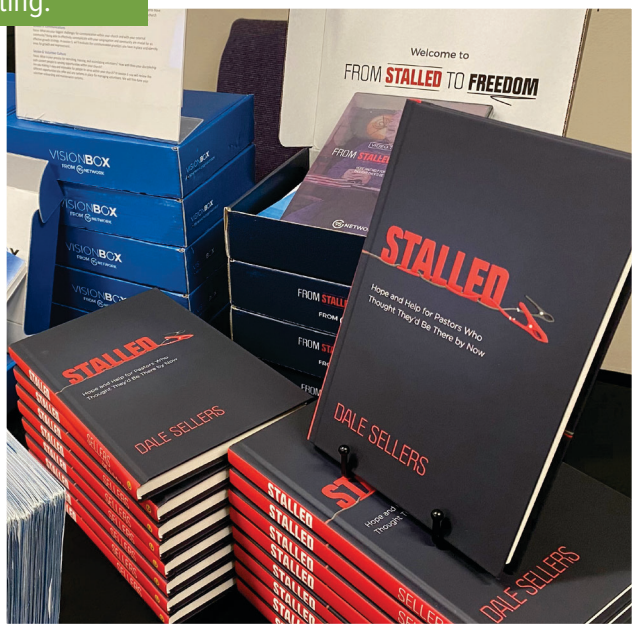
# NOV. 2021 NEWSLETTER

CEM exists to strengthen current churches and to facilitate new church planting.




## Catalyst Conference 2021

On Saturday, October 16, 2021, CEM held the 3rd Annual Catalyst Conference for pastors, church leaders, and ministry team members. The conclusive evidence from attendees was, "This was the best Catalyst yet!" Dale Sellers, pastor, author, and Executive Director for 95network.org, interactively led leaders through *Five Growth Engines* which develops a healthy church that is empowered and equipped to make disciples in their communities.

Not one for a prescriptive one-size-fits-all approach, Dale Sellers hits right at the heart of what impacts small churches today and the post-pandemic trends that brought a decade's worth of change to the front door. There's no better time than now for church leaders to align their mission/vision, develop healthy leaders, and define a discipleship pathway for growing people in Christ. The reward is clear communication, activated volunteers, and a healthy church culture to *go and make disciples of Jesus*.

For more about Dale Sellers, 95Network.org church resources, or Dale's newest book, "Stalled: Hope and Help for Pastors Who Thought They'd Be There by Now," visit *95network.org*.

95 NETWORK

## Thank you to our Catalyst sponsors!

Every year, First Church of Christ in Ankeny, Iowa, has hosted CEM's Catalyst events, requiring a reconfiguration of their sanctuary, use of their kitchen, foyer, restrooms, video and sound equipment, and the list goes on. Thanks to FCC for being such hospitable partners to CEM! Visit *fccankeny.org* to know more about FCC.

The Solomon Foundation (with Rowlie Hutton) graciously covers the cost of breakfast items and catered box lunches so that CEM can keep registration fees low. The Solomon Foundation is a Christian, non-profit financial organization that provides profitable investment opportunities for individuals and organizations, as well as innovative loans for growing churches. For more information, please visit *thesolomonfoundation.org*.

THE Solomon FOUNDATION™

# Harvest Offering 2021

DIRECTION CHURCH

ANTIOCH CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Traditionally in September, CEM's annual banquet kicks off the Harvest Offering – a fundraising adventure that exclusively raises money for new church planting efforts. Last year, the Harvest Offering raised more than $52,500 to complete the 2021 salary for Jared Nassiff, planter for Direction Church (launched in 2021). This amount doubly surpassed our previous Harvest Offering high of $21,000 in 2019. Donors generously rose to the occasion and said "Yes!" to create a new church in the Des Moines metro. Part of this year's offering will go toward Direction Church in 2022.

Because God has provided for CEM in remarkable ways, CEM is positioned to also partner with Antioch Christian Church (Marion & Oelwein, Iowa) for a new campus in southwest Cedar Rapids. When an opportunity arose for Antioch to purchase a YMCA property called Stoney Point, their leaders recognized it as a way to love the community who call that area "home." In a unique collaboration, Antioch Christian Church will own and renovate the property for worship services (namely the pool area) but retain the sports venues so YMCA and Antioch can continue kids' activities in the area. **Wow! Isn't God good?**

## DIRECTION CHURCH WEST DES MOINES

Starting amid a pandemic, Direction Church has been through the fire of change, yet they are still pressing on thanks to their leadership team's forward focus. Direction Church's location will be moving to 5000 Merle Hay Road (at Ramada by Wyndym) in Urbandale, on November 28, 2021!

## ANTIOCH CHRISTIAN CHURCH STONEY POINT CAMPUS

As Antioch prepares for a Spring grand opening, they are covering the cost of the purchase and structural renovations of the building and grounds, while CEM is fundraising for their campus pastor's salary. An Easter 2022 grand opening is Antioch's vision for the new Stoney Point campus!

**CEM is there for these churches because YOU are there for us.** The constancy of planting new churches in CEM's 68-year-history is ONLY because of God's graciousness through you, our brothers- and sisters-in-Christ.

**Will you join our Harvest-Offering team by donating toward these projects?** Use our giving envelope enclosed or donate online at *cemchurches.com/donate*. Thank you for continuing the story of local church ministry in our neighboring cities and towns!

## HOW CAN I HELP?

Consider donating the equivalent of a church planter's salary for...

- **1 month = $5,000.00**
- **1 week = $1,250.00**
- **½ week = $625.00**
- **1 day = $250.00**
- **½ day = $125.00**

# A Note from the Executive Director

As I write this article, the dust of the fall harvest is in the air. My wife and I were in Sioux City (IA) a couple of weeks ago, and as we drove away, we could see the dust filling the sky like a thick haze. Combines were running hard, reaping the results of a season of hard work.

I read this week that the record for the fastest growing plant on earth is Chinese bamboo. With the right conditions, it can grow as much as 35 inches a day! Its growth takes place in about a 60-day window, growing up to 90 feet in one season. The interesting thing about bamboo is that its shoots do not break the ground's surface for five years. Yet during those five years, the soil still needs to be watered, fertilized and tended to. What's it doing for those five years? It is putting down deep roots. The bamboo cells create the foundation and root system needed to grow at the rapid rate it does.

Both the soybeans filling the combines' hoppers and the bamboo that accelerates towards the sky take deep roots to produce their results. Church life is no different. It takes healthy churches with deep spiritual roots to create a gospel impact. Whether that's a new church work starting up in a new community or an existing church celebrating decades of ministry, each takes a robust root system to get the job done.

Events like CEM's Catalyst Conference are designed with that end in mind. We desire to see healthy churches across our region – whether they are new or already established. Through conferences, coaching, and training, we are helping churches plant the seeds for greater impact.

**Will you help us plant those seeds by supporting the ministry of CEM?** One-time and monthly renewal gifts ensure CEM's mission reach continues into 2022 and beyond. Thank you for believing in the impact the gospel makes in individuals and our communities.

Dave

Dave Fremstad CEM Executive Director

dave@cemchurches.com

# Thank you

## To CEM's Supporting Church Partners

Thank you for uplifting us financially throughout 2021! We look forward to serving with you into the new year. To find a full list of supporting churches, please visit our website at *cemchurches.com* and click the "About Us" tab and *Our Supporting Churches* on the dropdown menu. Church name, logo, and website information is listed (if available). *Don't see your church listed?* Find out if they support Christian Evangelistic Mission or if we can visit with their mission team.

For more information, please contact Suzi Steele, CEM Operations Director – suzi@cemchurches.com or call (319) 331-6884.

CEM
Christian Evangelistic Mission

PO Box 1445
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# A message to our supporters

Many of you are generous holiday or year-end givers toward CEM. Dozens of you are faithful monthly supporters throughout the entire year. Still others are awesome at answering fundraising appeals here and there. Some of you further amaze us by doing all of the above! Whatever your philanthropic schedule, you are an incredible blessing to all of us at CEM, and especially toward the churches who are here today because you show Christ's love in your generosity. Thank you for blessing others!

> *"You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God."*
>
> *2 Corinthians 9:11*