



# MARCH 2021 UPDATE

## FELLOWSHIP DENVER FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

I just was looking back at my Instagram post from March 13, 2020 - about a year ago. The caption began like this, "For the next two weeks, we are moving church online and suspending in-person gatherings..."

"For the next two weeks." How naive!

Then I started meditating on everything we've been through in the past year. I thought about spending long stretches confined to home when going for a walk around the neighborhood felt like a vacation. I remembered preaching to an empty sanctuary, one million Zooms, buying my first mask, standing in long lines at the grocery store, injustice and protests and politics.

Then I started meditating on where we are today. Fellowship Denver feels remarkably ALIVE right now! My overwhelming sense is that we not only survived but, taken as a whole, we've matured because of the difficult year we've been enduring.

I don't want to just note that and move on. I want to study it and learn everything I can from it because I'm probably going to need these lessons again before I die.

For many of us, "First to the Lord" and "COVID year" are now synonymous. God has been using generosity *and* struggle to deepen us. In the pages that follow, I want to help you put some words to what the Lord is doing in you and in us. Let's name all the ways He's been working this year.



With love,

Hunter Beaumont  
Lead Pastor

# THE LORD'S WORK **IN** US

## JONNY & KALLE'S STORY

When Jonny and Kalle Heckendorf moved into the Platt Park neighborhood, they decided to check out the church across the alley. Their second time to visit was the launch of First to the Lord. "The video testimonies that were shared every week were very moving," Kalle remembers. "We saw veterans who had been part of the church committed to this process, and it gave it credibility."

This motivated them to jump in. Not only did they make a First to the Lord commitment, but they decided to make an early commitment, to lead out and go first! "I'd like to say we thought about it and took our time," says Jonny. "But we really didn't hesitate."

Their commitment represented several things at once. First, it represented thankfulness to the Lord. "We had been so blessed with many gifts. It seemed right to give back as a way of being grateful to the Lord for how He's provided," says Kalle. "We have these resources. They're really God's. Let's use them for his mission and purpose," explains Jonny. Then he adds, "It also represented our commitment to this church. We're now a member of this community."

In the following months, they saw that committing and giving unleashed other areas of growth. Kalle says, "Our relationship with God has become prioritized. We are more aware of his steadfast presence and love." Jonny reflects, "We've also been holding each other accountable to reading Scripture as a way of putting God first."



That has proven a lifeline during the difficult last year. Not only have they lived through COVID lockdowns and the distractions of online church, it's also been a hard year for their family as Jonny's dad suffered a stroke. "Without God, I'd be in a very dark place," he says. But he's been supported by prayer partners in the church. "I've learned to ask people to pray for me in ways I typically didn't before," adds Kalle.

What are they hoping for in the year ahead? "Picking back up on relationships!" says Kalle. "I'm an in-person, social guy," says Jonny. "It's hard when everything's on Zoom. I'm really looking forward to being back in person."

*Jonny and Kalle Heckendorf are originally from Wisconsin (him) and Colorado (her) and met on a work project in Denver. Jonny has a CPA background and Kalle works in management consulting. You can find them on the Hospitality Team every fourth Sunday as we relaunch in-person gatherings.*



## WHAT IS THE LORD DOING IN ME RIGHT NOW?

As we begin the second year of First to the Lord, it's good to pause and ask, "What is the Lord doing in me *right now*? What is he teaching me *in real time* through this generosity journey?"

Here's a few themes we often hear about how God is at work through First to the Lord. These themes aren't all-inclusive, but they are common threads.

Read each theme and then look up the corresponding Scripture. Ask the Lord to use this exercise to give you words and names for what He is doing in YOU.

- **Growing Perseverance.** We persevere not only when we finish something hard but when we find joy and sustenance in the midst of the marathon. People who grow in perseverance name the thing that is helping them press on, so that they can draw on it again in the future.

**Read: Galatians 6:6-10** ▶

## ► WHAT IS THE LORD DOING IN ME RIGHT NOW? (Continued)

- **Growing Faith.** Faith is the capacity to trust God with the unknown outcome of our obedience, believing that He is always doing good to us even when we don't know what that "good" is. Every time we lean on his character over our ability to control outcomes, our faith grows.

**Read: Hebrews 11:1-31**

- **Growing Giving Capacity.** When our giving capacity grows, it's like a muscle getting exercised. What used to feel like a strain now feels normal. It's possible that in the last year, God has "normalized" what felt at first like a giving stretch. Celebrate your new capacity!

**Read: 2 Corinthians 9:6-12**

- **Learning Contentment.** Christian contentment comes not just from being satisfied with stuff but by enjoying the wealth we always have in knowing God himself. Sometimes the Lord uses circumstances to show us where our real wealth lies.

**Read: Philippians 4:1-13**



# THE LORD'S WORK **THROUGH** US

## IN 2021, FIRST TO THE LORD IS SUPPORTING THIS WORK...

**MERCY, JUSTICE AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT IN DENVER**, coming alongside FDC members who play leadership roles in this work!

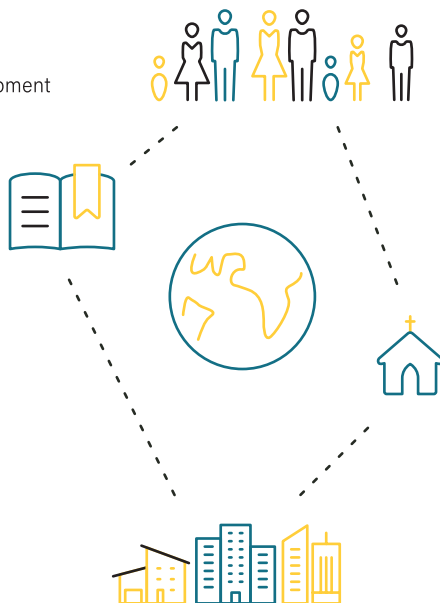
- Hope In Our City – refugee community
- Save Our Youth – at-risk youth
- Denver Institute for Faith & Work – leadership development
- The Cell Church – prison ministry
- Open Door Ministries – homeless

### GLOBAL MISSIONS led by FDC members

- Uriah & Marissa Mundell – Eastern Europe, Cru
- Evan & Bronwen Crowley – Croatia, Josiah Ventures
- James & Lisa Dougherty – Asia, OMF International
- Joni Marble – Europe, World Venture
- Alyssa Alderman – Africa & Middle East, Young Life

### CHURCH PLANTING

- Acts 29 French-speaking Europe
- Redeemer Mumbai
- Fellowship Associates church planting residency



# FIRST TO THE LORD PROGRESS

**FIRST TO THE LORD IS A TWO-YEAR INITIATIVE TO ACCELERATE GOSPEL MOVEMENT IN DENVER AND BEYOND.**

## UPDATE

DECEMBER 1, 2019 - FEBRUARY 28, 2021

GOAL TO DATE:

**\$3.96M**

ACTUAL TO DATE:

**\$3.82M**



**2 YEAR GOAL: \$7M**

***All gifts to Fellowship Denver from December 1, 2019 through December 31, 2021 go toward our \$7m goal. In addition to sustaining all of our current ministry, your contributions will:***

- ***Grow our pastoral staff so as to fully **equip and release our members** for ministry***
- ***Fuel our transition to a **multi-congregational church*****
- ***Supply start-up costs and pastoral leadership for our **second congregation in North Metro*****
- ***Support church planting and **missions** in Colorado, the western U.S, and around the world***
- ***Resource local ministry to our **most vulnerable neighbors*****

### HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT GIVING?

Contact [lia@fellowshipdenver.org](mailto:lia@fellowshipdenver.org) or 303.862.4082

### AUTOMATE THE IMPORTANT

Set up a weekly or monthly giving schedule at [fellowshipdenver.org/give](https://fellowshipdenver.org/give)