



WHY FEC?

Pastors share reasons for joining the fellowship

A lot less bureaucracy. It functions like a fellowship. They stand on Scripture. We're all on the same team. It's a true brotherhood of believers. We have freedom in worship, with a lot of styles under the same banner.

These are just a few of the reasons pastors have been drawn to the Fellowship of Evangelical Churches in recent years. At a time when many denominations are either caught up in multiple layers of bureaucracy or wavering on scriptural truth regarding current social issues, FEC stands out as a place where pastors receive support, fellowship, and guidance. Here, pastors share why they choose to minister under our banner.

"The FEC office exists to serve its churches, not the other way around," says Chris Freeman, who is slated to launch a church in the Fort Wayne area in the coming year. "FEC churches have

the freedom to develop their own style while adhering to the essentials, which really sets the FEC apart."

"Meeting with Rocky Rocholl [president] and Scott Wagoner [national church planting director] was like a breath of fresh air to me," says Dustin Nimmo, pastor at Christ the King in Cincinnati, Ohio. "Most denominations are full of hierarchy and politics. At FEC, the guy who's the president is just a guy who loves Jesus. It's an ethos that runs throughout the organization."

"In my former denomination, I felt that they cared more about the organization than the local churches that made up the organization. In contrast, I have never felt more at home than I have with FEC," says Brandon Risch, who pastors Crossview Church in Grabill, Indiana.

ENGAGE

Getting active in the battle for your child's soul.

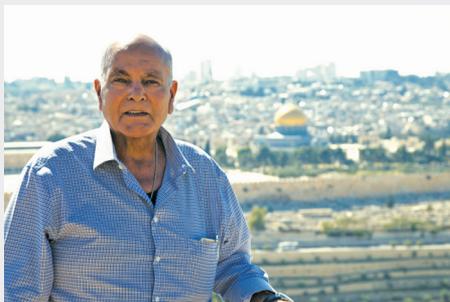
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Brookside Church

Register at brookside.org

Meet Tass Saada, a Muslim-background believer who is working to bring peace in the Middle East through Jesus Christ

Convention is coming up, and the testimony of Tass Saada, a former Muslim terrorist, is one you won't want to miss! Join us at Friday evening's session, where you'll hear the story of a life changed from extreme hate to genuine love. As early as the year 2000, Tass and his wife Karen have worked to reconcile Arabs, Jews, and Christians through Jesus Christ, first in the United States and now in the Gaza Strip through Seeds of Hope, a non-government, humanitarian aid organization in Jericho and Jerusalem. Through humanitarian aid, education, economic development, and cultural exchange, Seeds of Hope has attained a surprising level of favor with the local authorities in the West Bank. This favor is unheard of in an environment that is typically



hostile to the Gospel, both in the Muslim and Jewish community. Come prepared to hear a true story of hope in the midst of overwhelming odds.



New church plant targets major metropolitan area

The Well Church sets sights on Indianapolis

Say hello to Ben Wangler, FEC's newest church planter, slated to plant a church in Indianapolis this fall. With a master's degree in Biblical studies from Moody Bible Institute, along with five years of experience pastoring a church, Ben plans to hit the ground running. Says Jay Nickless, multiplication pastor at Pine Hills Church, "Ben has a compelling passion for people who are far from God." That's good, because although Indianapolis is one of the most-churched cities in the nation, with a church building for every 285 people, over 80% of the population don't attend services of any kind. Targeting families with young children living in the Broad Ripple neighborhood, Ben and his wife, Holly, have described their mission as "parachuting in and building a core team on the ground." Their goal is to launch a "beachhead church" that will in turn plant multiple churches in the region—and beyond.

News from the Front

Lakeview Bible Church passionately follows Christ in Nampa, Idaho

Even though I'm 2,000 miles away from almost everybody [in FEC], I feel blessed to be a part of this fellowship." So says Mike Rice, pastor of Lakeview Bible Church in Nampa, Idaho. "When many denominations are wavering on the inerrancy of scripture in light of today's social issues," he continues, "I'm with a group that is preaching the same basic Gospel message, and people are seeking us because we've taken that stand." In some ways, ministry at Lakeview looks very much like any other FEC church, with a thriving AWANA program and highly successful Kicks for Christ VBS. Other times, they are reaching out to their Mormon neighbors through Mormon-specific outreaches. Either way, says Mike, "it doesn't change how we do ministry. I preach the Bible." It's an approach that is resonating within the community. The congregation has grown from 65 eight years ago to upwards of 400 today.

To learn more, visit lakeviewbible.net.

