

# FELLOWSHIP NEWS



## SALEM4YOUTH OFFERS A SECOND CHANCE

Winston Churchill advised parents who were raising boys to give them a horse. Churchill is famously credited with saying, "There is something about the outside of a horse that is good for the inside of a man." Today, Churchill's words find relevance and application for the young men at Salem4Youth, a boarding school ministry for young men aged 12-18. Salem4Youth incorporates academic learning and vocational skill training like learning to work with horses on a farm in Flanagan, Illinois.

The young men who come to Salem4Youth have found a second chance. Seth Warner, Equine Program Manager, says, "It's the best last chance some kids will ever get." Most of the young men have become unmanageable for their parents and struggle with drug addiction, truancy, criminal activity, anger, or violent behavior. At Salem4Youth, they find a new way to cope with negative behavior while they learn a new skill. Seth explains that

the lessons learned through the equine program pertain to life as well as horses because, "Horses are honest. They don't deal well with either anger or fear. They bring out the best and worst in us."

The boys in the equine program spend months preparing for an open horse show held at the farm each June. Since they all come to the farm as a beginner, their participation in the horse show helps them to develop mental discipline and perseverance. One student faced a challenge during the show when his horse wouldn't perform any of the obstacles in the trail class, and he quit. However, he was able to regain control of his anger and wanted to compete again. Later that day, he won a gaming competition and received a trophy.

**At Salem4Youth, young men are receiving a second chance, new skills, and, sometimes, a horse of their own to take home.**



## Sabbatical Renews the Staff & the Church

Many pastors feel overworked and overwhelmed by the demands of their church, according to a survey conducted by the Institute of Church Leadership Development (churchleadership.org, 2016). The survey also found that most pastors work over 50 hours each week, some reporting up to 75 hours a week. In light of their results, the organization recommended that pastors take several weeks off each year with periodic sabbaticals. Life Community Church in Hilliard, Ohio, came to the same conclusion and began providing a sabbatical rest for its ministry staff. As a result, they have discovered that staff members return with a renewed passion for ministry, benefitting the entire church, too.

Life Community Church (LCC) began in the 1990's, and the church leadership began implementing a sabbatical rest for ministry staff who had been with them since the beginning. Specifically, they began offering a sabbatical for ministry staff after their twelfth year with the church, giving them a three-month rest. The typical sabbatical runs from June through August with full pay and no responsibilities or expectations.

Dan Burmeister, now the lead pastor, experienced a sabbatical several years ago while he was the worship pastor. He said, "After doing ministry for a long time, you realize that it's good to step away for awhile, to get away from the day-to-day ministry and rest. You don't realize that you need a renewal."

## THE OLDEST & THE NEWEST FEC CHURCHES LINK ARMS

When Henry Egly, an Amish bishop, left the Amish church, he planted a new church in Berne, Indiana. Since 1866, Berne Evangelical Church (BEC) has remained committed to spreading the gospel by supporting every FEC global initiative and missionary. When the opportunity came to partner with Wave Community Church in Deshler, Ohio, BEC discovered a new way to spread the gospel locally.

Two years ago, BEC invited Alex Rhuter, the founding pastor of Wave Community Church, to speak to their congregation about his work in Deshler. Wave had already launched in 2015, but they needed to renovate an old hardware store that they had acquired. The people of BEC jumped in, providing resources and work crews. BEC has also donated several needed items to Wave Community like a piano and children's chairs.

Wave isn't the only one in this partnership that has benefited. Kent Fahl, BEC pastor, said, "We have received more than we've given." The vision to invest in their own community has reignited. Recently, on the way home from a work day at Wave Community Church, one member of the work crew remarked, "PK (Pastor Kent) what's stopping us from doing this kind of stuff around Berne."

**The first church planted in the fellowship of churches now has a vision for investing in new church plants near them.**

