

INSIDE THE BIGGER STORY

DECEMBER 2022

UPCOMING EVENTS

MIDWINTER 2023

Hyatt Regency Jacksonville
Riverfront

Jacksonville, Florida

January 23 - 27, 2023

FINANCIAL TRAINING

**Pacific Northwest
Conference**

March 18, 2023

Midwest Conference

May 6, 2023

Northwest Conference

May 20, 2023

Great Lakes Conference

September 30, 2023

More than an investment.

We're Building for the Future.

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given... and he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6). In this newsletter, you will read stories of God providing in miraculous ways for the needs of two churches. We tell these stories during the Advent season to highlight the importance of the children within these congregations. During Advent, we focus on the coming of Christ, how the Savior of the world entered this world as an infant, helpless and fully dependent on his earthly parents. As we reflect on this past year and look to the future, we are filled with anticipation in the Advent season. This season of hope and expectation reminds of us the joy that comes in Christ, of a promise fulfilled.

Real Life Covenant Church in Waseca, Minnesota, saw such exponential growth in their children's ministry that they need more parking. District Church in El Dorado Hills, California, opened District Christian Academy as a response to their vision casting and desire to mentor kids in relationship with Christ through their schooling. These two churches, located thousands of miles from each other, share the belief that children are an integral part of the church family; they are the future of the church. These stories of children being the catalyst for ministry growth remind of us the baby who came to earth to save the world. The children truly are the future of ministry and we celebrate these churches embracing and empowering their kids.

DISTRICT CHURCH EL DORADO HILLS, CALIFORNIA

September 7, 2022, 127 students in kindergarten through twelfth grade had their first day of school at District Christian Academy. A school that was birthed from a vision casting session by the leadership of District Church. The mission of the school stays true to the vision of the church and the community keeping Jesus at the center of it all. Christian Academy is an entrepreneurial and leadership academy with a goal to prepare students for college and to create life long learners. The school sits adjacent to the church campus on 10 acres of land purchased with the help of NCP. CJ Hatlevig, lead pastor of District Church, worked with Rollie Persson, vice president of real estate services for NCP to negotiate the purchase of the land used to house the school. *Continued on third page.*



REAL LIFE COVENANT

WASECA, MINNESOTA



Real Life Covenant Church purchased their building in 2019 with the help and counsel of Rollie Persson, vice president of real estate services for NCP. Rollie was pivotal in both the purchase and subsequent remodel of their space. Real Life has a thriving kids ministry, so much so that they needed to move from holding one service each Sunday to two. When we spoke to Pastor Michael Behm for this story, we could hear his joy when he spoke about the kid's ministry at Real Life. Many times churches have a hard time engaging families and maintaining a thriving children's ministry. As Pastor Michael stated, it's even more rare that the children's ministry

becomes such a cornerstone of the congregation that there is not enough space to park the cars that bring the kids.

It was evident there was an immediate need for more parking after the purchase of their building as the lot at the time of purchase held less than 30 cars. After pursuing multiple options with no luck, Real Life made an offer on a lot across the street from their church that used to be a gas station. During the negotiation process, communication ceased and the deal was dead. Last year, the same lot went up for auction. The church contacted Rollie who advised them not to bid and to wait. The lot was purchased by a woman at auction for less than \$10,000 who planned to use the land for storage. Coincidentally, the buyer, Jane, was family friends with members of Real Life Covenant. The church members put Jane in touch with Pastor Michael. Jane offered Real Life parking in her lot for no cost to the church, she only asked for lawn care and snow removal. Michael was amazed at the beautiful symbiotic relationship created between Jane and his church through something as seemingly mundane as parking. Now the church can shift their focus to paving their existing lot (pictured above) from finding additional parking.

As Real Life Covenant continues to grow, their prayer is that they can continue living their mission of connecting Jesus to real lives and expand their welcome to more people.



STAFF HIGHLIGHT: HEIDI CORRAL

Heidi joined our team in 2012 and serves as a Senior Investment Services manager. Over the past 10 years, her role has grown from opening new accounts and processing deposits to earning her Certified IRA Services Professional (CISP) designation, collaborating on marketing efforts for NCP, and working with the real estate services team on loan documentation and recording. Heidi was initially drawn to NCP for the opportunity to serve the denomination she was raised in.

The past 10 years have not only seen a vast amount of growth in Heidi's professional life, but her personal life as well. She married her husband, Alex, in 2019, had her son, Eliseo in August of 2020 and is recently back from maternity leave after the birth of her daughter, Atha, in August of 2022. Heidi is incredibly grateful to her colleagues (who feel more like family than co-workers) at NCP for challenging her to utilize her strengths in new, or different ways and to never allow her weaknesses to become barriers to growth. Heidi has been a constant presence over the past decade, always eager to learn a new task or process or find a way to make an existing one more efficient. We are thankful for Heidi and the integral role she plays in keeping NCP a cohesive, ministry-focused team.



ADVENT

Advent is a time of preparation, are you ready?

What makes the Advent season so special? Suddenly it is here and I, probably like many of you, am surprised that another year has already gone by, and it is time to prepare for next year. Every year at this time, I challenge myself to slow down and reduce the busyness that is both self-imposed and thrown upon me around the Advent and Christmas Season. I often wonder why it is so difficult to walk slowly and reflect on the miracle that happened 2,000 years ago.

When I am out traveling and visiting with the leadership of our Covenant churches, I am reminded of the wonderful ministry that is taking place in the local communities. All of us at NCP are grateful to be able to serve our Covenant family and that you allow and trust us to partner with you in your ministry initiatives. As I reflect on what is important during this Advent season, I am thankful for all the Covenanters that joyfully share the Good News and make a difference to so many people both locally and globally. Thank you for helping us celebrate the birth of Jesus and also to prepare for His return.

In this newsletter, we are glad to share the encouraging stories about two of our churches that are preparing our children for the future. I trust that you will enjoy learning about them and their ingenuity in equipping our future generations. I am fortunate to serve with a great team for which I am very grateful. During the last decade, Heidi Corral has been instrumental in assisting many Covenanters to allow them to be better prepared for financial goals in the years ahead. We appreciate her commitment and dedicated service to all of you and that she is part of the NCP team.

In this Advent and Christmas Season, I encourage all of us to slow down and reflect on the true gift that we have been given. Since we are unable to earn eternal life through hard work and busyness, rather we can find rest and peace in this unmerited favor we can all receive. On behalf of our team at NCP, we thank you, our Covenant investors and borrowers, for partnering on this mission-focused journey together. As Advent is the beginning of the new church year, I am looking forward to 2023 with anticipation, hope and passion. Wishing everyone a blessed Advent Season. Merry Christmas!



Peter Hedstrom, President

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The daily ethos of District Christian Academy differs from the school experience many are accustomed to. In many ways, the school functions like a home school co-op where students are allowed, even encouraged, to learn in non-traditional structures. Students in lower and upper elementary school learn together in classrooms, called studios, where leadership, mentoring and "looking back" are taught from day one. CJ, along with the staff and

leadership of District Church and District Christian Academy believe they are called to make a difference in the world, and one of the most profound ways to make a difference is through our youth. At a time where students are over-scheduled and over-stimulated, District Christian Academy aims to reclaim the heart of the youth; to create

future leaders both in the church and secular world. They are capitalizing on one of our most precious resources, our time, to use the 16 - 18,000 hours students spend in school versus the 400 hours in Sunday school or youth group to speak light and love into their students and recapture their hearts for Christ through education.





Merry Christmas

Let the experience of our team work for you.

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