

January 2013

Dear Fellowship Council:

Thank you for the opportunity to allow our organizations to share how we cooperatively desire to advance the objectives of the FGBC. CE National is the Church Effectiveness arm of the FGBC. Although we are a separate corporate organization we voluntarily submit this information to the Fellowship Council because of our desire to cooperate fully with FGBC vision and growth. Naturally, we work to assist local churches to be healthy. In consideration of our goals and vision the CE National board has adapted a new purpose statement to help us focus more on what we want to do and the direction in which we see ourselves going. *CE's purpose is to be a catalyst for all believers to be trained and mobilized to be "on-mission". This is done by:*

- *Impacting the rising generation*
- *Reaching neglected people, and*
- *Equipping Biblical Leadership*

See www.cenational.org for a list of our core values.

The following is a list of some of the things that coincide with the FGBC goals.

I. **Growth by Conversion**

- A. All of the Operation Barnabas teams are trained in evangelism and are equipped to build relationships in order to share their faith with other people. This past year was no exception. We had two domestic teams ministering in Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky doing their initial training at Powell, Ohio. All of the teams visited both Grace Brethren Churches and non-FGBC churches and participated in Momentum and inner-city ministries. This past year the OBI team was made up of seven girls and one leader and they ministered in the Philippines. We also had 12 students and two leaders participate in a new program called City Life. City Life is a 15 day serving tour where training is done prior to each act of serving. The team traveled from Washington, D.C. to Philadelphia's Urban Hope and to New York City. They also had a tremendous impact.
- B. Tag-You're It! is a special program available to any church from CE National. This is especially designed to equip churches to minister to children and through children. This material, which is put together by children's workers and others, is a great opportunity to revolutionize the children's ministries of our churches. Please pray for its effectiveness. There is also a shortened version of this program available online.
- C. Momentum always has an emphasis on helping young people be equipped to share their faith with non-believers. The July 2012 Momentum Conference was held at Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond, Kentucky. The speakers were outstanding and the outreaches changed both the lives of students and those they spoke with. Many students spent an afternoon doing ministry in poverty areas around Richmond and then on the Saturday all students were involved in some kind of outreach, some even going into the Appalachian communities where we have Grace Brethren Churches to help them. Many saw decisions for Christ as they shared their faith.
- D. The Urban Hope Training Center in Philadelphia celebrated with an Open House and Homecoming in early October. This is a place where there is an

emphasis on children, youth and growing up leaders. Hundreds are being trained in evangelism each year. We are striving to have a team come each weekend for hands-on training in ministry in the inner-city that they can take home and apply there. There are also other times throughout the year when individual churches and groups use the sleeping accommodations available for over 50 people for longer periods of time. Each group has the opportunity to learn how to build friendships and how to reach out to the lost. It has been my honor to spend about 3 out of 4 weeks of each month here and help with the church, the new believers, host daily prayer times, be involved in discipleship and to help with strategies of outreach, community development, leadership development, and service. Jason Holt, Director of Church Planting, is doing a great job. I enjoy working with him in many areas. The Urban Hope Community Church has regular Sunday services. We have developing leaders who team teach with either Jason or myself on given Sundays. We also have house churches that meet regularly, Family Meetings, and those who are studying to get an understanding of the Bible. Each day there is a prayer time at 9:00 AM and anyone is invited to come pray. We have seen many answers to prayers come from this time.

- E. All of our ministries have some component of hands-on ministry and evangelism; that is a Core Value of ours. We are an office that provides ministry training in whatever we do.

II. **Go (on Mission)**

- A. We have initiated some new opportunities for church leadership.

1. We are cooperating with Grace Seminary to develop "Super Events" that offered several times a year. Some are in conjunction with D. Min. programs and others are just topics that pastors and future pastors would have an interest in. Our most recent one focused on "What Pastors Need to Know About the Emerging Church" with Mike Wittmer, a writer and professor of Systematic Theology at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary. Knute Larson is helping with the details and emcees the day. He generally gives 5-10 minutes of "from the pastor's perspective." Other topics have included *Ideas for Reaching the Community, Worship in the Church Setting, and Discipleship*.
2. We provide cutting-edge information, idea sharing and discussion in an informal format in an annual event that we call CELS (CE Leadership Summit). This event is geared to youth workers, and includes challenges from someone in the youth ministry field.

B. Momentum

1. Program Planning Committees especially focus on details of Momentum to make it most effective in seeing that our mission is accomplished. We are reaching out to non-FGBC groups as well. This past year we had 19 non-GB Churches represented at Momentum. Our outreach in central Indiana this coming year is being planned by a great team of those who work with the homeless, poor, and disaster victims. The overwhelming desire of youth to help others in need is something that we want to tap into and use to open doors for sharing our faith.

2. NAC and Bible Quizzing have been established to strengthen the roles of ministry skills, Bible memorization, and to see that students are involved in serving the Lord. Doug Courter is the director of the Bible quizzing and Georgia Bateson is his assistant. We have partnered with World Bible Quiz Association to take advantage of their tools and opportunities for additional quizzing. We are following their rotation of quizzing materials. In 2012 we have also updated the NAC and Bible Quizzing Rulebook to make it more friendly to non-FGBC participants. We have also opened both NAC and Bible Quizzing to individual church entries, not just through districts, though district entries are still very welcome and encouraged.
 3. An intern we had during the summer developed a new set of memorization verses for us that have been put online for download on the topic of temptation.
 4. We have developed a strategy of KNOW, BE, DO for those who want to grow in Christ, especially for those who want to go into full time ministry. Our goal is to have, in the next four years, 100 new committed workers in ministry.
- C. The Russell Center continues to be used for The National Institute classes as well as continued expansion of the Fireside Dialogue Collection. These Dialogues are recorded session on different topics of interest to the local church and individuals. We continue to look for topics that will be helpful, encouraging and practical.

III. **Lead**

- A. Ed Short has been hired in a part-time capacity as our Church Consultant and Coach. He is contacting churches and has offered his services to several churches already. He has pastored five churches and has held the position of Youth Pastor, Pastor and Executive Pastor. He has been trained in the Sonlife programs of *Growing a Healthy Church* and *Growing a Healthy Youth Ministry*. He is also helping with the structuring of CE National programs and ministries. He has a heart for ministry and churches and has been a great asset to CE National.
- B. We endorse the Antioch School that is being presented in several of our local Grace Brethren Churches. It is a leadership development program as well as an in depth Bible study with projects and practical requirements.
- C. The National Institute is the Youth Ministry program at Grace College, which helps to develop leadership. Each of the students who major in the program will do an internship. It is growing and impacting students. We have many alumni working in youth ministry across the country.
- D. Resumes for those seeking associate pastors are available from CE National. We offer this free service and have given many churches names to consider.
- E. Young adults are trained by serving as Operation Barnabas leaders. There are over 20 young adults that are trained each summer through serving as leaders on Operation Barnabas teams.
- F. The CE National Lending Library is especially designed to help churches have resources and materials available that can assist them in their growth and leadership development. We have over \$129,407 worth of great materials for churches and individuals to borrow with over 21,593 items in our library.

G. The Philemon Center is designed to be a place of spiritual renewal for pastors, church elders, and church leaders. It is also used for small group retreats, and women's and men's groups.

This list is by no means exhaustive. We have a Masterplan that we follow each year and we are always assessing how we can serve as a catalyst to help believers be "on-mission". We are all about serving the local churches. If there are any questions please feel free to contact me at edlewis@cenational.org. I look forward to having the opportunity to share with you at the Fellowship Council meetings in just a few weeks.

In His Work,

Ed Lewis
Executive Director