

# FELLOWSHIP NEWS



## Basque Students Spend the Summer in the USA

Last summer, over seventy students visited FEC families in Indiana, Illinois, and Ohio from the Basque Country in Spain. This part of Spain is smaller than New Jersey but has maintained a special relationship with FEC for the past 15 years says Jason Coon, an American who lives and works with the exchange programs in Spain. "Students and families in the Basque Country frequently tell me what an incredible experience their student had, how they felt so loved, and how surprising it was to see faith lived in a relevant way."

Students stay with families through the month of July practicing English and experiencing everyday activities like shopping, sporting events, church, barbecues, and youth group. One of the weeks is spent at Miracle Camp, an FEC retreat center in Lawton, Michigan, where students meet other teenagers, camp, go to chapel services, and do activities. "Many of them have never experienced anything like that before," says Jason.

The goal this year is for eighty families to host students in the Midwest and any new states, regions, or FEC churches interested. Jason has seen time and again what a blessing it is for American families to meet and do life with these students. "It is an incredible experience to personally get to know someone from another culture. The opportunity to host a stranger from another country is a great way to show hospitality and the love of God. Families do this as they live their normal lives, not doing anything out of the ordinary, and being authentic examples of the grace and love of God in their own lives."

Jason especially loves when an American family travels to the Basque Country to see their student. "It is incredible to see the Basque families reciprocate the experience and show their gratitude for all that has been done for their student." This, among other opportunities, deepens this cross-continental relationship beyond a single month in the summer.

Get the latest news and stories in your inbox!

# FELLOWSHIP NEWS



## Basque Students Spend the Summer in the USA

Last summer, over seventy students visited FEC families in Indiana, Illinois, and Ohio from the Basque Country in Spain. This part of Spain is smaller than New Jersey but has maintained a special relationship with FEC for the past 15 years says Jason Coon, an American who lives and works with the exchange programs in Spain. "Students and families in the Basque Country frequently tell me what an incredible experience their student had, how they felt so loved, and how surprising it was to see faith lived in a relevant way."

Students stay with families through the month of July practicing English and experiencing everyday activities like shopping, sporting events, church, barbecues, and youth group. One of the weeks is spent at Miracle Camp, an FEC retreat center in Lawton, Michigan, where students meet other teenagers, camp, go to chapel services, and do activities. "Many of them have never experienced anything like that before," says Jason.

The goal this year is for eighty families to host students in the Midwest and any new states, regions, or FEC churches interested. Jason has seen time and again what a blessing it is for American families to meet and do life with these students. "It is an incredible experience to personally get to know someone from another culture. The opportunity to host a stranger from another country is a great way to show hospitality and the love of God. Families do this as they live their normal lives, not doing anything out of the ordinary, and being authentic examples of the grace and love of God in their own lives."

Jason especially loves when an American family travels to the Basque Country to see their student. "It is incredible to see the Basque families reciprocate the experience and show their gratitude for all that has been done for their student." This, among other opportunities, deepens this cross-continental relationship beyond a single month in the summer.

Get the latest news and stories in your inbox!



### Emmanuel Community Church Launches First Service in Columbus Grove, Ohio

A new FEC church launched in January in the rural town of Columbus Grove, Ohio. Meeting in the former Presbyterian Church, Emmanuel Community Church opened its doors with teaching, worship, fellowship, communion, and even its very first baptism. Brian McKanna, one of Emmanuel's planters and co-pastors, was encouraged. "Having a baptism that day was very exciting. After a year of praying and planning, to see it to come to fruition, I don't know how to describe how it feels. The Lord had done it. We're very grateful to him."

In 2021, Brian heard from multiple sources about the idea of church planting. "It seemed like the Lord was leading by bringing these people in the same week." With Columbus Grove being a predominately Catholic area, Brian saw a need for more evangelical houses of worship. In time, weekly prayer meetings began with Brian, Kerry Wright, Ben Moser, and their wives regarding this church plant.

Someone challenged them to buy the old Presbyterian building rather than rent it. The risk felt great with no money and no church members yet, but they approached the town council and were blown away by God's grace. "They made improvements on the building on our behalf and sold us the building for \$1.00," Brian says. "The Lord has given us favor with the community."

Emmanuel Church is actively praying for a full-time vocational pastor to join their team. The days ahead are exciting as they launch their first message series, Bible studies, outreach, and building renovations.



### Emmanuel Community Church Launches First Service in Columbus Grove, Ohio

A new FEC church launched in January in the rural town of Columbus Grove, Ohio. Meeting in the former Presbyterian Church, Emmanuel Community Church opened its doors with teaching, worship, fellowship, communion, and even its very first baptism. Brian McKanna, one of Emmanuel's planters and co-pastors, was encouraged. "Having a baptism that day was very exciting. After a year of praying and planning, to see it to come to fruition, I don't know how to describe how it feels. The Lord had done it. We're very grateful to him."

In 2021, Brian heard from multiple sources about the idea of church planting. "It seemed like the Lord was leading by bringing these people in the same week." With Columbus Grove being a predominately Catholic area, Brian saw a need for more evangelical houses of worship. In time, weekly prayer meetings began with Brian, Kerry Wright, Ben Moser, and their wives regarding this church plant.

Someone challenged them to buy the old Presbyterian building rather than rent it. The risk felt great with no money and no church members yet, but they approached the town council and were blown away by God's grace. "They made improvements on the building on our behalf and sold us the building for \$1.00," Brian says. "The Lord has given us favor with the community."

Emmanuel Church is actively praying for a full-time vocational pastor to join their team. The days ahead are exciting as they launch their first message series, Bible studies, outreach, and building renovations.

### Faith-Based Christmas Film Starts Production in Angola, Indiana

Filming begins on a brand-new Christmas musical, Carol, in Angola, Indiana this month. The full-length feature film will be a modern retelling of A Christmas Carol, along with a diverse array of music. Creator James Tew first wrote Carol as a play in 2013 after seeing how few Christmas movies actually center around the gospel. James reached out to George Johnson, director of "Homeless for the Holidays," who agreed Carol would be great to adapt into film.

Words and lyrics came to mind, and in 2021 James collaborated with Aaron Scantlen, worship and youth pastor at SonLight Community Church, to add music and demo tracks. "The cool thing about the film is that it's actually the gospel message," Aaron Scantlen says. "It's a fun Christmas movie but it's also more than that."

Set Shepherds, an organization from Georgia, partnered with the crew to bring "a spiritual atmosphere to the set," says James. They lead daily devotions and coordinate meals from local churches. James saw God's hand at work when Set Shepherds said this was the first production where local churches provided every meal on set. "Everything that's happening is God moving," says James. "It's beyond what I ever imagined."

The team is actively praying over production and invites everyone to join them. "Pray that the gospel message goes forward," Aaron says, "through the music we've written, the actors, the production. We want God to be center and for the gospel to move forward and change hearts."

Carol will release in November in time for the Christmas season.



### Faith-Based Christmas Film Starts Production in Angola, Indiana

Filming begins on a brand-new Christmas musical, Carol, in Angola, Indiana this month. The full-length feature film will be a modern retelling of A Christmas Carol, along with a diverse array of music. Creator James Tew first wrote Carol as a play in 2013 after seeing how few Christmas movies actually center around the gospel. James reached out to George Johnson, director of "Homeless for the Holidays," who agreed Carol would be great to adapt into film.

Words and lyrics came to mind, and in 2021 James collaborated with Aaron Scantlen, worship and youth pastor at SonLight Community Church, to add music and demo tracks. "The cool thing about the film is that it's actually the gospel message," Aaron Scantlen says. "It's a fun Christmas movie but it's also more than that."

Set Shepherds, an organization from Georgia, partnered with the crew to bring "a spiritual atmosphere to the set," says James. They lead daily devotions and coordinate meals from local churches. James saw God's hand at work when Set Shepherds said this was the first production where local churches provided every meal on set. "Everything that's happening is God moving," says James. "It's beyond what I ever imagined."

The team is actively praying over production and invites everyone to join them. "Pray that the gospel message goes forward," Aaron says, "through the music we've written, the actors, the production. We want God to be center and for the gospel to move forward and change hearts."

Carol will release in November in time for the Christmas season.

