



Living Sent

Mission Engagement Annual Report 2021



FIRST PRES

Dear First Pres,

Welcome to this year's **Living Sent**. These pages will tell you a story about a church living on mission for Christ, reaching the world from the heart of Colorado Springs.

First Pres, we are missionaries! We love and support missionaries of all stripes. Church planters. Evangelists. Economic development and poverty elimination experts. But we never forget that we are all, by the authority of Jesus Christ, missionaries right now, right where we are. The stories of our mission and city engagement are inspiring. They inspire us all to remember that we too are appointed in a specific place and specific time to have the greatest impact

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you!
As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."

John 20:21

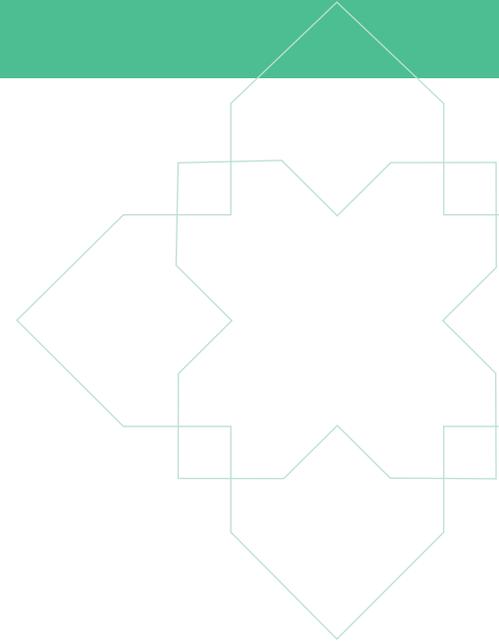
we can have, reaching the world with the love of Jesus.

Be encouraged that your church is living sent and be inspired to live sent in your own place of influence. We are, by the grace of Jesus Christ, sent out to be **Light and Life for the City**.

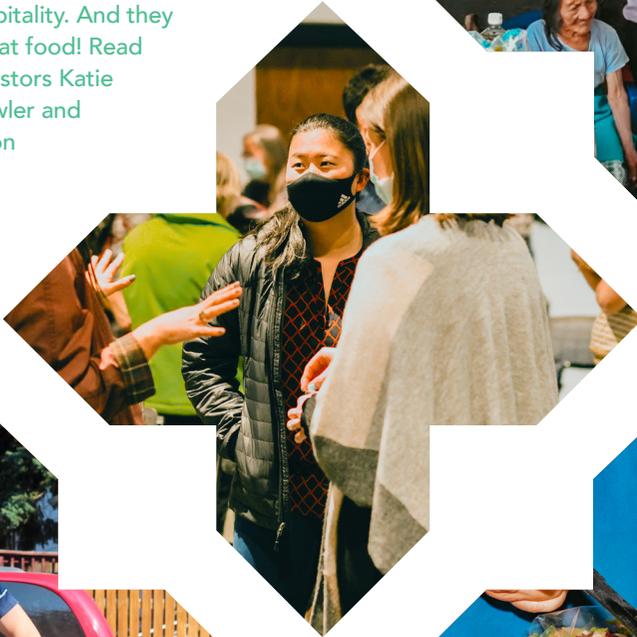
Yours in Christ,



Tim McConnell
Lead Pastor



Cover photo: Young adults from Nova Church in Denver enjoy a summer community event that celebrated the new church, what it means to follow Jesus together, and to be people of justice, peace, grace and hospitality. And they had lots of great food! Read more about Pastors Katie and Chuck Fowler and Nova Church on pages 14-15.



Our Local Engagement Partners



Catholic Charities
ccharitiescc.org

Catholic Charities Provides Help and Creates Hope.



COSILoveYou
cosiloveyou.com

COSILoveYou is a City Gospel Movement in Colorado Springs. Our mission is to unite and ignite the local Church to love the city.



Crossfire Ministries
crossfireministries.org

Providing Hope and Encouragement to Our Community.



Dale House
dalehouseproject.org

A community of young people finding a home away from home and preparing for what's next.



Family Life Services
flscs.org

Moms Build Futures Here.



Family Promise
ihn-cos.org

Family Promise mobilizes our community by advocating for and empowering vulnerable families with children to achieve housing stability.



Fostering Hope
fosteringhopefoundation.org

We strive to create an extended family that surrounds and supports foster families, and we support teens and young adults as they age out of foster care and establish their independence.



Greccio
greccio.org

Our mission is to provide stable, safe, affordable housing, to offer resources for residents to achieve stability, and to promote solutions to the affordable housing needs of our community.



Hope & Home
hopeandhome.org

Hope & Home trains and actively supports Colorado Springs foster families and foster parents all across Colorado who feel compelled by Christ's command to take care of "the least of these."

Life NETWORK

Life Network

elifenetwork.com

Cultivating a community in Colorado Springs that values life through the love of Christ.



Pikes Peak Young Life

pikespeak.younglife.org

Inviting young people to experience life to the fullest.



Lutheran Family Services

lfsrm.org

Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains is a faith-based, nonprofit human services agency providing adoption, foster care, older adult and caregiver, prevention, and refugee services.



Springs Rescue Mission

springsrescuemission.org

To see lives transformed and filled with hope as our community works together to fight homelessness, poverty and addiction.



Mission Medical

missionmedicalclinic.org

As an organization, it is our passion to provide free healthcare to those in need.



The Place

(a former affiliate of Urban Peak)

theplacecos.org

Our vision is that all Colorado youth have safe housing, supportive relationships, and the opportunity for self-sufficiency and success.



Partners in Housing

partnersinhousing.org

Partners in Housing guides families in housing crisis from insecurity to stability, self-reliance and prosperity.



Thrive

thethrivenetworks.org

The Thrive Network's goal is to eliminate economic barriers by providing people in communities with tools to activate and launch their own success, primarily through entrepreneurship.



Pikes Peak Academy

pikespeakacademy.net

Pikes Peak Academy is a private alternative high school that provides a quality education within a Christ-centered environment.

Our Global Engagement Partners

Mongolia

Mongolian Campus
Crusade for Christ

Cuba

First Presbyterian
Reformed Church
of Havana

Egypt

Heliopolis
Evangelical
Church

Guatemala

K'aslem Ala' Youth
Network and Soccoro

Missionaries We Support Around the Globe

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Ecuador

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with Lutheran Family Services
USA

Bill Stackhouse

with Young Life MCYM
Virginia

Andrea Tepley

with Mission Training International
USA



Helping Teens Thrive

Dale House Project

The Dale House is a launchpad for young people to discover meaning and purpose in their lives and prepare for the future God has in store for them.



Anne and Eric Lange stand in front of the original Dale House, built in the 1890s.

Anne Lange knows that home is where the heart is, and that's how she and husband Eric became co-directors of the Dale House Project, which helps at-risk teens. Anne spent nine years working with Dale House as a young adult and a few years later, when her and Eric were dating, she "required" him to go there for Thanksgiving dinner.

"I wanted to see how he would handle that and see if he would appreciate the formative years I spent here," Anne said. "I developed a heart for people while at the Dale House and learned not to be afraid of people's pain."

Dale House's two main goals are to prepare the at-risk residents for independent living and to help the youth leaders pursue a life of ministry. Started in 1972 by George Sheffer III, the Dale House Project (DHP) helps

youth who mostly come to them from the foster care system or the youth justice system. Residents "ideally live at Dale House for six to nine months," Eric said, while they pursue education and jobs. DHP houses 20 residents and has 22 on staff, with the first-year staff and team leaders also living in five buildings—built in the late 1800s—within a block of the Colorado College campus.

"All the residents work on their education—whether that's their GED, high school diploma, community college or trade school," Eric said.

The ultimate success for their residents, Anne said, "is to have a job, live alone, be productive and have money saved. But others still have transformed lives because they build resiliency, have a place to come home to and make friends, and learn

about the love of Jesus. For a lot of kids, this is their last home before they're on their own."

They have Wednesday activity nights, Sunday dinners, Sunday night music and a message, birthday and graduation celebrations, and annual summer trips to Frontier Ranch in Buena Vista and Christmas trips to California.

Anne, who graduated from Fuller, and Eric, a Princeton grad, have three kids—Amos, Jude and Beatrice—and both are ordained Presbyterian pastors. They served as co-interim pastors at a Detroit church from 2017-20 before coming home to Dale House 18 months ago. It's been a blessing for them—and certainly for the kids they help.

Three Rs Key to Ending Teen Homelessness

The Place

The Place ignites the potential in youth to exit homelessness and create self-determined, fulfilled lives.

Everyone deserves a place where they belong, says Shawna Kempainen, who is in her eighth year as Executive Director of The Place, an organization that has served homeless youth in Colorado Springs for the last 20 years.

The Place, formerly known as Urban Peak, ascribes to what Shawna calls “the three Rs: roof, resources and relationships. We all need those things but especially young people in homelessness. Our teams wrap around



young people to help with education, job searching, life skills, mental health service and other healthcare. The key to helping young people take shape in their new life off the streets is to provide much more than a key to a door.”

The Place’s influence has increasingly grown. In 2008, the organization helped eight youth into housing; in 2013 it was 15 kids; this year the number is 118.

The Place helped Chris after two of his friends committed

suicide. Chris was on drugs, got arrested twice, and was bailed out by his parents with the condition he go to rehab. He stayed at the Shelter, got a job with a welding company, and saved money for housing and to buy a truck.

Shawna said on the last day in May 260 youths were homelessness in Colorado Springs. The Place’s shelter had 20 beds full each night, but they want to do more. “Each young person that gets off the street and finds stability saves taxpayers

\$35,000 per year,” she said. “It’s mind-blowing what it does for the young person. Our vision is when a young person falls into homelessness that they find The Place within 24 hours to get off the streets with us or one of our partners and start their journey to a better life.”

She said primary feeders into youth homelessness are the foster care system, LGBTQ+ who are often in the margins, and those exiting the youth justice system.

In the six months from last October to March, The Place served 442 youths, with nearly one-third of those experiencing chronic homelessness.

“The most important thing for those young people is to have a stable relationship with a safe adult,” Shawna said. “It’s exciting to think about our future and helping our youth.”



Blessing With Food

Crossfire Ministries

Crossfire Ministries is a Christian faith-based, nonprofit organization seeking to put God's love into action, dedicated to offering hope and encouragement for a changed life by furnishing the necessities of daily living to those in need.



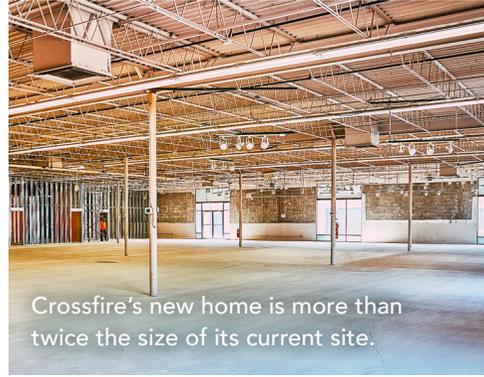
Renee Beebe stood in the middle of a mostly empty 25,000-square-foot building and said, "I have a growth mindset." She smiled broadly, as the building is proof of that attitude. And it's a tangible example of how Renee has helped her parents expand their nonprofit that feeds and clothes thousands of Colorado Springs residents.

Crossfire Ministries has been making an impact in Colorado Springs since 1992 when John and Leslie Miller—Renee's parents—started assisting the community by offering food and hygiene items to those in need. The organization's impact has grown dramatically since then and has even outgrown its longtime home. Renee hopes Crossfire can move into its new building at 3975 N. Academy (near the Austin Bluffs intersection) by this fall, although the pandemic

slowed that process over the last year.

"At the beginning of the pandemic, we felt the Lord telling us to lean in," said Renee, Crossfire's executive director since 2016 and the organization's lone full-time employee. "That meant for us to continue to provide essential services of food and distribution. It also meant that we were to keep heading forward in the purchase of a new facility that He has given vision for."

The new building—it's more than twice as large as the current home of Crossfire—will not only provide a larger shopping area for food, clothes and hygiene items, it will also offer more office space, a breakroom and lockers for volunteers, and a huge warehouse to store food. They'll offer cooking classes in the new kitchen and



Crossfire's new home is more than twice the size of its current site.



will have bigger classrooms for the Children's Literacy Center to tutor kids twice a week. They'll also have a new thrift store that will be open to the public and current clients. The thrift store will be a source of income for Crossfire.

"God has provided above and beyond in amazing ways," Renee said. That includes a gracious donor who will provide the new building rent-free for the first year and will eventually gift the property to Crossfire.

Crossfire's only other paid employee is a part-time volunteer coordinator; they need about 50 volunteers a day but often make do with just 20. "Volunteers are our million-dollar asset," Renee said. "They're our lifeblood."

collecting food at the church on the first Sunday of each month to stock the Crossfire food pantry.

"It's the Body of Christ coming together," Renee said. "Our church partners are a critical part of who we are and the impact we have in our community. Church partners, like First Pres, bring so much to the table—time, talents, treasures! We've seen an increase in volunteers coming to serve from First Pres, the food and hygiene items that are given help get us through each month, and the financial support allows our community impact to grow."

First Pres, through a Give Back the Blessing donation of \$121,107, purchased a new 10x20-foot walk-in refrigerator to keep produce fresh. Renee said that donation was more than \$20,000 higher than than expected and was a further blessing to Crossfire.

First Pres is one of more than a dozen churches that assist Crossfire—either with donations, volunteers or both. First Pres also helps by

Crossfire By The Numbers

2.2 million pounds of food distributed

Services accessed **80,241** times

11,882 unique individuals assisted

150,000 pounds of clothes and linens

80,000 personal hygiene items distributed

1,910 Bibles given away

225 families served each day Tuesday through Thursday



Providing Hope and Opportunity

Springs Rescue Mission



SRM staffer Robert Worrall, third from right, a graduate of their New Life program, is joined by four recent grads and CEO Jack Briggs, far right.



Because of Springs Rescue Mission's love for and obedience to God, their mission is to mobilize the community to provide housing, health and work services.

Five new buildings in the last five years have transformed the Springs Rescue Mission campus, as the 25-year-old nonprofit strives to change lives for homeless people in Colorado Springs.

"We're a community of hope and a campus of opportunity," said CEO Jack Briggs. "We are a Christ-centered, low-barrier rescue mission. We meet

people right where they're at, and we're the last rung on the ladder for them. By finishing the campus, we're much better at integrating the services we provide, at knowing who is here, and providing better safety and security for both the clients and staff."

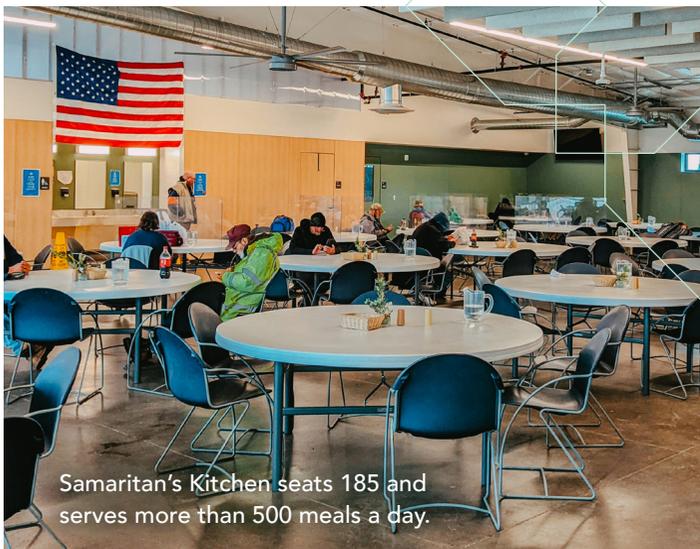
SRM's approach to assisting guests is based on three pillars—health, housing and work. SRM partners with Peak Vista to provide health care, has an incentive-based tiered sheltering program—a night, a week, or longer—to help advance guests out of homelessness, and works with local agencies to help guests find jobs.

"We're an extension of the community—the faith community, the business community, the government community," Jack said. "We work with everybody and

that's unique in Colorado Springs."

The system is working, he noted, and said, "Year over year, we're down 14 percent in unsheltered homelessness and that makes Colorado Springs No. 9 in the nation."

The five new buildings enable SRM to have an even bigger impact on the community. The Shelter Program offers 450 beds a night. The Resource Center offers a daytime shelter, laundry, showers and access to medical, psychiatric, legal and spiritual assistance. The 10,000-square-foot Samaritan's Kitchen seats 185 people and serves more than 15,000 meals a month. Greenway Flats offers permanent housing for 65 previously homeless people. The Welcome Center is a singular point



Samaritan's Kitchen seats 185 and serves more than 500 meals a day.

Jack Briggs, right, became President & CEO of Springs Rescue Mission in October 2020. He's a 1986 graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy and a retired general.



of entry where guests are screened for COVID, drugs and weapons—there's even a new kennel to house their pets during their stay—while hopefully starting their journey toward a better life.

"First Pres is a cornerstone of who we are," Jack said,

noting that the church's contributions over the past several years helped finance the new kitchen and Welcome Center. The kitchen is run mostly by graduates of the New Life addiction recovery program, along with a few volunteers.

"Give it all to God and utilize the tools they give you here," said Ronald Mathis, who is in the New Life program. "It's a blessing to be here and going through the program. When it comes to addiction, we're broken individuals in a fallen world. They receive us here with open arms and I'm trying my hardest to be successful."

"I'm a military man," said Jack, a retired Air Force general. "When I see courage, I see Ronald. Courage is not the absence of fear; it's taking action even when you're afraid."

SRM has 115 on staff—more than double five years ago—including counselors who are available 24/7. A chaplain is on site during business hours.

"We encourage people and walk beside them," Jack said. "We never kick people out if they follow the rules."

The new kitchen served an average of 562 nutritious meals a day in 2020 and spearheads a \$500,000 a year catering business. "The kitchen drives outcomes,

SRM By The Numbers

New Life recovery program celebrated **22** graduates in 2020

Shelter provided **116,906** nights of safe sleep for visitors

265 people were placed in permanent housing

711 participated in the Next Step Program to find a pathway out of homelessness

30,000 showers provided

9,000 loads of laundry provided

1,610 guests received medical assistance

3,006 case manager appointments were kept

not just output," Jack said. "Output is we made 700 meals today. Outcomes are that we used to get 20 people off the street in a year; now it's 20 a month because we integrate the three pillars."

Sharing God's Word In Two New Places

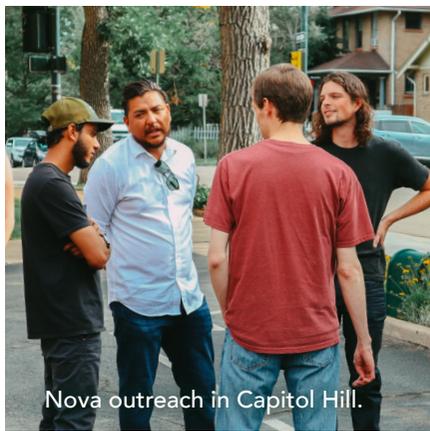
Fowler and Stratman Church Plants



Luke, Chuck, Sam and Katie Fowler



Celebration at Nova Church.



Nova outreach in Capitol Hill.

Pastor Nate Stratman and the married team of Pastor Katie and Pastor Chuck Fowler are the embodiment of Living Sent. They left First Pres, aided by the church's Missions ministry, to start church plants—Katie and Chuck in Denver and Nate in Wilmington, North Carolina.

"We felt this call toward church planting," Chuck said. "It seems God wired us for this."

Katie said the connection to First Pres remains vital to their mission. "It was huge that we were sent off with financial support," she said. "First Pres still shows us great generosity but also people's prayers and calls and friendship shows they're pulling for us. Knowing we're not alone in this is huge."

Nate moved in August 2016 from Colorado Springs to Wilmington, where his wife

Kim had been a teacher when they met, to start Hope Community. He's also the Church Planting Coordinator for ECO and said, "Most church plants don't get the support we get from First Pres. Chuck and Katie and me all say we've had a sending church."

Hope Community doesn't have its own building so services usually rotate between three other church buildings. It got even more complicated during COVID.

"We're very close to a lot of churches in town," Nate said. "During COVID our church was very flexible; I preached under a pecan tree, and we'd tailgate. We'd have 100 people in a semi-circle in a field with the goats and cows. To have a community center or a neighborhood center would be our dream but not having a building is a benefit in some ways."



Nate Stratman



Hope Community children celebrate the birth of Jesus.

It's allowed us to save a lot of money and give a lot of money. We partner with Warner Temple and gave \$50,000 to Eden Village to help buy 32 tiny homes for people experiencing chronic homelessness. We don't want our people to depend on a building, but feel like they were sent to do God's work as missionaries and do his Kingdom's work by responding to the needs of the community and living out our faith."

Nate and Kim—who helps with Hope Community's children's ministry and nursery—have two girls: Ruthie, 14, and Ellie, 10.

"First Pres really believed in us as a family and has been a huge financial resource—not just in Session but the congregation as well," Nate said. "I'm deeply encouraged by still talking to Pastors Tim McConnell and Jennifer Holz."

Katie, along with Nate, is a former pastor at First Pres. She moved to Denver with Chuck and their two boys—Luke, 4, and Sam, 2—in June 2019 to be Co-Lead Pastors at Corona Church in the Capitol Hill neighborhood. They started Nova, the church plant targeted for young adults, in the same building in March 2021,

much later than expected due to COVID.

"We were meeting people in the neighborhood, or in the park, back in 2019 and started a Bible Study at our house, then COVID hit and we morphed into Zoom meetings," Katie said. They preached from their couch, Chuck said, then lives-streamed from their Sanctuary before Corona began reopening in January.

"We talk about three rhythms of worship—discipleship groups, weekly worship gathering and wild branches," Katie said. "Denver is full of young

adults and even if there's a lot of skepticism toward church, we're trying to reach them and we're passionate about what God's doing in our neighborhoods. We believe in this calling from God and excited about the opportunity. It's hard and it's a work in progress."

Katie talked about having patience—along with hope—when it comes to church planting. "Don't overestimate what you can do in a year," she said, "and don't underestimate what you can do in 10 years."

First Pres connected with our sister church in Havana more than 20 years ago and has led 12 trips for more than 100 different people to Cuba since 2008.

Living in Hope

Cuba



Pastor Liudmila

Faith sustained us...

Since March 2020 the Church in the world was forced to carry out its mission and bring the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in very different ways than we had done before. During all this time our church in Cuba has not stopped preaching the Gospel. We have shown the face of Jesus and His love to the world through service to our neighbors. In our country we face several pandemics, we live under pressures that have threatened the life and spirituality of the people.

Amid a supply crisis, lack of medicines, and substantial economic changes for the Cuban family, our goal has been to live in hope and serve through ministries. Unlike other countries, access to technology is still very limited in Cuba, but even so we have continued to accompany the entire community and neighbors with counseling from specialists in psychology, support in the education of children, food and help for the elderly with medicines, washing their clothes and sewing.

a window, and in the midst of great anguish, faith has sustained us. Today we can meet with small groups of up to 20 people.

We do have hope, and we pray that God will allow us to gather and worship together again. We trust that more and more people will get into this boat where we can feel daily that God is in control despite so many storms. We pray daily for our sister churches and know that we are united by the bonds of faith, that we are part of the same body, the body of Jesus Christ.



Cuban children learn to speak English in a class at the church.

Something truly transforming and inspiring has been the intercessory vocation of the Church and the commitment of its members to share their gifts. Pastoral care teams are going outside the homes of church members to pray with people through

By PP. Liudmila Hernández Retureta

Pastor

Primera Iglesia Presbiteriana-Reformada de la Habana

Helio's Outreach Is Growing

Egypt



First Pres first connected with friends in Egypt in 1995 and a more focused partnership with Heliopolis Church in Cairo began in 2011 when Pastor Youssef was invited to a conference by First Pres. Since 2011, First Pres has sponsored five trips to Egypt and Heliopolis Church has visited First Pres twice.

I really want to express my deepest gratitude and thankfulness to the First Pres congregation as they continuously pray for us and show their genuine care and support for their brothers and sisters at Helio Church.

We are thankful for God's work in the midst of our congregation. The spread of the coronavirus is slowing down, and the number of infected cases is decreasing significantly. The Church is now open, and our services are almost back to normal with the church at half capacity.

In late June we celebrated the launching of our new translated Sunday School curriculum. That was a long-awaited dream that God graciously helped us in its fulfillment. This program will be used by many churches within the Synod of the Nile throughout the country and in many Arab countries.

We are having a summer camp for young adults between the ages of 20 and 35. This will be the first of three camps that will focus on biblical studies, including introduction to the Bible

books, history of the Bible, and biblical theology.

In October, we will have a general meeting for the church to elect a group of new elders as the term of the current session will end by next September.

Helio is now planting two new churches in two new suburbs around Cairo. The two churches are growing considerably by God's grace.

As we share with you this news, we are sure that you will join us in prayer that God blesses us as we seek His will and do His work for the glory of His Kingdom.

Blessings,

By Youssef Samir Habib

*Senior Pastor
Heliopolis Evangelical Church*



God Will Always Provide

Guatemala



Since 2018, First Pres has partnered with Vida Joven and Socorro Ministries, which are dedicated to creating local and sustainable opportunities for youth and families. First Pres has seen young adults start 10 small businesses and helped provide access to clean water for hundreds of families.



God has been at work providing resources for our family, providing resources to support the youth and people in need, and He has given us health in the midst of everything.

We have persevered thanks to the support of First Pres and other people who helped us to take the gospel to others in different ways in the midst of COVID-19 through food,

gardens, small farms, economic resources and materials so that the youth businesses could continue in the midst of the crisis and others could have resources to start small businesses in the midst of the crisis.

Difficulty Gives Perspective

The difficulties we lived through at home, like my wife

being unemployed, taught us to depend more on God and to learn to live day-by-day by God's hand and now my wife is more involved in the ministry.

As for the ministry, it taught us that we should be closer to people, be more interested in them, and love them as they are. It taught us that everyone has different difficulties and therefore different ways to help. It taught us that we should know them to help them, and not think for them.

More Seeking Ministry

During this time people have approached us more because they realized how we gave support during this difficult time, and others have had more trust in us. We started a store selling thread for embroidery of local clothing; women came to ask for work and we gave work to five women, and so they receive money for their work. We

accompany 27 new young people in entrepreneurship, with 12 businesses already established with 30 teenagers and nine mentors who support other young people.

Projections

We want to generate a fund for business loans since a large initial capital investment is needed for a business to be sustainable and generate more income.

We want to generate a new fund for teenagers, to work with them at younger ages.

Our goal is to create 40 businesses by 2024, which will benefit an average of 200 young people.

By Eddy Xicay

Director

Vida Joven

Sent to Share Ministry

Mongolia



God provided an opportunity for Gerlee to study at Colorado Christian University after years of prayer and preparation. We came to Colorado Springs in July 2017 with our three children and even before we arrived, the First Pres Mongolia mission team prepared for our stay in many ways. Many people helped us with donations of household goods and furnishings, reduced cost on a rental home, loaned us a car for four years, weekly tutoring for our youngest, and contributed school supplies and books.

Gerlee graduated with high distinction in December 2019 with a master's degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling and did her practical training and internship program at First Pres and the Mongolian church in Denver. We joined a Sunday Community at First Pres, our children participated fully in children's and

youth events, served through those groups, participated in COSILoveYou, and gave themselves fully to all church events. Our son Bayasaa (15 years old) was baptized and confirmed at First Pres. Gerlee assisted in Mission Engagement for global partnerships, in congregational care, and helped call the congregation during COVID. We've made friends in the church and developed ministry relationships.

We met four Mongolian families in COS, celebrated Mongolian holidays, and shared the gospel with them. Gerlee provided counseling to Mongolians who live in Colorado and across the U.S. She led Zoom training for Mongolian families struggling with stress, job loss, isolation, and children during COVID.

We've been involved with the Mongolian Church in Denver, and Bayaraa served on the church council.

Since 2008 the First Pres partnership with Mongolia Campus Crusade for Christ has supported eight leaders to obtain graduate level training, and two more MCCC/ Young Life leaders are attending seminary and master's degree programs. We are sent to one another!



Bayaraa helped start basketball outreach and a national tournament between Mongolian churches.

We gained invaluable experience that will benefit our Mongolian ministry. We have been mentored and assisted with spiritual care, direction and counseling by people who poured out their love, care and precious time. We were set to return home

to the mission field in early August. We were sent to First Pres, sent to other Mongolians living in the U.S., sent to grow the Kingdom ... and sent back to again participate in the ministry of Mongolia Campus Crusade for Christ.

**By Gerlee and Bayaraa
Batkhuayag**

Ministry Leaders
MCCC



Financial Snapshot of Outreach Giving

Outreach giving for each of the last five years has averaged approximately 17 percent of all income into the church.

Part of our generosity picture includes individual gifts, gifts to programs such as Give Back the Blessing, Sunday Community giving to individual missionaries and organizations, and proceeds toward ministries from the First Pres Foundation.

Some years, First Pres gives toward disaster relief such as Hurricane Harvey in 2017. Regardless of the individual needs from year to year that arise, First Pres outreach giving has totaled 17 percent. The chart to the right shows annual outreach giving since 2016.

Thank you!





Financial Snapshot of Give Back The Blessing

Generosity is a hallmark of First Pres and our congregation certainly came through in 2021! Taking to heart the message in Acts 20:35 that "It is more blessed to give than receive," our congregation made this year's Give Back the Blessing the highest in many years. The total of \$141,107 enabled \$20,000 to be donated to global partner Mongolia Campus Crusade for Christ to purchase new technological equipment. That left \$121,107 for local partner Crossfire Ministries to purchase a new walk-in cooler. Since Give Back the Blessing far exceeded the goal of \$120,000 that left resources for Crossfire to also purchase other necessities.



Next Steps to **Live Sent**



Citywide Worship

Friday, October 1 at First Pres at 6:30 – 8 p.m.

The Citywide Worship Gathering is a beautiful opportunity to worship as one Church, celebrating how God is continually transforming the city of Colorado Springs. This ecumenical service will be hosted at First Pres and Discovery Church on Friday, October 1.

CityServe Day

Saturday, October 2

Mark your calendars for this annual citywide day of service as we assist schools, parks, local nonprofit organizations and neighborhoods to address some of the most prominent needs in our city on Saturday, October 2. Find more details by visiting [cosiloveyou.com](https://www.cosiloveyou.com).





Crossfire Monthly Food Drop-Off

First Sunday of each month

Bring non-perishable food and hygiene items to help stock the Crossfire Ministries food pantry, which serves thousands of families in our community with nutritious food at no cost. Find the most urgent needs online by visiting firstprescos.org/crossfire-drop-off.

For more information, visit
firstprescos.org/missionengagement

VISION WEEKEND 2021

August 13-15

An Evening Under The Stars

August 13 at 6:30 p.m.

WEBER STREET LAWN

Rally Saturday

August 14 at 9 a.m.

SANCTUARY

Vision Sunday

August 15

9 a.m. SANCTUARY SERVICE

11 a.m. WORSHIP CENTER SERVICE

[FIRSTPRESCOS.ORG/VISIONWEEKEND](https://firstprescos.org/visionsweekend)



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