



Christian Evangelistic Mission

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

September, 2019

# NEWSLETTER

## CATALYST Cultivating a Healthy Church Environment

**Pastors • Elders • Ministry Team Leaders**

*Join us at Catalyst!*

A one-day statewide event for encouraging, connecting, and equipping church leaders.

First Church of Christ  
310 NW Ash Dr  
Ankeny, IA 50023

October 19, 2019

8:30am – 2:00pm

Main Speaker: Jim Powell

Register now at:  
[cemchurches.com](http://cemchurches.com)

**Jim Powell** is the Lead Pastor of Palm West Community Church in Sun City West, Arizona. Previously he was the Lead Pastor of Richwoods Christian Church in Peoria, Illinois for the past 21 years. He was the founding director of 95network – a nonprofit organization focused on encouraging and equipping the 95 percent of congregations in America that are under 800 in size.



Jim is the author of *Dirt Matters: The Foundation for a Healthy, Vibrant, and Effective Congregation*, and is regularly requested as a speaker at events and conferences. He has been featured in *Leadership Journal*, *Christianity Today* online, *Guideposts*, and has had articles published in *Christian Standard*, *Outreach Magazine* and on ChurchLeaders.com, among other places.

## Annual Meeting Report

**C**hristian Evangelistic Mission's Annual Meeting & Banquet was held at Rising Sun Church of Christ on September 10th. Over 70 people gathered to celebrate what God is doing around Iowa. It was a great evening of fellowship, good food, and envisioning what is to come.

We heard updates from our work in Sioux City (Rallypoint Church with Drew Hanson) and Oelwein (Antioch Christian Church - Oelwein with Adam Graunke). CEM was also pleased to introduce a new work that will begin in the Des Moines area with Jared and Rachel Nassiff as church planters.



## Antioch Christian Church Update

Oelwein, Iowa • Adam Graunke, Church Planter

**A**ntioch Christian Church's Oelwein campus is planning to open its doors in late October, which means we are only a month away from our launch date! Work is being done in and around the building 3-4 days each week, and things are starting to take shape and resemble the finished look of the church. The exciting reality is beginning to happen!

At the beginning of August, we had a cookout and building tour event at the campus, which we called "Discover Antioch." Modeled after an event we do in Marion by the same name, Discover's purpose was to raise more awareness of Antioch's presence in the neighborhood and to recruit more Oelwein-area people to the team. We prayed for 50 people, and there were 53 there, the majority of whom were from Oelwein. Many new people and families attended. The weather was perfect, the food was fantastic, and we gained several new members of the Launch Team.

We are now in the phase of plugging our team into the various roles where they will be needed. One life group has started in our home, and while it is small for now, it will grow as more people get to know us and

Antioch. Several events are planned between now and our launch, which will keep Antioch on people's minds and connect us with more people who need to hear about what God is doing in Oelwein.

I'm thankful that the vision for Oelwein God gave to John Seitz and the Antioch leaders lives on and is moving forward, as John would surely want. John is greatly missed, and I'm grateful to God that He has given Antioch such brave and faithful men to continue to lead us as we stay on mission to lead people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ, in Marion and in Oelwein.

## Introducing Jared & Rachel Nassiff

Jared and Rachel Nassiff have joined the CEM team to begin a new church in the Des Moines area. Jared was raised in Ankeny at First Church of Christ, where his parents, David and Tamara, have ministered for many years. Rachel is from Stewartville, MN, and attended Lincoln Christian University where she and Jared met. Jared and Rachel come to us after ministering in Illinois and Indiana; most recently at First Capital Christian Church in Corydon, IN.

Jared and Rachel have two young girls, Naomi and Wrigley. We are excited to work alongside them as they bring the message of the Gospel to those in our capital city.



## Rallypoint Update

Sioux City, Iowa • Drew Hanson, Church Planter

RallyPoint has moved locations! And we are really excited about it! We are now located at 1012 historic 4th Street in downtown Sioux City. We moved to be closer to the action in Sioux City and God has been affirming the move the entire time. It is only a seven minute drive from our old location, and He provided it to us with less financial burden, with the right volunteer base, ability to

**"If we were supposed to stay in the same place, we'd have roots instead of feet."**

- unknown

change service times and have time to have our connect class right after church — no more rushing out of the building! We are now in a place where we are getting a ton of attention because we have passers by almost breaking their necks trying to figure out what is going on this early on 4th Street. 4th Street is home to Sioux

City night life; they have bars, restaurants, a movie theater, and live music going on 24/7. We moved to



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Return Service Requested

downtown because those are the types of people we want to influence. So we are going to meet them where they are at.

We are really excited because this gives us a chance to reintroduce ourselves to the city. We had a Grand Opening celebration on September 15th at 10:15am – a celebration with music, a message and then a meal. We also had bounce houses, live music and a corn hole tournament!

One of the changes we had to make was with our set-up and tear-down vehicle. We needed something that we could easily maneuver downtown without the danger of being in the way and jamming traffic. So we found two mail trucks that can easily fit in a parking space and have ample storage space for all of our equipment! It also acts as a billboard downtown while at our location and driving around.



## CEMChurches.com

Don't forget to visit our website regularly to stay up-to-date about news and upcoming events!

Learn more about us, church planting, how to donate, and more!

