

letter of intent

We believe God desires to establish a life-giving, multiplying church in the heart of the least religious city in America—Boulder, Colorado.

The name of this church is **Belay**—a term borrowed from a popular sport in Boulder—mountain climbing:

- As a *noun*, a *belay* is a place where you anchor yourself to the *rock*.
- As a *verb*, *to belay* is to apply tension to a rope to keep a climber from *falling*, and to lessen that tension as the climber *ascends* making it possible for the climber to have a safe, confident, and upward climb.

be•lay [bəˈlā] noun: a place to anchor to a rock.

verb: to assist a climber with a belayed rope

In a similar way, our prayer is that Belay *Church* will be an anchor for the city of Boulder —an anchor that *makes it possible* for people to...

- belong to a diverse and loving church family,
- believe in the life-transforming grace and truth of Jesus,
- become all God created them to be, and
- belay others toward belonging, believing, and becoming.

We understand that—"with man"—establishing Belay Church "is impossible," but we are also confident that, "with God all things are possible."

Party Dulsin

For Boulder,

Paul and Patty Durbin paul@belay.church

Strategic Plan: Teams

With God's help, Belay Church will be built by a network of faithfilled teams. Here are the five basic Belay Teams we have in mind:

Home Team

The first team is *us*—the Durbin family. Over the past eleven years, God has shaped our family to survive and *thrive* in various contexts. Having lived in China for more than eleven years—and in Beijing for five—we have learned to "do life" in a variety of *languages*, *cultures*, *schooling environments*, and *work assignments*. Our whole family has become very *resilient*, and quite adept at *change*.



If nothing else, this cross-cultural experience has taught us about God's faithfulness. As He has helped us live and thrive in China, he can help us live and thrive in *Boulder*. No matter how counter-cultural our Christian faith may be in this city, we are confident that God's faithfulness can help us settle in—*and LOVE*—the city and *people* of Boulder.

Personality-wise, Patty and I bring a balanced blend to the church-planting context. While we both *love* to meet and host new friends, I tend to be more *introverted*, while she tends to be more *extroverted*. I actually love the *administrative* side of things, while she is 100% *relational*.

We have discovered that *both* personalities are essential for *leading* the church. Our mix worked well for us as we led City Church in Beijing, and we anticipate our mix of personalities will be just as vital in *planting* Belay Church in Boulder.

Given our makeup, Patty will mainly focus on small groups, while I mainly focus on leading the church as a whole—while both of us focus on nurturing our "home team."

However, we can't do this by ourselves; we need lots of help! *Continue reading to discover the various ways you can join our church planting team.*

Prayer Team

We strongly believe in the power of *prayer!* Having seen the power of prayer during our time at City Church, we know it's a practice that must be exported to Belay Church in Boulder.

Currently, we have a prayer list of around 600 people; many of whom have been with us since 2007. As we transition from China to the USA, we anticipate *adding* many *international* prayer partners to our team—*the friends we've made at City Church*—to pray for this church plant in Boulder.

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you" (Matthew 7:7)

Launch Team

The Launch Team, under the direction of Paul and Patty, will prepare, plan and execute the launch of Belay Church.

While most launch team members will actually live and work in Boulder, others may serve remotely, offering consultation, coaching, social media posting, etc. Furthermore, some *(or perhaps all)* members of the Launch Team will cross over to the Staff and/or MIP Teams after the launch, but the *main* goal of the Launch Team is to bring Belay up to the point of the actual church *launch*.

Make it Possible Team

We're convinced that the only way to successfully plant a church is to intentionally give away responsibility to teams—empowering them with experiences, training, and trust.

Just like the Launch Team, there will be nine basic teams that make up the Make it Possible Team, with various smaller teams and ministry positions under them:

Strategic Plan: Systems

Coupled with earnest prayer and fervent faith, we believe well-crafted systems create an environment of possibility where vision can be realized.

1. How will we make it possible for people to *belong?*

Belay will have three key on-ramps for people to *connect* and make *relationships* within the Belay family:

Belay.Church Kiosks

Belay.Church Kiosks will provide a clear self-serve access to our web app, http://belay.church. During every weekend big group gathering, these kiosks will be scattered throughout the venue giving people access to information, event registration, and other online resources. The Kiosk interface will make an optional request for name and email, enabling us to further follow-up with the registrant (if they so desire).

Kiosks will also be staffed by Make it Possible Team Members who will answer questions, build rapport, and encourage guests to check out other on-ramps.

Anchor Points | Belong

A key on-ramp at Belay will be **Anchor Points** — a series of next-step classes designed to help people further connect with the Belay Church family. It will be modeled after an onboarding process we developed at



City Church called *Nextstop*, which proved to be very effective in helping people connect to the life of our church.

Anchor Points | **Belong** will be held the first weekend of every month, and will introduce participants to the Belay story, our values, and various ways they can plug into the life of Belay.

As with every **Anchor Points** class, **Anchor Points** | **Belong** will encourage participants to take two follow-up steps: 1) return for the remaining sessions of **Anchor Points** and, 2) check out a small group (with a specific emphasis on Life Groups).

Belay Small Groups | Life Groups

Three basic types of small groups will be emphasized at Belay—one of which will be Life Groups. Our Life Groups will offer a place to meet with others, share a meal, discuss the previous weekend's talk, and build relationships that point one another to Jesus.

Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility. Ephesians 2:13-14 (NIV)

But now in Christ

2. How will we make it possible for people to *believe?*

In addition to being salt and light in our various spheres of influence, three key areas of ministry will proactively "cast the net" for people to trust in Jesus.

Weekend Worship Services

In our large weekend gatherings, an emphasis will be placed on having an excellent *environment*, a moving *experience*, and a profound *encounter* with the presence of God. Marked by inspiriting worship and Bible-based preaching, there will be frequent opportunities for participants to put their trust in Jesus.

Anchor Points | Believe

Another "cast the net" ministry at Belay will be **Anchor Points** — our series of next-step classes. **Anchor Points** | **Believe** will be held the second weekend of every month, and will introduce participants to our core beliefs, as well as provide an opportunity for attendees to trust in Jesus for the first time.



As with every **Anchor Points** class, **Anchor Points** | **Believe** will encourage participants to take two follow-up steps: 1) return for the remaining sessions of **Anchor Points** and, 2) check out a small group (with a specific emphasis on Alpha groups).

Belay Small Groups | Alpha Groups

Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the basics of the Christian faith. Typically run over eleven weeks, each session looks at a different question that people can have about faith and is designed to create conversation.



3. How will we make it possible for people to become?

Becoming the new creation that God intended ultimately depends on the work of the Holy Spirit—along with a person's willingness to surrender to the Spirit's work in their life. Understanding this principle, we believe it is Belay's responsibility to provide the best environments we can for the work of the Holy Spirit to take place.

Weekend Worship Services

In addition to our weekend gatherings being a place where people will be introduced to a relationship with Jesus, they will also be a place where people will hear solid, relevant, anointed teaching.

Anchor Points | Become

Anchor Points | **Become** will be held the third weekend of every month, and will introduce participants to the work of the Holy Spirit—what He wants to do in and through the life of a maturing believer.



As with every **Anchor Points** class, **Anchor Points** | **Become** will encourage participants to take two follow-up steps: 1) return for all four sessions of **Anchor Points** and, 2) check out a small group (with a specific emphasis in this session on Focus Groups).

Belay Small Groups | Focus Groups

Focus groups will provide opportunities for targeted growth in areas of felt-need. They are intended to offer specific guidance and training on a variety of topics, e.g., "Focus on Marriage," "Focus on Finance," "Focus on Freedom," etc.

4. How will we make it possible for people to *belay?*

Belay Stories

Our time at City Church taught us there is nothing more motivating and encouraging than a story of God's working in an individual. While there, we began a practice of collecting stories from our congregation, and then writing articles, creating videos, or doing interviews on stage.

We will export this practice to Belay—collecting and sharing stories of people belonging, believing, becoming and belaying. Each story will be designed to give glory to God and encourage others to step in and get involved. Stories will be shared and contributed at http://belay.church/stories.

Anchor Points | Belay

A key on-ramp to get people involved in ministry will be **Anchor Points**— a series of next-step classes designed to help people further connect with the Belay Church family. **Anchor Points** | **Belay** will be held the fourth weekend of every month, and will introduce participants to the Make it Possible Team (the name for our volunteer ministry teams).

As with every **Anchor Points** class, **Anchor Points** | **Belay** will encourage participants to take two follow-up steps: 1) return for all four sessions of **Anchor Points** and, 2) join a Make it Possible volunteer ministry team.

Make it Possible Teams

Make it Possible is the name of our volunteer ministry at Belay. These teams will run every aspect of the ministry—from sound production to childcare—and include ministries that are not only inward-focused (towards the church), but also outward-focused (toward the community).

5. How will our systems remain effective?

We believe the key to effective systems and structure within Belay is a system of regular and honest feedback. We will have three main sources of feedback:

Feedback

Our web app will have a simple form where anyone in the Belay community can offer feedback and observations: belay.church/feedback.

Weekend 360

After every weekend, our staff and volunteer team will gather and talk about four main areas: What went right? What went wrong? Who will fix it? When will it be fixed?

Belay Church 360

Every quarter, our staff and volunteer team will gather to review every aspect of Belay Church and ask four main questions: *What is going well? What is not going well? Who will fix it? When will it be fixed?*

Systems Summary

This table is a summary of the systems discussed above.

engagement level	belong	believe	become	belay	systems review
initial steps	belay.church kiosks	worship services	worship services	Stories	feedback
next steps	Anchor Points <i>Belong</i>	Anchor Points Believe	Anchor Points Become	Anchor Points <i>Belay</i>	Weekend 360
ongoing growth	Life Groups	Alpha	Focus Groups	Make it Possible Team	Belay 360

Timeline

Activities	Focal Point	settle in	know community, set up organization	recruitment, promotion, and sponsors	vision casting, team meetings, location, equipment	making presence known, define ministries, sharpen discipleship program	launch: venue, team, materials all locked down	Operating
		2Q19	3Q19	4Q19	1Q20	2Q20	3Q20	4Q20
relocation and home set up	people							
engaging and networking	communication							
accounting and tax set-up	finance							
legal structure set up	legal							
pre-marketing and media	marketing							
fund-raising strategy and plan	finance							
resource launch team (LT)	people							
plan and implement marketing	marketing							
fund raising for op budget 1H20	finance							
deepen community engagement	communication							
locatse venue and negotiate	infrastructure							
prayer build up and LT meetings	project management							
complete recruitment and onboarding	people							
procurement of key items	infrastructure							

community outreach	communication				
internal management systems	finance				
spiritual growth plan classes	content				
worship (CCLI) and practice	content				
family and marriage health check	people				
sermon planning	content				
prep for typical service	content				
launch day run sheet	content				

Location

For the initial stages of the church, we plan to meet in our home. We're located in South Boulder (Table Mesa), and the home is very conducive to entertaining and can easily host 50+ people. Due to the very high property prices in Boulder, we are in no rush to secure property specifically for a church.





Requests

We actually don't have much in the way of requests — other than fellowship, accountability, and prayer.

Patty and I have just been approved as missionaries with AGUSM, and have also recently joined up with the Urban Islands Project. We are looking forward to what we will learn about church planting from these groups.

We also look forward to learning, sharing, and making friendship with other churches and ministers within the RMMN. We humbly submit the above plans to the RMMN leadership for its blessing and approval.

References

Rev. Chris Branstetter Elder, Beijing International Christian Fellowship (City Church) chris@bicf.org +86 152 0131 1150

Rev. Favour Ibom Chairman, Beijing International Christian Fellowship favouribom@bicf.org +86 138 1084-8803

Rev. TJ Johnson Lead Pastor, Beijing International Christian Fellowship (City Church) tj@bicf.org +86 159 0139 5729

Rev. Steve Lilly Area Director, AGWM Northern Asia sdlilly@pm.me

Rev. Ron Maddux Regional Director, AGWM Northern Asia +1 (417) 860-4046 ron.maddux@swissmail.org

Rev. Ben Whitmore Elder and staff pastor, Beijing International Christian Fellowship (City Church) benwhitmore@bicf.org +86 132 4026 8250



SEGO CHURCH LETTER OF INTENT

I am writing in regards to our call to plant Sego Church in the South Jordan/Herriman area. After much prayer and thoughtful consideration we are humbled by God's call, excited about the tremendous opportunity and eager to move forward in faith. It is our desire to partner with the Rocky Mountain District as we build God's church in a place where there is great need.

This is a homecoming of sorts for my wife Hannah. She spent her High School years in Utah after her dad transferred with his job to Logan, UT. We've always quietly dreamed of moving to Utah someday so in many ways God has given us the desires of our hearts which is so special. After spending two decades ministering in Minnesota we feel it is God's perfect timing for us to step out and step into planting in Utah.

CHURCH NAME

The name, Sego Church, is significant on several fronts. Sego lily is the Utah state flower and its bulbs were used as a source of sustenance and survival for Ute Indians. In ancient history lilies represented purity, vibrancy and love. Though rich with meaning, none is more important than the Biblical expression that the lily represents. Jesus is referred to as the "Lily of the Valley" in Song of Solomon 2:1 with connotations of holiness, humility, fruitfulness, and splendor. We find it no coincidence that Utah's state flower is the very flower that is likened to Jesus. We believe the time is now for the name of Jesus to take root and bloom in a dry land that is in desperate need for the truth and love of our Savior. Sego church deeply desires to be a church that does just that!

CHURCH CONCEPT

Our desire is to plant a church with ARC methodology and coaching, CMN support and Rocky Mountain District accountability and covering. It is vitally important to us that we build bridges and partnerships within the Rocky Mountain District and partner with District officials to plant a life-giving church in the fast growing south suburbs of Salt Lake City. That said, we understand this is bigger than one pastor, one church and one city. We desire to humbly do our part to build up the Bride of Christ within Utah and honor leadership in the process.

Hannah and I have been partners and pastors in ministry for 17 years. Whether it was our first youth pastor position, helping plant a church in 2004, or pastoring a large campus for the past 9 years we believe we are better together as a ministry team. We enjoy doing ministry "family style" as all four of our kids love being involved in church. We also believe ministry is a calling and an "all in" lifestyle. It's with this "all in / family style" approach that we are committed to giving our very best to reach as many people as possible!

We are presently working through ARC assessments, training and coaching. We are also working with a creative boutique firm (<u>www.bionicgiant.com</u>) to establish a professional brand, logo, website, landing page, videos, product, etc. Logo, websites and promotional pieces should be complete by November 23, 2019.

STRATEGIC PLANS (based off ARC training)

Move to Utah by January 1st, 2020

- Chris & Hannah will acquire jobs and start building relationships in their neighborhood and community
- Our family will be attending Life Church in Salt Lake City and build relationship there during this season
- Sego Social Nights will begin in March of 2020 (these are for anyone interested in hearing more about what Sego Church is all about). We will gain interest for these nights through social media, targeted marketing, and personal invites to those we've come to know.
- Sego Launch Team meetings will start in mid July. These meetings are for those who have committed to being apart of the launch team and for those still getting information or showing interest
- · Launch Sego Church in September, 2020.
- Build Prayer Team of 1000+
- Recruit 100 person Launch Team
- Raise \$350,000+ budget

SPECIFIC LOCATION & COMMUNITY AWARENESS

UTAH POPULATION... According to projections, Utah's rapid growth is expected to continue over the next few decades, and by 2060, the state should have a population of 6.84 million people. It's believed the state's fast growth is partially due to the quality of life and the strong economy, as the state and many of its cities are frequently rated as some of the best places to live in the whole country.

- Utah population: 3.22 million (1.64 growth rate- 3rd fastest in US)
- Salt Lake County: 1.1 million

Key Cities that Sego Church will strategically impact: 178,144 combined and rapidly growing!

- 1. South Jordan 74,149
 - 10th largest city & #5 fastest growing city in Utah
- 2. Herriman = 44,877
 - 17th largest city & #2 fastest growing city in Utah
- 3. Riverton= 44,419
 - 18th largest city
- 4. Bluffdale= 14,699
 - 49th largest city

Demographics and snapshot of target cities.

1. South Jordan

- Median Age 32.7 years
- Median income per household \$99,856
- 20,214 households (2017) // 3.39 people per household // 79% homeownership
- #1 richest city in Utah
- #12 fastest growing city in US (50.000+) Between 2017-18 with 4.4% increase

2. Herriman

- Median Age 26.8 years
- Median income per household \$94,837

- 8,775 households (2017) // 3.91 people per household // 80% homeownership
- #24 fastest growing city in US (1,000+) overall percentage with 14.4% increase

3. Riverton

- Median Age 30.7 years
- Median income per household \$92,154
- 11,528 households (2017) // 3.74 people per household // 89% homeownership
- #7 richest city in Utah

4. Bluffdale

- Median Age 26.2 years
- Median income per household \$104,391
- 2,822 households (2017) // 4 people per household // 83% homeownership
- Up and coming city closest to the Silicon Slopes tech boom

ONE OF THE FASTEST GROWING... Utah is one of the most desired states to live in attracting people from all over the US, especially the West Coast, with great jobs, a strong economy and an advantageous outdoor lifestyle.

- #3 fastest growing population in US
- #3 fastest growing economy in US
- Forbes Magazine #4 best city for Tech Jobs in US
- #1 youngest state (30.7 years) & #2 birthrate in US (Thank you Mormon church!)

THE NEED IS DEEP AND WIDE... Utah is a state that presents well through the Mormon narrative of service, community and love, but there is so much more that meets the eye. At a closer look one will find an ever present darkness that has left countless people with paralyzing pain and hidden brokenness. The legalistic and image driven culture has trapped the state in secret sins and unrelenting shame. The current stats are shocking and saddening, but it all points to the great need for a spirit-filled church expression that fills the void, ministers to the brokenness and ultimately brings REVIVAL to one of the darkest places in the United States.

- #1 porn addicted state (25% of all search engine requests are pornographic)
- #1 depression rate (third of population suffers)
- #5 suicide rate in US
- #51 in a national analysis of mental health measures by the nonprofit Mental Health US
- 54% of Millennials born after 1981, are leaving the Mormon church creating a mass exodus of young adults out of the LDS church.

ESTABLISHED CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

- 1. Christ The King Lutheran Church- 10318 S Redwood Rd Unit 16 South Jordan, UT 84095
- 2. The Mission Church- 10288 S Jordan Gtwy Unit E South Jordan, UT 84095
- 3. The Bridge Church- 4544 Harvest Moon Dr South Jordan, UT 84009
- 4. Missio Dei Community- 11477 S Redwood Rd South Jordan, UT 84095
- Saint Andrew Catholic Church- 11835 S 3600 W Riverton, UT 84065
- 6. South Mountain Community Church- 11886 S 4000 W Riverton, UT 84096
- 7. Midvalley Bible Church- 13985 S 2700 W Riverton, UT 84065

REQUESTS

Our request is to have the blessing and support of the A/G district. We've benefited greatly from our relationship with the Minnesota District and it's leaders, and we hope to grow in relationship and experience encouragement through network with the Rocky Mountain District as well. We would be grateful for any financial support that is available for church plants as well.

REFERENCES

- 1. Rob Ketterling- Lead Pastor of River Valley Church
 - Former employer (2010-2019), pastor & mentor
 - rob.ketterling@rivervalley.org // 612-990-5558
- 2. Mark Dean- Minnesota District Superintendent
 - Pastor & district leader (2001-2019)
 - mdean@mnaog.org // 612-865-1648
- 3. Doug Graham- North Central University VP of Spiritual Life & Assistant MN Superintendent
 - Ministry mentor
 - dmgraham@northcentral.edu // 701-471-8409
- 4. Jeff Wendt- Canvas Church Lead Pastor
 - Ministry colleague, church planter, Sego Church overseer
 - jeff@canvaschurch.cc // 651-329-4405
- 5. Chris Book- River Valley Church Executive Pastor
 - Ministry colleague, church planter, Sego Church overseer
 - chris.book@rivervalley.org // 612-220-1682
- 6. Justin Lathrop- Southeastern University VP of Strategic Relationships
 - Ministry colleague, advisor
 - justin@justinlathrop.com // 469-337-6339