

DEC. 2022 NEWSLETTER

Growing churches today to bring generations alive in Christ tomorrow

THE HARVEST OFFERING - HOW CEM FUNDS THE FUTURE

Each fall, CEM emphasizes a particular fundraising push during the harvest months of the fall season.

These reasons are reflected in **WHY** we ask for Harvest Offering gifts:

1. Special donations gathered in the fall are specifically used to support new church plants the following year.
2. We prepare future church planters to make disciples by training, developing, funding, and sending them out.
3. CEM depends on the cooperation and contribution of others – churches and individuals are partners with us in church planting.



So far, generous donors have given over **\$40,000** to the Harvest Offering, as of **November 19, 2022**. We are extending our deadline to **December 31, 2022** to still give to the offering.

WILL YOU HELP US REACH OUR \$75,000 GOAL?

WE NEED \$35,000 MORE TO REACH OUR GOAL BY YEAR-END.



FINANCIAL GOALS FOR THE HARVEST OFFERING:

- ✓ \$30,000 to complete our church planting commitment with Antioch's Stoney Point Campus - **STILL NEED \$10,000**
- ✓ \$36,000 to fund THREE church planter residencies (we have three candidates ready to go!) - **STILL NEED \$16,000**
- ✓ \$9,000 to offer leadership development with The Bonhoeffer Project (thebonhoefferproject.com), a year-long, in-depth training in disciple-making for church leaders and offering a Spring Catalyst conference (in addition to the fall) - **STILL NEED \$9,000**

WILL YOU DONATE TO THE HARVEST OFFERING TODAY?

HERE'S HOW:

- Give by mail: Please write in the memo line of your check "Harvest Offering" and use the enclosed giving envelope to mail it in

- Give online: go to cemchurches.com/harvest-offering-2022
- Check our progress: Scroll to the bottom of our Harvest Offering page (listed above) to see a weekly updated amount.

"WHILE THE EARTH REMAINS, SEEDTIME AND HARVEST, COLD AND HEAT, SUMMER AND WINTER, DAY AND NIGHT, SHALL NOT CEASE" (GEN. 8:22).

CEM'S 65TH ANNUAL BANQUET



Thank you to everyone who attended the Annual Banquet in Cedar Rapids on September 13th, 2022! It was a joy to celebrate CEM's 65th year of ministry with BBQ from Country Line Catering and an opportunity to dream of the future impact God has in store through Christian Evangelistic Mission. A special thanks to Antioch Christian Church @ Stoney Point for hosting this year's Banquet! We hope everyone will be able to join us again next September.



CATALYST CONFERENCE

On October 15th, Jim Estep of E2 Elders and the Lincoln Christian Institute provided training for ministry leaders at CEM's Catalyst Conference. 46 pastors, elders, and other ministry leaders gathered for a day of training as part of CEM's commitment to supporting church health. These leadership resources are specifically designed for small to mid-sized churches.

For more information about *E2 Elders* and the *Lincoln Christian Institute*, see e2elders.org and lincolnchristian.edu/lincoln-christian-institute

CEM's board president, Tom Steele, also hosted an informative podcast with Jim Estep in August just prior to the conference. Check out our podcasts at <https://www.cemchurches.com/podcast>

A special thanks to First Church of Christ of Ankeny for hosting the conference and the Solomon Foundation for sponsoring lunch!

**DATES FOR UPCOMING CEM CONFERENCES WILL BE ANNOUNCED SOON;
WE HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US IN 2023!**



40-20-10

Please continue to support CEM in prayer as we head into 2023. As we recruit and equip 40 disciple makers to serve 20 communities in the next 10 years, we covet your prayers.

- Pray for missionary disciple-makers who will faithfully answer God's call to ministry.
- Pray for the communities we currently serve and the communities God is calling us to serve.
- Pray for the financial resources required to facilitate new church plants.
- Pray about how God is asking you to join us in our mission.

For over 65 years, Christian Evangelistic Mission has been shaping the spiritual climate of our region. CEM has been a part of thirty

churches being planted in that time. These churches have a combined weekly attendance of almost 10,000 people, and as a result, new believers are added to the Kingdom of God each week.

This legacy, combined with a strong sense of God's calling, has us dreaming about the impact CEM will have in the future.

The biggest challenge we face is finding missionary disciple-makers who will answer God's call found in Isaiah 6:8a, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Please join us in prayer for 40 people who will rise and say, "Here am I. Send me!" (Isaiah 6:8b).

If you, or someone you know, might be one of the 40 people we are searching for, please reach out to Chad Halbach to start a conversation about growing the Kingdom of God together. Contact him at Chad@cemchurches.com or call/text him at (515) 297-4560.



STANDING ON SHOULDERS

At the close of our annual meeting this year, Bob Scott made his way to the front and shared some of the hopes and dreams that the founding members of CEM had back in 1957 when CEM was started. His words provided our current leadership and supporters with great encouragement. He affirmed the direction

we were headed. He talked like a proud father about CEM, and when he finished speaking, an interested crowd of ministry leaders gathered around.

I observed from across the room as one after another soaked in the words of this patriarch of our churches. But my eyes were fixed on Bob as energy and excitement poured out of his 90-year-old body. Little did I know that day would be the last time I would speak with Bob Scott.

Several days after our annual meeting, I got a call that Bob had passed from this life to the presence of his king Jesus. As I write these words, I am still a little shocked that I will no longer get calls from my friend. But there is a deep gratitude that wells up inside me because I was able to get to know, serve, and be encouraged by him.



Bob left an impression on my life that I will never forget. His example of serving Jesus inspires me. My heart wells with appreciation as I consider how I have stood on his shoulders, first in Webster City and now as Executive Director of CEM.

Bob will be greatly missed, but the work he helped start will continue until Christ returns to collect His church. I invite you to honor Bob by giving to the CEM harvest offering this year. I invite you to pray with us for the Lord of the harvest to send workers into His field.

Sincerely,

Chad Halbach
CEM Executive Director



ROBERT A. SCOTT (BOB) MARCH 29, 1927 - SEPTEMBER 19, 2022



Original co-founding member of Christian Evangelistic Mission

Obituary can be found at:
<https://obituaries.joplinglobe.com/obituary/robert-scott-1086252593>

If you would like to give to CEM in memory of Bob Scott, please use the enclosed envelope and write "Bob Scott" on the memo line. Thank you for honoring the lifetime ministry of Bob Scott, a "good and faithful" servant of Christ (Matthew 25:21).

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Merry Christmas

from everyone at Christian Evangelistic Mission! We pray you are filled with gratitude, hope, joy, and excitement as you celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Thank you for supporting the mission of CEM!

Chad, Suzi, Andrea, Elizabeth, Jule and Board Members, Tom, Chuck, Steve, Dave, Tony, Dale, Bob