

ADVANCE

CAMPAIGN

Our church community began in Salt Lake City in May of 2007 as Gospel Fellowship under our founding Pastor Jason Epps with the vision of reaching our neighbors and the unchurched for Christ!

Fast forward to early 2012 when the church relocated from South Jordan to our current location in Draper. It was a monumental year with not only the move but also a renaming where we became The Rising Church! These two events coupled together gave shape for The Rising to be an outreach minded church.

For the past seven years we've been in this rented facility and it is time for us to move from renters to owners! A key value of The Rising is that we are a family (Ephesians 1:9 (ESV) – “So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the *family* of God - emphasis added). The Rising is a place to *know others* and *be known*. It is easily distinguishable from the moment you come through our doors; people warmly welcoming you, asking, “How are you?” or saying, “We’re glad you’re here!” and pointing you towards our fantastic Children’s Ministry, café or simply engaging in deep and meaningful conversations. Then as the service concludes, people linger in prayer circles and conversations for quite some time before parting for the week only to reconnect during midweek or the following Sunday. As a family we need a home to continue creating and fostering deep relationships and welcoming others who are looking for a church family to call home.

We believe this is a pivotal time in our story to not only continue reaching the Salt Lake Valley for Christ but to grow into a thriving church that is advancing the Kingdom of God. We continually create a welcoming space where people can explore a relationship with God, from wherever they are in life and at their own pace. At The Rising we’ve come from a variety of different places to join in the Christ life. We strive to create an environment where people are accepted, loved and encouraged to come as they are...but not stay that way.

Part of our DNA is being a relational community that resembles a family. We intentionally use the phrase #NotYourNormalChurch and doing safe, predictable ministry is not who we believe God is calling us to be. We have bold faith (2 Corinthians 3:12 (ESV) – “Since we have such a hope, we are very bold”), we’re prayerful and strategic. We’re boldly stepping out knowing God has GREAT BIG plans for His church and each of us who call The Rising home (Proverbs 3:5-6 (ESV) – “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths”). Therefore, we embark on the journey to **ADVANCE!**

ADVANCE is an intentional initiative to live out God’s vision for our church together, advancing the effects of the Gospel and God’s love in our community.

The mission of The Rising is to **Love God, Love Others** and **Be Like Jesus!**

It begins with Loving God. That is our first and most important priority. We must chase after God with all of our heart, all of our soul, and all of our mind. (Matthew 22:37)

As we grow in our love for God He will enlarge our love for others. When we love others more than ourselves, our pride will be stripped away. We will serve sacrificially and without expectation. Our second priority is to Love Others; treating and loving them better than ourselves (Matthew 22:39).

Everything for the Christian should be about becoming more and more like Jesus! More today than yesterday in everything we think, say and do! As we look to Jesus the Author and Perfector of our faith (Hebrews 12:2), we will become like Him. This is something we strive to do daily not just on Sundays. That is why our anchor priority is to Be like Jesus!

That's our vision and God has used it to transform dozens upon dozens of lives. Yet we feel called to much much more!

How many *more* lives will be touched as each of us intentionally lives out that vision every day in our spheres of influence? In our families? Our neighborhoods? Our workplaces? Our schools? (1 Peter 3:15 (ESV) – "...always be prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you...")

We envision different people with various stories united by the Gospel because they've not only heard it, but **experienced** it. (Job 42:5)

It's the child who sticks up for a classmate who is different from him.

It's the student who finds her value in Christ rather than her achievements.

It's the neighbor who seeks first to understand before being understood.

It's the colleague who values people over career advancement.

It's God's work in and through each of us as we live out our faith in Jesus every day.

WE ARE THE CHURCH: TOGETHER WE CAN *ADVANCE!*

In this season of expectation and transition, we are asking each person who calls The Rising their church home to participate: to pray, live and give in new ways. As you think about your involvement in this initiative, prayerfully consider:

- Am I growing in dependence on God through prayer, both in my own life and for the sake of others?
- Am I invested in the lives of those around me in ways that represent Jesus?
- Am I using the resources that God has provided to build His Kingdom?

PRAY - Will you commit to praying for God's "*will to be done on earth as it is in heaven*" (Matthew 7:10) through the ministry of The Rising? Will you fast, designating concentrated prayer on this **ADVANCE** initiative?

LIVE – Will you commit to living a life that models Jesus? Will you surrender every thought, word and action to Jesus? Will you invest and invite others into the best life; the Christ life? Will you live "on mission" with intention everywhere God places you?

GIVE – Will you invest in this spiritual initiative by December 31, 2018 to help us make a difference beyond what we may think we could? But with God we can!

As you can see this is not merely a fundraising initiative, it is much much more. It is a *FAITHraising* adventure! By collectively praying, living and giving in this critical season of our church's life we will grow in both our interpersonal relationships as well as in our faith journey with God. And as we journey, we will unify and be poised for whatever God has for us as we continue to make Him known in our Valley and beyond!

Securing \$300,000 by the end of the year is essential to launch us from our current building into our future home. It is the first of two phases:

Phase 1 – \$300,000 for the down payment and remodeling costs.

Phase 2 – \$200,000+ to reduce the amount of mortgage to be borrowed, freeing up more funds to be designated to ministry along with local and global outreach as well as staffing.

The dream: Raising \$1 million to have the project fully funded!

Over the past two years we have seen God show up and not only meet our needs but exceed them. (Ephesians 3:20 (ESV) – “To him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us”). Both in 2017 and 2018 we were trailing in a deficit position part way through the year, and both years God showed up and brought in the funds through you not to just meet our needs but to exceed them, allowing us to end the year in the black! We’ve also been successful in past giving pushes for both missions and equipment purchases! God has always met our needs! He is faithful, He will do it again! 2018 is not over, yet we are trending in the black, PRAISE GOD! (Philippians 4:19 (ESV) – “God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”)

The **ADVANCE** Campaign is no different! We have seen God’s faithfulness (1 Corinthians 1:9) in the past. We believe He is who He says He is and will do what He says He will do! (Isaiah 38:7) We have faith and confidence He will provide in ways beyond our wildest imaginations. As God does His thing, we will do ours. We will pray, we will fast, we will work hard, we will trust and together we will succeed in finding a permanent home for The Rising!

GIVING GOAL:

- Raise \$300,000 for the down payment and remodeling costs of our new home
- Raise \$200,000 to reduce the amount needed to borrow, further making it more affordable to operate and allowing more funds to be designated to missions, outreach and ministry

“Victory Goal” \$300,000 in pledges

“Hallelujah Goal” \$500,000 in pledges

“Dream Goal” \$1,000,000 in pledges

Love **GOD**
Love **OTHERS**
Belike **JESUS**