



church **Builder**

A Newsletter of Christian Evangelistic Mission (CEM)

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Executive Director's Report

by Rod Roberts

On behalf of the directors and evangelists I would like to extend a "Happy New Year!" greeting to each of our supporters. We appreciate our supporters and their continued, faithful partnership in CEM's ministry. If it has been awhile since your home church has scheduled me in for a CEM update, please know that I would enjoy an opportunity to come and speak some Sunday morning in 2009.

We are excited about the launch of our newest church plant in Ames, Freedom Ridge Christian Church. By the time you read this issue of the newsletter the church will have started meeting publicly on Sunday mornings. The church has an ideal meeting place in the very new Ames Middle School building which is located in the southwest area of Ames, just off of South Dakota Avenue and U.S. Highway 30. Nate Liston's article on page two gives you detailed information on who Freedom Ridge is seeking to reach with the Good News of Jesus. Nate also highlights some of the preparatory work that has gone into the new church as well as some of

the specific needs that you might prayerfully consider helping with. I would like to personally compliment the North Grand Christian Church in Ames for their important support and partnership in this project. The North Grand and Freedom Ridge congregations will compliment each other's ministry and together they will both reach even more people in the Ames area with the Gospel! If you know of someone in the Ames, Boone, Nevada or Huxley areas who might be interested in a new, contemporary church please let either Nate or myself know about them. This new church will particularly appeal to young adults.

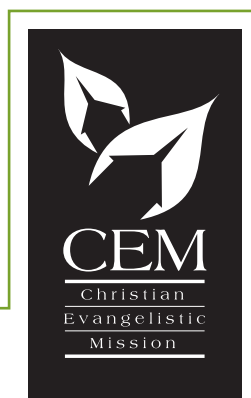
The leadership team that will continue working with Nate as the church develops consists of Ray Artrip (Webster City Church of Christ), Curtis McGinnis (Clear Lake

Church of Christ), Dan Hudson (Pathway Christian Church in Johnston) and myself. As the new church develops its own internal leadership the CEM leadership team will begin to be replaced.

The Iowa/Nebraska Christian Convention will be held on January 30th and 31st in Omaha (see details on the back page of this newsletter). CEM will have a display in the exhibit area. Let's have a great turn out from our Iowa churches for this important Convention! Plan to stop by the CEM display and say "Hi!" if you do attend.

With the launch of Freedom Ridge Christian Church the directors and I will begin focusing our attention and efforts on our next new church plant. This is always an exciting process as we carefully plan and pray for God's leading. Typically the process takes some time, but I am hopeful that we will be able to announce our next target during the Annual Meeting to be held in September.

In Christ,
Rod





From the planters

Ames is about to change forever because Freedom Ridge is here! It is our desire to love God, love people, and change the world! We are targeting a specific segment of the population, which are those people who don't go to church or have been turned off from the church.

The past several weeks we have been advertising on a local radio station, have had a billboard in a prominent location, have had an ad in a local newspaper, and will soon deliver as many door hangers as humanly possible. It's been pretty cool because I've received a few e-mails or texts from people wanting more information and saying they are excited for us to get started so they can come. One young man even said he has often felt unwelcome in other churches because of his appearance, but can tell from our publicity that he will fit right in with Freedom Ridge. He is excited to come to our service and has even talked to several of his "outcast buddies" and invited them to come with him. (If you want to hear our radio ads or see a picture of our billboard, we have them on our website.)

The work is just beginning here in Ames. By the time you read this we will have already started our Sunday morning services, but there are still some very important ways that YOU can help us out and be a part of Freedom Ridge.

1. Please pray for us. Pray that we will be open to God's leading and direction, and that He uses us to make a big impact in the Ames area. Pray that He sends people to us that we can minister to, and that He sends people to us that can help us fulfill our mission. And pray that WE don't get in the way of what HE wants to do through Freedom Ridge!

2. As you well know, it takes money to do things. By its very nature a new church attracts the uncommitted and unchurched, and as a result of that our offerings will tend to be small until some of our people "grow up in the faith." So if you could send in donations of any amount to us, it would help us during our infancy and help us to be more effective in reaching out to those who don't yet know Jesus. Our



address is listed below. You may also give online if that is more convenient for you.

3. Again, since we are attracting a certain group of people, the people that we do have who are sold out to Jesus are having to fill many roles within Freedom Ridge. In an effort to help them in their duties I am asking people from other churches to come in on Sunday mornings and help staff areas in our children's department. I'm looking for mission minded people to come in once a month for 10 months and help in this area. This would be huge if you would do it! No lesson prep will be required. If you want to help in this area, please let me know soon. Your servant's heart will be greatly appreciated by us and those who will be reached through Freedom Ridge.

4. If you have friends or family members who live within 30 minutes of Ames, please call them up and let them know about us. Word of mouth is our biggest form of advertising, and your one simple phone call may very well make an eternal difference in someone's life.

Jesus said, "If the Son sets you free, you are really free" (John 8:36). We are here to show people the freedom they can have in Jesus Christ, and I thank you for the part you are playing in Freedom Ridge.

Nate Liston

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P.O. Box 225, Ames IA 50010



Happy New Year! It is a pleasure for me to communicate to you the good news of what Jesus is doing in Lifebridge Christian Church. On October 6 and 7, I attended the Fall meeting of the Continuation Committee for the Hispanic National Christian Convention. I have been a member of the Committee for a number of years now. The October meeting was held in El Paso, Texas. Work was done in preparation for the 2009 Convention that will be held in Los Angeles, California. The campus of Hope University in Fullerton will be the location for the 2009 Convention. The Continuation Committee intends to bring the Hispanic National Christian Convention to Des Moines in 2010. The Rising Sun Church of Christ will provide its outstanding facilities for hosting the Convention. The dates for the 2010 Convention in Des Moines are July 20-22. The Convention will be held in 2011 in Indianapolis. I anticipate that at least 500 people will attend the 2010 Convention at Rising Sun.

Lifebridge Christian Church will formally host the Convention, and we will be in need of a number of volunteer helpers from Iowa churches to help staff some important program areas. Local arrangements are always extremely important and I will like to ask very early for volunteer helpers to assist us in the areas of nursery staff and children's ministry. If you know of someone who would be interested in helping us during the 2010 Convention at Rising Sun Church of Christ, please get in touch with me. We could really use your help!

In October the church offered an alternative children's program to Halloween. The program was well received and was well attended. On December 21st the church held its annual children's Christmas program. New families were in attendance that Sunday and a total of 85 people enjoyed the children's program. An enjoyable fellowship meal was shared by everyone following the Christmas program.

My family and I were able to enjoy a Christmas vacation trip to visit our families in San Antonio, Texas and Mexico. We enjoyed celebrating Christmas Eve with some of my family in San Antonio, and on New Year's Eve we celebrated with Maria's family and home church in Mexico. We



Iglesia de Cristo Puente de Vida Lifebridge Christian Church

drove back to San Antonio on New Year's Day and then returned to Iowa very early on the morning of January 3rd.

Please keep the church in your prayers. Even though four families moved from the Des Moines area this past Fall, affecting our Sunday attendance, the church is excited about what God will do in our midst in 2009!

Thank you for your prayers and support!

Mario A. Lara

(515) 689-9121

FINANCIAL REPORT

For the Period of Oct. 1 thru Dec. 31, 2008

Balance on Hand - September 30, 2008\$16,604.46

Income:

Contributions	\$40,721.33
Harvest Offering	2,365.45
Lifesaver Club	1,715.00
Special Designation.....	800.00
Interest	6.19

Total Income.....\$45,607.97

Expenses:

Bank Service Charges.....	\$14.26
Ministry Expenses & Salaries	39,220.02
Director Expenses	1,814.24
Miscellaneous Expenses	175.38
Conventions & Meetings.....	1,803.55
Regular Postage & Delivery	374.29
Newsletter Expenses (Printing & Mailing)	1,192.30
Reconciliation Discrepancies.....	0.50
Special Designation	600.00
Checks	164.30

Total Expenses.....\$45,358.84

NEW BALANCE ON HAND (Dec. 31, 2008)\$16,853.59

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

God iGod iGod iGod iGod iGod iGo
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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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