FELLOWSHIP OF EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

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YOU CAN'T STEAL A CHURCH!

On Sunday, December 10, 2017, pastor Nirup Alphonse received a surprising early-morning phone call. The truck and trailer that store all of LifeGate Denver's worship service supplies were gone. Stolen. "We lost everything… sound equipment, tables, T-shirts, nametags… everything," he says. And how did LifeGate respond to what could have been a tragedy? "We decided to meet anyway. It was one of the most powerful worship services I've ever been a part of," says Nirup. "We literally had NO stuff. A few people played acoustic guitars, and we prayed over the city, prayed forgiveness for the people who did this."

In the days following the robbery, LifeGate has been blessed beyond imagination, with local churches coming alongside them, donating cash and supplies. What's more, several local TV and radio stations covered the news. "Suddenly, our story was in front of millions of viewers in the Denver area," says Nirup. "We were able to share the message that you can steal our stuff, but you can't steal our people, our vision, or our joy." Through it all, LifeGate has learned that there's a big difference between the tools of ministry and the task of ministry. "Sometimes," says Nirup, "we can get caught up in the tools instead of the task — the mission. LifeGate may not have the tools right now," he says, "but we do have our number one asset: our people." Please be praying for everyone at LifeGate, and stay tuned to the church's Facebook page for more updates at www.facebook.com/lifegatedenver.

THINKING ABOUT A FUTURE IN MINISTRY?

Let FEC invest in you! Learn more about the Internship & Residency program at fecministries.org!

Three essentials of church planning

One size does NOT fit all!

by Jay Nickless, church planting field coordinator

As we round out our series on the three essentials of church planting, it's time to focus on the third and final component in any successful church plant: the right plan.

When it comes to the right plan, one size does not fit all. Each planter must address multiple variables. One of the most prominent factors to consider is the target community. What might work in a bustling, multi-ethnic urban neighborhood could fall flat in a small, rural setting. That stated, common planning elements exist in most church planting ventures. A template that I have found useful includes the following five phases:

	Phase	Primary Focus
1	Explore	The Call & Community
2	Design	The DNA
3	Pre-Launch	The Team
4	Launch	The Service
5	Post Launch	The Systems

Of course, we must always remember that the right plan will always keep this Bible verse in mind: "Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails" – Proverbs 19:21 (NIV).

FEC leaders help train pastors and children's workers in India

This past October, Craig Smith, Northwoods Church Engage pastor, led a team of four FEC pastors to India, where they partnered with ZEC Ministries in equipping current and future leaders for the cause of Christ. Throughout their ten-day trip to the district of Visakhapatnam, the team led training sessions for 160 local pastors, helped equip 92 children's workers, and ministered to over 200 HIV-positive women and children. It's all part of FEC's efforts to come alongside this newest international initiative, one that Northwoods has supported for the past several years. "Our goal is to be a catalyst," says Hal Lehman, FEC international church multiplication director. "We want to help them expand and be even more effective." ZEC Ministries could reach thousands in this largely Hindu district of India in the next few years. Please continue to pray for our partners, Rev. Syam Babu Mari and his wife, Esther Sunitha. To learn more, visit zecindia.com.

MEET THE TEAM | ERIC HALL

As of January 1st, Eric Hall, a Fort Wayne native, has joined the FEC team as the Director of Communications and Church Relations. Eric attended Purdue University and studied Computer and Electrical Engineering, but later transferred and graduated from Fort Wayne Bible College with a double major in Christian Education and Theology. Twenty years ago, Eric served on staff with Rocky at First Missionary Church, and developed a close friendship with him as a result. After serving as a youth pastor for eleven years, Eric then spent fifteen years working in marketing and communications. He recently, however, felt God was leading his life in a new direction. Seeking to network, Eric reached out to Rocky regarding potential opportunities of which he may be aware. Eric had no idea FEC was looking for a Director of Communications. After discussing this opportunity together and spending time in prayer, it was evident God had led Eric to fill this need. Eric will provide leadership in developing and maintaining communication and interaction between the FEC office and our churches and affiliates. He will greatly contribute to our aim to "tell the story" of FEC while also aiding in planning and executing our annual Convention, conferences, workshops, and other educational and training events. Eric and his wife Becky have been married twenty-eight years and have three children. He looks forward to a new season of serving the Lord through his partnership with FEC.