

Just as Near to Heaven

The Death of Annie Dunn

by Geoff Chang

Annie Dunn loved her church. She was the daughter of J. T. Dunn, an elder at the Metropolitan Tabernacle. Under Spurgeon's preaching, it was in the church that she came to hear the gospel of grace and love her Savior. Eventually, she professed her faith in Christ through baptism and joined the church.

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Now, as a member of the church, she participated in the ministries of the church. She joined a women's Bible class. She gave generously to the work



of the orphanage. And it was in the church prayer meetings that she heard about the growing work of China Inland Mission, under Hudson Taylor. There, she grew in her passion to see Christ's name glorified among the lost.

Now, as a young woman, she was engaged to be married to a graduate of the Pastors' College, Arthur Huntley, and together they were accepted to join Hudson Taylor and the work at China Inland Mission. They were commissioned by the church on August 5, 1889. The Sword and the Trowel gives an account of their commissioning service at a Monday night prayer meeting:

China next occupied our thoughts and prayers. In introducing the subject, the Pastor reminded us of Brother Stubbs, of Patna, who asked that, whenever we had rice on the table, we would pray for him; and said that it would be a good thing if we prayed for China every time we drank a cup of tea. He then referred to a letter received that morning from Brother Macoun, who left some months ago for China, and who begged earnestly for many more

labourers for that great harvest-field. Mr. George Clarke, who has been labouring there for fourteen years, and who is shortly going back to his loved work, gave us some striking statistics to illustrate the fewness of the missionaries and the vastness of the population amongst which they labour... There was much more said at the meeting, for which we have not space; and, truly, it was good to be there. Before closing, the Pastor shook hands with Mr. and Mrs. Clarke, and their little boy, and Miss Dunn, the



daughter of Elder J.T. Dunn, who is going out to labour in connection with the China Inland Mission, and to be married to our Brother Huntley; and after

Missionary of the Week

JUMPSTART

JUMPSTART is not a traditional prison ministry. Our in-prison program is designed to help incarcerated men



and women discover and live out God's purpose for their lives. Participants are equipped with the tools they need to break cycles of crime and addiction.

Then, when release day arrives, we don't simply wish those who've completed the program the best, like most prison ministries do. Our comprehensive model offers a clear pathway to success, including transitional support such as housing, transportation, employment, mentoring, access to professional services, and much more.

This continuum of care approach, rooted in evidence-based practices, breaks the cycle of recidivism.

Join us and help many men and women, and their families, have a future greater than their past. ◆

96%
Success Rate

2100

Weekly Volunteers

100+

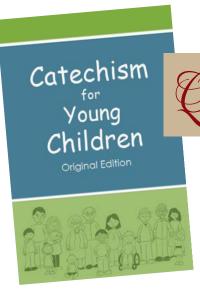
Inside Program Participants

How Can You Help?

- Support Us Financially
 - Serve as a Volunteer

JUMPSTART South Carolina

PO Box 1050 +1 (888) 403-3815 Spartanburg, SC 29304 info@jumpstartvision.org





Why did Christ appoint these sacraments?

Answer:

The sacraments were given only for those who

repent of their sins and believe in Christ as their

To distinguish his disciples from the world, and to comfort and strengthen them.

Savior. Thus, they are a visible reminder that God's people are different from those who do not know Him. They also demand a response from us. When we receive them, we affirm our basic covenant relationship with the Lord—
He is our God and we are His people. He rules over us and takes care of us, and we strive, by the power of the Holy Spirit who lives inside us, to love and obey Him. •

from Kids' Quest by Great Commission Publications





NEW MEMBER
RECEPTION AND LUNCHEON

The church family and visitors are cordially invited to a luncheon honoring our new members.

(New members will be introduced to the congregation at the 11:00 A.M. Worship Service.)

DATE: Sunday, April 6, 2025

TIME: Following the 11:00 A.M. Worship Service

PLACE: Gymnasium

FOOD: Meat and drinks will be provided. Church

members are asked to bring generous

portions of sides and desserts.





April Birthdays

- 6 Audrey Burman, Joe Earle, Jennifer Superdock
- 8 Karis Preston, Donna Reynolds
- 9 Alex Kirkland, Jerry Traynham
- 10 Haley Haynes, Ron McNeely
- 11 Lewin Giusti
- 12 Rick DeMott

Choral Evening Service, Sunday April 13, 6:00 P.M.

In the evening worship service on Sunday, April 13, our Chancel Choir will present a selection of choral masterpieces, accompanied by chamber orchestra, in recognition and remembrance of Palm Sunday, and the events which followed the triumphal entry of our Lord into Jerusalem. This service on the first day of Easter Week, will focus on the glory of Christ Jesus and His atoning death on the cross for sinners. The people's shouts of "Hosanna!" are soon drowned by the calls for His crucifixion and death, which He then endures for the sake of we His people. Come and hear in word and song, the wonder of our great Savior!

Our prayer is that this service, and those throughout Easter Week: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday, will glorify our Lord, Jesus Christ, encouraging and assisting you and your families to remember and re-consider the events of that most significant week in human history. May His name be exalted in our celebrations of Easter Week beginning on April 13, Palm Sunday.

Verlyn Smoker, Director of Music



MORNING SERMON

Dr. Richard D. Phillips
THE ROYAL TREE
Daniel 4:1–27

EVENING SERMON

Rev. Jeffrey M. Early
I Am Against You
Nahum 2:1–13

Sunday, April 6

8:30 A.M. MORNING WORSHIP
9:55 A.M. Children's Chapel (Sanctuary)
10:00 A.M. Sunday School
11:00 A.M. MORNING WORSHIP
12:30 P.M. New Members Luncheon (Gym)
5:30 P.M. Season of Prayer (Chapel)
6:00 P.M. EVENING WORSHIP

Monday, April 7

6:30 A.M. Men's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, April 8

10:00 A.M. WIC Circle 3 (Fellowship Hall)
1:30 P.M. WIC Circle 5 (Fellowship Hall)
7:00 P.M. WIC Circle 2 (T. Looper Home)
7:00 P.M. WIC Circle 4 (L. Martin Home)
7:00 P.M. WIC Circle 6 (T. King Home)

Wednesday, April 9

5:30 р.м. Missions Committee (Conference Room) 5:30 р.м. FAMILY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP SUPPER (Gym) 6:15 р.м. Hope Choir (K4–K5); Covenant Choir (Grades 1–6); Youth Choir (Grades 7–12) Missions Moment (Gym) 6:45 р.м. 6:45 р.м. WIC Circle 1 (Conference Room) CAT Kids (Ages 3-Grade 4); Covenant Kids (Grades 5-8) 7:00 р.м. 7:00 р.м. Ir. & Sr. High Bible Studies Adult Prayer Meeting & Bible Study (Gym) 7:00 р.м. Chancel Choir 7:30 р.м.

Friday, April 11

9:15 A.M. Raising Up Mothers (Fellowship Hall)
12:00 P.M. Men's Luncheon and Bible Study (Gym)
1:30 P.M. Mission to Main

Saturday, April 12

8:00 A.M. Masculine Mandate (Gym)



April 4	Friday Night Alive
April 6	New Member Luncheon
April 12	Masculine Mandate
April 13	Baptism Sunday

Joint Diaconate/Session Meeting April 14

April 20 Easter Sunday Evangelism Banquet April 23

Calvary Presbytery (Downtown Presbyterian) April 24

May 14 Graduation Banquet Masculine Mandate **May 17 May 21** CAT Kids Program **May 25** Baptism Sunday

May 28 Summer Children's Choir Begins

June 1 All Adult Summer Sunday School Begins

Sr. High Summer Conference (Pawleys Island, SC) June 16-21

PCA General Assembly (Chattanooga, TN) June 23-27

Vacation Bible School **July 7-11**

Jr. High Summer Conference (Ridge Haven, NC) **July 21-25**

2025 EASTER WEEK Services

SUNDAY April 13 Palm Sunday / Evening Choral Service, 6:00 P.M.

WEDNESDAYApril 16 No Wednesday Night Activities

THURSDAYApril 17 Maundy Thursday Service, 7:00 P.M. (Sanctuary)

FRIDAYApril 18 Good Friday Luncheon, 11:45 A.M. (Gym) Good Friday Service, 12:30 P.M. (Sanctuary)

SUNDAYApril 20



Sunrise Service, 7:00 A.M. (Mountain View Baptist Church) Mountain View Baptist Church, III Cagle Street, Greenville Breakfast, 8:00 A.M. (Second Presbyterian Church Gym) Sunday School, 9:00 A.M. (Second Presbyterian Church) One Worship Service, 10:00 A.M. (Second Presbyterian Church) Sunday Evening Service, 6:00 P.M. (Second Presbyterian Church)



Graduates

Please email the church office with the names of any high school or posthigh school young people who will graduate this spring or summer. Also, please provide the school from which they are graduating. These young people will be honored at the annual Graduation Banquet on Wednesday, May 14. Our speaker this year is Rev. Jeffrey Early.

Youth Summer Conferences

Please ask the Lord to bless these upcoming important youth events:

Sr. High @ Pawleys Island June 16–21 Jr. High @ Ridge Haven July 21–25

Sign up on the SPC website: spcgreenville.org/signup

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bidding them farewell, in the name of the whole assembly, commended them to the Lord in prayer. [1]

The engaged couple boarded a ship for Chin-kiang, China, with plans to be



married after they were settled in China. On their arrival, they began the hard work of learning the language and culture. Arthur used his medical training to build relationships with locals. Annie began a Sunday school for children. In their short time with her, these five students grew to love their teacher.

But soon disaster struck. Annie came down with smallpox. Only eight months after her arrival, she was seriously ill, and there was little the doctors could do for her. Arthur records her last days in his diary.

She was suffering intensely, and longed to go. I prayed, "LORD Jesus, if it be Thy will to take dear Annie home, do so speedily." "Amen," she whispered fervently, "I want to go home." ... She was wonderfully thoughtful for those who attended to her. She knew I had watched by her all night, and said, "Arthur, you had better go to bed, you must be so tired." And after a little she said, "Tell your dear mother I love her so much." ... Presently, she repeated each name in her family, father, mother, Alice, Alfred, Jessie, Willie, and the darling little ones, Charlie, Lizzie, Alfred, and Sarah.

"I would like to work with you, Arthur, but you will give me up, won't you, dear?" Don't cry. 'Praise Him for all that is past, and trust Him for all that's to come.' 'Better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all.'" "Not lost," I answered. "No," she whispered.

"I hope you will not take this [the disease]. LORD Jesus, come quickly. I wish He would come; He's a long time coming."

"Are you in pain now?" I asked. "Yes, a great deal."

"But are you resting in the Lord?" I continued. "Yes, and waiting," She said.

"Are you sorry you ever came to China?" I asked.

"No, very glad; it's just as near to heaven."

Presently she said, "Darling mother, darling father, you'll give me up for China and for JESUS, won't you? Dear mother, dear father, don't cry." Her mind often reverted to her happy home, and the names, "father," "mother," often rested sacredly upon her lips.

"Don't fret, Arthur," she said. "I don't think I shall," I replied; "you can trust me with JESUS, can you not?" "I can trust JESUS with you," she replied. [2]

Annie Dunn died of smallpox on May 17, 1890. She was buried the next day in the British Cemetery at Chin-kiang. One of her students "was deeply

moved and wept sorrowfully,"

laying a beautiful wreath at her grave.

The members of the Metropolitan Tabernacle grieved to hear the news. Spurgeon published the following announcement in *The Sword and the Trowel*, "Our esteemed elder, J. T. Dunn, and his family, have our sincere sympathy in the bereavement they have sustained through the death of his daughter, Annie. Less than a year



ago she went out to China, as a missionary of the China Inland Mission, and now she is 'for ever with the Lord."

Earlier that spring, Annie had written a letter back to her home church, which was read at their annual Pastors' College Conference. In it, she gave a stirring charge to future pastors and missionaries:

It has been for years my happy privilege to attend some of the meetings, and although I should like, if it were possible, to do so again this year, day by day I grow increasingly thankful for the reason which prevents me from doing this, and being in my accustomed place at the Tabernacle on the Lord's-day. I cannot describe to you what a blank it seemed when first cut off from all the happy associations, especially from your ministry, which has for so long

been such a blessing to my soul. Before coming to China, I knew a little of the needs of the heathen; but had I ever realized how great were the darkness and degradation, my seat at the Tabernacle would long since have had another occupant. I am praying very earnestly that many of our members may, this year, be led to obey the command of our Lord, 'Go ye into all the world'; and consecrate their lives to his service, and thus hasten the coming of his kingdom. Out of a church of over five thousand members, how few, comparatively speaking, have done this! Hundreds of souls, in this land alone, who have never heard the name of Jesus, are perishing daily. [3]

It had been hard for Annie to leave her spiritual family behind. Those first few months on the mission field were especially difficult. But when she saw "how great were the darkness and degradation" in China, she was glad she had left her seat at the Tabernacle and given her life to proclaim Christ to the perishing. As she lay dying, Arthur asked her, "Are you sorry you ever came to China?" "No, very glad," was her answer, "it's just as near to heaven."

Annie's letter was published in *The Sword and the Trowel* after her death, along with Spurgeon's concluding charge, "Who will respond to the call that comes from our sister's grave in China? ... The Lord support the bereaved one, and make up to his church the many gaps which death continues to make!" •

- [1] The Sword and the Trowel, 1889, 531.
- [2] China's Millions, 1890, 117.
- [3] The Sword and the Trowel, 1890, 462.

Geoff Chang serves as Assistant Professor of Church History and Historical Theology at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is also Curator of the Spurgeon Library.



Spring Masculine Mandate Sessions

April 12 | May 17 | June 14 SPC Gymnasium @ 8:00 A.M.

