

# Fellowship Focus

Volume 52 • No. 4 July/August 2012



## Dedication In Papua New Guinea

pages  
8-9

*Inside:*

- © President's Challenge
- © Focus on the Word
- © Last Edition of Eyes on the World
- © Loving a Stranger
- © Focus on our Churches





# Farmer's Sausage or Verenika?

Shortly after the morning service the following conversation was heard: "Did you hear all the great specific ideas about how to share your faith that the pastor gave this morning? He gave a way to turn almost any conversation to Jesus! It was wonderful."

The reply came, "It seemed a little canned. It was too formulaic for me. I think we really need to have a heart like Jesus for the lost."

We are tempted to say that one perspective is right and that the other is

ers will suggest many specific behaviors (actions to be done). These are not to be done to replace a heart for the lost. Do them either looking to God to change your heart, or alongside the changes that God is making in your heart. Use the behaviors as tools to express Jesus' love for unsaved friends. It is a both/and situation. It is not enough just to have Jesus' love for the lost in your heart. That love needs to express itself in the words we speak and the actions that we do (behaviors). Words without the love fall short of God's glory, but so does love that is not translated into changed behavior.

One question we might have is this, "Which comes first, the heart change or the behavioral

change?" I find myself wanting to say that the heart change should come first. However, I think that the question is not as simple as that. There are two more pieces to the puzzle which I would like to add.

First, most of the commands or motivations of the Bible are about behaviors. e.g. "Pray for those who persecute you." (Matthew 5). Certainly, there are many commands to have our heart changed, but there are also many behavioral changes commanded as well. The ideas of "heart change = good; behavior change = legalism" just does not line up with the Scriptures.

Second, I have found that sometimes, when I change my behaviors, my heart changes accordingly. Some time ago, I had a bad attitude towards a political leader. My heart was not right in this. I understood in 1 Timothy 2:1-2 that prayer and giving of thanks should

be given for political leaders. I started doing this behavior. In praying for this leader, and thanking God for this leader every day, my heart attitude changed.

Which comes first? It can be either. I would not suggest that we limit God by saying to Him, "I will only do the right thing if You change my heart first." Let God choose how He wants to bring about change. If God prompts you to change your behaviors out of obedience, then obey. Trust that He will change your heart as you obey. If He has done a change in your heart already, follow that up with behaviors that express the changes that God has made on the inside. ■

**Words without the love fall short of God's glory, but so does love that is not translated into changed behavior.**

wrong. Is that the right way to consider these two perspectives? I would suggest that to choose one over the other is to create a false dichotomy. This occurs when we think of either/or when the right perspective is both/and. "Which do you like, farmer's sausage or verenika?" That is not a fair question. I like them both, yet the question suggests that I like one and not the other. In fact, I like both of them — too much!

In the reply above, "I think we really need to have a heart like Jesus for the lost," there is an assumption that the previous statement precluded having a heart for the lost. I do not think that the pastor meant that at all. Thinking through what to say in a conversation with a non-Christian does not mean that this is done instead of loving the lost like Jesus.

In trying to lead you to become a better proclaimer of the Gospel, teach-

## President's Schedule

**July 16-22**

*FEBC Convention*

**Aug. 13-21**

*Vacation*

**Aug. 19**

*Preaching at Randville Bible Church, Iron Mountain, Mich.*

**Aug. 25**

*Lay leadership seminar at Community Bible Church, Omaha, Neb.*

**Aug 31 – Sept. 4**

*Ministry at FEBC churches in Mountain Lake and Butterfield, Minn.*

**Sept. 7-17**

*Evangelical Bible Church, Dallas, Ore., 100th Celebration*

# Comment



By Sharon Berg, Editor

By the time many of you read this issue, the FEBC annual convention will be a part of the history of the Fellowship. But your chance to give to this year's convention project will continue through Oct. 15. "The TEACH Project" is an effort to raise \$20,000 to enable Arab Christians to receive theological training at home via satellite TV and the internet. Read more on page 10.

What are the limits of lifestyle evangelism? **Greg Koehn**, pastor of outreach at Omaha's Evangelical Bible Church, offers suggestions on how we can overcome those limitations and move a relationship toward sharing our faith (page 14).

**Bob and Carolyn Lee** (*Wycliffe Bible Translators*) recently culminated 36 years of serving the Madak people of Papua New Guinea when they attended the long-anticipated dedication of the revised Madak New Testament and Psalms in March. The Lees share details of the celebration and photos on pages 8-9.

With this issue, *Fellowship Focus* Art Director **Connie Yates** has returned from leave of absence to again design and lay out the Focus. In her absence, **Adrianna Donaldson** took on the job for three issues. We want to recognize and thank Adrianna for the time, consideration and care she took as she shared her talents with us.

Blessings,

*Sharon*

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## The President's Challenge

### Farmer's Sausage or Verenika?

Blaine Donaldson, President . . . . . page 2

### All things work together for good!

Harvey Schultz . . . . . page 4

FEBC Video Library . . . . . page 5

## Legacy Giving

### Updating Our Will

Paul Boeker . . . . . page 5

## Eyes on the World

Fayth Boeker . . . . . page 6

## Women's Ministries

### Loving a Stranger

Connie Yates . . . . . page 7

## Dedication in Papua New Guinea

Bob and Carolyn Lee . . . . . pages 8-9

Focus on Our Churches . . . . . pages 10-14

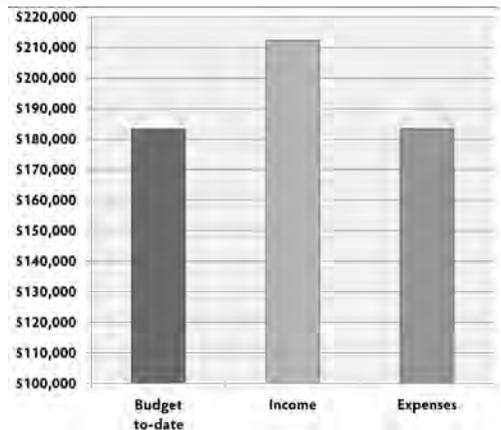
The Record . . . . . page 15

## Catch The Vision

### Moving Beyond the Limitations of Lifestyle Evangelism

Greg Koehn . . . . . Back Page

## FEBC Finances through May



The *Fellowship Focus* is available to read online. Check it out!

<http://www.febministries.org>

click on the *Fellowship Focus* tab



# All things work together for good!

“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose” (Romans 8:28 ESV).

**D**o we really *know* that? Are we *convinced* of it? More importantly, do we *understand* what is involved? Or do we often merely repeat this verse as a fallback biblical quotation/slogan to bolster our struggling faith and emotions in the midst of difficulties when in reality, we *don't* know how present circumstances are working together for our good?

Paul's divinely inspired statement in verse 28 is obviously linked (by the word “for”) to what follows in verse 29 when he states: “For those whom he foreknew

marks, T-shirts, coffee mugs and many other places. It was a good reminder of the fact that we are to demonstrate to the world around us what Jesus would be like in our situation.

But being conformed to the image of Christ actually goes much deeper than that. If Christ is our pattern or model, we need to also remember another important truth: the fact that while He lived on earth, He did not use His divine power to live life. As our pattern, He limited Himself to the resources that are available to us in our daily struggles. His course of action was determined by knowing the will of His Father through the Word of God. His strength came from the indwelling Holy Spirit. He didn't perform miracles to overcome temptations to sin. He relied on God's power. That's exactly the way we are to live. Discern what God wants through the Word and rely on God's indwelling power to accomplish it – that's the pattern.

Paul lived according to that pattern. He taught believers to follow it as

he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son ...” (ESV). That reveals that the “working together for good” has something to do with our being conformed to the image of His Son.

Being conformed to the image of Jesus Christ is an important theme in New Testament teaching (compare 2 Corinthians 3:18). Christ is our pattern; our model. We should constantly seek to *be* like Him, *act* like Him, *speak* like Him, and *react* like He would react in our daily circumstances.

Remember the letters WWJD: **W**hat **W**ould **J**esus **D**o? We saw them on book-

marks, T-shirts, coffee mugs and many other places. It was a good reminder of the fact that we are to demonstrate to the world around us what Jesus would be like in our situation. well. In Galatians 2:20 he states: “The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God.” He declares in Philippians 4:13: “I can do everything through him who gives me strength” (compare 1 Timothy 1:12 and 2 Timothy 4:17). He prays for the Ephesian believers that God “may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being.”

But how does that fit into “all things work together for our good”? Paul explains it from the perspective of his own experiences in 2 Corinthians 11 and 12. After describing his incredible sufferings and hardships, he concludes by saying: “For when I am weak, then I am strong”

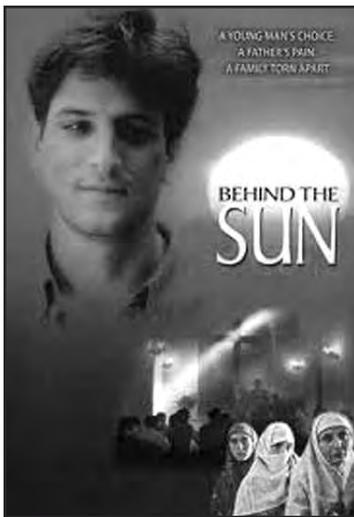
(12:10). The difficulties he had encountered made him so weak that he had no other recourse but to rely on God's power. He had no strength, no endurance, left. His only hope was to trust in the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. Through such experiences he was learning to live by the pattern Christ had set. He was being conformed into the image of Jesus Christ.

That, I believe, is what he is teaching us in Romans 8:28 and 29. God uses all things to bring us into conformity with the image of His Son, Jesus Christ. Often our circumstances cause us to realize that we are weak; powerless! We just don't have what it takes to live as He would have us live! As we become conscious of our weakness, we learn to rely on Him. As we rely on Him, His power flows through us. We are learning to live according to the pattern of Christ: relying on God's power to do the things God would have us do.

That is the good that comes from “all things”: God is teaching us to rely on the strength of the indwelling Holy Spirit. The more we rely on it, the more we become like Christ in the pattern and also the conduct of our daily life.

Oh, yes, at times we can look back and see how life's painful and frustrating circumstances led to an immediate, tangible “good” outcome (for example, someone missed their plane connection; the plane crashed; their life was spared). But the thrust of Paul's teaching is that God uses all things to cause us to become more and more Christlike in inner attitude and outward conduct. And that is always good! It brings glory to God and always contributes to our highest good. ■

*Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture references are taken from the New International Version.*



# Behind the Sun



Fictional character Samir Majan is impressed with the Christian young people he meets, and he eventually becomes a

The FEBC Convention Project will help provide theological training for men and women in countries antagonistic to Christians. What is it like to live in such a country? Open Doors International created a dramatic video showing what happens when a student from a Muslim country comes to the United States for college.

Christian. After his graduation, he senses a duty to return home and visit his family again. Their response and the difficult choices Samir is faced with form a story of tension and grace.

Though released in 1995, this 56-minute drama presents a timely story and helps the viewer see the hard choices a convert must make in the Arab world. People like Samir are the focus of SAT-7's TEACH Project that our Fellowship is raising funds for this summer (See article on page 10).

Although the FEBC copy will not be available for loan until after the convention in July, churches can easily purchase this DVD. It is licensed for home use and for non-profit public use. Copies can be purchased from Amazon.com or Christian-Movies.com. ■

## Updating Our Will *By Paul A. Boeker, FEBC Administrator*

Okay, I'll admit it: I'm a procrastinator. Our first will was made shortly after we were married, while serving in the military in Panama. We waited many a year with numerous changes in our lives to make a new will. But six addresses and four children later, we finally updated our will. The next time we thought about updating it, we were living in yet another state, and three of our children were married. We even had a grandchild!

Now, 15 years later, we live in yet another state, and the grandchild count just hit 20! And for the first time in our lives, we actually own a home — well, at least part of a home. It's definitely time to rethink our will. We decided to try the Estate Plan Organizer on the FEBC website ([www.febcministries.org/legacy](http://www.febcministries.org/legacy)). Yes, we will go to a lawyer, but most of our decisions will have already been made at home.

The Estate Plan Organizer gives basic information: What is a Will? Who needs an Estate Plan? What are the benefits of an Estate Plan? What happens if you die without an Estate Plan?

Then the Organizer asks for some basic information (Legal name, address, marital status, list of ministries we support, etc.). Then we were prompted to list our assets and liabilities. Let's see, what is that 13-year-old van worth? Is that antique vase of any value? Do we have life insurance? Line by line, our estate takes shape. In the process, we have to think about whether the beneficiaries to our retirement funds and life insurance policies are set up correctly. We don't want those to go through probate!

The next decision is whether we should distribute our estate through a will or through a Revocable Living Trust. The Estate Plan Organizer explained the pros and cons of each. We just assumed we were going to make a will, but now we can take a look at a trust to see how that might benefit us.

Estate taxes? We hadn't thought about that — and probably won't need to. But the Estate Plan Organizer explained

what the U.S. Congress has been doing and what might happen in 2013. If our estate was more than \$1 million, we might need to do some special things to lessen taxes, for example, by creating a Bypass Trust.

At this point in our lives, we don't need a children's trust. But if we did, the Estate Plan Organizer would walk us through what is involved. We learned that a children's trust can distribute assets to children in stages at various ages in their lives.

Oh, yes, we need to think about a personal representative (executor). We had one in our old will, but that one is out of state and may have difficulty carrying out our wishes. Should we go with a friend or with another family member? Do we need to give someone Power of Attorney? Should we make a Living Will?

Finally, we come to the decisions about distributing our estate. Do we want to give a percentage to a charity and divide the rest between our children? Or do we want to treat a charity as a child with the charity and each child getting an equal share? Or do we want to give a limited portion to each child and the residue to a charity? Decisions, decisions! And what about those personal items like the carved teakwood chest we bought in Panama 40 years ago? We discovered that we can include a separate form that lists personal items we would like to pass directly to specified individuals. Which grandchild would like the family Lego sets?

Yes, it takes time to think through a will, but the Estate Plan Organizer helped us to understand and make the decisions we need to make. Now we have the assurance that what we have accumulated will benefit people and organizations in line with our values. Why don't you try it? [www.febcministries.org/legacy](http://www.febcministries.org/legacy). ■

**Legacy Giving**  
Today's resources for tomorrow's ministries



# Last Edition of

# EYES ON THE WORLD

By Fayth Boeker, Commission on Missions

Four years ago I started writing the missionary updates called “Eyes on the World.” The goal of the Commission on Missions (CoM) to write about each FEBC-approved missionary is now complete! And if you kept each edition of “Eyes on the World,” as I did, you would have your very own missionary prayer guide. But of course, many of these pages are now outdated because missionaries moved on to other ministries or retired. In future issues the CoM will use this ministry page to feature “proclamation stories” shared by our missionaries.

**Tom and Sandi Hofmann** were saved in one of our FEBC churches (Henderson, Neb.). Their children started attending Awana, and soon afterwards they volunteered. In 1998 they left the farm to become full-time, independent Awana missionaries, and in 2008 they were accepted as official “Awana Missionaries.” All this time they had served in Nebraska, but in 2010 God called them to northwest Florida. They currently serve 95 churches, reaching about 8,000 children! Their goal is to help churches catch the vision of reaching children and families in their communities with the Gospel and enabling them to grow in their faith.

**Dave and JoAnn Loewen** joined SEND International and left for Japan in 1971. For 24 years their ministry focused on Japan. They planted churches and fulfilled a variety of other responsibilities. JoAnn helped train and orient new missionaries. In 1994 Dave was asked to serve as regional director for Asia. Ten years later he became the personnel director of the SEND U.S. office. All their experience has led to SEND appointing them to be member-care consultants on behalf of SEND missionaries. Dave and JoAnn enjoy working and traveling together. God is especially using them to encourage missionaries returning from their first term.

Although **Laverne Fehr** now lives in Ontario, Canada, she did not always serve as a home-based missionary. More than 35 years ago she joined SEND International as a missionary to the Philippines. Like many other missionaries, she started out planting churches. God gave her the joy of watching a church develop and grow into maturity. The Lord led her from that ministry to one in administration at Faith Academy and the SEND office in the Philippines. Since 2011 Laverne has served as candidate coordinator in the home office of SEND Canada. Laverne continues with SEND for now, but has moved home to be closer to her mom.

**Francis Hartog** joined Northern Canada Evangelical Mission in 1985 and was on the field by 1987. Over the years she has had a ministry with women and children. Through much of each year she serves on the Peguis and Fisher River reserves in the Interlake part of Manitoba. During the winter Francis teaches Sunday school, leads two Awana Cross-Trainer programs and a Bible club. In summer she is busy at the Fisher Bay Bible Camp. There she oversees registration and other matters. Her ministry goal is to see that the families of the children who come to camp also attend church later.

**Dave and Pris Reimer** know kids. Besides their own five children, they ministered to many children as teachers in the Bahamas for 27 years. Now they have put their experience to work in another direction. Avant Ministries has assigned them to care for Avant’s missionary kids (MKs). As Avant MK coordinators, they serve Avant families by providing resources and encouragement.

## Please pray ...

- for *Tom and Sandi Hoffmann*, that their training of Awana leaders will be effective. Pray that they will be able to share the urgency of reaching this generation for Jesus. (*Faith Evangelical Bible Church, Henderson, Neb.*)
- for *Dave and JoAnn Loewen*, as they debrief a group of missionaries on home service. Also pray for JoAnn as she facilitates the workshop “Sharpening your Interpersonal Skills.” (*First Mennonite Church, Butterfield, Minn.*)
- for *Laverne Fehr*, who is in transition and needs wisdom and patience as she adjusts to a change in location. (*Christian Fellowship Church of Rhineland, Wymark, Sask.*)
- for *Frances Hartog*, as she encourages children to know God at Bible camp. Her prayer is that many homes will be affected. Ask God to provide adequate staff members at Fisher Bay Bible Camp. (*Hodgson Bible Church, Hodgson, Man.*)
- for *Dave and Pris Reimer*, as they meet MKs on college campuses or communicate with them, that they can be used by the Lord to evangelize them in their own personal walk with the Lord. (*Evangelical Bible Church, Dallas, Ore.*) ■



It's an often repeated phrase: "Hi, how are you?" And the general response is, "Fine, thank you, and how are you?" I suppose it is better than responding, "I have had a headache all day and can't keep any food down ... if you know what I mean."

I think we are generally interested in, but don't always have the time to really listen to, the real answer someone might give. There is nothing more embarrassing than telling someone how you really are doing, and in the middle of laying your heart out she excuses herself, saying she will pray for you and check in with you later that week.

I remember when Lyle and I were enduring a difficult season in our marriage. I was in the balcony at church running the slide presentations, when a friend sat next to me and said, "Well, hi there, Connie, how ya doing?" On the verge of tears, I said, "Do you want me to say I'm fine, or do you want the truth?" He opted for the truth, and thus began the first step in a long journey of truth in my life. Our friend may not have known it, but he was obedient to God to fill a need he didn't know existed.

My mother has been gone three years now, and it has taken me this long to pull out the book that she read and wrote in and loved, in order to find out why the book moved her so much.

"Believing God," by Beth Moore, is morsel after morsel of truth; the kind of truth I thrive on. I bounced around from chapter to chapter, settling into the chap-

ter "Believing God for Love." She quotes from Galatians 5:6: "The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love" (NIV). I have learned through trials in my marriage what love is. Certainly I haven't learned it all, but I do know that when I am cranky and not lovable, my husband won't just walk out the door because he doesn't "feel the love."

I am commanded to do the same. Moore tells us that God has called us to love even when we don't want to; when we get nothing obvious in return; when they don't deserve it; when they don't even know it; and when it makes no difference.

I was struck by the command to love even when "they don't know it." How can you love someone without them knowing it? Recently, I was given an opportunity to learn.

I had heard of a young man who had not survived a gunshot wound. My heart ached for the mother who had lost her son so tragically. I was shocked to find out the next day that I had sat next to this mother during a girl's game night with a mutual acquaintance. Immediately I told my friend that I would make a memorial video for the mother. I have found that a video can be healing to the family, not just at the funeral but for the many days, weeks and years that pass.

I didn't think much of this, other than the fact that I knew that I needed to do it for her. Beth Moore tells us that God calls us to love as a (sacrificial) act of our will in obedience to God. No, I didn't

hear God tell me to do this, but He has equipped me with the computer, the software and the ability — I think I get the hint.

Photos were given to me, and with each scan I made I knew that a slice of his mother's heart was gone. Each photo was a piece of him that she will no longer physically have. Brokenhearted for a woman I didn't know, I finished the video. I made several copies and brought it to the funeral home, expecting only to leave it at the desk. But when I walked in the door, the mother was there. Our eyes met, and she hugged me. As I held her in my arms, we found it hard to let go. We shared something now. I turned my head and saw another young man; he was her oldest son. His eyes were wide and filled with tears. We instinctively shook hands, and then he grabbed hold of me with a hug that needed no words. We cried. I did not know this young man who was crying on my shoulder, but God did.

Beth Moore asks a question in her book: "You believe *in* God, but do you *believe* Him?" She also says that "God will do what He says He will do."

I don't know the full impact that the video made on this family, but I don't have to know. All I have to do is believe God will take it from here, and I do. ■

"Did I tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" John 11:40 (NIV).

# Dedication In Papua New Guinea

By Bob and Carolyn Lee



**T**he long-awaited dedication of the revised Madak New Testament and Psalms was held on March 25 in Papua New Guinea. What a day! We are so thankful for the way God provided for us to be able to attend. Guests for the dedication included missionary colleagues, Wycliffe directors, our Nalik and Notsi-Madak translators, who brought with them a Notsi language choir, and an excited crowd of Madak friends, church leaders, the Madak Translation Committee, choirs and our adopted Madak “families.”

The Madak people are great at celebrating and planned an awesome program of singing (choruses as well as hymns from their Madak hymn book) songs of praise and worship, a sermon speaking of the importance of God’s Word, and a cere-

mony dedicating the New Testament. After this service in the church, those inside joined all the rest of the people outside and a program of speeches and choirs followed. This included an emotional time of honoring Bob and me for our ministry among them, saying good-bye to us and presenting us with gifts of appreciation. This farewell also included a cultural opportunity for the people to file by us to shake hands, say good-bye and give us whatever gifts they choose to, usually coins or food. We were so humbled by this.

We praise and thank God for allowing us to be his servants to the Madak people during the last 36 years. The first edition of the Madak New Testament was completed and dedicated in 1995. This new book is the “revised version” plus Psalms,



which has never been in print before in their own language. ToUlul, a retired school teacher who has served many years with the Madak Translation Committee and helped check translated Scripture, came to tell us how delighted he was to have Psalms now in his heart language. The next Sunday he preached on Psalm 27!

## For an oral society, many of whom are poor readers, the audio players bring God's Word to those

Distribution of these New Testaments has long  
**who have ears to hear.**

been a concern to us. Culturally, good people *give* things to their friends and relatives, so *selling* Christian literature, though they love to have it, is an uncomfortable, if not an impossible job for the Madak people. Some may ask why *we* don't just give them away. It's the policy of our funders, The Bible League and Wycliffe Bible Translators, that we sell the New Testaments at an affordable price. This places value on the books.

Thank God, more than 300 New Testaments were sold during the week after the dedication. The greatest highlight of distribution for us was to take New Testaments to two of the primary schools in the Madak area. It was so exciting to see the children eager to buy both New Testaments and Madak

hymn books. The teachers were so eager for the children to have them that some loaned the children money to buy! Please pray that God opens the doors for Matt and Andrea Torrens, who are interested in working part time with the Madak people, to continue the distribution so that every home might have at least one New Testament and thus access to God's Word in the language that speaks to their hearts.

As a companion to the written Word, we were also able to introduce Scripture in audio form with handheld audio players. Bob had been able to record Mark and selected portions of Scripture from Psalms, the Epistles, and Revelation. Not being sure of their interest or having abundant funding, we brought with us five Saber players to present to Madak pastors. In addition we brought 20 AudiBibles, a smaller audio player suitable for personal or family use and 6 SD cards which we found some could use in their radio players. These all were received with great excitement. The AudiBibles were purchased for a token price — all in four

days! Many were disappointed to find we had no more. For an oral society, many of whom are poor readers, the audio players bring God's Word to those who have ears to hear. They also help people learn to read better as they follow in their new Bibles what they hear. With God's help we plan to provide many more players in the near future, which Matt and Andrea want to take out to the people. ■

*Bob and Carolyn continue to work on the translations of the Nalik and Notsi-Madak New Testaments from their home in Omaha, Neb.*

# FOCUS ON OUR CHURCHES

## CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHAPEL

**Winnipeg, Man.**  
**John Harwood, Pastor**

“Love Winnipeg” is in full swing here! The goal of the churches involved is to “love-on” the people in our communities in tangible ways.



CFC joined together with two other churches in our neighborhood to put on a big community barbeque in beautiful McKittrick Park. Volunteers from all three churches provided face painting, balloons, games and a free hot dog supper to our neighborhood families. Our own **Larry Kunkel** provided live music for the event.

*Mark Kunkel promotes Awana at “Love Winnipeg.”*



*Feeding a hungry crowd at “Love Winnipeg”*

Our “Love Winnipeg” coordinators, **Jessica Dyck** and **Naomi Wiebe**, planned a “cookie blitz.” On a busy weekday afternoon, a dozen ice cream pails full of home-baked cookies were handed out to individuals making their way home from school or work. *Nancy Kunkel, Correspondent*

### The TEACH Project • 2012 Convention Project

You can be a partner in growing Christian leaders and disciples in Arab lands closed to foreign teachers. SAT-7 is developing a curriculum for satellite TV and internet that will allow Arab Christians to receive theological training at home. The Fellowship goal is to raise \$20,000 for this project. Your gift will allow tens of thousands of new believers to grow in their knowledge of God. You can give through your church or directly to the FEBC. Gifts can be received through Oct. 15.

Learn more at <http://sat7usa.org/teach-project/>

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## CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

**Rhineland, Sask.**  
**Alvin Buhler, Pastor**



*We celebrated three baptisms and welcomed two new members in June.*

*Verna Buhler, Correspondent*

## COUNTRYSIDE BIBLE CHURCH

**Meade, Kan.**  
**David Cummings, Pastor**

**Brian Deighton**, a student at Trinity, led a senior high youth group to the Dominican Republic in June.

A fund-raiser was held for those planning to attend Precepts Ministries Teen Boot Camp this summer in Chattanooga, Tenn.

**Dale and Sara Deighton** will relocate to Honduras where Dale will be the assistant superintendent at a Christian school and Sara will be available to the staff for Christian counseling.

The theme of this year's Vacation Bible School was “In-crediWorld” at the Emmanuel Church in June.

*Mary Friesen, Correspondent*

## DALMENY BIBLE CHURCH

**Dalmeny, Sask.**  
**Dennis Friesen, Pastor**

The annual Ladies Salad Fiesta is an outreach event put on by women from Dalmeny churches and the community. The event was held in May at our church, and 280 women attended.

Various vendors of crafts and trade attracted all ages from the community and area to shop at the Spring Marketplace on May 12 in our gym. The event included a garage and bake sale. Proceeds went towards the Brazil missions trip coming up in August.

Our youth did service projects for several families in our church by helping them clean up their yards this spring.

Planning is underway for Vacation Bible School in August, together with the Community Church. The theme this year is *Daniel's Courage in Captivity*.

*Marilyn Harder, Correspondent*

# FOCUS ON OUR CHURCHES

## EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH

**Dallas, Ore.**

**Jerry Franz, Pastor**

We will host a “once in a lifetime” event in September when we celebrate the 100th year of our church. Plans are underway for a full weekend of activities, some of which include authentic German cooking, all-church combined services, a very special evening of music, and more! We have invited alumni pastors and deacons, as well as former attendees. If interested in attending, please contact our church office at [office@ebcdallas.org](mailto:office@ebcdallas.org).

Women’s Ministry “May Festival,” our annual Mother’s Day celebration, was a huge success, with the theme “Showers of Blessings.” This event is a great outreach opportunity for women in our community, as well as some of our own family members. EBC men provided a magnificent meal and waited on the tables. The music and the speaker focused on the question “What if our blessings come through teardrops or rain?”

It is great to see our young people involved in a mission field. **Jesse Peters** spent a couple of months helping in Africa, including teaching an English class. **Alicia Bodine** just returned from six months in Uganda, where she helped at an orphanage and school. **Nathan Johnston** is working again this summer with Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF), his fourth year of training other young people to disciple children.

Our high school youth group is training and hosting fundraisers for their summer mission trip.

*Vicki Kibbey, Correspondent*

## EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH

**Langham, Sask.**

**Greg Guarnett, Senior Pastor**

Associate Pastor **Justin Epp** is in the beginning stages of planning a youth missions trip for 2013! Pray that the destination and details fall smoothly into place.

We’re looking forward to hosting a *Treasure Hunt* Vacation Bible School Aug. 20-24. Pray that many community children attend.

Our Annual Ladies’ Salad Supper attracted about 100 ladies from the church and community for delicious salads and the Gospel message.

About 18 members of our congregation travelled to Camp Kadesh on May 12 to minister through cleaning and summer camp preparation. We have also been able to provide funds to refurbish a cabin at Ranger Lake Bible Camp.

*Marilyn Friesen, Correspondent*

**Compass Immanuel Church** of Rapid View, Sask. has applied to join our Fellowship. Located about 4 hours north and west from Dalmeny, Waldheim and Prince Albert, this will become the most northern of our churches, Watch for an introduction in the next issue.

## EVANGELICAL MENNONITE BROTHERS CHURCH

**Lustre, Mont.**

**John Skillman, Pastor**



Church members joined neighbors to clean up after a fire that destroyed the barn and its equipment, calving shed, corals and some livestock. Several women also helped provide food during this traumatic event.

Beacon Bible Camp was held during the month of June. Many Native Americans from the Wolf Point, Frazer and Poplar areas have joined local kids at the camp in recent years, making it an outreach to these areas.

Missionary **Roger Wall** with *In Faith*, was home April 22 for the 90th birthday celebration for his mother, Ethel. He also reported on his work in rural Oregon in morning worship.

*Sharon Skillman, Correspondent*

## EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH

**Omaha, Neb.**

**Dr. Don Pahl, Senior Pastor**

EBC has been pleased to launch “The Table,” a customized website for our church community. It is an online directory that features our ministry groups; ways to pray, serve, and connect with others; and resources such as Pastor Don’s blog and links to listen to the sermons. The Table has been a great resource for communicating and helping people put names and faces together.

In April, our Outreach Pastor **Greg Koehn**, along with a member of our board of elders, **Reg Ewert**, were invited to Trinidad. The purpose of the trip was for Pastor Greg to do some teaching with a view toward training the pastors and others of a group of 22 churches in that country. Reg went along to observe and to help report back on the results of this trip and possible future ministry.

In May, we sent a team of adults and youth to Guatemala for a week of ministry. In June, we sent a team of adults and

*continued on page 12*

# FOCUS ON OUR CHURCHES

*continued from page 11*

youth to Camp Forest Springs in Wisconsin to build new bunk beds. Our congregation provided funds for materials.

Three people were baptized recently.

*Sherrie Lindsey, Correspondent*

## FAITH EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH

**Henderson, Neb.**

**Michael Fink, Pastor**

**Michael Folkerts** has been one of our missionaries with Cru on the Lincoln/Kearney campuses. He will lead a ministry team to South Asia this summer and then will transfer to the Jesus Film project with Cru.

Grace Mission presented one of their newest missionary couples, **Carlos and Sara Vasquez**, to our church and held a commissioning service for them on June 3. Carlos recently graduated from Rio Grande Bible Institute, and Sara is a medical doctor. Their desire is to share the Gospel with their own people in Mexico.

The "Courageous Movie Night" was a special event at our church that provided an opportunity for outreach, fellowship and challenge. The evening included pizza, pop and popcorn.

*Alice Decker, Correspondent*

## GRACE EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH

**Abbotsford, B.C.**

**Dr. Warren Schatz, Pastor**

The Africa Team has been raising funds for a visit to FEBC missionary **Clara Klassen**, July 16-Aug. 1. Clara is area director for SIM in Bénin/Togo.

Opportunities for fellowship included the annual church barbecue at Matsqui Prairie Park and the annual men's night at Silvermere Lake.

*Grace Toews, Correspondent*

## JANSEN BIBLE CHURCH

**Jansen, Neb.**

**Paul Carpenter, Pastor**

The youth group and sponsors again manned the food concession at the Washington, Kan., rodeo in June. They witness not only through their joyful, tireless service and late night clean-up of the facility, but also the shirts they wear. Even disposable table service is designed to provoke interest to login to the Jansen Bible Church website for vital Gospel truth.

**Gracia Burnham's** widely announced service on April 27 was attended by guests from near and far. Her testimony for Christ and her story of her kidnapping is consistent before churches and in public lecture halls. A carry-in dinner allowed more interaction with guests.

Our Awana Sparks and T&T Girls both walked away with top honors at Awana Games in Aurora, Neb. The joy and enthusiasm of the crowd was commented on by some of the visiting parents at our closing program a few weeks later. We had 68 clubbers, of whom 46 completed their books.

*Tena Dick, Correspondent*

## MARTENSVILLE MISSION CHURCH

**Martensville, Sask.**

**Wilf Gaertner, Pastor**

Our Pastoral Search Committee is busy reading applications as we search for a new senior pastor. **Pastor Wilf** will retire at the end of September.

We shared a Prayer of Commissioning for **Alisha Epp**, who is spending two months in China this summer.



*Twelve baptisms and the welcoming of 18 new members made for a wonderful Mother's Day.*

*Joanne Born, Correspondent*

## NORTHEAST BIBLE CHURCH

**Calgary, Alta.**

**John Fehr, Pastor**

Early this spring a young mother, **Darla Osas**, felt the Lord leading her to start a youth group at our church, and she approached **Pastor John** about it. Not long afterward another mom, **Val Langlois**, felt a similar prompting. God's leading was confirmed, and now we have a youth group meeting every second Thursday evening. The first event was a roller skating party held to celebrate one of the teen's birthday.



*We celebrated a baptism and welcomed a new member in May.*

*Julie Ann Simpson, Correspondent*

# FOCUS ON OUR CHURCHES

## **RICHER FELLOWSHIP CHURCH**

**Richer, Man.**

**Simon Cheung, Pastor**

Proverbs 29:18 says, "Where there is no vision, the people perish ...." The twofold vision statement of our church is "Connecting with God and others; sharing the Gospel with children of all ages in Richer and surrounding areas." As a church plant of 25-30 people, the challenge in bringing this vision to pass is the location of our church and trying to suit the lifestyle pattern that forms as the result of living in this small and transient town.

Richer's main thoroughfare in part is a school, corner store, gas station, Roman Catholic church-turned-museum, and houses all clustered along one or two roads. The Trans-Canada Highway also makes Richer a one-stop town for tourists.

Most young families in this small community have adopted the attitudes and lifestyles that are characteristic of Richer, having a spirit of indifference when it comes to the things of God and Sunday morning worship.

Let's address our first challenge: location. With God's gracious provision, Richer Fellowship has have received two highway signs, one on the TransCanada Highway and the other in front of our church. We hope this will make our church more visible.

How do we meet our second challenge? This August we will again run a Daily Vacation Bible School on the miracles of Christ, but we will call it "Richer Summer Thrills" to get the kids excited about the Gospel. We also plan to launch a Sunday school program in September. Based on our knowledge of the attitudes of the people toward attending worship, we're going to offer to pick up their children for church.

Please pray for us, as we want our vision to be that of Christ's: a willingness to love, serve and accept everyone where they're at. And the sign on the highway says: "Welcome to Richer Fellowship. Come as you are."

*Michelle Driedger, Correspondent*

## **SARON MENNONITE CHURCH**

**Oriente, Okla.**

**Arnold Curby, Pastor**

Missionaries **Paul and Eunice Unruh** (Mexico) and **John and Alice Barcus** visited us in June.

We enjoyed "Children's Day" with a picnic at Gloss Mountain State Park in June. Our Vacation Bible School was also held in June.

*Melba Nickel, Correspondent*

## **STUARTBURN GOSPEL CHAPEL**

**Stuartburn, Man.**

**Mark Funk, Pastor**

Our church has taken steps to increase our connection to each other in Christ by establishing small groups who meet

during the week for Bible study, prayer and fellowship. We currently have six such groups active. As we are strengthened and encouraged within the body, we are also preparing to be present and relevant in our communities.

We took advantage of the Canada Day celebrations July 1 in Vita as an outreach. We built two floats for the parade, using one to promote our Awana program, as it is manned by our club children in their Awana shirts and decorated with flags and banners. A second float had the theme "Jesus - it's all about Him. Yesterday, Today and Forever." The design included a cross and a Bible with three groups of people representing the relevance of the Word in every age and situation. Those who man the floats will have "loaves and fishes" candies to pass out. Finally, we had a table on the fairgrounds with Christian books, tracts, and other materials available. Since July 1 fell on a Sunday this year, our service also took place on the fairgrounds as we met together with the Vita Bible Church.

*Sue Hoy, Correspondent*

## **VITA BIBLE CHURCH**

**Vita, Man.**

**Jurgen Penner, Pastor**

**Dave Wright** of New Tribes Ministries shared his experiences in Papua New Guinea, where he ministers to the Mergen people. He inspired our church to reach out to the many people with no Scripture or biblical literature in their native language. Dave challenged us that if we would experience these lost lives come to Christ, the church would be empty because of our desire to see these changes.

We were busy raising funds in May and June for one of our newest members who has suffered from terrible back pains that have kept him from work. At this writing in May, our goal was to raise \$41,000 to help pay for back surgery. Efforts included a scrap metal drive and a chicken barbeque supper with silent auction. Also, all our tithes and offerings for a month went toward the surgery that is scheduled to take place in July.

**Pastor Jurgen and Kim Penner** spoke at the Women's Ministry ethnic foods night in April. Using both personal examples and Scripture, they shared the message that we were to taste and see that the Lord is good.

*Tiffany Tuurenhout, Correspondent*

*continued on page 14*

The Fellowship Focus  
is available to read online. Check it out!  
<http://www.febcministries.org>  
click on the Fellowship Focus tab

## Years of Investing in Trinidad Churches Provides Unique Opportunity

*In April, Greg Koehn, outreach pastor at Evangelical Bible Church in Omaha, and Reg Ewert, one of EBC's elders, traveled to Trinidad to train the pastors and others of a group of 22 churches in that country. Thanks to the work and ministry of EBC's youth pastor Gary Krehbiel, who has organized summer mission trips to Trinidad for a number of years for youth, EBC has a close working relationship with the churches in that country.*

**By Greg Koehn, Outreach Pastor, Evangelical Bible Church, Omaha, Neb.**



There are now those in Trinidad who are going around asking the all-important question: "Has anyone ever taken a Bible and shown you how you can know for sure that you are going to heaven?" And they are now able to give an answer as to the hope within them.

The teaching on evangelism and apologetics was well received in Trinidad, and we have invitations to return to do more teaching and training. There is also a vision for a Bible college which we can assist in setting up and in teaching week-long intensives. There is also a mission's ministry to Guyana and to Suriname through Cross Connectors, an organization formed by our host pastor on this last trip.

What this means is that we have the opportunity to minister in a country where we have an established relationship and train the Lord's people to serve in this country and in two other countries as well. This will enable us as a church in Omaha to impact the churches of Trinidad, Guyana and Suriname.

In terms of global evangelism, the question is how can one church reach the nations for Christ? It is like the ques-

tion of how does one eat an elephant? The answer is one bite at a time. A single person does not eat an elephant; the whole village does. One church does not reach all people groups, but all the churches could reach all the people groups one at a time. With this focus, it is easier for us to reach a people group or two and be intimately involved in reaching the people group beyond praying and paying. This will give us a solid foundation for future ministry with other people groups as the Lord lays them on our heart.

This is in keeping with the teaching that the Church is a God-ordained institution, "And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be the head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all" Ephesians 1:22-23 (NIV). It is to the members of the Church that our Lord has given gifts "for the equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" Ephesians 4:12-13 (NKJV). ■

## BIRTHS AND ADOPTIONS

### **Christian Fellowship Chapel**                      **Winnipeg, Man.**

- Faye Elizabeth to Philip and Triscilla Harwood, May 30; grandparents are Pastor John and Rae Harwood

### **Countryside Bible Church**                      **Meade, Kan.**

- Logan Paige to Matt and Trish Jaeger, April 11

### **Evangelical Bible Church**                      **Omaha, Neb.**

- Logan Jane to Mack and Angela Taulborg, April 10

### **Evangelical Bible Church**                      **Dallas, Ore.**

- Chase Benjamin to Denise and Ben Miles, May 15; grandparents are Darrel and Dee Anne Hiebenthal
- Lainey Anne to Darla and Chris Salchenberg, May 21; grandparents are Darrel and Dee Anne Hiebenthal

### **Evangelical Bible Church**                      **Langham, Sask.**

- Nicholas Isaiah to Jason and Samantha Nemanishen, April 26

## WEDDINGS

### **Countryside Bible Church**                      **Meade, Kan.**

Tasha Cook, daughter of Scott and Shelly Cook, to Casey Cooley, Feb. 3

### **Evangelical Bible Church**                      **Langham, Sask.**

Danielle Wiebe to Gordon Neufeld, son of Velora Neufeld, May 5

### **Stuartburn Gospel Chapel**                      **Stuartburn, Man.**

Jenny Hiebert to Dallas Gerbrandt, son of Dale and Deb Gerbrandt, May 12

## DEATHS

### **Evangelical Bible Church**                      **Omaha, Neb.**

Ina Leonard (101), May 25

### **Evangelical Bible Church**                      **Dallas, Ore.**

Lydia Martens (93), May 14

### **Evangelical Mennonite Brethren Church**                      **Lustre, Mont.**

Otto Kiewer (99), March 29

### **Saron Mennonite Church**                      **Orienta, Okla.**

Martin Dwayne Graham (71), May 23

### *Seeking a shepherd:*

## Martensville Mission Church Pastoral Search

### **Our community and church:**

The Martensville Mission Church is located in the second fastest-growing community in Canada (about 7,500 people). Located off Highway 12 and 10 minutes north of Saskatoon, the community has many new businesses developing and is seeing an increase of growing young families.

We are associated with the Fellowship of Evangelical Bible Churches. We have a church attendance of 80-100 and are seeing a steady annual growth. Seeing the mission field grow around us makes for exciting times.

We have a few established ministries, including 3D adult Bible study groups, a young adults program in progress, a growing youth ministry (with more than 55 youth) and a new Awana children's ministry program.

### **Profile of the pastor we are looking for:**

- married, with at least five years of senior pastor experience and a heart for revival and for people in the community
- the ability as a pastoral couple to demonstrate love and acceptance of all people with varying spiritual needs
- a good communicator, able to teach and preach God's word accurately
- a passion for excellence in worship that will blend traditional and contemporary approaches to worship
- ability to give spiritual insight to youth and children's ministries would be a great, additional asset

NO ENDORSEMENT

# Catch the Vision

## Moving Beyond the Limitations of Lifestyle Evangelism

By Greg Koehn, Pastor of Outreach at EBC Omaha

There is a lot being said about “lifestyle” or “relationship” evangelism. The idea is that developing relationships with people provides the opportunity for presenting the Gospel. The problem is not with the concept, but with adopting a passive attitude when it comes to proclamation of the Gospel.

Seeing a righteous life, or having a Christian friend is not enough for a non-Christian to be saved. Therefore, there is a need to learn how to develop relationships, then seek and create opportunities for proclaiming the Gospel. Larry Moyer, in his training manual *Non-threatening Evangelism Training System*, gives helpful hints on how this can be done, including what I call the “4 Be’s” of cultivating a relationship:

- ▣ **Be accepting**
- ▣ **Be a good listener**
- ▣ **Be complimentary**
- ▣ **Be transparent**

Once we have a developing relationship with a non-Christian, keep in mind these basic principles:

**Start sharing truth early.** Start inserting truth statements into your conversation early in the relationship so that it will come as no surprise when you come out with the greatest truth of all.

**Be patient and prayerful.** More people are offended and driven away because Christians got into too big a hurry and did not allow for the Holy Spirit to work with the truths already given.

**Always be prepared to share the Gospel.** When the opportunity presents itself present the Gospel. This is not the time to shy away and later wonder why you did not go ahead and give them the Good News.

Once a friendship/relationship has been established, we should move into more significant conversations about Jesus and the Gospel. Move from general things to specific things.

Move from the secular to the spiritual. We may have already dropped some hints about spiritual things by inserting truth statements in our previous conversations; now deliberately move the conversation to spiritual things.

By asking simple, inoffensive questions, we can be on the offense without being offensive. The person asking the questions controls the direction of the conversation. Therefore, to engage in a conversation about spiritual things, ask questions. We may begin with such things as “How are you?” or “Where do you work?” or “Tell me about your family?” to something like “Have you been giving thought to spiritual things lately?”

When a person asks us a question with just a hint of spiritual things, we can ask, “Do you ask that because you are interested in spiritual things?” For example, a man once asked me about the difference between Catholics and Protestants. I answered by asking, “Do you ask that because you are interested in spiritual things?” and he answered, “Yes,” which directed the conversation from religions to the Gospel.

William Fay in his book, *Share Jesus Without Fear*, lists the following five questions:

1. *Do you have any kind of spiritual belief?*
2. *To you, who is Jesus?*
3. *Do you think there is a heaven or a hell?*
4. *If you died tonight, where would you go? If heaven, why?*
5. *By the way, if what you were believing is not true, would you want to know?*

These kinds of questions lead us to a Gospel presentation. I often use this lead question, “Has anyone ever taken a Bible and shown you how you can know for sure you are going to heaven? May I?” It is at this point one is able to move into the “Good News – bad news” presentation which is a quick, simple, clear, and accurate presentation of what God wants people to know and then believe. ■

*Seeing a righteous life or having a Christian friend is not enough for a non-Christian to be saved.*