

Fellowship **FOCUS**



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talks about "Xianity"
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Joining hands in prayer:

New Year could be

a turning point for

the Fellowship

Comment



By Sharon Berg, Editor

Do you ever find yourself thinking that certain words are overused or used too casually? Take the word *awesome*, for example. God is *awesome*; the latest rib recipe at the local barbecue restaurant is *not*. Another one of those words is *passion*. People are passionate about a whole host of things these days: sports, hobbies, collectibles, and often refer to the favored item or activity as “my passion.” (Full disclosure: I confess that I, too, have used these words without much thought.)

We’re in the early days of a new year — a new decade, in fact — and Frank Wiens, known by many for the active role he has taken through the years in serving the Fellowship, wants to help us focus on the One who truly merits our *passion*. Frank shares some excellent thoughts to take with us into 2010 on page 5.

A group of college students in Ukraine are enjoying a first-of-its-kind library in that country. Guess who made it possible? All of you who prayed and gave to the most recent convention project — and you’ll enjoy reading about the progress made at Kremenchuk Regional Bible College and seeing photos of the library (page 8-9). The project’s fundraising goal was \$17,000, but your gifts totaled more than \$20,000!

God’s blessings to you all in the year ahead ...

Sharon

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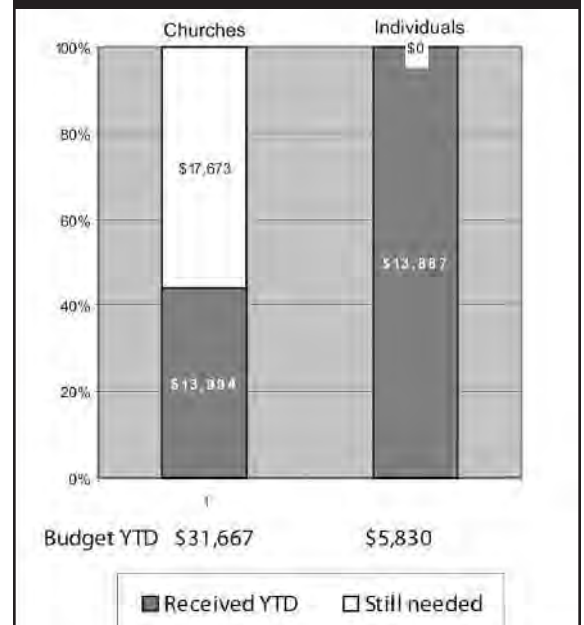
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English Language Learners Program Proves an Effective Outreach Ministry

Sharon Berg back cover

Fellowship Finances

FEBC Ministries Income thru December



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New Year Could be a Turning Point for the Fellowship

Once again we are starting a new year. This year could be a turning point for our Fellowship.

We need to look in Thessalonians to find how Paul challenged the people to look to God for direction and encouragement. God, through His great wisdom, gave Paul insight to read people and situations. Paul was able to encourage and challenge people to be steadfast in the Word so "... that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Thessalonians 1:12, NKJV).

Paul, through Thessalonians, is also asking Christians today to follow God's leading and to submit ourselves to sharing Christ with those around us. We are, just as Paul and Timothy were, to be examples of followers of Christ, and not let ourselves get caught up with the things of this world that

would lead us away from Christ's teachings and the example of the life He lived on earth.

Seeking God's Direction

The delegates at last summer's convention gave the FEBC leadership a challenge and directive to pursue a president

In order for the Fellowship to continue, we must join our hands together in prayer and ask for God's guidance for the future.

for the Fellowship. We contacted several people and interviewed one candidate, but the timing was not right. We inquired about someone filling a paid position as well as someone to fill in as a volunteer. We will continue pursuing the possibility

of engaging a person for this position.

Meanwhile, we have brought together people who will serve on an ad hoc committee tasked with writing a vision statement to lead us forward into 2011. At the convention last July, the proposal was to have a vision statement presented at the 2010 Convention that could be ratified and would unite the Fellowship for the future. This committee will meet several times this year to seek God's guidance for their work.

We ask for prayer from individuals and congregations for God to guide the committee. Also, remember the FEBC leadership and commissions as they revisit their responsibilities for now and the future.

In order for the Fellowship to continue, we must join our hands together in prayer and ask for God's guidance for the future. ■

Legacy Giving

Today's resources for tomorrow's ministries

A last will and testament is one of the most important documents an individual will ever prepare. Yet in many cases, estates have not been distributed according to the wishes of the individual simply because the estate plan was outdated:

- Have you moved to another state?
- Have tax laws changed?

- Have your charitable interests changed?
- Has the size of your estate increased markedly?
- Has anything changed in regard to your children's needs or marital status?

The Fellowship of Evangelical Bible Churches has a ministry in place that

will help you create or update your existing will.

To learn more, visit:

www.febcministries.org and click on Legacy Giving. The Estate Plan Organizer will take you through the estate planning process quickly and easily in about 30 minutes.



Financial Goals:

Is Sharing One of Them?

Why do you work — what is your ultimate goal in earning money?

How do you teach a person with a “welfare” mindset to become fully and permanently self-sufficient, hold down a regular job and become a productive member of society?

The two questions appear to be unrelated. However, in Scripture they are answered in one single principle. Years ago, I was surprised to discover how simple that principle is.

I was discussing ministry with a French colleague to whom God had given much wisdom, enabling him to have a successful ministry among people who were used to living on government handouts — on welfare. Through his ministry, many of them had become stable, productive members of society and of his church, having also learned to give generously of their income to the Lord’s work. They were no longer in need of financial assistance. I, too, had had opportunity to minister to such, but it seemed that they inevitably fell back into their old way of life. So I was curious. What was his secret?

He simply directed my attention to Ephesians 4:28:

“He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need.”

He pointed out that he had been in the habit of teaching only the first part

of the verse: stop stealing and *start working* (I had done that, too). Then one day he realized that the second part of the verse is just as important as the first part: work to have something to share with those in need. There were two steps in the process: one, *start working* and, two, *start sharing*. In discipling new converts he began to intentionally teach them to share with

In discipling new converts he began to intentionally teach them to share with others. His goal was not merely to get them off the welfare rolls (or off the habit of stealing!). His goal became that of teaching them to work in order to be able to share; to give to others.

others. His goal was not merely to get them off the welfare rolls (or off the habit of stealing!). His goal became that of teaching them to work in order to be able to share; to give to others.

My colleague’s observation after several years of teaching that principle: Whenever a person took that next step and began sharing with the others, the welfare mindset was broken and the person became a self-sufficient, productive member of the church and society. But if they failed to learn that principle, the cycle was never broken, no matter how much he tried to help them.

I realized that I had failed to apply that principle in my own teaching and discipleship. But I also realized that the

principle applied to my own life, not only to my discipleship program for new converts.

No, I didn’t have a problem with stealing. No, I didn’t depend on the government (or anyone else) for a handout. But what was my goal in earning money? What was my goal in trying to be a good money manager? Was it self-centered? Was it focused on me? Or was my goal that of helping others? Was it my goal to earn money to increase my ability to give? Or was it my goal to increase my ability to purchase things? Was it to provide for the needs of God’s work and God’s people? Or was it to provide greater pleasure and security for myself?

Proverbs 11:24-25 says: *“One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly but comes to poverty. A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.”*

What is our ultimate goal in earning money? How do we teach a person with a “welfare” mindset to become fully and permanently self-sufficient, hold down a regular job and become a productive member of society?

The answer to both questions is found in the Word of God; in verses like Ephesians 4:28.

Is this the principle we live by? Have we been inculcating this principle in others by our words — and by our example? ■

Scripture translation is the New International Version

“Xianity”???

Let’s make Jesus Christ our passion for the New Year.

By Frank Wiens

Xmas — It’s not just about Christmas without Christ but about a life without Christ. I have a growing uneasiness, not so much about the world using *Xmas* at Christmas, but about the Church calling itself Christian without Christ. I fear that so much of our emphasis in ministry has so often been about what I should be *doing* that we distort the Gospel. Much of the evangelical church today is more about “Xianity” than Christianity.

Paul, the apostle, wrote in I Corinthians 2:2-5 (KJV): “For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man’s wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.”

He tells us why in I Corinthians 1: 21-29 (KJV): “For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling block, and unto the Greeks foolishness; But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God ... That no flesh should glory in His presence.”

Paul wanted nothing to detract from the glory that be-



longed to Jesus Christ. *Christ crucified* was his singular focus in ministry. *Christ crucified* was the passion of his life. It was Paul’s vision statement. That is what kept him focused on what was important.

Following, obeying, being disciples, living for Christ can only come *when* we have cast ourselves, in our sinfulness, unworthiness and weakness, upon the grace and mercy of God. It is only then that we can live by faith in the resurrection power as one who has been forgiven. Discipleship that does not begin at the cross is a counterfeit discipleship. Mercy and grace can only come to us though Jesus Christ and His death on the cross for us. Anything less than that is mere “Xianity.” Let’s make Jesus Christ our passion for the New Year!

Frank Wiens has been active in the Fellowship as a former pastor, president, and pastor-at-large. He served on various FEBC commissions.

FELLOWSHIP VIEWS • FELLOWSHIP VIEWS • FELLOWSHIP VIEWS

Valley Bible Fellowship Welcomes New Pastor

Ryan Rear began as pastor at Valley Bible Fellowship in Morris, Man., on Jan. 1. The church has intentionally looked for a pastor with a heart to reach the community. Ryan and Uma have two children.

A Few Good People

Volunteers from your church and other churches make our Fellowship work. This summer 36 people are needed to be elected to one of the commissions. If you are interested in serving on a commission, or want more information, talk to your pastor or email info@febministries.org. Qualified people are nominated by their churches. Churches, remember to re-nominate commission members whose terms have expired.

Coming Soon to Your Church

A delegation from the Executive Committee hopes to visit your church soon. This is part of the task to develop a new vision for the Fellowship. The Executive Committee wants to

hear what churches see as greatest importance in a Fellowship relationship. Harvey Schultz and Paul Boeker have already met with thirteen of our 42 churches.

Annual Reports

The **2009 Fellowship Directory and Annual Report** is available for a cost of \$5 plus postage. To order a copy, e-mail orders@febministries.org with your name and address.

Shepherd Search

At this time, only one church is seeking a pastor. You can help by asking the Great Shepherd to supply a shepherd, and you can pass this information on to qualified men with shepherd’s hearts.

Tahlequah, Okla. — **Community Bible Fellowship** (pastor) For more information go to: www.febministries.org/opportunities_pastoral_openings.htm.

To request an FEBC Application for Ministry, e-mail info@febministries.org

By Trudy Reimer

Into the New Year:

Count Your **BLESSINGS**

We've just turned the corner from the holidays — Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. Many people were thankful for those days of feasting, enjoying family or a good football game. There is nothing wrong with that, except there is so much more for which to give thanks.

This year I received a book entitled "199 Reasons To Be Thankful." I'm sure there are many more than just 199. It contained the usual things that people name: family, friends, God, the Bible, and many more. It also mentioned some rather unusual ones:

Silence

How many of us fill every day with the noise of music, conversation, television and activities? Many do so to drown out the quiet, which gives an opportunity for thoughts of disappointments, hurts, past experiences and loneliness to creep in. We dread the silence. But it is truly a gift of God when He can speak quiet assurance and contentment to our souls. Isaiah 30:15 says "... in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength" Let us give thanks for silence.

Changing seasons

Here in Nebraska, we had a cold and damp October, followed by a warmer-than-usual November and colder, brisker weather. But then comes spring, as the first flowers burst through the sod. Nature's seasons come and go in orderly fashion with a definite purpose for each one. The same is true for the seasons of our lives. Each has its own lessons and delights. Ecclesiastes 3:1 tells us "To every thing there is a season and a time to every purpose under heaven" Let us give thanks for changing seasons.

Laundry and leftover turkey

Piles of laundry and pounds of leftover turkey may not be the most appealing when we look at them. The laundry is just a chore that must be done over and over, several times a week. With the turkey comes a frantic search for new recipes to please our family. But both of them speak to us of God's abundant provision for us. There are those whose clothes are very meager, so laundry is not much of a problem. And turkey — what is that? We are so blessed to have so much from the hand of a loving

heavenly Father. 1 Timothy 6:17 reminds us that it is "... the living God who giveth us richly all things to enjoy" Let us give thanks for laundry and leftover turkey.

A sense of humor

Some of us have a greater amount of this gift than others. It can be a lifesaver when things are getting out of control around us. Rightly used, it takes the tension out of many a tense situation. Laughter is an outward expression of innermost joy. The giggles of a child, the wholehearted laugh of a teenager, the chuckle of a grandpa, bring such joy to the home. In Proverbs 17:22 we read "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine" Let us give thanks for a sense of humor.

But the most important reason to be thankful is because of Jesus Christ; who He is and what He did. This ties Thanksgiving and Christmas together, and helps us to enter the New Year with confidence. For Christmas, our choir prepared a song entitled "He Still Came." Jesus is God, the all-knowing God. Before He came to this earth to become our Savior, He knew exactly what He was leaving. He knew all that He would have to do to obtain our salvation, down to the smallest detail. He knew the suffering that lay before Him. In spite of all that, He still came. What an awesome thought! How can we ever say thank you to Him enough? Paul states in 2 Corinthians 9:15: "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift." Let us never forget to give thanks many times for our Savior, Jesus Christ.

As we think of all that our abundantly generous God has provided for us, let us go on throughout the New Year being a thankful people. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 challenges us "In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

*Trudy Reimer attends
Heartland Bible
Church, Lincoln, Neb.,
and serves on the
Commission on
Women's Ministries.*



— Let us go on throughout the New Year being a thankful people. —



Exciting News and Challenges!!

These are exciting and challenging days for our missionaries - the FEBC church planters. In some cases the challenges outweigh the exciting news. In others, the good news has created challenges. Read. Rejoice. Renew your commitment to pray.

Tisdale, Saskatchewan

Brian and Linda Friesen

EXCITING NEWS

New people are being reached through personal contacts and outreach efforts. The Christmas worship service had 60 people out (and some regulars were missing).

CHALLENGE

Newcomers need to be fully integrated. The church building is becoming too small.

Humboldt, Saskatchewan

Ed and Susan Fischer

EXCITING NEWS

Three hockey players accepted Christ. A second elder has been confirmed. Regular attendance at 40 (five years ago it was 10). The church was asked to serve the Christmas banquet for the hockey players, parents, host families and team officials — almost 100 people. Church exposure to the community is increasing.

CHALLENGE

Finances are needed to keep pace with the growth of ministries and enable the church to become financially autonomous in 2010. Also needed are the salvation of seekers, full integration of newcomers and church membership on the part of all the regulars.

Indian Head - Saskatchewan

Bill and Sandra Glasspell

EXCITING NEWS

The church operated without financial subsidies in 2009.

CHALLENGE

Deaths and transfers (out of the community) have reduced the size of the church. A lack of qualified elders and diminished finances are preventing full autonomy.

Richer, Manitoba • *Simon Cheung*

EXCITING NEWS

Twenty people (most were unchurched) attended Financial Peace University classes in fall, and one couple is now attending church. There is excitement in the church. Community doors are opening.

CHALLENGE

Finances! The church operated below budget most of the year. In spite of newcomers, no real growth occurred due to the loss of people moving away.

Hebron, Nebraska • *Jeff and Wendy Friesen*

EXCITING NEWS

God answered the prayer request for one new family per month; a steady stream of visitors since August, and some have stayed.

CHALLENGE

The church has one elder; needs more. Subsidies are scheduled to end May 2010. Growth is needed to offset that financial cutback.

Natoma, Kansas • *Ben and Sharon MacConnell*

EXCITING NEWS

Two new people (brothers) are attending church. Two more contacts have been made. The MacConnell's business has led to friendships and open doors.

CHALLENGE

Ben is on part-time salary due to a cutback in FEBC subsidies and lack of growth in church finances. The family business can create time restraints for Ben.

Tahelquah, Oklahoma

CHALLENGE

George MacLaughlin's ministry as church planter has come to an end. A successful search for a replacement is crucial for the future of this ministry.

Read. Rejoice. Renew Your Commitment to Pray.

Convention Project Update



Fellowship generosity makes Ukrainian library “the first of its kind”

By Greg and Patti Wilton

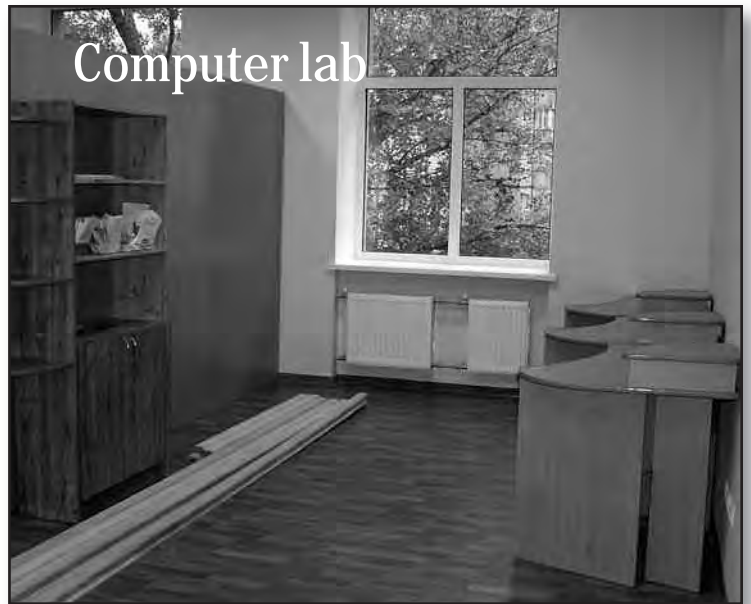
What a joy it has been to watch the progress of your gifts to Kremenchuk Regional Bible College for their new Library Project! With God’s help, you met and exceeded the goal of this year’s convention project, and accomplished much in readying the library for use. Students are ecstatic about this wonderful addition. Alexander Zigalenko, director of the Bible college, said that to his knowledge there is no other college library in Ukraine like this: “It’s the first of its kind.”



“We’ve never seen such a beautiful, comfortable place; and it is our pleasure to seek and find and make use of resources from here during our studies.”



Comfortable browsing



Computer lab



Archive shkaffs

A fantastic environment for learning!



"We never even dreamed that there could be a Christian library such as this available to us!"

About 15,000 books are already on the shelves (300 meters of shelving were built with your gifts!), and there is room for another 5,000 volumes. Ten reading/study carrels are conveniently positioned around the library. A wall with cabinets was built to store archived material. The wall also has special shelves to display journals, articles, and periodicals. This wall serves to separate the stacks from the after-hours computer lab area. At present, some computer desks still await actual computers.

And all of this has been accomplished with the gifts of the Fellowship!

What remains to be done? We have yet to build the reception/book check-out area (but your gifts have covered the expense of that, too!). Then we wait on God for the funds to purchase two quality computers with a good server that will support the catalog and check-out system. We also hope to

purchase four computers with extensive software for students to use in the computer lab.

Another immediate need — and likely the first to be met — is drapery or window coverings to protect the books from direct/indirect sunlight. Eventually a small room will be furnished to process new books.

What a fantastic environment for learning! Thank you all from the bottom of our hearts for participating in this gift! We are so proud to be associated with you! And we pass along thanksgiving with overflowing gratitude from Alexander Zigalenko, our librarians, and from the current 145 students who will enjoy your gift this year!

Greg and Patti Wilton are SEND missionaries from Grace Evangelical Bible Church, Abbotsford, B.C.

Christian Fellowship Chapel Finds a Shepherd in One of Its Own

After more than two years without a pastor, Christian Fellowship Chapel of Winnipeg has a new pastoral couple who come from within the church family. John and Rae Harwood have attended the Chapel for many years. Rae was born into the church, and John began attending in the 1970s. His military career took them away from Winnipeg in 1980, but they returned when he was assigned there in 1992.

John brings more than 30 years of leadership experience after retiring from the Canadian Air Force as a colonel in 2008, following a career in both the regular and reserve force. In between, he pursued a Master of Divinity from Providence College and Seminary, graduating in 2001 with the Scholarship Award as the top student. Adding to her baccalaureate in nursing, Rae graduated from Providence Seminary in 1997 with a master's degree in counselling and has just completed her doctoral studies with Argosy University in counselling psychology.

Since returning to the Chapel, both

John and Rae have been actively involved in the life of the church. John has served as an elder almost continuously from 1992, an adult Sunday school teacher and on the music committee. Rae has focused her ministry in Christian education and counselling.

Why did it take two years to fill the pastoral vacancy? "After not finding a suitable candidate, and after too many overtures from different people to be ignored, I decided I would ask God for some clear signals," John said. "I definitely didn't want to be a Jonah. While preparing to teach a series on Jeremiah, the lessons in the first chapter struck home: God knows us; He appoints us; He will prepare and equip us, and He will see His work accomplished. Then, when my fellow elders sent to me an unexpected formal request, it couldn't get much clearer than that."

This congregation of 63 members and about 40 adherents formally installed John as pastor on Jan. 3. They expressed gratitude to God and the elder board for their leadership during this



John and Rae Harwood

stretch without a pastor. The Chapel has enjoyed tremendous peace and unity, and the various programs continued to function smoothly and well.

John said his new challenge includes maintaining the Chapel's current strengths of unity and solid doctrinal teaching, while bringing emphasis to bear on outreach, and legacy — preparing the next generation of leaders in the church.

John and Rae have two married sons, Phil and Chris, and one granddaughter.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

Omaha, Neb.

Charles Tschetter, Senior Pastor

LaVern and Marlene Smith, missionaries with World Team, have been invited to return to the local church in Trinidad, where they spent some years in ministry before returning to the United States. They will give direction to the church as it goes through some transitions. The Smiths plan to leave in February and minister in Trinidad for 10 months.

CBC is excited to be part of a new outreach opportunity as it provides a meeting place for the Omaha Arabic Bible Church. **Pastor Samir Kawar** and his wife, Frieda, originally from Amman, Jordan, now pastor Wichita Arabic Bible Church. Pastor Samir will travel to Omaha every other Saturday to lead this

church plant, with a desire to reach as many Arabs for Christ as possible.

Our elders and pastors drove to Dallas, Texas, to attend EvanTell's "Flying Strong," a mentoring program designed to help churches become more effective at evangelism and disciple-making.

—*New Members*—

Alyce Hale, Taren and Pam Hollister, Sarah Hollister, Monte and Sonya LaFleur and two of their children, Nathan and Meredith, Jack and Nancy Sarver, Steve and Becky White

Sharon Berg, Correspondent

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

Indian Head, Sask.

Bill Glasspell, Pastor

Jodi Faith, a vocal artist, blessed our church and two community care homes with a concert. We also had a successful

Christmas banquet and country gospel music concert with **Randy King** from Yorkton.

Ann Hanley, Correspondent

COMMUNITY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

Tahlequah, Okla.

During most of October, we experienced a lot of rain, and became concerned as our Fall Festival Event was scheduled to be held outside. Again, God blessed us with exactly the right amount of dry weather to have a perfect event. Yes, we prayed for it. The event was held outdoors at the ranch of one of our members. We enjoyed horseback riding, horse painting, moonlit hayrides, wonderful food, fabulous games, apple bobbing, hot apple cider, and s'mores.

FOCUS ON OUR CHURCHES

TAHLEQUAH FALL FESTIVAL



In early November many members and attendees met to plan for the future of Community Bible Fellowship. We were reminded of the tremendous and varied talents of many in our congregation. Spirits were renewed and exciting plans were discussed. Again, Community Bible Fellowship witnessed God's goodness to all of us. We met again for Thanksgiving potluck in the middle of the month as we decided one Thanksgiving meal just wasn't enough for us.

Bryn Smith, Correspondent

CORNERSTONE BIBLE CHURCH

Steinbach, Man.

Jared Hiebert, Pastor

Missions Conference 2009: Don Pickel of Avant Ministries spoke throughout the weekend, with our theme "God Working Through You." Our popcorn and movie night had a twist: The "movies" were videos of three missionaries from our church: **Sam and Mel Kuka** (SEND/Philippines), **Brad and Lori Quiring** (TEAM/Peru) and **Jean Reimer** (Wycliffe/Togo). They shared not so much about what their mission organi-

zation was doing, but more on how God had directed them to missions and what their lives were like at home on assignment as missionaries. The weekend included seven different workshop presenters from Operation Mobilization, TEAM, Wycliffe, New Tribes Mission, Canadian Sunday School Mission, Frontiers and Africa Inland Mission.

"Embrace His Heart" was the theme of our bi-annual Cornerstone women's retreat in November. God directed us to a different path after a family emergency required our guest speaker to cancel. A Beth Moore retreat video, "Loving Well," included four sessions (exactly the number we had planned for our guest speaker). Despite this unexpected change, all went wonderfully, with about 37 ladies present.

Carol Bercier, Correspondent

COUNTRYSIDE BIBLE CHURCH

Meade, Kan.

David Cummings, Pastor

Fred and Desi Schmidt (Mission Aviation Fellowship/Ecuador) and **Lavern and Marlene Smith** (World Team) spoke at our Harvest Missions Conference in November. The Smiths are "retiring" so we hosted a retirement reception for them for their many years of service to the Lord as our missionaries. (*Editor's Note:* The Smiths have been invited to return to a church in Trinidad to assist the congregation through a time of transition.)

Pastor Cummings ministered to pastors in Russia from Nov. 26-Dec. 11.

Kris Goertzen, a national speaker and Bible study author, was the featured speaker at a ladies' event in October. She taught how to rest in God's promises and the sufficiency of His Word.

Ann Classen, Correspondent

DALMENY BIBLE CHURCH

Dalmeny, Sask.

Dennis Friesen, Pastor

Global Connections: We heard reports from various missionaries, including, **Scott Buhler** with TEAM/Brazil and **Linda Chamagne** from "The Bridge" in Saskatoon.

The youth groups have taken on new

names: Senior high is now called *Transform* and Junior high is called *Next Generation*. *Transform* held an all-nighter at the church, and youth prayer times are being held every two weeks, in addition to regular meetings.

Our church hosted the annual Camp Kadesh banquet in November. A turkey supper was served, followed by a program to raise money for the camp.

Marilyn Harder, Correspondent

EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH

Dallas, Ore.

Jerry Franz, Senior Pastor

Christmas festivities included a candlelight dessert and holiday boutique, with EBC member **Jacqui Beal** speaking on childhood remembrances. We gathered boxes for Operation Christmas Child, and the Ladies Missionary Fellowship held their annual luncheon, with husbands welcome!

Dave and Drenda Duff of Ecola Bible School will speak at our missions weekend Feb. 13-14.

Anne Casey, Correspondent

EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH

Langham, Sask.

Greg Guarnett, Senior Pastor

Pastor Alvin Buhler (Christian Fellowship Church of Rhineland) ministered to us during the FEBC Pastors Pulpit Exchange in Saskatchewan.

At our missions conference, **Dr. T.V. Thomas** spoke on "The Unchanging Gospel in a Changing World." Also visiting were **Tom and Wendy Ballentyne**, who serve with Christar as dorm parents at Faith Academy in the Philippines, and two local youth shared about their short-term mission experiences.

We are ministering to 37 children through Awana Cubbies and Sparks, and the Pioneers Exploring program. We hosted the Awana Children's Ministry Conference.

We are gearing up for our Annual General Meeting and the FEBC Workshop in February 2010.

Marilyn Friesen, Correspondent

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FOCUS ON OUR CHURCHES

continued from page 11

EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH

Omaha, Neb.

Dr. Don Pahl, Senior Pastor

Several opportunities to share Christmas joy blessed our fellowship. The children presented the Christmas musical "Charlie and the Cherub Cheerleaders." The adults and families enjoyed caroling at locations around the church neighborhood and city.

—*New Members*—

Elena Batrakova, Billy Dickson, Walt and Sue Hamilton, David Ingraham, Jennifer Ingraham, Paul and Mildred Kliewer, Lucinda Mottl, Troy and Billy Jo Sedam, Rich and Jessica Turner

Betty Masters, Correspondent

EVANGELICAL MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH

Lustre, Mont.

John Skillman, Pastor

About 70 shoeboxes were filled by our church members for the Operation Christmas Child Project. We distributed Christmas Goodie Tins in our area as an outreach project.

At our annual Harvest Festival in October, **Pastor Monty Casebolt** of Livingston Bible Church in Livingston, Mont., spoke on the providence of God.

Our church had a potluck, blessing and commendation service for **Norman and Tamara Teichroew** before they headed back to their ministry in Central Asia with Interserve.

—*Milestones*—

Dorothy and Alfred Schmitt,

50th Anniversary, Sept. 4

Sharon Skillman, Correspondent

EVANGELICAL MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH

Marion, S.D.

Randy Maass, Pastor

The church has enjoyed fellowship times together, and outreach to friends. **Charles and Evelyn Duerksen** hosted the congregation in October at a low German "Faspa at Four,"

(a traditional Mennonite light meal) serving zwiebach, cheese, bologna and pie. Our Harvest Thanksgiving project was giving food and money to the Turner County Food Pantry to help fill 40 Thanksgiving boxes for delivery. An application will be made to Mennonite Mutual Aid for a matching fund grant to increase the donation.

The Sunday school class is experiencing a course of study, "Get Out of the Boat," by John Ortberg. Pastor Randy Maass is using the book of Galatians for his sermon texts. During pastor appreciation month, we celebrated the ministry of Pastor Randy and his wife, Kathleen, with cake and coffee after a service.

Harold and Irene Becker returned to Tucson, Ariz., for the 23rd year in a row, volunteering at Wycliffe Translators for the winter months.

Ray Becker, Correspondent

FAITH EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH

Henderson, Neb.

Michael Fink, Pastor

Jeffrey Kran of Chosen People Ministries presented a message in October on the Jewish Fall Feasts.

Our church hosted "Arise! Cry Out!" a worldwide day of extraordinary prayer for children and schools in partnership with Moms in Touch International.

Mikki Schmidt, our missionary with SIM/Niger, shared about Christmas in that country at the women's Christmas party. The men enjoyed a Bible study and pizza. Other Christmas events included a children's musical and an open house hosted by Pastor Mike and Jan.

Alice Decker, Correspondent

HEARTLAND BIBLE CHURCH

Lincoln, Neb.

Scott Hecht, Pastor

Kirby and Isabelle Dunn (*New Tribes Mission/Mexico*) were the featured missionaries at our annual missions conference in October. Family Night and an ice cream social gave us an opportunity to visit informally with the Dunns. The men were privileged

to hear Kirby at a prayer breakfast, while Isabelle shared about her part in the ministry at a ladies' afternoon tea. The Dunns also shared in our worship services and enjoyed a potluck and cookies with us.

A small number participated in a fall work day, but willing hands still accomplished a lot.

At our annual Thanksgiving banquet, **Norm Auger** arranged a Power-Point presentation to help us rejoice in what the Lord has done in our church this year. The children's choir sang, and Pastor Scott gave a Thanksgiving meditation.

Trudy Reimer, Correspondent

HODGSON BIBLE CHURCH

Hodgson, Man.

James Thiessen, Pastor

We were blessed with a beautiful day at Fisher Bay for the baptism of **Chris and Penny McKay** and **Eric Flett** (shown with Pastor Thiessen).

The ladies of the church hosted the Manitoba-Ontario Women's Day in



September. About 50 ladies were present to enjoy the day, with the theme "Will Your Anchor Hold?" We were blessed to have **Sherry Heidebrecht** of Winnipeg share how she has seen the anchor of God hold in her life during some tough times, and **Melanie Spence** from our church gave her testimony. A lovely PowerPoint was shown, portraying the words of the song "The Anchor Holds" by Ray Boltz. We appreciated the generous donation from the ladies to provide for kitchen needs for Fisher Bay Bible Camp.

Sara Plett, Correspondent

FOCUS ON OUR CHURCHES

JANSEN BIBLE CHURCH

Jansen, Neb.

Paul Carpenter, Pastor

Jansen Bible Church has named an Evangelism Committee. The committee is focusing on building a stronger sense of unity and family among the congregation, getting people to use their God-given gifts, and generating interest in the Word among those outside the church. The ladies started with a bring-your-friends game night, and a monthly ladies' home Bible study is also scheduled.

The church and Awana clubbers donated food items to the local pantry for needy families during the holiday season. Another highlight for our congregation was "Miracle on the Square," with our carolers singing their way around the town square, and the youth group serving soup, sandwiches and pie.

Missionaries sharing with us at our Harvest Missions Festival were **Vic and Gwen Flaming** of Internation Training Partners, Inc.; **Eugene and Marsha Enns** of Grace Mission/Haiti; **Waldo and Lynette Goossen** of AIM-AIR/ Kenya; and **Paul and Jann VanderMey** of TEAM/Mexico.

Tena Dick, Correspondent

RICHER FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

Richer, Man.

Simon Cheung, Pastor

Teen Challenge spent a Sunday at our church in November. The testimonies about changed lives are so inspiring.

Awana has been busy with 18 youngsters coming on a regular basis. Pajama Night was the latest highlight, with only our pastor having trouble deciding what to wear!

Our ladies' group is continuing to learn with devotionals from Charles Stanley. They brought cookies to encourage the teachers at the Richer School on parent-teacher Interview day, and packed shoeboxes for kids in Third World countries.

Financial Peace classes have just concluded, with 18 - 24 people graduating.

—Prayer Request—

Please pray for our youth drop-in program called "The Living Room." We have lots of workers now, but only 1-5 teens dropping in. Pray for the Lord's leading in this outreach.

Susan Reid, Correspondent

VALLEY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

Morris, Man.

Ryan Rear, Pastor

Our congregation voted to accept **Ryan Rear** to become our pastor as of Jan. 1. His family includes his wife, Uma, and children Cassandra and Samuel. We have prayed and searched for God's answer for a pastor for a number of years.

Joyce Ginter of our congregation and four women from different churches in the community have started a childrens' outreach work, Pioneer Clubs, in the local school gym on Thursday evenings. So far 12-16 children ages 6-11 years old have been attending faithfully. Pray that unsaved or unchurched children and parents will be led to this program and to salvation.

Our Christmas supper and program included the group Glory Bound, five men from the Winkler area serving us in song.

Rita Voth, Correspondent

VITA BIBLE CHURCH

Vita, Man.

James Mack, Pastor

Daily Vacation Bible School in August was once again a huge success with 40 children attending a week packed with fun, fellowship, music and activities. They showcased the theme "SonRock Kids Camp" at the Sunday worship service, followed by a Sunday School picnic.

An evening of brainstorming kicked off this year's ladies' ministry. It looks like a very exciting upcoming year.

We joined with our sister church, Stuartburn Gospel Chapel, to enjoy a weekend of fellowship, worship and family fun in September at the Roseau River Bible Camp.

Carolyn Jaman, Correspondent

NORTHEAST BIBLE CHURCH

Calgary, Alta.

John Fehr, Pastor

Because of their love for Jesus, many of our congregation and their extended families and friends pooled their time and resources to help a family of five, newly arrived from Nigeria. The family's basement suite has been furnished, their kitchen outfitted and their closets supplied with the necessities for braving a Canadian winter. With arrival of the Christmas season, even a tree with lights and ornaments was delivered to their home. Diemna brings gifts herself as an experienced worship leader and her husband, Daniel, is a man of faith and prayer. Their three children have found a place of belonging in our Children's Ministries. There are so many ways to share and bless those God has brought into our lives, and only He knows the far-reaching and eternal results of these kindnesses.



Julie Ann Simpson, Correspondent

**FBC Workshop
February 19-20, 2010
EBC Langham, Sask.**

continued on page 14

FOCUS ON OUR CHURCHES

continued from page 13

STUARTBURN GOSPEL CHAPEL

Stuartburn, Man. Mark Funk, Pastor



Big rigs lined up in the church parking lot, as **Peter and Linda Elias**, **Dave and Mary Zacharias** and **Delmer and Judy Thiessen** shared life as a trucker and a trucker's wife, how it affects the family and how it can be used as a ministry to glorify God. **Bill Rempel**, chaplain for Transport for Christ, shared his ministry opportunities in the trucking industry.

Our church, along with the **Vita Bible Church**, enjoyed a weekend family camp at Roseau River Bible Camp in September. Only a few ladies from our church were able to attend the FEBC ladies' day at **Hodgson Bible Church** in September due to the family campout that weekend. Those of us who attended were very much blessed by the Hodgson ladies!

Our church was invited to participate in a Financial Peace University by the **FEBC Lakeland Extension** and hosted by **Cornerstone Bible Church** in Steinbach in October. A clinic on church discipleship was held at the **Vita**

Bible Church in Vita, also in October. Our neighbouring church, the Roseau River Baptist Church planned the event, with pastor and teacher **Nathaniel Nkosi**, from Atlanta, Ga., leading the sessions.

The executive delegation from the FEBC visited in November. This was an opportunity to learn about the work of the Fellowship and give input.

It is always fun to either have surprise guests over to your house for Sunday dinner or to be the surprise guest! Many families in our congregation enjoyed being a part of "Guess Who's Coming for Dinner?" in November.

Our Week of Prayer took place in mid-January.



Ninety people enjoyed our annual mother-daughter Advent tea, our largest attendance yet. The event included a Christmas tree ornament gift exchange. Shown singing are Lorissa Spence and Helen Thiessen.

Marilyn D. Thiessen, Correspondent



He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear and put their trust in the LORD.

Psalm 40:3 (NIV)

The Record

BIRTHS AND ADOPTIONS

Dalmeny Bible Church, Dalmeny, Sask.

- Cohen David to Matthew and Shannon Unruh, Nov. 27; grandparents are Leroy and Verna Peters

Evangelical Bible Church, Omaha, Neb.

- Aspen Noelle to Randy and Kimmie Shideler, Sept. 30; grandparents are Kim and Linda Palmer
- Samuel James to John and Anne Revers, Oct. 22
- Hudson Joseph to Ryan and Rachael Means, Nov. 20; grandparents are Don and Willa Vesley

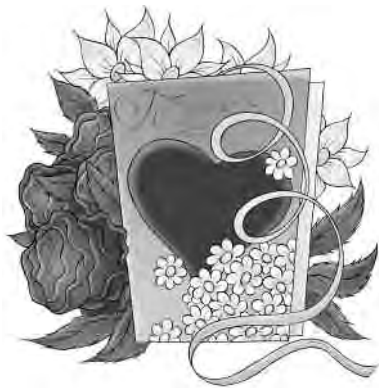
Salem Church

- Luke Jacob to Gary and Tobie Thiessen, Sept 30; grandparents are Martin and Elma Thiessen
- Norah Joanne to Daryl and Dawn Grunau, Oct. 20; grandparents are Lorne and Joan Grunau
- Tessa Megan to Jeremiah and Jamie Klauke, Dec. 11; grandparents are Pastor Alvin and Verna Buhler (Christian Fellowship Church of Rhineland) and Heather Klauke

Waldheim, Sask.



WEDDINGS



Dalmeny Bible Church,

Dalmeny, Sask.

- Brook Schultz to Tim Thiessen, Dec. 7

Evangelical Mennonite Brethren Church

Lustre, Mont.

- Katrina Wall, daughter of Dwaine and Vivian Wall, to Matthew Plueger, Oct. 3

Salem Church

Waldheim, Sask.

- Kendra Schultz, daughter of Roger and Gale Schultz, to Stephen Albak, Nov. 7

DEATHS

Cornerstone Bible Church

Steinbach, Man.

- Margaret (Giesbrecht) Reimer (76), Nov. 6
- Alfred J. Reimer (91), Nov. 13

Dalmeny Bible Church

Dalmeny, Sask.

- Victor Bergquist (93), Oct. 18

Evangelical Bible Church

Dallas, Ore.

- Anna K. Hooge-Reimer (93), Oct. 7

Evangelical Bible Church

Langham, Sask.

- Bob Neufeld, Nov. 16

Evangelical Mennonite Brethren Church

Lustre, Mont.

- Ben Wedel (67), Dec. 5

Evangelical Mennonite Brethren Church

Marion, S.D.

- Evangeline (Mrs. Art) Schmidt (89), Oct. 12

Faith Evangelical Bible Church

Henderson, Neb.

- Rev. Frank G. Thomas (91), Nov. 13

Evangelical Bible Church

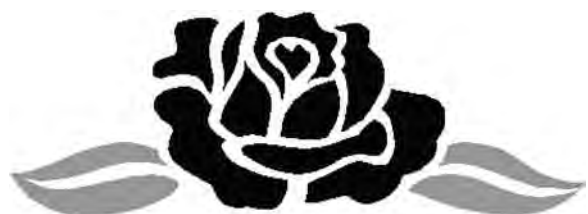
Omaha, Neb.

- Hudson Means, Nov. 20
- Don Willadson (70), Nov. 26

Jansen Bible Church

Jansen, Neb.

- Charles Ensz (74), Nov. 18



NO ENDORSEMENT



English Language Learners Program Proves an Effective Outreach Ministry

By Sharon Berg

A new outreach at Community Bible Church in Omaha is opening up many opportunities to share Christ with internationals, as a team of volunteers teaches English while taking advantage of opportunities to share spiritual truths.

Andrea Aleksandrova is one of those volunteers, and leads the English Language Learners (ELL) program, which has about nine students attending regularly. Some have lived in the States for as long as eight years, and some as short as a few months. The students come from Colombia, El Salvador, Mexico, the Dominican Republic, West Africa and India, and from varied walks of life. Each has a different purpose for studying English. One student, a dentist in El Salvador, is learning the language so that she can pass the necessary classes and tests to practice dentistry in the United States. Most students work in the warehouse and manufacturing in-

dustries or in housekeeping. Some speak the language well, but need to learn how to read it; others are gaining conversational skills, and still others are simply trying to gain the courage to start speaking English.

Andrea gave leadership to the ELL program after approaching Associate Pastor Rick Bragg about service opportunities at CBC. She is also a student at Grace University in Omaha, and the ELL outreach was an ideal fit for the university's Servant Leadership Training. The CBC Outreach Committee had already discussed offering an ELL class, but needed someone to do the research to see if the ministry was a viable option for the church.

The teacher-volunteers use the Bible as part of their instruction. "A few students are believers, and it is exciting to help these students grow in their faith through this class," Andrea said. "We

have not had any unbelieving students accept Christ yet, but we have had some very fruitful conversations," about such topics as the definition of sin, why people need a Savior, the fruits of the Spirit, and divorce.

Andrea and Pastor Rick agreed that the ELL program has been an effective outreach ministry. Rick expects the class to grow as people share via word-of-mouth to others. "It has been a great experience ...," he said. "How the Lord will fully use it ... time will tell." Rick serves on the FEBC Commission on Outreach, and said the commission may benchmark the program in the future.

"Every week it seems like the students and volunteers leave feeling rewarded," Andrea said. "Our volunteers have really invested themselves in this class and in the lives of the students. Personally, I've found it to be one of the most rewarding things I've ever done."