

FALL 2023

# THE PULSE

A Quarterly Publication of the Rocky Mountain District of the Evangelical Free Church



**RMD FALL  
CONFERENCE**

**FOR PASTORS & MINISTRY LEADERS**

**RHYTHMS OF A HEALTHY LEADER:**  
To Develop Healthy Ministry Leaders,  
You Need to Be Healthy Yourself

**Jimmy Dodd from PastorServe**

**October 17-18, 2023**  
**Calvary Bible Church**  
3245 Kalmia Ave, Boulder, CO

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Serving our churches and our pastors to multiply God's Kingdom.

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## HISTORIC MINISTRY IN THE INNER CITY

Robert Quintana

Pilgrim Church EFCA is a neighborhood church founded on the historic Christian Gospel—Christ centered and cross focused—with the primary purpose of making Jesus known to our neighbors in the Elyria, Swansea, and Globeville neighborhoods of Denver.

The church was organized Thursday, August 12, 1880 by the Congregational Missions Board and started as a Sunday School outreach in a large tent on the property where the Denver Coliseum is currently located (I-70 at Brighton Blvd.) As the story goes, when the large tent blew over and was severely damaged in the winter of 1881, the emerging and dedicated congregation built a chapel. The chapel was moved to its present location in 1890. The “New Room” was added to the South side of the Sanctuary and then both were remodeled in the summer of 1898. During the summer of 1915, the parsonage was built and the church basement was dug out and completed. Pilgrim began as a Sunday School outreach and grew into a conservative congregation with the desire to proclaim the historic Christian gospel to the glory of God.

John Tobin and Betty Cram contacted Denver Seminary in the winter of 2006 looking for a Pastor. The Provost Dean, Dr. Randy McFarland, contacted me and asked if I would consider meeting with Pilgrim’s leadership. My wife Karen and I began a series of meetings with the leadership of Pilgrim. As they say, the rest is history! In 2007, I formally accepted Pilgrim’s call to be their next pastor. Pilgrim then became a member of the EFCA in 2010 and soon after, I transferred my ordination credentials to the EFCA Rocky Mountain District. Both Pilgrim Church and I were accepted into the EFCA a few years after meeting Cary Schnur and hosting several outreach events with Pastor Bruce Duell, Pastor of Ancient Paths Church Network. Cary and Pastor Bruce are dear friends.

There were four challenges that shaped the ministry of Pilgrim Church through her long history. The first challenge was the clergy sent to Pilgrim from a seminary that harbors liberal-modernist theology, second, the loss of anchor businesses in Elyria, Swansea, Globeville, and Montbello neighborhoods, third, the resultant crime and financial problems as the neighborhoods deteriorated, and fourth, the more recent COVID restrictions.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3.



PREACH  
THE WORD;  
BE READY  
IN SEASON  
AND OUT  
OF SEASON...





# HISTORIC MINISTRY IN THE INNER CITY

Continued from page 2.

From her launch, Pilgrim’s congregation was conservative and believed in the historic Gospel but much later, in the 1970’s, the wing of Congregationalism that had championed modern theology sent a succession of liberal ministers which hindered the evangelical ministry of Pilgrim Church. While the ministers sent to Pilgrim were spurious, several founding families kept alive the faith once delivered to the saints. Some of those who fought against the onslaught of compromise were Cram, Damian, Tobin, Sallee, and Mann; some of whom remain with Pilgrim to this day while others are enjoying their heavenly rest.

While wrestling with a rapid succession of unorthodox ministers, Pilgrim Church also had to meet the challenge of a changing neighborhood due to the departure of several key businesses that employed several hundred neighborhood residents. Large businesses like Oscar Meyer (Cudahy), Eaton Metal, and Bar S Packing Houses, left the surrounding neighborhoods. Long term residents began to move, their houses becoming rentals. Other socio-economic factors began to erode the neighborhood and Pilgrim Church decided “to preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction” (2 Timothy 4:2-8). Further, Pilgrim Church is dedicated to the great commission. Jesus said, “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age” Matthew 28:18-20.

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Robert and Karen Quintana have been serving Pilgrim Church since 2007.



## MINISTRY IN THE INNER CITY

**Bruce and Karen Duell**

We came to Denver in 1988 to minister in the inner city of Denver under the Evangelical Free Church. Our church is called Ancient Paths. The headquarters of the EFCA said we needed to reach our inner cities in America and we felt the call to minister to the urban/ethnic poor in the US. They are often a forgotten group in our country. We have worked with the physically and mentally disabled, single Moms, youth in the inner city, and the elderly who have little to no family support in government subsidized housing.

Also, Karen has had the opportunity to work with immigrants through her former job in Denver Public Schools. Families came from 64 different countries and speak over 40 different languages. Her home visits were touching as she learned about various families experiencing war and starvation.

It has been a wonderful experience to see those who have been 'neglected' or 'forgotten' come to know Jesus and find hope and love in the name of Jesus! We have been so blessed by our supporting churches that have helped in so many ways. Some of our youth have come to know Jesus through camps and youth groups. Many have helped with school supplies for families and food.

We have also partnered with Robert Quintana to reach out to families in the inner city through Summer Missions where our supporting churches have come and volunteered to reach out with us! We are blessed beyond measure and so very thankful for God's grace!







## WORLD EVANGELISM: THERE IS HOPE!

Dick Grady, Elder, Magnify EFC, Colorado Springs, CO

Despite hundreds of thousands of missionaries being sent and hundreds of millions of dollars being spent, evangelistic growth around the world has not been keeping up with population growth. Those who claim to be Christian by any definition declined from around 33% of the world's population in 1900 to about 31% by 2000. A recent study in Canada revealed that those who would call themselves Christian declined from 77% in 2001 to just 53% by 2021.

Yet, there is hope. The Lord is multiplying small house churches among groups of previously unreached, resistant peoples in an astounding way.

According to the Center for the Study of Global Christianity, between 1990 and 2020, small house churches grew in number four times faster than any other segment of the Christian population. One network of multiplying house fellowships, with which I'm connected, sustained an average annual growth rate of nearly 70% every year from 2006 until 2020. The pandemic resulted in the death of hundreds of their leaders. Discipleship and leadership development was also impacted by COVID travel restrictions. But even through the pandemic, this network has recorded nearly 30% average annual growth. Would we not like to be able to invest our retirement funds at that rate of return?



Researchers have been tracking the growth of these multiplying house churches. In 1995, we knew of 1219 house churches in these emerging movements. By 2022, that number had exploded to nearly seven million. More than 100 million people have come to Christ and are growing as disciples in these churches, mostly from Buddhist, Muslim, and Hindu backgrounds. This is over 1% of the world's population and these numbers continue to grow dramatically. Most of this growth is in South and Southeast Asia.

What accounts for this growth? There are many factors. But here are a few that I constantly observe:

**Passionate unceasing prayer:** I was chatting with a movement leader from Western Africa and asked him to describe his prayer life. It started early in the morning with extended times of personal prayer. He then gathered with his leadership team for another hour of prayer. He has several specific times during the day at which he stops what he is doing to engage in conversation with the Father. He then gathers with his team again each evening for an hour of prayer. This lifestyle of prayer is typical of the leaders throughout these movements.

**Bold Continuous Evangelism:** A movement leader from Southeast Asia shared that she had shared the gospel personally with about a hundred of her closest neighbors. This same leader was leading two different house churches on Sunday and other house churches five other nights during the week while working full-time to support her family.

**Simple tools producing obedient disciples:**

Many of these house churches use a seven-question model for discipleship. Every time they meet, they use the same seven-question pattern:

What are we thankful for this week?

What needs are we aware of that the group might be able to help meet?

They then read a passage from the Bible and ask, "From this passage,

What do we learn about God?

What do we learn about Jesus?

What do we learn about ourselves?

As a result of what we studied today, what is God asking me to do?

Who am I going to talk to this week and share something of what the Lord has spoken to me in our time together?

What might happen in our ministries if we were as passionate in prayer, as bold in evangelism, and as simple in our methodology?

# Pray Together

LET'S PRAY EARNESTLY FOR THE CHURCHES IN OUR DISTRICT. PLEASE CLICK [HERE](#) FOR A HELPFUL PRAYER GUIDE. YOU MAY USE THE CALENDAR BELOW TO LIFT UP EACH CHURCH ON ITS DESIGNATED DAY.

## SEPTEMBER

1. Aurora, CO - Harvest Community Church
2. Aurora, CO - New Life Community Church
3. Aurora, CO - Iglesia El Camino Church
4. Black Hawk, CO - Rocky Mountain EFC
5. Boulder, CO - Calvary Bible EFC
6. Boulder, CO - Chinese EFC
7. Broomfield, CO - Calvary EFC
8. Burlington, CO - Evangelical Free Church of Burlington
9. Canon City, CO - Evangelical Free Church of Canon City
10. Casper, WY - Cornerstone EFC
11. Castle Rock, CO - Ridgeline Community Church
12. Cedaredge, CO - New Hope EFC
13. Centennial, CO - Bethany EFC
14. Centennial, CO - Fellowship Community EFC
15. Centennial, CO - Vida Nueva Church
16. Cheyenne, WY - Cheyenne EFC
17. Colorado Springs, CO - Covenant Grace EFC
18. Colorado Springs, CO - Cross & Crown Church
19. Colorado Springs, CO - Faith EFC
20. Colorado Springs, CO - First EFC
21. Colorado Springs, CO - Magnify EFC
22. Cortez, CO - Grace Fellowship EFC
23. Crook, CO - United EFC
24. Custer, SD - Crossroads Church
25. Denver, CO - Ancient Paths Church
26. Denver, CO - Chinese EFC
27. Denver, CO - Pilgrim Congregational Church
28. Divide, CO - Little Chapel of the Hills
29. Douglas, WY - Lighthouse Church
30. Eaton, CO - Evangelical Free Church of Eaton

## OCTOBER

1. Erie, CO - Calvary Bible EFC
2. Estes Park, CO - Rocky Mountain Church
3. Evergreen, CO - Bergen Park Church
4. Florence, CO - The Pulse
5. Fort Collins, CO - Chinese EFC
6. Fort Collins, CO - Faith Church
7. Gillette, WY - Living Rock Church
8. Golden, CO - Whispering Pines EFC
9. Grand Junction, CO - Living Hope EFC
10. Greeley, CO - Christ Community EFC
11. Greeley, CO - Mountain View EFC
12. Hot Springs, SD - Southern Hills EFC
13. Johnstown, CO - Cornerstone EFC
14. Lander, WY - Lander Free Church
15. Laramie, WY - Snowy Range EFC
16. Littleton, CO - Red Rocks Fellowship EFC
17. Littleton, CO - Southwest Community Church
18. Longmont, CO - Grace EFC
19. Louviers, CO - Faith EFC
20. Mead, CO - Abundant Life Church
21. Milesville, SD - Hardingrove Community EFC
22. Montrose, CO - Cedar Creek Church
23. Monument, CO - Cathedral Rock Church
24. Newcastle, WY - Gateway Fellowship Church
25. Okaton, SD - Okaton EFC
26. Ouray, CO - Ouray Christian Fellowship
27. Pagosa Springs, CO - Grace in Pagosa
28. Palisade, CO - Central Orchard Mesa Comm. EFC
29. Philip, SD - Community EFC
30. Peidmont, SD - Hills View EFC



# Pray Together

## NOVEMBER

1. Peyton, CO - Aspen Ridge Church
2. Pueblo, CO - Grace Life Church
3. Pueblo West, CO - The Peak EFC
4. Rapid City, SD - Parkview EFC
5. Rapid City, SD - Rimrock EFC
6. Rye, CO - Table Mountain Church
7. Seibert, CO - Trinity Hill Church
8. Steamboat Springs, CO - Steamboat Bible Church
9. Thornton, CO - Galvary Bible Church
10. Timnath, CO - Christ The Rock Community Church
11. Wall, SD - Evangelical Free Bible Church
12. Windsor, CO - Evangelical Free Church of Windsor
13. Rocky Mountain District (RMD) Superintendent
14. RMD Director of Multiplication & Leadership Development
15. RMD Staff
16. RMD Leadership Team (DLT)
17. RMD Director of Multiplication & Leadership Development
18. RMD Finances
19. RMD Church Planting Leadership Team
20. RMD Student Ministries Consultant
21. RMD Student Ministries Team
22. RMD Board of Ministerial Standing Chairman
23. RMD Board of Ministerial Standing (Credentialing Team)
24. RMD Healthy Church Networks (HCNs)
25. Pray for RMD Churches searching for pastors
26. EFCA District Superintendents (17 total)
27. EFCA Chaplain Director and Endorser
28. EFCA President and Vice President
29. EFCA National Board of Ministerial Standing
30. EFCA Hispanic Ministries Director
31. Pray for those planning the Spring Conference

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