

A PUBLICATION OF THE FELLOWSHIP OF EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCHES



# Fellowship Focus

Volume 54 • No. 6 • November/December 2014



*Jesus*

*the reason  
for  
the season*



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## President's Challenge

*Blaine Donaldson, President, Fellowship of Evangelical Bible Churches*

### The New Face of Mayberry

Many of our churches are rural or small-town churches. Some of them are reminiscent of Mayberry from the Andy Griffith Show. Some time ago, I was amazed to hear that more than 20 percent of the population of Mountain Lake, Minn., are Asian or Hispanic. More than 50 percent of the children in their schools are non-white. Many of our traditionally Mennonite communities are changing in similar ways. There are those in our communities who have significant resentment towards these changes. Sometimes that even bleeds over into our churches. However, I think that we should see these changes as great opportunities to share the Gospel personally with people from cultures around the world. Despite whatever challenges the immigrant population creates (imagined or real), the opportunities far outweigh the liabilities.

There is one place that the Caucasian population percentage has not changed much — in our churches. I say this to our shame. That applies to our city churches as well as our small-town/rural churches. One happy exception to this is Northeast Bible Church in Calgary, Alberta. Pastor John Fehr has done an excellent job of leading the people of his church to reach out to the immigrant community surrounding them. It is such a joy seeing people from nearly a dozen nations coming together to praise and worship their common Creator.

The FEBC has always had a heart for foreign missions. Can we develop that same heart to reach the nations who are now our neighbors?

God went to extraordinary lengths in the Old Testament to show that He had a heart for foreigners. While all the other nations gave foreigners a very low status, God gave Israel numerous laws to protect the foreigner.

The wonder of the Gospel in the New Testament was put on display best when it was shown to tear down societal walls. The great mystery of the Gospel was that Jews and Gentiles could be one in Christ. We also read, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28 ESV). The Gospel tears down divisions, and we should seek to have that on display in our churches.

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*The FEBC has always had a heart for foreign missions. Can we develop that same heart to reach the nations who are now our neighbors?*

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We have some great advantages right now in sharing the Gospel with the nations next door. Immigrants are living in a country foreign to them. They feel the apprehensive

looks that they sometimes receive when they walk down the streets. They often do not feel welcome in our communities. God calls and gifts His children to be hospitable. We should go out of our way to welcome to our immigrant neighbors. Showing interest in them, caring about them and helping them are fantastic ways to show them that Jesus is interested in them, that He cares for them and that He can help them.

Immigrants often are the easiest people with whom to share Jesus. They are often eager to learn of the culture in which they are living. As a result, they are willing to attentively learn about what North Americans believe.

For a list of some of the ways that we can reach out to immigrants, please read the article on the back page.

May we as Christians be set apart in the way that we welcome the stranger and the sojourner. ■

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#### President's Traveling itinerary:

- Oct. 24-26: Elder Leadership Seminar at Grunthal, Man.
  - Oct. 27-31: Transitional Leadership Ministry (training for intentional interim pastorates)
  - Nov. 1-3: Assorted ministry in Butterfield, Minn., including installation service for Pastor Tim Hall
  - Nov. 8-9: Preaching and Seminars Grace EBC, Abbotsford, B.C.
  - Nov. 26-28: EFC Toronto, Ont.
- 



The Fellowship exists to provide a framework which enables member churches to stimulate and encourage each other to be more effective in building the Church of Jesus Christ through interaction, joint service projects, mutual assistance, accountability and fellowship.

# Comment

By Sharon Berg, Editor



In what seems like another lifetime, I used to work as a reporter for community newspapers and later in public relations. That chapter ended (except for a little freelancing) when I very happily became an "at-home" mom. When our daughter started attending school I enjoyed a wide spectrum of volunteer work, but especially liked staying connected to writing and editing by helping with publicity at the small Christian schools she attended.

Twelve years ago my pastor, Chuck Tschetter of Community Bible Church of Omaha, shared that the FEBC was looking for a part-time editor for *Fellowship Focus* after Administrator Bob Frey retired. When I learned that writing and editing articles for the publication could be accomplished from home, I decided to apply.

*Fast forward:* Our daughter left for college. Editing, as satisfying as the process can be, is usually a very quiet job, and I joked with my husband, Paul, that he might come home one day to find me chatting with the computer. Paul correctly discerned that I felt at loose ends. One morning he prayed for God to give me a greater sense of direction in this new chapter of life. That very day I was encouraged by an acquaintance to apply for another part-time position — assisting teachers who help students with special needs and learning disabilities.

All of that started six years ago. I've discovered how much I enjoy helping children, building relationships with them and being reminded daily of how important it is to invest in their lives. I want to focus solely on that and, as God directs, be available to pursue new opportunities to assist them.

With that in mind — *Fellowship Focus* will soon need a new editor! I'll step down from the position after our January/February issue. I'm grateful to have had the opportunity the past 12 years to learn more about the FEBC and hopefully share on these pages a sense of the life of the Fellowship and its churches. More on that in the next — my last — issue.

Blessings,

*Sharon*

*Things remembered at 3 a.m.: My apologies for failing to acknowledge our convention photographers in our post-convention issue. Applause and appreciation goes to Dale Epp, Shaina Friesen, Kathy Knelsen and Peter Mireau. Writing about convention events is one thing, but its the photographers who bring them to life on our pages. These four did a fantastic job of that, and I thank them all.*

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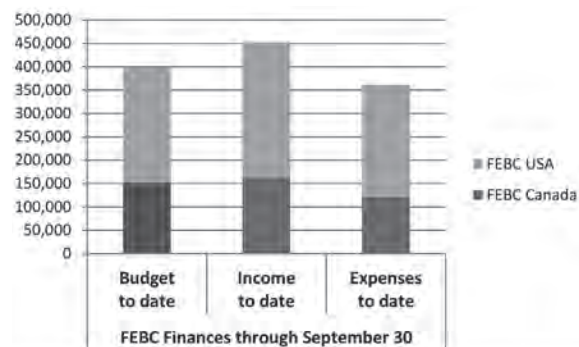
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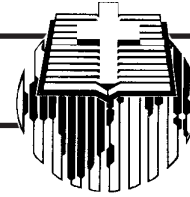
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The *Fellowship Focus* is available to read online. Check it out!

<http://www.fellowshipforward.org>





## A Few Good Men and Women

Many positions on the U.S. Board of Directors and the various international commissions are still open. People who are interested in serving our Fellowship should contact their local church board. People nominated by their local church can be appointed by the board of directors until the next election. For more information, contact Mr. Don Krehbiel at [don.febc@cox.net](mailto:don.febc@cox.net).

## Welcome

Evangelical Bible Church (EBC) of Omaha welcomed a new youth pastor in September. **Josh Klein** joined the staff as youth pastor. Josh and his wife, Sharalee, were recruited from another Omaha church where Josh had been the associate pastor, also working with youth.

Former **Youth Pastor Gary Krehbiel** is now Northwest Campus Pastor for the multi-site church EBC is developing. Gary, who grew up in EBC, has served 16 years as youth pastor.

## With the Lord



**Martha Classen Baerg** was one of the first missionaries sent out by the Meade Evangelical Mennonite Brethren Church (now Countryside Bible Church). WWII had just ended, and doors for the Gospel had opened in Japan. Martha graduated from Grace Bible Institute (now Grace University) in 1951, and by the end of the year she was traveling to Japan under Far Eastern Gospel Crusade (now SEND International). After a brief language training, Martha began planting churches. During her 45-year ministry, Martha began seven churches! Interestingly, Martha was formally “ordained into the ministry of the Gospel as a missionary” before going to Japan. She went to be with her Lord on Sept. 10.



**Freda Rempel Daku** began her missionary work 60 years ago in Taiwan. Her first years were devoted to church planting. Then in 1961 she was assigned to the Door of Hope Children's Refuge where she ministered to orphaned or unwanted girls for a decade. After helping a few years in the field office, Freda again joined a church planting team and influenced many young people and adults through Bible studies and mentoring. She retired in 1995 after 40 years of ministry under TEAM. On Oct. 12 she went to be with the Lord. Freda was one of the many missionaries produced by Christian Fellowship Church of Rhineland.

## Ebola

The Commission on Missions has made a grant of \$1,000 to assist SIM International with their ministry to Ebola patients in West Africa. This money was available from a bequest received this summer. For more information about SIM's fight against Ebola, go to <http://www.simusa.org/>.

## Personnel Changes

The Fellowship continues to seek a replacement part-time administrator and a part-time publishing specialist. For job descriptions and applications for either of those positions, e-mail to [info@febcministries.org](mailto:info@febcministries.org).

## Name Change for EBC Omaha

Evangelical Bible Church has voted to change its name to Crosspoint Bible Church. This decision is part of a strategy to develop a second campus in northwest Omaha. As Pastor Don Pahl explained, “We point people to the cross of Jesus, to a life-changing encounter that transforms the individual and society.”

## Churches Seeking Pastors

Please ask God to provide pastors for churches without a shepherd. If you know of someone who might be a good fit for these rural/small town churches, please pass this information on to them.

- Community Bible Church of Wolf Point, Mont., is seeking a pastor. For additional information, contact: Mr. Richard Desch at [desch5@yahoo.com](mailto:desch5@yahoo.com) or phone (406) 653-2974 or (406) 471-3030 (cell). Résumés may also be mailed to 330 Dawson St., Wolf Point, MT 59201.
- Fairview Bible Church of Swift Current, Sask., is seeking a part-time senior pastor. Most attendees are mature believers who appreciate traditional music and Bible preaching. Direct enquiries to [fairviewbiblechurch@hotmail.ca](mailto:fairviewbiblechurch@hotmail.ca).
- Hodgson Bible Church of Hodgson, Man., is searching for a pastor who can bring God's Word to a small town, rural setting. For more information, contact Ted Hartog at [tchartog@lakenet.ca](mailto:tchartog@lakenet.ca) (phone 204-372-6990) or contact John Plett at [john50@mymts.net](mailto:john50@mymts.net) (phone 204-372-6700).
- Vita Bible Church of Vita, Man., is seeking a full-time pastor; someone who has spiritual and character maturity with pastoral experience and is able to connect with rural people in a small farming community. Contact Jake Funk, chairman of Vita Bible Church at (204) 427-2875 or send résumé to Vita Bible Church, PO Box 306, Vita, MB R0A 2K0. ■



# Proclaiming Christ around the World

**By Marilyn Lester**  
**Commission on Missions**

At the 2014 FEBC convention the Commission on Missions (CoM) presented nine candidates to be recognized as FEBC missionaries. While world missions need people of all ages, abilities and experience, a person must demonstrate certain criteria in order to be accepted as a Fellowship missionary. First, and most importantly, the missionary candidate must be born again and have a burden to lead other people to a relationship with Christ. Second, the missionary should demonstrate a servant spirit by working in ministries in the local church. Third, a candidate should become well informed of the doctrinal position and policies of prospective mission agencies, possibly under the direction of the local pastor or missions committee.

After going through the application process and taking part in an interview with the Commission on Missions, the missionary candidate is approved by the CoM and is presented to the FEBC body. Each local church is encouraged to welcome FEBC missionaries to present their ministries and their need for prayer and financial support. Although not every church will budget support, God often moves individuals to support these missionaries.

Some of these new missionaries have been ministering for some time already, while some just starting their missionary career.

**Duane and Sylvia Goertzen** were approved by the CoM this summer but have been ministering at the Roseau River Bible Camp (RRBC) for 12 years. Duane, born

and raised near Kleefeld, Manitoba, where the truth of the Bible was taught to him daily, started working at RRBC throughout his high school years during the summer. He attended Nipawin Bible Institute for one year, after which he married Sylvia, and the two of them continued to work seasonally at the camp until 2002. In 2002 they started with RRBC full time, working in various capacities. For the past year Duane has worked as the executive director of the camp together with Jared Fast and Boyd Kliever in a three-person director team. Jared and Duane visit supporting churches, and Duane also applies for the many grants that are available to camps. All three share the day-to-day administrative tasks. Currently the camp has a building project, Cyprus Lodge, which requires a lot of planning and connecting with people. In 2015 RRBC is celebrating its 25th year, and a huge alumni weekend is planned for the end of May. See <http://www.roseauriver.ca/>.

Duane sums up the tone of the camp, "Variety would be a good way to describe any position here at camp. Some days we wonder how God will provide in a situation. The next day (or month), after picking up the mail or receiving a phone call we see God's provision right in front of us! Give glory and honor to God for His work being done here!"

Duane and Sylvia have five girls and are members of Stuartburn Gospel Chapel.

Another couple that was approved by the CoM this summer was **David and Melissa McVety**, currently with Doing Family Right of North America. David was born in Tokyo, Japan, the son and grandson of missionaries. His father, now a successful businessman living in Seattle, Wash., moved the family around a lot as David was growing up to places that include South Africa, Tokyo, Chicago, Phoenix, Ontario, British Columbia and Florida. Melissa, on the other hand, has lived in British Columbia all of her life, growing up in Vancouver and later moving to Kelowna. They met while they were attending Bible college in Langley, B.C., and got married shortly after David graduated and while Melissa finished her last year of school. David found a job as youth pastor at Grace Evangelical Bible Church in Abbotsford, B.C., which evolved into an associate pastor position over the eight years he was there. From there David

and Melissa went to Niverville, Manitoba, to lead the adult ministries and Life Groups at Word of Life Church. While in Manitoba they had the opportunity to express their passion for marriage and family ministry. In 2012 they returned to British Columbia and joined the ministry Doing Family Right as assistant directors of the Marriage and Family Ministry.

David states that they are passionate about sharing their lives and stories as God works through them to support and encourage others in their marriage and family relationships. Their work with Doing Family Right involves regular speaking at conferences, podcasts, writing articles and developing a mobile app for encouragement and resource for families in their pursuit of relational health and deeper relationships with Jesus. See [www.doingfamilyright.com/](http://www.doingfamilyright.com/).

David and Melissa both have bachelor of arts degrees in Counseling and Caregiving. David also has a master's degree in Leadership. Melissa is pursuing her master's in Marriage and Family Therapy. Together they have four children ranging in age from four to 20.

It is the desire of the Commission on Missions that the churches warmly welcome these missionaries into your churches and into your homes as they seek to minister to you and to present their mission to you. If you would like to contact either of these couples, please contact the FEBC International Office in Omaha.



*David and Melissa McVety*



## FOCUS ON FEBC Church Planting

## Omaha FEBC churches have vision for extended outreach

Two FEBC churches in Omaha are excited about reaching out to extend their ministries to the metro area. **Gary Krehbiel**, former youth pastor at **Evangelical Bible Church** will pastor that church's second campus in the Bennington area just northwest of the city. **Community Bible Church's** extension is **Fellowship Bible Church**. **Steve White**, who is part of the team leading FBC, and **Gary** share updates on these outreaches.

### Evangelical Bible Church

**What is the status of the new ministry?** We are excited about our second campus beginning soon. We anticipate beginning to meet in the spring of 2015. Our desire is to plant the EBC DNA in a new area. We are in conversation with a site for our meetings.

**How many people do you anticipate attending the new campus from EBC?** We will take a group of 50-75 depending on

family sizes. We have identified most of the ministries that we will offer at that site, but one of the benefits of a multi-site campus is that we will be able to offer some ministries at the main campus for those who want more specific ministries like men's or women's ministries as well as youth activities.

**What has been the greatest challenge thus far?** The greatest challenges so far have been determining what those core ministries are and planning how to be most available without having a permanent site yet.

**Please share any prayer requests.** Items for prayer would include the challenge of engaging the community and finding ways of letting people know we are there. Another request is that we would be able to communicate that God has answers and help for life's struggles and for the problem of sin in a way that is received by the community.

### Fellowship Bible Church

**What is the status of the new ministry?** Fellowship Bible has been meeting as a church extension of CBC since February 2014. About 40 people attend. (In addition to its Sunday worship service) we meet monthly at a member's home and also have meals together after church.

**What has been the greatest challenge thus far?** Church planting takes vision, time and energy, and it has been a slow process. But we know that God's plan and timing are perfect. A joy has been the excitement and energy of the Core Team which is leading the church start!

**Please share any prayer requests.** We are seeking a pastor who will give leadership and energy to the church extension. We will then seek a location where God wants us to minister. The plan is to find an existing building in an older part of the city. We praise God for the support of CBC! ■

*Sharon Berg, Correspondent*



## Legacy Giving

## Selecting a Guardian



One of the most important things a family needs to address, regardless of estate size, is the question of who should take responsibility for raising minor children if Mom and Dad die prematurely. Deciding whom to name as guardian for your young children is critical.

We recommend that you select as guardians a couple who share your spiritual values, first of all, and who will raise the children using the same godly principles

that have guided you. It's also important that they be in the same stage of life as you; couples who have already raised their children (including your own parents) may not welcome the challenge of starting afresh to raise the children you leave behind.

Another important consideration has to do with the location of the guardians. We recommend that you choose guardians who live nearby, if possible, so your death does not also mean that the children will be uprooted

from their neighborhood, their church, their school friends, etc., and moved to another city or state. The trauma of losing Mom and Dad could be dramatically magnified if a cross-country relocation is required.

For more information on appointing guardians or preparing a will, go to [www.febclegacy.org](http://www.febclegacy.org). You'll find biblical teaching, examples of what others have done, and an interactive Estate Planner to help you think through the decisions you need to make. ■



## The Omitted Christmas Decoration

By Sharon Skillman

Last Christmas I was challenged with the thought that the most important thing to embellish during the holidays is not our living room garnished with Pinterest-inspired crafts or our trees and house covered with twinkling lights. But it is our *lives* that should be decorated — not with sequined sweaters, but with peace, joy, and calmness. These are rare adornments displayed during the holidays. Too often we are decked with stress, weariness and tears. I am sure that in December I have frequently worn an invisible sign that has said, “Hassled — talk to me in January.” I would like to wear a bright but serene badge that reads, “It’s OK; I can take a moment to hear what is on your mind” or “Yes, I can hear your prayer request and take time in my day to pray for you.”

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*I am sure that in December  
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invisible sign that has said,  
“Hassled — talk to me  
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Recently I pondered the Mary and Martha story in Luke 10 and imagined that the events were happening this December. I could see myself as Martha, hectically preparing for Jesus, my coming guest. Making artistic Christmas cookies would be on my to-do list, (putting a little manger on each would be a bit challenging, but would make such an impression!). My finest arrangement of the Messiah would need to be located and played upon Jesus’ arrival. Next on the list: Research online until I find the loveliest angel to place on top of my perfectly shaped tree. For some time I

would continue to bustle around preparing. (It is *Jesus’* birthday after all, so I had better make this a grand event!)

At the set time, the doorbell rings, but I would ask Mary to open the door and keep Jesus occupied while I light the candles. Then I would give Jesus a quick greeting but explain that I will return soon. First, I had better check the oven temperature, turn up the stove to heat the spiced cider, take off my apron — and the list goes on. Finally, I am ready to see Jesus, but the cell phone sounds, and out of habit I take the time to note who is calling or texting. And oh dear, I need to check Facebook to see what greetings my friends want to relay to Jesus! At last I start to go to Him but first decide to freshen my makeup and hair.

It is a wonder that I hear Jesus calling. But when I do answer His summons, it takes some time to calm my soul and concentrate on my Guest. During my moments with Jesus the distracting thoughts of coming meal plans often draw my attention. Finally, His gentle but firm rebuke brings my focus to Him. I notice His peaceful, relaxed and caring spirit. Jesus’ countenance astounds and draws me, and He is adorned with the most radiant glow! When I glance at Mary she also shines, reflecting the light that comes from being with Jesus. His radiance has embellished her with the loveliest Christmas lights of all. Finally, all other lights in the house diminish as I am gradually stilled and shine with a bright gleam because I have been with Jesus, the Light of the World. The omitted holiday decoration has been placed in and on my life.

*Sharon Skillman ministers with her husband, John, at Evangelical Mennonite Brethren Church in Lustre, Mont.*



### Finding time for it all

How do we find time to commune with Jesus during the holidays? Here are some ideas:

- First, we must plan for it. That may mean cutting unnecessary Christmas projects or accomplishing them ahead of time. Christmas greetings can be changed to a New Year’s, Valentine’s Day or Thanksgiving card and/or letter.
- Refrain from unnecessary baking (this can even help eliminate January diets!). For what needs to be prepared, choose goodies that can be baked ahead and frozen.
- Most Christmas shopping can be done throughout the year or at least before December.
- Scaling down on decorating your home can help as well.

The internet can be a great resource of suggestions to simplify the season. Be sure and invite Jesus to visit every day; give Him the full attention He desires. Then you will give the best gift of all this Christmas: a shining life that lights up others and glorifies God. ■



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## Focus on the Word

# Spiritual Warfare

By Harvey Schultz

*For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms (Ephesians 6:12 NIV).*

Much has been said and written about this divine revelation to us through the Apostle Paul. I observe two extremes in evangelicalism which trouble me: either we don't take this seriously enough, and we neglect prayer, or we use it to justify the introduction of additional practices which Scripture neither teaches nor describes. We allow practice to dictate what this passage means.

For example, I have heard people say we must "map out" the forces of evil at work in a city and then "pray against" them. Others say, after some blatant manifestation of spiritual evil, that *now* we are engaged in spiritual warfare (as if prior to that we weren't).

While it is absolutely true that the manifestation of evil puts us in the realm of spiritual warfare, this passage doesn't limit warfare to such situations. It seems quite clear that we are always engaged in spiritual warfare when we seek to advance the kingdom of God. When we do, our struggle is not against people's **indifference** to the Gospel, their **inability to discern** spiritual truth, those **frustrating obstacles** which hinder us as we seek to share the truth, the **lack of resources** or the **visible difficulties, obstacles and road blocks** we encounter. Our struggle is against spiritual forces of evil in the invisible world whenever we attempt to do something for the advancement of the Gospel, whether we realize it or not, whether we feel it or not, whether it is manifest or not.

There are but two weapons at our disposal to enable us to take the offensive in this cosmic struggle: the Word of God and prayer.

For today, let's focus on prayer and the belief that we must *pray against* evil forces in order to be effective. This passage does not instruct us to do that. It simply calls us to persevering prayer.

Prayer is petition addressed to God. Not once does Paul ask people to pray against evil forces. He instructs them to ask God to give him **the right words** to present the Gospel **with clarity** (v.19 and Colossians 4:4); to give him **boldness** in sharing the Gospel (v.20); to **open a door** for the proclamation of the Gospel (Colossians 4:2); for **protection** from Jewish unbelievers (Romans 15:31); that Jewish believers at Jerusalem would find the Gentile offering **acceptable** (Rom. 15:31); and that he might be **able to visit** the believers at Rome (Romans 15:32). In Romans 15:30 he calls them "to join me in my struggle (literally: "my agonizing") by praying to God for me ..." He doesn't call on them to pray against evil forces but to address their prayers to God, the One who has the power to overcome the evil powers. Prayers are never directed to or against evil powers.

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*It seems quite clear that we are always engaged in spiritual warfare when we seek to advance the kingdom of God.*

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There is only one exception in Scripture. When evil powers have clearly and openly manifested and identified themselves, we are given the power and authority to rebuke them (see Acts 13:10 and 11 and Acts 16:16-18). *But that isn't prayer!* That is taking the authority we have in Christ and using it to confront an enemy who has manifested himself and revealed his identity.

Most of the time we don't see or hear or know who the invisible enemy is. Did Daniel know that he was being opposed by the invisible, spiritual prince of the Persian kingdom when he prayed (Daniel 10:12 – 14 and 10:20)? He only learned of it after the angel revealed it to him at the end of three weeks of prayer and fasting. His prayers, addressed to God, quite likely were the reason why the Persian kingdom enacted laws favorable to the Jewish return to their land. Daniel was not aware of this as he addressed his prayers to God.

To be effective our prayers do not need to be directed against evil forces. We don't need to know which specific evil forces are opposing us unless God reveals it to us. Rather, we should pray according to the knowledge God has given us: **for resources** to do God's work; for **open doors**; for **health and strength**; for **physical protection**; for God to **open the spiritual eyes** of spiritually blinded people; for **boldness** in the proclamation of the Gospel and **whatever other need is obvious**. As we do that, God somehow, in some way not revealed to us, uses our prayers to overcome these invisible, spiritual obstacles.

Even though our opposition seems to come from flesh and blood (human beings), our struggle is against invisible spiritual enemies. Only God can defeat them. Somehow, in some way not revealed to us, He uses our prayers to defeat them. It is the faithful, persevering prayers of faith for those things which are obvious to us that God uses to win battles in the invisible world where the real battle rages.





# FOCUS on our CHURCHES

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## EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH

**Omaha, Neb.**

Dr. Don Pahl, Senior Pastor

We are pleased to announce that we have a new youth pastor, **Josh Klein**, who came on staff Sept. 1 (*see sidebar*). This will free up **Pastor Gary Krehbiel** to be the campus pastor for our multi-site location, which we anticipate being up and running in the spring of 2015. We also have a new Missions and Outreach intern, **Jesse Pauly**, who will actively work with our missions team this school year.

Pastor Don traveled to Africa on a mission trip July 17-Aug. 1. The trip included a visit to a school and medical clinic funded by the Josiah Foundation and located within the slums of Nairobi. Pastor Don also spoke at a conference to Kenyan pastors.

A number of individuals from EBC spent July 26 in Oak, Neb., helping to distribute bottles of water during that town's festival. A former EBC family, **Keith and Judy Brich**, now pastor a church in Oak, and we were happy to send volunteers to help pass out the water and help the church make a connection with people in the community.

We celebrated one baptism and welcomed five new members.

*Sherrie Lindsey, Correspondent*

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## COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

**Omaha, Neb.**

Charles Tschetter, Senior Pastor

CBC's church extension, **Fellowship Bible Church**, recently interviewed pastoral candidates. FBC is currently meeting in the gymnasium of CBC. (See "Focus On Our Church Plants," page 6)

We enjoyed our first ever Creative Arts Exhibition in October to celebrate the various gifts God has given every believer. Participants prepared a display to share their creations.

CBC is again partnering with Child Evangelism Fellowship this year in hosting weekly Good News Bible Clubs at two elementary schools.

Our pastoral team traveled to Dallas, Texas, to attend the "D6Conference" in September, which focused on Deuteronomy 6 as God's original blueprint for discipleship. Through conference sessions and conversations with fellow pastors and church leaders, the focus was on how to connect the church and the home in the discipleship of our children and youth.

**Dr. Stanley Toussaint** taught on the life of Joseph from the book of Genesis at our Fall Bible Conference in September. Dr. Toussaint has taught at Dallas Theological Seminary since 1960 and pastored for more than 20 years.

*Sharon Berg, Correspondent*

## Josh Klein named Youth Pastor at EBC-Omaha

Josh Klein began serving as youth pastor at Omaha's Evangelical Bible Church beginning Sept. 1. Former youth pastor Gary Krehbiel is gearing up to pastor EBC's extended campus at its new location in 2015. Josh and his wife, Sharalee, have a three-year-old son, Jordan.



### *How long have you and your family been at EBC?*

We came to EBC in September. We felt that God called us to ministry here. I am very excited to be at EBC and feel that God has called our family here for a purpose. We are already loving the hospitality and care that has been shown to us by church members, and we are excited to get to know you throughout the years!

### *Describe the ministries that you will be involved with at EBC.*

I will be leading the high school and middle school youth group meetings on a weekly basis, and I will be involved in worship leadership on Sunday mornings as well, especially when the new campus is up and running.

### *What do you do for fun/hobbies?*

I like to read, write (I've published a novel) and I enjoy playing and watching a multitude of sports, mainly football and basketball, but others as well. I enjoy music, both singing and playing the guitar and drums, as well as writing songs. Family time with my wife and son are very high priorities for me.

*Sherrie Lindsey, EBC Correspondent*

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## COUNTRYSIDE BIBLE CHURCH

**Meade, Kan.**

Chuck Finster, Pastor

One of the producers and actors of the movie "God's Not Dead" is **David A.R. White**, who graduated from Meade and was a member of Teens Living for Christ. We showed the movie in August. David was also the speaker at a pastor appreciation event that our pastor attended in Dodge City, Kan., in October.

Our women's fall Bible studies are "The Heart of the Woman Who Prays" and "A Woman After God's Own Heart," both by Elizabeth George. The men will have a 13-week study on the books "God's Good News: the Gospel" and "Reaching the Lost: Evangelism."

**Kenneth Harshberger** brought the message "Being a Son of Encouragement" on Sept. 14, while Pastor Finster attended a preaching seminar in Alabama.

We celebrated the baptisms of four youth and welcomed one new member.

*Mary Friesen, Correspondent*

*Focus on our Churches continued on Page 10*

# FOCUS on CHURCHES

Continued from Page 9

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## GRACE EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH

**Abbotsford, B.C.**

Ryan Peixoto, Pastor

We kicked off the year with a breakfast and service in the gym in September. All of our ministries participated by setting up a table display and encouraging others to get involved. We had the pleasure of seeing the new couches that arrived for our newly renovated youth room. The room is almost complete and ready to be used by our youth as well as other ministries in the church. You can feel the excitement as everyone is eager to see this project completed.



We started a four-week class in September called "Catching Fire": "Uncertain about your commitment to Christ? Considering baptism? Are you a new believer? Do you need some reminders as to what it means to follow Jesus with passion?" We had a great turnout, and hope to have more short-term classes on different topics in the future. Also in September, Pastor Ryan started a new message series on Judges. Men's Ministry hosted a Saturday morning men's breakfast with speaker **Milton Torio**, who serves with of Capstone Ministries and is a member of Grace Church.

We welcomed a couple into membership here in September, and celebrated the baptism of one of our youth.

*Diana Dyck, Correspondent*

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## CORNERSTONE BIBLE CHURCH

**Steinbach, Man.**

Jared Hiebert, Pastor

We were excited to welcome back Pastor Jared and his family in September after being on sabbatical since May.

We enjoyed celebrating the ordination of our **Associate Pastor Doug Reimer** on Oct 19.

Our Fall Kick-off was once again celebrated with our annual Hog Roast. We enjoyed a great time of eating good food and visiting with friends on a beautiful day.

*Marsella Wiebe, Correspondent*

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## CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHAPEL

**Winnipeg, Man.**

John Harwood, Pastor

We were pleased to welcome **Dr. Michael Wodlinger** of Chosen Peoples Ministries here in Winnipeg in September. A Messianic Jew, Dr. Wodlinger spoke of the feasts that would be celebrated by the Jewish people in the coming weeks. He was able to share how Jesus Christ had fulfilled all of the prophetic teachings and how much richer the celebration is for the ones who believe.

Our College and Career group held two very large parking lot sales this summer, with the proceeds going to our local missionaries, **Chris and Laurel Harwood** (Chris works full-time for Youth For Christ). They are also planning a fund-raising coffee house in October to benefit the Harwoods. This group's desire to tangibly bless Chris and Laurel has in turn blessed our whole congregation!

The first Sunday in September after the Labor Day long weekend, we heard personal stories from our congregation. That Sunday's sermon was entitled, "What I Did On My Summer Vacation." We listened as many shared their stories of encountering God in the different places they visited during the summer or just during the quiet of a beautiful summer day.

*Nancy Kunkel, Correspondent*

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## DALMENY BIBLE CHURCH

**Dalmeny, Sask.**

Dennis Friesen, Pastor

September 7 was a special day for our church, as Youth Pastor **Dave Cornelius** was ordained. We thank the Lord for his ministry among the youth of Dalmeny.

*Missions Focus:* **Tyson Kehler** was commissioned and left for Youth With A Mission (YWAM) in Montana to help staff the office; **Sheri Kroeker** shared her experiences with Freedom Climb; **Nicole Thiessen** was commissioned and left for Discipleship Training in Florida with YWAM; **Joanne Redekop** updated us on her plans to leave for Africa in 2015; and representatives from The Bridge (a homeless shelter) shared before a soup lunch fund raiser, with funds going towards their ministry.

August was a busy month preparing for Vacation Bible School with the Dalmeny Community Church. More than 120 children enjoyed four evenings of singing, crafts, Bible lessons, snacks and games. On the fifth night, parents were invited to a closing program with ice cream sundaes to follow.

We welcomed three new members into our church in August.

*Marilyn Harder, Correspondent*

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## EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH

**Dallas, Ore.**

Jerry Franz, Senior Pastor

Fall is in the air, and our many outreach programs are in full swing! We praise God for all the wonderful ways He blesses us and these ministries.

EBC, along with local community resources, held a "Back to School" drive for backpacks and school supplies. We collected all sorts of supplies as well as made a financial donation to help purchase backpacks for the Dallas area children in need.

Awana is off to a roaring start! We have 159 clubbers registered from 89 different families, and 21 percent of them are unchurched. What an incredible outreach in our community. MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) is a great way to minister God's love to mothers, and has several new moms attending who are not affiliated with a church.

The Missions Committee has helped a group of three young people and one adult organize a short-term mission trip to Ecuador in December. At this writing they are busy raising support by hosting fund raisers, including a movie night and a music night, when many musically talented young people are encouraged to perform during an evening service in October.

Vacation Bible School was very successful this year. At one time 89 children attended, with 24 of them unchurched.

Attendance at Women's Ministry Bible study groups has been better than ever. Several women are bringing their neighbors and friends. We offer a Precepts class that is studying the Gospel of Luke, another class that is reviewing the New Testament, and a Beth Moore study on Thessalonians.

Everyone enjoyed another successful church family picnic in August. After the picnic we met back at the church for an evening of Bluegrass Gospel Music by the Bethel Mountain Band. This was a great way to encourage our neighbors and invite them to a wonderful evening concert.

Our church continues to grow. We celebrated four baptisms and welcomed three new members.

*Vicki Kibby, Correspondent*

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## NORTHEAST BIBLE CHURCH

**Calgary, Alta.**

John Fehr, Pastor

Some time ago I asked for prayer for the extended family of one of our church members. This family lives in Liberia in the heart of where the Ebola virus is causing so much fear and death. We want to give thanks that, to date, no family member has been infected. God has been merciful. Please continue to uphold this family, and all of West Africa, in prayer for God's mercy, wisdom and healing touch.

*Julie Ann Simpson, Correspondent*



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## JANSEN BIBLE CHURCH

**Jansen, Neb.**

Paul Carpenter, Pastor

Our fall missionary conference featured the work of SAT-7, with **Dennis Wiens** as speaker.

Five of our church leaders gave prepared testimonies of their conversion and discipleship experiences at our September Sunday school picnic. They encouraged continued faithful teaching of the Word and loving church body outreach. We also burned the mortgage of our newly paid-off fellowship hall, and celebrated the 135th anniversary of the church's founding.



### 135TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Awana is off to a good start, thanks to the services of many dedicated workers and eager clubbers inviting their friends.

*Tena Dick, Correspondent*

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## GRUNTHAL EVANGELICAL MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH

**Grunthal, Man.**

September was missions month at the church, and several missionaries shared what God has been doing through them in their various mission organizations: **Bob McLaughlin**, Salvation Today Ministries; **Nathan and Annie Driediger**, Send International; **Josh and Josie Dyck**, New Tribes Mission; and **Ron and Eunice Wiebe**, Child Evangelism Fellowship. Pray for them, as their desires are to follow and serve God faithfully!

Continue to pray for the church and elder board as we look for a new pastor. Pray for God's guidance in the decisions that will need to be made.

*Marilyn D. Thiessen, Correspondent*

*Focus on our Churches continued on Page 12*



# FOCUS on our CHURCHES

Continued from Page 11

## RICHER FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

**Richer, Man.**

Ryan Rear, Pastor

Our new pastor, Ryan Rear, who came to us from Morris Valley Bible Fellowship in Morris, Man., preached his first message here on July 6. We held a commissioning service for him on Sept. 14, and also welcomed his wife, Uma, and their children, Cassandra (19), and Samuel (17). We give thanks to God, Who so wonderfully answered our prayer by bringing us a new pastor in such a short time.



Pastor Ryan brings expertise as a boxing coach with Youth for Christ, and we are excited to announce Richer's first boxing club opened in our former Youth Hut on Oct. 1. His expertise helps illustrate the



Apostle Paul's words to the Corinthian church, "I run with purpose in every step, I am not just shadowboxing" (or beating the air) 1 Corinthians 9:26 NLT. Like Paul, Pastor Ryan also chooses to follow this biblical truth as a parallel to boxing.

Due to drug issues and behavioural problems involving our community youth for the past few years, a mutual decision was made to discontinue the Wednesday night youth meeting. However, Pastor Ryan started a Friday night Bible study/college and career group to provide spiritual nourishment and fellowship for our own church youth.

As Pastor Ryan gets to know the people of Richer, we look forward to serving with him in the work God has called him to do, and we share in the hope of winning souls to Christ.

*Michelle Driedger, Correspondent*

## EVANGELICAL MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH

**Marion, S. D.**

Randy Maass, Pastor

Summer is past and our thoughts change to the fall season — of our youth adjusting to school schedules and college life, of harvesting crops that we have watched grow through the summer months. We pray for the safety of our farmers and that we may be good stewards of what God is giving to us.

We continue to remember Pastor Randy as he travels to the Omaha campus of the Sioux Falls Seminary each Tuesday to teach "Sermon Delivery." He also continues to work on his doctoral studies.

**Ken and Sheila Ortman** of the Lives Under Construction Ranch, a boys' ranch in Missouri, were guest speakers at our Harvest Mission Sunday in November.

The Family Night in our local park, featuring the movie "God's Not Dead," was well received.

Pastor Randy began a study in the book of Colossians this fall. What would Paul say to us believers today? He would encourage us to be praying, faithful believers, spreading God's Word.

Former pastor **Johnny Reimer** recently sent us an update. He was president of his class at Grace Bible Institute (now Grace University) in 1954. While their class is celebrating its 60th reunion this October, Johnny and his wife, Rachel, regret that the distance of travel will not allow them to attend. The Reimers continue to be involved with the **Evangelical Bible Church** of Dallas, Ore.

*Lois Regehr, Correspondent*

## STUARTBURN GOSPEL CHAPEL

**Stuartburn, Man.**

Mark Funk, Pastor

As I begin this article the first snowflakes of the season are falling, but the ground still holds enough warmth so that the crystals landing there will melt away. Some will regard the weather today as a hint of things to come, others as a warning, and still others as a promise. Winter is a certainty but our attitudes toward it vary greatly. In most cases, it all depends on how well we have prepared for what the future holds.

Our congregation wants to be prepared for all God has in mind for us as part of the Body of Christ. Pastor Mark is leading a discussion of our mission and vision for our own church and ministry during the adult Sunday school that takes place before the family worship time. The sessions are well attended, and we hope to have a better and more unified view of who we are as a church family and who we are in the community at large.

We are caring for the future of our youth as well. We include a children's teaching time during the worship service. The Awana program is running on Wednesday evenings with children attending from the community as well as church families. We were blessed by a presentation from **Len Friesen**, our Awana missionary, who spoke about taking the Awana soccer program to Africa. We were delighted and challenged about the opportunities to witness and minister to others through sports events. We are also running a vibrant youth program that includes Bible study, praise, games, and service opportunities.

*Sue Hoy, Correspondent*

## VITA BIBLE CHURCH

**Vita, Man.**

Our children's program, "Fun in the Son," began Oct. for kindergarten to sixth grade, and gives the children an opportunity to learn and have fellowship during the week. It is also a great opportunity for children in the surrounding community to come to church and learn about God's love.

*continued on next page*

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Women's Ministry programs kicked off in September with an informational meeting and games. We enjoyed a movie night on in October as we viewed "God's Not Dead" together with our husbands. We have also planned a visitation at Shady Oaks, a senior citizens home, in November. We look forward to the fellowship, as well as enjoying a special craft time.

We enjoyed **Jake Froese of Christian Fellowship Chapel**, our sister church in Winnipeg, as a guest speaker in September. His sermon was entitled "Jacob, the Man Who was Broken in Order to be Empowered by God." Using Scripture from Genesis 32, Jake shared what God can do for us when we surrender all to him.

*Tiffany Tuurenhout, Correspondent*

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## LANGHAM EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH

**Langham, Sask.**

Greg Guarnett, Senior Pastor

We kicked off our Fall Family Hour (Sunday school) with a delicious pancake and sausage breakfast hosted by the elders and their wives. It is exciting to see home Bible studies and a ladies "Esther" online study start up as well. Youth group for grades 7-12, as well as children's clubs, minister to a large cross section of our community. Pray that God continues to bring willing volunteers to meet the needs of these children and youth!

Our congregational care committee has ministered in many ways to the physical needs of our congregation through meals, encouragement and practical help, especially following a number of funerals.

**Associate Pastor Justin Epp** spoke for two weeks at camp this summer. With joy we celebrated the baptism of one of our teens, Nikita Pascoe. Working at Bible camp this summer had a great impact on her growth in Christ!

*Marilyn Friesen, Correspondent*

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## HEARTLAND BIBLE CHURCH

**Lincoln, Neb.**

Scott Hecht, Pastor

Our annual Missions Weekend entitled "It's a Jungle Out There," was held in September with **Ron Kooyman**, founder of "Chicago Youth Alive," which reaches youth from the crime-ridden streets of the "spiritual jungle" of that great city. He is also involved in a project in the area which seeks to revive old and dying churches such as Cicero Bible Church, where he serves as pastor. Our church became acquainted with him through our retired pastor, **Ray Reimer**, who served at a church in Bondurant, Iowa, where Ron and his family were members during Ron's youth. Ron shared with us throughout the weekend, and we sent him on his way with our blessing and prayers to continue his work in the very dangerous streets of Chicago.

Pastor Scott is conducting a four-week membership class for those new attendees who are considering becoming members of the church.

The women of the church enjoyed a 10-week video Bible study, "10 Keys for Unlocking the Bible," beginning in August. A program for the children was held at the same time, and all enjoyed lunch together afterward.

*Trudy Reimer, Correspondent*

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## FAITH EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH

**Henderson, Neb.**

Michael Fink, Pastor

Our Awana kick-off night featured a carnival atmosphere for the kids. The event included clowns, balloons, face painting, carnival games and fun snacks. Once again, we have the privilege of helping kids memorize God's Word throughout the year, as well as helping them understand and apply the truths they have learned.

October was designated as a month of prayer for America. We joined thousands of churches in a 31-day nationwide journey of prayer using the "Pray 31" prayer guides as we prayed for our nation.

*Alice Decker, Correspondent*



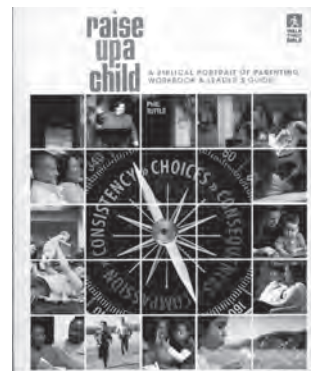
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## Video Library

### Raise Up a Child — A Biblical Portrait of Parenting

By Phil Tuttle  
(Walk Thru the Bible)

*Raise up a Child — A Biblical Portrait of Parenting* is a family event that will take you on an exciting journey of parenting by God's design. During this course, you will learn how to follow God's "GPS" as it helps you navigate through the pitfalls and perils of raising children. Prepare to be guided back to the heart of parenting through four easy-to-remember, easy-to-apply principles relating to choices, consequences, compassion and consistency. This eight-session study is available on loan from [info@febministries.org](mailto:info@febministries.org).



Discover more video studies at <http://www.fellowshipforward.org/video-lending-library.html>.

# A Special Tribute to Pastor James and Juliann Thiessen

HODGSON BIBLE CHURCH  
*Hodgson, Man.*

Our church gathered for a retirement picnic on Sept. 14 for Pastor James and Juliann Thiessen, who have served as the pastoral couple at Hodgson Bible for more than 30 years. While we are so glad they will continue to make Hodgson their home and be members of our Hodgson Bible Church community, their leadership will be greatly missed. They have given so much to our church family — pastoral leadership, Sunday school teaching, Vacation Bible School service, Bible class teaching at the Hutterite colony, piano playing (Juliann), planning programs and events, home visitation, prayer support, and much, much more.

James' giftedness in preaching from the Bible in a clear, down-to-earth manner has been such a challenge and encouragement to many. Juliann's caring heart and acceptance of each of us has been a great support.

**Robert and Natalia Wiens** (and children) who moved to Canada from Paraguay about seven years ago, said the following: *"For the almost seven years we have known them, we especially appreciated the simple, easy and sometimes funny way James and Juliann taught and preached in our church. They are very down to earth people and made us feel right at home very quickly at Hodgson Bible Church. James has a special way of including everyone in helping in whatever way is needed in the church family. He showed us so often that he seldom forgets anything or anyone, always reminding us that we are on his 'prayer list.' Thank you, James and Juliann. We truly will miss you, but wish blessings to you in your new chapter in life!"*

**Ted and Carol Hartog** have attended Hodgson Bible Church for the entire 33 years of James and Juliann's tenure. Carol writes: *"I will comment on the early years. I especially appreciated the work ethic and enthusiasm displayed even when the congregation was very small — a Christmas program for seven Sunday school students was as*



*well written, planned and decorated for as one many years later, with a much larger group! In addition to all the physical work required in those early years — making wood fires daily, cutting a large church lawn, etc., we appreciated the fact that they did not "give up" when the numbers were SO small and the work at times very discouraging!"*

**Bernie and Joan Howland** and their family have attended Hodgson Bible Church for several years and Joan comments, *"I appreciate Juliann's hospitality and gracious leading of ladies' Bible studies and her listening, confidential ear. I appreciate James' outgoing personality, and it seems that he was consistently upbeat, friendly, and in a good mood."*

We have been so blessed to have a pastoral couple committed to our church family for a great length of time. We thank James and Juliann for their faithfulness over many years, through some difficult times, never wavering in their commitment to the Word of God, Jesus or the church body. We wish them many blessings as they start a new part of their journey and look forward to continue to serve along with them in the years to come. We love you, James and Juliann!

*Daphne Flett, Correspondent* ■

*Dear Fellowship Focus Editorial Staff,*

Thank you for your recent September/October 2014 printed copy of the *Fellowship Focus*. In this day of everything going digital it is nice to get something in our actual mailbox from the USA that is interesting to read. I hate to say this, but we rarely get any mail anymore so it is nice to get this.

Thank you,  
Darwin Stoesz  
Japan

## Thank you

I just wanted to say thank you to the Commission on Education, who decided to give me the Christian Ministries Scholarship. It will be a huge blessing this next year as I attend Grace University. Once again, thank you for helping me pursue what I feel God is calling me to.

I pray that this scholarship will continue to bless other students, as it has myself, in these upcoming years.

Love in Christ,  
Adrianna Donaldson





## Marriages

### Community Bible Church, Omaha, Neb.

- ♥ Jessica Overkamp, daughter of Mike and Christine Overkamp, to Joshua Dunn, Aug. 16
- ♥ Michaela Fernen, daughter of Mike and Julie Fernen, to Gavin Koehler, Oct. 3
- ♥ Sarah Tschetter, daughter of Pastor Charles and Lydia Tschetter, to Zach McDonald, Aug. 29

### Cornerstone Bible Church, Steinbach, Man.

- ♥ Sylvie Gerardy to Shawn Giesbrecht, son of Quintin and Beth Giesbrecht, Sept. 20

### Evangelical Bible Church, Dallas, Ore.

- ♥ Julia Thomas to Thomas Balcom, Aug. 24
- ♥ Leanne Gish to Ben Bedlion, Sept. 13

### Grace Evangelical Bible Church, Abbotsford, B.C.

- ♥ Rita Vos, daughter of Gary and Kathy Vos, to Jared Bergen, son of George and Gaye-Lynn Bergen, Sept. 19

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## Deaths

### Community Bible Church, Omaha, Neb.

- † Warner Myers (39), Aug. 27

### Cornerstone Bible Church, Steinbach, Man.

- † Sadie Epp (93), Aug. 15

### Countryside Bible Church, Meade, Kan.

- † Helen C. (Nick) Ediger (87), Sept. 5

### Evangelical Bible Church, Omaha, Neb.

- † Myrna Kost (84), July 28.

### Evangelical Mennonite Brethren Church, Marion, S.D.

- † Raymond Becker (80), Sept. 2

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

- † Tena Peters (83), Aug. 7
- † Alfred Friesen (98), Aug. 13
- † David Gold (69), Aug. 19
- † Mary Thiessen (95), Sept. 14

### Evangelical Bible Church, Dallas, Ore.

- † Alden Watson (89), Aug. 1
- † Gene Lafferty (87), Sept. 8



## Births/Adoptions

### Community Bible Church, Omaha, Neb.

- ♥ Alyssa Wood to Chris Ward, Sept. 13

### Dalmeny Bible Church, Dalmeny, Sask.

- ♥ Asher Jude to Dean and Kailey Bernard, Sept. 6; grandparents are Rod and Carla Petryshyn; great-grandparents are Dick and Ruth Krahn
- ♥ Jasper Alexander to Tim and Sheena Derksen, Sept. 24

### Evangelical Bible Church, Omaha, Neb.

- ♥ Samson Elijah to Mike and Bonnie Buchanan, Aug. 7; grandparents are John and Cindy Crowley
- ♥ Ciana Carolyn to Stanley and Joni Fast, Aug. 19; grandparents are Ron and Sherry Dick

### Northeast Bible Church, Calgary, Alta.

- ♥ Zara Marysosa Peters to Esosa Osagiede and Maryjane Ogbomo, May 14
- ♥ Kennley Osarumwense to Destiny and Tessy Iyamu, Aug. 20

### Vita Bible Church, Vita, Man.

- ♥ Natalie to Jake and Amanda Berg, Aug. 13

### Salem Church, Waldheim, Sask.

- ♥ Leonard James to Jeremy and Jaimee Voth, Sept. 24

### Evangelical Bible Church, Dallas, Ore.

- ♥ Scarlett Joy to Nathan and Ashley Brown, Aug. 5
- ♥ Jack Johnson to Colin and Alison Johnson, Sept. 11

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## Catch the Vision

# Seizing the Opportunities With the Nations Next Door

*By Blaine Donaldson, FEBC President*

Let us consider some of the practical things that we can do to create opportunities to reach our immigrant neighbors for Christ ...

**Learn about the people you are seeking to reach.** If we know what country they are from, I highly recommend the book *Operation World* or online at [www.operationworld.org](http://www.operationworld.org). Better yet, go and ask them about their country and culture. Listen attentively. Learn what they love about their culture and be thinking about what Jesus would look like if He was living in that culture.

**Be intentional.** We will ignore immigrants if we are not intentional in trying to connect with them. Maybe many of you will just knock on their doors and say something like, "Hi, I am your neighbor. I just wanted to let you know that I am glad that you are in our community. I would like to meet you and get to know you better."

**Offer services that are useful to immigrants.** This may take some research, but what are the needs of immigrants in your community? Are there any of these that you individually could meet? Is there a program that your church could start that would help with some of these needs? ESL training (English as a Second Language) is something that is often needed, and basic skills in this are quite easy for us to learn.

**Connect with community organizations.** Are there community organizations helping immigrants? Volunteer there. Would it not be better for immigrants know that Jesus cares for them and not just the secular community? We will often find opportunities with the local people who are working with immigrants.

**Build community.** Does the immigrant culture have celebrations and festivals that are not normally celebrated in our culture? Perhaps you could be a part of helping to organize such a celebration. It may just be in a home, or town/city wide. There may be some moral concerns with supporting such a celebration (such as drunkenness, spiritism, etc). However, there are likely some good things that we can do to make inroads into their lives.

**Mentor your people.** This is for the church. We need to train our people to see and seize the opportunities that are set before us.

May we be known as people who love and take the Gospel to the immigrants of our community. ■

