

Each week's devotional is meant to highlight a different recipient of our Beyond campaign and to share the stories of how God is working through them.

This Week's devotional is from Stephen Searles, who is planting The Pointe Church in Seattle, Washington.

Beyond Devotional - Week 2

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Acts 2:42-47

This is the planting of the first church ever. Peter, one of Jesus 12 apostles, got up and preached a sermon after receiving the Holy Spirit. The words he spoke were understood by people in their own languages and over 3,000 were saved and then they formed a church. What a launch, am I right?!

Church planting today looks a little different. We take classes, read books, go to conferences, and then finally look at our hurting cities and think "I've got no idea how to do this..." But because you know God called you to do it you just, well, do it. It's like that scene in Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade. Indiana is pretty sure he's deciphered the clues correctly but has come to a giant chasm. He is trying to find the "path of God" that will take him to the Holy Grail. The only problem? There seems to be no path just air and a painful death by sudden stop on the cavern floor below. Indy closes his eyes and takes a step and miraculously finds the path.

Walking by faith is like that. Sometimes you put your foot out hoping you are walking God's path and pray that you were right. I am no different. We think our next steps were God asking us to plant a church in Federal Way. We prayed, we sought council, we prayed more, but ultimately, we had to move our feet. We moved those feet following the dream of what the ancient doctor Luke wrote in Acts 2. A group of people devoting themselves to teaching, fellowship, and taking care of those in need.

What is your next step of faith? Where is there no path but you feel like God is guiding to take steps? Friend, where do you need faith? Whether it is sickness, debt, hurt, loneliness, or simply breathing in and out because everything seems overwhelming, we all need faith. Luckily faith doesn't originate from us. We can't make ourselves have faith, it comes from God. Faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things unseen (Heb 11:1) and Jesus is the author and perfecter of that faith (Heb 12:2). The first Church planter Paul told us that faith comes by hearing God's word (Romans 10:17). So if you're needing faith to face that test, apply for that job, have that conversation, or maybe move to Washington to help plant a church, dig into the words of the Bible and actively ask God for the faith that only He can provide. And maybe look up the old Carman song "Takina a step of Faith" and step out on all the promises God made.

**Stephen Searles
The Pointe Church**