

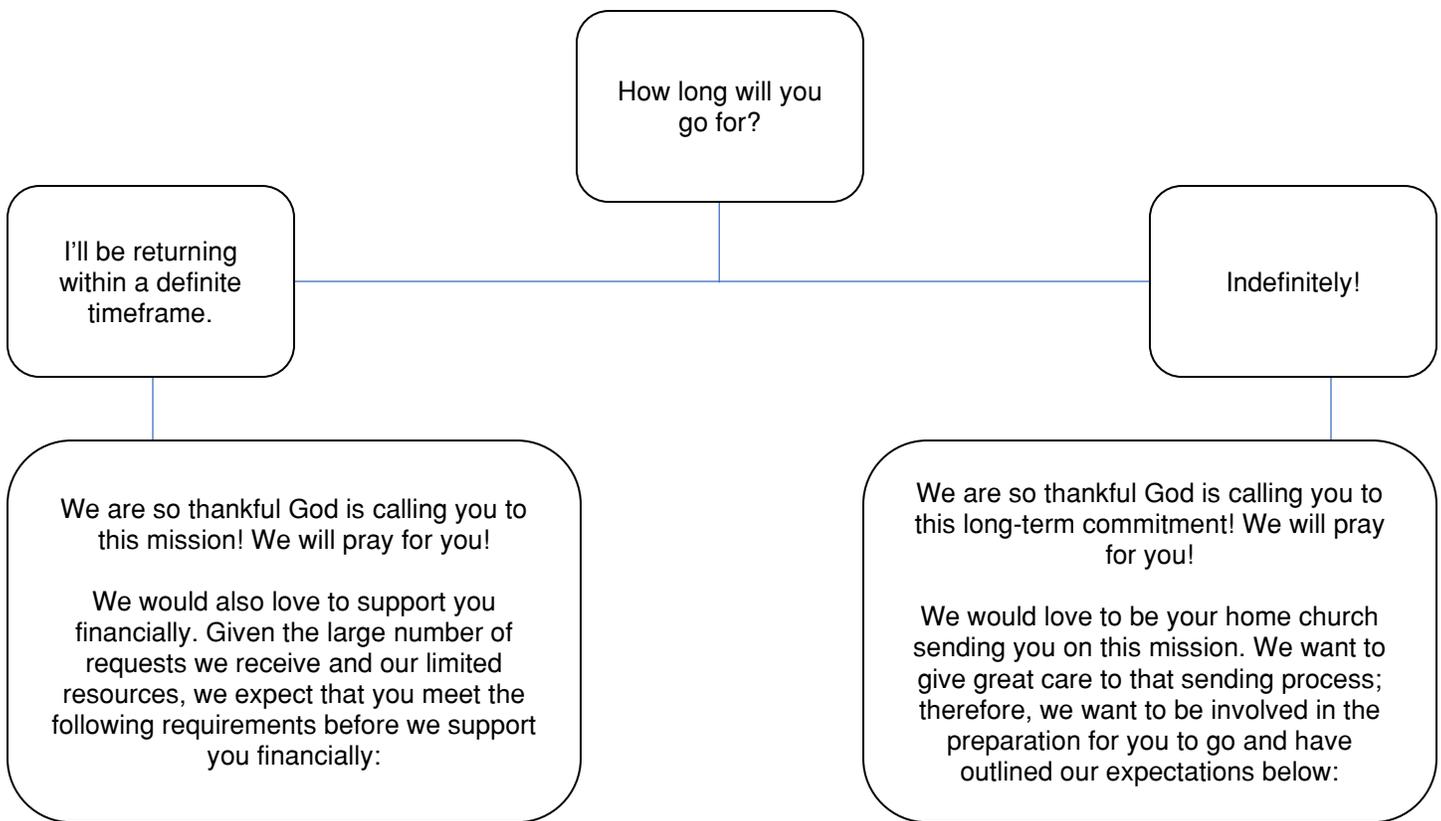


Mountain View Community Church exists to make Christ known as we passionately love Him together. This is our desire, not only for the city of Fort Collins but for our state, our country, and the whole world.

Supporting and Sending Missionaries

Mountain View is passionate about sending missionaries on short and long term-trips. We define a short-term trip as less than 3 months in duration. Anything beyond 3 months we as a church define as long-term.

Follow the chart below to understand Mountain View’s process for sending and supporting missionaries:



1. Complete our Biblical Distinctives class.
2. Actively and currently serving the MVCC church body.
3. Demonstrate the ability to communicate the Gospel message.
4. The mission must have a defined Gospel component.
5. Complete the Short-Term Application.
6. 3 positive references.
7. Complete the Introduction to Missions Course (offered twice / year at MVCC).

***Application is in the Appendix below.**

1. Affirmed in ministry within MVCC.
2. Demonstrated and affirmed standard of character.
3. Demonstrated ability, passion, and persistence in ministry prior to going.
4. The Mission must be affirmed by MVCC.
5. The sending agency must align and be affirmed by MVCC.

***Continue reading below.**



MVCC's Mission Philosophy

The Great Commission

"And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.'"

~Mt. 28:18-20!

"Cease striving and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."

~Psalm 46:10!

Mountain View Community Church (MVCC) **exists to make Christ known as we passionately love Him together.** We believe that God's heart, as revealed through the Scriptures, has always been for the nations and that people everywhere should call on Him for salvation through Jesus Christ. God's word demonstrates this in several ways:

- He reveals His glory to all mankind through creation (Ps. 19:1-6, Romans 1:20).
- In the Old Testament, He raised up one nation (Israel) to represent Himself to all other nations so that they too would worship Him (Gen. 12:1-3, Ps. 67).
- In the fullness of time, God sent forth His Son, who is the only way for salvation, so that whoever believes in Him (whether those who believed in Him with a forward-looking faith before He came, or those who believe now that He has come) will not perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16).
- He has commissioned His people, the church, to take the message of salvation to all nations (Matthew 28:19) and to the remotest part of the earth (Acts 1:8)!

We affirm that the work of salvation is God's work. Only He can break through the hardness of the human heart and show a person his need for salvation (John 6:44, Ephesians 2:8-9). We also affirm that the offer of salvation through the gospel is given to all people, and that "whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved." (Romans 10:13). As such, God is in the business of drawing men, women and children all over the world to call on His name for salvation, and we desire to be used by Him to carry out the work He is doing.

Core Values of Missions at MVC

As we look to Scripture, we find several core principles that we believe will drive our involvement, our direction, our passion, and our perseverance in world missions as a church family. This is the foundation of our philosophy as a church.

1. **Missions is about exalting the glory of God through spreading the worship of God.** In the book of Revelation, the Apostle John gives us a vision for God's heart for missions to the world:

"And I saw another angel flying in midheaven, having an eternal gospel to preach to those who live on the earth, and to every nation and tribe and tongue and people; and he said with a loud



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voice, 'Fear God, and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come; worship Him who made the heaven and the earth and sea and springs of waters" (Revelation 14:6-8).

- a. The whole of Scripture affirms that God is pursuing people of every nation with the good news of His son Jesus Christ. As we seek to be a church that is faithful to God, we are committed to proclaiming this "eternal gospel" to "every nation and tribe and tongue and people." Since we as a church aim to make Christ known as we passionately love Him together, it is also important to know where the task of missions fits in the broader purpose of the church.
- b. In his book *Let the Nations be Glad*, John Piper states, "Missions is not the ultimate goal of the church. Worship is. Missions exists because worship doesn't. Worship is ultimate, not missions, because God is ultimate, not man." Essentially what this means is that missions is temporary, whereas worship is eternal. Missions will only last until Jesus Christ returns at the end of history. At that point missions will cease, whereas worship of God will continue on as God's people enjoy the glorious presence of God forever. Missions is about proclaiming the greatness and glory of God among all the nations, making the way of salvation through Jesus Christ known so that men, women and children from all nations will call out to Him for salvation, becoming a part of God's family as we worship glorify Him together.

2. **Jesus is the only way of salvation for every person on the planet!** There are not "many paths" leading to heaven. Jesus said that He is "the way, the truth, the life" and that no one comes to the Father but through Him (John 14:6). Acts 4:12 states, "There is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved." Only a deep resolve that Jesus is the only way will motivate and sustain people to take the gospel to the nations.
3. **The activity of missions is to be centered on the message of the gospel.** Romans 10:13 says, "whoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be saved." But as the text goes on to say, one will not call upon the Lord if they have not believed in Him, and they will not believe in Him if they have not heard about Him, and they will not hear about Him if someone doesn't go and preach to them. The content of that preaching is said to be the "word of Christ" (10:17), which is the gospel. Regardless of the details of any particular missions activity we undertake, it must be supplemental to the proclamation of the gospel. Therefore, we seek to love, serve and provide real and practical needs of people as a way of glorifying God but understand that the proclamation of the Gospel is ultimate!
4. **The goal of "making disciples of all the nations" is to see a healthy, reproducing, indigenous church among every people group in the world!** The great commission involves not only evangelism (or the proclamation of the gospel) but also the task of bringing to maturity those who believe. The pattern shown throughout the New Testament is that when people believe in Jesus Christ, they gather together into "local" churches for teaching, equipping, encouragement, worship, and mission. The spread of the gospel and the establishment and growth of the local church go hand in hand. Our desire is to see a strong, reproducing, indigenous church for every people group of the world.



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5. **We strive to be a “sending” church.** In Acts 13, God calls Paul and Barnabas into “world” missions in the context of the local church in Antioch. They were among the leadership team of that church. While praying and fasting together in community, it is said that the Holy Spirit told the church to set Paul and Barnabas apart for the special work He had called them to. We then see the local church in Antioch support and send them out on their missionary journeys. The connection with the local church in Antioch is seen throughout all the missionary journeys as Paul returns to
- encourage the church in Antioch,
 - be encouraged by the church in Antioch, and
 - to be sent out again.

Therefore, because of this pattern we desire to see people raised up, sent out and supported from the context of the local church at Mountain View.

6. **Every person (body part) at MVCC has a part to play in world missions!** The great commission is a commission for every follower of Christ. We are all His ambassadors, representing Him to the world wherever He has called us to live. While most of us will not be “going,” we all are called to the work of advancing the gospel to all the nations. Each of us in the Body of Christ is called to grow in our passion for missions as we imitate Christ and grow in His likeness. Each person has a role to play, whether through prayer, education, or through other ways through your time, gifts and talents, and financial giving.

Our Missions Focus

Worldwide, the church of Jesus Christ is involved in a myriad of activities to advance the gospel and build up local churches. As a church, we long to have an effective role in carrying out the Great Commission. This means that we can’t be a part of everything that is going on in missions, rather we have to decide where we will focus our time and energy as a church. From the driving principles explained above, we have decided to focus our resources in the following ways:

1. **Our primary focus is on being a sending church while joyfully supporting other works and individuals as the Lord leads and provides.** There are many good ways a church can go about supporting world missions. At MVCC we feel led to be a church that *sends* people to the mission field rather than being a supporting church only. A supporting church is able to support many more people but is not able to offer each person or family that is sent with a significant amount of ongoing support. In contrast to a “supporting church,” a sending church is limited in the amount of people we can send yet we are able to meet more ongoing needs of the persons who are sent. To be sent, the church must play a part in discerning the call of God on the person’s life, making sure the actual “mission” fits the overall vision of the church, so that we can lead the whole body to be more substantially involved in our mission work through financial and prayer support.
2. **Look for ways to invest in and build up indigenous local church and its leaders.** Though God calls people to cross social, cultural, and language barriers – we believe the best people to reach a people group are those who are already part of that culture. It is our desire to see a healthy, growing, reproducing indigenous church in every people group that is reaching its own people (church planting). **We want to partner and support indigenous ministry.** Where



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healthy indigenous work does not exist or is in process, we desire to focus on raising up and empower indigenous leaders.

3. **Invest in Bible translation.** God's Word transforms hearts. It is living and active and God has chosen to reveal Himself to us through His Word. We desire that all peoples of the world may have access to God's word in their own language. We therefore prioritize the translation of God's word. This relates to the goal of seeing a healthy, reproducing, indigenous church in every people group because without a Bible in the language of the people, discipleship and evangelism can be limited or even ineffective.
4. **Look for ways to invest in unreached people groups.** The Apostle John gives us a snapshot into the future where there was a great multitude from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues standing before the throne of God worshipping God (Rev. 5:9, 7:9-12). Our desire is to be part of what we know to be God's Will where there are people from every people group worshipping the Lord in the final days. In our world today, there are still many unreached people groups (this is defined as an area where there is not an indigenous community of believing Christians with adequate numbers and resources to evangelize their people group). We want to prioritize the reaching of these unreached people groups in our missions investment with the desire to see a sustainable, growing, indigenous church to every people group of the world.

Specific Pathways for Involvement in MVCC Missions

I want to "go", how can I be "sent" by MVCC? Building upon the basic outline shown on page 1, here are more details concerning the requirements for receiving support from MVCC.

Long Term Missions Requirements

1. **Affirmed in ministry at MVCC:** The missionary candidate has spent enough time in relationship with the body that the pastor board can affirm this person in ministry. If the candidate will be in a pastoral or leadership role in missions, ideally the candidate has gone through pastoral training (i.e. Pastors and Leaders Institute).
2. **Character:** the candidate must possess godly character that has been tested over time. Demonstrating humility and teach-ability, the ability to submit, working through conflict in a godly way, and proving to be an example to others are critical qualities we look for in a candidate. The potential missionary must demonstrate a maturity in their walk with God and an ability to work with others. This is an essential quality to be able to persevere through the challenges of the mission field.
3. **Ministry:** the candidate must have demonstrated a heart and ability to make disciples at a local level before going overseas. The idea is that if the person is not having a fruitful ministry locally, why would they have a fruitful ministry in a more challenging environment with less support and encouragement?
4. **Submission to Leadership:** the pastor board desires to be part of the affirmation process for the potential missionary and the call on their life. We see this in Acts 13 where Paul and Barnabas were sent by the Church in Antioch while they were spending time with the rest of the elders. We believe that an individual's call is affirmed by community, fellowship, and church



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leadership. We highly value the call to missions and embrace people's passion for mission. The pastors hope to help those in the church who are interested in mission to walk through the process of seeing how one's passion could translate into a long-term missions commitment. Therefore, our hope is that aspiring missionaries would be affirmed in the context of church community (in submission to one-another), rather than in the absence of community or in spite of it.

5. **The Mission is affirmed by MVCC:** There are many wonderful missionary endeavors and MVCC recognizes that we are not able to be part of all that God is doing. Therefore, MVCC chooses to prioritize sending candidates whose actual mission aligns with the direction and passions God has led MVCC to. Therefore, the pastor board must affirm that the aspiring mission is aligned with the strategies and vision aforementioned.
6. **Affirmation of the Sending Agency:** MVCC recognizes there are many great sending agencies who have been investing for a long time in sending missionaries to the mission field. We desire to partner with good sending agencies which can provide needed resources for the field including ministry coaching & missionary care. The pastor board of MVCC must approve the sending agency as a like-minded ministry partner.

Expectations for MVCC

What can you expect from Mountain View if they were to send you as a missionary? What does MVC expect from you as one sent out? What can you expect from MVC?

- **Barnabas Team:** Every person sent out by MVCC must have a *Barnabas Team* of individuals committed to pray and support the missionary on the field. The Barnabas Team is the vital link between the missionary and the church body, and will be the people most aware of the needs of the missionary. The sent missionary can have a large prayer and support team but the Barnabas Team stays closely connected with the individual once on the field; sending care packages, keeping intimate communications, looking into how to help with various situations, etc.
- **Prayer Support:** We commit to praying regularly our sent missionaries. Prayer support will come from the Barnabas Team, prayer meetings, Pastor Board, and during the services throughout the year.
- **Financial Support:** For those sent by MVCC, we would hope to be able to provide 15-25% of the ongoing support which is needed. The desire is to provide a substantial amount of support to free up the missionary, while but also leaving room for others to participate in being financial partners with you – whether that be other churches, individuals at other churches, or individuals at MVCC. Having a broad support team helps get more people involved in praying and being aware of needs.
- **Field Visits:** Once every two years (or more) a leader from MVCC will visit you on the field to minister to you and get a greater understanding of your needs.
- **Accountability & Pastoral Care:** We will initiate and pursue relationships with our sent missionaries to serve pastoral needs and offer a covering of accountability.

Expectations for Missionaries

- **Communication:** Regular communication with Barnabas Teams and church leadership so we know how to be praying specifically. When a person is on the field, it is hard to pause what you



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are doing and update those back in the United States. However, that ongoing link is critical for prayer and support and must be prioritized.

- **Teaching and Encouraging the Body:** MVCC expects when you are back visiting and getting refreshed, that you will spend time to encourage and share with the body what God is doing in and through you. We desire that once every three years that you come back to MVCC to report and let people rejoice with you.
- **Honesty and Transparency:** For MVCC to best serve and minister to you on the field we must understand what your true needs are. We expect you to keep us in the loop with ongoing challenges, personal struggles or sin, and health issues. We want to be able to help minister, encourage, and help with things before they become huge issues. All this requires communication and openness.

Short Term Missions Trips Requirements

Short term mission trips are a great way to gain exposure to what God is doing throughout the world, and participate in the Great Commission. We understand that short terms mission trips can make a great investment in the individual who is going as well as the mission on which they are embarking. It is our desire to invest in those individuals who are an active part of the MVCC body. Therefore, the following requirements are listed for those who MVCC supports on short term mission trips (these are continued from page 1):

1. **Have taken and completed MVCC's Biblical Distinctives Course:** we use this course as a prerequisite for all leadership positions in MVCC.
2. **Actively serving the body at MVCC:** there are many ways to use our gifts inside and outside the local church. We desire to send people who are making an active investment in the local church through the giving of their time, gifts and talents and financial resources for the common good of the body of Christ. This requires understanding God's design of the local church.
3. **You understand the Gospel are able to articulate it:** the Gospel of Christ is paramount – it is the reason we go on mission trips. Those desiring to go must be able to articulate the Gospel and have a lifestyle of sharing the Gospel in our community.
4. **The mission trip must have a Gospel component:** while it is incredibly important to show the love of Christ through our actions and service, it is the Gospel of Christ that will ultimately set people free. Therefore, the mission trips MVCC supports must contain an element of sharing the Gospel with those we are going to serve.
5. **Introduction to Missions Course:** each Fall and Spring MVCC offers a class to acquaint people to missions at MVC. Attending this class is mandatory for MVCC to partner with you on your short-term mission trip.
6. **Completion of the short-term mission trip application** (appendix at the end of this document).
7. **Three Affirming References:** MVCC requires each person to submit three references who can verify your character and local ministry experience. One reference must come from outside MVCC, one inside the body at MVCC, and one leader from MVCC (Pastor, LifeGroup leader, deacon, or ministry leader).

Expectations for MVCC



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What can you expect from MVCC if they were to send you on a short-term mission trip? What does MVCC expect from you as one sent out? What can you expect from MVCC?

- **Prayer Support:** We commit to praying for you while on your mission trip. Forums include Pastoral prayer times, church wide prayer meetings, etc.
- **Financial Support:** Each year MVCC sets aside a portion of our mission money to be used for short term mission trips.

Expectations for Missionaries

- **Communication:** Before you leave, we would ask for a printed-out list of your prayer requests including what you desire to see God do in your life and how you desire to see God use you during your trip. This will be used for special prayer times as well as to be passed out to others who are praying regularly for you. Upon your return, we would ask for an update of what God did in and through your life. This is an important part of communication that often gets dropped. We want to know how God worked so we can celebrate with you in our investment with you.
- **Support Raising:** You are free to directly contact those who you know well in the body and ask them to consider partnering with you. As you serve in the body and get to know people in small groups, these are the people who would love to come around and support you. Under absolutely NO CIRCUMSTANCES are you permitted to call through the church directory or email people ***you do not know*** asking them for support. Support must be raised on a relationship basis only. One good rule of thumb is to only ask people to support you who *you* would support if they asked you in the event they were going on a short-term mission. These need to be people you have journeyed with and know you very well.



Appendix 1

Preparing to Serve

What can I do now? If you have the desire to be sent to the nations by MVCC someday, the best thing to do now is begin investing locally. Express your desire to church leaders. Get involved in serving in the church where leaders can see your character, your ministry, and your desires so they can affirm God's call in your life. Pursue more training through MVC's school of ministry or Pastor's Institute is another good step. Equip yourself by getting involved in making disciples today. Begin learning more about missions by taking a "Perspectives in World Missions" class and doing research about parts of the world you are interested in. Begin to gather regularly with others to pray for what God is doing through the world. There is much we can do today to prepare for what He has tomorrow. MVCC is looking for those who are willing to invest with a steadfast passion and perseverance to go.

Other Ideas for Preparation:

Take a spiritual gift inventory like "Discovering Your Ministry Identity".

Learn a foreign language.

Study people groups, cultures, and other religions (take a "Perspectives in World Missions" course).

Research "tent-making" opportunities (people who use their professional training as a platform for ministry in another culture).

Join a Barnabas Team for someone in our body who is serving or preparing to serve cross-culturally.

A Few Basic Resources for Further Study:

- *Perspectives in World Mission*: www.perspectives.org
- *On Being a Missionary* by Thomas Hale
- *Bonding*, William Carey Library
- *Teaching Cross Culturally*, Lingenfelter
- *Let the Nations Be Glad* by John Piper
- *Cross-Cultural Servanthood* by Duane Elmer
- *The Forgotten Ways* by Alan Hirsch (a book about church planting)
- *Christianity at the Religious Roundtable* by Timothy Tennent
- *Encountering the World of Islam* by Keith Swartley
- *Missions & Money* by Jonathan Bonk
- *Funding your Ministry* by Scott Morton
- *The Spirituality of Fund Raising* by Henri Nouwen
- *When Helping Hurts* by Steve Corbett & Brian Fikkert
- [The Gospel & the Poor](#) by Tim Keller
- [Live to Die](#) by John Piper
- *Just Do Something* by Kevin DeYoung
- *Evangelism & Sovereignty of God* by J.I. Packer



Appendix 2

Short Term Missions Application

Personal Information

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Current Address: _____

Permanent Address: _____

Describe the missions trip (dates? What will you be doing? How much does it cost?):

Why do you feel that God is calling you to go on this mission trip? What do you believe He wants to accomplish in and through your life on this trip?

Have you had the opportunity to communicate the gospel to someone? What do you think are the most important things to communicate?

How will you actively share the gospel on this trip? What is the plan for assimilating those you meet into a local church for a lifetime of growth?



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Describe your relationship to Mountain View Community Church? How long have you been attending? How have you gotten involved in serving in the body?

Have you taken Biblical Distinctives at MVCC? When? Are there any of the distinctives that you do not agree with?

What is your current involvement in terms of sharing the gospel and making disciples locally?

Please attach 3 completed reference forms or have them mailed to:
Attn: Missions Short Term Projects
Mountain View Community Church
328 Remington, Fort Collins CO 80524.

*One reference from outside MVCC, one from inside MVCC, one from a leader at MVCC (pastor, LifeGroup leader, Deacon, or ministry leader).



Appendix 3

Short Term Missions Reference

Your Name:

Phone:

Email:

Address:

Applicants Name:

How long have you known the applicant? Describe your relationship:

On a scale of 1-5 please rate the following: (1 = weak, 5 = strong)

Spiritual Maturity:

Social Maturity:

Local Ministry:

Why would you recommend that this person go on this trip? Why or why not?

Do you have any personal hesitations to this person going on this trip?

Other comments or concerns:

Thank you so much for taking the time to complete this reference! Please return this form to the applicant or mail to:

Attn: Missions Short Term Projects
Mountain View Community Church
328 Remington, Fort Collins CO 80524