



**TRENT & ELIZABETH DELOACH**  
CLARKSTON, GEORGIA

DAY FIVE

### CROSSING CULTURES

Trent and Elizabeth DeLoach share a passion to reach the nations. As Send Relief missionaries and leaders at Clarkston International Bible Church (CIBC), they invest their lives in people from around the world in Clarkston, Georgia, a city sometimes called the most diverse square mile in the United States.

Launched as a traditional church in 1881, everything changed a century later when the city became a refugee resettlement site. Now, CIBC is where people from diverse backgrounds find common ground. It hosts seven churches and 12 missions groups on its campus and acts as a hub for Send Relief compassion efforts.

60 LANGUAGES ARE SPOKEN IN THE 1.4 SQUARE MILES OF CLARKSTON.

"Nearly 2,000 refugees a year resettle here," says Trent. "Our neighbors speak many languages, and most have substantial needs the church can meet."

[ANNIEARMSTRONG.COM/DELOACH](http://ANNIEARMSTRONG.COM/DELOACH)

#### PRAY

For more believers to move into Clarkston to live among the nations with gospel intentionality.

For God to give you boldness in sharing His love and Jesus' sacrifice to lead people into everlasting life. (JOHN 3:16)



**HEIDEN & NEENA RATNER**  
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

DAY SIX

### LOST AND FOUND

Las Vegas native Heiden Ratner fulfilled a dream when he played Division 1 college basketball, but his time on the court wasn't his most defining university experience. At a college Bible study, he says, "I realized I was missing something. I thought, 'These people have something I don't.' "

9 OUT OF 10 PEOPLE IN LAS VEGAS DON'T KNOW JESUS.

Heiden became a believer and developed a passion for teaching, preaching and sharing

the gospel. It led him back to his hometown where, "God called my wife to come alongside me in church planting, and we have been humbled and honored to serve the Lord in this capacity together."

About 92 percent of the people living in Las Vegas do not know Jesus. The Ratners planted WALK Church to reach the lost in this spiritually dark place and to then help plant more churches in and around the city.

[ANNIEARMSTRONG.COM/RATNER](http://ANNIEARMSTRONG.COM/RATNER)

#### PRAY

For the development of mature leaders who can help expand the reach of WALK Church.

God will show you how to be a missionary right where He has planted you. (2 CORINTHIANS 5:14-15)



**KEMPTON & CARYN TURNER**  
EAST ST. LOUIS, ILLINOIS

DAY SEVEN

### HOMETOWN HOPE

Missouri native Kempton Turner and his wife, Caryn, have dedicated their lives to helping restore hope in East St. Louis, an area known for gangs, drugs, and staggeringly high murder rates. Their church plant, City of Joy Fellowship, focuses its ministry on the tough inner city where Kempton endured his own struggles growing up, including never knowing his biological mother.

EAST ST. LOUIS HAS ONE OF THE HIGHEST MURDER RATES IN THE UNITED STATES.

City of Joy reaches out with Christ's love. They help neighbors renovate homes, train youth, and participate in monthly outreach

activities. Kempton says, "The first baptism at the church was my birth mother. Praise the Lord!"

With such amazing rejoicing already taking place, the church is indeed appropriately named. Through prayers, planning, and consistent efforts, the Turners are dedicated to expanding that same joy into every heart and life they touch.

[ANNIEARMSTRONG.COM/TURNER](http://ANNIEARMSTRONG.COM/TURNER)

#### PRAY

That God would pour out a Samaria-like gospel awakening to the people and families of East St. Louis.

You would draw closer to the Lord with a deep and growing faith in Him. (HEBREWS 11:6)

For North American missionaries "here and now" is the field that God has called them to and where He has gone in advance to prepare the way. Each missionary you have prayed for this week has a unique call to a unique place. They daily experience the joy and the challenges of trying to plant truth into hearts that need to be transformed.

FOR YOU, "HERE AND NOW" IS THE NEIGHBORHOOD, JOB, SCHOOL, SMALL TOWN OR LARGE CITY WHERE HE HAS CALLED YOU. YOUR CALL IS ALSO UNIQUE. ARE YOU SEEING THE NEEDS WITH A WILLINGNESS TO LOVE IN TRUTH AND ACTION?

#### PRAY

Pray—for your own personal missions field and for the missionaries working within your state, the United States and Canada. (ACTS 1:8)

Give—ask the Lord for guidance in what you should give to support church planting missionaries and Send Relief missionaries through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering this year. (2 CORINTHIANS 9:7)

Go—seek God's call for your life to your mission field and go with boldness. (GALATIANS 6:9)



DAY EIGHT

ON MISSION

# HERE & NOW

## PRAYER GUIDE

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS

**ANNIE ARMSTRONG**  
EASTER OFFERING  
[anniearmstrong.com](http://anniearmstrong.com)



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**“WE MUST NOT LOVE WITH WORDS OR SPEECH, BUT WITH TRUTH AND ACTION.”**

1 JOHN 3:18 (HCSB)

With so many to-dos, we often get caught up in busyness and forget to look beyond it. What would happen if we decided to look past the list and focus on something greater? This is what the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering® is all about.

Jesus taught us to love. As John explains, “This is how we have come to know love: He laid down His life for us. We should also lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has this world’s goods and sees his brother in need but closes his eyes to his need—how can God’s love reside in him? Little children, we must not love with word or speech, but with truth and action” (1 John 3:16–18).

The call for believers is the same today as it was then: Love God, love others, and share the good news—right here, right now. We have the opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus, taking love throughout the continent and shining light into dark places. We can do this by praying for the lost, giving to gospel ministries, witnessing to those around us, and reaching out in compassion.

As you focus on North American missions, use this prayer guide in your daily devotions or with your church or Bible study group during the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering season. These six missionaries represent thousands more who benefit from your prayers and sacrificial giving.

ON MISSION  
**HERE & NOW**

**YOUR PRAYERS AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT THROUGH THE ANNIE ARMSTRONG EASTER OFFERING ARE CRITICAL PROVISIONS FOR OUR MISSIONARIES.**

DAY ONE

**NOW IS THE TIME**

The people who live in darkness have seen a great light, and for those living in the shadowland of death, light has dawned.

MATTHEW 4:16 (HCSB)

The missions field is all around us. According to statistics, 269 million people across North America do not know Christ, but hundreds of churches are closing their doors every year. Now is the time to act, and North American missionaries are through church planting and compassion ministries.

More than 5,000 are at work in large cities, rural communities, and college campuses. They proclaim the good news and gather new Christians into the body of believers. These men and women are finding ways to meet needs and engage in community, and it’s making a difference. However, the needs outpace the workers; many more are needed.

Let’s put our hope in the Lord of the harvest; ask Him to send more workers into the field.

**PRAY**

God will raise up more missionaries willing to be sent out so that the lost can hear the message of Christ. (ROMANS 10:14)

The hearts of North American missionaries will daily trust in the Lord and they will not rely on their own wisdom. (PROVERBS 3:5)

DAY TWO

**TAYLOR & SUSAN FIELD**  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

**PRACTICAL APPROACH**

At Graffiti Church in New York’s Lower East Side, the motto is: “From small things come great things.”

“Jesus started by meeting needs first,” says Graffiti’s Taylor Field, a Send Relief® missionary. “His compassion grew people’s faith, and then He built the church on that faith.”

**ONLY 4% OF NEW YORKERS IDENTIFY AS EVANGELICAL.**

Taylor calls it an upside-down approach, and it’s working. He and his wife have served in the area for 40 years,

teaching the church to share Christ’s compassion in practical ways—from tutoring to English as a second language classes to lunches in the park. “When we serve a meal, it’s not just about giving food; we sit down together and connect.”

With multiple campuses, Graffiti Church and its members are actively living for Christ around the city. The challenges are multifaceted, but lives are changing in miraculous ways.

[ANNIEARMSTRONG.COM/FIELD](http://ANNIEARMSTRONG.COM/FIELD)

**PRAY**

For worship to be ever present in the hearts of the people at Graffiti Church who are reaching out to serve the community.

God will reveal what good works He wants you to do. (EPHESIANS 2:10)

DAY THREE

**KESAVAN & VIJI BALASINGHAM**  
PICKERING, ONTARIO

**FREEDOM AND TRUTH**

Immigration is an experience Kesavan and Viji Balasingham share with much of their church, Fellowship Church Rouge Park, in Toronto’s East End. “Roughly half were born in another country,” says Kesavan. “Clarity of the gospel is a major need.”

**TORONTO IS ONE OF THE MOST ETHNICALLY DIVERSE CITIES.**

Originally from Sri Lanka, Kesavan was raised Hindu and lived in several countries before his family settled

in Canada. Cultural and religious divides split the area, and Kesavan was arrested for gang violence at 19. He says, “While in prison, I got to read the Bible for the first time and came to understand the gospel as good news.”

After his release, he attended seminary and became a church planter. Now he and his wife have returned to the area where he was once a troubled youth to minister to people dealing with the same challenges he faced.

[ANNIEARMSTRONG.COM/BALASINGHAM](http://ANNIEARMSTRONG.COM/BALASINGHAM)

**PRAY**

For the spiritual, emotional, and physical health of the new church plant congregation and the Balasingham family.

That you will help others know God is willing and able to meet all needs. (PHILIPPIANS 4:19)

DAY FOUR

**TRAVIS & JENNIFER WHITTAKER**  
LIVONIA, MICHIGAN

**SPEAKING OUT**

Travis gave his life to Christ at an early age. After college, he struck out on his own as a Christian musician letting the lyrics testify to his faith—until God called him to do more.

**10.4% OF DETROIT’S POPULATION IS EVANGELICAL.**

“I never wanted to plant churches,” he says. “Because of my stuttering problem, I wanted to sing for

Jesus, not teach. But I heard the call of God challenge me to lead in a new way.”

Travis and his wife, Jennifer, planted Mile City Church in 2015. They reach out to people who have given up on church or who never had that relationship, and lives are being transformed by the gospel.

Mile City’s name is a nod to Detroit’s mile-focused grid system. At the end of every service, the pastor who never wanted to speak publicly challenges the congregation to pray for the city every time they see a mile marker.

[ANNIEARMSTRONG.COM/WHITTAKER](http://ANNIEARMSTRONG.COM/WHITTAKER)

**PRAY**

Mile City Church would have resources and wisdom to be effective in its witness and to help other church planters as well.

God would provide an opportunity to connect you with someone in need. (LUKE 19:10)