Oh, What a Year!

A recent headline read, “A Year in Review: 2020 was a year of nonstop awfulness.” 2020 was a different year and in some ways, relentless in her ability to test us, challenge us, and frustrate us. A global pandemic, wildfires throughout the West, racial unrest, and a divisive election cycle were some of the things that we collectively had to wade through. This doesn’t take into consideration the things we faced as individuals or as churches, schools, and organizations. From a 30,000-foot view, a year full of awfulness perhaps is accurate.

Yet when we come down to the ground level, we see some of the not-so-awful. We see God’s people, His church workers, and His church marching forward and advancing the Kingdom of God. The passion, zeal, and desire to make more and better disciples of Jesus is an inspiring sight to behold, and one that we reflect upon here in this In Mission. Throughout the California-Nevada-Hawaii District, we rolled with the punches of 2020 and we adapted to find new online, socially distanced, mask covered, and sometimes outdoor ways to make sure the Gospel was proclaimed, and the church went on.

Our Savior, Paradise, CA continues outdoor worship services while constructing their new building. Their former facility burned down during the 2018 Camp Fire.
As students from St. Mark, Kaneohe, HI returned to school, they learned to use safety gear and practice social distancing.

Like many of our churches, Faith in Yerington, NV moved to an online VBS this year, providing local children with backpacks filled with supplies and filming daily lessons for the children.

Ministry did not stop for our churches this year. Pastor Doua Xiong from St. Paul’s, Merced, CA welcomed a mother and her two daughters into the Lord's family. This was the second family to convert to Christianity since the shutdown.

In the fall, wildfires spread across the region. When firefighters from across the country used Livermore as a staging area (left), local churches, like Our Savior, Livermore, CA (right) and St. Matthew, Rocklin, CA stepped in to provide much needed supplies to the firefighters.

Rev. Joe Robb, CNH Mission Leader and Dr. Tod Bolsinger, author of *Canoeing the Mountains* dialog at Mission West, a tri-district collaborative conference.

This year, we found new ways to learn and worship. A boy tunes in from home to watch Mission West.