



church Builder

A Newsletter of Christian Evangelistic Mission (CEM)

Volume 50 • Fall 2010 • Number 1 • www.cemchurches.org

Executive Director's Report

by Rod Roberts

The Woodland Hills Church of Christ did a terrific job in hosting this year's Annual Meeting on September 14th. A delicious meal was prepared by the church, and everyone enjoyed the fellowship time over the supper hour. Those who attended the Annual Meeting enjoyed touring the new building that the Woodland Hills congregation now meets in. Two new directors were elected to the board: Travis Roehm is the Senior Minister with the Bridge Christian Church in Dubuque and Rex Stancil is the Associate Minister with the Earlham Church of Christ. We say good bye this year to our good friend and past Vice President, Howard Hatlelid of Storm Lake. Howard served a total of seventeen years on the CEM Board. Thank you for your outstanding service Howard! Travis and Rex join the following men as current CEM directors: Tony Liston and Mark Kruckenberg from Adventure

Community in Davenport, Chuck Gorsch with the West Burlington Christian Church, Dennis Dorsheimer with Jackson Church of Christ in Montezuma, Stan Smelser with First Church of Christ in Ankeny, Ray Artrip with the Webster City Church of Christ, Curtis McGinnis with the Clear Lake Church of Christ and Thad Bridges with Central Church of Christ in Griswold. The Harvest Offering from this year's Annual Meeting now exceeds \$10,000 as additional gifts continue to be received during the fall.

Our second golf outing was held at the Legacy Golf Course in Norwalk on September 20th. Thirty-five players enjoyed a day of golf, fun and fellowship

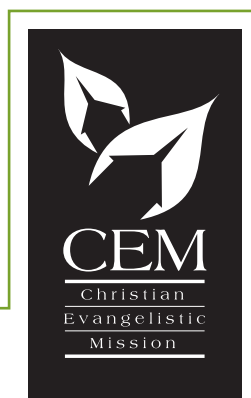
on one of Iowa's premiere golf courses. Money raised during this year's golf outing will help CEM plant a future new church. Thank you to our players and leadership committee, as well as to all of the contributors who helped make our second golf outing a success!

The directors' annual fall planning retreat was held at Central Iowa Bible Camp near Earlham on October 8th and 9th. During the retreat officers are elected, finances are reviewed, progress with existing CEM supported churches is reviewed, vision casting takes place and plans are made for the future.

Thank you for your continued support of CEM and its important ministry across the state of Iowa. Your prayers and gifts are greatly appreciated!

In Christ,

Rod





From the planters

The Summer really flew by. My family and I had the chance to take a real vacation for the first time in years, and we headed to the east coast to see some sights and spend some time together. For the two weeks we were gone, our people really stepped up and helped out. It was encouraging to see this and I think it was good for us to be gone a couple weeks.

We experienced a significant summer slump in attendance and giving this year. We had some people move away at the beginning of the summer, and we had several people traveling and doing other summer things. As a result, our attendance has taken a hit. It is hard to get a commitment from people who are typically uncommitted spiritually.

We are evaluating and redoing some things in an effort to be more effective and attractive. We are revamping our follow up process for guests and trying to add a more personal touch to it. We have a family who has taken on the role of implementing an official welcome ministry, and they have been doing a good job with this. We are being more intentional with the greeting of people as they come into the service trying to help them feel more at home.

Part of this, too, is we have tweaked our Sunday service a little bit. We have added table cloths to our tables, started using nametags for everyone (including me!), added a feedback section for guests on our commitment card, and are setting up the dividing curtains a little differently. We are doing all of this in an effort to make the school cafeteria more inviting as we transform it into a sanctuary.

We recently had a lady visit who was scouting us out before she brought her husband. He doesn't do church and sticks out a little bit with his appearance, but she said she loved FreedomRidge and would definitely be back with her husband. Another lady visited for the first time and said she learned a lot and would be back. A family with a young teenage son recently came looking for a place where he could get involved. They enjoyed it. Another family with little

kids just started coming and now call FreedomRidge home and are beginning to get involved.

It is neat to see the different people we are reaching, but it is a long hard process. So please pray for us that we are effective and God sends people to us that we can minister to and that He sends people to us that can help us minister.

With all the rain we had this summer, our office space got water in it three different times. It never had standing water in it, but was bad enough to get the carpet completely soaked and ruining whatever was sitting directly on the floor. So needless to say we are looking for a new office space which is proving to be a challenge. I can't wait to get another space to work out of and to use for meetings and LifeGroups.

On August 22nd we had a cookout after our service, but it wasn't your normal cookout. We served hamburgers and hotdogs, but we also served samples of elk, buffalo, alligator, ostrich and kangaroo. It was a lot of fun to see the people try the different meats and it was definitely a great conversation starter. We had a decent group who stayed and they had an enjoyable time hanging out and visiting. It was a good relationship building opportunity.

We had a billboard during most of September and part of October that we were advertising on. If you are interested in seeing a picture of it, you may go to our website.

For July through September we averaged 43 for weekly attendance and \$1157 for weekly offerings. Thank you for your support of CEM and helping us make a difference in the lives of people in the Ames area.

Livin' In Freedom,

Nate Liston - FreedomRidge Church

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



It gives us great pleasure to announce all the wonderful things God has done for us at Lifebridge Church of Christ. With the event of the National Christian Convention, we were able to provide some publicity to the Lifebridge Church of Christ in some cities of the State of Iowa by announcing it in 5,000 copies of the newspaper "El Enfoque," and another 5,000 copies of the magazine "El Trueque." We also put up posters of the Convention in some of the Hispanic Businesses of Des Moines. We believe that with all of this, we have better penetrated the Hispanic homes with the purpose of reaching them for Christ.

The National Christian Convention made it possible for the local Hispanic Church to have the experience and realization of how we could be a church of 550 members, because this was the attendance that we had in the Convention this past July. This is also a factor that can motivate the congregation to reach others for Christ. However, we discovered that we need something more than motivation, and we talked about strategies. One of them is to first obtain the spiritual maturity of the members of the congregation. At the same time, we provide classes on how to become an active member of the Church. We have also started a new ministry that we call "Families Worship" this ministry consists of having a family daily devotional, and for this devotion, we are using the little book called, "The Upper Room". We believe that with this ministry, we are learning that the church starts at home, and in this program, we have already registered 16 homes.

Another thing that we are looking into is the attendance of the Hispanic Family Camp that we have each year during the Labor Day weekend in the cabins of the Central Iowa Bible Camp in Earlham, IA. The attendance of this event has gone up. This past September, we had an attendance of 80 people. Our plan is to extend the stay from 3 to 4 days or to organize a second camp in the year which could be during the Memorial Day weekend.

With all this and some help, each person is experimenting with changes

in their lives. For example, some couples who are not married but live together are making the decision to get married because they recognized that they were living the wrong way before God. To us, this is a sign that we are going in the right direction, when God starts to transform the families of the church.

This job has not been easy, but I recognize that the work has not been in vain. Keep praying for us, we need it, so God may continue using the Lifebridge Church of Christ to transform lives.

We are very thankful for all your spiritual and economic support that you give to us. This demonstrates the love that you have for other cultures, so they can also be part of the family of Christ. Our average attendance and offerings have been as follows: July - 49 & \$1,721.42, August - 48 & \$2,681.38, and September - 60 & \$2,120.55.

In Christ,

Mario Lara - Lifebridge Christian Church
(515) 689-9121 • icpval@aol.com

FINANCIAL REPORT

For the Period of July 1 thru Sept. 30, 2010

Balance on Hand - June 30, 2010\$28,060.37

Income:

Contributions\$30,737.26
 Golf Tournament.....10,256.00
 Appeal Offering100.00
 Harvest Offering9,196.53

Total Income & Balance Forward.....\$78,350.16

Expenses:

Ministry Expenses & Salaries34,644.98
 Director Expenses.....2,490.59
 Office Supplies37.12
 Printing & Copying100.47
 Golf Tournament.....70.00
 Newsletter Expenses (Printing & Mailing).....1,279.53

Total Expenses.....\$38,622.69

NEW BALANCE ON HAND (Sept. 30, 2010)\$47,877.15

Etta Schulz - Treasurer

P.O. Box 1001, Ankeny, Iowa 50021



Northwest Christian Church has had an awesome summer! On July 4th we celebrated our first anniversary as a church. We met for an outdoor worship service and lunch at our Ministry House but unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate and we stuffed 60+ people in our small house as the rain fell outside. But we praised the Lord and had a wonderful Sunday together!

We continued reading through the Bible in 90-days as a church. Each week the sermon, Youth Group topic and Children's Church lesson reflected things learned in the previous week's reading. Families enjoyed learning the same things and sharing those concepts during the week.

This summer we also began a building fund. An anonymous donor offered to match funds up to \$5000 for every dollar we could raise during July and August for the building fund. Through much prayer and sacrifice we were able to raise our \$5000 by the end of August and the matching funds arrived.

We have enjoyed the joys of having our kids attend church camp at Camp of the Good Shepherd in Louisville, NE, holding a Back-2-School

Penny Carnival where every game used pennies, a neighborhood prayer walk, church potlucks, Bible studies and many other events.

We have also established a Mission fund and have begun giving to other ministries on a monthly basis. We have found this to be a great joy!

As the fall began, Youth Group and Bible studies got back into full swing. A new men's Bible study began on Monday evenings and a new women's Bible study is being planned for an October start.

We also met together as a congregation to pray for wisdom in God's leading for our next steps.

July – Average attendance, 53.25 & Average weekly giving, \$921.80.

August – Average attendance, 55 & Average weekly giving, \$1058.36.

September – Average attendance, 55.5 & Average weekly giving, \$881.63.

Jeff Kraft

Email: jeff@nwcc-cb.com

Church Website: www.nwcc-cb.com

Telephone: (402) 321-1526



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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
Phone: (712) 792-2718 • Fax: (712) 792-6140 • E-Mail: rodcem@mchsi.com

The "Church Builder" is a publication of Christian Evangelistic Mission. Send address changes to the Christian Evangelistic Mission, c/o Rod Roberts, 732 San Salvador Avenue, Carroll, IA 51401

