



church Builder

A Newsletter of Christian Evangelistic Mission (CEM)

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Executive Director's Report

by Rod Roberts

A very special "Thank You!" goes out to the good people of Adventure Christian in Davenport for hosting this year's Annual Meeting.

Their hospitality was terrific and the fellowship meal was a veritable "banquet" that evening! Great job Adventure! The Board of Directors for this coming year include Tony Liston (President) from Adventure in Davenport, Howard Hatlelid (Vice President) from the Alta Church of Christ, Dennis Dorsheimer (Secretary) from the Jackson Church of Christ in Montezuma, Ken Greeley from the Clinton Church of Christ, Mark Kruckenberg from Adventure in Davenport, Stan Smelser from First Church of Christ in Ankeny, Ray Artrip from the Webster City Church of Christ, Thad Bridges from Central Church of Christ in Griswold and our newest director to the board – Curtis McGinnis from the Clear Lake Church of Christ. The Board of Directors also appointed Etta Schulz of Des Moines as the Treasurer for CEM. Etta and her husband Donald are members of First Church of Christ in Ankeny. A very special "Thank You!" to Freda (Smelser) Eldridge who concludes her service as

the CEM Treasurer! She has done a terrific job the past year and a half!

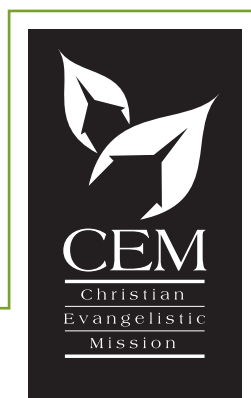
Next year's Annual Meeting will be held on September 8th in the Des Moines area. The Lifebridge Christian Church has been asked to host the Annual Meeting next year. I am certain that the Lifebridge church family will plan for a "Mexican Fiesta" meal and fellowship time next year!

Speaking of the CEM Annual Meeting, the directors are currently working on a draft of new language that will be proposed as an amendment to CEM's by-laws during next year's Annual Meeting in Des Moines. The proposed amendment is designed to allow some flexibility in setting the date for CEM's Annual Meeting. Current language in our by-laws sets the Annual Meeting date as the second Tuesday in

September. Any change to CEM's by-laws must be made by those members who attend and participate in the business portion of an Annual Meeting. The official proposal will be formally announced in a future CEM newsletter in advance of the 2009 Annual Meeting in Des Moines.

I wanted to make our supporters aware of an upcoming appeal letter that Nate Liston will be sending out on behalf of Freedom Ridge Christian Church, our newest project in Ames. It has been a longstanding policy of CEM that our sponsored church plants can use our newsletter mailing list for a "one time financial appeal". The appeal letter that Nate will be sending this Fall is intended to raise specific dollars to help pay for advance publicity and marketing for the new church in Ames. It is very important that the Ames area know in advance about the start of this new Christian Church. The directors always provide advance notice to our supporters of an upcoming appeal letter on behalf of one of our new churches through the CEM newsletter.

In Christ,
Rod





From the planters

ENCOUNTER CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Thank You!

It is hard to believe that it has been nearly 5 years since the Lord brought us to Iowa. We have had two children here and one church! Encounter has not been an easy process but God rewards those who move in faith and seek him. (Hb 11:6) At the annual meeting in Davenport on Sept. 9th we announced that we are officially self-supporting. Thank you for dreaming with us and believing God can still change a community by those who will simply follow him.

This fall we are looking forward to getting into a space we have leased. It is about 4200 sq. feet. It is located very near the movie theater where we have met for two years. We have tried to get in this place before but the doors were shut. This time God led us to the right realtor with the right connections and we should be in there before Christmas. There is much work to do on the space.

In October and November Encounter will be doing six weeks of renewal before the big move. In the same way it's a good idea to clean out the attic when you move to a new home we're asking God to come in and show us where he would like to make changes before we move to a new facility.

Please pray for us as we "leave the nest" sort of speak. The CEM will still continue to meet with me and give us oversight until Encounter has leaders in place. Pray God would raise up Godly men who would lay down their lives to serve the church. Thank you so much for the last 5 years. Please know that you have changed lives in Cedar Rapids by your prayers and financial support!

Blessings,

Caleb Plumb

caleb@encounterchrist.org
www.encounterchrist.org
(319) 390-4672



Iglesia de Cristo Puente de Vida
Lifebridge Christian Church

We give God glory for having his hand on Lifebridge Church of Christ from the very beginning! In Iowa the greatest concentration of Hispanics is found in the greater Des Moines/ Polk County area of central Iowa. We have learned the past several years that the most effective way to reach Hispanics is through home Bible study groups. Additionally, I have found that reaching out to individuals and families through pastoral ministry has been effective in reaching out to people with the Gospel. Whether it be through helping someone who is going through a personal crisis, or performing a wedding ceremony, showing people that our church cares about them has helped give credibility to our message.

There are now 21 distinct family units who actively attend worship on Sunday afternoons with us. Half of these families are believers who have confessed Christ and been baptized, and the other half are people who attend regularly but have yet to make their personal decisions for Jesus. Please keep these families in your prayers as we continue to teach God's word to them. Our Sunday worship attendance continues to range in the 70's to 80's and our weekly offerings are between \$500 and \$600.

In July a group from Lifebridge traveled to San Antonio, TX to attend this year's National Hispanic Christian Convention. This year marked the 25th anniversary of this national gathering. Lifebridge will be the host church for the 2010 Convention. This year our Bible Bowl team took "third place" in the Bible Bowl competition! The folks back home were excited to see the young people and their third place trophy.

Over the Labor Day holiday we held our annual Family Camp at Central Iowa Bible Camp near Earlham. We had nearly 90 Hispanic people participate in this year's Family Camp! I would like to thank the following volunteers who came and help us with the Camp: Drew Follmer, Ralph & Diane Haskins and family, Ed & Ellen Morris, Justin & Brenda Jewell and Kathy, and the church family from Franklin Avenue Christian Church in Des Moines.

Thank you for your prayers and financial support.
God bless you!

Mario A. Lara
(515) 689-9121

Hello from Ames and Freedom Ridge Christian Church where we've been keeping busy trying to meet people and plan for our launch of public services. It is our goal and desire to show the people in our target area the freedom that Jesus offers to them. Jesus said "If the Son sets you free, you are really free." We can't wait to share this freedom with as many people as possible!

In an effort to get the word out about Freedom Ridge and meet some people, we took part in a big city-wide celebration in August called Ames Family Fest. We did what we did for the 4th of July and passed out free bags of popcorn. This time we passed out about 750 bags and met a lot of people. I was able to speak with several people and there seemed to be genuine interest in who we were and what we were planning on doing.

We also had another dinner recently where we talked about the mission, vision, and long range plans of Freedom Ridge. We served pizza and got to answer some important questions for our people. I had a good time.

Something I am really excited about is the new groups we are starting the second week of October. We will be going through a series of studies as we look at the true purpose for the church and how it relates to our mission. We're offering the study twice a week to give the people a choice of which night to attend AND they're encouraged to bring friends with them. It is my prayer that many new people become a part of Freedom Ridge through these groups, and that our people will have a fresh understanding of the freedom found in Jesus. Please join me in this prayer.

We're looking forward to a January 18, 2009, launch for our Sunday services. We are not targeting an age group, but a mindset. Our motto is "never church as usual" and we want to reach out to those who are unchurched, dechurched or disillusioned with church, and show them how things can be. It doesn't have to be business as usual.

To get the word out leading up to the launch we are planning a radio campaign on a secular station in Ames, advertising on a billboard in front of the new Super Wal-Mart, a direct mail blitz to several thousand homes in our target area, canvassing groups hitting area neighborhoods, and a couple community service projects designed to generate a lot of



buzz. Beginning in November, in Ames it is going to be all Freedom Ridge all the time. People will have no excuse not to know about us. If you are curious or want to know what you can do to help, just go to our website and click on the "how to help" link on the menu. Or if it is more convenient you can give me a call.

Again, if you know of anyone in the Ames area who might benefit from being a part of a new church, please let me know and I will try to get in touch with them. And thank you for your prayers!
God bless you,

Nate Liston

(515) 441-0478 • www.FreedomRidge.tv

FINANCIAL REPORT

For the Period of July 1 thru Sept. 30, 2008

Balance on hand July 1, 2008\$10,115.03

Income:

Contributions\$36,597.26
Lifesaver Club2,518.00
Harvest Giving10,130.00
Interest2.80

Total Income\$49,248.06

Expenses:

Bank Service Charges\$8.14
Ministry Expenses & Salaries38,301.28
Director Expenses2,546.56
Miscellaneous Expenses44.47
Postage and Mailing Service597.08
Regular Postage & Delivery38.00
Newsletter Expenses1,195.60
Bank Discrepancy(0.50)
Internet28.00

Total Expenses\$42,758.63

NEW BALANCE ON HAND (Sept. 30, 2008)\$16,604.46

Etta Schulz - Treasurer

P.O. Box 1001, Ankeny, Iowa 50021

Butler church



Iowa/Nebraska Christian Convention

January 30-31, 2009

Holiday Inn Central - Omaha, Nebraska

Main Speaker: Dave Bycroft - Tyro Christian Church

Featuring - Energizing Small Church Network

Workshops and Programs for all ages

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iGod "It is I"

Who is really in charge?

- John 6:20

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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: Rod Roberts, 732 San Salvador Avenue, Carroll, Iowa 51401
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