



Bright flames flicker in the old wood-burning stove across the room from where I sit, writing this update at my well-worn kitchen table.

It is a cold, dark January morning and frost covers the brown grass outside my window. We are in the firm grip of Old Man Winter. My mind, however, is dreaming of spring, dreaming of when the days get longer and when the dreary fields surrounding my home will come alive with activity once more.

Activity, which will give way to **little bits of life** sprouting up in neat rows as far as the eye can see. CEM has planted many Kingdom seeds over the last few years and sprouts are poking through the soil.

We have recruited, trained, equipped, and sent 9 residents into the mission field (through our **residency program**). We have instructed over 30 regional leaders through the process of creating a discipleship culture in the churches they lead (through the **Bonhoeffer Project**). We have planted churches (most recently in **Columbus, Nebraska**, and now in **Wever, Iowa**). We have guided several churches toward wholeness (through our **Church Health** support).

These seedlings and the countless other churches and communities impacted by the ministry of CEM since we started in 1957 are just the beginning of what God is doing through our Mission. I'm so excited to see how God will continue to bring new life to our region!

I'm guessing outside your window, it may look like winter, but spring is coming, **God's Kingdom is growing, and generations are coming alive in Christ through the work of CEM.** This wouldn't be possible without the generous donations of our faithful supporters like you.

Thank you for being an integral part of the team God is using to transform our region.

Chad Halbach



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
CHAD HALBACH

40 missionaries.
20 communities.
10 years.



2025 is year 3

5 IN 2025

2025 CHURCH PLANTING UPDATE

This is going to be a historic year. Through your generous support we are **growing churches today to bring generations alive in Christ tomorrow.**



Wever, Iowa



Launched on
Christmas Eve



377 people
came together in worship!

Venture Christian Church
Rapid City, South Dakota



Soft Launch March 23

PRAYER NEEDS:

- Please pray for God to provide the rest of the launch team as they search for part-time worship and media pastors.
- The hunt for the right venue continues. Pray this will be in place for the soft launch later this spring.

COMING SOON!

House Churches in:



Des Moines, Iowa



Minneapolis, MN



Omaha, NE

YOU'RE INVITED



More Info



Gather²⁵ started with a simple question,

"What if Jesus came back in 10 years?"

Right now, there are 5.5 billion people on earth (22% of adults in Iowa) who don't know Jesus. If we truly believed He was coming-and soon, what would we do to reach them? What would the global Church be willing to do? Could 2.5 billion Christians on earth be mobilized to share the Gospel?

THIS IS WHAT Gather²⁵ IS ALL ABOUT.

We will connect with Jesus followers from almost every nation, denomination, and generation. Experience what God is doing all over the world; **God is moving!**

A large banner for the Gather 25 event. The background is a collage of images, including a crowd of people with their hands raised in worship. The banner is divided into two main sections. The left section features the logo for ELEVATE community church, with the text "7-9 pm" and the address "1421 Geneva St, Sioux City, Iowa 51103". The right section features the logo for FCC First Church of Christ, with the text "8am-2pm*" and the address "1310 SW 7th St, Atlantic, Iowa 50022". In the center, the text "SATURDAY MARCH 1" is displayed above the "Gather 25" logo. A small text box at the bottom right of the banner reads "*breakfast and lunch provided; free registration required." A text box on the left side of the banner says "Join us for this free event as we pray, worship & hear how God is moving."

Interested in attending Gather²⁵ virtually? Check out our site for more info!

GROWING CHURCHES TODAY TO BRING GENERATIONS ALIVE IN CHRIST TOMORROW.

cemchurches

cemchurchplanting.org

(515)297-4560



Christian Evangelistic Mission

PO Box 1445

Ankeny, IA 50021

Growing churches today to bring generations alive in Christ tomorrow.

JOIN US IN WELCOMING STEPHANIE LICHTER, ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR

Stephanie grew up on a farm near Alta, Iowa and began following Jesus at a young age. She enjoys serving behind the scenes and previously worked as the Communications Secretary at Northwest Christian Church in Alta.

Stephanie and her husband, Nathan, and their four children took a leap of faith and moved to Indianola, Iowa in the summer of 2024 when Nathan accepted an Associate Pastor position at the Indianola Church of Christ.

Stephanie credits CEM with playing a big role in her family's journey as Nathan was part of our Residency Program. Stephanie is humbled and grateful for the opportunity to serve with an organization that has meant so much to her family.

Stephanie enjoys going on walks, thrifting, a good bonfire, visiting over coffee, and playing games with her family.



CEM Administrative Coordinator, Stephanie Lichter with her husband Nathan & their four children, Kjerstin, Adelaide, Isabelle, & Emmett

We are so thankful to have Stephanie on the team!