



CHURCH AMBASSADOR NETWORK

2024 - 2025

ANNUAL REPORT



**CHURCH AMBASSADOR
NETWORK**

INITIATIVE OF **THE FAMILY LEADER** FOUNDATION

2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Over the last year, the Church Ambassador Network has continued to facilitate meetings between our governing authorities and pastors from across the state. By God's grace, we have continued to see so much fruit flow out of these efforts. Below is an overview of the connections that we made this year.

1,708

**TOTAL SHEPHERD TO SHEPHERD
CONNECTIONS FROM MAY 2024
THROUGH APRIL 2025**

1,408

CONNECTIONS IN THE LEGISLATURE

176

NUMBER OF PASTORS AT CAPITOL

208

NUMBER OF PASTOR VISITS AT CAPITOL

801

TOTAL HOUSE CONNECTIONS

85%

% OF HOUSE DEMOCRATS

90%

% OF HOUSE REPUBLICANS

88%

% OF HOUSE CONNECTED WITH

607

TOTAL SENATE CONNECTIONS

81%

% OF SENATE DEMOCRATS

94%

% OF SENATE REPUBLICANS

90%

% OF SENATE CONNECTED WITH

69%

**OF REPRESENTATIVES HAD A LOCAL VISIT
(A PASTOR FROM THE DISTRICT THEY REPRESENT)**

90%

**OF SENATORS HAD A LOCAL VISIT
(A PASTOR FROM THE DISTRICT THEY REPRESENT)**

300

**SHEPHERD TO SHEPHERD CONNECTIONS WITH
GOVERNMENT LEADERS IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH**

We have been blessed to meet regularly with the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Governor's Senior Team, Secretary of Agriculture, State Auditor, HHS Department Director and Deputy Director, State Public Defender and more

2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION (CONTINUED)

71

CARE TEAM CONNECTIONS

Our care team is made up of pastors that desire to come to the capitol on a more consistent basis and be a relational presence with our legislators during session and beyond

121

EQUIPPING TEAM CONNECTIONS

Our equipping team is made up of pastors and ministry leaders that join us at the capitol to share biblical truth and insight on relevant topics from an expert perspective

Through these meetings, the Church Ambassador Network has continued to bring biblical teaching to our governing authorities with papers containing biblical principles applied to specific pieces of legislation. Through these efforts, we have seen righteous policies advanced in our state and policies that bring bondage stopped.

44 MEETINGS ON SHALOM/POVERTY

- Made strides to move legislation forward that would enable more access to affordable housing.
- Moved closer to allowing chaplains to minister in public schools this session.
- A bill protecting access to biblical education for public school students during the school day passed.

38 MEETINGS ON BONDAGE AND ADDICTIONS

- Legislation capping payday loan interest rates at 36% passed full committee for the first time.
- Stopped a bill allowing the expansion of online gambling.
- Advanced age verification bill preventing minors from accessing websites containing online pornography

38 MEETINGS ON BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES OF IDENTITY

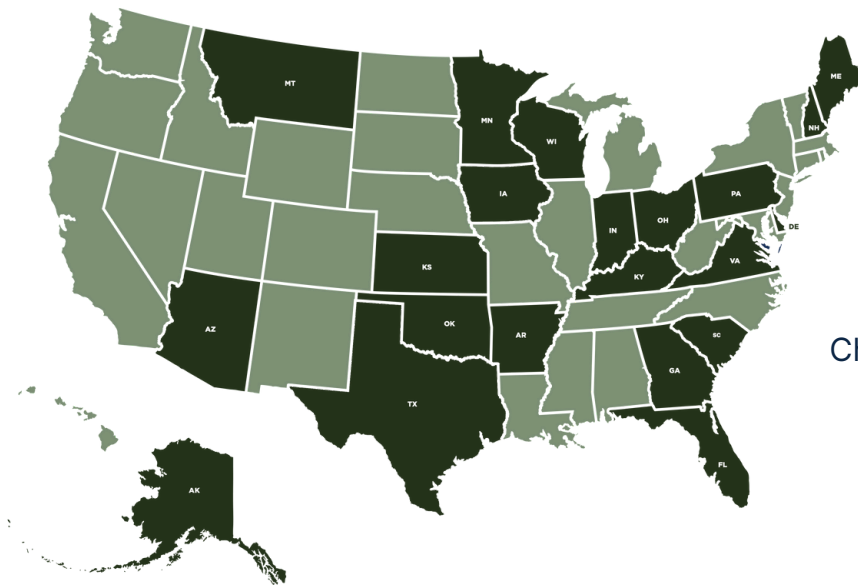
Legislation removing “Gender Identity” from protected groups under the civil rights code in order to protect women and girls in private spaces signed into law.

10,450+

SHEPHERD TO SHEPHERD
CONNECTIONS IN IOWA SINCE 2014

THE DANIEL IMPACT

The Daniel Impact is an initiative of The FAMiLY Leader Foundation that launched in 2018 to replicate the Church Ambassador Network in our sister state family policy councils. The Church Ambassador Network is operational in 21 states with 2 additional states, Oklahoma and South Carolina, being brought onboard in 2024-25.



5

Out of State Visits



6

Hostings in Iowa

50,000

Churches connected across the country

7,000

Anticipated connections nationwide

CHOOSE WELL 2024

5,800

Toolkits delivered in 5 states:
(IA, TX, WI, PA, and GA)



NATIONAL TRAINING

Each year, The Daniel Impact Equipping Program hosts an annual training for Church Ambassador Network Directors and staff. In 2024, the theme was the centrality of the local church and the time was filled with worship and vision casting. We were also joined by Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig, Director of Iowa HHS Kelly Garcia, and State Auditor Rob Sand.

ONGOING TRAINING

In 2024, The Daniel Impact Equipping program added 4 ongoing trainings.

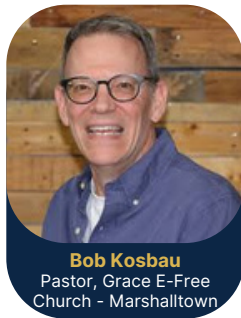
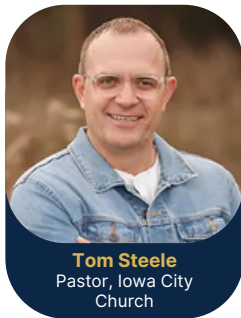
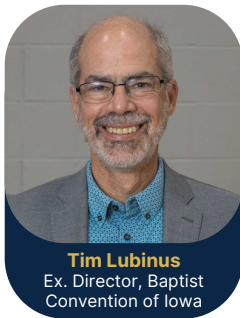
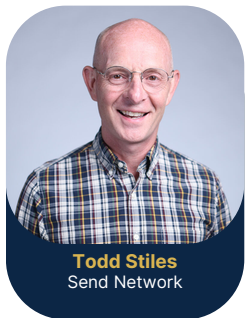
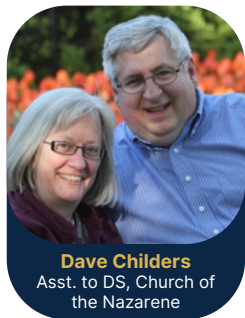
- Regional Mentor Groups
- Church Recruitment Class
- On-boarding Training
- Church-State Partnership Group

CHURCH AMBASSADOR NETWORK

STEERING COMMITTEE

The Church Ambassador Network's efforts are overseen by a governing body called the Steering Committee. This is a diverse group of Church leaders who provide us with accountability, encouragement, and insight from a spread of denominations, associations and backgrounds. We have been greatly blessed by each of these men as we pursue the work ahead.

OUR STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS



BREAKING BONDAGE IN IOWA

In early April, The Church Ambassador Network hosted a Breaking Bondage Tour at a local church in Johnson County to hear from the Iowa Health and Human Services Director Kelly Garcia, State Public Defender Jeff Wright, and Daron Babcock, the Director of Community Development for the Stand Together Foundation.



This was our 4th Breaking Bondage Tour in 2025 and brought over 20 pastors and ministry leaders from across Johnson County.

4 STOPS IN
2025

81 PASTORS
ENGAGED

5 MINISTRIES
HIGHLIGHTED



BREAKING BONDAGE INITIATIVE TO DATE

Since beginning these stops in 2024, we have had 9 total Breaking Bondage Tour stops, in varying sizes and regions of the state, all having incredible impact.

9 STOPS
TOTAL

185+ PASTORS
ENGAGED

7 MINISTRIES
HIGHLIGHTED

EQUIPPING AND SERVING

In addition to the Breaking Bondage Tour, it has been our privilege to partner with other ministries and organizations to bring resources and encouragement to local churches across the state through regional events like the National Day of Prayer Service and the Iowa Welcomes event with World Relief.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

The FAMiLY LEADER was blessed to host the Iowa National Day of Prayer this year. Joining us in praying for our state included Governor Kim Reynolds, Lt. Governor Chris Cournoyer, State Auditor Rob Sand, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Grant Menke, HHS Director Kelly Garcia, Joshua Christian Academy's 4th grade class, and many pastors and community leaders. Elim Arrival of North Liberty led our worship again and were joined by Representatives Brooke Boden and Eddie Andrews. It was such a powerful time of prayer and worship and one of my favorite events of the year. In addition to the event at the capitol, our team was able to help pastor Richard Schlotter host a local event at a Christian School in Ottumwa.



IOWA WELCOMES

We also partnered, for the first time, with Churches of Welcome (a ministry of World Relief) and Keystone Church in Ankeny to put together a speaking event where pastors/ministry leaders could learn more about serving refugees and vulnerable immigrants in our state.

We heard from the National Director of Churches of Welcome, Daniel Yang, Representative Jon Dunwell (a pastor and a legislator) on the need and opportunity for churches to respond to this gospel opportunity arriving at our doorstep.





OUR STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Cal Swan
Superintendent
Emeritus, EFCA



Mike Morgan
Director, Jethro
Project - GMC



Dr. Jim Tillotson
President, FBBC



Lance Fricke
RHEMA MAI



Dave Childers
Asst. to DS, Church of
the Nazarene



Kerry Jech
Pastor, New Hope
Christian Church



Scott Surovec
Pastor, Equipping
Team Lead



Tim Carter
District Superintendent,
Church of the Nazarene



Charles Daugherty
Brother, REACH Iowa



Todd Stiles
Send Network



Tim Lubinus
Ex. Director, Baptist
Convention of Iowa



Tom Steele
Pastor, Iowa City
Church



Bob Kosbau
Pastor, Grace E-Free
Church - Marshalltown



John David Mull
Pastor, Grace E-Free
Church - Marshalltown

PENDING INVITATIONS



Jonathan Barthalow
Superintendent,
Iowa Ministry
Network



Kent Sovine
District Superintendent,
Christian Missionary
Alliance



Jesús Alvarado
Multi-cultural Pastor,
New Hope Evangelical
Free Church - Orange
City