

WINTER 2024

THE PULSE

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

Church Planters Aren't Anything

Kevin Boaz

Director of Multiplication and Leadership Development

*“So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything,
but only God who gives the growth.”*
-1 Corinthians 3:7

This is such a powerful verse that is needed in our world today where churches, plants, pastors, and planters seem to be valued based on numerical growth. Paul goes on to give us some clarity on our role in this amazing privilege of planting and watering.

“He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.”
-1 Corinthians 3:8-9

Planters and waterers are one; both are fellow workers investing in God's people. Sometimes, God causes the harvest to be plentiful, and other times growth comes in small, almost imperceivable steps. Success, then, is based on faithfulness in planting and watering. As a district, our privilege is to come alongside our laborers in prayer, asking for the Lord of the harvest to transform lives, communities, and families through the faithfulness of our planters, pastors, and congregations.

Would you take time to thank God for our current planters and pray for God to provide transformational growth through their faithful labor?

Pray for our current planters—
the Byerly, Haynes, Luebe, Kimbriel, Nielsen,
and Sobecki families.



ROCKY MOUNTAIN
DISTRICT EFCA

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

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Rev. Erik Valenzuela Iglesia El Camino, Aurora, CO



MEET CHRIS GOBLE

Lead Pastor
Ridgeline Community Church, Castle Rock CO

I came into vocational ministry sort of late, and by a circuitous route. But looking back, I can see very clearly that God was guiding me through years of different experiences – both good and bad – that all helped prepare me for this new and exciting role here at Ridgeline Community Church in Castle Rock, CO.

I'm originally from southern California, where my wife and I met shortly after I graduated from Westmont College. We moved to the Pacific Northwest in 2006, and spent 6 years there, where I worked as a teacher and soccer coach, while serving in the Army Reserves, and she working for the Portland Rescue Mission. Then in 2011, duty called, and it was my turn to go to war.

I spent most of a year in Afghanistan with the 82nd Airborne Division, serving in combat as a platoon sergeant in a special operations unit of mixed elements and nationalities. It was an incredible experience. The Army then moved us to Colorado when I got home in 2012, and after two more years on active duty, I joined the Arvada Police Department, where I served for four years before serving for two more with an agency closer to home in Douglas County.

God rocked out world towards the end of 2019 with the unceremonious end of my law enforcement career, but He used it both for my good and His glory, and I joined the staff of Mission Hills Church a few months later, on March 1, 2020. Right about the time I was figuring out where we kept the pens, the world changed. I served as Local Outreach Director throughout the pandemic, leveraging my skills and experience in emergency response and operations planning, before being promoted to Groups Pastor in 2021, where I served until this past summer.

Becoming a Lead Pastor was never really on my radar, nor a part of my plan. I loved focusing on discipleship ministries as well as cultivating an authentic culture with my team. But as has happened so many other times in my life, God had other plans.





CONTINUED...

A friend tapped me on the shoulder about the Ridgeline opportunity in early June, and by June 10, I was having coffee with the Search Team. A whirlwind 90 days later, and I was signing my contract on September 10. Crazy.

My family and I are so excited to be here at Ridgeline, as it's a return to my roots in smaller to medium-sized churches with a more family feel. So far in our first two months, we have come to relish the warm, personal, and more simple approach to doing church together. Everyone has been extremely welcoming and great to work with, and seem very excited to have new leadership for the first time in more than 2 years.

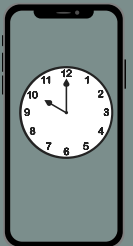
There are challenges, don't get me wrong. But I see them as opportunities: Opportunities to face lingering wounds from two years in the pastoral wilderness head-on, and to do the sometimes hard but necessary work of leaning in together to truly become one body that is ready and excited to move past their long season of "pause" into a new exciting season of "play."

All of this is a work of the Lord, from how we got here, to what He's already doing, and where we see Him taking us. We are so grateful, and may to Him be all the glory.

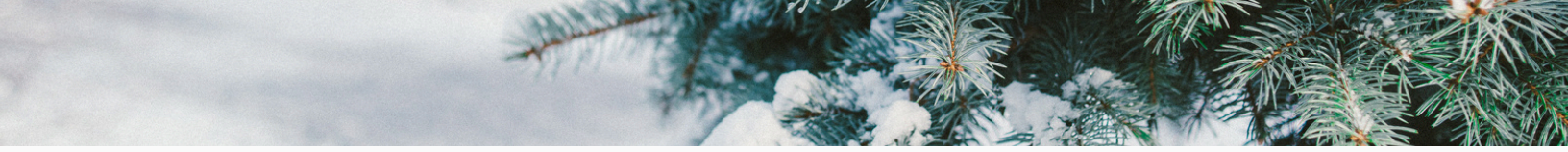
You can follow Chris and his work at www.chrisgoble.com.

JOIN THE 10:2 CHALLENGE

Pray for Church Planters and Plants to be strategically launched throughout the RMD. Set an alarm on your cell for 10:02 AM and/or PM to remind you to stop and pray Luke 10:2, asking for workers for the harvest in these strategic areas in our district. [Click to learn more.](#)



AND HE [JESUS] SAID TO THEM, "THE HARVEST IS PLENTIFUL, BUT THE LABORERS ARE FEW. THEREFORE PRAY EARNESTLY TO THE LORD OF THE HARVEST TO SEND OUT LABORERS INTO HIS HARVEST." - LUKE 10:2



ONE CHURCH, TWO CAMPUSES; UNIFIED YET DIVERSE

Ben Green and Evan Hays, pastors of Rimrock Church, Rapid City, SD

In 2012, Steve Balsley, the former pastor of Rimrock church, had a desire to minister in downtown Rapid City so he started a third service on Thursday evenings in a historic hotel. Over the past 12 years, it has grown, really slowly at times, and faster than we can handle at others.



When I (Ben) arrived at Rimrock Church 7 years ago, the downtown service was operating as a third service on Saturday evenings. One of the values and callings God had put in my heart for the church was the multiplication of disciple makers in the body of Christ. In Pastor Evan and the leaders of this 3rd service, I saw the potential to grow and develop them as disciple makers and leaders in the body of Christ. We began to shift our thinking from simply offering a third service to developing another church campus.



At Rimrock, we have committed to the Lord that we want to be a church community who does not hold on to ministry but gives gospel ministry to others so that they can give to others. We want to be disciples who make disciples of Jesus. As a church, we are committed to team preaching and team ministry. This multiplication and giving of ministry to others has extended into how we operate as a church with two campuses. Instead of using video to broadcast sermons, we have intentionally grown pastors, worship leaders, Sunday school teachers, missionaries, administrators, and all other gifting with ministry responsibility at each campus.

Our unity as a two-campus church takes effort, but we are committed to each other relationally and in building and maintaining trust. Our unity also comes from a willingness to major on a few central things in Christ and give freedom on minor things. We created a tagline: “one church, two campuses; unified yet diverse.”

We focus on our shared vision to be a “community being transformed by Jesus Christ” and our mission to “experience God, embrace grace, and engage others.” We are committed to a common faith and doctrine. We have one Elder team and membership. We preach through the same books of the Bible, and our preaching teams meet together regularly. We work hard to build unity between the staff teams operating on each campus.

Out of this mindset, as a church we have also worked together to buy and renovate a building in the heart of Rapid City with a vision for the building to be used to “demonstrate the love of Jesus.” Because of our desire to continually build up the body of Christ and support them in what God is calling them to do, our vision behind this space is bigger than a traditional church community approach. It is also to partner with other existing ministries with the goal of demonstrating the love of Jesus to everyone who walks through our doors.

As renovations continue, we have entered into partnership with Process Skate Ministries and Fork Real Café, who will be leasing space within our church building. Both of these nonprofits are run by passionate followers of Jesus, ones who have a desire to show Jesus’ love to people through either skateboarding or food. With almost \$1.5 million raised in 18 months and a solid year of construction, our downtown community is getting close to moving into its finished sanctuary. We praise God for his faithful provision and grace to share the good news of Jesus with the people of Rapid City.

FALL MEMORIES IN THE RMD

Follow us on Instagram and Facebook for regular updates and more great photos!
Submit your church's photos to events@rockymountaindistrict.org.



Kevin had the joy of joining Cathedral Rock Church for their 10 year anniversary. Pastor Steve was reunited Tim Allen whom he co-pastored the church with for over 6 years.



What a great day of worship and celebration as Barry commissioned Chris Goble, the new Senior Pastor of Ridgeline Community EFCA in Castle Rock, CO.



Carson Greenhaw was happy to connect with amazing youth pastors from South Dakota at Renewal in Florida, an annual EFCA marriage conference for youth leaders.



Kevin joined other EFCA directors of multiplication for the annual ReachNetwork planning retreat. The partnership across districts has been vital for our planters and churches. New tools and approaches to equipping people to evangelize are being explored.



Barry enjoyed participating in a great celebration at Southern Hills EFC in Hot Springs, SD for Pastor Dirk Jasperse's ordination.



Cathedral Rock in Monument, CO hosted an outdoor service on the property where they plan to build. They were able to have their first baptism on site, a few neighbors joined in the service, and attendees gathered to pray over various ministries of the church.

PASTOR & WIFE GET-AWAY

October 20-23, 2024 at Silver Cliff Ranch and Hot Springs

“It was a great time of intentionality with my wife, a time of rest, and a great chance to connect with other couples in the district.”



“This was a great time off from ministry responsibilities. Wonderful fellowship. Beautiful scenery. Relaxed schedule.”

“We’re already looking forward to next year!”





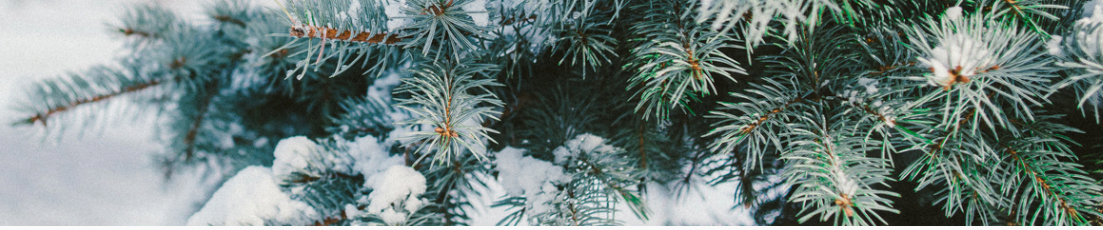
LET'S PRAY EARNESTLY FOR THE CHURCHES IN OUR DISTRICT. PLEASE CLICK [HERE](#) FOR A HELPFUL PRAYER GUIDE. YOU MAY USE THE CALENDAR BELOW TO LIFT UP EACH CHURCH ON ITS DESIGNATED DAY.

DECEMBER

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

JANUARY

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
31. Pueblo, CO - Grace Life Church



FEBRUARY

1. Pueblo West, CO - The Peak EFC
2. Rapid City, SD - Parkview EFC
3. Rapid City, SD - Rimrock EFC
4. Rye, CO - Table Mountain Church
5. Seibert, CO - Trinity Hill Church
6. Steamboat Springs, CO - Steamboat Bible Church
7. Thornton, CO - Calvary Bible Church
8. Timnath, CO - Christ The Rock Community Church
9. Wall, SD - Evangelical Free Bible Church
10. Windsor, CO - Evangelical Free Church of Windsor
11. 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)

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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