



THE DANIEL IMPACT

2026 MID-YEAR REPORT

DEAR FRIEND,

"Let us not grow weary of doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." - Galatians 6:9

Over the past decade, I've had the privilege of watching God do something remarkable. As pastors faithfully engage government as a mission field, lives are being transformed, families are being strengthened, and communities are discovering the hope of Christ. What began as a vision is becoming a proven model that is now taking root across the nation.

The opportunities before us have never been greater. Doors are opening in state after state as governing leaders increasingly recognize the Church as God's primary instrument for meeting the deepest needs of their communities. This is the work of The DANIeL Impact, and we are only beginning to see what the Lord intends to accomplish.

I invite you to prayerfully renew your investment in this Kingdom work. Your generosity equips pastors, strengthens churches, and helps establish a biblical model that can be faithfully reproduced across America—and, Lord willing, throughout the nations.

Thank you for standing with us. Together, we are advancing God's Kingdom by inspiring the Church to engage government for His glory.

For Christ and His Kingdom,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob".

Bob Vander Plaats

President & CEO, The FAMILy Leader

The Daniel Impact is not about temporary wins or one-off campaigns. It's about a fundamental change in how the Church and government work together for the good of families and communities. This happens when the church actively engages government as a missions field and when government sees the church as a primary resource in communities.

1 **iNSPIRE THE CHURCH**

The Church Ambassador Network exists to connect the shepherds of the Church—pastors—with the shepherds of government—government officials—in order to see Christ-centered transformation through these shepherd-to-shepherd relationships.

2 **iMPACT ELECTIONS**

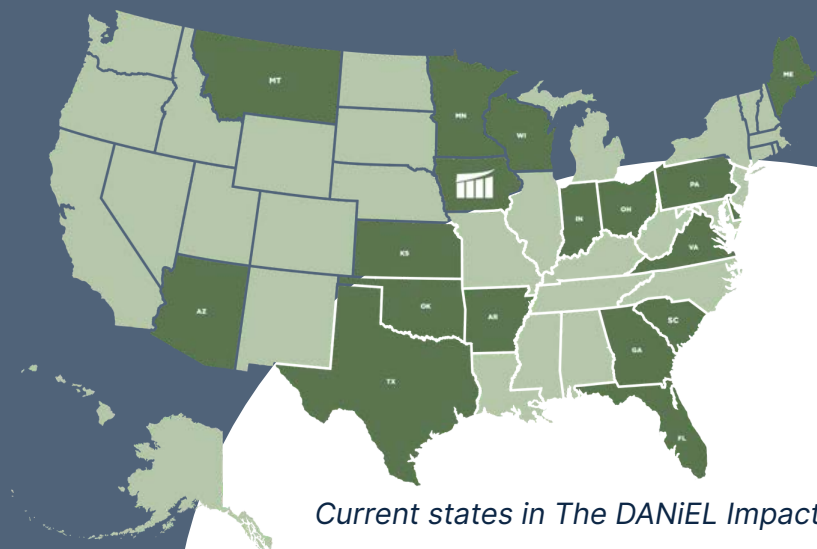
Coming alongside pastors as they equip their congregations to vote by providing Christ-centered voting resources.

3 **iNFLUENCE POLICY**

Provide teaching and resources that apply the Gospel to government issues, while advocating for righteous policies grounded in God's Word.

4 **iGNITE PARTNERSHIPS**

Build strategic partnerships between the Church and state to tackle critical community needs such as education, addiction, and foster care, all while lifting up the name of Christ.



Current states in The DANIEL Impact

INSPIRE THE CHURCH

In 2026, the Church Ambassador Network has opened more doors than ever before for pastors to engage governing authorities. An increase in executive branch connections, alongside continued engagement across party lines and all three branches of government, is creating new opportunities to **inspire the Church, impact elections, influence policy, and ignite partnerships** across the nation.

10,000

PASTOR-TO-GOVERNMENT LEADER CONNECTIONS

50K

CHURCHES ENGAGED

33%

OF CONNECTIONS WERE WITH
EXECUTIVE BRANCH LEADERS

200%

MORE PASTORS
AT WISCONSIN STATE CAPITOL

600+

CHURCHES ENGAGED
IN THE 1ST YEAR IN SOUTH CAROLINA





Pastors with legislators in Minnesota Capitol

iMPACT ELECTIONS

The 2026 primary season saw historic levels of church engagement across key states. **714 Iowa churches and 636 Pennsylvania churches** participated through Church Ambassador Network election equipping efforts—establishing one of the strongest primary engagement cycles to date.

With this foundation in place, momentum is building toward the November general election as more churches are prepared to engage their congregations with trusted, biblical voter resources.

1,350

CHURCHES ENGAGED

IN PRIMARY ELECTIONS IN IA AND PA.

PASTOR TESTIMONY

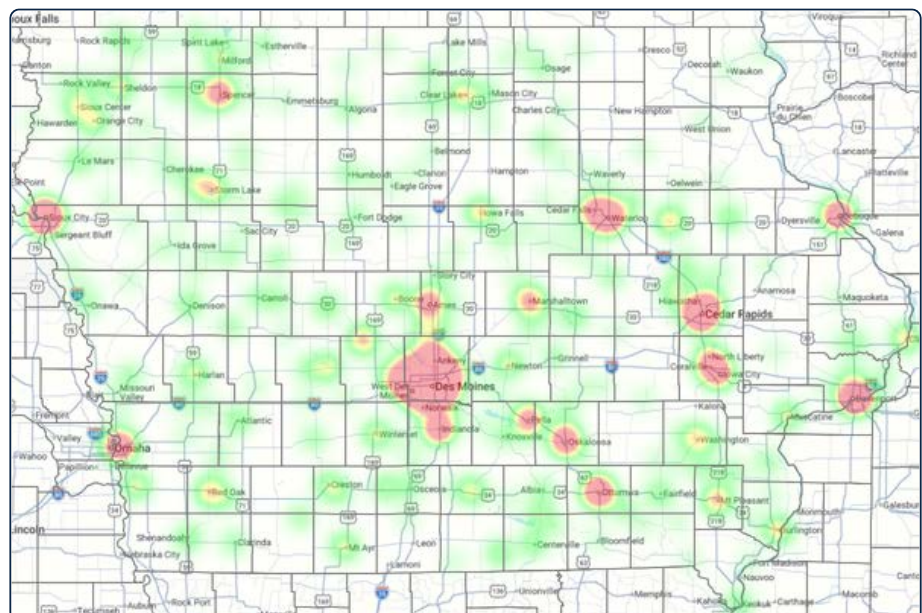
“We are so thankful for the Church Ambassador Network. Their overview of the 2026 Primary elections was invaluable, and their insight into the implications and importance was a gift.”

Pastor Rob Willey, Senior Pastor, Coram Deo Bible Church

[See the Resource in Action →](https://coramdeobible.church/voter-resources/)
coramdeobible.church/voter-resources/



STATEWIDE IMPACT IN IOWA



Visit bit.ly/CW2026_IA to view map!

INFLUENCE POLICY

Our desire is to see biblical principles shape the laws and policies that govern our communities. In the first half of 2026, pastors participated in **more than 325 meetings** with state legislators, bringing biblical teaching to the forefront of public policy discussions.

Biblical Principles Taught:

- **Shalom:** God's design for human flourishing.
- **Human Value:** God's design for life, from the womb to natural death.
- **Addictions:** A biblical response to addictions and pathways to restoration.
- **The Pornography Epidemic:** Making known the harm pornography is causing to individuals, families, and communities.

MEETINGS OF PASTORS TEACHING
BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES 325+



POLICY IMPACT

Protecting Religious Liberty | Iowa & Indiana

Protected the religious liberty of foster and adoptive parents, ensuring christian families can continue serving vulnerable children.

Fighting for Life and Marriage | Delaware

In one of the nation's deepest blue states, Delaware Strong Families and the Church Ambassador Network helped defeat a constitutional amendment establishing a right to abortion and delayed a proposed constitutional amendment redefining marriage until the final hours of the legislative session—demonstrating that faithful engagement can make a meaningful impact. [Video Update](#)

Defending Against Expansion of Marijuana | Pennsylvania

Continued defending against efforts to legalize recreational marijuana.

Fighting Gambling Expansion | Minnesota, Georgia, South Carolina, & Texas

States across the country continue to resist the expansion of online sports betting. Of the 11 states that have not legalized it, **Minnesota, Georgia, and South Carolina** are actively opposing new legislation, while **Texas is building groundwork for the 2027** legislative session.

Protecting Kids Online | Minnesota & Iowa

Advanced age-verification legislation in Iowa requiring pornographic websites to verify users are 18+, significantly strengthening safeguards against minors accessing harmful online content. Minnesota passed social media platform protections requiring parental consent for users 15 and under to create accounts, reinforcing parental authority and increasing accountability for platforms that engage with minors.

iGNITE PARTNERSHIPS

The final pillar of The DANiEL Impact model is iGNITE Partnerships—where years of investing in relationships between pastors and governing leaders begin producing transformation across the nation. The 33% increase in shepherd-to-shepherd connections with executive branch leaders in 2026 is already opening new doors for the Church to become a trusted partner in addressing challenges such as foster care, addiction, education, and family stability. As government leaders increasingly recognize the unique role of the Church, partnerships are emerging that strengthen communities, transform lives, and lift up the name of Christ.

IOWA

The 2026 launch of Thrive Iowa is one of the clearest examples of The DANiEL Impact model in action. While Restore Hope serves as the statewide implementer, the Church is at the center of the initiative's success.

For more than a decade, the Church Ambassador Network has built trusted relationships between pastors and state leaders across Iowa. Today, those relationships are enabling government to partner with the Church in a new way.

Working alongside Restore Hope, the Church Ambassador Network is helping integrate churches into the Thrive Iowa initiative while connecting individuals to local ministries through the Ministry Link platform. These ministries provide marriage support, mentoring, addiction recovery, pregnancy resources, Bible studies, financial coaching, and more.

As Thrive Iowa expands across Iowa in 2026, this partnership demonstrates what is possible when the Church becomes the primary community partner in transforming lives.



"Thrive Iowa would not be seeing its current success without the Church Ambassador Network and the trusted relationships built between the Church and state over the past decade."

Paul Chapman, Director of Restore Hope

Texas

In 2025, the Church Ambassador Network built a strong foundation of partnership with the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS), including three Social Worker Appreciation events in San Antonio and the Parent Visitation Room Refresh Project, where churches came together to sponsor and furnish 13 visitation rooms serving more than 2,500 foster children each month.

In 2026, that foundation opened into new partnership opportunities following a key shepherd-to-shepherd meeting in Houston with DFPS Director of Faith-Based and Community Engagement Rachel Duer and four regional coordinators. This engagement reflected the broader 33% increase in executive branch connections across the nation and marked a turning point for deeper collaboration between DFPS and the Church in Texas.

The Church Ambassador Network of Texas has already facilitated six DFPS appreciation events in the first half of 2026, expanding into Austin, Beaumont, Orange, and San Marcos. These gatherings continue to serve as a relational on-ramp—helping pastors and DFPS staff build relationships while further engaging with the Church Ambassador Network of Texas ministry. As these pastors engage at the local level, they have expressed increased interest in coming to Austin during the session to further engage government in Texas.



Indiana

In Indiana, strong collaboration with Governor Mike Braun has opened significant doors for partnership across the state on foster care and addiction recovery. This relationship has created new opportunities for the Church to serve alongside state leadership in strengthening families and caring for vulnerable children.

As this relationship has grown, a statewide initiative has launched, mobilizing churches to engage in foster care and family restoration. Last fall, four county tours were held, each bringing together state officials, local ministries, and church leaders. These gatherings included encouragement from the Department of Child Services, practical training from foster care ministries, and the formation of local working groups to continue the effort at the county level.

In 2026, five additional county tours are planned, with a goal of recruiting at least 1,000 new foster families across Indiana.

The impact of this collaboration was also highlighted in a recent interview with Governor Braun, who emphasized the importance of faith, family, and community in Indiana's future.

Governor Braun Interview



Wisconsin meeting with the
Department of Children and Families



Gov. Braun with Church Ambassador Network of Indiana Director, Josh Hershberger

Pennsylvania

In Pennsylvania, the Church Ambassador Network has partnered closely with the Keystone Family Alliance to expand foster care capacity by mobilizing churches to serve vulnerable children and strengthen families. Through the Breaking Bondage initiative, this effort is building trusted relationships between pastors, legislators, and county child welfare leaders to address one of the state's most urgent needs.

The Breaking Bondage Tour has served as the primary platform for this work. The first gathering in Allentown brought together 20 pastors who are now actively engaged in supporting foster families and working alongside local child welfare systems. A second tour is planned for this summer as the effort continues to expand across the state.

Keystone Family Alliance is now an established statewide partner with CAN, currently active in 30 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties, with continued efforts underway to expand foster care support into every county in the state.

Together, these efforts reflect a growing statewide model of churches stepping into foster care as a primary partner in strengthening families and serving vulnerable children.

Wisconsin

In Wisconsin, the Church Ambassador Network is advancing a vision to mobilize churches to come alongside struggling families—addressing challenges such as instability, addiction, neglect, and other difficult circumstances. The goal is to strengthen families and help prevent children from entering foster care whenever safely possible, while also supporting foster families when out-of-home care is needed.

As part of this effort, the Network sought what would have been its first formal meeting with leadership at the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families. As the request was being considered, a senior Wisconsin official independently reached out to a child welfare leader in Iowa who had firsthand experience with the Church Ambassador Network to better understand the model.

That recommendation helped open the door. The resulting meeting with Wisconsin's top child welfare leadership exceeded expectations, with strong interest in future collaboration with churches.

A MODEL FOR THE NATIONS

The impact demonstrated throughout this report reveals the power of The DANIeL Impact model. As churches are inspired to engage government, elections are impacted, biblical principles influence public policy, and partnerships transform communities. The Church is the primary institution that transcends politics and government systems, making **The DANIeL Impact a reproducible model that can be implemented across all 50 states—and ultimately, among the nations.**

