

CELEBRATE ANNIE!

AN EVENT TO REMEMBER A DREAMER IN ACTION

Annie Armstrong's commitment to the Lord and His missionaries set the stage for thousands to learn about, pray for, support, and do missions and tell about Jesus. The Celebrate Annie event will help participants learn more about Annie Armstrong and follow her example.

BEFORE THE EVENT

Prepare

- Gather your event-planning team. Invite people who have a passion for Christ to be involved in planning. Pray for God's direction, His details, and prepared hearts.
- Allow two hours for the event. Be sure to coordinate with church staff to select a date, location, and time that work best in consideration of the entire church's schedule.
- Decide on an event budget and consider other needed logistics, such as a sound system or audiovisual equipment. Ask your team members where they would like to serve and make assignments. Include a setup and cleanup crew.
- Prepare the Annie scavenger hunt, including selecting the items, preparing the numbered printed descriptions, hiding the items and descriptions, and preparing and printing copies of the item list and location clues.
- Prepare for participants to write letters to North American Mission Board missionaries. Select missionaries serving in your state and collect their addresses. Find missionaries by contacting your state convention board or visiting missionaries.namb.net. You can also email info@namb.net for more information. Provide cards and writing supplies. Determine whether your church could provide return address labels and postage stamps.
- Decorate with red, white, and/or blue tablecloths and items representing North America, including Canada and the United States. For centerpieces, use

pictures of Annie or the Annie figure available at wmu.com.

- Order "The Life of Annie Armstrong" leaflets from wmu.com for participants to take home.
- Ensure you have simple visitor information cards for any guests to fill out.

Promote

- Publicize the event using your church's bulletin, newsletter, website, and social media.
- Ask someone to take pictures during the event to post online afterward to encourage participation in future events.

DURING THE EVENT

Welcome attendees and open with prayer. Make sure visitors receive and complete information cards. Share that the celebration begins with learning more about Annie Armstrong and her passion for Christ. She did what she could to further the gospel around the world while living in her hometown all her life. Invite everyone to participate in the Annie scavenger hunt.

• **Annie Scavenger Hunt (30–45 min.)**

Following is a list of suggested items and descriptions that detail Annie's life. You can also find a printable version on page 4. Print this list, or create your own, and cut the page so each numbered item and its description is on a slip of paper by itself. Hide the item with the matching numbered slip that includes the description. (For example, hide a "New Baby" card with the slip of paper that says "#1 'New Baby' card—Annie Armstrong was born July 11, 1850.") The number of items you hide will depend on how many participants you expect, their mobility, and time allotted. If you would like to hide more items with more descriptions, additional resources include wmu.com/annie, anniearmstrong.com, namb.net, *The Story of Annie Armstrong* by Cathy Butler, or

Annie Armstrong: Dreamer in Action by Bobbie Sorrill. You will also need to create a list of the items you hid alongside clues as to where they can be found. (For example, “Look for a ‘New Baby’ card on the desk of the pastor whose birthday is in July!” Be sure to obtain permission.) Print a copy of this list for every participant. Or you may choose to divide the list of items between small teams of participants.

Before the event, hide the items throughout the room or church for participants to find. To start the scavenger hunt, distribute the list of hidden items and clues to where each item can be found. Instruct participants where to begin and point out any areas where items won’t be found (in restrooms, occupied classrooms, or outside, for example). When a person or team finds an item, they should collect it, along with the numbered printed description.

When all items have been found, gather back together. Instruct those who have found items to display their item and read the description, starting with the description labeled #1 and progressing numerically. As participants share, feel free to add details to the descriptions shared and encourage discussion.

#1 “New Baby” card—Annie Armstrong was born July 11, 1850.

#2 Cross—Annie committed her life to Christ at 19 years old and was baptized in December 1870.

#3 Candle—Women from many Baltimore churches began a society “to give light to women in darkness by taking the gospel into their homes through Bible women” (*Annie Armstrong: Dreamer in Action*, pp. 40–41), and Annie’s mother was vice president.

#4 Small box—Members of the Baltimore women’s society kept mite boxes in their homes in which they collected two cents every week, first to support missionaries in China and later for the Foreign Mission Board (now International Mission Board).

#5 Map of China—In 1872, Annie’s church held a dedication service for eight missionaries being sent to China, including Lottie Moon’s sister.

#6 Picture of Annie—The only photo of Annie Armstrong to exist was taken with her back to

the camera. The image of Annie’s face was painted by the artist from memory.

#7 Bible—Annie was a woman of prayer and Bible study. Her motto, drawn from Exodus 14:15, was “go forward.” She was 38 when she became the first corresponding secretary (now executive director) of WMU.

#8 Picture of different people groups—Annie became the first president of the Woman’s Baptist Home Mission Society of Maryland, traveled to Oklahoma to encourage those sharing the gospel with Native Americans, and supported enlisting the first two Black female Southern Baptist missionaries.

#9 Pen—Annie wrote thousands of letters to encourage missionaries in their work and to ask churches to provide funds.

#10 Cookie tin—Annie loved children, baked them cookies, and taught Sunday School classes most of her adult life.

#11 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering envelope—In the early 1930s, in her 80s, Annie agreed to have the offering named after her.

#12 Rock—Annie died December 20, 1938, at 88. People from all over the United States came to her memorial service. “Miss Annie was a dreamer—a dreamer in action. She was a woman of remarkable vision, not visionary but practical, one who dreamed her dreams and then made her dreams come true” (*Annie Armstrong: Dreamer in Action*, p. 290).

• Letter Writing (20 min.)

Share how Annie Armstrong wrote thousands of letters to encourage state, North American, and international missionaries. Give each participant a missionary’s name and address. Instruct everyone to write a note of support and encouragement.

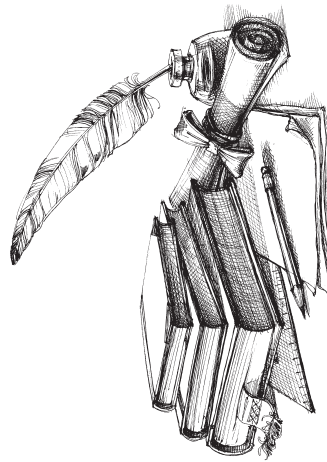
Allow for a time of silent prayer for each letter recipient. Close with prayer for all missionaries.

• Fellowship and Food (20 min.)

Provide snacks and allow time for fellowship. Distribute “The Life of Annie Armstrong” leaflets.

Celebrate ANNIE

Join us in our search
to remember
Annie Armstrong,
a dreamer in action!



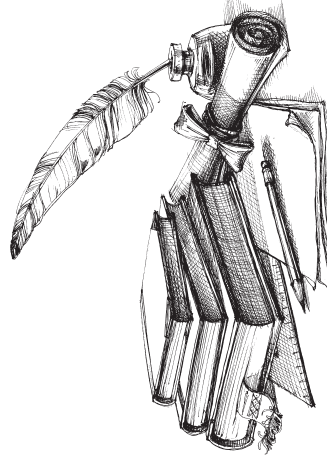
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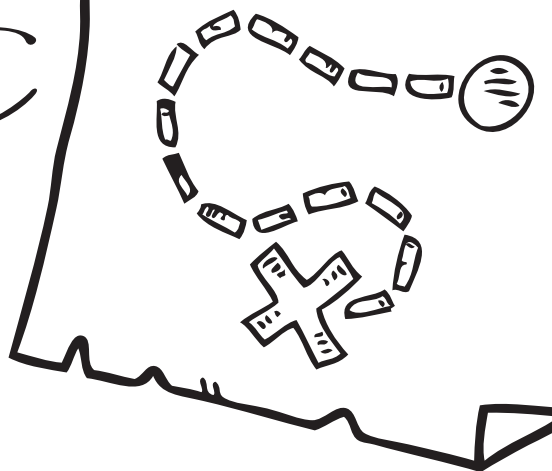
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Celebrate

ANNIE

SCAVENGER HUNT



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Our passion.

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GAIL VEALE enjoys being on mission with First Baptist Church of Darlington, South Carolina.