


IMPACT

MMXXIII







Your faithful generosity has made it possible for people here in Colorado, around the country, and around the world to bump into Jesus and hear that God loves them and they have hope and a future in Him. The following pages reflect a few of these stories – real people with real stories who call this place home finding salvation, healing, community and renewed purpose in the unique ways God uses Flatirons.

The stories contained here are diverse, but there is one common theme for us all – we worship a God who is for us. Because of your generosity, your story is woven into the DNA of Flatirons.

Thank you for your investment in the kingdom. I can't wait to continue to partner together with you to claim more and more of our world for Jesus.



Jim Burgen,
Lead Pastor





ATTENDANCE AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION

1,402

Total Baptisms

9,355

Average weekly in-person attendance

420

Average number of small groups

3,540

Average number of people in a small group









A failing liver and marriage are what brought Justin back to his home state of Colorado. Protective over her younger brother, Marni saw that he was physically and mentally in a bad place. Although it was an extremely difficult choice to make, Justin wanted to be alive for future milestones in his children's lives.

After Justin moved in with Marni and her husband, he began to attend Flatirons Aurora Campus with them. All of his life, Justin has been outgoing, always busy doing something. He's worked across multiple industries including oil fields, nursing homes, and lumber yards. It's no surprise that when he started going to Flatirons he got involved by volunteering and attending a men's group. The men in his small group became the role models he had never had in his life. Finding this community was essential. Growing up with physical and mental disabilities, Justin wasn't always understood or accepted. These men accepted him with open arms.

Everything changed when Justin was baptized on Easter in 2021. It's as if this next step of his faith was imperative to the challenging season he was about to enter. Immediately after that Easter Sunday, Justin's liver began to deteriorate rapidly. It became the norm for Justin to be so tired he could barely stay awake during the day. Marni saw him wasting away before her eyes. His body began to turn yellow and he developed painful sores all over. The doctors told him that if he didn't receive a transplant soon, he was going to die. The state of his health and future became a waiting game. Every month they would check his blood levels looking for certain numbers that would bump him up on the donor list. Within that time he also had two separate endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) surgeries that left him battling pancreatitis afterward. He became a shell of pain and agony.

During this whole time, Justin leaned on God and his community at Flatirons.



LET YOUR FAITH BE GREATER

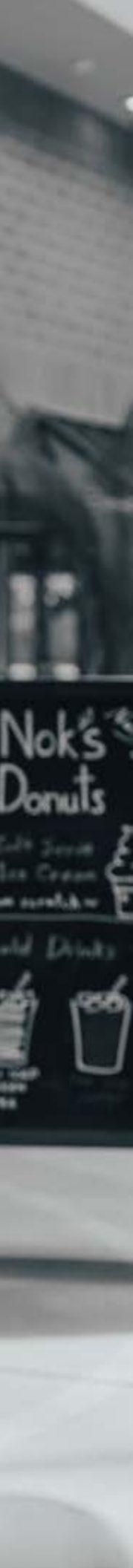
WITH JUSTIN HASTINGS





WALK BY FAITH WHEN WE CANNOT SEE
2 COR. 5:7

howdy



As things got worse, his faith became greater. Things came to a head exactly one year later when Justin went to take a nap after returning from Easter service. Waking up from his nap, he began to violently shake, a sign of dehydration. This happened often so Marni took him to the doctor for fluids to stabilize him. This time though, the doctors said Justin couldn't leave. In addition to his liver, his kidneys were now failing. Everything became a chaotic blur all at once. Until Justin's levels could be balanced, they would have to take him off the waiting list. By the next day, his kidneys had adjusted back to baseline levels. On that Tuesday, he was put on both transplant waitlists at the state and regional levels. The doctors told them it could be months to years before he would get a call that there was a liver for him. What happened next can only be explained by the power of prayer and God's grace. Josh Sanchez, Aurora Campus Pastor, and other members of Justin's small group came to the hospital

and prayed for Justin. When they asked him if he was scared he replied, "No, God is with me."

That night a random number called Marni's cell phone. She didn't recognize it and almost didn't answer, but God nudged her.

The woman on the other end of the phone said "I've never been able to give good news to somebody this fast; we found a liver for your brother."

They rejoiced in this accelerated prayer as Justin was prepped for surgery that Wednesday. The surgeon told Marni that this could take up to 10 hours. She and all of her closest friends hunkered down for a long night in the waiting room. Two and a half hours later, Marni got a call from the doctor saying that it was over; everything went perfectly and Justin had a new liver. What should have happened is not what God let happen. Isn't it just like God to have a miracle happen in a matter of a

few days? From that Easter Sunday to the following Wednesday, God's resurrection power took place in Justin's life.

If you saw Justin now, you wouldn't know everything he's gone through in the last year. His recovery has been stellar and his body hasn't rejected his liver once, which doctors say usually happens by now. His medical team says they've never seen someone recover so quickly. Justin

has been able to dive back into Special Olympics, which is another pursuit he's actively involved in. He hasn't missed a beat with his small group. The power of the community at Flatirons and its persistent prayer is the reason Justin is here today.

“We know this had to have been God.”









NO BARS IN A NEW HOME

WITH ADRIAN MARTINEZ





For most people, home is a house, apartment, or even a person. For Adrian, it was a prison. Starting at the age of 9, he was sentenced to juvenile detention. Not long after he turned 18, he joined a gang and has spent most of his adult life in and out of the prison system. A double homicide charge sent him to one of the most violent prisons in Colorado with an 18 year sentence. Adrian never stayed out of prison longer than two months at a time.

[For those who are career criminals], we can't wait to go back home [to prison], when we get out. It's like Disneyland when we're on the outside. We ride all the rides as fast as we can because we know we're gonna go back soon."

Adrian knew Jesus was his Savior, but never

viewed Him as Lord over his life. He's been in a myriad of car accidents, shot, stabbed in one eye (which caused temporary blindness) has flatlined on multiple occasions, and had most of his left leg blown off, after which he was told he would never walk again. In each of those situations, he knew God saved his life. Adrian says,

Adrian was serving another 18-year sentence at the Limon Correctional Facility when he felt deep within his spirit that something had to change. After a life of violence and crime, and learning that a fellow gangster had killed his nephew, he knew he wanted to get right because if he didn't, it would only be a matter of time before he was a dead man. Gathering his crew together, he bravely decided to step down from the gang.

“The enemy wanted me in so many ways. But prayer saved me. God showed up every time.”

At this point, Adrian was still in a wheelchair from being shot in the leg a year prior. His nickname was “The Hands” because he knew how to fight, and he fought well. Adrian had always prioritized his physical health. Since he was wheelchair-bound, it was difficult to maintain the level of fitness he once had. Members of Faith RXD—a Christian offshoot of Crossfit—would come to the prison and help train inmates. They connected with Adrian and created a specific program to help him walk again. One day he went to train with the group in a gym he had never been to before. He instantly felt something different about the place. What he felt was peace.

“What is it about this place?” Adrian wondered. “There’s no blood crying out from the walls.” His friend responded, “Flatirons Church takes over this gym after our workouts every Saturday. You should come to the next service.”

Saturday came and Adrian once again found himself in that same gym.

Except this time, it felt like a church. Chairs were lined up and volunteers walked around. A gigantic screen rolled down where the sermon was streamed. The music started and he could feel it in his chest. In this season of life, Adrian had felt extremely broken. A life of violence and injury had left him physically broken. His criminal record and choices left him mentally broken. A disconnect with God had left him spiritually broken. A prayer he had prayed recently went something like this, ‘God, how are you going to help me bring the pieces back together?’

Seconds later, Pastor Jim was on the screen. Much to Adrian’s surprise, Flatirons was doing a series on brokenness. The sermon referred to the Japanese art of Kintsugi which means to “join with gold.” It’s the practice of taking broken pottery pieces and fusing them back together with gold. Adrian burst into tears. It was at that moment that he realized he needed to surrender his life fully to Christ. In the months to follow, God began to show Adrian how to put the



pieces of his life back together. His heart was healed of the hatred he had always carried with him. This newfound freedom from his internal prison led Adrian to write a book and create a program called The Standard that teaches men how to live a life by God's standards. He also helped create a program called Rebel's Redemption, which distributes

personally engraved Bibles to inmates and leads Bible studies.

Adrian is living proof that when you submit your life to Christ, everything changes. Five months ago, he was released from prison and is now in a halfway house in the Denver area. These past five months have been the







hardest of his life, but for the first time, he has hope for his future. He only served three and a half years of an 18-year sentence and is eligible for parole in two months. Shortly after getting out, Adrian had the privilege of experiencing Flatirons services in person. From Limon to Lafayette, things came full

circle as he walked into the building, felt the beat of the worship music in his chest, and looked around in awe and wonder. Prison is no longer Adrian's home. He has found his home in Christ, Flatirons, and his identity as a new creation.

FLATIRONS COLLEGE

ESTD  2022





Launched in August

2023

11


Students

Ages

18-24







The world of higher education is changing, and Flatirons College is paving the way to something different. Flatirons College is a newly accredited institution that has partnered with Southeastern University offering online classes with 8 different majors to choose from. Students can choose from ministry leadership to business to digital design. While the classes are currently online, the community is very much in person. Within the Lafayette Campus, The College has a dedicated space for students to learn and connect.

Between overwhelmingly large universities and six-figure student loans, the next generation is hungry for a new way to experience college.

The dream of Flatirons College went from proposing the bold question of ‘what if’ to pioneering a class of 11 students starting this fall. The program is aimed to fulfill incoming students’ desire for a more curated and intimate academic experience. Angie Wysocki, Flatirons College Director, says,

“Our mission is to connect people who are hungry for the Lord and leadership with an accredited college.”

Financial strains aside, the current state of the world has only amplified the mental health struggle many young adults face. Within the College alone, 6 of the 20 applicants have actively tried to take their own lives. Flatirons College isn't just about academic education, it's a safe place to ask hard questions about living in a broken world while following Jesus

Flatirons College exists because of the generosity of the church to equip a new generation to boldly live out their faith, and carry on the legacy of Flatirons Church.









Degree Programs

AA General Education

Associate of Ministerial Leadership

BS in Ministerial Leadership – Biblical Studies Track


BS in Ministerial Leadership – Christian Ministry Track

BS in Ministerial Leadership – Pastoral Care and Counseling Track

BS in Ministerial Leadership – Worship Ministries

Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA)

BS in Digital Design & Media



FLATIRONS
STUDENTS





733

Students Attended Camp

369

Middle Schoolers

364

High Schoolers

277

Scholarships Provided

\$138,500

In Scholarship Funds








MY PEOPLE, MY PLACE

WITH IZABELLE TORRES





Izabelle has been calling Flatirons her home away from home for 12 years. While she grew up in Kids Ministry, she didn't take her faith into her own hands until her sophomore year of high school. At summer camp she was looking down across the auditorium of students worshipping and felt the strong presence of the Holy Spirit. She thought to herself, these are my people.

The most powerful thing about going to church has been the connection with her small group. Being able to walk with her leaders and other group members during the most foundational years of her life has given her a sense of community. Student Ministry has fostered an authentic environment for deep, vulnerable talks.

Recently, Izabelle's faith has been put to the test. She recalls asking God, "Make me strong. I don't want to break down when every little thing comes at me." So,

He gave her battles she learned how to fight.

Earlier this year, Izabelle's dad was injured, which prevented him from being able to work. The financial burden that followed led to uncertainty about their living situation. Then Izabelle was dumped. To add to the heartache, her 15-year-old childhood dog passed away. All of this was piled on top of the normal academic and athletic pressures of being a high school student. This season of life has made Izabelle the strongest she's ever been. Despite all of this, she has peace that makes no sense. While she's never gotten angry with God, she has been confused and heartbroken over her trials.

Feeling completely lost, she walked into her small group sad and defeated. She didn't feel the happiness she normally felt when she'd come into the room. Her youth group leaders listened as she lamented

about everything. They ended up staying late in the parking lot for an hour after the group got out-speaking life over her and reminding her of what an inspiration she is to others.

She says, "If I didn't have my small group, I would be questioning if God was even real."

In the past, Izabelle spent most of her time in school trying to fit in. She never could. Now she doesn't care what people think about her. She's more concerned about what God thinks. As her senior year approaches, Izabelle feels content and secure in who she is. Gratitude overflows

for the opportunities she's been given even though it's been a rough year. Despite the uncertainty of the future, she has confidence that God has her back. Her experience at Flatirons has been unique, powerful, and unlike anything else. You can find her every Sunday, in the front row of the Student section singing her heart out and jumping for Jesus.

"My faith is really strong because of these people and this church. It's the culmination of the last 12 years. This is home."





Open to Ev

STUDENT

WE SHARE THE
AWESOME LOVE
OF JESUS
WITH KIDS



everyone

Familles

FLATIRONS
KIDS MINISTRY



A NEW PERSPECTIVE

WITH JUSTYNE ANDERSON





Justyne considers herself one of the OG's when it comes to churchgoers at Flatirons. She attended Student Ministry through middle and high school. Growing up in the church, she always knew that God loved her, but she didn't quite grasp what it all meant. As a kid, going to church felt more like it was a fun place to hang with friends and less about having an encounter with the Creator of the universe.

Yet, this created a foundation that she would find herself falling back on when things got tough. When she was in sixth

grade, Justyne's parents split up. After the divorce, things got rough and for the rest of that year, she and her mom lived in a homeless shelter. During that time Justyne was afraid to let anyone know about their living situation. For her, it was easier to pretend to be this perfect girl who played sports and did other 'normal' teenage things, rather than share what was going on. She kept up that facade until college.

In her junior year of high school, Justyne's mom urged her to get baptized. The following week was one of the worst

weeks of Justyne's life. Then, a few months later her mom kicked her out of the house forcing her to move across the country to live with her dad. In anger and confusion, she thought how dare you? towards God and decided to step away. She lost touch with her faith community and Flatirons.

After graduating high school, Justyne moved back to Colorado to attend college and was ready to dive back into the church she grew up in. This time it was different. She had grown and experienced life and was seeking a real relationship with God. On the hunt for a new job, one of her friends connected her with a job at a local gym. To Justyne's surprise,


everyone at the gym was a Christian and attended Flatirons. She began to attend church with them; they took up two whole rows in the front of the auditorium! This connection made her hungry for more. That's when she came across a post about the District, Flatirons College Ministry, on Instagram. "A free meal for a broke college kid? Say no more!" She rallied a few friends and walked through the campus doors, where she immediately felt welcome. She's made so many friends and amazing connections, not only with people her age but also with District leaders. The rest is history.

Reflecting on her life, Justyne feels like she's come out this stronger than she









could have ever imagined, with God on her side. She's found a place at District and has never felt more seen. This past winter she decided to get baptized again. The week that followed was a difficult one. But instead of reacting like she did when she was 16, she worshiped God and knew it was an attack from the enemy because she stepped out in her faith.

"It's crazy to see the person I was in middle and high school who was just going to church for the social aspect mainly, compared to seeing myself now as someone who goes to District every week, goes to church every week, reads their bible, listens to worship music in the car and screams it out because I can't hold it in."

"When I showed up to District I immediately felt welcome. It felt like they chose to get to know me on a personal level."





A NEW DIRECTION

WITH SHANE CURRY

Shane took a leap of faith two years ago and followed his girlfriend out to Colorado. He applied to a graduate program at CU Boulder and was accepted. A new life began out west as he left his family, friends, and everything he had ever known behind. Once in Colorado, Shane and his girlfriend found Flatirons and started attending. God pushed him out of his comfort zone and he began connecting with other believers. One day, Shane was at the CU gym where he played a pick-up game of basketball with another guy. They had fun and parted ways, and he didn't think much of it again; just two guys randomly playing basketball one

afternoon! It wasn't until Shane showed up at Flatirons Young Adults Vision Night and saw his friend from the basketball court. From then on they decided to start a small group together.


Everything seemed to be falling into place until Shane and his girlfriend ended their four-year relationship. Shane's whole world was rocked. Completely shattered, he began to press into his faith and his men's group. There were many days when he felt like he couldn't breathe.

When asked about the impact Flatirons has had on Shane he said, "Life-changing









would be an understatement. When we gather for our small group, walls come down and we don't need to pretend. Whether you're 10, 20, 50, or 80, you need guys in your life who are walking with you going through something similar."

For many people, developing friendships and community post-college is a nearly impossible task. It's easy to make friends in school where you see and interact with them daily. Once that part of life ends, the constant opportunity to foster friends is lost. This season of life is

not what Shane expected or needed, but finding this community was more than he could have asked for. Not only has Flatirons Young Adults given him deep, faith-filled friendships but he's also grown in his relationship with God. This journey has shattered his legalistic tendencies and has taught him to trust in God's plan for him. The trials will only get harder, but His faithfulness has given Shane a renewed sense of peace.

Looking back on the past two years, Shane wouldn't have thought

this is where he would have ended up. God told him to climb a mountain with Him, even though he couldn't see the top. Shane thought the top of that mountain would be marrying

his girlfriend and earning a PhD, but God led him in a sweeter and deeper direction. Shane says,

“God has used Flatirons to say ‘Hey, I got you and I have proven it to you.’ I can see how His promises have played out in my life.”









GOD'S NOT DONE

WITH KYLE & KALI FOSTER





The first three years of Kyle and Kali's marriage have been anything but smooth. One month after they started dating, Kali found out she was pregnant. Shortly after that, Kyle proposed and they signed their marriage license. It didn't take long for the marriage

to become strained. Within a short amount of time, they got married, moved in together, and had their baby boy, Hayden. Health problems, money problems, and life problems came in full force.

**But, "God wouldn't let us separate,"
says the couple.**





Growing up, Kyle didn't have a positive model of marriage to look up to. He never knew what real love looked like and searched for it anywhere he could. Eventually, this search led to sex and porn addiction. Kyle became absent from Kali and the kids. Infidelity caused the couple to stand in front of a judge ready to sign their divorce papers.

During this time Kyle felt like he hit rock bottom. He found himself praying to God for the first time in a long time. He began going to therapy and the two decided to give their marriage another shot. Kali grew up coming to Flatirons and urged Kyle to attend. Though Kyle avoided going to Flatirons for a long time because he had a thing against big churches, he decided to take a leap of faith and try it out. The first time they attended service together, the message couldn't have been more relevant to their situation. It was all about how to be a better husband and let God be at the center of marriage. Kyle instantly fell in love with the place.

Shortly after he began attending, Flatirons Men's Retreat was being held, and Kyle was sponsored to attend. He didn't know anyone and felt vulnerable until he connected with Matt Judson, the Longmont Campus Kids Ministry Director. They became close and the retreat was unlike anything Kyle had ever experienced.

Things were still rocky between Kali and Kyle. Their decision to have an open marriage ushered in a new era of heartache and distrust. For a second time, they found themselves on the brink of divorce with papers filed. What happened next was truly Kyle's rock bottom. Overwhelmed with guilt and shame one night, Kyle put his oldest son Atreyu to bed and wrote a note to Kali. He sat at the kitchen table with a loaded handgun. Seconds away from ending his life, Atreyu came down the stairs and asked for something to drink, not knowing that he had just saved his father's life.

This time around Kyle came to terms with the gravity of his addictions and sought help. Their separation caused them to pursue each other as friends in a way they had never done before. They went back to church and the message couldn't have been more relevant, again. The entire talk was about sex and porn addiction. "I felt like I was the only person in church that day," says Kyle.

Kyle reached out to Matt because he knew he couldn't carry his burden any longer. Matt invited him to be a part of a weekly small group with other men who were also battling sex and porn addiction. Kyle has plans to go to the Rocky Mountain Men's Summit again this year,

as well as an upcoming men's integrity conference.

This past year, Kyle and Kali were baptized together and everything changed for both of them. Kyle is working on his addictions, Kali is working on her faith, and they're both working on their marriage. "There are still plenty of bad days, but our struggles don't end on this side of heaven. What makes a difference is that they have a community in their corner and a God who loves them both unconditionally." Kyle and Kali are a living testimony of "what God has joined together, let no man separate."











FLATIRONS
CHURCH PLANTING NETWORK



\$550,000

Given to Flatirons Church Planting Network in 2022

\$125,000

Given to The Garden church in Surprise, AZ

*Launched September 10, 2023

\$25,000

Given to RU church in Tampa, FL

*Launched September 10, 2023

\$285,000

Distributed to seven church planters and church planting networks working in the United States and Serbia







OUTREACH

\$7,755,682

Given to support the work of local and international partner organizations and one-time gifts impacting our communities.





A GLOBAL GOD

WITH DUANE & SUSIE KNIGHT





Something stirred in Duane and Susie's hearts after their daughter came home soaking wet one Sunday morning. Coming from Methodist and Catholic backgrounds, they couldn't believe their daughter had randomly gotten baptized at a church she had just started going to. Curiosity got the best of them and they decided to attend this so-called Flatirons Church their daughter spoke so highly of.

"I had never heard a preacher preach like that before. Once I got used to the smoke, lights, and 'Stairway to Heaven-type' worship music, I fell in love with

the church" says Duane. They had been coming to Flatirons for about a year when they felt led to give back to the church. Serving together was important to them to grow in their faith as a married couple. Having a deep love for children, they dove into Kids Ministry-it was chaotic but fulfilling.

Their hearts were stirred once more when a message spoke about Flatirons International Outreach partner, Musana. In a different season of life, far in the future, they had hoped to serve on one of these trips, but God's timing said otherwise. One day after serving in Kids

Ministry, the two were approached by a fellow volunteer.

Their friend excitedly said, “You’d be perfect for the upcoming Musana trip! You should apply. No pressure, but the application is due tonight.”

Given the timing, they prayed on it and applied. What’s to lose, right? They thought nothing of it until they got a call back for an interview. To their surprise, Duane and Susie were told they had been approved to go on the short-term trip to Musana!

Immediately upon arrival in Uganda, they fell in love with the people. Flatirons employs a ‘come and see’ approach with their trips, focusing less on doing and more on empowering the local community. The couple witnessed the Ugandan’s hearts for Jesus and their joy despite their lack of material wealth, which challenged Duane and Susie’s faith and perspectives on poverty.

From then on, they were hooked. So much so that during that first year, they went on two more trips to visit Musana. With this, Susie had come to a crossroads in her career. After 26 years, she no longer felt like she was fully invested in being a public school special education teacher. She prayed on it and decided to turn in her retirement papers, trusting in God’s plan and timing. That same week, a stateside job opened up with Musana. Susie knew this was the heavenly opportunity she prayed for. She applied and got the job! Now, Susie is Musana’s Community Engagement Coordinator, describing it as her ‘passion job’ and leads Come and See trips for Musana.

God’s hand and provision have been all over Duane and Susie’s journey with Flatirons. What started as a genuine curiosity for a different kind of church experience led them to an entire life revolving around Flatirons and the church’s investment around the world.









Between friendships, trips, volunteering opportunities, and small groups, they keep wading deeper into the community.

“Flatirons and their international partners expanded our social and spiritual support network. God is the same here in

the U.S. and in Uganda, despite culture and time zones. It makes me love Him even more. I love how Flatirons and their global partners love people all over the world,” says Susie.

“Flatirons and their missions expanded our social and spiritual support network.”





THANK YOU

to all who joined us this year in our mission to
bring the awesome life of Christ to people in a lost
and broken world.

 @FLATIRONSCHURCH

 FLATIRONSCHURCH.COM

 INFO@FLATIRONSCHURCH.COM



*Numbers are representative of May 2022 - April 2023

*Stories written by Alisha Tysinger