

## Missions Update January 2021



In January we are featuring two ministries! An Across the States ministry and an Across the Seas ministry.

Here's what's new on the mission field!

### Across the States: The Source, Mesa, AZ Home Missions (Church Planting) Association of Free Lutheran Congregations (AFLC)

In this issue, I'd like to introduce you to Pastor Eric Johnson and a Church Plant, The Source in Mesa, Arizona.

#### Who we are

Our Name and website location Source59.com, is derived from Hebrews 5:9, "And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him." We want to proclaim the truth that Jesus is the source of our salvation!

#### Where we come from

The Source Church began when a group of individuals began praying for a new ministry to reach their community, and were led by the Lord to begin a new church plant. They began by meeting in a local hotel conference room, and then moved to meeting in various schools. It was there that a core team was built, with a passion to reach the lost of the Mesa area.

In March of 2017 God turned our world around, as the superintendent decided they wanted no churches to meet in their schools. This drove us to meet at a local park, and start asking where God was asking us to go. Then in April, God answered our prayers, as we began to meet in our current place, co-renting a location with a small business. That relationship turned out to be a wonderful thing. However, as both grow, the plan is for The Source Church to take on the whole rent, so we can expand our usable space, and expand our ministry to the community!

#### Where we're headed

The Source Church is just the beginning of a big idea! Our Vision is to provide a daily environment where ordinary people encounter an extraordinary God. To accomplish this, we desire to be a place in which we can offer community events, services, studies, and more, for the whole family.

One day in the future, we hope to build a full coffee shop—the Source 5.9 Café. Source 5.9 is a ministry model for reviving the essentials of the Acts church in a contemporary American context. It's a coffee shop, a café, and a connection point located in the heart of the community. It's a model we are called to develop to spread the good news of the transforming love of Jesus where people live.

The early church was a dynamic family of believers living life together on a daily basis, discussing the good news of Jesus openly through the course of everyday life. Contrary to the model of the American church with our isolated facilities surrounded by parking and space for expansion, the church met in the markets and temple courts in their cultural centers. Thousands were added daily, not because of their beautiful facilities or wide range of activities and services, but because all people witnessed undeniable passion for Jesus Christ in the course of daily living. Hearing the good news of Jesus was unavoidable, as normal as going about daily life. They observed for themselves what Paul wrote in Hebrews 5:9: "To all who obey Him, Jesus Christ is the source of eternal salvation" (Source 5.9).

Prayer Requests: Please pray for this new congregation as they provide a daily environment where ordinary people encounter an extraordinary God.



Eric Johnson helped start The Source Church in 2012. Since then, he has served as the teaching pastor. Eric is married to his wife of 15+ years, Megan. They have five children ranging from 6 to 12 years in age.

[Visit Their Website](#)

### Across the Seas: Pastor Paul and Becky Abel, Missionaries to Brazil World Missions Association of Free Lutheran Congregations (AFLC)

Dear Friends at Good Shepherd in Camarillo,

Greetings in the precious name of our Savior Jesus who came to transform our world once for all through His great sacrifice. His transforming power is at work molding the lives of those who daily surrender to His will. We are His agents in Brazil reaching out to others with this new life and certain hope.

We remember with great joy our trip to California last year in January (first time in CA for me!). Thank you for receiving us at your church so that we could share about our missionary work in Brazil over the past 35 years. We returned to our home and ministry on September first. These past four months have been very full of opportunities to re-connect with people and fit into the different reality of ministry during this time of the pandemic.

We had a smaller Annual Conference this year, smaller attendance at church services because of government restrictions, no camps at the ARCA, and the need to creatively reach people in their homes. I decided to go ahead and prepare Christmas choirs in the two churches where we participate, not knowing whether we would be able to have Christmas programs or not. Praise the Lord that we were able to have the programs in both churches! The children's participation was done by video and photos, and a video recording was made available to those who were not able to attend.

In 2021 Paul and I will be in charge of the ministry to couples. I am the Women's ministry coordinator, and Paul will continue as visitation pastor. We are looking forward to coordinating two short-term mission trips (if Covid permits) - a group from FLBC in March and a Journey Missions group in June. We are hopeful that the ARCA Bible Camp can begin hosting retreats once again in 2021. Paul continues to reach out with compassion to needy families who need help with building projects. We were also able to do some remodeling in our 28-year old home before moving back in for Christmas. Our desire is for our home to continue to be a place for fellowship and ministry as we look forward to a new year of challenges and opportunities.

Thank you for partnering with us in prayer and through your financial giving. We can only be here and do what we do because of people like you! May God bless you individually and as a church family in 2021!

Serving Jesus in southern Brazil,  
Paul and Becky Abel



Christmas 2020 with all our kids and grandkids except Andrew and Alexi and Judah (MN)

[Visit https://www.aflcworldmissions.org to learn more](https://www.aflcworldmissions.org)



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