

Mark & Carol Doss

2010 CONFERENCE UPDATE

2010

Dear Friends,

One of my favorite verses in the Psalms is Psalms 34:3, *“O magnify the Lord with me, And let us exalt His name together.”* (NASB) While we have had more than enough snow this winter and other challenges, there is plenty to celebrate and I invite you to “magnify the Lord with me” as we celebrate God’s good work.

Celebrate God’s Provision: 2009 ended with our support and expense accounts fully supplied. Our family is humbled and grateful for the continued financial and prayer support that has been given by our district churches and friends since 1995. Thank you for your partnership with us!

Celebrate a New Member Church: CrossWay Community Church of Altoona, Iowa will be presented at this Conference for district membership. I have hoped for several years that we would be able to establish a new Free Church on the east side of the Des Moines metro area and God has brought this idea to fruition. John Colyer’s guidance (lead pastor of Ankeny Evangelical Free Church); Barron Geiger’s pastoral leadership; and a very committed core group were woven together by our Lord to start this new church. Those early Thursday morning breakfasts for the men at Village Inn paid off! (By the way, that was the strength of commitment of the original group of men. I didn’t make very many of those meetings!) And give the women credit, Lori Wall’s phone call to me to ask about starting a Free Church in Altoona was the spark that God used to begin this great adventure that is now identified as CrossWay Community Church.

Celebrate a Church Planting a Church: Pastor Doug Corlew from Summit Evangelical Free Church, Alta, Iowa, sent out a letter to his congregation on February 17th with this announcement: *“Have you heard the news? God is stirring the hearts of some of our Summit attenders (and others) to plant a new Evangelical Free Church in the community of Holstein!”* An informational meeting will be held on March 9th to discuss the vision for this new church. One of my goals for 2010 is to find 3 churches who would commit to planting a new church. It is just March 1st and God has already started without me! I look forward to a coaching role and working with the Summit leadership in this new venture. Also, several of the neighboring Evangelical Free Churches are planning to promote and encourage this new plant.

Celebrate Revitalizing a Church: 2010 started with the opportunity for me to preach for several Sundays at Neighborhood Bible Church in Hampton, Iowa and Luis Martinez has also helped with the preaching. My goal as I visited on Sundays was to observe what is going on at the church and then start forming a plan for revitalization. On Valentine's Sunday, the church family stayed around after worship for pizza and for us to work on creating a leadership team and four other ministry teams that will work on the revitalization plans. About the time I am getting to know everyone and they are getting used to me, my Sunday schedule sends me in other directions. The initial plans and prayers are set and we wait on our Lord to renew this church and ministry in Franklin County.

Celebrate Prayer: With celebration we must also acknowledge the presence of difficulties and problems in church planting. I ask you to pray with us for the Lord of the Church to do His work in these churches and plans mentioned above, as well to pray for our continuing work with Central Plains Evangelical Free Church in Oacoma, South Dakota; Faith Bible Fellowship in West Union, Iowa; Hope Evangelical Free Church in Webster City, Iowa; and New Life Evangelical Free Church in Logan, Iowa. It is not always possible to describe all the needs and circumstances. However, I can tell you that each church has people faithfully serving our Lord, but they are facing obstacles that are bigger than what we can conquer in our own strength. So we celebrate our dependence on the Lord and pray for His power to enables us!

An additional note: my plan is to move to an email format for our news and prayer updates in 2010. If you have not yet signed up for emails, please send an email to office@efcacentral.org with a note, "add to Doss email list".

Serving Our Lord Jesus Christ,

Mark, Carol, Andy and Eli Doss