to you with their resources to say, "We are commissioning you to do the Lord's work in America." So with even larger tears than I had two years prior, I boarded a plane with a necessary reminder from Remi and her church - His work isn't finished just because my two-year term is.



After 3 months of COVID-19 lockdown, my South Asian family came over to make American-style pizza. South Asians sit on the floor to eat, so we sat together and they all agreed the "white sauce" (ranch dressing) was the best part.... I knew they were my people!

Cooking deep fried tortillas at my South Asian family's home. In South Asia, "guest is god," so when they start letting you help with chores, then you know you've become family.

In America, it is so easy to forget. It is so easy to forget that we live in a dark and broken world. Maybe He is calling us to more, though, calling us to follow Him - to share the gospel with our coworker or neighbor, to go on that short-term mission trip, or even long term, to start praying for that family member again. Maybe, like me, the Holy Spirit is nudging you to step out of the boat with your eyes kept on Him. He will do the rest.

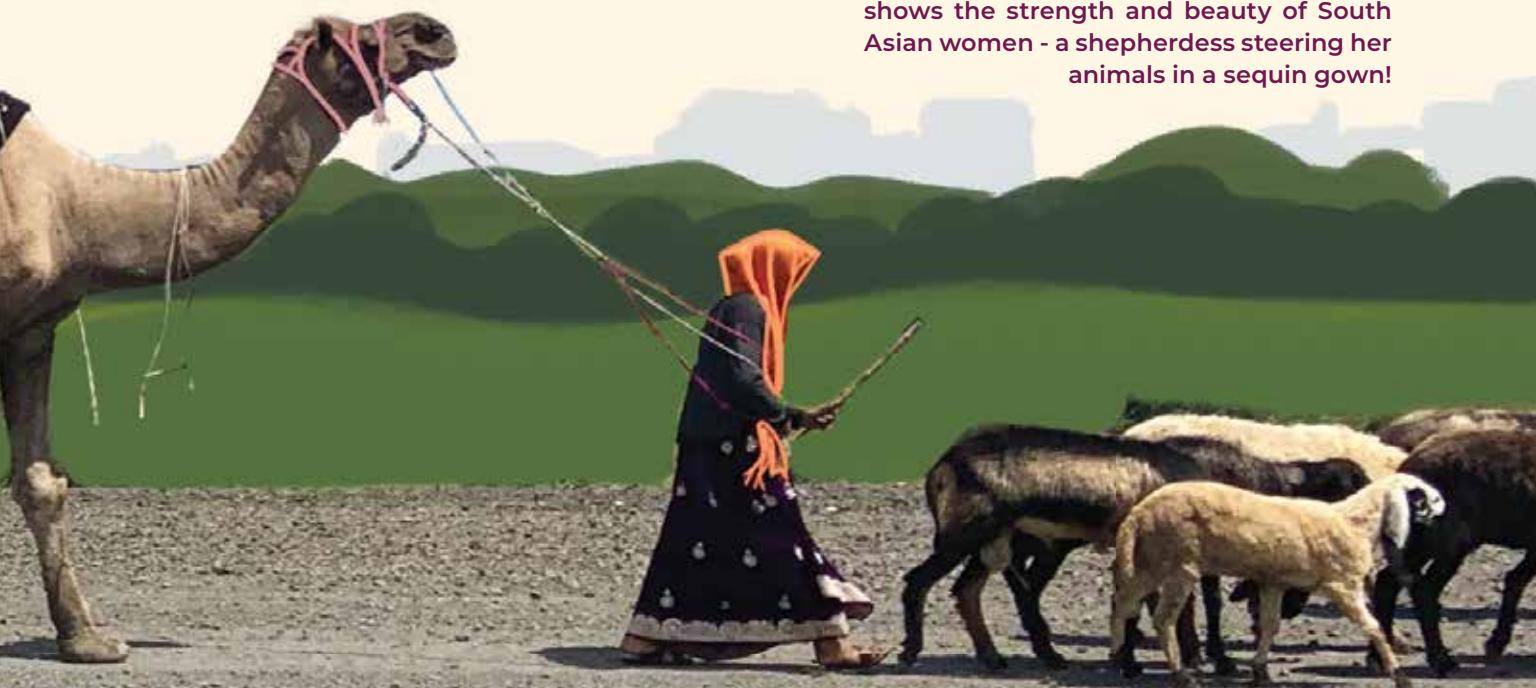
Thank you, Walnut Street, for sending and supporting me.



Sarah has been a member of Walnut Street since 2012 and spent the last 2 years serving overseas in South Asia. Most recently, Sarah returned to Walnut Street to serve as the Pipeline Residency Coordinator.



Just driving down the road and saw this common sight of sheep and camels. This is one of my favorite photos because it shows the strength and beauty of South Asian women - a shepherdess steering her animals in a sequin gown!





Growing IN OUR GARDENS

Produce | WHAT TO PLANT AND WHEN

It's that time of year where everything springs back to life! There's no greater feeling than planting a seed and seeing it grow into something that strengthens and nourishes us. Just as in discipleship, when we plant the seed we get to see the beautiful growth of a newfound Christian who will serve God in many ways. In order for us to do that, we have to take care of ourselves as well in nourishment. So here are some tips on when to plant the most popular vegetables and flowers that grow best in our great state of Arkansas!

THRIVING VEGETABLES IN ARKANSAS

Veg. type	Depth to plant	Time to plant	Days to mature	Veg. type	Depth to plant	Time to plant	Days to mature
KALE	1/4 IN.	FEB-APR	65	RADISH	1/4 IN.	FEB-MAY	25
LETTUCE	1/4 IN.	FEB-APR	50	TURNIPS	1/4 IN.	FEB-APR	55
CUCUMBER	1 IN.	APR-MAY	65	SPINACH	1/2 IN.	FEB-APR	45
CORN	1 1/2 IN.	MAR-MAY	80	COLLARDS	1/4 IN.	FEB-JULY	75
CARROT	1/4 IN.	FEB-APR	75	ONIONS	2 IN.	FEB-APR	80
POTATO	3 IN.	FEB-APR	95	MUSTARD	1/4 IN.	FEB-APR	50
PEAS	1+ IN.	FEB-APR	65	SNAP BEAN	1-2 IN.	MAR-AUG	50

Referenced from: UofA Division of Agriculture website www.uaex.edu/yard-garden

Landscape

Crape Myrtles

Probably the most incorrectly pruned plant we grow. Try to avoid lopping off the top and be more selective in branch removal. Trim in the Fall for a timely bloom, or in April AFTER the last frost and it will begin to bloom a month later. Remove any dead knots as much as possible and they'll be looking healthy in no time.

Flowerbeds

- Use loose dirt mixed with sandy loam and compost.
- Use pine bark mulch for azaleas as they prefer the acidity this provides.
- Keep plants moist on extremely hot days to avoid them getting scorched.

TYPE OF PLANT MAKES A DIFFERENCE.

Annuals:

Complete their life cycle in one season. Think of impatiens, marigolds, or even a tomato plant. We plant them after all chances of frost have passed, then they grow during the warm months and die with the frost.

Perennials:

Live for more than one year. Some perennials, like daylilies, asparagus and hosta, die back completely to the ground after a killing frost in the fall and begin growth in the spring. Other perennials are evergreen and live from year to year.



John McCarthy

Our very own John McCarthy is the reason our flower beds & landscaping stay in pristine shape here at Walnut Street. We appreciate him sharing this handy info to help with your gardening at home!



at Walnut Street

hosanna!
PALM SUNDAY
Sunday, March 28
Easter Egg Hunt
on the lawn
5:00pm

MAUNDY THURSDAY
Thursday, April 1
Sanctuary | 7:00pm

Rememberance

Invite your neighbors &
JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
SUNDAY. APRIL 4

On Campus | **8:00AM**
9:30AM
11:00AM

Online | **11:00AM**

Join us online at walnutstreetbaptist.org/live
and at facebook.com/wsbcjonesboro.

There will be no Sunday School on April 4.

Childcare will be available during the 9:30am and 11:00am worship hours for children up to the age of 4. For more information about Kids check-in, go to walnutstreetbaptist.org/kids.

**To stay up to date with Easter week activities,
check out walnutstreetbaptist.org/easter!**