

# IMPACT

MMXXIV







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**I**n the past 12 months, Flatirons has experienced many significant moments - moments I believe will continue to be catalysts for years to come. A theme that stands out to me is how much God brings us when we establish our spiritual foundation in Him, despite the trends and pressures around us. When we unapologetically declare He is our King, our responsibilities, and our opportunities increase.

The stories to follow are real stories from real people who have found a new life in Jesus as they've discovered what He's doing here at Flatirons. Your generosity allows for the hurting and broken to know a Jesus who forgives and loves them and will lead them to a better life.

Galatians 5:1 says, 'For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery'. We, the Flatirons community, are moving forward to take ground for the Kingdom, and your obedience to your calling of generosity will allow for lives to continue to be transformed in His name. I can't wait to partner with you.



Jim Burgen,  
Lead Pastor

# ATTENDANCE AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION

**2,101**

Total Baptisms

**11,122**

Average weekly in-person attendance

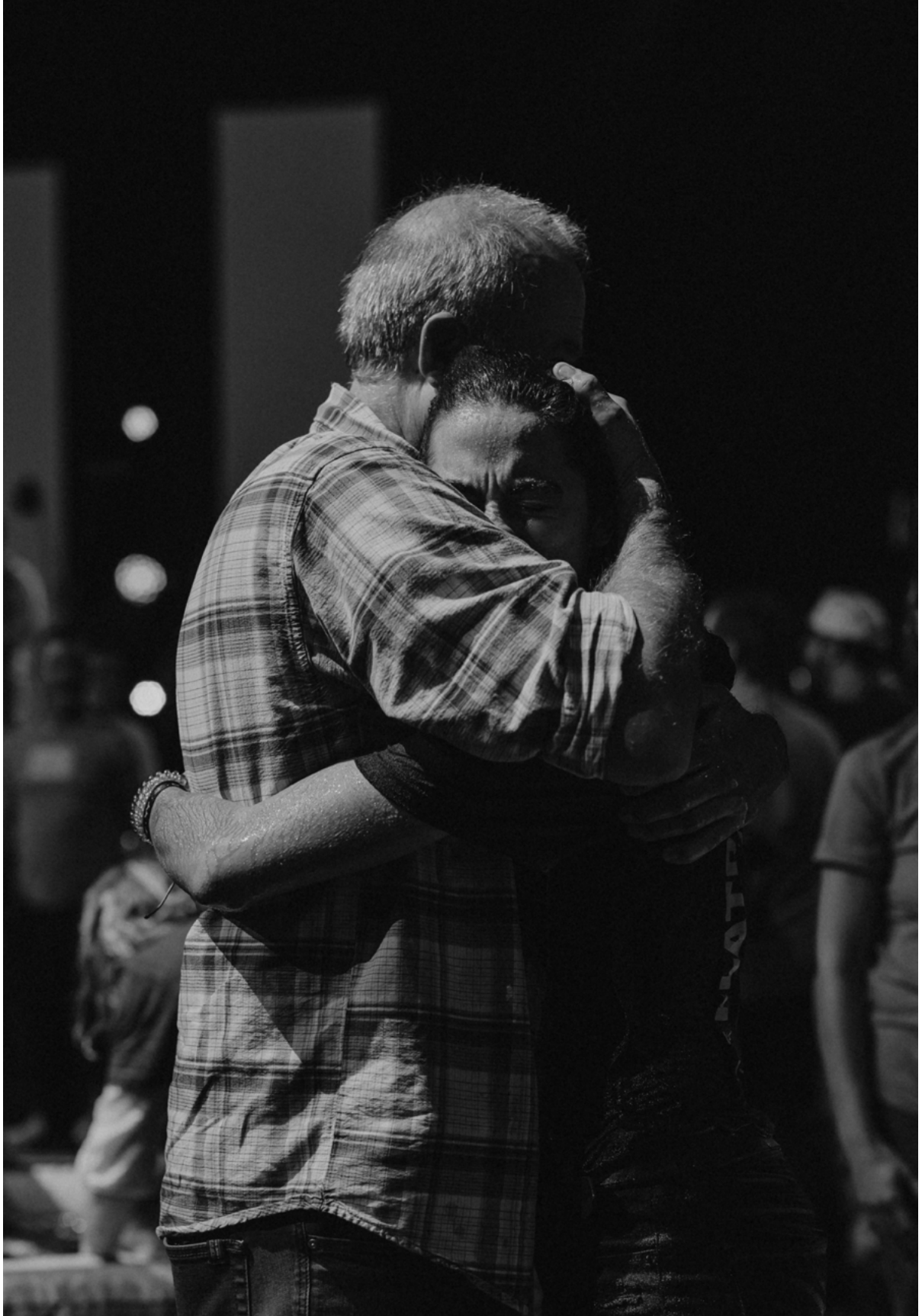
**3,582**

Average number of people in a small group

**19,273**

Total people who have texted "NEXT" to 80857 and are engaging in weekly in scripture and connection.









**REDEEMED  
AND  
RENEWED**

WITH BRADLEY WOOLSEY

**A**sk Bradley Woolsey who first discovered Flatirons—

him or his fiancée—and you'll get a different answer every time. As a self-proclaimed agnostic, Bradley still can't wrap his head around the fact that he was the one who stumbled upon a Flatirons video. "My fiancée and I fight about it all the time. She's like, 'You showed me Flatirons.' And I'm like, 'Babe, that doesn't make sense. I was a non-believer.'" But one thing is clear: whoever hit 'play' that first time changed their household forever. As Texas residents, Bradley and his family have never set foot in a Flatirons campus. Still, they connected with other attendees online through the chat, eventually making Bradley feel compelled to attend a Flatirons men's event in 2022.

Bradley attended the Rocky Mountain Men's Summit (RMMS) in Winter Park in August 2022 on a scholarship. Arriving at the Summit in Winter Park, Bradley felt like an imposter—uncertain about what to expect and uneasy at the thought of

being vulnerable among a group of men he didn't know.

"The first night, I went out and slept in my car because I was scared. I didn't know how to be in those environments. I didn't know how to talk about my story, and I was just terrified. So, I slept in the car." It wasn't until the second night, as he prepared for another restless night, that something changed. Gerald and Mike, two Flatirons alums, invited him to join them around a fire. There, Bradley witnessed an honesty and vulnerability in these men that he had never experienced in his rough-and-tumble life on construction sites across the country. In his world, regular drug use, alcoholism, and infidelity were the norms. But here were men striving to be better—better for their families, better men in the church, and better witnesses for Christ. This encounter ignited something in Bradley, causing him to take stock of his own life. "I didn't even know there were men like that in the world, you know, that actually held their wives in high regard,

## “He’s committed to rewriting his story, leaving behind a childhood marred by drugs and crime, and embracing a future rooted in his relationship with Jesus.”

that wanted to be better and wanted to do good things. I was never around that. I didn’t know it existed.”

Bradley grew up in a string of abusive homes, surrounded by verbal, emotional, and physical trauma. With many family members either incarcerated or dead, he once believed he was destined to follow the same destructive path—drugs, crime, and just hoping to see his 18th birthday. “If you’d asked me when I was 15, I would’ve told you I wouldn’t live to see 18. And then when I was 18, I was like, I won’t live to see 21. And then when I got to 21, I was like, I won’t live to see 25. And now here I am. I just turned 28 three or four days ago, and I’m like, well, I guess I’m going to be here. I’ve just always seen so much death around me and everything, so I didn’t really think much about my life”. That’s part of what has drawn Bradley to Flatirons, but moreover Jesus- the

acceptance that perfection isn’t expected and instead it’s our imperfections that connect us to Him.

Bradley left RMMS feeling refreshed and renewed, carrying with him a folded piece of paper filled with commitments he made to himself: to manage his anger, seek more peace, and become a better man for his fiancée and three stepdaughters. However, as the weeks passed, the excitement waned, and old habits began to creep back in. The clarity he found at RMMS began to blur, and the path forward wasn’t as straightforward as he’d hoped.

Two years after his trip to Winter Park for RMMS, Bradley found himself alone in a hotel room outside Los Angeles, at a breaking point. Surrounded by temptation in a life-draining job, he finally surrendered and gave his life fully to Christ. The very next morning, a job offer came through—

one that not only promised financial stability but also the time off to be with his family and a chance to clean up his act for good. “When I broke down that night, I said, ‘Give me something.’ I was like, I need to quit doing this. I need to be more present in the kids’ and my fiancée’s life. I was like, even when I’m home, I need to lay all this stuff down and be with them. And then the next day, I got that job offer. And this company has a very strict drug testing policy, so I immediately threw everything away.”

This journey is no longer just about him. Bradley now understands that he has the power to break the cycle, to become a legacy-maker for his family. He’s committed to rewriting his story, leaving behind a childhood marred by drugs and

crime, and embracing a future rooted in his relationship with Jesus.

Looking back, it’s clear that RMMS wasn’t just another event—it was a turning point. The conversations he had; the examples set by the men Bradley met—those experiences became the foundation for a new direction in his life. They marked the beginning of a journey that would eventually lead Bradley to a place of hope and renewal. While Bradley hopes that he would’ve found Jesus eventually, he largely credits RMMS as the catalyst in his faith. “I don’t know how I would have without you all, you know? I mean, I just—I have to hope that eventually something would have happened in my life that pulled me towards there, but I’m thankful it was y’all.”







# FLATIRONS COLLEGE

ESTD  2022

**2023**

Launched in August

**24**

Students enrolled in 2024

**18-24**

Ages

**3,500**

Hours served with Flatirons ministries

## 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

Bachelor of Science, Psychology





# **FAITH- FUELED FUTURE**

WITH HANNAH COUMERILH

**C**hoosing a college was a challenging decision for Hannah. While many of her peers were preparing for traditional universities and the “college experience,” Hannah sought something more. “Community is super important to me,” she says. “I grew up in a Christian household and wanted to find faith for myself in college.” Driven by her desire to deepen her relationship with Christ, Hannah ultimately chose Flatirons College for her next steps after high school. “I looked at colleges all over the place and really wanted to go out of state for a new experience. At first, I wasn’t sure, but once I heard about the college and visited, meeting people like Mike and Angie, it felt like they wanted to help make an impact in my life. It was more meaningful than other places I visited, and my credits for graphic design transferred well.”

Raised in Goodland, Kansas, Hannah Coumerilh first encountered Flatirons in a movie theater in downtown Burlington, just 20 minutes from her hometown. In her small town, her family would occasionally make the journey for weekend shopping trips and to catch a service at Flatirons. There, Hannah saw the Lafayette auditorium filled with 4,500 people on any given Sunday—about 500 more people than the entire population of her town.

“I went to classes with the same people from kindergarten to 12th grade,” Hannah recalls. “Coming here, I was a bit worried because it was a whole new environment for me.” Embracing her love for meeting new people, Hannah welcomed the opportunity to leave home and gain new experiences. Despite her curiosity and a little bit of worry about what Flatirons College would be like, she quickly felt

**“Today, Hannah is more excited  
than ever about her future.”**



reassured during the pre-school retreat. “During the retreat, everyone was so open and comfortable with each other. I thought that was really cool.”

Today, Hannah is more excited than ever about her future. She has quickly connected with her new peers and is thrilled to be part of a community pursuing God together at Flatirons College. Even more exciting is the chance to apply her studies in Production and Design through her work with the church on Sundays.

For many of the students at traditional universities, this season of life is filled with tremendous growth but also challenges.

They face temptations and trials that these students will often navigate alone, but for students at Flatirons College like Hannah, there is a profound investment in spiritual development and community support. Hannah believes that when her time at Flatirons College comes to an end, she'll not only have gained valuable coursework that will serve her well in the workforce but, more importantly, she will have a deeper relationship with Christ, meaningful connections with her peers, and an experience that will propel her into adulthood with confidence.





# **JUST SAY YES**

WITH MATTHEW HARMON



**M**atthew Harmon was supposed to sign his contract to join the army and leave for training on August 12th. He has planned for years to join the military after graduating from Horizon High School, drawn by the potential for world travel. His mom, who passed away when he was just two, was from South Korea, and Matthew hoped to visit her birthplace one day and he believed the military would be a way for him to visit. But despite his plans, a different path began to tug at his heart: Flatirons College.

“The army seemed like a solid plan, but deep down, I knew it wasn’t where God was calling me,” he explains. A pivotal conversation with Aaron Schroeder helped him gain clarity. “Aaron encouraged me,” Matthew had felt called to youth ministry recently, “He said, ‘If God’s calling you, why not just say yes

and see where it leads? The military will always be there.’ I took his advice and decided to trust the process.”

And if it’s any wonder why youth ministry is at the top of Matthew’s list, look no further than the strong, Godly men who walked beside him during his high school years, namely his own dad.

Matthew’s high school years weren’t always easy. He battled with depression and struggled to find his place in the world. “Sophomore year, I hit a big depression stage. I didn’t feel like myself. I was constantly telling myself I didn’t belong.” One night, Matthew came home from the movies and immediately went up to his room. “I got to a point where I was like, ‘I don’t want to be here anymore’”, Matthew explains, “I had a big breakdown.” Five minutes later his dad came into his room, “he was the only person who understood what I was

## “I’ve taken a step toward what I want to pursue.”

walking through at the time. And, so, for him to come up next me and just hug me. Everything was going to be okay.” Matthew’s dad has been his constant in his life, giving him a safe space of support, a critical relationship through Matthew’s high school years. “He’s an extraordinary role model. Watching him mentor not just his own kids but three others he’s taken in [through his second marriage] has shown me what true fatherhood and faith look like. He’s been the most influential person in my life.”

As Matthew prepares to start this new chapter at Flatirons College, he reflects on his own journey and the advice he gives to others who are navigating

similar crossroads. He shares, “That’s hard because, like, some of my closest friends are still in high school, grappling with what comes next. They’re trying to figure out their path, and I always tell them, ‘It comes quickly. May 14th, 15th—it all happens so fast. One day you’re in school, and the next, you’re walking across the stage to get your diploma.’”

He continues, “I’m not taking a gap year. I’m not just entering the workforce. I’ve taken a step toward what I want to pursue.” He adds, “A lot of my friends are taking a gap year, saying, ‘I’m not sure what I’m doing with my life,’ or ‘How do I pursue this in a certain way?’ And I’ve always told them, ‘Just take a step.’ When

you take that first initial step, whether it's college or whatever you want to do, it will ignite that fire later in life."

As Matthew prepares to start this new chapter at Flatirons College, he's eager to dive into a community where he can grow alongside others. "I think the biggest thing is that it's the community that brings us all together. On the retreat, it was such a weird bus ride there because we didn't know anyone. But then when we got there, watching everyone just be with each other, on the very last night,

everyone was around the fire pit. They were being so vulnerable with each other, throwing out prayer requests for their personal lives. They were able to share these moments they're walking through because we're so tight with each other. We can mess around and be friends, but when someone needs a serious moment, they have people around them to say, 'You're not walking this alone; we can walk through it together.'"











**813**

Students Attended Camp

**377**

Middle Schoolers

**60**

Middle School Leaders

**436**

High Schoolers

**64**

High Schooler Leaders

**265**

Scholarships Provided

**\$72,600**

In Scholarship Funds

**92**

Baptisms at Camp Celebration





**WE  
FOUND  
HOME**

WITH KAITLYN TSCHOEPE



**E**leven years ago, Kaitlyn Tschoepe and her mom, Stephanie, first walked through the doors of Flatirons Church. Stephanie was drawn to the Friday Night Recovery program, as she was seeking comfort amidst the turbulence caused by Kaitlyn's father's battle with alcoholism. With Kaitlyn and her younger sister, both toddlers at the time, in tow, they began attending the weekly group. "When life started getting crazy because of the addiction in our house, we turned to Flatirons. It's a place that welcomes people who are struggling," Stephanie recalls.

A year later, Stephanie and her husband divorced, launching her into a decade of single parenting. Though Kaitlyn was only five at the time, she quickly took on a significant role, helping to care for her sister and supporting her mom. "For a

while, I felt like I stepped into a second parent role," she reflects. "I matured quickly and was there with my mom."

During those challenging years, Friday nights at Shift became a refuge for Stephanie and her daughters. Surrounded by others who understood the pain of addiction, they found community and support. Kaitlyn even began volunteering for childcare during Shift, giving back in the same way she had been cared for as a young child. Meanwhile, Stephanie committed herself to breaking patterns of unhealthy relationships and focusing on her well-being. "After the divorce, I realized I needed to heal myself. I had been repeating unhealthy patterns, and it hit me—I've got some work to do on me."

Four years ago, Kaitlyn's father passed away from his illness—a loss she continues to process. "I get comments like, 'Oh,

## “Something changed in her heart at this camp”

you're just like your dad,' or 'You have similar hobbies,' even though we weren't close growing up. I feel this personal connection with him," Kaitlyn shares. Despite the heartache, Flatirons remained a constant source of hope for their family. Their participation in Flatirons' grief groups also connected them with others walking a similar road of healing.

Over the years, the family's involvement with Flatirons ebbed and flowed—online during COVID, displaced after the Marshall Fire—but they always found their way back. Kaitlyn enjoyed Flatirons' Next Gen program, but it wasn't until high school that she started seeking a deeper

community. "I began high school with friends from middle school, but things turned toxic, and I felt so alone," Kaitlyn admits. "I was surrounded by people, but I was the loneliest I'd ever been."

This feeling of isolation pushed Kaitlyn to search for a new group of friends who aligned more closely with her values. She kept attending Flatirons groups and camps, finding solace and growth. Two years ago, she experienced a transformative moment at summer camp. "The messages, the worship, the community—it was all so powerful. It changed my life," she remembers. But once back home, the busyness of life





crept in, and she found herself struggling again. “I was definitely on the struggle bus for a while.”

Despite the challenges, Kaitlyn’s small group at Flatirons became a source of strength. “The girls in my small group are incredible. They are role models for what my faith should look like,” she says. “This year, I realized these are my people, and I want to stick by them.”

This past summer, Kaitlyn attended camp again, but something felt vastly different this time. “Something changed in her heart at this camp,” Stephanie notes. “She came back more committed to her faith than ever before. She started encouraging our family to do more devotionals, read the Bible, and live out our faith more boldly.”

Today, Kaitlyn is fully immersed in her small group of 50 junior girls who meet weekly. She’s particularly grateful for

her leaders, Ellie and Danielle, who have profoundly impacted her spiritual journey. “They’ve invested in me, gotten to know me, and their support has been huge for my growth.”

From the Friday Night Recovery program and Shift, to grief groups and youth camps, Flatirons has been a constant in both Kaitlyn and Stephanie’s lives. Today, Stephanie is happily remarried to a man she met in her section at church, and now their family is attending services more regularly, listening to God’s guidance on how to live out their faith. What’s next for them? Volunteering for Kid’s ministry and continuing to deepen their relationship with Christ. Kaitlyn, meanwhile, looks forward to small group night—her favorite day of the week.



**FLATIRONS**  
COMMUNITY CHURCH

## Church Plants

Centar Church - *Belgrade, Serbia*

Persecuted Networks - *Central Asia, North Africa, the Himalayas, Myanmar, and India*

Ru Church - *Tampa, FL*

Garden Church - *Surprise, AZ*

Eden Church - *Bergen County, NJ*

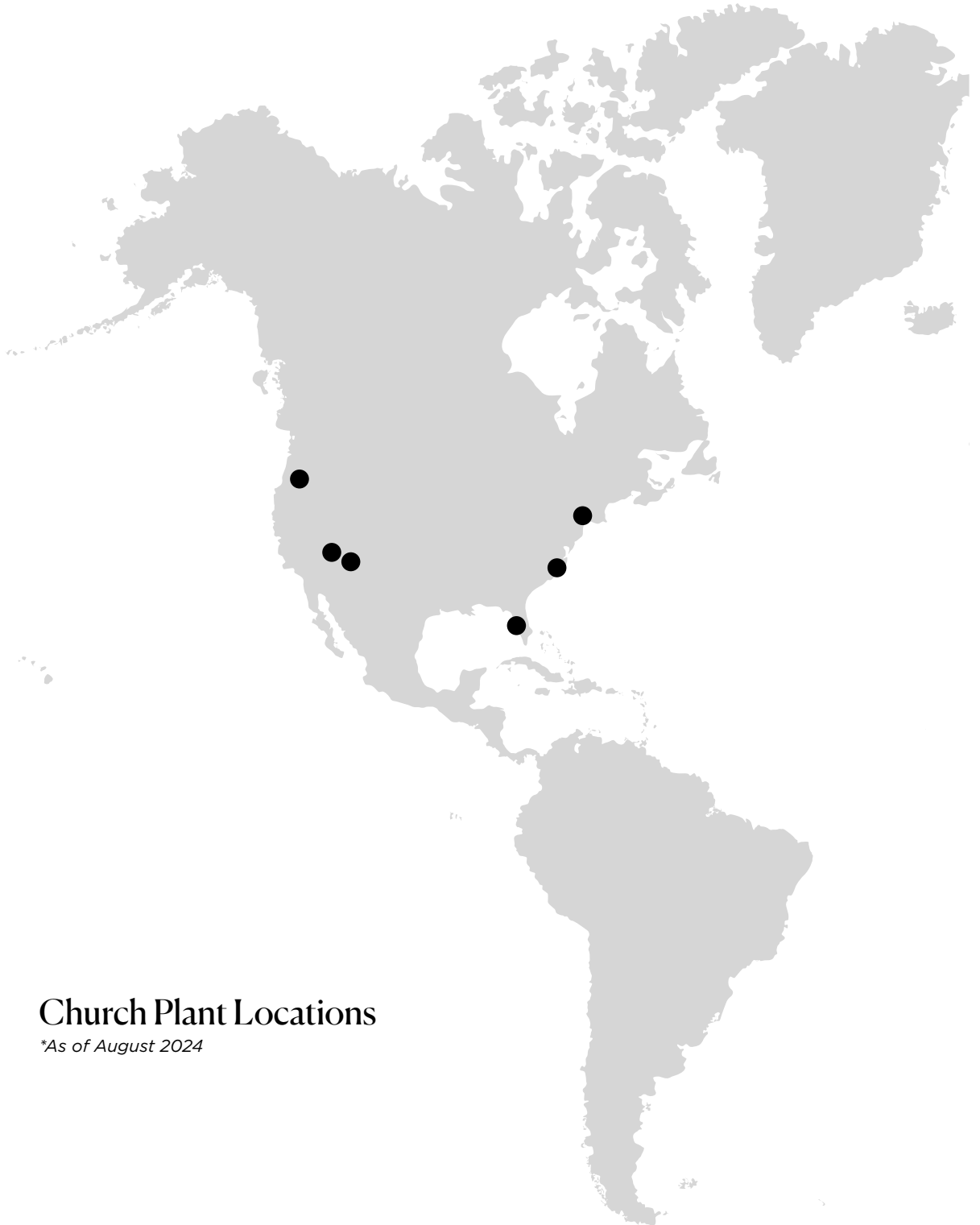
Local Point Church - *Morehead City, NC*

Generations Church - *Eugene, OR*

Echoes Church - *Queen Creek, AZ*

**1,800**

People being served weekly by these churches



## Church Plant Locations

*\*As of August 2024*





**JESUS  
LOVES  
JERSEY**

WITH BRANDON COBB

**J**ust across the Hudson River from New York City sits Bergen County, New Jersey—home to nearly a million residents. With its vibrant communities, proximity to the city, and more affordable living compared to its metropolitan neighbor, it’s no surprise that many people choose to plant their roots here. But beyond the stats and skyline, something new is taking shape—specifically in Hackensack. This October, Eden Church will open its doors, led by a man deeply connected to this community: Brandon Cobb.

Brandon is Bergen County through and through. Growing up, he remembers riding his bike down the same streets he now walks with his four children. But at 18, Brandon found himself in a place no

one wants to be—in a jail cell in Harlem.

“I always say it was the first time I felt God’s grace in my life, and I began to understand something about mercy.”

What could have been a downward spiral became a turning point. Sitting in that jail cell, he wondered if his choices would define his future forever. Facing possible prison time, Brandon was unexpectedly released after just three days. “I had literally received a freedom that I did everything to not earn.”

Determined to get back on track, Brandon walked into a local church and responded to an altar call, setting him on a new path. “Just taking those few obedient steps—God has honored those, and I’m still trying to take small, consistent steps toward Him.” From that

**“I had literally received a freedom that I did everything to not earn.”**

moment, as a young man making a life-changing commitment, he began to see God's hand in his life through strong mentors and meaningful relationships. These experiences taught him the value of a Christ-centered community and deepened his desire to build strong relationships with men, support the youth, and improve the neighborhoods he called home.

Brandon spent a decade in the corporate world, humorously referring to himself as a "Corporate Bro." But even as he climbed the ladder, he couldn't shake the call to something greater. Eventually, he made the leap to his true calling: bringing Jesus to his hometown in a real and tangible way.

Bergen County, as Brandon sees it, is a place of contrasts. "There's a big

gap in New Jersey. It's a very mixed area—economically, ethnically, socially, politically. There is so much beauty, but also polarization." He believes Eden Church can be a place where those walls come down. His vision? A community united not by what they have or where they're from, but by a shared hunger for something deeper. "New Jersey is highly Christianized, but I'm not too confident that it's currently experiencing the care of Christ in the way we intend." Eden Church is set to lead that change.

With two missional focuses—youth engagement and economic development—Brandon is forging partnerships with local businesses, professionals, and church members, all working together to cultivate a vibrant, Christ-centered culture in Bergen County.





life  
can't  
wait.





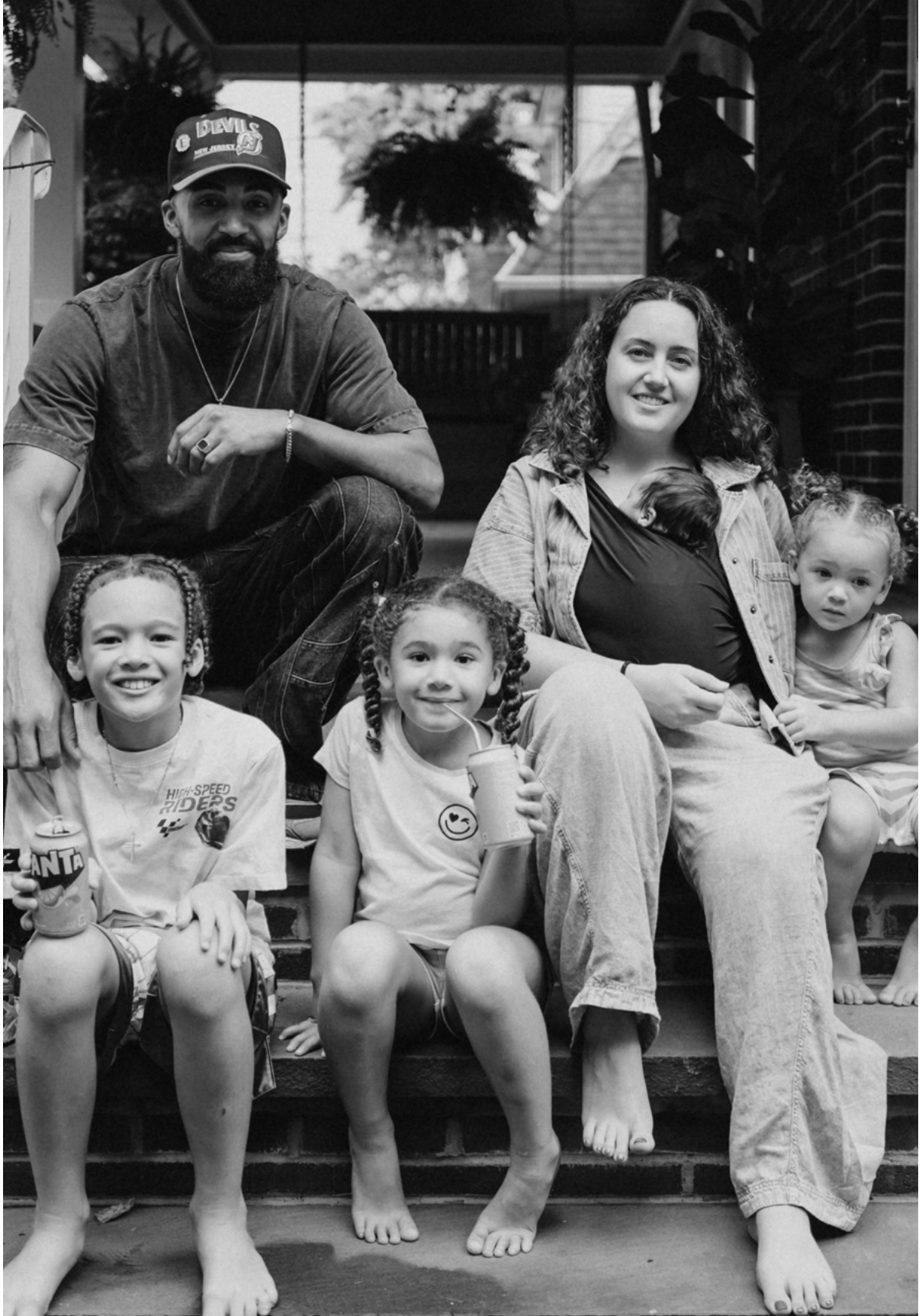
The result? A wide range of people, each with their own beliefs about God, are being drawn into the community. Many guests who attended pre-launch events openly share with Brandon that they don't subscribe to any religion, yet they still feel drawn to these gatherings. "I really enjoy that people know they can be in that space and belong in our community," Brandon reflects.

When asked how Flatirons' support is helping the church launch, Brandon can't narrow his answer down to just one thing. He deeply values the expertise Flatirons brings to running a church. "To have access to that knowledge—just hashing through things you all have succeeded with and what has worked. I've only been planting this church for about a

year, if that. So, to have conversations with someone who has already tried new things, seen what works, and spent countless hours strategizing how to reach the lost—that's invaluable." Reflecting on the resources and support Flatirons has provided, Brandon is filled with gratitude. And when he thinks of the countless people from Flatirons who are praying for him and Eden Church, his sense of validation for the vision he holds deepens. "What I've noticed about Flatirons is that they don't just say they're going to help, they follow through. That's unique."

Drive down the highway today, and you'll see it: "Jesus Loves Jersey," boldly displayed on an Eden Church billboard. It's not just a slogan; it's a declaration of love and a vision for transformation.







But even as they secured a meeting location, the journey was far from easy. Bergen County's zoning laws make it difficult to find spaces that welcome churches. "You can have a strip club, but not a church," Brandon remarks. After months of searching, Eden Church will open its doors in a historic spot, at least for Brandon—Hackensack Middle School. "It's the middle school I graduated from in 2004, 20 years ago. If you had told me 20 years ago that I'd be back there, let alone doing something kind, I probably would have cursed you out," he laughs.

As Eden Church prepares for its official launch, Brandon is prayerfully pressing

forward, guided by God's direction, nurturing relationships, and building a dedicated team. He does it with a deep love for his community—a love shaped by his own journey and the people who've walked with him. "These are people I love so much. This place holds a huge and warm spot in my heart." He's not just opening a church; he's opening a door to new connections—connections he believes will transform Bergen County from the inside out.



# OUTREACH

**\$1,705,227**

Given to support the work of international partner organizations

**\$17,146,279**

Given to economically disadvantaged families, domestic and international partner organizations









# **ANSWERING THE CALL**

WITH SELENA MILLER

**S**elena's journey with America's Kids Belong's Foster Friendly Communities began during a Sunday service at Flatirons Church. After watching a video about the program, she glanced at her husband and three teenage kids—all of whom were looking right back at her. "I got the point," she laughs.

Yet, Selena's connection to foster care runs much deeper. Growing up in a home where emergency foster kids came and went, she also witnessed the heartbreak of seeing her own family members enter the system. "For me, it was always a lot of loss," she admits. "The only experience I had was watching people I cared about lose their kids. There wasn't much positive about it."

By her mid-twenties, Selena was a teen mom of three, navigating the challenges

of single parenthood after a difficult divorce. For a decade, she raised her kids alone, carrying the weight of unshared milestones—first words, potty training, and even high school performances like *SpongeBob the Musical*. "The hardest part," she reflects, "was not having someone to share those moments with."

She discovered a community that embraced her and her children wholeheartedly. "God brought so many people into our lives who poured into my kids," she says. "I realized I had been holding back, preventing people from stepping up to love them, to take them out, listen to their hurts, and just be there for them." That same community even flew in from across the country to sit in







the audience and watch her daughter perform in *SpongeBob the Musical*.

In 2021, Selena met Alex, a man who restored her children's belief in what a father figure could be. Now her husband, Alex stands by Selena's side, supporting her work at her salon, *Mesdame Salon* in Longmont, where she pours her talents into her business.

After spending a decade as a single mom, Selena truly understands the immense responsibility of raising kids without a village. So when the opportunity arose to offer free haircuts to foster families, she knew she could make a difference. "It's more than just haircuts," Selena says. "For many foster kids, choosing how they want their hair cut is a rare moment of freedom in a life where they have little control. My goal is to give them a safe place to feel normal."

Selena's passion goes beyond providing a service—it's about giving these kids and their foster parents a sense of dignity and belonging. "I know what it's like to do it alone," she shares. "There's so much shame in wondering if you're good

enough. But I get to remind these families that they are enough, and that Jesus has brought people into their lives to help. Let us love you, too."

Her role lets her to show up for these kids in a practical way. "If my kids were ever in foster care, I'd want someone to love them well," Selena says. "This is my chance to do that—to love these kids, show up for their families, and follow Jesus in the most tangible way I can."

Programs like *Foster Friendly*, supported by *Flatirons Church*, have made these connections possible. As she first learned about *Foster Friendly Communities*, Selena recalls, "I had my husband and my kids next to me, and they all just turned to me and stared at me. I was like, 'I get it, I heard it, too.' So afterward, we talked, and I said, 'I'll reach out, and we'll get started.' I mean, I can offer my time all day."

Selena connected with *Foster Friendly* through *Colorado Kids Belong*, and she was amazed at how easily things fell into place. "I got put on the website, and I was like, 'That was so easy.' Then we were

WE ARE

**FOSTER  
FRIENDLY™**

BY COLORADO KIDS BELONG



rolling. I think sometimes when you want to get involved in something you care about, you worry about the hoops you'll have to jump through, or whether you're 'good enough' to serve this community. But it was really just about having a heart and being willing to open up and love them. It was so easy."

For Selena, obedience to God isn't about rules—it's about the grace and freedom that come from following His call. "Obedience, when it feels like a passion, is really easy, but obedience when it feels like 'I don't know what I can offer here,' or 'I don't know what impact this is really going to have,' that obedience is feels a lot more difficult. What I feel like I'm continuing to learn is that the freedom and the grace that I get to experience, the depth of understanding Jesus's love, both

for me and in others, that comes from the obedience is what continues to motivate me to be obedient. So, it's not just a rule that we follow, but it's actually this grace that God's given us to say, like, I've put this on your heart."

Now, Selena and Alex are completing foster parent training with hopes of offering a safe haven for kids in need. This next step feels like a natural progression in their journey, reflecting their desire to give back in a personal way. Thanks to the support of Colorado Kids Belong and Flatirons Church, Selena and many others can offer real, meaningful help to foster kids and their families—a powerful reminder that a little love and support can ripple out to change lives.

**“For Selena, obedience to God isn't about rules—it's about the grace and freedom that come from following His call.”**





# **GOD ON THE MOVE**

WITH BEN STEWART





**I**magine waking up on a Friday morning, knowing that the day ahead will take you to the edges of the world—both physically and spiritually. You pack the essentials: enough food, water, and gear for a 10-hour one-way hike. Your destination? A remote village nestled deep within the Himalayas, where you will share Jesus with villagers who may have never heard of Him. The trek is exhausting, but the reward is immeasurable. By Sunday, you arrive just in time to connect with the villagers, continuing to build relationships that have become a lifeline of hope in this secluded corner of the world. And when Sunday draws to a close, you begin the 10-hour hike back, ready to face the week.

For most of us, a Sunday morning drive to church can occasionally feel like a commitment. But for the 19- and 20-year-old Field Partners with Uncharted International, this weekly trek is a testament to their dedication to sharing the Gospel in places where hope is in short supply.

Uncharted International was Founded in 2010 with a vision to create opportunities

for connection with church planters in some of the world's most remote and unreached areas. The early days of the organization were challenging, marked by a lack of clear focus and direction. Despite many hearts being attuned to God's call, Uncharted struggled to gain momentum. However, in 2016, when Ben Stewart stepped into the role of President, a transformation began. Ben unraveled the complexities of those initial years, leading Uncharted through a period of redefinition that clarified their mission and set them on a path of steady growth.

Uncharted's mission is to find and serve places where following Jesus is nearly nonexistent—where the Gospel is not just unknown but often violently resisted. In these hostile environments, Uncharted works with Field Partners on the ground to plant seeds of love and hope. These Field Partners are embedded in some of the world's most challenging regions, including Central Asia, Myanmar, Northern Africa, Serbia, and, most recently, the Himalayas. Uncharted dedicates significant time and effort to





identifying areas where their work can make the most profound impact on the people they serve.

“But just as strong a part of our mission is connecting and empowering God’s people,” Ben explained. “We put a lot of time and energy into building relationships and partnerships with local churches here in the US, churches like Flatirons.”

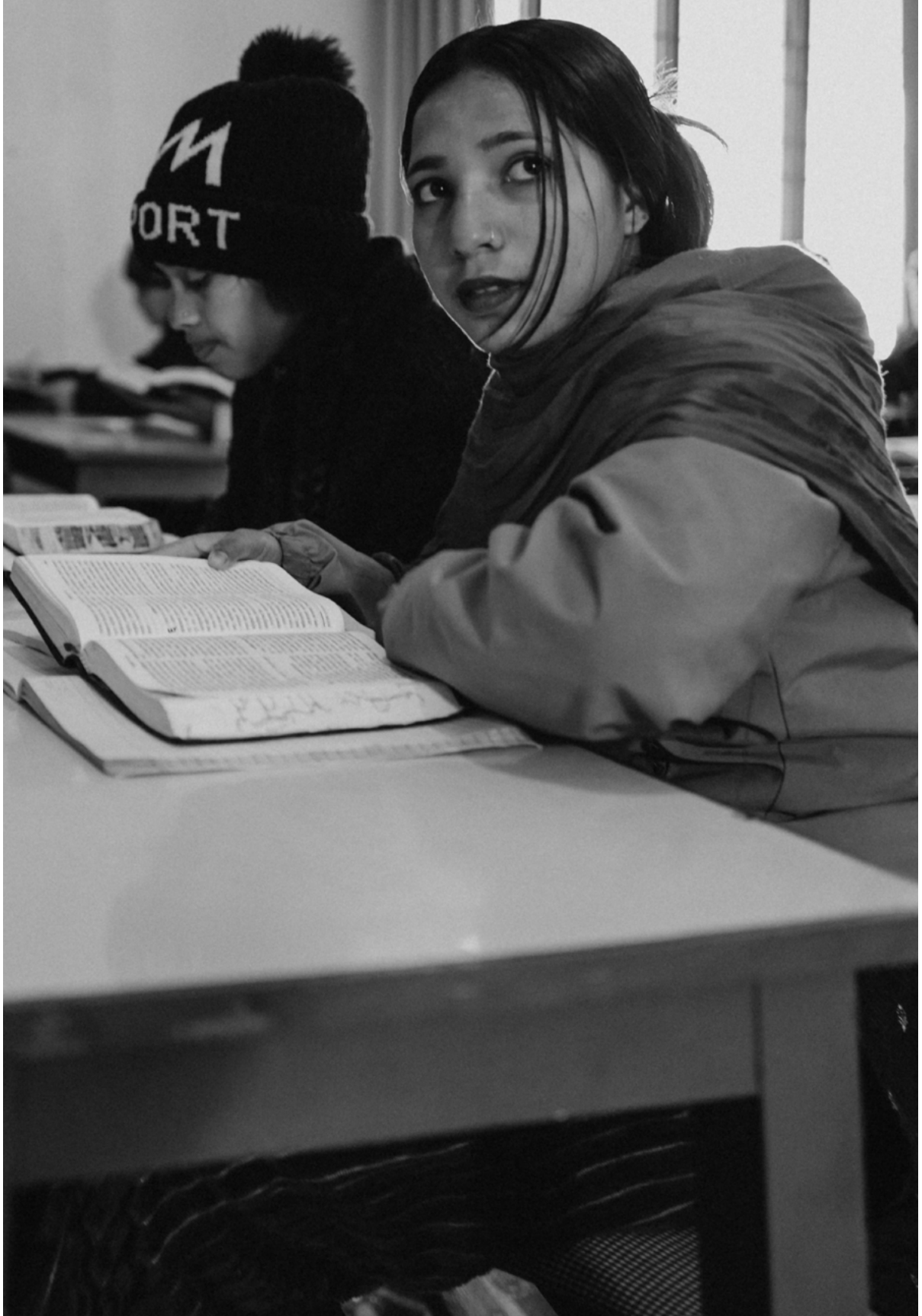
This dual focus on both international and local work creates a powerful bond between churches and Uncharted’s Field Partners. It’s not just about sending financial support or resources; it’s about fostering deep, meaningful relationships that empower both sides to grow and succeed in their shared mission. This connection bridges the gap between distant, often dangerous, mission fields and local congregations, creating a global community united in faith and purpose.

In 2021, the Burmese Civil War plunged Myanmar into chaos following a coup d’état. The violence from the military’s

bombings left countless villages in ruins. Uncharted’s Field Partners, being locals themselves, were driven by an intrinsic commitment to care for those they do life with. One Field Partner, witnessing the most vulnerable—those who were wounded, elderly, or unable to flee—left behind in a village under attack, was moved with the need to provide for his people. It was never a question of fleeing the area, but instead what could Uncharted do to serve them and help these impacted villagers? With support from Uncharted, this Field Partner renovated a large building into a shelter, providing meals, lodging, and safety.

Partnerships with churches like Flatirons are crucial in supporting these efforts. They enable Uncharted to continue boldly going into uncharted territories, backing their Field Partners’ passion and mission. “We’re sitting at around 20 [church partners], and for us, that’s a really important aspect of who we are. There’s some financial resourcing









that's important, but way deeper than that is the belief that it's God's people who are the primary means through which God's mission is accomplished," Ben shared. "Whether it's a tiny, new little church plant, all the way up to a Flatirons-level type church, we love coming alongside churches and saying, 'How can we help unleash your people into God's mission of redemption and restoration?'"

Ben pointed to the partnership between Flatirons Church and Uncharted's Field Partners in Serbia as a testament to the power of relationship-building in advancing God's work. Four years ago, there was no connection between these Serbian church planters and Flatirons. Today, there's a deep relational bond

that's flourishing. "It's been incredible to witness how the support of Flatirons has not just propelled church planting movements throughout Serbia, but also created waves of encouragement, friendship, and mutual investment," Ben explained. The relationships that have developed are as significant as the financial support, showing how God's love can bridge any distance and create lasting impact. This growing connection is a beautiful example of how partnership can foster spiritual growth and strengthen communities across the globe.

So, what's next for Uncharted? Ben speaks with anticipation about the work ahead in Afghanistan, viewing it as a new era of kingdom-building. "There's





**“...it’s God’s people who are the primary means through which God’s mission is accomplished.”**

a long, deep history of Flatirons making an impact in Central Asia through Sozo International, and now, more than ever, we’re witnessing the fruits of that investment,” he remarked. Today, we’re seeing people come to know Jesus, be discipled, and baptized, with churches being planted and women receiving education and business opportunities. “It’s like seeing a new wineskin being filled,” he continued, emphasizing how

God’s work in the region is more vibrant than ever.

Uncharted’s vision stretches even further as they prayerfully pursue the opportunity to expand their reach to 10 unique locations, increasing their Field Partners to 150, and forging more partnerships with churches to carry out the mission of boldly venturing into uncharted territory.

**HE  
FOUND  
ME**

WITH MIRANDA PARKER



**I**n February 2020, after a long night of partying, Miranda Parker woke up in bed with two people. The realization hit her hard—she had made a grave mistake. As a soldier away from home, her judgment faltered, leading her to a decision that would alter her life. Both she and one of the other men wrestled with the reality that their choices had resulted in cheating on their spouses. They decided collectively to sweep the event under the rug, forget the incident, and move on as if it had never happened. However, in June 2020, while stationed in Kuwait, Miranda was confronted with the past she wished to forget when she was arrested for sexual assault. The woman from that night had come forward and pressed charges against her and the other soldier.

Knowing she needed to confess her transgressions to her husband, Miranda reached out via Facebook Messenger after the Army had confiscated her phone. After telling him what had happened, he was angry and hurt, telling her that he would make sure she never

saw him or her daughter ever again. This revelation plunged Miranda into a deep crisis of identity. Facing expulsion from the military and the imminent end of her marriage, she felt her core identities—soldier, wife, and mother—being stripped away. Unsure of who she was without these roles, Miranda reached a breaking point one night. In a moment of despair, she went behind the barracks and held a knife to her throat.

“A random soldier walked up and started talking to me and was like, ‘Hey, what are you doing? What’s going on?’ He ended up sitting and talking with me for four or five hours.” The soldier then took Miranda to the base chaplain, who welcomed her with open arms and reminded her of her inherent worth. Reflecting on that night, Miranda wonders who was this random man who stopped her behind those barracks.

When she asked the chaplain about the soldier who brought her in, he looked at her, puzzled, “you came here alone.”

The next day, she felt God stirring her heart. “I went to one of my co-workers



and asked, ‘Do you think God can love you even after you haven’t loved Him or believed in Him for so long?’ He replied, ‘God loves all His children.’” This conversation led Miranda to seek more. She turned to YouTube, where she discovered Flatirons. The first sermon she clicked on was titled “Faith Qualifies You” from the Even Though series. “It talked about repentance and how your past doesn’t define you,” she recalls. At that moment, Miranda felt God speaking directly to her, and for the first time, she was ready to listen.

Due to the investigation, Miranda’s deployment ended early, but it would take two years before her name was cleared of the allegations. Six weeks after the allegations were brought against her,

Miranda returned home to a husband likely ready to file for divorce and take their daughter with him—“which he had every right to,” she acknowledges. However, when she landed in Colorado, she found the her husband was open to working through their issues and saving their marriage. “I just expected to come home to such a disaster. By the time I got home, he was ready to talk, and he wanted to work things out, so we worked through it.”

Through rigorous counseling and finding community at Flatirons, Miranda and her husband restored peace in their marriage. Miranda was baptized the following Easter in 2021.

They even welcomed another baby girl, Everly, who is now two and regularly

**“At that moment, Miranda felt God speaking directly to her, and for the first time, she was ready to listen.”**

reminds her parents of Jesus' love. Together, as a family of five, they now are fully immersed in Flatirons.

Miranda's journey began on the night she contemplated suicide, but she firmly believes that God sought her out and found her. Since then, she has followed Him with unwavering commitment. Today, Miranda is eager to share her story to help others understand the transformative power of trusting God, "I know there are others out there who feel broken and lost, wondering if God can accept them. It took

me 30 years to find Him, but He found me". She recently served with the Musana team this past July, and her husband now serves on the security team at Lafayette. Their daughters happily participate in the kid's ministry and student ministry activities each week. Miranda expresses, "I was that lost sheep that He came looking for. My goal now is to reach out to more lost and broken people, helping them find their identity and love in God. That's my next big goal."







**REMEMBER  
LOT'S  
WIFE**

WITH SARAH PATTERSON



**S**arah Patterson moved into her new neighborhood in Thornton about 20 years ago, excited to meet new neighbors as a young family with a two-year-old child. And almost immediately, she met Renee. Their kids were the same age (they eventually even walked through pregnancy together, having their children four weeks apart), their interests aligned, and before long, they became inseparable. Friday nights became their tradition—a driveway hangout where their families would unwind after a long week. They even swapped New Year’s Eve parties, ensuring no one had to battle the holiday traffic. Together, they often joked about retirement, dreaming of spending it on a cruise ship, side by side. But on January 13, 2016, everything changed.

“I was at work, and I had called her to ask her a question, and she didn’t answer,” Sarah remembers. “And I called again and

called again, which was weird for her not to answer, and her son answered. And I can still remember the devastating news.”

Renee was gone.

For eight years, Sarah felt frozen in place, struggling to process the loss of her best friend. Renee had been an incredible mother, friend, and wife. She had recently become a grandmother, and to Sarah, it seemed impossible to move forward without her. Sarah did her best to care for Renee’s children, stepping into milestones—graduations, bridal showers, weddings, baby showers—helping them navigate their lives without their mom. But Sarah was stuck, unable to grieve, unable to let go.

“I went to therapy and started trying to work through all the grief and why I was holding on to it so much, and it was hard. I couldn’t quite figure out how to let go. And even I did that, EMDR therapy,” Sarah shares. “I was stuck.” Her phone’s



background was a picture of her and Renee—never updated to reflect her own life that was still happening-- children's graduations, weddings, or even her own remarriage. Sarah couldn't bring herself to move on.

For Sarah, much of that time was spent processing everything she never told Renee—the things she didn't say, what she wished she had said, and how much she loved her. “I think the trauma of that kind of loss, you know, when it's so sudden, makes it incredibly hard to get over,” she reflects.

Then, in January, everything shifted when Sarah attended Flatirons' “She Is” conference with her IF Table group. As she sat in the audience, Christine Caine delivered a message on “Remember Lot's Wife,” the story of Lot's wife turning into a pillar of salt when she looked back on Sodom's destruction.

“In that moment, I realized I had been like Lot's wife—frozen in place because I kept looking back,” Sarah recalls. “I have been frozen like a pillar of salt this entire

time because I just keep looking back at the what-ifs and the regret.”

That message struck deep, and for the first time in eight years, Sarah felt God telling her it was time to stop looking back. The very next day, she changed her phone's background.

Renee's absence is still felt every day. Sarah watches as Renee's husband wears the pain of losing his wife, and her children continue to grow into new seasons of life without her by their side. But since January, Sarah has felt a shift—a freedom to finally move forward.

“God has been pushing me in a new direction, and for the first time in a long time, I'm ready to listen. I had been so blocked before, ignoring the Holy Spirit's nudges, but now I'm open. I'm not looking back at all the mistakes; all the things I wish I had done. I'm moving forward, and I'm ready to see what God has in store.”

Sarah is now pursuing a master's in child therapy, hoping to become an advocate for trafficked children in Colorado. But more than that, her heart is open to

## “I’m moving forward, and I’m ready to see what God has in store.”

following God’s lead for the first time in nearly a decade.

In moments of reflection, Sarah still feels Renee’s presence in small ways—a sunflower sighting (Renee’s favorite flower), a stranger who bears her likeness—reminders that God is guiding her forward. “I feel like God keeps giving me little winks, letting me know it’s okay to keep going. He provides those moments to remind us that even though we’ve lost someone, they’re still with us in spirit.”

For Sarah, the experience at the “She Is” conference was a pivotal moment. “I think we let fear stop us from experiencing what God has in store. But the moment I let go of that fear and trusted God’s plan, He opened doors I didn’t even know were

there. I realized I don’t need to rely on others to hold me up; I just need God.”

She continues, “Just keep moving forward, even if it’s tiny steps. Baby steps are okay, as long as you’re moving forward and not stuck in cement or quicksand, which is what I did for so long. The most frustrating part is feeling like you’ve wasted time—years, even—when you should’ve been moving forward. That’s what I learned that night: keep moving forward. God’s got a plan. I wish I had done it sooner, but I trust His timing. Maybe I wouldn’t have heard the message the same way if I wasn’t in that place.”

With a smile, she adds, “Remember Lot’s wife.”



**FINDING  
GOD IN THE  
GOLDEN  
YEARS**

WITH KATHY KLEPAC

**T**wenty-three years ago, Kathy Klepac joined her

first small group at Flatirons, and over the course of two decades, that group has been a steady presence in her life. Through countless seasons, this deep connection has helped her grow as a believer. “It makes me sad that somebody else doesn’t have this,” Kathy reflects. “My goal [in stepping up to help lead the 55+ group] was trying to make a place where people could connect who weren’t comfortable just walking into small groups or had tried small groups and hadn’t found a place yet.”

Kathy’s heart for the 55+ ministry was truly ignited when she began caring for her aging mother. Watching firsthand how life can change so drastically for older adults—shifting from the go-go-go of raising children and working to the slower pace of nearing retirement age and beyond—opened her eyes to both the beauty and the challenges of this stage of life. “There are certain things

that start happening that make life quite challenging,” she shares.

This conviction became even more personal when Kathy became involved with Flatirons’ 55+ group, which had formed just before COVID. Within a few short years, the group’s leadership had dwindled, with only one of the original four leaders remaining. The need for a ministry like this was obvious, yet it struggled without a strong foundation of volunteers. Recognizing this, Kathy, her husband, and others stepped forward to lead, determined to create a space where the 55+ members of the church could truly feel seen, valued, and connected.

To an outsider, it might look like the group is simply a monthly gathering for lunch, but it’s far more than that. “Through my mother’s early widowhood at age 54, and through my brother’s disability at age 57, and becoming his caregiver, I learned a lot about 55+ people and some of the problems they go through. I learned that sometimes they don’t even want to





open their curtains because what's the point? And if they have something on their schedule, the day is completely different."

The 55+ group serves a wide range of individuals—people from 55 to over 80, widows (there have already been two weddings amongst the group), regular churchgoers, and even those who don't attend church. Their monthly luncheons and activities provide a vital space for building community among those who understand the unique challenges and joys of aging. "It's not just about saying, 'It's nice to see you,'" Kathy says. "It's about saying, 'I've been praying for your husband's dementia,' and really meaning it."

And this is not just a group that gathers passively—many members are active and mobile. They participate in a wide variety

of social activities, including book clubs, a Classic Cars group, a Singles group, the Walk and Pray group, a Healthy Aging book study, a summer BBQ and potluck, and a Christmas gathering where they put together gifts for assisted living facilities in the area. "We sponsor people to come over from Wanaka Assisted Living who are on the lowest income level and on Medicaid so they have an event to go to," Kathy adds.

Leading this volunteer-driven group has brought challenges Kathy didn't expect. She has found herself spending more time in prayer than ever before. "My prayer life has never been richer. I feel like every now and then God's going to say, 'That's enough for today, hon'," Kathy laughs. "But fortunately, He doesn't

**"If God's called me to do this, it doesn't matter how I feel. I just have to keep going."**

do that. He's just so good at walking me through this." She believes this season has taught her more about perseverance than she's ever had to learn before. "If God's called me to do this, it doesn't matter how I feel. I just have to keep going."

As the group continues to grow, now with over 100 attendees at their monthly luncheons, Kathy and the leadership team are focused on deepening the experience. They're coordinating guest speakers, panel discussions, and other activities to enrich their community. Looking ahead,

their mission remains clear: "We want to grow stronger in the Lord together. We want to study God's word, develop strong prayer lives, listen to the wisdom of the Holy Spirit, and build a strong body that can support, encourage, and celebrate God's blessings." The team is always looking for more volunteers to join them in this ministry, ensuring that this vital space for connection and support continues to thrive.







# **MISSION BEYOND THE BADGE**

WITH STASON IKENOUE

**A**fter years of serving as a police officer and later as a private investigator, Stason Ikenouye had built his life around raising his hand to help. “I’ve always believed in service above self. It’s why I became a police officer—I wanted to serve the community and make a difference.” When he first walked into Flatirons Church, he hoped to blend into the crowd, just another face in the congregation. “I remember that first day; I wanted to be just a number. But as I listened to Jim speak, it felt personal, like he was talking directly to me. I’ve heard other men say the same, but for me, it was God speaking through Jim, saying, ‘This is where you need to be.’” Embracing this newfound direction, Stason became actively involved in the church, where

he found a meaningful way to apply his skills to support the safety efforts of the Lafayette campus.

Today, you’ll find Stason serving on Flatirons’ Safety Team, alongside 170 dedicated individuals who work tirelessly to keep every Flatirons campus safe. He has found immense joy in this role, admiring his teammates as both incredible people and skilled protectors. In June, Stason had the honor of traveling to Cambodia with six of his Safety Team peers. Together, they confronted the country’s human trafficking epidemic firsthand, driven by their shared desire and commitment to making a difference.

Agape International Ministries (AIM) is combating human trafficking in Cambodia on a systemic level. Their mission is not

**“I’ve always believed in service above self. It’s why I became a police officer—I wanted to serve the community and make a difference.”**

just about rescuing girls from forced prostitution—it's about offering them a safe place to heal and find hope in Jesus through their restoration homes. AIM's approach is comprehensive. They work closely with local law enforcement, provide safe havens, and offer education programs that pay above minimum wage, empowering the girls to regain the independence stolen from them. A rescued girl typically spends 6 to 18 months with AIM recovering from her time in slavery. "And when they talk about minors, they're talking, you know, our term of minor is anybody that's 18 or younger. For them, a minor is a 10, 11, 12-year-old girl."

As a result of Flatirons generosity, a small group comprised of Safety Team volunteers, co-led by Stason, were sent to work alongside AIM's SWAT Team. Upon arriving in Cambodia, Stason

and the team were introduced to the country's culture and history, including a visit to the Killing Fields Memorials, which commemorate the nearly 20% of the Cambodian population executed by the Khmer Rouge between 1975 and 1979. The Khmer Rouge's campaign of terror targeted anyone deemed a threat—babies, children, women, and men—wiping out entire bloodlines in the process. For Stason, this deeply painful experience grounded him in the historical context of Cambodia's struggles and provided insight in how far its people have come over the last 50 years.

But on the second day, after dinner, Stason and the team visited the Pink Light District in Phnom Penh, where they saw the stark reality of their mission. Along the streets, they saw young girls, some as young as 12, selling themselves to anybody passing by. For the team, made up of law





enforcement professionals, the injustice was infuriating. They were nearly moved to act when they saw a group of Western men approaching the girls with ill intent. "I think God definitely intervened for us in that, making sure we stayed on mission. The importance of how those actions are carried out is really much more significant than taking action right at that moment."

With their convictions solidified, the team embarked on their primary task: training local law enforcement in de-escalation tactics, investigation techniques, and more. The first day was tough, with language barriers complicating their efforts. However, by the end of the week, the team found themselves working closely with their trainees. "This is a legit thing that we're supporting. AIM knows what they're doing—They have it down pat. The mission is so important, and AIM's staff is very good at conducting investigations, getting the information they need, and building solid cases for the raids. But those raids don't happen without cooperation from the police. As police get trained

and move on to different provinces, more officers need that same training to help. It's all about building cooperation with the police and giving them the tools they need to assist."

When asked to summarize his experience, Stason finds it hard to put the impact into words. The people he met, the things he witnessed, and the work they accomplished left a lasting mark on him. Now, as he looks to continue the fight against trafficking in Colorado, he can't help but reflect on the depth of AIM's mission in Cambodia. "There are so many other things that are just as important, if not more important, about what they do. I don't think we see that from back here. AIM could do raids every single day for the next five years and probably not run out of girls to save, but they don't have all the resources they need to make that happen. It's not as simple as throwing money at the problem. They need the infrastructure, the right people to staff the restoration homes, and the ability to properly care for the girls they rescue. It's not just about money. It has to be

something that grows progressively over the years to make a bigger impact.”

Stason realizes how crucial Flatirons’ partnership is in allowing AIM to focus on their mission, providing a safe haven for the girls who so desperately need saving.

One morning, the team was preparing for another day of training when they learned that a raid the previous night had rescued 14 girls who now were receiving respite down the hall from their classroom. As the day went on, each person on the team had a chance to walk

by that room and see the girls, “All of the shoes, ranging in different sizes—it was so impactful seeing stiletto heels down to small little sandals. Not knowing the ages of all these girls. You look at that and think, ‘They were in an absolutely horrible situation that my kids will probably never experience. But there’s hope on their faces,’” Stason reflects. “Because AIM and the Cambodian police have made it a priority to take their welfare into account, that hope shines through.”





# 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.

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\*Numbers are representative of May 2023 - August 2024

\*Stories written by MacKenzie Faris

