

An abstract graphic featuring four circles of varying sizes and colors on a solid blue background. The largest circle is light blue and is partially cut off by the top edge. A medium-sized orange circle is positioned to the left. A smaller dark blue circle is located in the lower right quadrant. The text 'ONE FOCUS NETWORK' is in white, and '2020 REVIEW' is in large, bold orange letters at the bottom.

ONE FOCUS NETWORK
2020 REVIEW

A NOTE FROM PASTOR DAN

I am blessed to testify that OFN churches did not just hunker down during this last year but actually advanced their ministries and expanded their visions. Many OFN leaders have commented to me that the connections they have formed within the network have proven invaluable in giving them friendship, strategic counsel, and timely equipping. Good job, OFN!

I am also impressed how quickly OFN churches were able to transition to impressive online platforms from previous in-person-only worship services. The number of people being reached by our network each week through social media is phenomenal. The new normal is here, and our churches are well positioned for new opportunities.

The OFN pastors navigated the volatile political landscape of this last year with exceptional grace and wisdom while also courageously addressing the national cry for social justice in America. These two issues elicited very strong opinions from many of our church members that required the best of our OFN pastors. Well done, OFN pastors!

As we head into 2021, One Focus remains committed to improving and innovating our SEA groups, Impact Weekends, retreats, and conferences in order to help develop our leaders and churches! The best lies yet ahead for all of us! Here are some of the stories of 2020:

RESILIENT



AND

ANNOINTED



COVID-19 CHALLENGE

For me, the challenges due to COVID weren't really a shaking of my faith but a shaking of my calling. A shaking of my calling because COVID tore apart the very fabric and one of the greatest strengths of the church that I pastor, community. I was left navigating uncharted territory. The demand of being bi-vocational and having a family with small children left me unable to invest much time to find new and creative ways to provide for the new needs of the church, which left me further discouraged and questioning my calling. The emotional and spiritual effect of this process was overwhelming. I started to look around at what other churches were doing, and I just couldn't keep up. How

could I be the pastor these people need? Maybe I'm not really cut out for this. In my instance, COVID exposed the biggest threat to God's calling on my life, myself.

In one of the last scenes of the movie Selma, Martin Luther King Jr. is asked by a government agent to take precautionary measures and reconsider the delivery of his speech outside of Alabama's capitol building. Dr. King, in the movie, replies, "I can't hide, we can't hide... I'm no different than anybody else. I want to live a long and happy life. But I won't be focusing on what I want today, I'm focused

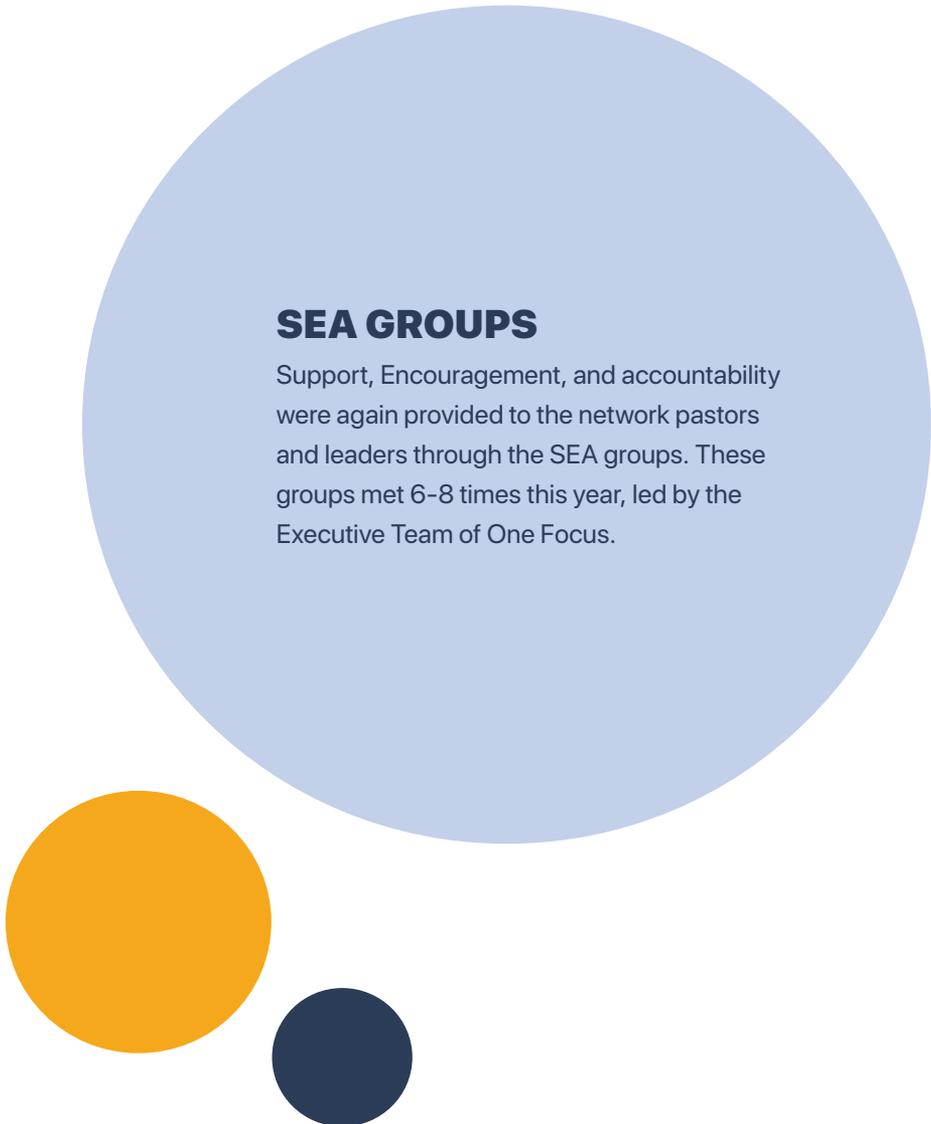
ENGES

on what God wants. We are here for a reason". Dr. King knew his calling and kept focused on his purpose. Pastoring through COVID pales in comparison with what Dr. King had to endure and pastor through, but I find myself having to choose, just like he had to, to not focus on what I want, but what God wants.

Peter, addressing a group of pastors, tells them in 1 Peter 5:8-11 "Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. And after you have suffered a little

while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen". Throughout this letter, there is a back and forth of present suffering and future glory, and it is comforting to me to see that He has called me to pastor through these trying times. I am learning to trust, not only in Him, but in the fact that He called me in this time and season for a purpose.

Pastor Juan Milla | Nueva Vida



SEA GROUPS

Support, Encouragement, and accountability were again provided to the network pastors and leaders through the SEA groups. These groups met 6-8 times this year, led by the Executive Team of One Focus.

SAVE THE DATE!

One Focus Conference 2021

September 30–October 1

Harrisonburg, VA

RACIAL RECONCILIATION

OneFocus Network Presents:

#RunWithAhmaud: A Biblical Response

Featuring...



Pastor
Juan Milla



Pastor
Dana Williams



Pastor
Chris Stup



Pastor
Chris Cunningham



Pastor
Dan Backens

Tuesday, May 12 at 12:00p

Join us on Facebook Live and [newlife.global](https://www.newlife.global)

Hosted by New Life Church





COVID-19 OPPORT

In the beginning of 2020, our church family, Christian Renewal, went into a time of prayer and fasting. Seeking God, our prayer was "Lord, take us out of our 4 walls". I was asking the Lord to enlarge our tent and expand our territories. Little did we know that He was literally going to take us outside our 4 walls. When the pandemic hit, like all the churches in our nation, we were forced to close our doors. In the days following, the Lord began opening doors of provision beyond our imagination. So we relaunched a ministry from many years prior named Share and Care. To make things efficient, we started a curbside distribution several times per week. Our goal was that each recipient would not only get abundance

of food, but prayer, encouragement and blessings. In addition to curbside distribution, we knew that we needed to reach out and help our seniors who are at high risk of exposure. Most seniors are unable to leave their homes and in need of help, especially in buying food. This is where we launched our senior citizen food delivery program, an extension of our senior ministry, better known as **YAH or Young At Heart**.

We currently have curbside food distribution two times each week as well as weekly delivery to senior homes. From beginning of April until



UNITIES

Dec 31st, we have served close to 5000 seniors and almost 25,000 individuals in our city. We have had many salvations, healings, miracles, and testimonies of God's goodness and love. The Lord simply invited us to sow into the lives of people in our city. "Bless and Love them and you will grow the kingdom!" So we said YES and obeyed!

The Lord also began to mobilize our church and others in our community. Many who were laid off from their jobs or quarantined started to volunteer their time. Most were from our church, but several were from other churches in our area. Some who helped didn't even attend church but started to volunteer. It

was beautiful to see how God was truly softening hearts to serve.

What started in my heart as a prayer and a series of sermons on saying YES began to be revealed by many in our congregation and beyond. We have had powerful testimonies of how the prayers they received were answered. Most of all, they all have been touched by the Love of God through the hands of each who said YES!

*Pastor Eunice Barruel Lam-Yuen
Christian Renewal Ministries*

IMPACT WEEKEND

For some of our network worship leaders, they entered into 2020 saying YES to a year's worth of equipping on developing their leadership. Little did they know, this class would fall in one of the most trying years of leadership they've seen. With the pandemic, racial tensions, political tensions, and safety measures in place, these leaders took precious time to learn what it meant to not only lead as spiritually healthy leaders, but as leaders who could sustain in difficult situations.

In our classes, we had sessions on the theological foundation of worship, spiritual health, mental health, emotional health, how to relate to pastors, how to work with teams, how to create worship sets, how to care for your teams, how to not burn out, and more. They also had times of connection with other leaders in the network as well as opportunities to see and reflect on other churches Sunday morning services.

These network Impact Weekend classes are incredibly valuable. In a time where the world seems to be turning away from each other, these classes offer an opportunity to turn towards and see other people who are leading like you are, but in a different environment, under different leadership, with different giftings—yet all working for the same goal; to glorify Christ and build the church.

2020 Worship Leaders Cohort



IDS

Below are quotes from a few worship leaders from Grace Covenant Church:

Evan Yoder: *"It was challenging, convicting, and inspiring me to lead the people around me towards a more genuine expression of worship to God."*

Kaitlin King: *"Taking part in the Impact Worship training showed me the importance of authentic worship that has to take place first in our hearts and homes long before it can take place on a stage in order to champion transformation in our communities and around the world!"*

José Martinez: *"One thing that really impacted me during our worship impact weekends was the talk about "Boundaries & Self Care" by Dr. Trish King. When we work or we are part of a ministry, we sometimes forget to take time away for ourselves; time to disconnect. We sometimes wait to rest until we don't have energy or we burn out. This talk really encouraged and challenged me that I'm not being selfish if I need to take couple of days to be by myself or go away on a mini retreat. If we want to lead well on Sunday's and be the best leader we can be, then we need to take some time to rest and recharge."*

PERSPECTIVE



Perspective, a prophetic look at 2021, was an online alternative to One Focus' annual fall conference. Each week, for four weeks, Pastor Dan interviewed national church leaders regarding their perspective on the challenges, opportunities and corrections facing the church. All the speakers agreed these are unprecedented times.



- Bishop Tony Miller gave life-giving encouragement regarding the meta-narrative of the kingdom of God in America in this hour.
- Pastor Chris Johnson shared personal insight and gave practical strategies regarding true biblical justice, the nature of racism, and the call to action in racial reconciliation.



- Pastor Andrew Cromwell inspired local churches and pastors to see the present troubles in America as a profound opportunity to re-envision their role and upgrade their strategies to care for their communities.
- The apostolic team of One Focus shared in a round table discussion what each felt the Lord was saying to our churches and how to respond in both hope and action.



With over 8,000 views on Facebook alone and hundreds of enthusiastic comments, it appears Perspectives met an important equipping need for our network!

BIG HOUSE

VIRGINIA BEACH CAMPUS

Big House Church launched a new Campus in Virginia Beach in 2020.

Behind every obstacle, there is a glorious opportunity waiting to be revealed! The Big House Church family has been growing, as well as our need for more space in our services. After two years of prayer and planning, we set out to launch a new campus in Virginia Beach starting March of 2020. And then the pandemic hit.

Launching a new campus during a pandemic is not for the faint of heart! It felt like there were twice as many obstacles as there were opportunities, but we knew this one truth; this was God's plan, not our idea. I love this truth from our Lead Pastor, Adam Cates, "If YOU build it, YOU will need to sustain it; if GOD builds it, HE will sustain it." This is such a faith-building revelation when God's plans don't align with your strategic goals. By faith, we moved our launch date to September, and God has been faithful to build His church!

We are meeting in the beautiful Zeiders American Dream Theater in the Town Center area of Virginia Beach. The theater has a capacity of 300 and auxiliary rooms for kid's ministry. With an average attendance of 250, Big House Church was able to grow during a time of great adversity. It has been exciting to see new families experiencing the life-changing power of the gospel in Virginia Beach.



BEACH RETREAT

As 2020 progressed and the pressures of pastoring became heavy & draining, the Executive Leadership Team decided to provide a special time for refreshment, relaxation and rest for our pastors & spouses. What better place to do that than at the beach?!

Over the course of October 6th-9th, two beach houses in Sandbridge, VA became "home" to 25+ of our network pastors & spouses. With homes right on the beach, the views were incredible, and the constant sound of the waves spoke peace. We had attendees come from as close as Virginia Beach to as far away as California. The agenda? Pretty much nothing but fellowship, food, walks on the beach, fun in the water, a movie night, and a few semi-competitive games of Code Names.

On our last night, each person/couple also had the opportunity to receive prophetic prayer ministry from One Focus network members that specifically came that evening in order to pray and prophesy over those there.

The time together provided opportunity for established relationships to grow even deeper; for "I sort of/kind of know you" relationships to take a few steps forward in getting to know one another even better; and for people who started out as strangers to have those initial conversations and connections that will hopefully lead to future, long-term friendships. Conversation was rich and covered every topic imaginable! Encouragement and support were equally shared and received.

"Then Jesus said, 'Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.'" (Matthew 11:28 – NLT). A truth and a promise that was evident as this group of leaders got away. Weariness and burdens were brought; rest and refreshment were given.



2020 has been the most challenging year that most of us as pastors have ever had to face. The Sandbridge retreat came at the perfect time for us to get together. For me personally, it was helpful to be able to spend time with other people who had been living in the trenches of pastoral ministry. We were able to hear each others' stories and share struggles. At the same time, hear how God was moving in each of our churches or ministries. This time of connecting, talking, and hanging out was a fresh reminder that we are not alone.

I gained ideas from other pastors, and I bounced my ideas off of them. There was no real agenda other than to connect and recharge. We played pool, watched movies, and some just had fun at the beach. I think that speaks to how important community is. As pastors, we talk about community, but it is so important for us as pastors to have community. One of my favorite memories was going around, doing icebreakers, and hearing some of our fun stories.

We listened to one another, and we shared our own insights. Learning from one another in this time, I believe is invaluable. That is the nature of building relationships—investing in one another.

Sandbridge was a time to rest, a time to connect, a time to be inspired and encouraged, and a time to just have fun. I know we are all in different situations and processing the future in different ways, but spending time together with other pastors is so important. I encourage you to try your best to make it the next time the pastors of One Focus gather, if at all possible. We are not going to make it through this season on our own.

onefocus.global