Holiday 2026 Edition. Vol 20.3

highpoint

ascending leaders

Est. 2005 | Two Decades of Empowering Churches for Christ-centered Discipleship.
MEASURABLE RESULTS • ETERNAL OUTCOMES



IGNITION
Tuesday, Dec. 1
See pg. 4 for details.

The Power of 75 in '27

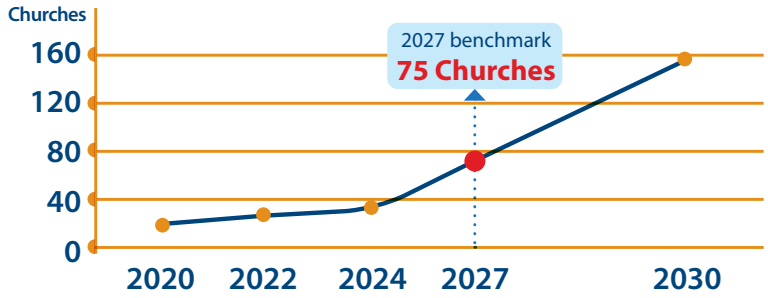
What's in a number? The number 75 to be exact.

This is the number of churches we are setting out to equip in Christ-centered discipleship in the coming year.

Built on a 2026 personal best of 60 churches impacted.

Our path to 75 churches served is built on several 2027 advancements, including:

- Expanding global discipleship leaders
- Expanding U.S. assessment and coaching reach
- Developing an especially strong operations team
- Training a deeper pool of excellent discipleship coaches



> *A lot of ministries all over the world struggle with how to increase heart-invested, active followers of Christ. They want to do that, they hope to do it, but they are not hitting it directly like you are. You have figured out how to do it and are doing it. It's really wonderful and amazing.*
>
> Debbie Inada / Granting Committee Chair / Kingdom Builder Foundation



Target 2030

Leading the Charge



Director of Operations & Grant Development, Samantha Carrell and AL Founder & President, Mike Johnson

For over 20 years, Mike Johnson and our teams have led Ascending Leaders through the changing cultural landscape facing churches today to build strong discipleship cultures for the future. Technology and shifting expectations have made leading a Christ-honoring nonprofit more complex, and more full of opportunity, than ever before.

Into this moment, God has brought **Samantha Carrell** as our **Director of Operations and Grant Development**, with a decade of experience from organizations more than twice our size. She was drawn to our discipleship mission and empowering culture.



New board members Drew Sweetman, Tyler Womack, "Vic" Condrey, Jill Feikema

This year we also added four board members to strengthen our governance: "**Vic**" **Condrey** (executive leadership, finance, legal), **Jill Feikema** (organizational management, global, denominational), **Tyler Womack** (higher education, finance), and **Drew Sweetman** (pastoral, finance, denominational).

We're excited for the momentum Samantha and our stronger board will bring, not just for 2027, but for the decade ahead.

Global Vision=80%
of churches served this year



Globally, it is often a big shift to think of Christians discipling each other in circles, rather than pastors discipling people sitting in rows. When church leaders try using circles, they find amazing discipleship results. Ascending Leaders encourages basic discipleship principles such as this.

> "Our newest Global Discipleship Coach says: *I am grateful to God for the opportunity to be part of this discipleship movement and to learn from and serve alongside such wonderful leaders with Ascending Leaders.*"

U.S. Vision=20%
of churches served this year

What did GroupScan Accomplish in our Early Groups?

Men's Group

Assessed Group Type:
"Welcoming Group"

Chosen 30 Day Experiment;
Will focus prayer requests on what members are personally wrestling with mentally.

Women's Group

Assessed Group Type:
"Learning & Practicing Group"

Chosen 30 Day Experiment;
Build up future group leaders by asking each person to lead one session.

Mixed Group

Assessed Group Type:
"Welcoming Group"

Chosen 30 Day Experiment;
Group leaders provide a list of questions for "God moment" sharing to make us more alert to God's activity in our daily lives.

Young Women's Group

Assessed Group Type:
"Transforming Group"

Chosen 30 Day Experiment;
Each member identify one person they can encourage or spiritually invest in, helping the group turn its rootedness in Christ outward in love and service.

GroupScan

Group Scan provides each small group with a 30-day experiment specifically focused on their next best discipleship step.

Scan to order GroupScan

We love our donors!



The launchpad is built! Fueling the launch!
Your *Liftoff Mission 75* **Giving Tuesday** donation will fuel us to serve **75** churches in `27.

One Day Only--Dec. 1!
All INCREASED or NEW donations
MATCHED **x4**

A generous pool of matchers are maximizing your donation. All other Giving Tuesday or Dec. donations will be matched X2, until our $90K match pool is fully used.

Scan on Dec. 1 to donate and ignite *Liftoff Mission 75*



Thursday, Nov. 26, 2026

Gather in the U.S. with family and friends and give thanks to God, for everything good in life comes from his bountiful hand!

GIVING TUESDAY

Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2026

The Ignition of Ascending Leaders' *Liftoff Mission 75* campaign.



Friday, Dec. 25, 2026

Gather with family, church and friends to celebrate the incarnation of our savior and to love on each other.



Friday, Jan. 1, 2027

Look forward to the possibilities God has ahead for this new year. For Ascending Leaders, that is to serve 75 churches globally and in the U.S. in discipleship.