

HIGH POINT



**YOUR
CHURCH'S
BEST DISCIPLESHIP
ALLY**



"...as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people..."
Gal 6:10b NIV

SUPERSIZED VISION, SUPERSIZED IMPACT

The work on Ascending Leaders (AL) the last 15 years is somewhat analogous to the work my wife and I have done on a century-old house we call Present Street Place (PSP) the last 27 months.

- We worked with grit and perseverance, with vital help from others along the way.
- We did not seek to build something flashy, but rather something of substance.
- There were times when long term success looked elusive, but each time God broke through.
- We have reached a celebration point with both: PSP—opened to our first guests in Houston. AL—additional verified success in churches.
- The work is not yet done: PSP—finish exterior renovations. AL—*Isaiah 54:2 Vision 'til 2025!*

The visions for the two are unique: PSP—to be a home-away-from-home for out-of-town medical/cancer patients in Houston.

AL—to be churches' best discipleship ally so they grow more people planted firmly in Christ, with the result of a vibrant congregation over decades.



Ascending Leaders' direction for the next 5 years is **SUPERSIZED**. We believe God has pointed us to Isaiah 54:2

Enlarge the place of your tent,
stretch your tent curtains wide,
do not hold back;
lengthen your cords,
strengthen your stakes.

Our *Isaiah 54:2 Vision 'til 2025* includes:

- **Enlarging** our tools and revenue,
- **Stretching** toward SUPERSIZED Christ-centeredness,
- **Pressing On** in the years we ally,
- **Lengthening** for more quality partnerships,
- **Strengthening** our people.

This is all for the purpose of bringing our excellent track record of success to more disciples and churches. This will SUPERSIZE our discipleship impact. **Join our extended family in this SUPERSIZED vision.**

**SUPERSIZE Your
Giving Tuesday (Dec. 1) Impact!**

(see page 3 for details)

The ASCENDING LEADERS STORY

All for the purpose of raising up more CHRIST-CENTERED LEADERS:

Disarmingly Humble • Model a Surrendered Life • Focus on Growing Hearts

Passion for Intimacy with Jesus • Making More Disciples



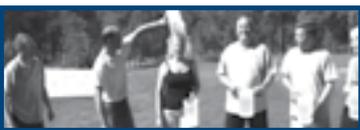
2005-2006 Founding Board



2008 Board



2010 Board



2014 Board: ALS Ice-Bucket Challenge for Gert De Kruyf



2016 Board



2017 Board



2020 Board

Jan. 1, 2005
Ascending Leaders was founded



2005

Passionate beginning

Provided churches with effective discipleship curriculum

Major Market Stressors

- Congregations began cocooning—less open to outside help

led to



AL Experimented In Response

- Adapted to printing & selling resources as bite-sized booklets

God Provided a Response

- Long-term coaching of congregations
- Teaching congregational discipleship at seminaries



2016-2018 Season of

Expanding Beyond & Concentrating On

- 1 Coach
- Mostly 1 Denomination
- Mostly Small Churches
- Discipleship by 4 Stages
- Teaching the Concepts
- Coaching Congregations

Feb. 2018

Hired full-time Director of Operations

Mid. 2018

Began formal contracts with churches

- 10 Coaches
- 4 Denominations
- Churches of 70 to 2,000 People

2019

Aug. 2019

Began the 2-yr. Kansas Discipleship Co-lab

Spring/Summer 2020

Covid-19/Stay-at-home/Ascending Leaders adapted

2005-2007

Success at a mega-church

2006-2008

Numerous stories of bigger-than-life transformation

Summer/Fall 2008

Recession altered expectations

2013 Season of Congregation Coaching 2013-2015

2013

Discipleship coaching/teaching blossoms



2016

YE 2016

\$100+K revenue windfall funded significant staff expansion

2017

Recruited first Discipleship Coaches

Early 2017

Recruited by REVEAL to formal partnership as certified coaches



Isaiah 54:2 Vision 'til 2025

- **ENLARGE** the TOOLS AND REVENUE to propel this ministry forward.
- **STRETCH** toward SUPERSIZED CHRIST-CENTEREDNESS in more disciples, creating more vibrant churches
- **PRESS ON** in the years we ALLY with churches.
- **LENGTHEN** for more and better PARTNERSHIPS.
- **STRENGTHEN** OUR PEOPLE to better serve churches.

2025

AND ON: LISTENING, OBEYING, TRUSTING

SUPERSIZED Challenges cannot stop SUPERSIZED Discipleship

What is the 19 in COVID-19?

- For some it is the 19+ pounds they have gained since March 1.
- I know one person for whom it is the 19+ pounds she lost since March 1.
- For others it is the 19+ Zoom sessions they have participated in a week.
- Might it be **your first-time donation of \$19 that you give to Ascending Leaders on Tuesday Dec. 1, that gets SUPERSIZED to a donation of \$190** by our SUPERSIZING group?!

Confined to home for work and school, watching economic strains, civic unrest, health crisis, political tug-of-wars, significant weather storms, and more were unexpected SUPERSIZED challenges to daily life in 2020.

Therefore, we will SUPERSIZE Giving Tuesday donations: December 1, 2020. Our "SUPERSIZING Group" of Ascending Leaders have pledged to add a bonus of **10 times** the amount (add a 0 to the right of the number) to donations which are:

- New (never donated to AL before),
- Welcomed-Back (your last donation was before 2019),
- or Increased (greater than your 2019 Giving-Tuesday or Year-End donation).*

The SUPERSIZED surprises and challenges of 2020 will not stop God's work through our SUPERSIZED *Isaiah 54:2 Vision 'til 2025*. Measurements show the remarkable success of our work with churches. **Help us make a SUPERSIZED impact of SUPERSIZED discipleship in many more disciples and churches!**

A SUPERSIZED Giving Tuesday DEC. 1 for a SUPERSIZED Vision

Rise above a year of SUPERSIZED CHALLENGES ...

Worship Social-Distanced
On-a-Screen Masked Faces
COVID-19 social & racial unrest
Political West-Coast Wind & Fire Challenged Economies
Turnoil Hurricanes/Derechos

... with SUPERSIZED Giving Tuesday Impact

DEC. 1 DONATIONS

If this is your first donation to AL or you last gave before 2019...

OR if you give more than you did year-end 2019...



SUPERSIZED MATCHES

... our SUPERSIZING group will add a 0 to your donation (\$60 becomes \$600)*

... our SUPERSIZING group will add a 0 to your increase over 2019 (a \$60 increase becomes \$600)*

GIVING OPTIONS

1. Mail a check dated Dec. 1 to 3947 Field Crossing, Sugar Land, TX 77498
2. Give by credit card, Paypal or Bank Transfer on Dec. 1 at ascendingleaders.org/giving-tuesday
3. Give through your bank using Zelle on Dec. 1, using the e-mail for AL of admin@ascendingleaders.org

**TOGETHER we can surpass
our \$70,000 goal!**







* Up to a maximum of \$53,000 from the SUPERSIZING Group.

SUPERSIZED DETERMINATION

In mid-2020, two organizations applied to one foundation for very large grants to use AL services over 4 years. We were informed in September that those organizations were of the 700+ rejected by that foundation. Not to be deterred, we took some small parts of those projects and are moving forward.

Consider one SUPERSIZED project on which we are working: we would like to provide individual disciples with an assessment which would take their spiritual temperature and report to them what kinds of things may specifically grow them toward living Christ-centered lives. We have the source to build it and can link it to data from over 2,000 churches. A grant is needed to pay for the initial development costs. At the time of this writing, we have an application submitted to a foundation for such a grant. **You, too, can help!**

“We’re glad to make it possible for Ascending Leaders to help even small rural churches in our home state get revival and hope!”

Margaret Houtsma, Director of the Artevel Foundation

Over the first four years, we expect this assessment to directly impact over 1,000 church leaders who will experience personal spiritual growth and, in turn, minister to and impact another 85,000+ people. **That is SUPERSIZED impact!**



Your SUPERSIZED Giving Tuesday donation on Dec. 1 will help us get the word out to pastors and church leaders to use this tool, and will help with other endeavors to SUPERSIZE disciples. That is SUPERSIZED stretching on our part to help more disciples grow Christ-centered.

“Our foundation has granted Ascending Leaders to partially scholarship work with smaller churches. We love that AL is not in a rush to spend the grant money. They take a measured approach. We like their profitability plans. We love this idea of two-year co-labs. We are glad to support their work.”

Cy Helm, Director
The Helm foundation



The Discipleship Team of Greensburg Christian Church celebrating their success and planning to better move people toward Christ-centeredness.

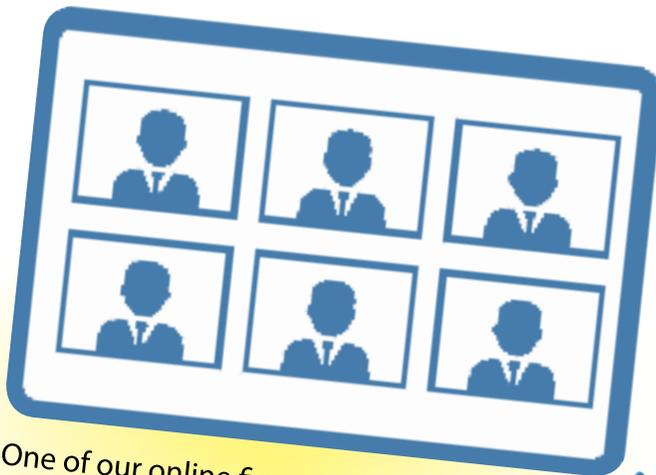


DISCIPLE ON!

Online Community. Real-time Catalyst.



One of our online five session cohorts for pastors.



One of our online five session cohorts is with several pastors in an Asian country (because of persecution concerns, we are not sharing their pictures).



We have room for more church leaders in future cohorts.

For info email Rhonda@ascendingleaders.org



TOGETHER We Can Do Something SUPERSIZED

Since 2012, Ascending Leaders has ended each year with a group of friends matching or increasing donations. This is unique among nonprofits. You have likely seen instances of other nonprofits announcing an anonymous donor pledging to match donations to their nonprofit, but have you ever before seen a group of people who believe in a ministry PLEDGING TOGETHER a match? Alone these friends of Ascending Leaders would not be able to pledge the amount needed, but together can do so much more than any could alone.

The SUPERSIZED mission of Ascending Leaders is definitely a community effort.



While working in ministry and public education does not give us the deepest of pockets, we know that in comparison to the whole world, God has made us rich. We support our church and are heavily invested in Ascending Leaders with passion, time and treasures. We are grateful that since 2012, by teaming up with other AL friends, our own year-end stretch and pledge can inspire others to support this effective mission.

Please join us on Giving Tuesday.

Together we can!



Mike & Gina Johnson with budding disciples



The AL staff and extended family,
pray this blessing on you:

*May the light of Jesus that shone in Bethlehem
shine on, in and through you. (John 1:4-5)*

Merry Christmas



\$60 becomes \$600
\$100 becomes \$1,000
\$500 becomes \$5,000

**See inside for how to get your
Giving Tuesday donation SUPERSIZED**

Together we can surpass our \$70,000 goal!

SUPERSIZING Church Discipleship Co-labs in 2021 & Beyond

An AL priority for effective multiplication of impact

- **The Kansas Co-lab:** the churches will complete their 2-year experience and will measure their progress through the RENOVO discipleship assessment (see the Fall edition of the Highpoint for more).
- **Three Co-labs of Houston, Texas-area United Methodist Churches:** Up to 18 churches will begin, by God's grace, through scholarships from a grant from the Helm Foundation.
- **Additional SUPER-Effective Co-labs beginning in 2021:** AL is working with a new partner organization and is applying for grants to offer even more.