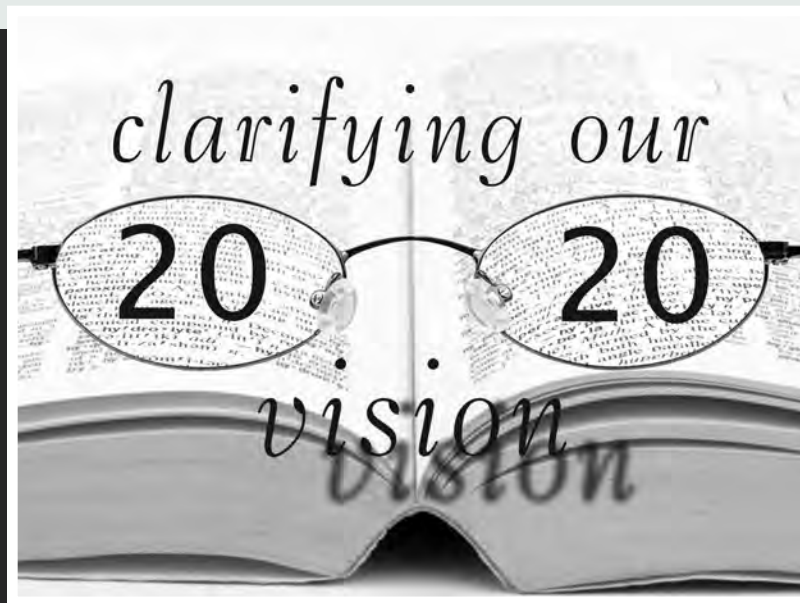


Fellowship FOCUS



**Inside:
What is the
Emerging Church Movement?**

Page 4



Welcome to the

FEBC 2010 CONVENTION! • July 15–18

Community Bible Church in Omaha is preparing to warmly welcome delegates and their families to the FEBC 2010 Convention. Much is happening in our city this summer: In June, Omaha will host the baseball College World Series (last time to be held in the Rosenblatt Stadium) and the U.S. Swim Trials for Olympic candidates. But in July, the eyes of Omaha will be on the worldwide convention of the Fellow-

ship of Evangelical Bible Churches. The 2,000-plus restaurants will each eagerly try to tempt you with their finest cuisine. The Old Market, Riverfront, Henry Doorly Zoo, Lauritzen Gardens, and many other attractions will compete for your attention. Come for the fellowship and business of the FEBC, but plan to stay for a couple of days before or after the convention to enjoy our city.

Registration details will be ready soon.

Meanwhile, check out the websites for Community Bible Church and for the City of Omaha.

www.cbcomaha.org www.visitomaha.com

Kathy Dick and Mel & Arlene Friesen, Convention Coordinators

Comment



By Sharon Berg, Editor

Vision: One of the many shades of meaning my dictionary gives to the word is “keen foresight.” When it comes to the serious matters of life, that foresight, or vision, is important if you’re going to even get started on the road to where you want to be.

Vision is important for organizations as well as individuals, and six individuals on the FEBC Vision Team (see p. 5) have been sifting through information to develop a vision of what our Fellowship could look like ten years from now. The future of the FEBC will be on the minds of many at this year’s annual convention in July, and it will be interesting to hear what the team has to share. Will you be there as a delegate representing your church? Read more about convention offerings, including fun plans for children and youth, on p. 8.

Urbana Student Mission Convention: For more than three decades, our Fellowship has encouraged college students to attend. This year, Caleb White and Hanna Aakre of Omaha’s Community Bible Church were there, as well as FEBC missionary Dennis Wiens (SAT-7). Read their thoughts about the experience, and the spiritual insights they brought home, on page 10.

See you soon in Omaha ...

From the President

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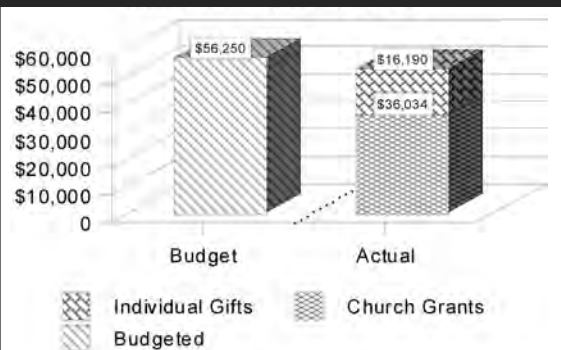
Focus on FEBC Church Planting

Harvey Schultz back cover

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Fellowship Finances

FEBC Ministries Income thru Jan. 1, 2010





What does the FEBC mean to your church?

Many churches exist as a direct result of Fellowship support.

What has the Fellowship of Evangelical Bible Churches done for your church? What has your church done for the Fellowship? How much is your church involved with the Fellowship, giving of time, personnel and finances?

I thank your church board and members for your participation. We look forward to visiting the church hosting an FEBC convention or workshop. We have a good number of people representing their churches on the various commissions that carry out the work of the Fellowship, and this is commendable.

We trust that your church has supported the FEBC with personnel and finances. Many Fellowship churches exist as a direct result of such support. Without the FEBC, some of our churches would likely not exist.

The leadership of the Fellowship is reviewing items of concern to all FEBC churches. They are as concerned as your elder board regarding the future of the Fellowship, and have appointed a committee (see page 5) that is working hard to see that a vision statement will support what the FEBC is all about. We hope and trust that all churches will join with the leadership to support the statement when it is presented.

Various commissions meet twice yearly to discuss the work of the Fellowship. The commissions and their responsibilities are:

Commission on Churches

- Doctrinal statements
- Reviews résumés of candidates
- Assists with church conflicts

- Recommends pastors for churches
- Constitutional revisions

Commission on Education

- Awards Christian college scholarships
- Determines the Anna Rieger award recipients



- Maintains an audio visual library
- Oversees youth and children's convention
- Reviews Sunday school materials
- Oversees the Fellowship Focus

Commission on Trustees

- Loans money to churches
- Co-signs loans for churches
- Creates annual FEBC budgets
- Oversees the office operations and finances
- Gives grants to church plants
- Supports government issues

Commission on Missions

- Interviews missionaries
- Recruits new missionaries
- Helps missionaries with contacting FEBC churches
- Encourages missionaries with letters, gift books and CDs

Commission on Church Planting

- Sets up procedures for church plants
- Encourages church plant pastors
- Visits church plants
- Visits sites for possible church plants
- Encourages extensions to plant churches

Commission on Outreach

- New commission
- Visualizes a plan for outreach programs
- Shares methods of evangelizing

Commissions on Women's Ministries

- Assists women with ideas for serving missionaries
- Helps churches to know missionaries and pastor wives
- Prays for pastors' wives and missionary women
- Keeps in touch with missionary women
- Sends out a booklet to women missionaries
- Gathers ideas from churches to share with other churches

How can I as an individual support the Fellowship in the future? One way is to volunteer to serve on a commission. After being nominated by your church, you would participate in an election at the annual convention in July. Service involves committing your time and resources to attend the February workshop and the annual convention.

Join in working together with all the Fellowship churches to worship and serve our Lord Jesus Christ. There is a need for you to pray, and give of time and finances to keep the work of the FEBC effective and growing. ■



What Is the Emerging Church Movement?

Editor's note: The emerging church movement has a short history, but it has the potential to impact how traditional evangelical churches "do church." What is the movement? Is it biblical? Can evangelical churches benefit from examining the ideas of those involved with emerging churches? In this first of a two-part series, Harvey Schultz, FEBC Ministries Coordinator, explains the background and characteristics of the movement, and how we can evaluate it through a biblical template.

Recently I heard of a church where several dozen people walked out, saying that their church leadership had succumbed to emerging church thinking and practices. Was that really true? I don't know because I have not investigated. But it is not the first troubling incident I have heard of involving people of the emerging church movement.

It is important that each one of us become capable of recognizing and evaluating the characteristics of this movement. We need to be able to discern if a church (our own church?) is being unduly influenced by it. We also need to be able to determine whether allegations to that end are founded on fact, rather than fear, rumour or mere appearance. Not everything that looks emergent is. Neither should we react negatively to everything which might be dumped into the emergent basket. Not everything about the movement is negative.

The goal of these articles is not to do an in-depth analysis of the movement, evaluate its proposals and refute them (others are much better qualified to do so than I am). Rather, my goal is to help readers build their own framework which will enable each one to personally evaluate authors, characteristics and trends which are influencing the Church today. This is essential.

Born of reaction

One of the most important things to keep in mind about the emerging church

is the fact that it is a *movement*. There is no one organization or group of organizations which reflect it fully or accurately. Indeed, there are none which claim to. Since that is true, there is no such thing as a normative statement of beliefs and practices which fully describe it. What is true or alleged to be true of one author may not be true of others. Someone has said that trying to analyse the movement is like trying to "nail jello to the wall"!

Secondly, we need to bear in mind that this movement is *a reflection of the post modern philosophy*, in which absolutes have often been replaced by relativistic, personal viewpoints and where the autonomous self has been elevated to a position of absolute authority.

In the third place, it is a movement *which has grown out of reactions*. It is a *reaction to modernity*, which has often been described as the conviction that truth can be known, systematized, classified and presented in a rational, linear process through the scientific method (hence, doctrinal statements, creeds, systematic theology, etc.)

It is a *reaction to seeker-oriented churches* which some see as "entertainment-oriented" churches. Worship in such churches is, in their opinion, shallow at best. They desire to be participants, not spectators, when it comes to corporate worship.

It is a *reaction to mega churches* driven and led by individuals whom they

see as corporate executive types, and where one can easily get "lost in the crowd."

It is a *reaction to the lack of integrity* among popular evangelical media figures

Finally, it is a *reaction to* what they see as the *weaknesses of evangelical churches*, real or perceived. We'll come back to that later.

A philosophy of truth

These are characteristics, not specific teachings, which help us recognize and understand this movement.

The underlying philosophy of most emerging church proponents is the post modern presupposition (dare I call it a "conviction?") that absolute truth does not exist, and if it does, it is unknowable ("I have my truth, you have yours"; "Who's to say who's right?"). It follows that the supreme virtue is tolerance and the supreme "sin" is being sure that one knows the truth. As a result, the hearer, not the writer, defines the message. One author said: "I don't think we have the Gospel right yet. We haven't got orthodoxy yet. We're always searching. It is arrogance to say: 'I've arrived at truth.'"

Then there is the belief that experience trumps doctrine. Experience is not to be evaluated in the light of any doctrinal statement. Personal experience is to be treasured above any doctrinal creed or statement of faith. It is alleged that we used to say that if you have the right

teaching, you have experienced God. Now it is taught that if you experience God, then you have the right teaching.

It is loudly proclaimed that all truth is God's truth. So, anything that is perceived as truth is to be embraced as coming from God Himself, just as much as Scripture. It doesn't matter where this "truth" comes from. Embrace it.

Finally, direct encounter with the Divine should be our daily norm. Expect it in all circumstances and experiences. And it likely will not happen according to our preconceived expectations.

Our attitudes

For us, this is perhaps the most im-

portant of all. How should we evaluate it? How should we approach and engage in discussion with emergents?

I suggest that we need to start by honestly recognizing to what extent there are weaknesses in the evangelical church at large and then ask ourselves: "To what extent does this alleged weakness characterize my church?" Maybe it doesn't. But where "the shoe fits" let's be willing to admit to our own shortcomings and correct our own practices and tendencies.

Along with that we need to learn to read emergent authors with discernment and analyse their "solutions" in the light of Scripture. We should learn to under-

stand, articulate and refute their tenets which are definitely non-biblical, counter-biblical or extra-biblical.

When we encounter those who are attracted to this movement, we should be careful not to consider them as enemies. They are, for the most part, believers whose teachings will harm or even destroy them (cf Jude 22, 23; 2 Timothy 2:25). By seeking to be honestly balanced in evaluating our own shortcomings, maybe God will enable us to help them do the same. ■

Part 2 - Tendencies and weaknesses of the emerging church movement

To All Fellowship Churches

The FEBC Vision Team, consisting of six members and led by the Rev. Rick Bragg, met in Omaha on Jan. 14 – 15 for two days of intense discussions. Using empirical data collected by others, they identified the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to our Fellowship as part of the process of developing a vision of what our FEBC could look like by 2020. Pray for the committee as they continue to work on the vision statement. Team members include:

Fayth Boeker

(Omaha, Neb. – Evangelical Bible)

Rick Bragg

(Omaha, Neb. – Community Bible)

Nathan Janzen

(Mountain Lake, Minn. – Cornerstone Bible)

Paul MacDiarmid

(Dalmeny, Sask. – Dalmeny Bible Church)

Rich Sanne

(Lincoln, Neb. – Heartland Bible)

Brenda Wiens

(Waldheim, Sask. – Salem Church)



FEBC CONVENTION - JULY 15-18



LANGHAM EBC SEEKS ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Langham Evangelical Bible Church, located in the growing community of Langham, Sask., is seeking an associate pastor to focus on youth and worship ministries. The growing town of Langham is located about 20 minutes from Saskatoon on Highway 16 West. Preference will be given to applicants who have completed a Bible college or seminary degree program and have previous ministry experience. Please forward your resume via mail, fax or email to:

Pastoral Search Committee

Box 115

Langham, SK S0K 2L0 (Canada)

Fax: Attn: Pastoral Search Committee

1.306.283.4337

Email: Pastoral Search Committee,

lebc2@sasktel.net

By Freida Goossen, Community Bible Fellowship, Tahlequah, Okla.



Praying through the Winds of Change

Time doesn't change the principle of prayer. Even today, when the world seems to be so morally out-of-control, women and men can make a difference.

Tears streamed down her face as she walked into the courtyard. Her lips moved as she silently poured her heart out to God. Her deepest desire was to have a child. Her husband had children with another woman, but she wanted to have their own children. It wasn't enough to help raise children from his other family. As she prayed to the Lord, she promised to give this child back to Him for His service.

Her prayers were heard and answered. Just one year later, she held her baby boy. When he was four, she took him to Shiloh to the Jewish priest and left him there so that he could serve the Lord. Samuel was one of the most influential men in the Old Testament. Yet, his life began as a prayer from a devoted woman named Hannah.

Through prayer, women can have a great influence on their families.

One such woman had high hopes for her future. She wanted to be a missionary to India. Her heart's desire was to serve the Lord. She was willing to go, but the Lord had other plans for her life. Her siblings needed her to take care of them; she had to get a job. As the Lord directed her path, she met a godly man and married him. However, she still wanted to serve the Lord, so she promised Him that He could send her child to the mission field in her place.

Soon, the couple had a baby, but excitement turned to sadness when the child became extremely ill. The doctors could do nothing and prepared the young

family for the death of their son. Laying her hand on the child, the woman prayed, "Lord, how can you use him on earth if you take him to heaven now?" Hearing her prayer, the Lord healed the infant, and later the young man served the Lord in Papua New Guinea when the field there first opened.

In James 5:16, the Bible reads, "Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much." Not only is it good to pray, it produces wonderful results that last far longer than a lifetime. Of course, prayer is not just a woman's ministry, but a believer's responsibility.

What happens when a woman marries a man who is not a believer? What can she do? She can pray for her family. Suzanna was one such woman. She had married a wonderful man, but he didn't really know the Lord. He was good to her, and together they had 10 boys. She loved him deeply, but he wasn't saved. She prayed, not just for her husband, but for her sons. She asked God to send one of them into full-time Christian service. In 1943, the youngest son answered the call. He became a missionary with the Go Ye Mission, and then later served as a preacher to many small churches. The greatest joy he received, though, was leading his own dad to the Lord. A mother's prayer answered, but that wasn't the end. Currently, of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, more than

40 are serving in full-time Christian work. The effective prayer of a righteous one did have great results.

Women's ministry and prayer go hand-in-hand. Sometimes it is in a corporate setting that differences are made. A group of ladies in a small town decided to gather once a month to pray for the children in their town. They prayed for salvation and for growth. But they didn't stop there; they taught in Bible clubs and reached out to the community. I was just one of the recipients of their prayers. Through their ministry, the Lord reached into my life and saved me from sin.

Time doesn't change this principle of prayer. Even today, when the world seems to be spinning so out-of-control morally, women and men can make a difference. We can pray. The Lord taught that we need to pray for our leaders in government and in church; our family, our friends, and those whom we don't even like. He loves each one and wants to make a difference in individual lives. ■

Freida Goossen serves on the Commission on Women's Ministries. She is married to Ron Goossen, founder of Christ For Me, Inc., and is its Online Ministry Coordinator.





The Invisible Woman

By Connie Yates

I have the privilege of working part time at home. This has allowed me to homeschool our children and to be actively involved in their lives. I'm also able to be available to family members, and to help with church activities and homeschool organizations.

On the other hand, sometimes I find myself twisted, torn and pulled between activities and commitments. It is a daily occurrence to make sure Vinnie gets to basketball practice so I can attend a meeting, and then on to play practice while making sure Lyle has dinner before I leave. Grocery shopping, cooking, cleaning house and errands can really get in the way!

I recently responded to an email with a bit of frustration. I was wondering if anyone had actually read my original email. I wondered why I spent any time at all in typing. It made me wonder if any of the things I do are worth the effort.

Once, while driving in dirty, sloppy, melting snow, I politely let an anxious driver in my lane, only to be splashed with filth all over my windshield.

And I noticed, after cleaning the bathroom until it was fit for a military commander, did anyone say, "Wow, nice sparkling commode, Mom!" Nope.

I spend hours clipping coupons for grocery items, plus many more in the grocery store and waiting in line. I get home, clean out the fridge and put items away. The next thing I hear after the sound of the refrigerator door swinging open is, "There isn't any food in here!"

Yep, I'm feeling a little unappreciated. It must be time to treat myself. Chocolate helps, but just for a short time. Out for coffee with a dear friend is even more helpful, but it doesn't last as well.

Maybe a new shirt or socks? No, that doesn't seem to fill the spot either.

After venting my sorrows to a friend, she sent me a five-minute video clip and said "Be encouraged."

The video clip is Nicole Johnson (Women of Faith), delivering a powerful message titled "The Invisible Woman." Her question, "Why would anyone spend so much time on something that no one sees?" was much more than I could take.

With a heavy sigh, my thoughts turned to my purpose at this time in my

Whether it is at a grocery checkout line, dry cleaners or at my kitchen table, God has a purpose intended for the moment, and I pray that I grasp it.

life. It is sad knowing that I often lose sight of my purpose, and unfortunately it is usually because my focus is on myself. It isn't intentional; it creeps up slowly, and before I know it, I'm resolved not to do anything unless a trophy with my name on it comes at the end of the day.

Nicole speaks of the great cathedrals of Europe. Strong, beautiful and sound in construction, yet the builders of these cathedrals are unknown. They gave their whole life to build something they would never see finished. Sound familiar?

I know that none of us know the day when we will see Jesus face to face, but for some, that day is clearer because of an ailment or a disease with an untimely prognosis. Because of the liver disease that I have, my thoughts often look to the future. "I hope I will see Collin graduate from college. I hope I will be here for Vinnie's high school graduation. I hope I will see my granddaughter in school pro-

grams, and my son playing ball with his son in the backyard. I hope to see Collin get married, Vinnie get to college, Collin have children ..." The list will never end, and I know I will never see it completed.

But there will never be an end to what my husband and I have built. There are things that we are involved in that people may remember. It may be said that Lyle was a passionate musician, or that I could make a mean pan of lasagna, but I'm sure no one will say, "Boy, that Connie; she could get a gravy stain out of a white shirt like nobody's business!" Or, "Lyle Yates worked sun up to sundown so that his wife didn't have to work outside of her home. What a guy!"

So, why do we do things that won't be recognized or remembered?

Several years ago, I was in a study called "Experiencing God." The morsel of truth that I took from that study affects me still today. If I stretch out my arms and turn a full circle, I will undoubtedly touch someone or something ... and that is my purpose for the moment. Whether it is at a grocery checkout line, dry cleaners or at my kitchen table, God has a purpose intended for the moment and I pray that I grasp it.

This is the kind of invisibility that I want to achieve. One where I am happy and content knowing that only God sees, and that God will use me for His purpose no matter if anyone ever knows.

As Nicole ends her message, my breath is taken away. She leaves us with these final words; "I heard God say, 'I see you. You are not invisible to me.'"

She gave this name to the LORD who spoke to her: "You are the God who sees me ..."
Genesis 16:13 (NIV)

2010 FEBC Convention Speaker



Dr. Roger Peugh,
Professor of World
Missions
 Grace Theological
 Seminary
 Winona Lake, Ind.

Roger was born in Yakima, Wash., in 1943 and grew up nearby in the small town of Harrah. When he was eight years old, he became a follower of Jesus Christ and confessed his faith in Him through baptism in the Harrah Brethren Church. He attended Grace College, spending the fall of his sophomore year (1962) on a Youth For Christ (YFC) Teen Team in Europe, primarily in Germany. He returned to Berlin in 1963 to minister with the YFC while studying German. This experience burdened his heart heavily for the German people, and at his 1965 graduation from Grace College, missions in Germany was a future option.

Roger served three years as associate pastor of the Grace Brethren Church in Elkhart, Ind., followed by 20 years on the mission field as a church planter in Germany with his wife, Nancy. He started the first Grace Brethren church planting ministry in Stuttgart in 1972, and served as European Area Director for Grace Brethren Foreign Missions from 1986-1990.

The Peughs moved from Stuttgart, Germany, to Winona Lake, Ind., in July of 1989 where he became Chairman of the Department of Missions at Grace Seminary. He served as Chaplain of Grace Schools from 1991-98, Director of Seminary Enrollment 1998-2002, in addition to teaching Intercultural Ministries. In August 2004 he also became Mentoring Coordinator for the Seminary, while teaching Missions at Grace Seminary.

A book which he co-authored with Dr. Tammy Schultz was published in September 2005: *TRANSFORMED IN HIS PRESENCE: The Need for Prayer in Counseling*. In July 2006 Roger was awarded his Doctor of Ministry degree from Grace Theological Seminary. His thesis title was *GOD AND TEAMWORK - Implications of the Unity of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit for Christian Ministry Teams*.

Roger and Nancy have been married for 44 years and have four sons and seven living grandchildren.

“Every Tribe, Tongue, People, and Nation” • Rev. 5:9b

Thursday evening:

Why? The Love of Christ constraining us

Friday evening:

What? The Love of Christ ministering through us

Saturday evening:

How? The Love of Christ lived out in His strength

Sunday morning:

Where? The Love of Christ to Every People Group

2010 FEBC Youth Convention • July 15-18
YOUTH IN THE WILD!!!



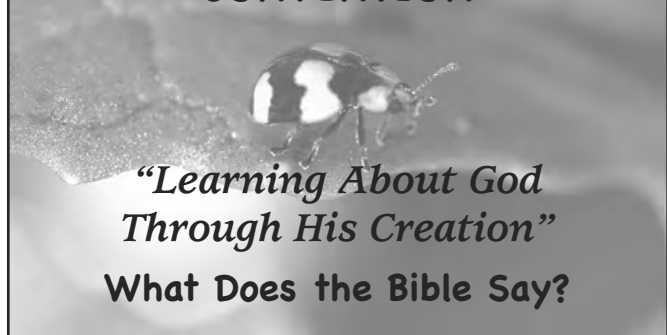
Enjoy a camp experience at Camp of the Good Shepherd, Louisville, Neb. Grow closer to God as you explore how He has used “the wilderness” in some of the greatest events of history. *How will God use you?*

Guest speaker: Pastor Dave Foster, Family Ministries Parkview Church • Iowa City, Iowa

Fun and Games, games, games!!!
 Enjoy new friendships as you meet youth from around the U.S. and Canada

Lodging, meals, devotional and notebook.
 Contact your youth pastor, or register online at febministries.org

2010 FEBC CHILDREN’S CONVENTION



“Learning About God Through His Creation”

What Does the Bible Say?

Nature Hikes, Fun Science Experiments, Swimming, Sand Sculpting, Fishing, and a visit to Omaha’s world-class Henry Doorly Zoo!

Children who are entering 7th grade in the fall of 2010 are encouraged to attend the Youth Convention.

EYES ON THE WORLD

By Fayth Boeker, Commission on Missions



TRANSITION: “The process of changing from one state, activity or place to another.” Not a new word to the missionary, but one that still brings pangs of adjustment, good-byes and left-behind ministries. This segment features missionaries who are facing a major transition in their life and ministry.

On Nov. 27, 2009, **Ron and Eunice Wiebe** left Natal, Brazil, and drove 3,000 kilometers (1,825 miles) to Sao Paulo. They left behind more than 80 trained teachers and 10,000 children reached for Christ by Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF). Today they are in a new place working at CEF’s National Training Institute until April 3, 2010.

Mike and Carolyn Reimer finished their work in Bolivia, leaving behind a reproducing church among the Guarani. In February they returned to Canada to start the process of developing a short-cycle team to plant a church in the city of Maldonado, Uruguay. From March 1-12 they trained at the Avant headquarters in Kansas City with the other three couples making up Team Uruguay (eight adults and 11 children).

After seven years in the United States, **LaVern and Marlene Smith** returned to Trinidad for a one-year assignment of church strengthening. They are postponing retirement to answer the call for help from the Trinidadian leadership of the Palmiste church.

Teaching at an Asian seminary is not new to **Keith and Jeannette Shubert**. However, due to health reasons, they left the smog of the Philippines and ISOT seminary to join the staff of EAST (seminary) in Singapore. They are still with Campus Crusade and still training national workers, just teaching in a new location.

Many of our FEBC missionaries are outstanding leaders and visionaries. **Gary and Valerie Brumbelow** fit this category. They have been with InterAct for 32 years, and since 1995, Gary has been the director. Gary Brumbelow resigned from his position as the executive director of InterAct Ministries effective February 28, 2010. For now, he and Valerie remain with InterAct while they seek God’s direction for the next phase of their ministry.

Pray:

Ron and Eunice Wiebe need our prayers as they minister at the CEF training center. Also pray as they make one more big transition to Canada around Easter of 2010. Look for them in a church near you.

The Uruguay Short-Cycle Team is gathering support and preparing to leave in September or October of 2010. Pray for the *Mike and Carolyn Reimer Family* as they uproot once again and learn to live in a new culture.

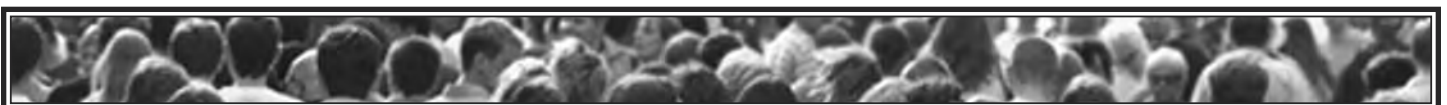
LaVern and Marlene Smith arrived in Trinidad on Feb. 2, 2010. They are thankful for generous contributions; a home stocked with food and a car the Lord provided. Pray for prepared hearts as they seek unity and growth in the coming months. Also pray for continued support for the next year.

Keith and Jeannette Shubert are adjusting to travel by BMW (Bus/Metro/Walking)! Pray for other adjustments to a new city, new foods, new students and new responsibilities.

Pray for a new position for *Gary Brumbelow* as he ventures out to a new area of ministry. They are thankful for Valerie’s position as a church office administrator.

*“The earth is the LORD’s, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it ...”*

Psalm 24:1



Urbana 09



Cindy Wiens helped represent SAT-7 at Urbana09.

FF: Who attended Urbana?

Dennis: About 17,500 people participated. Of these, 70 percent were students, the majority of whom were connected to Intervarsity campus groups on university campuses. More than 1,200 mission representatives were on hand. Since the convention moved to St Louis a few years ago, they have a pastor track and an alumni tract. As a result, more pastors and mission pastors are attending and more Urbana alumni are now attending.

FF: From your perspective was the event worthwhile?

Dennis: Yes, participants got a good

For more than 30 years our Fellowship has encouraged college students to attend the triennial Urbana Student Mission Convention sponsored by InterVarsity. One of the presenters this year was FEBC missionary Dennis Wiens, representing SAT-7 (sat-7.org). *Fellowship Focus* asked Dennis about Urbana09, held Dec. 27-31 in St. Louis, Mo.

awareness/exposure of diverse mission agencies. For most mission agencies, the recruitment value of a convention like this comes out of good follow-up after the event. From SAT-7's perspective, the most valuable thing to come out of this was exposure for SAT-7, as many new people became aware of our strategy.

FF: How many contacts did you make?

Dennis: Our SAT-7 team (four of us) talked to about 4,000 people, and 600 signed up for information. We offered a free "Jesus" DVD in 16 Middle East languages and a free drawing for a \$30 Barnes and Noble gift card. These attracted a lot of interest and visits to the SAT-7 booth. For example, I connected with www.gospeltrickshot.org who was at Urbana as an exhibitor, doing pool/billiard tricks. Every pool shot trick has a spiritual lesson. He is possibly now going to go to our Middle East studio and produce some programs for SAT-7 KIDS, as billiard/pool is popular in the Middle

East. So out of Urbana come many contacts like this to follow-up on. I now have some new invitations to speak in Bible colleges, etc.

FF: What kind of questions were you asked?

Dennis: Most people had never heard of us, so were surprised that this type of [satellite TV] ministry is going on. Some were supportive and came by to thank us. Many exhibitors, connected to MENA know of us, so came by to visit. A pastor at All Saints Cathedral in Khartoum, Sudan, came by so excited, and said that they are able to now watch SAT-7, and it is such a blessing to the church. Another person said, "I listened to it in Baghdad." One student said, "I'm Turkish; I would love to help you in any way."

To learn more about Urbana09, go to <http://www.urbana09.org/home.main.cfm>. Who will your church send to Urban12 (in 2012)?

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Caleb White and Hanna Aakre from Community Bible Church in Omaha, Neb., received a small grant from our Fellowship to attend Urbana09 as students. Here are their reactions:

Caleb: The very best part was thinking about how the Holy Spirit is working individually in all 17,000 people who were there ... AT THE SAME TIME!!! And then

also seeing all the different mission organizations who want to reach the world with the Gospel was really great.

Hanna: I also thought that the best part was seeing how many people were there with a like mind. Not everyone necessarily was wanting to go into the mission field, but everyone was there wanting to see where God might lead them. That was cool.

Caleb: God has called me to do two things: First, befriend internationals, whether in preparation for cross-cultural missions or simply because they need Jesus. The second thought comes from the theme for Urbana. It was taken from John 1:14 — "He dwelt among us" — and it was proposed during the conference that this might be our model for missions. This semester God is calling me to make a concerted effort to *be* with my non-Christian

friends, and to be more deeply involved in their lives, and out of that to bring Jesus into their world.

Hanna: From this conference, I have been challenged to do two things as well. First of all, in my home I am called to be more Christlike to my family. It's easy for me to take my family for granted, and I know that I should be making just as much of an effort to show the love of Christ here as at school. My second thought is similar to Caleb's. The theme of Christ dwelling among us really resonated with me, and so from that, I want to intentionally be going out of my comfort zone to spend time with and build relationships with my non-Christian friends. There are two girls in particular who God has really put it on my heart to reach out to, so I want to be going where they are and showing them the love of Christ through that.

FOCUS ON OUR CHURCHES

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

Omaha, Neb.

Charles Tschetter, Senior Pastor

Roger Reimer (*HCB/Ecuador*) and **Alycia Homeyer** (*The Navigators/the Netherlands*) shared their ministries with us at our Missions Festival in February. The theme was “The Gospel of Hope.”

We celebrated the retirement of **Vergil and Kathy Nelson**, who faithfully ministered under TEAM in Taiwan for 38 years. The Nelsons will make their home in Grandview, Mo., and serve as “TEAM coaches,” volunteering to help the mission recruit new people.

Dr. Lonnie Hofer traveled to Iraq in January to teach the Gospel of John to a class of church leaders there. In addition to being one of roster missionaries, Lonnie has served CBC as an elder for many years. Recently he accepted a pastoral position with a church in Omaha, and we look forward to hearing how God will use his ministry there.

Our young adults have a new, additional avenue for worship, prayer and fellowship: “Corporate” will meet once a month on Friday night.

Our drama ministry team treated us

to a funny and heartwarming musical comedy in February. “The Wedding” was a humorous depiction of wedding plans gone awry, but also gave audience members a thoughtful look at their own struggles and failings, and the love with which Christ pursues us.

Sharon Berg, Correspondent

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHAPEL

Winnipeg, Man.

John Harwood, Pastor



Christian Fellowship Chapel welcomed their new pastoral couple, John and Rae Harwood, at an installation service Jan. 3.

We rang in 2010 with a brand new pastoral couple! We are so excited to

welcome **John and Rae Harwood**. John and Rae have been actively involved in the ministries at CFC for many years. The installation service took place on Jan. 3. Thank you for your prayers on our behalf!

This year’s Christmas program was an original play written and directed by our own **Carla Dyck** entitled “Immanuel, God with Us — the Relevance of Baby Jesus in Present Day Lives.” Carla’s play focused our attention to the significance of the baby Jesus being with us in all our circumstances. The cast included participants from all age groups.

Nancy Kunkel, Correspondent

COMMUNITY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

Tahlequah, Okla.

We finished the year in a whirl of activities and “firsts.” It was not our first Christmas in our new worship center; however, it was the first year that we enjoyed carpeting, chairs, and Christmas décor. Our special Christmas program was directed by our choir leader, **Ron Goossen**, and assisted by his wife, Freida.



Another “first” at CBF was the baptism of **Benjamin Smith**. While Ben was not the first person to be baptized by CBF, this was the first time a baptism took place at our church — with a little



COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

Prince Albert, Sask.

Jim Fast, Pastor

God has blessed us as a church over the last year in various ways. One way is that we are becoming more of a multi-ethnic church. We have people from Romania, South Korea, China, and Canadian Aborigines and Canadian-Asians. Last year we were joined by three young Christian families who emigrated from Germany to work



in Prince Albert. Three couples and a combined group of eight young children are regularly attending. We ran eight weeks of English classes, and through that made contact with a fourth young German family.

Many people are immigrating to Prince Albert for employment, as some of the businesses in the city have gone overseas to look for workers. Fifty-three German families are expected to immigrate to Saskatchewan in 2010, many of them to Prince Albert. One of our ladies is translating the sermon outline into High German each week. The German is then printed alongside the English.

Our December Christmas program and supper was an exciting time with quite a mixture of nationalities.

Marjorie Wilson, Correspondent

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FOCUS ON OUR CHURCHES

continued from page 11

special help. The baptism took place in our Fellowship Hall in a cattle water trough borrowed from local prison **Chaplain John Hoverson**.

Yet another "first" was a heavy snowstorm that beautifully blanketed our church building. We know that our neighbor churches to the north will think this "first" mundane; but, we all enjoyed the wonderful warmth inside and were thankful for such an incredible building.

During January, we chose not to leave behind our apparent theme of firsts as we began a Vision Committee under the direction of **Charles Anderson**.

Bryn Smith, Correspondent

CORNERSTONE BIBLE CHURCH Steinbach, Man.

Jared Hiebert, Pastor

January marked the start of a 13-week Adult Sunday school class titled "Doctrine: What Christians Should Believe," led by Pastor Jared.

Our Christian Life Development Classes held every Sunday evening have been going strong on the topic "Knowing God – A Study of Who He Is." Now we are studying creation, and soon moving to God's providence.

The Women's Ministry is hosting another Women's Bible Study, "The Patriarchs," by Beth Moore. About 23 women are attending.

Carol Bercier, Correspondent

COUNTRYSIDE BIBLE CHURCH Meade, Kan.

David Cummings, Pastor

Our church is now a part of the Antioch Initiative, partnering Western churches with Russian churches to meet a deep spiritual need. We are partnering with the churches of Tomsk, Siberia, to help build up churches in that region.

The **Jeff Howard Family** went to Ecuador to minister to children in Quito and at the Casa De Fe orphanage in Shell.

Many brought their friends to our church for the showing of the movie "Flywheel" in January.

The trustees have been working hard on the basement of the church office in town. Jan. 17 was Men's Night. They claimed I Corinthians 16:13 as their verse, "Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong!"

Christmas festivities included a Senior Citizen Christmas Dinner, and a Birthday Party for Jesus.

Milestones

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Friesen,

54th Wedding Anniversary

Ann Classen, Correspondent

DALMENY BIBLE CHURCH

Dalmeny, Sask.

Dennis Friesen, Pastor

A farewell potluck lunch was held in honour of **Stephen, Charman and Nathan Hoff**. They left in February to do linguistic and cultural research with the Summer Institute of Linguistics.

Upon returning home from a two-year mission trip to Australia, **Nathan Bartz** shared his experiences with us.

Some of our youth joined with youth groups from **Salem Church** and **Martensville Mission Church**, two other FEBC churches, for a retreat at Camp Kadesh in January. **Lee Young** and **Dave Cornelius** spoke on Acts 2:42.

The children sang, acted and narrated at a marvelous performance for family and friends at the Club Christmas Program. Our Christmas program "Wonderful Christmas!" was put on by our Bible Discovery children.

Marilyn Harder, Correspondent

EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH

Langham, Sask.

Greg Guarnett, Senior Pastor

We are saddened that **Pastor Doug Taylor** has chosen to step down as youth pastor. Please pray for our congregation and youth as we seek God's direction in the coming days.

We geared up to host the FEBC Workshop in February.

The Congregational Care Committee

is planning a banquet to honor the seniors of our congregation. The committee does a great job of meeting needs within our congregation and community.

Christmas season was a blessing, particularly through the Sunday School Readers Theatre drama "Finding the True Spirit of Christmas." Nearly our whole congregation was involved!

Marilyn Friesen, Correspondent

EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH

Omaha, Neb.

Don Pahl, Senior Pastor

EBC's special offering for Grace Mission's relief work in Haiti totaled nearly \$10,000.

Drama Dessert Theatre and Valentine Banquet – "Family Outings" play was performed as a dessert theatre for two nights and then as a Valentine Banquet.

The play, performed by the EBC players, dealt with family relationships and God's answers to our humanness.

Carols and Chili – Many braved bitterly cold temperatures and deep snow to carol around the neighborhood and give away gift bags that included the plan of salvation.

New Members

Ray Morehouse, Bob and Julie Barber, Jason and Jennifer Hetrick, and Earl and Phyllis Mottl

Connie Yates

EVANGELICAL MENNONITE

BRETHREN CHURCH

Marion, S.D.

Randy Maass, Pastor

We celebrated retired missionary **Martha Becker's** 98th birthday. She served under The Gospel Missionary Union in Guayaquil, Ecuador, for 27 years. Martha hosted the five missionary men martyred by the Auca Indians in 1956, and assisted them in securing their documents on their arrival to Ecuador.

The **Kent Becker Family** (*Tent-makers Bible Mission/France*) was scheduled to share at our Missions Sunday in December, but a three-day blizzard postponed the event until early

FOCUS ON OUR CHURCHES

January, when Kent delivered an excellent missions message. We missed another service in January because of electrical lines down due to high winds and ice on the lines.

The congregation (we aren't too many!) went Christmas caroling Dec. 20. Our church annual business meeting was held Dec. 2, and we have filled committee positions again!

Ray Becker, Correspondent

FAITH EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH

Winkler, Man.

Mike Comtois, Pastor

Months of planning came together with God's perfect timing as nine of our members arrived in Haiti one week after the devastating earthquake. They served with Grace Missions of Henderson, Neb., helping with several projects, like grinding corn for refugees, building a play structure for the orphanage, and electrical and general maintenance work. Pastor Mike continues to train pastors who are, in turn, training others.



Haiti team members from Faith EBC in Winkler, Man., assisted Grace Missions with several projects in Haiti after the devastating earthquake. Left to right are Cornie Hildebrandt, Grace and Rick Penner, Renee Comtois, Candice and Nat Comtois, Mike Comtois, Bill and Lilli Olschewski.

In our women's ministry we've been reading the encouraging book "Walking by Faith," by Jennifer Rothschild.

We had a great time of food, fellowship and laughter at our Adult Christmas Banquet.

Liane Thiessen, Correspondent

FAITH EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH

Henderson, Neb.

Michael Fink, Pastor

The men of our church meet on

Wednesday mornings for a "Men's Winter Prayer Breakfast," praying together regarding the concerns of our country and our church, as well as personal and spiritual needs. It also provides an opportunity for fellowship and sharing during these cold winter months.

Concern for Haiti has been on our minds following the earthquake. As a church we have been involved through Grace Mission and the ministry they have established there over the years. Located about 80 miles north of Port au Prince, Grace Mission facilities have been selected by the United Nations as a distribution center for refugees moving north. While distributing food, they have had amazing opportunities to introduce people to Jesus. Farmers have donated corn and others have contributed monies for shipping.

Alice Decker, Correspondent

GOSPEL OF GRACE CHURCH

Hooker, Okla.

Chris McFarland, Pastor

Mid-winter Bible studies have begun again, as well as the kids' Bible class, taught by **Sandy McFarland** after school on Wednesdays. This group was incorporated into the Christmas program. As a result, Sunday school attendance has exploded, and a new class for young parents has begun.

Jim and Lydia Johnson presented their ministry with youth and camp with Brazil Gospel Mission. Pastor Chris and Sandy were former co-workers with the Johnsons.

Vacation Bible School plans are underway and scheduled for July 12-16.

Melvina Wichert, Correspondent

GRACE EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH

Abbotsford, B.C.

Dr. Warren Schatz, Pastor

Staff Appreciation: The congregation showed its appreciation for our church staff in October, and also welcomed new members, **Andrew Jager** (interim worship director) and his wife, Sharon. Gifts and flowers were given to each staff member and spouse. Several

members from the congregation were selected to publicly affirm each staff member. This was followed by a season of prayer for individual staff members and their spouses.



Grace Church staff: Administrative Assistant Grace Toews, Pastor Warren Schatz, and interim worship director Andrew Jager.

Ministry Partners: We were privileged to host **Stephen and Charman Hoff** in November. What a blessing to hear their story!

"Connections" Newsletter: Our weekly bulletin has changed to a monthly newsletter format. Communication with our congregation will be through newsletter and weekly web updates, as well as the weekly prayer list sent to our small groups. Missionaries of the month are featured in the *Connection*, including updates from each. *However, we have not forgotten those who do not use the internet.* Events will still be listed in the weekly prayer list. In the event of a cancellation, death, sudden health problem or a funeral, we will rely on our e-mail lists, the Good Friends' phone network, and our small group leaders to pass the information along.

New Members

Rebecca and Kelly Deobald;

Andrew and Sharon Jager

www.graceabbotsford.com

Grace Toews, Correspondent

HEARTLAND BIBLE CHURCH

Lincoln, Neb.

Scott Hecht, Pastor

The MUMs (Mothers Uplifting Mothers) held a swap meet one Saturday morning with many useful items brought in. Those that were not taken were shared with a local charity.

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FOCUS ON OUR CHURCHES

Luminaries were lit and placed along the sidewalk for all to see at our Christmas Eve service. Pastor Scott's topic was "Why Christmas?" The severe weather meant a smaller-than-usual crowd, and unfortunately, Christmas breakfast and church services that weekend were cancelled. No one could get to church, not even Pastor Scott!

Trudy Reimer, Correspondent

JANSEN BIBLE CHURCH

Jansen, Neb.

Paul Carpenter, Pastor

We gathered an offering for Haiti relief, which was sent to **Eugene Enns** of Grace Missions.

Our Sweetheart Banquet in February featured **Pastor Mike Fink** of **Faith Evangelical Bible Church** in Henderson, Neb., as speaker.

Two new adult Sunday school classes were launched in January: "Walk through the Bible," a DVD series, and a Beth Moore study for women.

Prayer Request

Please pray for **Waldo Goossen** (*Africa Inland Mission/Kenya*) who continues his treatment for lymphoma.

Tena Dick, Correspondent

NORTHEAST BIBLE CHURCH

Calgary, Alta.

John Fehr, Pastor

We thank God for giving us an international congregation. We have individuals and families from Hong Kong, the Philipians, Iran, Nigeria, Came-



roon, Liberia, Ghana, Sri Lanka and China who have become part of our church. Our most recent family just arrived from mainland China in January. As a result, Junior Church has grown to about 14 children.

Our monthly potluck continues to be a place where we can connect with each other and deepen our relationships. These meals together are a high-



light of our church family life.

Our men's and ladies' groups meet twice a month. The ladies have listened to speakers from the "Extraordinary Woman" series, and the men have discussed how to be good husbands to their wives and an example to others.

Julie Ann Simpson, Correspondent

RICHER FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

Richer, Man.

Simon Cheung, Pastor

Christmas highlights - The German church that shares our building invited us to dinner in December. We enjoyed a wide variety of German food. Awana shared its Christmas party with parents. Our ladies' Christmas outing was visiting the "Living Nativity" at Gateway Church in Winnipeg. The ladies also collected hamper items for distribution in the area, and donated money for Living Gifts at Mennonite Central Committee.

We started the New Year by serving at Union Gospel Mission, a mission for homeless and disadvantaged people in Winnipeg. We helped with prayer during the service, and setting and clearing tables.

While Pastor Simon was gone, **Pastor Dave Loeppky** from **Vita Bible Church** delivered the sermon on two Sundays.

Prayer Requests

Please pray for our youth group and our Morning for Moms group. Both have had very variable attendance. Pray for God's leading with these groups.

Susan Reid Correspondent

STUARTBURN GOSPEL CHAPEL

Stuartburn, Man.

Mark Funk, Pastor

Eighteen youth, along with three leaders, enjoyed a winter youth retreat at Falcon Lake Lodge in late December. During their time together, four members of the youth group shared their testimonies. They also watched "The Pineapple Story," missionary Otto Koning's account of trying to grow a crop of pineapple, and the lessons that God taught him during the time that he was ministering to a tribal village.

Our "Week of Prayer" started at the church with the viewing of "The Snake Story," also by Otto Koning, on Jan 3. Prayer meetings were held at various homes that week, with the theme of "Soar Like Eagles."

We had a record turnout of people attending the annual membership meeting Jan. 30!

Karl and Shauna Wagenhoffer put a lot of effort into writing a script, based on Bible prophecies and their fulfillment, for our Christmas program.



Prayer Requests

Please pray for the participants in our Easter program, and that it will be an effective outreach in our community.

Please pray for **Pastor Mark's** recovery from shoulder surgery. We know that it is hard for him to sit back and delegate some of his responsibilities!

Marilyn D. Thiessen, Correspondent

The Record

BIRTHS AND ADOPTIONS

Community Bible Church, Omaha, Neb.

- Oliver Tice to Brian and Emily Wlaschin, Feb. 17
- Caleb Aaron to Ryan and Danielle Pint, Jan. 31

Countryside Bible Church Meade, Kan.

- Chet William to Justin and Grace Powell, Oct. 14

Dalmeny Bible Church Dalmeny, Sask.

- Ellyce Ella to Ashton and Melissa Buhler, Jan. 15; grandparents are Dave and Tina Buhler

Faith Evangelical Bible Church Winkler, Man.

- Fynn Joas to Martin and Ella Pegler, Dec. 11

Gospel of Grace Church Hooker, Okla.

- Hudson Edward to B.J. and Kristen Woolridge, Nov. 28; grandmother is Liz Gilkey
- Luke Steven to Darron and Laura Hamm, Dec. 15; grandparents are Abie and Verna Hamm



Grace Evangelical Bible Church Abbotsford, B.C.

- Caleb Joshua to Joshua and Teresa Giesbrecht, Oct. 24; grandparents are Dave and Grace Toews

Jansen Bible Church Jansen, Neb.

- Jonathan David to John and Jolene Kroeker, Dec. 6
- Luke Henry to Peter and Mary Roker, Jan. 21; grandparents are Henry and Lois Roker

Richer Fellowship Church Richer, Man.

- Gabriel Hudson to Tim and Andrea Sawatzky, Nov. 17

Salem Church Waldheim, Sask.

- Norah Grace to Ryan and Stephanie Thiessen, Dec. 23; grandparents are Gerald and Betty Anne Thiessen
- John Oscar to Lise and Brent Keefe, Dec. 29; grandparents are Marg and Len Fehr
- Emmett Foster to Cam and Nikki Willems, Jan. 7; grandparents are Bob and Sherry Willems



WEDDINGS

Salem Church Waldheim, Sask.

- Stephen and Kendra Albak, Nov. 7



DEATHS

Cornerstone Bible Church Steinbach, Man.

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

Christian Fellowship Chapel Winnipeg, Man.

- Lena Froese (76) (wife of Pastor Jake Froese), Dec. 26

Dalmeny Bible Church Dalmeny, Sask.

- John Goetz (86), Feb. 15

Evangelical Bible Church Omaha, Neb.

- Elsie Buller, (95), Dec 20

Faith Evangelical Bible Church Henderson, Neb.

- Reuben D. Goertz, (83), Dec. 24
- Mary Smith, (97), Jan. 5

Grace Evangelical Bible Church Abbotsford, B.C.

- Linda Friesen (97), Nov. 19

Salem Church Waldheim, Sask.

- Henry Gliedge (95), Dec. 13



Focus on FEBC Church Planting

By Harvey Schultz, Ministries Coordinator



Saskatchewanians love their professional football team: The Saskatchewan Roughriders! “Rider Pride” is legendary in this nation. **“Go Riders Go!”**

Saskatchewanians also love hockey! Every community (even the dying ones) has its arena. Every larger community (and even some smaller ones!) has its hockey program and team to develop young hockey players who dream of some day making it to the National Hockey League. Everyone in the province seems to have some personal connection with at least one NHLer.

When you mix Roughrider loyalty with hockey, you open doors to exciting opportunities. That is exactly what FEBC church planters **Brian Friesen** (*Community Bible Church/Tisdale*) and **Ed Fischer** (*Humboldt Bible Church*) did in January. Both serve as chaplains to the hockey teams in their city.

In Tisdale, Brian invited **Stevie Baggs**, colorful Saskatchewan Roughrider linebacker from the state of Georgia, to speak. The Roughriders were willing to let their star linebacker come. But it couldn’t be for just one event. So Brian went to work. When all was said and done, Stevie spoke at nine different events in three days ranging from elementary school to

high schools to sports teams to “Faith Night” at the hockey game, culminating in a community-wide evangelical worship service on Sunday

Our church plants have become much more visible in the community.

They have become a respected and appreciated part of their city.

Citizens realize that the churches are there to serve them.

morning. Evangelicals in general, and Tisdale Community Bible Church in particular, were highly visible in a community which has been resistant to the Gospel.

In Humboldt, Ed Fischer invited **Matt Dominguez**, star receiver with the Roughriders. Like Stevie Baggs, he is an outspoken Christian. There was the mayor’s prayer breakfast, where Matt shared his testimony and various people prayed for the community. The “Faith Night” at the hockey game that night featured video testimonies by NHL Christian hockey players, live interviews of local people concerning their faith and unique opportunities for members of the Humboldt Bible Church to be involved and visible.

What are the results of such events? Our church plants have become much more visible in the community. They have become a respected and appreciated part of their city. Citizens know they are there. They realize that the churches are there to serve them. In Tisdale, several previous contacts of the church made public commitments either to accept Christ or to follow Him more consistently. Since then, extra chairs have been brought in to their small church building to accommodate people attending worship service. In Humboldt the event was followed by the special week of unity and prayer meetings. Each local church has a free hand in organizing the service in their church. This year, attendance has been better than ever. Contacts that Ed Fischer had followed for four years finally showed up at Humboldt Bible Church.

Our church planters in Tisdale and Humboldt have shown us an effective way to reach out to the community: identify with it, take a genuine interest in its welfare, serve it and look for opportunities to share your faith — and God will bring the increase. As we ponder how we can imitate their approach in our own community, let us pray earnestly for a fruitful follow-up in Tisdale and Humboldt.