

A LETTER FROM DR. SEAN LUCAS

January 9, 2020

My dear Friends:

A couple of things I wanted to pass along to you. First, I wanted to thank you for your generosity in the month of December. As you know, both in the letter that I sent to our congregation and in the video letter that I sent to you in mid-December, I told you how important December giving is for the overall fiscal year—it constitutes around 28% of our total income budget. I also mentioned to you that our goal this year for December giving was \$1.3 million.

I am so grateful to be able to tell you that you gave \$1.36 million in December! Your giving allows us to move forward to the rest of our fiscal year with confidence. Of course, we still have eight months of the budget year left—so don't stop your regular giving! But this is a huge blessing and means that we can continue to advance God's cause in this place for his glory without having to scale back or cut the FY budget. We rejoice in God's kind mercy through you all!

A completely different thing I wanted to pass along. I'm not a super-big podcast guy, but I have stumbled upon a really valuable podcast by a musician named Andrew Osenga; the podcast is called *The Pivot*. Osenga interviews a range of people—some of whom you will recognize (Kevin Twit, Andrew Peterson, Scott Sauls), others you will not—and the conversations end up working their way toward life transitions or “pivots.” Most of the pivots have been career or work transitions—but the conversations and stories have been fascinating explorations of vocation and how that relates to occupation; the loss that changes bring; God's faithfulness in the midst of loss; and many other themes. I commend it to you.

Along a similar line, our friend Steven Garber has a new book out called *The Seamless Life: A Tapestry of Love and Learning, Worship and Work*.” It is a short book of reflections centering on the theme of coherence: How do we live an integrated life? How do our Sundays and Mondays relate? Is grace just a spiritual word or does it have to do with real life? All of these questions and more he answers. The reflections are so rich—they are like chocolates that can only be eaten and enjoyed a couple at a time. The IPC Bookstore has copies and I'd encourage you to pick one up. You will enjoy it a great deal.

Finally, there was a recent article about one of our deacons, Dan Butler, that speaks to how Sunday and Monday relate, how our values and beliefs as Christians shape the way he and his partner do business. I found it fascinating and encouraging and I trust that you will as well. You can find it online here: <https://thinkrealty.com/running-with-values/> .

In the grip of God's grace,

