



KEEPING YOU INFORMED

An Occasional Letter from Pastor Nelson
November 2003

New Associate Pastor for Adult Discipleship

Dr. Rich Peterson accepted the “call” of the church and began his ministry among us on September 28. Rich and his wife Cynthia (who has been our accountant/bookkeeper for the past six months) have two sons, Luke and Jack, and live in Highlands Ranch. They have just adopted a little girl and will be traveling to get her later this month. We are excited to have them with us. Rich will be working closely with our adult communities (Sunday School) and small groups, and enabling other ministry leaders as well.

Building Spiritual Community

Being part of a church wherein people truly know and care for each other is a high priority for us. Our desire is not just to have more people, more money and more programs. Our deepest desire is to be a people who are following Christ. We believe that happens in the context of relationships where Christ is the subject.

For the past several months, over 120 ministry leaders of our church have been praying, meeting and discussing how we can be more effective in connecting people (both new and long-time attendees) with each other in ways that foster spiritual conversation about the most important things in life. Pray for the many leaders in our church who are working in small groups, Sunday school classes, service teams, etc., that they will have even better insight into how to help us “encourage one another to love and good deeds.”

Welcome Center Expansion

On Sunday night, October 26, the Partners of SGC voted overwhelmingly to take a next step in the expansion of our facilities. Everyone present recognized that enlarging the Welcome Center will not, in and of itself, make ministry more effective BUT when we take advantage of good facilities to engage newcomers and regulars alike, we can build the kind of relationships that will make ministry more effective. Our prayer is that even as we enlarge the facility we will open our eyes and hearts to people, new and old.

The Elders and Property and Finance Committee will be meeting this month to set a schedule for design/construction and for a capital stewardship campaign. We will keep you posted on all related matters.

Please visit the display in the Welcome Center or see our website (www.sgc.org) to see pictures of the proposed expansion.

Holiday Choir

Would you like to sing in a 60-voice HOLIDAY CHOIR this season? Rehearsals will start Wednesday, November 5, 6:30-8:15 p.m. in Mt. Elbert (Room 171). Also mark your calendar for the Christmas Choir Rehearsal and Lunch on Saturday, November 8, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. in Rooms 171 and 173. Call the church (303-986-1527) to contact Pastor Craig Allen (Ext. 206) or Esther Geist (Ext. 269) for more information.

Missions/Evangelism

India—By the time you read this, Pastor Jacob Miles* will have returned from India completing our sixth year of teaching in the Bible institute without walls. Every October and March we send in teams to teach the four courses in two locations (one week in each location). Because government permits were refused for one of the locations this time Jacob taught both weeks in Shillong and for one of the weeks the students were bused in from the other location. The best news is that half of the instructors are now Indian. We began by sending all American teams but now the Evangelical Free Church of India is supplying half of the teachers. Our and their goal is that soon 3/4 of the instructors will be Indian with us sending only one or two teachers each time.

Singers*—It is great to have John*, Abigail* and their three children home from Central Asia for the next few months. They are reconnecting with family now and will be with us regularly after the first of the year.

(*Not their real names. Names changed for security reasons.)

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Nelsons—It is good to have Jon and Meta Nelson and their children home with us. Theological training is one of the great needs of emerging churches worldwide and Jon's research in Spanish-based theological works is important to the seminaries of South and Central America. The Nelsons will be living with Jon's parents (John and Arlene) for the next few months and we are delighted they will be with us for a while.

Dates to Remember

Wednesday, November 26, 7:00 p.m.—**Thanksgiving Eve Service**

Sunday, December 7, 6:00 p.m.—**Children's Old-Fashioned Christmas Pageant**

Sunday, December 21— **Christmas Sunday**

Wednesday, December 24, 4:00 and 5:30 p.m.—**Christmas Eve Services**

A Great Story of God's Grace

(Denver Community Church is one of the church "plants" that we have been supporting.)

Hello,

I am sending this to a few of you to let you know what God has done in the life of Denver Community Church over the past two weeks. On Sunday, October 19th, I decided not to teach. We were facing two looming issues as a church, which I believed God wanted us to address through prayer. The issues were finances and limited space. We realized that if we grow this fall like we did last fall that even five services in our very small facility wouldn't be enough. Compounding this were factors such as the need for new staff, which we would not be able to afford, and the need for increased rent at a new building, which we would not be able to afford.

So we prayed as a church about the issues, believing that God would unite us and give us a vision for where He wanted us to go. Our current facility has been a rental. It is the original section of a much larger church. The original worship area was preserved when the addition was built and we now rent the smaller worship center along with a couple classrooms. The location is ideal but we cannot afford to buy anything in this area or rent anything larger.

Three days ago (Sunday October 26th) I decided as a part of our service we should pray and thank God for His faithfulness. Our offering the week before was three times the average and we were united on when our service times would be to prepare for our potential growth. After the second service, I was approached by the head trustee of our landlord church. He told me that they were planning to close the doors. Their attendance had dwindled and they had all decided to attend other churches. **He then said they had decided to give us the building if we would assume the mortgage.**

In the past three days I have found that they owe \$180,000 on a building that is worth about 1 million dollars. We can refinance their loan, pay it off in ten years, and still pay \$500 less a month than we currently pay in rent. We have also already contacted the people who paid for chairs for our first facility and they are willing to buy us 450 chairs for the new facility.

This is pretty great stuff and I figured you would appreciate it. Our first service in the new building will be this Sunday in the old ugly pews. We will sit in them for a couple weeks until the chairs arrive. It will help us appreciate them when they come. Now the work begins; cleaning, painting, dry-walling, laying down carpet. I almost slept in the new building last night; I just didn't want to leave. God is good and kind.

Sincerely,
Frank P. Scardina
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www.denverchurch.org
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