



A Newsletter of Christian Evangelistic Mission (CEM)

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Executive Director's Report

by Rod Roberts

Annual Meeting time is almost here again! This year's meeting will be hosted by the Lifebridge Christian Church on Tuesday, September 8th. The location for this year's meeting will be the Fort Des Moines Church of Christ building on the south side of Des Moines (please see details of the Annual Meeting on the back page of this newsletter). This year's Harvest Offering goal is \$20,000.00. It is very important that this year's Harvest Offering goal is reached. The directors are currently considering a request from a new project in Council Bluffs. With the complete relocation of First Christian Church to its new facilities on Highway 92 in Council Bluffs, a number of families in the center of Council Bluffs have decided to begin a new congregation that will be known as Northwest Christian Church. The church planter for this new church is Jeff Kraft. For more information you may visit their website at nwcc-cb.com. Although CEM did not initiate the start of this new congregation, the directors are considering a request for some level of financial support. A generous Harvest Offering this year will enable the

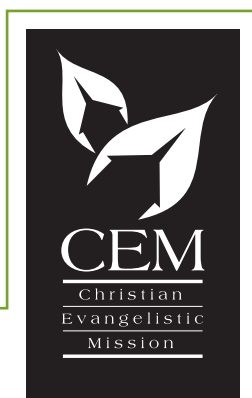
directors to consider an appropriate response to their request. Please pray for the good people who are committed to this new work as they prepare for a public launch during the first part of September.

The directors are currently planning for a benefit gold outing to be held during the first part of October. This would be a "first" for CEM. CEM would be working with a specialized organization known as "On Par On Purpose" that assists non profit organizations like CEM to "raise new friends" and "needed funds" to support their unique mission. We will be working with JD King and Duane King (former Executive Director with Deaf Missions) who will help provide guidance and expertise in preparing for the golf outing. The event itself will be held in the greater Des Moines area. If you would be interested in participating

in this unique event that will be both fun for the participants as well as helpful to CEM, please contact us for more information.

Most readers of the CEM newsletter know that I also serve in the Iowa Legislature as a State Representative. Since early last Fall, I have been encouraged by a large number of people across the state to consider running for Governor. After much thought, prayer and conversation with my family, friends and the CEM directors, I have decided to seriously pursue this possibility. The directors are willing to amend my contract to allow me the time to travel and speak with Iowans through the end of this year. Toward the end of 2009 I will make a final decision as to whether I will formally seek my party's nomination for Governor. I will continue to serve in the role of CEM Executive Director at the same time. CEM can not advocate for a political candidate, so if you have further questions concerning my decision or the please feel free to contact me directly at 712-792-2718 or the CEM Board President (Tony Liston in Davenport) at 563-650-4008.

In Christ,
Rod





From the planters

Things are going well at FreedomRidge. We continue to reach out to people and make an impact in people's lives. There's a few exciting things I'd like to let you know about. In May during the service, I spoke to our people specifically about who FreedomRidge is and what our mission and vision is. It was a lot of fun and got many more people excited about what we are doing. Our vision is "to be an externally focused and practical church that hits people where they live while using culturally relevant means to fulfill our mission." Our main target is the unchurched of the area, so everything we do and the way we say things and teach will be done with them in mind. Jesus said he came to seek and save the lost, so that is what we want to do, too. The people of FreedomRidge understand this and have bought into this concept.

We have many people who are stepping up and taking ownership and becoming involved, which is great to see. For example, we have a new family who has recently started a program for Elementary age kids on Sunday mornings called FreedomKidz. This is something that was needed and is helping to make an impact in the lives of these young people. They are doing a great job with it.

We have a family who is raising outside support so they can come on staff to lead our Middle School and High School ministry called The Ridge. Bobby & Jenny King have been leading this new ministry for several weeks now and are doing a great job with it. The Ridge meets on Sunday evenings and the young people have been really enjoying it.

We have a small group that is now going through the Discovering FreedomRidge Partnership Guidebook together. It meets in the home of a FreedomRidger on Tuesday evenings and runs about 9 people or so. I'm enjoying this group as we discuss many different passages from the Bible. The purpose of this small group Bible study is to make everyone aware of what is involved in becoming a member (partner) of Freedom Ridge Christian Church.



By the time you read this we will have taken part in the 4th of July celebration in Ames by passing out free popcorn at Bandshell Park. We did this last year and passed out over 1100 bags. We hope to do the same this year and meet many new people. We will also be advertising our new lesson series called God At The Movies that starts on July 12th. We'll be looking at some recent movies, compare them with the Bible, and find some spiritual truths to apply to our life. I'm really looking forward to this series.

As of this writing we have been in existence for 24 Sundays with an overall average attendance of 62 and average offering of \$735 per week. In May we averaged 63 and \$995, and in June we averaged 58 and \$880.

Thank you for your support of CEM, and we would appreciate any prayers you can say on our behalf! If you know anyone in the Ames area, please let them know about us, and if you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Thanks for your prayers and support.

Livin' in Freedom,

Nate Liston

(515) 441-0478 • nate@freedomridge.tv
www.FreedomRidge.tv
P.O. Box 225, Ames IA 50010

I always enjoy sharing my report about all the wonderful things that God is doing at Lifebridge Christian Church in Des Moines. We had a great children's program in April on Resurrection Sunday. Two of our teenagers, Abigail Lara and Rosa Perez led the children's choir. We were very happy to see several new families in attendance that day. We held our annual Mother's Day program in May. A special meal was prepared and served by our church's men. The women of the church really appreciated the special day that was set aside to honor them.

On June 7th we held our annual "Parents to Kids" program. We had our highest Sunday attendance to date this year with over 150 people. We were grateful for our friends from the Rising Sun Church of Christ and 1st Church of Christ in Ankeny who helped with the day's special activities. Our statistics for the months of April, May and June were: Average attendance in April was 65, May was 62 and June was 83. Our offering totals for the three months were: April - \$1793.97, May - \$2690.25 and June - \$1873.25. Our church has a special missions relationship with the church in Acuna, Mexico. Last year I lead a group of volunteers from the Rising Sun Church of Christ to Acuna. The group helped repair the roof of the church building that had been damaged in a fire. While they helped with that construction project the volunteers also helped teach Vacation Bible School to the children. The church leader with the Acuna congregation is Juan Rivera. His vehicle recently broke down and right now he travels by foot to minister to people. It is nine miles from his home to the church building in Acuna. We are currently trying to find a good used van that we could share with him to do his work. If we can not find a van then perhaps we can raise some money to help him purchase another vehicle. Perhaps there is a CEM supporter or an Iowa church who would like to help us meet this need with Juan and the Acuna church. Please let me know directly if you would like to help.

I would also like to ask for volunteers from our Iowa churches to help us with our annual Family Camp program. It will be held over the Labor Day weekend at the Central Iowa Bible Camp near Earlham. If you are interested in helping us with our Family Camp, please let me know. Next summer we will be hosting the National Hispanic Christian Convention at the Rising Sun Church of Christ in Des Moines. This will also require a good number of volunteers to help the folks at Lifebridge staff the Convention program. If you



would like to help with next summer's Convention program, please contact me.

Finally, the Lifebridge Christian Church family is looking forward to hosting this year's CEM Annual Meeting at the Fort Des Moines Church of Christ on Tuesday, September 8th. Come and enjoy a delicious, homemade Mexican dinner at 6:00 that evening and then share in the Annual Meeting program at 7:00 p.m.

Thank you for your prayers and support!

Mario A. Lara
(515) 689-9121

FINANCIAL REPORT

For the Period of April 1 thru June 30, 2009

Balance on Hand - March 31, 2009	\$13,649.28
Income:	
Contributions	\$29,834.36
Lifesaver Club	4,205.00
Interest	2.03
Total Income	\$34,041.39
Expenses:	
Bank Service Charges	\$18.91
Insurance Expense	1,072.00
Ministry Expenses & Salaries	36,100.02
Director Expenses	2,053.80
Miscellaneous Expenses	99.04
Office Supplies.....	122.52
Newsletter Expenses (Printing & Mailing)	1,199.35
Operations Expenses	84.00
Regular Postage & Delivery	44.00
Total Expenses	\$39,702.73
NEW BALANCE ON HAND (Mar. 31, 2009)	\$7,987.94
Etta Schulz - Treasurer	
P.O. Box 1001, Ankeny, Iowa 50021	

2009 Annual Meeting

Hosted by Lifebridge Christian Church
at Fort Des Moines Church of Christ

244 E. Army Post Road • Des Moines, Iowa

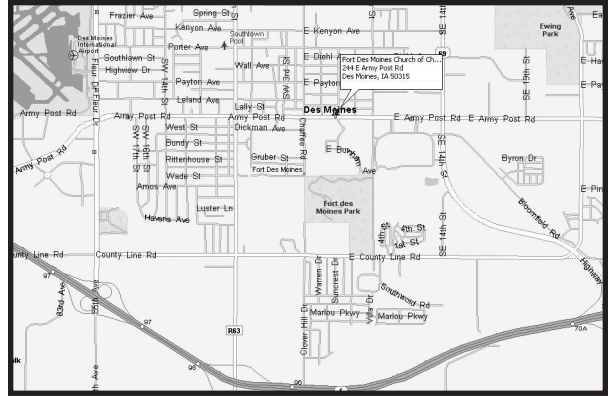
Tuesday, September 8th

Fellowship Meal: 6:00 p.m.

Annual Meeting Program: 7:00 p.m.

Please RSVP with Rod if you intend to share in the Fellowship Meal before the Annual Meeting at rodcm@mchsi.com or (712) 792-2718.

**Harvest Offering
Goal - \$20,000!**



Proposed By-law Change

In the Fall 2008 issue of the CEM newsletter there was advanced notice given of a proposed by-law change that would allow the directors some flexibility in setting the date of the Annual Meeting each year. The directors will propose the following new language to Article IV Section I during the business portion of this year's Annual meeting: "Unless otherwise determined and officially announced by the CEM directors, the Annual Meeting shall be held on the second Tuesday in September."

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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 Executive Director, write to: