



# church Builder

A Newsletter of Christian Evangelistic Mission (CEM)

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## Executive Director's Report

by Rod Roberts

**O**n Monday, December 6th Governor Terry Branstad asked me to serve as the next Director of the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals. I accepted the Governor's appointment to serve in this very important department of state government. The department is charged with tasks of inspecting, licensing and certifying, and regulating industries such as restaurants, grocery stores, hotels, hospitals and nursing homes as well as gambling operations.

It also has oversight of the appeals process for citizens who appeal a decision made by a department or agency within the Executive Branch of state government. There are additional important functions of the Department, but I have

described several areas of very important responsibility.

I made the CEM directors aware of the possibility of an appointment in Governor Branstad's administration. I notified them when I accepted the Governor's offer and have resigned as the CEM Executive Director.

I have completed twenty years of serving as the CEM Executive Director. My work with CEM has been personally rewarding and very fulfilling. The support that I have received over the years from the directors and the churches of Iowa has been a blessing.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve the Christian Churches/Churches of Christ in this very important role. Please pray for the directors as they thoughtfully work through this transition period. CEM has been blessed over the years with stable, capable and competent leadership. Charlie Johnson and I have been the only two evangelists-at-large to serve CEM. That is remarkable given the Mission's 53 years of ministry. Please pray that God will raise up the next servant to help lead CEM in the future.

Trish and I will continue to have our formal residence in Carroll. Carroll is our home and the Carroll Church of Christ will continue to be our home congregation.

In Christ,

**Rod**





# *From the planters*

I am always amazed at how fast time goes by, and it is hard to believe that another year is in the books. Ames is a transient community, and 2010 was definitely a year of transition for us as a church. We had several people move away, which has caused us to reevaluate some of our strategies. As a result, 2011 is setting up to be a good year for us.

Our philosophy, format, and mission will remain the same, but something we will do differently in the upcoming year is intentionally target often overlooked neighborhoods in Ames. God has laid on my heart that we need to deliberately go after those who most people would not consider a legitimate prospect. We will be focusing our advertising as well as custom outreach projects towards these areas of town. For instance, in December we delivered Christmas cookies to one neighborhood and invited them to join us at church. In the coming months, we'll be offering free family photos, a free breakfast, as well as a service project helping to clean up a neighborhood. I'm looking forward to our church serving these neighborhoods in this way as we show them the love of Jesus.

We recently had a young couple come who is new to the area. The wife is working on her doctorate at Iowa State, and the husband works at a school in Des Moines. They are both from Texas, and he is from the same town in the Houston area that we used to live in. Talk about a small world. They enjoyed the service and said they would definitely be back after the Christmas break from school.

On January 23rd, we will be celebrating our second birthday as a church. We're going to advertise it in some of the specific neighborhoods I mentioned above, and we will be serving a free breakfast before our service. If you know anyone in the Ames area, tell them to come join us on January 23rd.

Please pray for us regularly throughout 2011 as we strive to do what God is blessing and reach people with the love of Jesus. New church work can be hard, and we are involved in spiritual warfare, so any prayers offered on our behalf would be much appreciated! And, again, if you know anyone in the Ames area who is looking for a church, please let them know about us.

For October through December we averaged 44 for weekly attendance and \$1301 for weekly offerings.

Thank you for your support of CEM and please pray for us as we try to make a difference in the lives of people in the Ames area.

Livin' In Freedom,

**Nate Liston - *FreedomRidge Church***

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**G**od continues giving strength to our spiritual life at Lifebridge Church of Christ. In the last three months, the church has had some events to connect new people with Christ.

During October at Franklin Christian Church, we hosted an event that we called "Jesus' Club." A Bible study led off the program, then we had games and crafts for everybody with the purpose of having a family focus. Our attendance was approximately 80 people.

When I look around us knowing the economic crisis of our country and how people are struggling, we decided to do something to help. In November, we decided to host "free weddings" at Franklin Christian Church. This event consisted of preparing the church with adornments, worship and a sermon. We take every opportunity to preach the gospel of Jesus, and during this type of event, we had people in attendance that don't go to church.

On December 19, we celebrated Christmas with a drama/play performed by all the children of our church from teenagers to the nursery. This program was prepared by Maria Lara. For first time for this kind of event, we had an attendance of about 120 people. We finished the program with a fellowship and a potluck.

These three events helped us to make some new connections. Also, two more souls were added to the family of Jesus Christ through baptism. Their names are Ruben Hernandez and Isabel Alvarez.

We were also able to find time to travel to both Texas and Mexico to be with our families and have some great moments with them.

Thank you for your prayers and your support. We need it for the kingdom of God, and to help us continue growing in Des Moines, Iowa.

Our average attendance and offerings have been as follows: October – 65 & \$2,889.24, November – 69 & \$1,913.32, and December – 70 & \$1,794.10.

In Christ,

**Mario Lara - Lifebridge Christian Church**

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## FINANCIAL REPORT

### For the Period of Oct. 1 thru Dec. 31, 2010

**Balance on Hand - September 30, 2010 .....\$47,877.15**

**Income:**

Contributions .....\$47,294.32  
 Golf Tournament.....6,425.00  
 Harvest Offering.....5,471.25

**Total Income & Balance Forward .....\$107,067.72**

**Expenses:**

Ministry Expenses & Salaries .....45,734.98  
 Wildwood Christian Church.....6,000.00  
 Director Expenses.....4,220.26  
 Office Supplies / Postage.....99.61  
 Printing & Copying .....3,724.11  
 Golf Tournament.....7,505.46  
 Miscellaneous Expenses.....348.03

**Total Expenses .....\$67,632.45**

**NEW BALANCE ON HAND (Dec. 31, 2010).....\$38,672.48**

**Etta Schulz - Treasurer**

P.O. Box 1001, Ankeny, Iowa 50021

**G**od is amazing and Northwest Christian Church has seen a lot of amazing things this fall! October was incredible. We began the month by holding our 2nd annual Free Market – where everything from clothes to furniture to kitchen supplies to electronics was donated to be given away for free. This year, over 300 people were blessed and a local rescue shelter was blessed with everything left over! It was not only a blessing to our community but an enormous blessing to us. One of the highlights was being able to help a local family that had just lost their home, all their belongings, and a young son, in a house fire only one week prior.

In early October, we were approached by Benson Street Church of Christ, a ministry nearly 60 years old, with an offer to share their facility and their resources. So, after much prayer, we left Wilson Middle School and moved 20 blocks to our west. Our worship service and children’s church is held at 9:00 a.m., with BSCC’s held at 11:00 a.m. and a time of fellowship in between. It’s wonderful to have our worship service, Bible studies, and office all inside one building. A large sign hangs outside the church now that reads, “Two churches, one building ... the body of Christ working together!”

Our first event at the new location was a neighborhood Harvest Party and chili cook-off. We offered free chili and hot

dogs, carnival games, candy prizes, hayrack rides and a bouncy house. We advertised in the local elementary school and over 300 people attended, most from the neighborhood! It was a great success!

In November, I had the opportunity to return to the Holy Land and lead another 10-day tour of Israel and Jordan. Of the 14 travelers, 4 were from NWCC. It was a great time of learning and refreshing. We also began a 2nd ladies Bible study and added another class to our children’s church program. In December we participated in the Salvation Army Angel Tree program, providing gifts for 30 children in our area. We had also held a virtual tour of Israel and a ladies Christmas party with the women of BSCC. We had 26 children participate in our Children’s Church Christmas program with a new record high attendance of 126! We were able to have our first Christmas Eve Service this year also. We shared the services with BSCC and nearly 100 attended. God has blessed us so much in 2010! He is amazing!

October – Average attendance, 67 & Average weekly giving, \$1204.03  
 November – Average attendance, 68 & Average weekly giving, \$861.93  
 December – Average attendance, 76 & Average weekly giving, \$1386.44

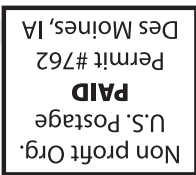
**Jeff Kraft - Northwest Christian Church**

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*Return Service Requested*



The mission of the Christian Evangelistic Mission (CEM) is to promote church growth by planting and nurturing churches. CEM is supported by gifts from churches and individuals. To contact the Board President, write to: Ray Artip, Christian Evangelistic Mission, P.O. Box 1001, Ankeny, Iowa 50021  
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