

SPRING 2024

# THE PULSE

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

**Blessings Rocky Mountain District Churches,**

**We have some great news to share with you in this edition of The Pulse newsletter.**

**First, we want to invite you to attend our RMD Spring Conference at Faith Church in Fort Collins, CO on April 16-17. Dr. Larry Osborne will be sharing on "Dynamic Leadership Practices" and we will be offering a variety of workshops, as well as some times of worship and fellowship. For more details about the conference and to register, visit our RMD website: [www.rockymountaindistrict.org](http://www.rockymountaindistrict.org).**

**In this edition of The Pulse you will have an opportunity to celebrate what God is doing in and through our District and pray for the churches within it. You will read about how RMD Grants have impacted two of our churches as they used the funds received to impact lives in their community. If you want to apply to receive one of the RMD Grants, please go to our RMD website for more information. Finally, you will read about one of our church planters who is planting a church in Loveland, CO.**

**We invite you to pray, as well as give to our District, as we seek to support, provide resources, and encourage our 75 churches to fulfill their local church mission. Thanks for taking time to celebrate what God is doing.**

**Praying,  
Rev. Barry Vegter  
District Superintendent of the RMD**



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

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MULTIPLICATION & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT  
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Mark Vaporis Credentialing

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EFCA ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT  
SPRING CONFERENCE

# DYNAMIC LEADERSHIP PRACTICES

April 16-17, 2024

Faith Church  
Ft Collins

Larry Osborne is a Teaching Pastor and Kingdom Ambassador at North Coast Church in Vista CA where he previously served as Senior and Lead Pastor, helping to oversee the church's growth from 128 to over 13,000 in weekend attendance with 7 local campuses.

A sought-after trainer of pastors, leaders, and church planters, he has been acclaimed as one of the most influential and innovative pastors in America for pioneering such concepts as sermon-based small groups, pastoral teaching teams, video venues, and multisite churches. His fingerprints are found on churches throughout the world.



**DR LARRY OSBORNE**

Larry's leadership books:  
Lead Like A Shepherd,  
Sticky Church, Sticky Teams,  
Sticky Leaders,  
Mission Creep, and  
The Unity Factor.

## FREE TUESDAY EVENING EVENT

Hear Larry Osborne's encouragement for leaders!  
6:30 PM at Faith Church in Ft Collins  
Guests welcome! No registration needed for this session.

**REGISTER AT ROCKYMOUNTAINDISTRICT.ORG**  
Full price is \$80. Early bird and couples discounts available.  
Scholarships are available upon request.

# FAMILY FUN IN THE SQUARE!

John Byerly, Lighthouse Church in Douglas, Wyoming

Lighthouse Church in Douglas, Wyoming received a grant from the Rocky Mountain District which enabled us to host an event we named “Family Fun in the Square.” It was held on July 27 from 5-7 pm. The event ended a little later than intended because folks were having such a great time!

Sixteen of our members helped to host on the day of the event and we had about 150 people come through to enjoy the festivities. The number attending was slightly lower this year because of weather concerns as it rained earlier in the day, but our percentage of kids and young families was up. We provided free BBQ and snow cones, enjoyed music, bounce houses, face painting, played family games, and held a sidewalk chalk contest!

We advertised heavily to the whole community and we were able to have significant personal interaction with the whole crowd who attended, including three families that we hope will begin attending our children’s ministry.

In preparation for the day, we talked through and prayed over the event with our folks. One significant reminder was that this event is always an “opportunity to invite ourselves into our neighbor’s context.” What this means is that while a two hour event does not always allow for Gospel Evangelism, it allows us to connect where people are comfortable so that we can initiate relationships that will allow us opportunities to speak into their lives. We encouraged our people to not only facilitate that atmosphere, but to be a part of initiating discussion and meeting people where they are and praying for those folks if able.

We were able to train our people in engagement and to furnish an opportunity for them to serve their community and to understand daily activity and entering another’s context in order to live out the gospel practically. We did not have any salvations to report, but by gauging interest, we hope to see a significant jump in our children’s ministry numbers, possibly even double, from this event and from that, grow our impact on those families as a whole. Our people were reminded to take church to the community and to pray over it. Thank you! We are grateful for the help of the RMD!



WE MUST LOOK  
FOR OPPORTUNITIES  
TO INVITE OURSELVES  
INTO OUR NEIGHBORS’  
CONTEXT.



# THE GODLY PARENTING CONFERENCE

EmmaJulia Edsall, Living Rock Church in Gillette, WY

This October Living Rock Church hosted “The Godly Parenting Conference” in Gillette, Wyoming. It has been almost a year since receiving a \$4,000 grant from The Rocky Mountain District EFCA to host a parenting conference and it has been interesting to see how the Lord has opened and closed doors. Originally, our hope was to have Ted Trip, author of “Shepherding A Child’s Heart” come speak in Gillette. Unfortunately, the very week we received the grant, Mr. Trip announced he would no longer be traveling for speaking engagements. While we knew Mr. Trip would no longer be an option, our church still felt called to host a parenting conference both for our families and the families of Gillette. However, that would prove to be more difficult than we thought. I personally spent months trying to find another speaker and read upwards of 20 parenting books. But I was disappointed with the material. Authors seemed to either lean towards legalism in parenting or no discipline or discipleship at all, neither of which are biblical. I felt stuck. I knew we wanted a speaker who would discuss parenting being the work of bridging the gap between a child’s head and heart, but I couldn’t find an author who believed that and was willing to travel. So we committed to prayer, trusting that God would provide the right speaker at the right time.

Then, in the spring of 2023, “Godly Parenting In An Ungodly World” by Andrew Linder came out. I was instantly intrigued as Mr. Linder was using similar language in his book description as we had prayed for.

*“Raising Christian kids in today’s world is tough but not impossible. The key is found in parenting your child’s heart not just their head. However, many Christian parents settle for raising good kids instead of godly adults by trying to control their child’s behavior rather than cultivate their child’s heart. And there’s a big difference. God has trusted parents with the amazing privilege of raising a human life and directing an eternal soul. This requires more than just managing how a child acts in the moment, but an intentional effort at parenting a child’s heart for a lifetime.”*

After reading the book, it was exactly what we were praying for. Both encouraging and convicting, Mr. Linder’s message is Gospel centered, continually pointing parent’s towards Christ. Reminding parents that we can only love our children through the love that Christ has shown us while teaching them that, like our hearts, our children’s hearts can only be changed through the work of the Holy Spirit. This was exactly the message that we hoped to share with the families of Gillette so after having several families read “Godly Parenting In An Ungodly World” we invited Mr. Linder to come speak and “The Godly Parenting Conference” was born.

On October 6-7, 55 parents came to hear Andrew speak. About half of the attendees were from Living Rock while the other half were from outside our church family. There were families in all stages of parenting from grandparents to young couples without kids. They heard lessons on True vs. Traditional Christian Parenting, Biblical Discipline in the Home, Biblical Discipleship in the Home, and Leading Your Child to Christ, as well as being able to participate in a Question and Answer time at the end.

(Continued on page 4.)

“GOOD CHILDREN ARE  
BEING TRAINED TO BEHAVE  
BY FOLLOWING RULES.  
GODLY CHILDREN ARE BEING  
TRAINED HOW TO LIVE BY  
FOLLOWING JESUS.”



Author and speaker Andrew Linder



## THE GODLY PARENTING CONFERENCE Continued from page 3.

One Mom commented, “As a pastor’s wife I feel like it’s my job to pour into a lot of other families. But this made me realize that, while my kids are young, I need to be pouring into my own family more. I need to be more intentional about discipling my own kids!” Another father expressed his gratefulness at how much Andrew spoke of forgiveness of past mistakes. He said he has been wrestling with past absences and addiction. He said that since Christ has shown him grace, he was able to find peace with his past, and can go forward with his children in grace.



During the conference, we offered free childcare that included a Vacation Bible School style program. While their parent’s attended the conference, 75 kids from birth to fifth grade heard the Gospel and learned the Fruit of the Spirit. Kids from our church are still breaking out in song singing, “Love-joy-peace-paitence-kindness-goodness-and-self-controooooooooo!” There was one second grade boy who decided to spend the whole time in the “quiet room” with one of the volunteers. This older gentlemen and little boy spent the entire conference crafting and talking about Jesus. The volunteer said, “I grew up in church and didn’t really understand the Gospel until I was much older. I wanted this little boy to understand and be able to ask questions.” The childcare took over 25 volunteers and was definitely the most involved part of the conference. We were at the maximum of children our building and volunteers could handle. However, 75 children heard the Gospel and that is invaluable.

Since the conclusion of “The Godly Parenting Conference” we have had a lot of positive feedback. We have had several people comment on how organized our Conference Leadership Team was. Mr. Linder said that he has spoken at much larger conferences that were not nearly as prepared or thoughtful as ours. Many people were surprised that this was the first time we had hosted something like this because, “it ran like a well oiled machine.” While I was slightly disappointed in the number of attendees, I was hoping for 100+, I do believe that God brought the people who needed to be there. Several parents said they were encouraged, helped, and motivated in their parenting journey. There were even some couples who shared their desire to invest “The Godly Parenting” content into other parents through small group settings.

Overall, “The Godly Parenting Conference” was a huge success! With God’s blessing, we were able to host a parenting conference when just a few years ago that seemed like an impossible dream. But from the timing of Mr. Linder’s book release to exactly the right number of volunteers for childcare, we were able to see God provide over and over again. Of course, a huge part of that was the grant from the RMD. Thank you so much for your financial support. Words cannot express the gratitude we feel and the lasting impact this will have. Parents were encouraged, children heard the Gospel, and seeds are planted for generational change! We were even able to supply Mr. Linder with promotional materials and physical supplies for other churches to host “Godly Parenting Conferences.” Your gift will be used for countless other families to be changed by the power of the Gospel! Thank you and praise God!





## LOOKING BACK TO LOOK FORWARD!

Caleb Haynes, Church Planter, Fort Collins, Colorado

In February 2023, my wife Brittany, our son Obadiah, and I packed up all our belongings and made the move from Chaska, Minnesota to Fort Collins, Colorado. This move was one step in a much larger journey that God has been leading us through. Back in 2022, we sensed that God was calling us in a new ministry direction. As we prayed over and explored what God was laying on our hearts, we were surprised to be drawn to the ministry of church planting. This was a totally unknown calling to us and seemed intimidating and unpredictable. Yet, we clearly felt our hearts drawn toward the ministry.

As we first explored church planting, we were overwhelmed by the amount of things that would have to happen to successfully plant a church. It seemed impossible. Thankfully, God connected us with Kevin Boaz and the RMD to help encourage us in the process. Instead of trying to map out the whole process from start to finish, we were encouraged to prayerfully take one step at a time and see how God worked in our lives. After all, if this calling was from God, then we could trust Him to not lead us astray.

Since our move, I've found hiking to be an excellent picture of our journey. For a majority of my life, I veered away from hiking because it seemed like too much work for too little reward. If I want to see spectacular views, couldn't I just get some cool nature pictures for my computer background? It turns out that having actual mountains out my window was an excellent motivator for adventure. In no time at all, I decided to explore some local hiking trails to see what the fuss was about. While the short and gentle trail I hiked on was easy by Colorado standards, it may as well have been Everest to my midwestern legs and lungs. I shouldn't have enjoyed it. And yet, on one of my numerous rest breaks, I happened to look back over my progress and I was met by a breathtaking view. In that moment of exhaustion and awe, I was hooked.

Likewise, church planting was an unknown to me. I had heard great stories of church plants, but had never seen myself participating. That is, until the Holy Spirit started drawing us toward the calling. As we learned more and seriously considered this path, the stories of other church planters and the ways that God had shown up in their lives were inspiring and captivating. And, it was in our own exploration of this calling that we started to gain a greater awareness of how God was actively leading and guiding our own story.

As we pause and look back over the last year, we are amazed to see God's hand in our story. While we were daunted by the work ahead of us, God has graciously guided us further than we ever expected. He has provided funding, a vision, a target community (Loveland), a name (Pioneer Grove Church), and the beginnings of a church planting team from within our sending church (Faith Church). That's not even to mention how God had grown our family by blessing us with our daughter Lydia in the midst of this move and life change.

When we accepted the call to come and plant a church in Northern Colorado, we didn't have the slightest idea that any of these things would happen. And yet, God has brought us to this point and we can stand in awe. As we look ahead at the other things that may be daunting in the church planting process - continued support raising, building our launch team, finding a meeting location, finding a launch date, etc. - we have a great confidence that God will provide exactly what we need and lead us to the right decisions. One year from now, I can't wait to look back over 2024 and see the story that God has written. For now, we will trust the author and follow Him one step at a time.

WE WILL TRUST  
THE AUTHOR  
AND FOLLOW HIM  
ONE STEP  
AT A TIME...



CALEB, BRITTANY, OBADIAH & LYDIA HAYNES

# 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.

## MARCH

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. Cañon 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
31. Erie, CO - Calvary Bible EFC

## APRIL

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

# Pray Together

## MAY

1. Pueblo, CO - Grace Life Church
2. Pueblo West, CO - The Peak EFC
3. Rapid City, SD - Parkview EFC
4. Rapid City, SD - Rimrock EFC
5. Rye, CO - Table Mountain Church
6. Seibert, CO - Trinity Hill Church
7. Steamboat Springs, CO - Steamboat Bible Church
8. Thornton, CO - Calvary Bible Church
9. Timnath, CO - Christ The Rock Community Church
10. Wall, SD - Evangelical Free Bible Church
11. Windsor, CO - Evangelical Free Church of Windsor
12. Rocky Mountain District (RMD) Superintendent
13. RMD Director of Multiplication & Leadership Development
14. RMD Staff
15. RMD Leadership Team (DLT)
16. RMD Finances
17. RMD Healthy Pastor Networks
18. RMD Church Planting Leadership Team
19. RMD Student Ministries Consultant and Team
20. Pray for our pastor's wives and children
21. RMD Board of Ministerial Standing Chairman
22. RMD Board of Ministerial Standing (Credentialing Team)
23. Pray for RMD Churches searching for pastors
24. Pray for Regional Care Pastors in the RMD
25. Pray for prayer saturation to take hold in the RMD
26. Pray for Caleb Haynes, Church Plant, Loveland, CO
27. Pray for Jim Kimbriel, Church Plant, Elizabeth, CO
28. EFCA District Superintendents (17 total)
29. EFCA Chaplain Director and Endorser
30. EFCA President and Vice President
31. EFCA National Board of Ministerial Standing
- 31a. EFCA Hispanic Ministries Director

THE PULSE IS A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT OF THE EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH OF AMERICA SENT TO MEMBERS OF EFCA CHURCHES WITHIN THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT

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### DONATIONS

Tax deductible donations for the Rocky Mountain District  
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