



Christian Evangelistic Mission

One plants... One waters... God makes it grow. 1 Corinthians 3:6-9

NEWSLETTER

September, 2017 • Vol. 57, No. 1

60 Years and Counting

Mike Knight, Executive Director

We are celebrating 60 years of growing the Kingdom through church planting and helping existing churches. I have had the privilege of benefiting from the work of countless individuals and churches that have invested in CEM.

In our Spring newsletter earlier this year, I shared about some of the early days of how CEM was started in 1957. In 1977, this new organization was growing so much that it needed a full-time leader. Charley Johnson became the first Evangelist At Large (Executive Director). These are Charley's words sharing the news of his new role:

During the past 20 years, 12 churches have been helped by C.E.M. We are proud of this record; however the nine men who serve as directors were not satisfied and felt we needed to move faster. So in the fall of last year, the position of evangelist-at-large was created. My job is to seek out possible target areas for new congregations, to work with nucleus groups until they are ready for a full-time evangelist; and to work with weak congregations, encouraging them to grow to self-sustaining strength.

Charley led CEM for 16 years. Here is an excerpt from a report when CEM turned 30 years old:

During the past thirty years, C.E.M. has provided full or partial support for about 45 different evangelists. There have been several very difficult situations in which a church did not result despite substantial support. However there are more than 20 congregations in Iowa today that might not be in existence without C.E.M. and its faithful contributors.

Rod Roberts became the second Evangelist At Large in 1992 and lead CEM for almost 20 years. See his words about CEM becoming 40 years old:

During the past forty years, C.E.M. has provided full or partial support of about 55 different evangelists. There are more than 20 congregations in Iowa today that might not be in existence without C.E.M. and its faithful contributors.



Today we have started or helped 28 new churches that are still in existence. And we have plans for one more next year in Sioux City.

Why did these men and so many more work to make CEM what it is today? So that God could change lives of individuals around our state. The great news is that He has and is continuing to do so. I am excited about the future because God is continuing to raise up church planters and supporters for us to work in his harvest field. Be sure to read the rest of the articles in our newsletter to catch up on the present and future things God is and will be doing through CEM.

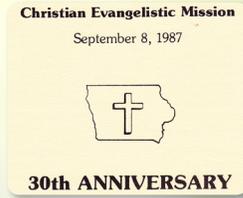
Yours in Christ,

Mike Knight

1957



1977

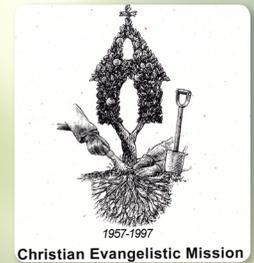


1987

- Rallypoint Church
- Connection Christian Community
- One Life Church
- Adventure Christian Community Muscatine
- Northwest Christian Church
- Real Life Church
- Life Bridge Church of Christ
- Encounter Christian Church
- Pathway Church
- Bridge Christian Community
- Adventure Christian Community Davenport
- Cornerstone Church of Christ
- Fort Madison Christian Church
- Mason City Church of Christ
- Cedar Falls Church of Christ
- Nishna Valley Christian Church
- Nishna Church of Christ
- Indianola Church of Christ
- Antioch Christian Church
- New Testament Christian Church
- Audubon Church of Christ
- Iowa City Church of Christ
- First Church of Christ
- Eastview Christian Church
- Carroll Church of Christ
- Clear Lake Church of Christ
- Northfield Church of Christ
- North Grand Christian Church
- Le Mars Church of Christ



1992



1997

**Since 1957, CEM
has been planting
and supporting
growing churches
throughout Iowa!**

2007



2011

CEM supporting churches 2017

- Alta Church of Christ
- Ames - North Grand Christian Church
- Ankeny - First Church of Christ
- Atalissa Church of Christ
- Atlantic - First Church of Christ
- Bayard Church of Christ
- Bettendorf Christian Church
- Brooklyn - Madison Church of Christ
- Carroll Church of Christ
- Cedar Falls Church of Christ
- Cedar Rapids - Encounter Christian Church
- Cherokee - First Church of Christ
- Clarion Church of Christ
- Clarksville Church of Christ
- Clear Lake Church of Christ
- Clinton Church of Christ
- Council Bluffs - Eastside Christian Church
- Council Bluffs - Northwest Christian Church
- Davenport - Adventure Christian Community
- Dubuque - Bridge Christian Community

- Earlham Church of Christ
- Fertile Church of Christ
- Fort Dodge - Northfield Church of Christ
- Fort Madison Christian Church
- Goldfield - Park Church of Christ
- Grinnell Christian Church
- Griswold - Central Church of Christ
- Hampton Church of Christ
- Henderson Christian Church
- Indianola Church of Christ
- Iowa City Church of Christ
- Johnston - Pathway Church
- Keokuk - New Testament Christian Church
- Le Mars Church of Christ
- Lewis Church of Christ
- Liscomb Church of Christ
- Little Sioux Church of Christ
- Marion - Antioch Christian Church
- Mason City Church of Christ
- Mindburn - Washington Chapel Church of Christ

- Mondamin Church of Christ
- Montezuma - Jackson Church of Christ
- Morningside Church of Christ
- Murray Church of Christ
- New Market Church of Christ
- Oelwein - Eastside Church of Christ
- Onawa - First Christian Church
- Oskaloosa - Two Timbers Church of Christ
- Pleasant Hill - Rising Sun Church of Christ
- Pleasant Hill - Woodland Hills Church of Christ
- Pleasantville Church of Christ
- Red Oak - Nishna Church of Christ
- Scranton Church of Christ
- Sutherland Church of Christ
- Waterloo - Rivers Edge Christian Church
- Webster City Church of Christ
- West Burlington Christian Church
- Whiting Christian Church
- Wichita, KS - Countryside Christian Church
- Zearing - Cornerstone Church of Christ

Intern Update

Matt Remsburg, CEM Intern

This summer, God gave me the great opportunity to do the most incredible things. I got to go horseback riding, go on a boat ride with the Mississippi Coast Guard Auxiliary, made a knife from scratch, and attend the Global Leadership Summit, but those were not even the best moments of my internship. The best moments were getting to know the people and leaders of churches around the state. From the small town of Glenwood to Davenport, to Dubuque and Cedar Rapids, God is at work in amazing ways in Iowa.

In Glenwood, I met Ricky Billingsley, the pastor at The Connection. He taught me how to have faith and vision. I got the privilege to help them move into a new building, which looked like a rundown supermarket before the renovation. It now looks amazing! Ricky could see the plan and had faith to see it through. God is already using this new location to further His kingdom! In Davenport, I met Tony Liston, probably one of the most interesting guys in Iowa. He wears so many hats. He taught me about the hardships and joys of ministry and that ministry does not have to be boring. Getting to listen to his stories every time I got into the blue jeep taught me so much. Ministry is such a great adventure. Travis, the pastor at The Bridge Christian Community in Dubuque, taught me about myself. If there was an award for the best questioner, it would be his. He showed me on

some level who I was and who God has called me to be. People like Travis are rare, but they are invaluable for growth. At Antioch Christian Church in Marion, I met John Seitz. John taught me about leadership. John modeled what it is to be a senior pastor. He makes leadership a priority which can be shown by the way he communicates, develops, and loves his staff. Finally, there is Mike Knight. Mike taught me about trust. It took a lot of trust to plan an internship with someone he had not really known. Without Mike, I would have never had this opportunity. Thanks, Mike! Thanks, Ricky! Thanks, Tony! Thanks, Travis! Thanks, John!

To all the people, who hosted me and the people of each church, thank you for all that you did. I learned so much from you guys as well, but to write it down would take up more space than I am allowed. Remember, I am praying for you! God is at work in this great state of Iowa. I cannot wait to see what incredible things he does through the church and its leaders in Iowa!



Rallypoint Church

Sioux City, Iowa • Drew Hanson, Church Planter

Amber and I are finishing up our time with Adventure Christian Community. This year has challenged us and inspired us. We have enjoyed our time in Davenport. I worked at Pepsi for 7 months, putting soda on the shelf at Wal-Mart, while also working on the church plant plan, traveling to talk with other church planters, and preaching occasionally at Adventure and other churches in Iowa. It was so good for me to learn from Tony and Mike and others, and it was a blast getting to know people at Adventure – so many good people there! When I look back at this last year, I can't believe we accomplished some of the things we did in such a short amount of time, or at least it felt that way! We are scheduled to move to Sioux City on September 1st, but will not get to move into our apartment right away because they are not finished building it yet, so we are

a little bit behind schedule and will have to live with my parents for a few weeks. But that's life! It can be pretty frustrating, but we know God works these sorts of things out, and we are just praying expectantly that God will do amazing things in Sioux City! I have been able to meet some new people and build relationships with people in Siouxland. We are very hopeful that God is bringing us good people to help us start His church. We are praying that God would bring us good, healthy relationships that would go beyond our scheduled church events, and that God would bring people that we can lean on for support and vice versa. This next year we will be focused on gathering people for our launch team and raising support for our launch in the fall of 2018. We can't wait to share our ideas and plans with churches across the state!





Christian Evangelistic Mission
 PO Box 1445
 Ankeny, Iowa 50021

Return Service Requested

Connection Christian Community

Glenwood, Iowa • Ricky Billingsley, Church Planter

This summer has been amazing at The Connection! God has been working through new relationships, new believers, and a new facility.

The second year of a church plant can be difficult. Building new relationships is critical in pushing through this barrier. This summer we have seen so many new families coming through our doors! One young, unchurched family came one week and loved it so much, they bring different friends almost every week. They tell them, “You *have* to check this church out! It’s totally different than anything you’ve ever experienced!” We are connecting to those far from God!

Building new relationships is important, but what is more exciting is to see people choosing to follow Jesus! I sat down for breakfast with a man who had, just a few days prior, fell off the wagon, almost committed suicide, and ended up in the hospital. I got to introduce him to what Jesus is all about, and after almost two hours, he gave his life to Jesus! God is working through The Connection to add people to His Kingdom, and this has only been possible because of Christian Evangelistic Mission and you who support them!

God allowed The Connection to outgrow our first location and move into a bigger building! This move has tested our faith, but



God has come through in huge ways. This bigger location allowed us to have an awesome week of VBS. We had 60 kids come! As the school year begins, I am excited to see how God will use this new space to grow His Kingdom in Glenwood and the surrounding area.

Thank you for your continued support of CEM and The Connection. Keep praying for God’s Kingdom in Southwest Iowa!

CEM Financial Report

August 27, 2016 – August 27th, 2017

Income

Contributions	\$176,694.96
Other Income	\$189,786.21
Total Income	\$366,481.17

Expenses

Ministers/Director Salaries	\$154,527.83
Director Expense	\$13,690.89
Insurance	\$18,528.85
Operating Expense	\$22,915.37
Advertising	\$11,074.55
Total Expenses	\$220,737.49

Jule Loy-Gray - Treasurer
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