



we're all about new beginnings

IMPACT REPORT

Dr. George Johnson, Executive Director



You probably see one of these (*pictured at left*) every day of your life in the kitchen sink or the bathtub or in your coffee cup as you stir in some creamer. But the most memorable ones appear as a whirlpool or a dust-devil or a tornado. Scientists call this a *vortex*.

I'm sure you'll agree that observing a vortex is much more inspiring than being caught in one. The sensation of being suddenly pulled off balance, spun counter-clockwise in tightening, descending circles toward a bottomless black hole - though breathtaking - is not pleasant in any sense. That sums up 2020 for me, how about you?

But the vortex that was 2020, despite being frightening, nauseating, and disorienting, proved to be a year of unanticipated blessing for the ministry of the CEA. We discovered anew the paradox of Romans 8:28 - *that in all things God works for the good of those who love him*.

Indeed, in the midst of a global pandemic and national political upheaval, God graced our church planting work with stable financial support, new partners, growing churches, and new planters for projects in Seattle, Portland and Eugene.

As an example, our newest plant received the gift of a trailer and equipment carts when Upward Church in Medford, OR was displaced from the school it had been renting on Sundays. The Lord provided a better venue that was available 24/7 for a modest increase above what they had been paying for the school. The upgraded facility meant the church no longer needed its portable equipment. So, Lead Planter, Kirk Friesen, arranged the generous gift of their trailer and carts to our plant in Twin Falls, ID in time for their first preview services last fall. That's just one of many amazing examples of God's remarkable provision in 2020!

As we cross the threshold of a new year into a new decade, we're praying and planning for the launch of 40 new churches by 2030. In January, High Plains Christian Church launched in Twin Falls, ID. Everyone Christian Church launches in Eugene, OR this spring. Those new starts will be followed by three more this fall in Portland and Seattle.

Together we're changing the spiritual landscape of the Northwest, by planting more churches in more places to reach more people!

Investing in Leaders for the Next Wave of Church Plants

Russell Clum, Associate Director

It has been clear, since Jesus began investing in a ragtag group of disciples, that leaders don't grow on trees. Instead, we find that they're best developed on the long walk of life following someone who has traveled that road before them. The question for us, as we think about starting new churches in the Pacific Northwest, is not "Where are we going to *find* leaders?" No, the real question is "How can we *invest* in the emerging leaders God has provided who will in turn lead the next wave of church planting?"

This past fall marked a big moment in the CEA story that points directly at what God is up to with the next wave of church planters. At the tail end of October, we concluded our second generation of training for *Church Plant Residents*. "Residency" seems to have become a common catch phrase for leadership development in the church lately, so let me explain.

For us, we recognize the call to plant a church is unique from other ministry callings. We also acknowledge the serious mistake of sending planters to the living edge of the Kingdom under-prepared. We needed a process that would embed our emerging leaders in the petri dish of a church plant while offering long-term, sustained training and coaching. We wanted to offer leaders an experience that would force them to slow down and let others invest in their calling while helping them develop their gifts and abilities to their greatest potential. Hence, *residency*.

While it has been anything but perfect, we can say that it bears a favorable resemblance to the relationship between Jesus and the ragtag group of capable leaders He drew around Him and discipled. And our hope? That like that first cohort of residents embedded with the Master, a group of world-changers would emerge. World-changers who will lovingly extend the goodness of God and expand His Kingdom wherever they put down their roots here in the Northwest.

A Sign from God

Generations Church celebrated its first birthday in October of 2020. Among the many blessings recounted was the story of a young woman who saw a literal sign from God inviting her to attend Generations Church.

Kyle Davies, Lead Planter, set out an A-frame sign (*pictured below*) for their Sunday gatherings hoping it might attract potential visitors – he never imagined that it might save a life!

The next morning, as the launch team was busy at the American Legion hall preparing to welcome visitors, a young woman walked through the door. She was warmly welcomed by several women on the set-up team.

Encouraged by their genuine care, the visitor shared some of the details of her broken life. Defeated by substance-abuse and reeling from her boyfriend's near-death overdose the week before, she was desperately seeking hope for her life. In fact, she had recently contemplated ending her own life. The women prayed with her for God's love and hope to flood her soul.

No longer a visitor, the woman began attending every week, coming early to help her new friends set up for the service. Her story is still being written but she is meeting more new friends and learning about the love of Jesus because she saw a sign from God – literally! It was a sign advertising the start of a new church and it prompted her to think that Generations Church just might have the answers she was seeking for her life.

Your prayers, financial support and partnership help us extend an opportunity for a new beginning through faith in Jesus Christ to those far from God across the Northwest!



CEA CHURCH PLANTS



*=indicates project in development



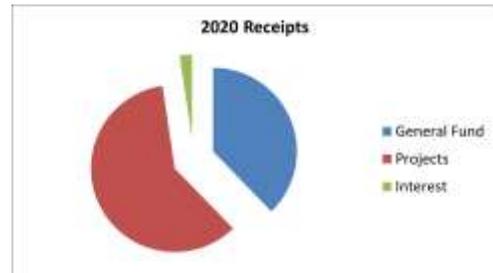
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Financial Summary

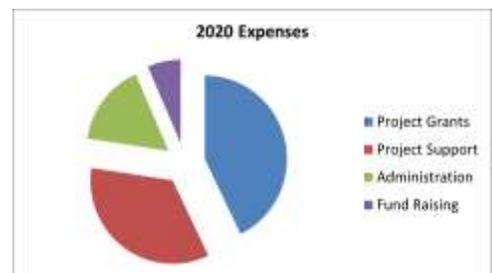
2020 Receipts

General Fund	\$ 279,864
Projects	\$ 443,979
Interest	<u>\$ 17,544</u>
Total Income	\$ 741,388



2020 Expenses

Project Grants	\$ 243,004
Project Support	\$ 196,033
Administrative	\$ 91,271
Fund Raising	<u>\$ 37,066</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 567,373



Funds at Yearend

Project Funds	\$ 427,495
General Fund	\$ 129,307
Rainy Day	<u>\$ 55,553</u>
	\$ 612,355

