

FELLOWSHIP NEWS



DRUGS ENFORCER TURNS DRUG OFFENDERS INTO WARRIORS FOR CHRIST

Mitch Nedrow, the lead drug enforcement detective for Harvey County, Kansas, spends his days working with drug offenders and gang members. Then, two evenings each week, he runs Warriors for Christ, an intense fitness training class at Grace Crossing Church in Moundridge, Kansas, that often includes people he has arrested. Mitch has spent enough time with drug offenders to witness their brokenness and cycles of abuse. "I wanted to use the energy that drives them to find drugs and take drugs and turn it into something positive," he reflects, and over time, Warriors for Christ was born.

From its start in July 2017, Warriors for Christ has been free and open to anyone. Mitch notes that about half of the class attends the church, but the other half is comprised of people that he and others have invited. He describes the

two-hour workout as "intense but fun." Afterward, Mitch gathers the participants and asks them to share positive things in their lives that week. Then, he ends with prayer. Ultimately, he desires to see people who he has put in prison and people who work in drug enforcement to see Jesus in the lives of the Christians who participate. Mitch points to one young man whose father he put in jail, and eventually, he put him in jail. When Mitch reached out and invited him to Warriors for Christ, he came, and today, the young man is working full-time and expecting his first child.

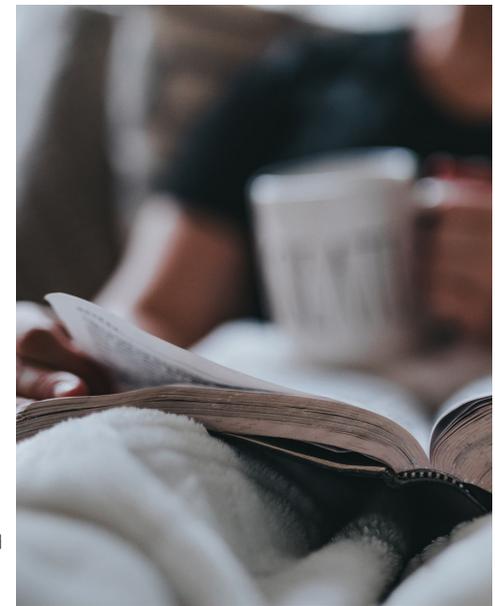
Through Warriors for Christ, Detective Mitch Nedrow is invading not only the territory of gangs and drug offenders, but he is also invading the darkness in Harvey County, Kansas, with the gospel of Jesus Christ. In that way, Mitch is a real-life Warrior for Christ.

Ministry Training 2.0

Pursuing ministry training at a postgraduate level has posed challenges to men and women who want to continue their education or pursue FEC credentialing. A new FEC partnership is heading off those challenges by offering a Certificate of Theology to FEC pastors, church planters, and ministry leaders. Director of pastoral development & western U.S. church multiplication, Tom Bennardo, coordinates this first-of-its-kind partnership with three leading seminaries: Bethel Seminary (St. Paul, MN), Denver Seminary (Denver, CO), and Trinity Evangelical Divinity School (Deerfield, IL).

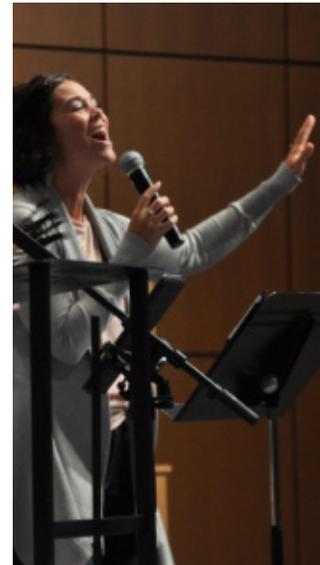
The unique three-year program satisfies FEC credentialing requirements and provides an opportunity for ministry leaders to work toward a master's degree if they choose to continue. The certificate totals 27 credit hours of accredited master's level classes from home since the entire course of study is online. The cost is also affordable because students pay one-third of the cost while their sponsoring church and FEC each contribute one-third.

The first cohort of students began in the fall of 2017, and the second cohort (Fall 2018) is now open for applications. **The online application and course details can be found at the FEC website, under "Resources for Church Leaders."**



A Seminary Study Just Became Affordable and Reachable Through FEC's New Certificate Program

FEC: Still 'On Mission' after 153 Years



Even though FEC history stretches back 153 years, five years ago its leaders redefined their purpose and rebranded their image. That process began almost seven years ago, when Rocky Rocholl took the president's seat. He began by asking, "Do we need to exist?" Once pastors and leaders answered that question, the challenge was to define why FEC exists. That process reaffirmed that FEC remains committed to establishing reproducing churches worldwide. In that effort, FEC exists to resource churches on the frontlines, and that number of churches has nearly doubled since 2011. Part of strengthening churches includes bringing church leaders together at the annual conference.

The annual FEC conference will be held at Brookside Church in

Fort Wayne, Indiana, August 2-4. The speakers all lead FEC churches across the United States with the addition of Brian Kluth from the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE). The most important aspect of the annual conference, according to Nate Zimmerman, FEC Administrative Director, is engaging church leaders and providing an opportunity for networking.

With the growth of churches new to FEC, leaders will be attending the conference and hearing the message for the first time. For everyone who attends, Zimmerman emphasizes that the annual conference will "recast, refocus, remind, and re-energize" so that this growing fellowship of churches remains "On Mission" for years to come. **To learn more or register for this year's conference visit fecministries.org.**