

THE BRANCHES BULLETIN

ROOTED. ABIDING. BEARING FRUIT.

*A MONTHLY UPDATE FROM THE BRANCHES COMMUNITY CHURCH
A CHURCH PLANT REACHING MONTPELIER, VT*





CHURCH PLANT UPDATE

Interest Service | March 1

We gathered for our first Interest Service.

Several new guests joined us.

We shared a meal and meaningful conversation afterward.

Pray:

- For the contacts we made.
- For follow-up conversations to bear fruit.
- For the Lord to keep drawing people to Himself.

Monday Nights | Presence in the City

We continue serving our weekly meal in Montpelier.

This is steady, relational gospel work among the needy and unhoused in our area.

Pray:

- For open hearts and open doors.
- For wisdom and compassion as we serve.
- For lasting relationships that lead to Christ.

Launch Update | July 5

We have officially moved our public Launch Date to July 5!

As a Send Network church plant, we are preparing intentionally and prayerfully. We are inviting Mission Teams to join us this summer to canvas neighborhoods and help us engage our city before launch.

Pray:

- For boldness as we go.
- For receptive hearts across Montpelier.
- For a strong, unified launch team.

ON MISSION IN MONTPELIER

This month we are joining churches across the country in supporting the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, which funds church planting and gospel ministry throughout the United States and Canada. Through the North American Mission Board, more than 3,000 missionaries are serving in cities, small towns, rural communities, and college campuses across North America. One hundred percent of every dollar given goes directly to support those missionaries on the field. In recent years, Southern Baptists have given more than 70 million dollars annually to this effort, helping plant thousands of churches and strengthen gospel work in some of the hardest places to reach.

As a Send Network church plant, we are directly connected to that mission. The Branches Community Church exists because of the same heart behind this offering. We are planting roots in Montpelier, a capital city of just over 8,000 people in a state where spiritual need is significant. In a Pew Research study in recent years, roughly 48 percent of adults in Vermont identified as religiously unaffiliated, while only about 45 percent identified as Christian. That means nearly half of the people in our state claim no connection to Christianity at all.

When you give to the Annie Armstrong Offering, you are not supporting something distant. You are investing in church plants like The Branches Community Church and in communities just like ours. You are helping ensure that small cities, overlooked towns, and spiritually dry places are not forgotten. Please pray for missionaries across North America this month, and consider giving as the Lord leads.

*The State Building decorated
for Valentine's Day*

*Photo credit: Real Vermont FB page
(photographer Ali Trombly)*



MINISTRY AT MIDNIGHT

By: Jesse Bradley

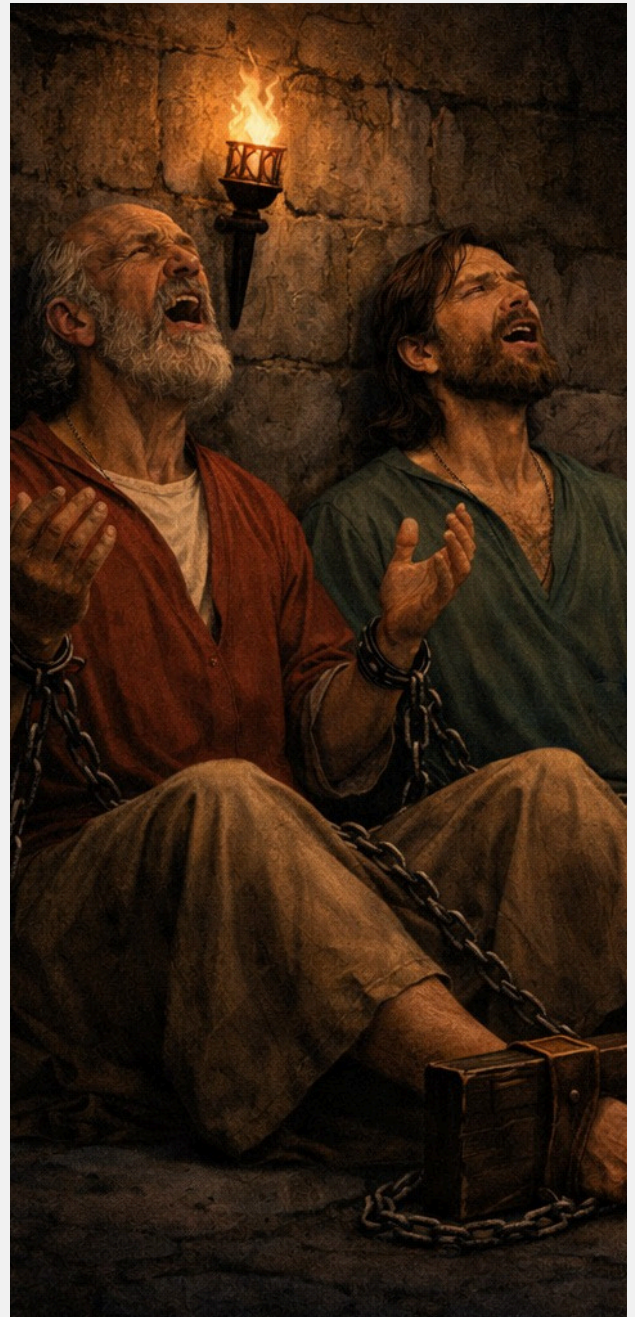
In Acts 16, Paul and Silas are beaten, chained, and locked in prison for preaching Christ. The gospel was not welcomed. Their presence disrupted the city. And yet at midnight, they were praying and singing hymns to God.

They didn't sulk in despair; they didn't question God. They prayed. They praised. And when the moment came, they preached. Because of their response to the situation and the gospel-centered message they preached, that night a jailer and his household were saved.

Starting a church in Montpelier can feel like a midnight assignment. In a state where nearly half of adults claim no religious affiliation, a new gospel-centered church is not always met with enthusiasm. Christianity is often viewed with suspicion. Conviction can be mistaken for hostility. Faithfulness can feel lonely.

But Acts reminds us that midnight is not defeat. It is often the setting for God's power.

Four chapters later in Acts 20, Paul is preaching once again at midnight when a young man named Eutychus falls from a window and dies. The same man who sang in chains is now used by God to bring life back to a fallen young believer. I can't but think that as Paul knelt there embracing this young man, that he recalled the midnight miracle he experienced not even four chapters earlier in his story. The same power God displayed then at midnight is the same power that raised Eutychus from the dead, and it is the same power available to us today!



As we labor, both in Montpelier and wherever God has called you, we should not be surprised if ministry feels like midnight. Scripture tells us that in the last days there will be resistance to truth. But the call remains the same: pray, praise, preach. Trust that God is still opening doors, still saving households, still bringing life where others only see darkness, even at midnight.

HOW YOU CAN PARTNER WITH US



This summer is going to be BIG!

As we prepare to launch The Branches Community Church on July 5, we are asking mission teams to join us in Montpelier to help saturate our city with prayer, invitations, and presence.

For two weeks leading up to launch, we will work to canvas the entire city. Door to door, street by street, we will introduce ourselves and invite people to join us.

Then on July 4, we are hosting a citywide outreach event.

Jamie Murphy, owner of Southern Fusion BBQ, is traveling from South Carolina to serve a free BBQ meal to our community. This is more than food. It is hospitality and connection. It is an open door for gospel conversations.

We need teams to help:

- Canvas neighborhoods
- Pray over homes
- Invite families
- Serve at the July 4 BBQ
- Build relationships that carry into launch Sunday

If your church or small group is looking for a place to serve this summer, come help us lay groundwork for a gospel witness in Vermont's capital city. Let's fill the streets with invitation and the park with welcome.

Online giving available here through Tithe.ly



visit our website for more information

www.802branches.org

802.839.8411 | 802branches@gmail.com