



JUNE 2021 UPDATE

FELLOWSHIP DENVER FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Blooming leaves of spring have been matched by blooming faces of the world coming back to life after a 15-month winter of pandemic. It's been great to see many of these faces at church on Sunday!

As we emerge from lockdown and distancing, I'm reminded that the work of being the church did not stop during COVID. It continued on because of your generosity and your involvement. How do I know? Because all over our church, new life is sprouting up, and I know that wouldn't be possible if roots had not already been growing underneath the surface.

In the pages that follow, you'll read about several *new things* the Lord is doing through us. You'll also hear from one couple, Grant and Lia Stone, who have seen God's generosity to them through the trials of the last year.

I hope you'll take a few minutes to read through this update, give thanks to the Lord, and imagine even greater things to come as we keep giving ourselves *first* to Him.



With love,

Hunter Beaumont
Lead Pastor



GRANT & LIA'S STORY

Grant and Lia Stone are some of the most observant people you'll ever meet, with a keen sense of what's going on around them. Grant puts this to use every day in his work as an apprentice electrician, problem-solving on job sites. Lia puts this to work as one of the *less talkative* members of our staff team, whose carefully weighed words and observations always carry weight. We're excited to sit down with them to hear what they're seeing during this First to the Lord season!

The first thing they've been noticing is how much the Lord has given them. It's normal to think that generosity means, "God wants me to give to him and his work." But when our eyes are open, we start to see how generously he provides for us before he ever asks us to give back. Lia explains, "For the first time in my life, I'm starting to see my finances as the Lord's - generously given from him to us to steward."

Since First to the Lord started, they've welcomed their son Atlas. Lia struggled with postpartum anxiety and depression and they wrestled to figure out how to make her new part-time work schedule work. In the midst of that, they also moved to a new neighborhood. And yet, God has been with them through it all. They've loved getting to know their new neighbors and the Lord has seen them through the hard months of transition. Grant reflects, "I'm just starting to see that we have been given huge blessings, and I haven't even quite wrapped my head around it yet. How could it not all be from the Lord?"

They're also noticing how much the Lord has grown their capacity for giving. Grant remembers setting up their new budget and being stretched. Lia reflects, "The stretch amount we came up with when we made our First to the Lord commitment doesn't feel as much like a stretch anymore. It's crazy to think about our potential for generosity, and I want to keep growing into it."

Finally, they are thinking a lot about legacy - both theirs and our collective legacy as a church. "We've all seen estate sales. It's a bunch of stuff that your kids end up having to go through when



you die. But if you have a legacy of being generous, that actually impacts more people than if you had other possessions," Lia reflects. "In the same way, I hope Fellowship Denver is going to be known for making a real impact in the people who go there *and* the neighborhood around them."

Grant and Lia Stone live in Harvey Park with their son Atlas (1.5 yrs), Remy the cat, and Zeppelin the puppy. One of their legacies in FDC is a Fellowship Group they started six years ago that has now multiplied into two groups of 30+ people each.



THE LORD'S WORK **THROUGH** US

THE GENEROSITY WE'RE PURSUING DURING FIRST TO THE LORD IS **HOLISTIC** - GIVING OUR WHOLE SELVES FIRST TO GOD - TIME, ENERGY, RESOURCES AND TALENTS.

With this in mind, we've been asking the Lord to give us new avenues of sharing in the life of our neighbors. **This year, we're launching two new ministry partnerships** as part of First to the Lord!

CROSSPURPOSE SOUTH METRO

CrossPurpose is a career development program for the unemployed and under-employed. They started in North Denver as an extension of Providence Bible Church and have grown into a ministry that now serves 100+ Leaders (program participants) each year who graduate into a sustainable career.

This fall, CrossPurpose is opening a new location on South Broadway (about 2.5 miles south of FDC) to serve South Metro neighborhoods. We're partnering with them and other area churches to launch and sustain this work!

"ABOLISHING ECONOMIC, RELATIONAL AND SPIRITUAL POVERTY THROUGH CAREER AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT"

WE'RE EXCITED TO PARTNER WITH CROSSPURPOSE FOR MANY REASONS, INCLUDING:

- **Need in the neighborhoods surrounding FDC.** Helping start CrossPurpose South Metro is an answer to the tangible needs of our neighborhood. Areas west and south of the FDC building see an above-average portion of neighbors living in "working poverty" - getting by with low-paying jobs and/or government assistance.
- **Proven model for helping people OUT of poverty, based on a robust biblical understanding of flourishing.** CrossPurpose is a 6-month development program that is built around an understanding of "whole people" as God intended them to flourish - through work, community and relationship with Him. They help people grow in all of these areas. The result is that their graduates usually become part of the working middle class, with sustainable and developable skills, and also grow in their faith!
- **Multiple avenues of involvement.** Some FDC folks will benefit by participating in CrossPurpose's program as Leaders (program participants) who develop their career skills. Other FDC folks will benefit by participating as Allies (volunteer mentors) who help a small group of Leaders in their growth.

For more info: Look for CrossPurpose info sessions this summer or visit crosspurpose.org



SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN



Safe Families works with families in crisis to ensure that the children stay safe and to increase the likelihood that the family can stay together. This often involves providing homes for children and support for parents until the family can be reunified.

Like CrossPurpose, Safe Families is *relational and holistic*. They provide a supportive community and resources to struggling parents before it becomes necessary for the state to step in and remove their children.

This spring we launched our Safe Families partnership with the help of our Embrace community!

For more info, visit fellowshipdenver.org/servedenver

FIRST TO THE LORD ➤ PROGRESS

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

UPDATE

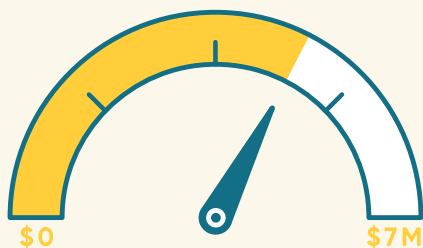
DECEMBER 1, 2019 - MAY 31, 2021

GOAL TO DATE:

\$4.6M

ACTUAL TO DATE:

\$4.57M



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 or 303.862.4082

AUTOMATE THE IMPORTANT

Set up a weekly or monthly giving schedule at fellowshipdenver.org/give