



JOSHUA ZACHARIAS to **AUSTRALIA** Church Planting Down Under



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“You’ll see things you’ve never seen before,” Sam said. He was right. Driving to the intersection of Kensington and Allegheny, I saw trash everywhere. The pungent smell of trash permeated the area. This area of Philly is a free drug zone where people can shoot up without fearing arrest. I saw people standing around swaying back and forth oblivious to their surroundings because they were on a drug-induced trip. Another was lying in a stupor on the ground. It was a sad sight but a good reminder that there are many in the US who need to hear of the hope of the gospel.

April 12-18: Drove to NYC to assist church-planters Jon and Amber Canavan with flyer distribution, an outreach on Saturday, and Resurrection Day services. What a blessing to see what the Lord is doing in the Bronx! It was also a good opportunity to learn more about city ministry.

April 19-22: Attended missions conference at Lakewood Baptist Church in Harrison, TN. This church has a huge heart for missionaries, and I am grateful for their generosity to me by helping me with some car repair/rental costs.

April 23-29: Preached at churches in PA and WV for Pastor Espenshade and Pastor Spicer. Spoke in chapel at Morgantown Christian Academy. Preached via video for Calvary Baptist Church, my sponsoring church in Australia.

April 30-May 7: Preached at Temple Baptist, Glen Burnie, MD, and Glasgow Baptist, Newark, DE. Painted the auditorium of Solid Rock Baptist Church in MD and then traveled to Middletown, DE, to present at Middletown Baptist Church where I was able to reconnect with Pastor Jon, a friend from college. Returned to Chattanooga to return the rental car I had been using and to retrieve my car before heading back up to one of my supporting churches in WV.

May 8-13: Good time with Ripley Tabernacle Baptist Church. Pastor and Mrs. Keffer are always so hospitable! I updated the church on my deputation and did some painting and outreach for them.

May 14-22: Presented at Tri-State Baptist Church, Thompson, CT; Lighthouse Baptist Church, Hermitage, PA; and Great Hope Baptist Church, Carlisle, PA. All three of these churches were a special blessing to me, and I appreciate the friendships begun during this week.

May 23-25: Assisted with a youth outreach and street evangelism around Philadelphia and was able to see three teenagers profess Christ: Marlin, Achilles, and Adain! **Please pray for follow-up and their spiritual growth.**

May 26-May 31: Presented at Community Baptist Church in Branford, CT, and Lighthouse Baptist Church in Waterbury, CT. Got to enjoy a work day with some of the church family as well as some visitation with Pastor Tartaglino where we were able to see one teenager, **Devine**, ask Christ to save Him! Also, on Memorial Day, I met some friends and to go see the first Baptist church in America founded in Providence, RH.

June 1-5: Went to Grace Bible Baptist Church in New Paris, IN, to present and was able to assist with their fundraiser for teen camp. What a blast to get to know the teens and church folks during this event! I also got to attend a Hispanic church’s conference in Indianapolis with a relative and was surprised when the pastor took up a love offering for me during the service!

June 6-8: Visited my former youth pastor and his family and church where I presented and preached. It was a fun, edifying time!

June 9-10: Drove north to MI for a couple meetings and, on the way, stopped at a supporting church to preach at their midweek service. I was also able to help them prep for VBS and drill some holes for some wires they needed to run. Drilling through eight inches of cement is not easy!

June 11-12: It was good to meet Pastor Crow at First Baptist of Goodells, MI, and to play with his kids...they have a lot of energy! I appreciated the opportunity to preach at his church on Sunday. Then, later that day, it was great to reconnect with Pastor Brown and to preach for Cornerstone Baptist in Swartz Creek, MI. Pastor Brown and I used to do the same Christian Service group in college. I am glad to see him faithfully serving God!

June 13-15: Went to SC and gave Australia/missions-themed presentations at Carolina Baptist’s VBS. I am glad for this church’s love for missions!

Last of all, I am nearing the end of my meeting schedule, and I am beginning to focus on leaving for Australia potentially within the next 3-6 months. **My visa has been initiated. Please pray for a smooth approval!**

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