



SEPTEMBER 2020 UPDATE

FELLOWSHIP DENVER FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Like you, I've had my good days, my bad days and my just-surviving days in this bizarro year of our Lord 2020.

Here's what keeps me going: every time I get to talk with you and hear how you're trusting God, how he's growing your faith, how He's provided, and what you're thankful for despite it all, it gives me courage.

That's not pastor-talk. I really mean it. God created us interdependent. We get rejuvenated when we tell each other what he's doing in us. That's why we named the church "Fellowship" 14 years ago.

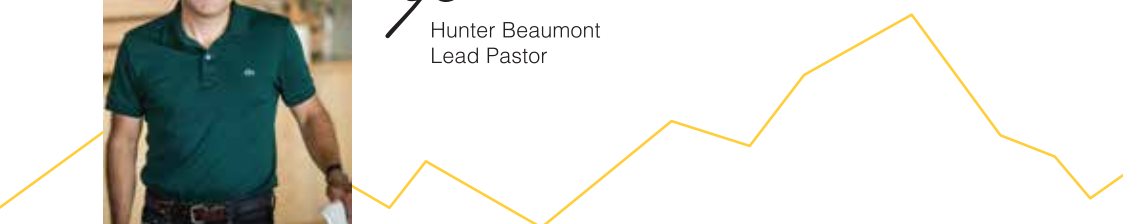
With this in mind, I recently sat down with Grant and Alyssa Alderman (next page) and heard what the Lord has been teaching them in this season. I left that conversation full of confidence in our God, blown away that I get to be part of what He's doing.

In the pages that follow, I hope you too can have this experience, drawing life from what the Lord is doing IN and THROUGH us. It's why we're taking this First to the Lord journey.

With love,



Hunter Beaumont
Lead Pastor



THE LORD'S WORK **IN** US

GRANT & ALYSSA'S STORY

The primary goal of First to the Lord is for us all to take a personal discipleship journey in generosity. Like many, Grant and Alyssa Alderman's journey didn't start to feel personal until they had gotten a few months into it.

"My first reaction when we started the First to the Lord series was, 'Didn't we just finish building our home? Is this really what the church is called to?' says Alyssa. "We had felt stretched and called to help with the building, but we weren't so sure about this next step."

Six months after making a First to the Lord commitment, they started searching for a house, and that's when the journey got personal. "Looking for a house felt hopeless. The budget we had set didn't seem like enough and I felt like something had to give. Honestly, in the back of my head I was thinking, 'We can adjust our giving, give less, and get a better house,'" says Grant. "But First to the Lord is not second to the Lord or leftovers to the Lord, so we had to settle in our hearts that we're going to be OK with what we can afford after giving. Otherwise it's not first to the Lord."

They did end up finding a home, and with it came confidence that it wasn't just their own plan. "First to the Lord shifts where the power is and who's in control. If I was in control, I was going to give less, and it would've been my plan and my house. But if we continue to give, it puts God in control and now it's his plan and his house," says Grant.

They have also gotten to experience First to the Lord from a second perspective. Alyssa works with Young Life Africa/Middle East to raise up future leaders in an under-disciplined part of the world. "I'm a bridge connecting the global body of Christ with the mission to reach teenagers in Africa. But my job can feel more like an island, day-in-day out, like I'm alone. Does anyone see what I'm doing?" she explains.

First to the Lord has allowed Fellowship Denver to partner with her ministry (see next page), and that brings her more than financial help. It also puts wind in her sails. "It's an encouragement to me to know that I can share this ministry with people locally." This is what the Lord promised us when we started. "For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God" (2 Cor. 9:12).



Grant and Alyssa Alderman live in Aurora and are parents to Pierce (3) and Emma (4 months). Grant teaches 5th Grade at Green Valley Elementary School. Alyssa directs sponsorships for Young Life Africa/Middle East and is a freelance photographer.

THE LORD'S WORK **THROUGH** US



PREPARING FOR MULTIPLICATION

Our pastoral team is growing in preparation for what's ahead!



In August, Clark Nunnely started as Director of Community and Mission for North Metro. For his first 90 Days, Clark is meeting with people in Wheat Ridge, Arvada, Westminster, Thornton and Broomfield who don't go to church. He's learning to see the city, life and Church through their eyes. The early returns show many people who are spiritually hungry!

Know someone Clark should meet? Send him a note - clark@fellowshipdenver.org

In October, Fred Choi is joining our team as Executive Pastor. He will work alongside our Lead Pastor and Elders to manage strategic projects, support our staff, build-up all of our operational systems, and create the infrastructure for becoming multi-congregational.

Fred and his family will be moving to Denver from Lansing, Michigan. They have a long history in Colorado (Fred and his wife Dana have lived in Denver and were married in Boulder)! He brings 25+ years of experience in the marketplace and ministry. His past jobs include: ski instructor, rafting guide, capital projects manager, operations director, and pastor. For the last 8 years, he's served as Executive Pastor at Riverview Church.



► MOBILIZING GLOBAL MISSIONS



As part of First to the Lord, we've started a new partnership with Young Life Africa/Middle East and our own **Alyssa Alderman**. They currently serve 203,000 teenagers in Africa and the Middle East, including 78,000 in discipleship and leadership development groups.

To learn more about this work, contact Alyssa - alyssa@ylafrica.com

FIRST TO THE LORD ➤ PROGRESS

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

UPDATE

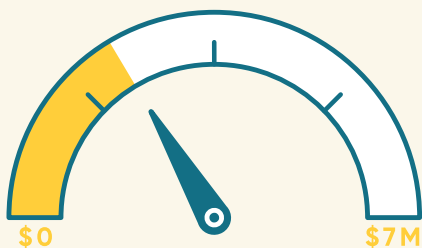
DECEMBER 1, 2019 – AUGUST 31, 2020

GOAL TO DATE:

\$2.24M

ACTUAL TO DATE:

\$2.3M



2 YEAR GOAL: \$7M

All gifts to Fellowship Denver from December 1, 2019 thru 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**

CARES Act Provisions

As you plan for end-of-year giving, make sure you're up to speed on charitable giving benefits provided for in the CARES Act:

Normally, deductions for charitable contributions are limited to 60% of Adjusted Gross Income (AGI). For 2020 only, individuals may deduct up to 100% of their AGI. This presents an opportunity for those planning major cash gifts to greatly reduce their income taxes in 2020.

Unfortunately, this expanded limit does not apply to gifts to donor advised funds. It also applies to cash gifts only. Gifts of appreciated securities are still subject to their normal limit of 30% AGI.

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