

Fellowship FOCUS



Meade's Countryside Bible celebrates "A Century of Praise"



*May those who come after us
find us faithful to the Lord Jesus Christ.*

Story on page 14

Inside This Issue



Kenora Bible Church is
"Hittin' the Streets"
Page 7



Chris & Heyley Wiley
Page 16



Focus on Our Churches
Helen Cheung arrives
from Hong Kong
Pages 9-14

Comment



By Sharon Berg, Editor

When Wendy Paton, correspondent for Kenora Bible Church in Ontario, submitted her news for the November/December *Fellowship Focus*, one item particularly caught my attention. Last summer the church organized the outreach event “Hittin’ the Streets,” when congregations from Kenora Bible and other local churches stepped out to talk with people about their faith and serve this community of about 16,000. In light of the Fellowship’s goal to move forward with the new FEBC vision of individuals, churches and the Fellowship sharing the Gospel at every opportunity, I wanted to find out more. Wendi put me in touch with writer Veronica Graber, who had participated in the outreach. Veronica wrote an excellent article (page 7) detailing the event and what the group discovered. She in turn put me in touch with Aaron Causyn, an elder at Kenora Bible who headed up the event. In an e-mail, Aaron explained what had inspired him to organize “Hittin the Streets.”

“Back in 2009, God and I had a very serious conversation one night while I lay in bed,” he said. “Up until that point my whole life could be described as a poor version of a Pharisee. I did all the “Christian” things, and outwardly I seemed to have it together, but I was not living as one who has been set free from his sins by the power of the Cross.”

That night God revealed “my sinful condition,” Aaron said. “He showed me glimpses of what my life might look like without His grace, and it was scary. God softened my heart, and that night I clung to God and put my full trust in Him.”

Aaron was driven to “get busy for His name and glory,” he said. As he sought missions’ opportunities, God led him to Winnipeg Challenge, an evangelistic event hosted by Operation Mobilization. For nine days he joined others in evangelism training, prayer walking, sharing his faith and serving the community. Once back in Kenora, the Lord inspired Aaron to use what he had learned. “The challenges were different, but the results were the same: unbelievers receiving the Truth, and believers being blessed and impacted because we stepped out of our comfort zones to proclaim the Gospel.”

In the New Year, God will give us many opportunities to share the simplicity and power of the Gospel. Of the 20/20 vision statement, Aaron said, “The new FEBC vision really captures the essence of discipleship, and my prayer is that we as a conference fully embrace this vision as faithful servants to the Lord.”

Sharon

The President’s Challenge

I have a vision

Blaine Donaldson, President page 3

“Wish List” or “To Do” List?

Harvey Schultz page 4

Fellowship Views page 5

Legacy Giving page 5

Women’s Ministries

Ordinary People Can Give the Gift of Hope

Darlene Toews page 6

FEBC Video Library page 6

Kenora Bible Church is “Hittin the Streets”

Veronica Haber,
Kenora Bible Church page 7

Is It Just Me?

Yesterday’s Forty?

Connie Yates page 8

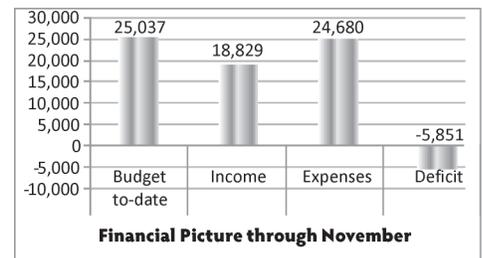
Focus on Our Churches pages 9-14

The Record page 15

Focus On Our Church Plants back cover

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FEBC Ministries Income Thru Nov. 2010



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I have a vision ...

I love great speeches. Martin Luther King Jr. gave the famous, "I Have a Dream" speech. Today, I have a vision. Allow me to describe to you what I see in 2020:

There is a church in which all believers are sharing God's heart for the lost. They feel compassion and love for the lost because God does. They are expectant that God will use them to show Himself to the lost through their own acts of love and sacrifice.

They will pray. Prayer meetings will be more focused on God's heart for the lost than on lesser temporal needs. Prayer meetings will be valued and attended because people realize just how much they need God in order to reach the lost.

These believers are intentionally seeking to love others within their communities. They purpose to work with God by doing righteous acts for the good of others. They are not afraid to really know and love the lost, nor are they afraid to turn the conversation to Jesus. They have been given culturally-sensitive tools which will help them talk directly about Jesus. They will know how to effectively use those tools.

These believers will intentionally seek opportunities to proclaim Jesus, and expect that God will create those opportunities. They will have the discernment to know when to proclaim the Gospel, and when to let their love alone speak. Fear will never be the determining factor. They will be obedient to God's command to proclaim the Gospel, and when they fail to speak up for Jesus, they are

quick to confess and look for new opportunities to obey.

This church will see the Gospel transforming the lives of those hardened in sin for decades. They will expect to see God work in their homes and communities and the power of God to change lives will be seen in their church and community.

Lost people will be saved on a regular basis. The newly-saved will be loved and welcomed by the whole church, and integrated into the body of believers. They will be disciplined intentionally and effectively, and the new believers will start loving and proclaiming the Gospel to their lost friends.

Acts of love accompanied by a clear proclamation of Jesus will be the normal, outward ministry of the church, whether performed by new converts or established believers.

As the church builds up the Body through faithful preaching, teaching, caring and admonition, the purpose of the church will be outward, to glorify God by reaching the lost. The church will praise God for the joy of seeing the lost saved and growing in the Lord.

The believers in the church will be sacrificial people. They will give money to reach the lost, because they are of infinitely more worth than materialistic trinkets and worldly experiences.

There will be a hunger by all for the Word of God, because young believers know so little about the Lord, and established believers disciplining young believ-

ers are reminded how much there is to learn about God and His love. The Word of God will change their lives.

In this vision, it is not just one church, but dozens of churches united together in purpose. These churches will

Does not the Bible present the Gospel as being this powerful?

connect regularly with one another, sharing similar joys and burdens. They will help each other through prayer, ideas, fellowship and support.

A renewed desire will emerge to take the Gospel to the billions of lost in this world. Passion for both home and foreign missions will be rekindled. These churches will regain their burden for the many communities in their home nations who do not have a Gospel witness.

They will be anxious to daughter churches and plant churches. All the believers in all these churches will no longer be afraid or ashamed to proclaim the Gospel. They will fully believe that the Gospel is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes.

They will be the Church, and they will glorify God.

Is this a realistic vision? Does not the Bible present the Gospel as being this powerful? Do you believe that God could do this in your church? Do you believe that God could do this in you? I have a vision. ■

They will be the Church, and they will glorify God.



“Wish” List or “To Do” List?

By Harvey Schultz

In our family we have a tradition called the “Christmas wish list”. As Christmas approaches we ask each other: “What’s on your wish list?” We’d like to know what family members might appreciate receiving as gifts at Christmas.

On my desk is another list: my “to do” list. It is always there. I need my “to do” list to remind me of the jobs that must be completed and help me prioritize those tasks.

There is a sense in which our prayers may resemble one or another of these lists.

At times it seems to me that our approach to prayer resembles that of presenting our wish list to God. We view life from our personal perspective, and we seem to be asking: what would I like God to do to help me and my loved ones in this situation? Certainly nothing is wrong with such praying. Scripture instructs us “in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, to present your requests to God” (Philippians 4:6). We are encouraged to “approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need” (Hebrews 4:16). In giving us a pattern for our prayer life, Jesus invites us to pray “give us today our daily bread” (Matthew 6:9-13).

Another dimension to prayer resembles the “to do” list more than the “wish” list. This is the prayer list of those who realize that prayer is crucial to the accomplishment of God’s work here on earth. Listen to them give prayer requests at prayer meetings and sharing times. Listen to them pray. It soon becomes evident that they are much more concerned about praying for God’s will to be done than about their own personal needs and wants. They seem to be viewing their own lives and the world around them through God’s eyes. They

seem to have been asking: What does God want to accomplish in this situation? What’s on His “to do” list? What should I pray for so that His will would be accomplished? They seem to have realized more than the rest of us that in that pattern for prayer Jesus also said we should pray “your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” This concept of prayer is much more prevalent in Scripture than is the personal “wish list.”

- When the Israelites rebelled against God and sinned by worshiping the golden calf, Moses interceded with God not to destroy them, reminding Him of His promises to the nation. He was concerned about God’s honor and reputation. And God listened to him (Deuteronomy 9:14, 18-29 and 10:10).

- When Daniel realized that the 70 years of captivity were coming to an end, he implored God to keep His Word and set the Israelites free. The captivity ended (Daniel 9:3 and 23).

- James invites us to pray for one another and then tells us how Elijah prayed that it would not rain, and rain stopped for 3½ years, and then how he prayed that the rains would return and they did (James 5:17, 18). It was God’s way of revealing Himself as the one and only God to a backslidden nation. Prayer was crucial in the unfolding of these events.

There are many more examples. Consider Paul’s prayer requests (Romans 15:30; 2 Corinthians 1:11; Philippians 1:19), his prayers for believers (Ephesians 1:15-19; 3:14-19) or Epaphras’ prayer ministry (Colossians 4:12).

Moses, Daniel, Paul, Epaphras and Elijah didn’t seem to be concerned about their personal needs when they prayed. Their focus was God’s will, God’s program, God’s honor, God’s glory. They discerned what God wanted to do and prayed accordingly. God used their prayers to accomplish His work on earth.

They prayed that God’s will would “be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

I have intentionally been seeking to build a similar focus into my prayer life. First, I ask for wisdom in prayer so that I can discern what does God want to accomplish in my life and the world around me. Second, I make a practice of praying for those things first. Except for one day a week when I pray for my family and myself first, I pray, first of all, for those things that I believe God wants to accomplish in the lives of those around me, in our church and in our world. I do that for two reasons. One, often when I put my needs first, I have little or no time left to pray for the bigger picture: the advancement of God’s work on earth. Two, in the pattern that Jesus left for our prayer life, prayer for God’s will to be done on earth precedes prayer for my daily needs.

I’ve discovered that my prayer has become less self-centered and more God-centered. My prayer list is less and less of a personal “wish list” and more and more of a spiritual “to do” list where I seek to partner with God in accomplishing His work on earth.

Jesus declared: “Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.” (John 14:13 ESV). Obviously, the primary purpose of prayer is not merely to meet my needs. The primary purpose is that when prayer is answered, it will glorify the Lord Jesus Christ and accomplish His work on earth.

Next time you go to prayer, start out by taking God’s “to do” list out and leaving your “wish list” in the drawer. The more you pray that way, the more excited you will become as you find yourself increasingly partnering with God even when you pray for your own personal needs. ■

Unless otherwise indicated, Scriptures are from the New International Version.



FEBC Winter Workshop

How do you manage a group of workers who are scattered throughout five states and three provinces of Canada? Another complication is that these workers are volunteers. For our Fellowship, even though the volunteers work from their scattered homes, it has been important for them to meet face to face at least twice a year. This Feb. 18-19 they will gather at Faith Evangelical Bible Church of Henderson, Neb., for two days of planning and discussion. This will be an especially important meeting as we begin to move toward the 20/20 Vision for our Fellowship.

Vision Seminar

Dr. Ron Klassen, Executive Director of Rural Home Missionary Association (RHMA), will present a seminar on leading churches through change. The seminar, titled "Retooling for the Present and Future," will be held at Faith Evangelical Bible Church (Henderson, Neb.) on Feb. 17 (before Workshop). Cost is \$45 (\$22.50 for spouse). Church leaders and pastors are encouraged to attend.

Fellowship Directory and Annual Report

The 2010 *Fellowship Directory and Annual Report* is available for \$5 plus postage. To order your copy, e-mail orders@febministries.org.

Finances 101

Our Fellowship is supported mainly by the churches it serves. However, church giving is voluntary, and when churches face economic difficulties, they reduce or suspend their giving to their Fellowship. Thankfully, God often moves individuals to give. If it were not for their gifts, the Fellowship could not continue. Last year individuals contributed \$38,000. This year, we anticipate that we will need \$60,000 in contributions from individuals. Would you consider a gift to the Fellowship?

Shepherd Search

Do you know someone who would be a good shepherd for one of these churches? If so, pass this information on them.

Pray that God would provide shepherds for:

- Vita, Sask. — **Vita Bible Church** (pastor)
- Langham, Sask. — **Langham Evangelical Bible Church** (associate pastor of youth and worship)
- Wymark, Sask. — **Christian Fellowship Church of Rhineland** (associate pastor)

For more information go to:

www.febministries.org/opportunities/pastoral_openings.

To request an FEBC Application for Ministry, e-mail

info@febministries.org

Legacy Giving Today's resources for tomorrow's ministries

Legacy Giving New Year's Resolution #1: Make a Will

Estate planning is a very important task, yet one that is easy to procrastinate about. If you do not have an estate plan in place that will ensure provision for your family while protecting your estate from unnecessary taxation, or if your estate plan is out of date, we urge you to take action to remedy this situation.

For Christians, there is an added dimension to estate planning: recognizing that God is the owner of our estate places us in a responsible position as a steward. It is important that we use our estate assets to their fullest potential during our lifetimes for ourselves, our family, our business and for His glory. As a steward, we must also arrange for the most efficient and effective transfer of our assets at death to individuals or ministries who will continue to use them to reflect biblical values.

While almost all of the reasons for procrastinating are understandable, none will serve to lessen the reality that the absence of an estate plan can have devastating impact on family members and on an estate. A proper estate plan should accomplish the following:

- Express God's plan of stewardship
- Provide for financial and guardianship needs for all dependents
- Transfer the assets God has entrusted to you to individual and ministry beneficiaries
- Transfer your estate in a tax-efficient manner with the least possible amount of heartache, cost or delay

To learn more about this ministry, please visit www.feblegacy.org/pg. We do hope that you will find this ministry a blessing to you and your family.

Ordinary People Can Give the Gift of Hope

By Darlene Toews, Community Bible Church, Indian Head, Sask.

In February 2010, God provided me the opportunity to go with a team of 25 to Uganda on a mission trip. In the two weeks we were there, we built two classrooms for a Watoto village. We also visited and experienced many aspects of the Watoto organization. In Sawhili "Watoto" means "the children"; their theme is to rescue a child, raise a leader and rebuild a nation.

Looking back on my experiences and what I learned, two words came to mind: *ordinary* and *hope*. *Webster's Dictionary* defines *ordinary* as usual, commonplace and not distinguished. *Hope* is defined as the expectation of something desired; it's the anchor of the soul that stimulates action and the momentum to achieve great things.

The founders of Watoto, Garry and Marilyn Skinner, were ordinary people who saw a need and responded to the orphan crises in Uganda caused by AIDS and civil war. Our team consisted of ordinary people; we all came from a variety of backgrounds, vocations and situations. It was encouraging to see how God led and worked in each one individually as we shared with each other and grew in unity. Each one had his struggles, and yet I saw how God led, molded and strength-



ened each one. It really showed me how mighty a God we serve!

Jeremiah 29:11 states: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" (NIV). As we built the classrooms brick by brick, visited Watoto villages and Bulrushes (a place where abandoned babies were brought and cared for); the word *hope* came to mind.

One Sunday afternoon I was invited to a home in a Watoto village for a traditional Ugandan meal and to spend time with that family. A Watoto village home consists of a house mom and eight children; some or none of them may be hers, but they become a family as they have no one else to care for them. In the home I visited I remember

one particular girl about 14 years old who had been there only several months. She had come from Gulu (Northern Uganda), where rebels have taken thousands of children to make them into child soldiers or use them as sex slaves. She was quieter, and later, as we played with the children, I noticed that she was missing. I searched for her and found her lying on her bed with her eyes closed. As I closed the door, I noticed multiple scars on her body and could only imagine what horrors had occurred in her young life. But what hope she now had because she had been chosen and accepted into a Watoto family and village!

Our group of ordinary people did not do anything significant for these children individually, but we enabled those working with Watoto to have the time to focus on making lasting relationships with the children, to concentrate on giving them a hope and a future in the Lord instead of having to worry about building classrooms.

You and I are ordinary people with different gifts and abilities, but as I was reminded in Uganda; God can use us just as we are and where we are to pass on His hope to others. ■



Battle for the Hearts

Although produced 10 years ago, this study on Islam is still up-to-date and more crucial than ever. Designed to be used by small groups or Sunday school classes, this study uses a roundtable discussion format to acquaint students with Islam and the issues relating to the evangelization of Muslims.

Battle for the Hearts offers the church a bold and in-depth look at

- the origins of the religion of Islam
- Islam's beliefs and practices
- the life of Muhammad
- apologetic arguments between Islam and Christianity

- practical methods that Christians can use in sharing the Good News with their Muslim neighbors.

Disclaimer: This video series is not meant to be shown or given to Muslims to watch as it deals with subject matter which will be offensive to most Muslims and could work against your efforts to reach out to them. It is intended for Christian audiences who desire to effectively reach out to Muslims.

*Twelve 50-minute sessions (VHS or DVD format).
Produced by Trans World Radio*

Kenora Bible Church is “Hittin’ the Streets” to share the faith in a community outreach ministry

By Veronica Haber, Kenora Bible Church, Kenora, Ont.

“I don’t know if I want to spend all my Wednesday and Friday evenings out there! I’m really busy.” “I don’t think I’d even know what to say.” “Aren’t you worried about letting your teenagers go?”

These were some of the concerns voiced by our membership at Kenora Bible Church in Kenora, Ontario, as we geared up for a unique outreach ministry initiated and organized by one of our church leaders, Aaron Causyn. Having recently returned from a Winnipeg mission outreach program, Aaron inspired and encouraged us to take up the challenge of bringing a similar outreach to Kenora. In an attempt to reach out to people in, we would be going out twice a week onto the streets, following the leading of the Holy Spirit as we made ourselves available to anyone put in our path.

The participants included many adults and youth from our own church, as well as some youth from several other area churches, a Baptist youth pastor, and several others from the Baptist church.

Our format was fairly simple: During the first four weeks of the outreach we would go “prayer walking” (praying aloud, as the Spirit led, while walking through the community). Then we would engage people in conversation, offer refreshments and tracts, offer to pray for individuals, and invite them to church. During week five we handed out invitations and hung posters for a free community barbecue at the end of the week.

Before each session, we met at an empty parking lot downtown, bringing water bottles and snacks to hand out. We organized ourselves into small groups of two to four, equipping each group with handouts, including CDs of testimonies in the style of rap music, enclosed in Gospel tracts geared to reach young people. We also had copies of the Gospel of John for those who might not enjoy rap music. We prayed together before setting out on our various routes. Finally, we would meet back at the parking area to debrief, share experiences, and encourage each other.

The focus was on prayer for the community during the first week. We prayed for the police, legal system and government as we as we walked past the courthouse and city hall; for the education system; teachers, students and the challenges facing all as we walked past an elementary school; for the pastor and numerous volunteers at a downtown church. We prayed that God would use us to further His Kingdom, and that we would allow the Holy Spirit to lead. Initial self-consciousness at praying aloud, eyes open as we walked down the streets, soon dissipated as we felt the Holy Spirit with us, and we encouraged each other in our prayers.

Surprisingly and joyfully, we encountered people in need who welcomed our greetings, accepted refreshments and allowed us, even occasionally asked us, to pray with them. At one point, we joined hands to pray with a lady caught up in substance abuse, desperately missing her two-year-old son who had been taken from her. Several people asked to be accompanied to detox, and people took the opportunity to discuss the love of Christ as they walked along. A couple of times we were rebuffed; angry cursing kept us from reaching out to a few, but only very rarely.

At a skate park, numerous teens honed their skills, enjoying the last warm evenings of summer break. They seemed glad of an appreciative audience. And they were willing to engage in conversation with our youth during breaks in the action. Most of our 100 rap CDs were distributed there over the course of the outreach. Church teens met with other local teens and identified themselves as Christians. What a blessing to the parents of the teens! What a blessing to the teens themselves, having been tested and finding that they could readily identify with Christ in a potentially embarrassing social situation. The young people we met there are now in possession of a written Gospel tract and recorded CD testimonies. What’s more,

they now know someone their own age with whom they can talk about Christianity.

Shortly after we began, our participants began e-mailing each other with prayer requests for people they met during the outreach. Evening devotions began to include discussions of our experiences and evening prayers included the people we had met. Concerns voiced before we began were gone; instead, comments included *“I was so blessed by the time we spent speaking to ‘Charlie.’” “After the first people we met that first night, I wasn’t nervous at all!” “Now I know two guys at work that I can talk to about God!” “As long as I didn’t try to plan exactly what to say, it was easy. It’s just talking about God and letting the Spirit lead you.”*

At the community barbecue on the last night of the outreach, 360 hotdogs were given away. We have no idea how God will use our acts of obedience to go into the world and spread the Good News. The distribution of CDs, tracts, the copies of John and our own testimonies are the bread that has been cast out onto the waters. We know it will not return empty.

It was such a blessing to be a part of this outreach. We want to share with the entire Fellowship our experiences and encourage everyone to follow the new mission statement of “every member taking every opportunity to reach out to the lost.” In serving, we open ourselves to others, possibly to ridicule and abuse, but also to growth, encouragement and love. And the Lord pours out His blessings.

If you want to organize this or a similar ministry in your church, but need guidance or have questions, please feel free to contact our church elder and organizer of our ministry at:

aaroncausyn@gmail.com.

If you would like to purchase copies of the rap CD/gospel tract, please check the following website:

http://reachlife.org/projects/entry/before_you_die

Veronica and her husband, Mark, have attended Kenora Bible Church for 12 years. She home schools two of her three children, who help run the family pet store in Kenora.





Yesterday's Forty?

By Connie Yates



My husband is notorious for giving me the most hilarious greeting cards. My favorite card reads, "Your love keeps me going ... well, that and fiber." It took me hours to stop laughing. I'm not laughing much anymore, now that my daily regimen includes making sure I get enough fiber! Ah, the joys of turning 50.

"Don't worry about turning 50," said a dear friend, "Today's 50 is yesterday's 40!"

Really? Cute saying, but I don't get it. I'm 50, plain and simple. When my mother was 50, she was 50. She appeared to be old and outdated and a bit conservative to a 10-year-old daughter like me, but she was *still* 50! To most 10-year-olds, I am old, outdated and a bit conservative. To my children, I'm just mom. To my siblings, I am the last to turn 50 (na na nuh boo boo).

More than half my life is over. I often find my thoughts drift to things that I may never see simply because it is impossible to live on this earth forever. Even my oldest son wrote, "Stay healthy mom, we need you to see Addi get married!" (Addi is my 2-year-old granddaughter). Yikes, what does that mean? I wonder if they think I'm truly on the other side of the hill going down.

It is funny how turning a "monumental" age makes all the other ages a bit insignificant. For instance, it didn't seem to bother me much when I turned 48. All it meant was that I was two years away from turning 50! And oddly enough, nothing earth shattering happened when I turned 50.

But, I'm still perplexed at the saying, "Yesterday's 40." My sisters took me out for my big five-o birthday. We had a wonderful time together, and I mentioned to them that I didn't quite understand "yesterday's 40." They all looked at me like I was nuts. They tried to explain it to me,

but I just didn't get it. They kept saying women our mother's age didn't have quite the same world when they were 50 that we have, and now women have more opportunities and voice, and oh, by the way, Mom *was* frumpy.

Well, if all that is true, how does that gain my life 10 years?

So I stood up for myself to my elder sisters and disagreed. They laughed at me as if I will understand, once I grow up. Typical.

I still think that age is all in one's perspective. When my paternal grandmother passed away, she was in her early sixties. At that time, I thought death would come in your sixties and that 60 was very very old. I won't even tell you what I thought of 70.

Addi will probably remember me as a vibrant, get-on-the-floor, tickle-me-till-I-scream, coffee-loving grandmother. But by the time Vinnie (my youngest) has children, they may remember me as a slow-moving, favorite-chair, decaf-drinking kind of grandma who makes frequent trips to the bathroom (OK, OK, maybe *that* has already started). But still, the perspective will be different.

There is one thing I have learned: I cannot remain 30, 40 or even 50. With each year I must look forward. I will have wonderful memories of years past, but I cannot stay there. I need to be flexible enough to change (this does not include new cell phones) with my future. When I was 10, I could wear a two-piece swimsuit, now I wear a three-piece with a coverall. As much fun as being 10 was, I don't want to go back.

Here in Omaha, Evangelical Bible Church and I were born the same year. We both recently celebrated 50 years. I can't help but think that it would not be possi-

ble for EBC to turn 50 if they had decided they liked being 10, and stayed there.

At EBC's "birthday" party, I listened as I heard ideas for the future for EBC, and as uncomfortable as some of it made me feel, I knew it was change that was necessary for the community and the growth of our church.

As five of our founding members sat close by, I realized how much change they have seen, and I am thankful that they had enough foresight to make those changes, because those changes greatly affected me and my family.

So, am I yesterday's 40? No, I'm today's 50. I'm hoping it comes with wisdom from the days past, hope for the future and trust in my daily walk. Colossians 1:16 (NIV) reads; "Everything got started in Him and finds its purpose in Him." Keeping my eyes on Him truly defines who I am. It is humbling to realize that my life was not a surprise and there is little I've done to have earned a pat on the back. As I seek to find purpose in Him daily, I hope to accomplish what was started in me.

"I thought, 'Age should speak; advanced years should teach wisdom.' But it is the spirit in a man, the breath of the Almighty, that gives him understanding."

Job 32:7-8 (NIV)



FOCUS ON OUR CHURCHES

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHURCH OF RHINELAND

Rhineland, Sask.

Alvin Buhler, Pastor

Eugene and Marsha Ens, who serve with Grace Missions, were with us for our Missions Emphasis Sunday.

Our ladies were invited to a very enjoyable "Night Out," hosted by our Ladies Social Committee, which spoiled us with facials, massages, hairdos, manicure and nail designs, foot soak and rubs, a photo op, door prizes, devotional, snacks and displays.

We held a silent Meal Auction in conjunction with our Thanksgiving supper, and now are enjoying the visits that are a product of it.

We participated in the Samaritan's Purse shoebox drive, with many full shoeboxes donated and a busload of youth and adults traveling to Calgary to work a few shifts at the Samaritan's Purse warehouse.

Verna Buhler, Correspondent

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

Omaha, Neb.

Charles Tschetter, Pastor

CBC women were treated to a festive and fun evening at Women's Ministries *A Gracious Christmas*. Several husbands chauffeured groups of women to Omaha's historic Old Market, where we heard speaker **Nancy Rempel** share about the value of using storytelling in sharing the Gospel. Music, sweets, beautiful decorations and an old-fashioned trolley ride to view Christmas lights added to a wonderful event.

"1.2.7 Marriage Ministries" is developed specifically for couples who have been married seven years or less. 1.2.7 Ministries will focus on developing social activities for couples to get to know others better through events such as a Valentine's banquet, summer camping trip, bowling nights, movie nights, cook-outs, etc. We will also encourage couples to attend events such as the Weekend to Remember marriage conference.

We are planning a "Flying Strong Friendship Banquet" in January, an out-

reach for unsaved friends, family and coworkers. **Dr. Larry Moyer**, CEO of EvanTell Ministries, will answer the question, "If God only had five minutes to talk to you, what would He like to tell you?"

Sharon Berg, Correspondent

CORNERSTONE BIBLE CHURCH

Mountain Lake, Minn.

Nathan Janzen, Pastor

In October, **Kevin and Melisa Borrer** shared their plans of returning to Soto, Africa, with Mission Aviation Fellowship, with Kevin serving as a pilot.

FEBC President Blaine Donaldson shared Harvest Festival with us on Oct. 17, a special time of celebrating harvest time with a potluck meal and fellowship.

We enjoyed soup, bread, pie and fellowship at the Mountain Lake Christian School borscht supper.

In November, **JoAnn Classen** hosted a Nativity Walk at Evangelical Free Church in Windom in November. The event is a fund raiser for the Elizabeth House in Mountain Lake.

Baptisms: Clarice Wallert, Cody Klassen, Kyle Borrer, Whitney Klassen
New Members: Chandra Schultz, Gail Erickson, Holly Penner, Perry and Sharon Harder

Arlene Stoesz, Correspondent

CORNERSTONE BIBLE CHURCH

Steinbach, Man.

Jared Hiebert, Pastor

The Women's Ministry organized a "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner" event in November, with two days to choose from to participate. Fifty-three people signed up, with seven couples hosting. We find this event is always much appreciated, and a wonderful way to get to know better the family of Cornerstone.

We hosted our first official hog roast for our Thanksgiving dinner in October. We rented a barbecue grill and roasted a whole hog all day. Every family was asked to bring a salad and a pie. The weather was sunny but cool, and by evening we had two bonfires going. The turnout was great, and the hog was much enjoyed.

Carol Bercier, Correspondent

COUNTRYSIDE BIBLE CHURCH

Meade, Kan.

David Cummings, Pastor

We were blessed to celebrate the 100th anniversary of our church in November (*see article on page 14*).

Countryside Bible voted to call **Chuck and Kathy Finister** to serve as associate pastor, beginning ministry here at the first of the year.

A program called "Immanuel's Child" was introduced to us. It is an outreach to the unchurched children in Russia at Christmas. For every \$25 raised, a child and his family is invited to a local Tomisk area church to an Immanuel's Child outreach. At this writing, our children and families have given \$4,350 to this project, providing packages for 174 children.

Hannah Curby shared Missions Moments with us one evening, presenting the work she has been involved with and hopes to return to in Italy when she goes back to the field. **Ralph and Ann Classen** took their annual missions trip to serve in Mexico.

Baptisms and New Members: Jagger Borth, John Borth, Dan and Janette Friesen, Brandon Haynes, Kjell Norgren, Abigail Orth, Abigail Trevino, and Naomi Trevino

Ann Classen, Correspondent

DALMENY BIBLE CHURCH

Dalmeny, Sask.

Dennis Friesen, Pastor

Ladies events have included a scrapbooking day, a movie and popcorn night, and craft and bake sale.

The young couples have started a video series called "Laugh Your Way To A Better Marriage" on Monday nights.

Missions events included sending 49 shoeboxes to Operation Christmas Child; a Camp Kadesh report by Director **Bob Conrad**; observing a Day of Prayer for the Persecuted; and **Greg and Julie Dole** sharing their goal to serve with Missionary Aviation Fellowship.

Speakers have included **FEBC President Blaine Donaldson** and **Dr. Barry Moore**, a well-known evangelist who

continued on page 10

FOCUS ON OUR CHURCHES

continued from page 9

was in our area celebrating 50 years of Barry Moore Ministries.

Marilyn Harder, Correspondent

EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH

Omaha, Neb.

Dr. Don Pahl, Sr. Pastor



During EBC Omaha's anniversary celebration, members share testimonies of God's faithfulness.

An evening of praise and celebration was held on Nov. 20, as EBC celebrated its 50th Anniversary. At the banquet, attended by about 300 people, testimonies and photos told the story of the founding and progress of the church. Greetings were presented by video from previous pastors. Five of the founding members still attend EBC: **Anne Janz, Bob and Lil Frey, and Don and Arlene Krehbiel.** To God be the glory for 50 years of His faithfulness.

The EBC drama team presented the Christmas drama "Nativity on the Square." The drama serves as an outreach ministry of our church.

New Members: Kevin and Nora Bryant and Keith and Aimee Hoffman

Betty Masters, Correspondent

EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH

Dallas, Ore.

Jerry Franz, Senior Pastor

Our pastors were honored in October during coffee time in the gymnasium. A card shower was given to **Senior Pastor Jerry Franz, Youth Pastor Nathan Ensz and Visitation Pastor Allan Wiebe.**

We offered teacher training in October to all Sunday school, Awana and Bible study teachers. The main speaker

was **Sam Baker** of Corban University in Salem. Topics included basic essentials for Bible teaching, a focus on creative teaching and how to better use EBC library resources.

Boxes for Operation Christmas Child totaled 113, packed with various toys, candy, school supplies, clothing and toiletries to ship to children around the world.

The annual Women's Candlelight Dessert in December was a beautiful evening of fellowship and fun for nearly 300 women, and included music and a speaker. At the same time, Women's Ministry held its craft boutique that included various homemade foods and crafts made by the people of the church.

Our high school youth raised funds through a chili feed and "cookies by the pound," when a variety of cookies can be purchased. Both fund raisers provide money for ministries throughout the upcoming year.

Baptisms: Craig Ensey, Sarah Erickson, Rebekah Shaw

Ashley Brown, Correspondent

EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH

Langham, Sask.

Greg Guarnett, Senior Pastor

Our 100th Anniversary Celebration will be July 23-24 in Langham (*see sidebar*). Everyone is invited! If you attended our church in the past, we'd love to see you again. Mark it on your calendar!

Fifty children, ages three through sixth grade, are coming each week for Club. Praise God that He has raised up enough workers! This was a very big concern; thank you for praying.

Curt and Janeen Penner, with sons Wyatt and Elliot, are raising funds for a Youth With A Mission trip to Mexico in February to build a Home of Hope. They have done odd jobs, sold pizzas and helped serve a chili lunch as a family.

Senior youth are working through the DVD series "Where Was God When ...", by Word of Life. Unfortunately, we are unable to offer junior youth meetings at this time. Pray for us as we con-

tinue to search for an associate pastor of youth and music.

Pastor Greg challenged us to prepare for the future as we contemplated the persecution of Christians around the world on Nov. 14.

Marilyn Friesen, Correspondent

100

**Join Langham
Evangelical Bible Church
in celebrating its
100th Anniversary!**

**July 22-24, 2011
Langham, Sask.**

There are many people who have attended Langham Evangelical Bible Church through the years, and we'd like them all to know about the celebration! We would appreciate it if YOU would tell your family and friends about this event. All are welcome to join us and catch up with past acquaintances and friends!

We are also creating a cookbook. Please send a recipe plus a "special memory" of attending Langham EBC. Please submit these by Jan. 31 to the church email or regular mail:

Box 115
Langham, SK
S0K 2L0

If you plan to come, please let us know by June 30, 2011

Contact the church:

Phone:
306.283.4321

Email:
lebc@sasktel.net

Website:
[www.langhambiblechurch.
homestead.com](http://www.langhambiblechurch.homestead.com)

(You can e-mail us from here.)

FOCUS ON OUR CHURCHES

EVANGELICAL MENNONITE CHURCH

Grunthal, Man.

Russ Reimer, Pastor

Our pastor search committee hosted a dessert buffet on Nov. 19 to give us the opportunity to get acquainted with our pastor candidate couple. The following Sunday the membership voted in favour of accepting **Russ and Sheila Reimer** for the position. His duties began Dec. 1.

Our church leaders met with **FEBC President Blaine Donaldson** in October to discuss various church happenings.

Walter Driediger shared how the Lord led him to become a Missionary Aviation Fellowship worker in Botswana,

encouraging us to obey the Lord's promptings quickly. **Ron and Eunice Wiebe** (Child Evangelism Fellowship) left for Sao Paulo, Brazil, on Jan. 5.

During this past year our Sunday school has collected money to purchase supplies for Samaritan's Purse Christmas shoeboxes. The children filled 23 boxes.

Marilyn Goertzen, Correspondent

EVANGELICAL MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH

Lustre, Mont.

John Skillman, Pastor

Jesse Sauskojus spoke about "The Mission-Oriented Life" at our Harvest

Missions Festival in October. Jesse grew up in our church and is the son of **Gerhart and Gerane Sauskojus**. The challenging messages, special music, fall decorating and Sunday noon roast beef dinner were a highlight of our year.

October also brought **Brian Young** of the Creation Instruction Association in Nebraska. He spoke about how the tabernacle gives light to our understanding of the New Testament and the work of Christ.

At our church potluck we invited the Lustre Christian High School dormitory students. A total of 37 students attend the school this year, and 17 are from foreign countries, including Ghana, Korea, China, Russia and Ethiopia. This was a good opportunity to have personal contact with the teens and learn about their lives and cultures. Our ladies also brought a table full of luscious baked goods to send to the dorm.

Mission Sale was a tremendous success this year. This biannual event is an auction, with proceeds going to missionaries that our women's ministries supports. Donations included everything from homemade noodles to fresh Italian dipping bread with oil.

Pastor Skillman and **Martin Fast** have been involved in a jail ministry this year in Wolf Point and Glasgow. This outreach has been effective in reaching those who have had very little exposure to the Gospel. Those whom they visit often desire most of their incarcerated friends to be visited, so the contacts are expanding.

Sharon Skillman, Correspondent

EVANGELICAL MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH

Marion, S.D.

Randy Maass, Pastor

October was "Pastor Appreciation Month," and the congregation assembled one Sunday for a photo. The next Sunday an appreciation meal was served, at which a framed photo of the congregation was presented to the pastor. Special was a surprise visit by invitation of the pastor's sister and the

continued on page 12

Grunthal's EMB Church welcomes new pastor



The congregation of Evangelical Mennonite Brethren Church in Grunthal, Man., recently welcomed its new pastor and his family. **Russ and Sheila Reimer** started their ministry at the church on Dec. 1.

Russ grew up in the Grunthal area and attended the youth group at EMB for a short time. He graduated from Nipawin Bible College in Saskatchewan in 1992, where he met Sheila. Russ drove a truck for about 12 years before he entered the ministry. He was a congregational care pastor in Steinbach and served in Mossbank, Sask. "As the Lord closed one door we stepped out and walked by faith," Russ wrote in an email. "As we began to look for where God would have us move, and in what capacity serve in the church, we saw God clearly point to Grunthal out of several small towns. We were willing to serve in full-time ministry or as a volunteer lay worker at a local church."

The Reimers moved to Grunthal in June 2010, and EMB's leadership approached Russ to consider the pastoral position. "Through much prayer and consideration we believe that God has called us here for this ministry," he said.

The Reimers have two sons, Cyrus, 11, and nine-year-old Jonas (both "pastors-in-the-making," Russ said).

FOCUS ON OUR CHURCHES

continued from page 11

pastor's wife's parents, four brothers and their families.

In November, **Brad Waters** presented a missions challenge. Mr. Waters is a graduate of Grace University of Omaha and feels God's calling to Japan to work with Northstar youth camps, associated with Grace Brethren International Missions.

Our Harvest/Mission Sunday celebration was held the last Sunday of November with **FEBC President Blaine Donaldson** speaking on "The Day and Hour" from Matthew 24. He correlated the Scripture with the importance of the vision statement introduced at Convention. The offering will be used for the educational needs for the children of **Kent and Sonya Becker**, missionaries in France, and to Lives Under Construction Ranch in Missouri to purchase breeding stock to develop their cattle herd under the direction of **Ken and Shiela Ortman**.

Ray Becker, Correspondent

FAITH EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH

Henderson, Neb.

Michael Fink, Pastor

Our church was involved in several care ministries during the Thanksgiving season. As a Sunday school project we collected groceries for our local food pantry. Our church family also purchased and packaged 62 Christmas boxes for children in Haiti. We observed the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church on Nov. 14. Along with our prayers, we took a special offering for Open Doors, which will be used to meet critical needs of those undergoing persecution.

Following a Thanksgiving service, we enjoyed a Thanksgiving dinner together Nov. 21.

In December, our pastor's wife, **Jan Fink**, invited the women of our church to her home for a Christmas party. Our children presented the Christmas program "Angels We Have Heard."

Alice Decker, Correspondent

HEARTLAND BIBLE CHURCH

Lincoln, Neb.

Scott Hecht, Pastor

Our annual missionary weekend was held Oct. 8-10 with **Garrett and Becky Swanberg** of Omaha who serve at-risk youth, ages 16-19, with Release Ministries. The weekend included a family night, with an informal presentation and opportunity for questions. Garrett shared a video of the ministry at a men's breakfast, and Becky spoke at a ladies' tea.

Jonathon Musgrave, the Lincoln director of Child Evangelism Fellowship, shared at our annual Thanksgiving banquet in November. We also enjoyed a video by which we were reminded of the many blessings and opportunities for service we had the past year.

Trudy Reimer, Correspondent

HEBRON BIBLE CHURCH

Hebron, Neb.

Jeff Friesen, Pastor

Hanna Curby visited us in late summer, and we enjoyed hearing about her calling to Italy. We were also very excited to have **FEBC President Blaine Donaldson** give a Sunday message.

Our church now has a new coat of paint and looks great!

Linda Krueger, Correspondent

JANSEN BIBLE CHURCH

Jansen, Neb.

Paul Carpenter, Pastor

Trent Muller of Beaumont, Texas, served us in the Word in our worship services Nov. 7. His burden is teaching Christian teens to know the truths of the faith and learn to defend them against attacks by their college professors and classmates.

Our Harvest Missions Festival in November included **Vic and Gwen Flaming**, and **Waldo and Lynette Goossen**. They gave eye-opening presentations about cross-cultural ministries. Skits demonstrated cultural breaches of conduct, and biblical problem-solving in interpersonal conflicts. The conference closed with a panel discussion on missions today.

Christmas events included "Miracle on the Square," during which our youth group served soup and pie in downtown Fairbury.

Tena Dick, Correspondent

NORTHEAST BIBLE CHURCH

Calgary, Alta.

John Fehr, Pastor

We celebrated the 34th anniversary of our church on Oct. 17. Founding member **Randy Motz** shared a brief history of the church, and we enjoyed a potluck meal after the service.



Dec. 5 was a big day for our congregation. The children set the tone of celebration by singing Christmas songs while ringing bells and gathering around the manger. Eight children were dedicated, and six people became members, each sharing about the events in their lives which brought them to faith in Christ, and what they appreciated about being at Northeast.



Following the service, we enjoyed our annual "Birthday Party for Jesus." Each person was given colorful lei, and a clown entertained the children and held a cake with candles burning for Jesus while the children sang the happy birthday song.

Julie Ann Simpson, Correspondent

FOCUS ON OUR CHURCHES

PARADISE VALLEY CHURCH

Natoma, Kan.

Ben MacConnell, Pastor

I am leading a weekly Bible study in Lucas, Kan., 30 miles east of Natoma, at the library. Up to 12 people attend. One older couple is spiritually mature, but most are unchurched Christians. I use the "Stranger on the Road to Emmaus" Bible study. There is a Bible study that already exists in Paradise, Kan., but those attending are looking for a leader and desire a deeper study. I may teach the same series there. The Bible study in Natoma is held at our house, and we recently began the study "The Church Awakening," by Chuck Swindoll.

Natoma held its first Christmas dedication service on Nov. 28. For the first time in recorded history, the three churches of Natoma worked with each other to bring the community together to praise God for His gift of the Christ child.

We continue to minister to a very diverse spectrum of people of all ages and backgrounds. Please pray that God continues to bless the overall ministry and that He continues to bring people to us so that the church may continue.

Also, please pray that God will provide the funds we need to continue to minister. We need new financial supporters to help us continue this ministry. This is the first month that the church does not have enough money to pay our medical account. Please continue to pray that God gives us health.

Ben MacConnell, Correspondent

RICHER FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

Richer, Man.

Simon Cheung, Pastor



This September, Pastor Simon's

mom, **Helen Cheung**, arrived on angels' wings all the way from Hong Kong to Richer! We were delighted to meet this special lady who brought laughter and joy to our church. The ladies hosted a tea in her honor and invited **Pastor Simon** to translate for us. Some of us brought photos and shared about our families. Pastor Simon was the brunt of much joking as he translated what we said about him. We enjoyed a memorable evening, and Mrs. Cheung was sent home with Canadian-made moccasins, not to mention giving us permission to choose a Canadian wife for her son!

On October 30, Ten of us attended the annual Awana Conference held in Steinbach, Man., in October. The conference spurred us on to carry the Gospel message to the children of the Richer area. Although Awana attendance is down in Richer, we are "pressing on!" We are thankful to have four young people in Junior Youth, two of whom are Roman Catholic, who are learning about God's wonderful plan of salvation. Please continue to pray for the little church with big hearts, reaching out to the lost.

Michelle Driedger, Correspondent



STUARTBURN GOSPEL CHAPEL

Stuartburn, Man.

Mark Funk, Pastor

In October, **Ron and Eunice Wiebe** gave us a glimpse of their work as missionaries in Brazil with Child Evangelism Fellowship. **FEBC President Blaine Donaldson** spoke on Nov. 7. It was good for the church to meet him and encourage him in his new role.

"Guess Who's Coming For Dinner?" was held on Nov. 14. Again, those of us who participated had a great time of getting to know and encourage others in our church family.

Several "Equip to Serve" Bible classes started in the fall. These classes help develop a consistent devotional life, understand basic Bible truths and encourage memorization of key Bible verses, all to equip us to share our faith with others. Another benefit is the blessing of belonging to a small group.

Irvin and Linda Boschmann have taught Spanish lessons once a week in

preparation for the three-week Costa Rica missions trip at the end of January. Seventeen people from our church and two from **Hodgson Bible Church** will fly there to help a couple with 38 children and one more on the way. Six are their own; the others are orphans for whom the couple is trying to make a home. As a church, we are excited to be a part of this special ministry opportunity. Please remember to pray for this family, and also for our team as they minister to them. The church adult Christmas banquet was also a fundraiser for the Costa Rica trip. The turnout was very good, and the money raised will be a great help to this family and also to their local church.

At the "Mother-Daughter Advent Tea" **Roxanne Klassen** of Grunthal shared how the Lord has worked in her life to make her realize that she is a special child of God, and that we are all special in His eyes.

Marilyn D. Thiessen, Correspondent

continued on page 14

FOCUS ON OUR CHURCHES

VITA BIBLE CHURCH

Vita, Man.

Club DJ is meeting weekly, with 25 children enjoying singing, a Bible story, games and crafts.

A large group of volunteers helped install a new tin roof on the church. Their

efforts were energized by more volunteers, who supplied snacks and lunch.

Marilyn Thiessen of **Stuartburn Gospel Chapel**, and her daughter, Nicole, spoke at our Mother-Daughter Tea. Ten ladies attended the Women of Faith meeting in Minneapolis.

Our senior youth group auctioned-off a variety of meals to our church families. The funds will be used to pay for their trip to Youthquake at Briercrest College.

We celebrated Thanksgiving together with a traditional turkey meal.

Jane Roman, Correspondent

Meade's Countryside Bible celebrates ...

1910 ~ A Century of Praise ~ 2010
Remembering, Rejoicing, Rededicating



Countryside Bible Church celebrated its 100th Anniversary Nov. 6-7, with festivities that the past and present Countryside Bible Church family enjoyed, including a tour of the church, historical displays, a wedding gallery, ethnic meal and trolley rides that featured the history of the church and its community.

Services featured much singing and messages from the Word, as the church family shared memories, rejoiced in what God accomplished and rededicated their lives to follow Him into the future.

Countryside was founded in 1910, when a number of families from Nebraska and central Kansas moved to rural Meade County to begin a new life together. Previously known as the Bruderthal Church, then the Evangelical Mennonite Brethren Church, the congregation began meeting in the old Pleasant Hill School House. As the church grew, the congregation built and expanded church facilities.

God has used this small local church to teach and train believers in our own neighborhood, as well as touch other parts of the world by training and sending pastors and missionaries; starting six new churches in Japan; translating the Bible into the language of tribal groups; reaching people for Christ in the

Arab world; producing Christian literature in India, Brazil and Kyrgyzstan; helping construct buildings in Siberia; and helping to establish a strong national church in Kenya.

What has been accomplished so far through Countryside Bible Church has only been possible because of the great God we serve; anything of value

was done by Him. We are thankful to have been a part of the Meade community for the past 100 years, and are looking forward to serving Christ with other believers in the community into the future as well. May those who come after us find us faithful to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Rolly and Marge Wiens

*May those who come after us
find us faithful
to the Lord Jesus Christ.*

THE RECORD

BIRTHS AND ADOPTIONS

Community Bible Church Omaha, Neb.

- Emma Marie to Eric and Angela Nelson, Oct. 16
- Noelle Ammarie to Andy and Kim Dyer, Nov. 3
- James to Joe and Michele Shanahan, Nov. 2
- Katelyn Marie to Jason and Tasha Schiebel, Nov. 29
- Brooke Elizabeth to Jon and Amber Wright, Dec. 9

Christian Fellowship Church of Rhineland Rhineland, Sask.

- Maverick Lee Gai-Wik to Lawrence and Angie Friesen, Sept. 29

Countryside Bible Church Meade, Kan.

- Kamberlyn Jayne to Matt and Rachel Hiebert, Oct. 9; grandparents are Jim and Cindy Hiebert; great-grandparents are Eldo and Mary Wiens
- Tyler William to Aron and Annie Fast, Oct. 23; great-great grandparents are Jake Z. and Viola Friesen; great-grandparents are Al and Mary Friesen

Dalmeny Bible Church Dalmeny, Sask.

- Shalayna Reann to Brendan and Stacey Epp, Oct. 17; grandparents are Dale and Sheryl Epp; great-grandparents are Gilbert and Doreen Schultz
- Mason Timothy to Tim and Sheena Derksen; Oct. 23

Evangelical Bible Church Omaha, Neb.

- Emma Marie to Eric and Angela Nelson, Oct. 16; grandparents are Steve and Nancy Nelson
- Weston Travis to Ryan and Molly Cole, Nov. 2; grandparents are John and Cindy Crowley
- Cohen Daniel to Nate and Kimbra Pahl, Nov. 7; grandparents are Pastor Don and Rosi Pahl

Evangelical Mennonite Brethren Church Grunthal, Man.

- Kirsten Jaylynn to Dennis and Marge Hiebert, Oct. 7
- Jacob William to Tim and Jen Froese, Oct. 14; grandparents are Ernest and Gwen Froese; great-grandmother is Adila Peters

Faith Evangelical Bible Church Winkler, Man.

- Jayden to Andreas and Lena Deleske, Oct. 25
- Megan Avery to John and Eva Krahn, Nov. 29

Richer Fellowship Church Richer, Man.

- Finley Scott to Scott and Stephanie Reimer, Nov. 21; grandparents are Billy and Carey Reimer of Cornerstone Bible Church, Steinbach, Man.

Salem Church Waldheim, Sask.

- Jacob Levi to Rob and Denise Heppner, Nov. 17

WEDDINGS

Dalmeny Bible Church Dalmeny, Sask.

- Carey Chomyn to Gerald Krause; Dec. 4

Evangelical Bible Church Omaha, Neb.

- Chessie Rohrer to Nate Vesely, son of Don and Willa Vesley, Oct. 9

- Lucinda Mottl, daughter of Earl and Phyllis Mottl, to Monty Mason, Nov. 6

Hebron Bible Church Hebron, Neb.

- Deloris Snyder to Lee Garner, Oct. 3

DEATHS

Cornerstone Bible Church Steinbach, Man.

- Katherine (Janz) Rieger (98), Nov. 20

Cornerstone Bible Church Mountain Lake, Minn.

- Lois Klassen (79), Oct. 18

Countryside Bible Church Meade, Kan.

- Nick Ediger (86), Oct. 7
- Frankie Toews (90), Oct. 17
- Pete Bartel (88), Oct. 1
- Ben Isaac (91), Nov. 3
- Helen Reimer (92), Nov. 9
- Caroline Franssen, (87) Nov. 28

Evangelical Mennonite Church Lustre, Mont.

- Elizabeth Pankratz (90), Nov. 10

Heartland Bible Church Lincoln, Neb.

- Kathy Vermaas (63), Nov. 3

Jansen Bible Church Jansen, Neb.

- Betty Ensz (71), Oct. 24

Salem Church Waldheim, Sask.

- Susan Ens (88), Nov. 21

*The LORD gives strength to his people;
the LORD blesses his people with peace.*

Psalm 29:11 (NIV)

NO ENDORSEMENT



Focus on FEBC Church Planting

By Harvey Schultz

In the past year, two of our church plants have reached autonomy: Hebron Bible Church in Nebraska, and Humboldt Bible Church in Saskatchewan. Soon we will have the opportunity to celebrate more “graduations.”

That is our goal in church planting: establish autonomous (self-governing, self-financing, self-propagating), interdependent, responsible FEBC Churches. How do we measure if a church has attained that status? Numbers alone (finances and attendance) do not guarantee self sufficiency.

We have established several criteria to help determine if a church will be able to survive and grow:

- Are there a sufficient and a growing number of local believers willing to identify with the church as members and assume responsibility for its welfare?
- Is the new church able to meet all its financial obligations without outside assistance?
- Does it have several biblically qualified men who are willing to serve as elders? One of the major reasons why promising church plants fail is entrusting elder leadership to men who are not biblically qualified for that responsibility.
- Does the church have its administrative house in order, enabling it to function well according to legal and fiscal obligations?

The FEBC Constitution states that these criteria must be met in order to be recognized as an autonomous church.

On Jan. 1, 2011, **Community Bible Fellowship** in Tahlequah, Okla., will celebrate its autonomy, and at Convention 2011 in Mountain Lake, Minn., we will celebrate with them. The FEBC has provided financial subsidies and leadership assistance to that church since it affiliated with us in Fall 2004. During this time the

church has built a beautiful and functional facility, local leadership has assumed full responsibility, and recently the church voted to forego the final year of planned FEBC subsidies. The FEBC Commission on Church Planting has recognized this development and is delighted to heartily approve of this status.



Chris & Heyley Wiley

Chris (Heyley) Wiley has moved his family to Tahlequah to assume the pastoral responsibilities for one year. It is hoped that

next summer his tenure as pastor will be prolonged indefinitely. Pray for the spiritual prosperity of this church and for Chris' pastoral ministry. When I visited the church in October it was a delight to see visible growth. There were two Sunday school classes for children and one for teenagers. Even though the church has reached this milestone, the future will be challenging for them.

Community Bible Church in Tisdale, Sask., is also a growing church, but faced with a completely different set of challenges. It affiliated with the FEBC in the fall of 2004. They, too, have been receiving financial and leadership assistance from the Fellowship. As with all church plants, financial subsidies are provided on a decreasing scale. Each year the amount drops and the local church has to assume more financial responsibility. At times it seemed like an insurmountable obstacle. But each year God provided the increase. In 2008 local giving increased by 19 percent over the previous year; in 2009 by 35 percent; and in 2010 by 31 percent. God has provided! In the coming year the church will be faced with a similar financial challenge.

But a new challenge has confronted this group of believers. Their church building has become too small! Seating capacity is 60. Regular attendance has reached the 50 mark. There have been Sundays when attendance was beyond 65!

After extensive research and scouring the city of Tisdale for some other suitable building to rent or buy, the church Property and Finance Committee has reached the conclusion that the only viable option is to add an extension to the existing building, which will more than double seating capacity and provide room for children's and youth ministries. The estimated price tag (with *lots* of donated labor) is \$100,000! The church has \$17,000 in a building fund. The FEBC Trustees are prepared to grant \$15,000. Prairie West Extension is able to make a \$72,000 loan. But a loan of that amount would add more than \$600 per month in loan repayments. The Property and Finance Committee is challenging the local group to raise a substantial amount of this before construction begins in spring, and to provide much volunteer labor.

Can they do it? Likely not! Can God do it? Absolutely!

Stay tuned for further developments as they discuss, plan, pray and go to work. And, above all, join with them in asking God, Who has given numerical growth, to give them the financial resources to move ahead.