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Civil Service Family Thrives on Ministry at Illinois Statehouse

CEDARVILLE, OHIO – Every Tuesday, Curt Fleck, a 2002 Cedarville University alumnus, walks the halls of the Illinois Statehouse, handing out Bible studies and offering to pray with staffers, lawmakers or legislative assistants he may run into. He is half of the two-man ministry Civil Servant Ministries, which has chosen the political world of Springfield, Illinois, as its mission field.

The ministry was started by Shaun Lewis, a seminary graduate who, upon graduation, was asked by a colleague, “Who’s ministering to politicians?” Several years later, he found himself being the answer to that question. Fleck became burdened for Illinois lawmakers after several conversations with Lewis, a member at his church. Fleck joined the ministry in 2016 and became a full-time staff member in 2017.

Civil Servant Ministries has three goals: to share the gospel and build relationships with lawmakers, staffers and legislative assistants; to provide Christians at the Illinois Statehouse with mentoring and friendship in following Christ; and to encourage Christians to engage with politics in a godly way. One of the ways this is accomplished is by asking Christians to commit to following 1 Timothy 2:1-2, which urges the church to pray for political leaders.

During Fleck’s average week, he spends the majority of his time producing Bible studies that Civil Servant Ministries will hand out to 300 people every Tuesday. The Bible studies are written sermons that go verse-by-verse through a book of the Bible. On Thursday mornings, Fleck helps lead Bible studies at the capitol. The rest of the day is spent walking around, looking for opportunities to pray with people.

“I definitely didn’t take your typical route here,” said Fleck, who never saw himself working in full-time ministry. He graduated with a broadcasting degree from Cedarville and then worked several years at a radio station and then a TV station before taking a job at a national small business lobbying firm in Illinois.

“I view Cedarville as a starting point and a springboard for the path my life has taken,” said Fleck. “Looking at my career path, I can’t do anything but see God’s hand in it. It certainly wasn’t my plan, and I’m so thankful for each step.”

“I met my wife, Kim, at school, and she’s been a great support to me through the crazy 16 years we’ve been together. I also played basketball in college, and we had outstanding community as a team my junior and senior year. Coach Slagle and Coach Estep were super influential in my life and brought guys onto the team who really loved the Lord. It was an encouragement to learn that you can play basketball and still be a committed Christ-follower.”

In the future, Civil Servant Ministries hopes to expand its influence to the buildings surrounding the capitol that contain more than 3,500 lobbyists and organizations associated with Illinois government. Fleck also hopes to continue the new Bible study that was created to focus on staffers and legislative assistants in the capitol.

“Lawmakers are not always at the capitol year-round, but there are still staff there every day,” said Fleck. “We hope to expand our ministry to minister to them on a regular basis.”

Located in southwest Ohio, Cedarville University is an accredited, Christ-centered, Baptist institution with an enrollment of 3,963 undergraduate, graduate and online students in more than 150 areas of study. Founded in 1887, Cedarville is recognized nationally for its authentic Christian community, rigorous academic programs,

strong graduation and retention rates, accredited professional and health science offerings and leading student satisfaction ratings. For more information about the University, visit www.cedarville.edu.