

Arizona Southern Baptist Convention Council Church Planting Team Report: September 15, 2020

It seems like it has been a year since everything was “normal”. Most, if not all, of us have had our lives turned upside down and plans altered. That is the currently reality of most of our planters in the Send Network Arizona.

- Planters have been displaced from the schools that they were meeting in, not knowing when they will be able to return.
- Public launches have be postponed.
- Covid has effected many of the most vulnerable.
- Planters are becoming disheartened and even discouraged.

But, with all these things that seem to be hindering church planters, the Gospel is still being preached weekly online, ministries in communities are still being effective and best of all, people are repenting of their sins and saying “yes” to Jesus. Jesus is saving people in this new “normal”.

Let me get you caught up since our last gathering.

- We were one of the first states to have a virtual Spanish speaking assessment. We had three potential planters go through with two receiving the recommendation to plant.
- We were able to gift two churches with grants of \$20,000 to help with construction needs: Gates Pass Church in Tucson and Rincon Valley Cowboy Church. Both churches put language in their deeds so that if they ever are not a SBC church, that the property reverts back the association or state convention.
- Both Valley Rim Association and Thrive Network have designed leadership residency’s using the Send Network Pipeline. Each association has at least 8 churches involved.
- NAMB was able to increase funding by \$250 to first year church planters.

- If 2021 budget is adopted, we will be able to fund non-Send City planters at the same amounts as Send City planters.
- If 2021 budget is adopted, we will be able to increase NAMB's contribution for planter development from the state budget by 23,500 giving us a total of \$42,500. NAMB's contribution is based on the last three-year average of church plants in our state X \$1,500.

There are two events that are upcoming that I wanted to make you aware of.

1. Send Network Orientation, November 12, 2020.

In "normal" years, NAMB would bring all newly assessed planters to Atlanta for orientation but with the pandemic, have decided to do it by cities and states. I have been working with our Send City Missionary, Jesse Powell to have ours on November 12th at First Southern Baptist, Scottsdale. We are inviting the new planters and his wife (14 couples total) to orientation, spend the night and then come to the AZSBC convention meeting on Friday morning, November 13th.

2. Church Planter Assessment, December 7-8, 2020.

Again, in normal situations, we assessed potential planters in person over the course of 2 days. Because of the virus, we are moving to a virtual assessment. We will be doing this with 3 teams of assessors, who will be assessing 4 planters/spouse per team. I personally have seen and helped assess in this format and have found it to be very effective.

This is my report. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me anytime to talk. My email is mpatton@namb.net and my cell is 623-670-0289.

Monty Patton

Director of Send Network Arizona