

Fellowship FOCUS



proclaiming
vision 20/20 **CHRIST**
 every member | every church | every opportunity

Living the Vision **Equipping and Encouraging** **ONE ANOTHER**
A.D. 2011 **117th FEBC Convention**

July 14-17, 2011

Cornerstone Bible Church, Mountain Lake, Minn.

Speaker:
Dr. Elwood Chipchase,
Encouragement Ministries

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By Sharon Berg, Editor

Happy Summer! I hope you are fully immersed in summer activities and enjoying all that the season offers.

In this issue we introduce a new, occasional feature. "Catch the Vision" shares real-life stories of people within our Fellowship who took the opportunities God gave them in daily life to share the Gospel or move someone toward a better understanding of it. Read our first installment on page 5. And please share your own experiences with us!

Two columns are particularly thought-provoking in this issue. **FEBC President Blaine Donaldson** helps us to better understand the postmodern worldview and the best way to proclaim the Gospel to postmodernists (page 3). **Harvey Schultz**, former Ministries Coordinator for the Fellowship, digs deeper into Jesus' command to "go and make disciples," and asks the question "Have We Misunderstood the Great Commission?" When I first read Harvey's headline, I was startled and intrigued (page 4). See if you aren't, as well.

Blessings,

Sharon Berg

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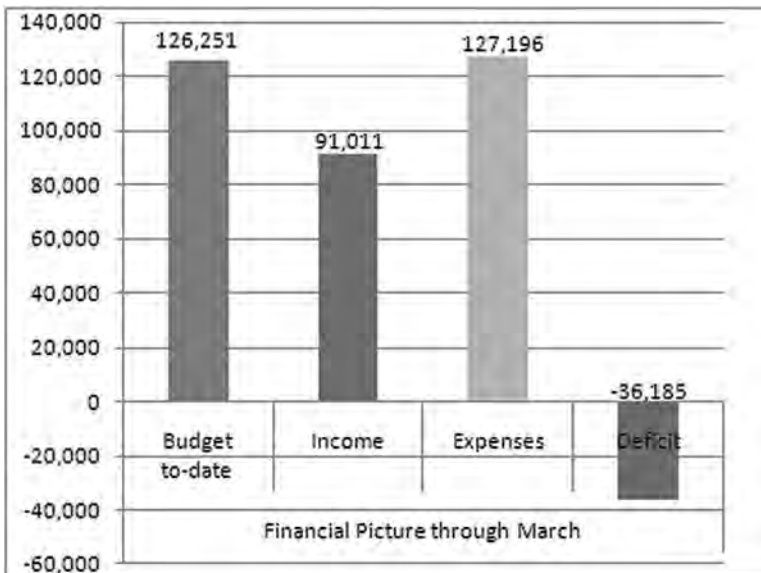
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The Fellowship Focus is available to read on-line. Check it out!

<http://www.febministries.org>
 click on the Fellowship Focus tab



Taking Advantage of Postmodernism

"It used to be that people had morals. They went to church and learned right from wrong," was the comment overheard at a local coffee shop.

"If we could just get people to come back to church again, this town would be a much better place," was the reply.

However, non-Christians generally don't come to church. They may have needs and questions that they cannot answer, but they do not believe that the answers can be found in the organized church. This is a symptom of our culture.

Sociologists would describe our Western culture as "postmodern." Most of us have heard the term and have varied levels of understanding of what it even means. I would not spend our time defining it. Generally, postmodernism is a bad thing, but it affords us one great advantage in the work of Gospel proclamation.

Postmoderns are very distrustful of institutions and really of any authority structure. They do not trust the government. They do not trust law enforcement. They do not trust corporations. They do not trust organized religion. Inviting someone to learn about Jesus through what is perceived as an impersonal institution is culturally irrelevant and ineffective. Although postmoderns do not trust institutions, they are more open to trusting sincere, personal relationships than ever before. When we see

a commercial for a fancy new product, we are often skeptical, but when a personal friend recommends the same product, we are much more likely to try it.

Over the past decades, how have we done evangelism? Primarily, we have evangelized by living a Christ-like life and inviting people to church to hear the Gospel proclaimed. We have invited people to hear the truth, but from organized religion. Sometimes we have left tracts

Gospel by inviting people to church, this is predominantly rejected by our culture today. People do not come because they do not trust organized religion. They lose the opportunity to come to Jesus because they do not want to come to church.

As much as postmoderns mistrust the organized church, they trust sincere, caring relationships. As servants of God, we have unprecedented opportunities to effectively share the Gospel with our friends and neighbors. If we are willing to speak about Jesus, if we are willing to share the real difference that He makes in our lives, they will listen and consider Jesus. They may not listen to your pastor, but they often will listen to you.

What I love about postmodernism is that the best

way to share the Gospel is through relationships that we already have or ones that we can easily develop. Relationships are forgiving of ineptitude in communication. Relationships seek to understand each other. They are built on sharing, helping and trust which are all very consistent with the Gospel message.

There are many who are ready to believe that Jesus is real and that He loves them, if they see Jesus in you. The sincerity of your care and love for them will make you credible. Your words will be heard and typically trusted. Will you use that trust to point them to Jesus? Will you proclaim the Gospel to them? ■

As much as postmoderns mistrust the organized church, they trust sincere, caring relationships.

or videos which are produced by organized religion. Today, this is counter-productive amongst postmoderns. We present the Gospel in a form that they are predisposed to mistrust and reject.

One of the doctrines that we treasure in our Fellowship is the priesthood of all believers (see 1 Peter 2:5). This means that every believer is equally a servant of the Lord and that together we all do the work of this ministry. This is evident in our vision statement which, in part, says, "... the Gospel of Jesus Christ is proclaimed by every member of every church"

While we have often proclaimed the



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Have We Misunderstood The Great Commission?

By Harvey Schultz

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations; baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20 NIV).

My observation is: not necessarily and, hopefully, no more than those who did not receive such a call to go.

Let me explain. I'm not a Greek scholar, but the sources I have consulted are unanimous in their conclusion that this verse has been mistranslated. And this mistranslation may have contributed to a misunderstanding which may actu-

ally have hindered the Church of Jesus Christ from fulfilling it.

What Christ actually said was: **"As you go** (or "in going") make disciples of all nations" The imperative in this verse is not "go" but "make disciples."

The Great Commission commands us to make disciples. It does not command us to go. It is possible for a person to "go" and yet not make disciples. Such a person would be, in reality, in disobedience to the Great Commission.

Furthermore, if the more accurate translation is "as you go" or "in going," that means that one does not need a call to "go" to some foreign land to obey.

Most likely it means that we should seek to make disciples *as we go* to work, *as we go* on vacation, *as we go* on business trips, *as we go* to visit friends and relatives, *as we go* to school

If that is so, it is clear that we are called to make disciples wherever we are, even if we have not received a call to go to some other place to do it. We don't have to wait for some call to go to some place to obey the Great Commission. Not everyone is called to go. But everyone is called to make disciples.

No doubt we believe that our 20/20 Vision Statement is rooted in the Great Commission. And we would be right. *"We will be a fellowship of churches that equips and inspires one another so that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is proclaimed by every member of every church at every opportunity."* It is rooted in the Great Commission (and many other passages); more than we even realize! If *all of us* are called to make disciples *as we go* about our daily lives, then it is imperative that the Gospel of Jesus Christ be proclaimed by *every member of every church at every opportunity.* ■

The Great Commission commands us to make disciples. It does not command us to go.

Forty five years ago (March 25, 1966), Anna Louise and I sailed (yes, sailed!) to France to serve as missionaries. We were convinced that God had called us to go to France, and we obeyed. We spent 25 years in that land seeking to win people to Christ and teach them to be obedient followers of Jesus Christ.

No doubt most people would say that we were obeying the Great Commission.



GOOD \$EN\$E Budget Course



Everyone in your church can experience financial freedom.

These are the words people most often use to describe the GOOD \$EN\$E BUDGET COURSE — a proven resource for changing hearts and lives in the area of finances. Field tested for more than sixteen years at Willow Creek and other churches, GOOD \$EN\$E can help relieve the crushing stress and anxiety caused by consumer debt, restore marriages torn by conflict over money, heal wounded self-esteem and shattered confidence resulting from poor financial decisions and remove stumbling blocks to spiritual growth.

GOOD \$EN\$E will help the people in your church discover tools and develop skills that enable them to control their finances rather than allow their finances to control them. This study is complete with video clips, PowerPoint lessons and hand-out notes. It does require a teacher, but provides all the material a teacher needs for an effective class.

Course includes DVD (and VHS), CD, Leader's Guide and Student Guide; six 50-minute sessions.

This series and others are available for use by Fellowship churches and small groups. A catalog of available titles can be found at www.febcministries.org/pdf/video_catalog_2010.pdf. Order videos from orders@febcministries.org.



We've Moved!

After 10 years of leasing office space in a strip mall, the Fellowship has purchased a small office condominium (1,000 sq. ft. or 93 sq. m.). Although slightly smaller than our present office, the well-designed interior uses space effectively. The purchase cost is less than another 10 years of leasing is expected to cost. Our new address is 11605 W DODGE RD STE 3, OMAHA, NE 68154-2566.

Legacy Giving

Tisdale Bible Church in Saskatchewan has become root-bound: Its tiny building is unable to hold any more people. The solution is to transplant the congregation to a new pot (sanctuary) to provide room for growth. Last year our Fellowship received a bequest and a gift of commodities. These generous gifts made it possible for the Fellowship to help the Tisdale congregation with a building grant of \$15,000. Gifts from churches and generous individuals over the past seven years have helped this church plant to develop strong roots in the community and lead people to trust God. Thank you! The congregation hopes to begin worshipping in the new building in September.

Church Leadership

How is your church training its present and future leaders? One resource that has been used by many of our Fellowship churches is *Christ in Church Leadership* by Paul Winslow and Dorman Followwill (Discovery House, 2001). This 11-session study is available from our office (approx. \$10.40 ea.). What is your church using to train its leaders? Let us know at info@febministries.org.

Homegoing

- The **Rev. Henry Dueck** pastored Morris Mennonite Church, now Valley Bible Church, of Morris, Man., from 1982 until his retirement in 1994. During many of those years, he served our Fellowship on the Commission on Churches. His lifetime of pastoral experience and his gentle spirit was a great asset to our Fellowship. He passed away on Feb. 8.
- **Mrs. Marie (Wall) Wiens** led a very interesting and productive life as a pastor's wife, serving several of our Fellowship churches including **Jansen Bible, Lustre Evangelical Mennonite Brethren Church, Stuartburn Gospel Chapel and Randville Bible Church**. She died on Jan. 10 at the age of 100! **Her full obituary can be found at** <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/startribune/obituary.aspx?n=marie-wiens&pid=147780649>

Missions Grants

Small grants are available to college students taking on a cross-cultural mission assignment for at least six weeks. For requirements and application forms, contact orders@febministries.org.

Shepherd Search

Pray that God would provide shepherds for:

- Langham, Sask. — **Langham Evangelical Bible Church** (associate pastor of youth and worship)

For more information go to:

www.febministries.org/opportunities/pastoral_openings.
To request an FEBC Application for Ministry, e-mail: info@febministries.org

“Be Ready with an Answer — Even at Immigration”

By Mike and Carolyn Reimer, Avant Ministries/Uruguay

Catch The Vision

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*Here was a 35-year-old immigration officer looking for spiritual answers!*  
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It was enough to make just about anyone a little grumpy. The deflating surprises of additional requirements made visits to our immigration office anything but enjoyable. Duplicate birth certificates and police reports that we didn't need, along with required documents that we didn't have only served to raise our frustration level and lower our bank balance. As Ed handed his documents to our agent, we hoped there wouldn't be any more surprises. But, there were!

María suddenly looked up from her computer screen and asked, “What is your religion?”

I didn't remember that question being on the form, but I quickly clued in that this was a personal question. My answer “Evangélico” usually serves to shut down any further questions, but María was undaunted.

“What is it you really believe?” she asked in a soft-

ening tone. A doctrinal statement came to mind but this was no ordination examination. Here was a 35-year-old immigration officer looking for spiritual answers! She confessed to have been born Catholic, but she was looking into other religions. What had she seen in the four families of Team Uruguay that prompted these questions?

Just two days earlier, I had challenged our team to write up their story, in 100 words or less, of how Christ has made a difference in their lives. I delved into my story, telling María about my older brother's tragic accident and my fear of death. María stopped her data entry and listened along with the others waiting in line around us. As we got up to leave, I handed her my card, and she in turn gave me her e-mail address. Now my prayer is that we can serve as *her* “immigration agent” and help her fulfill the requirement of celestial residency.

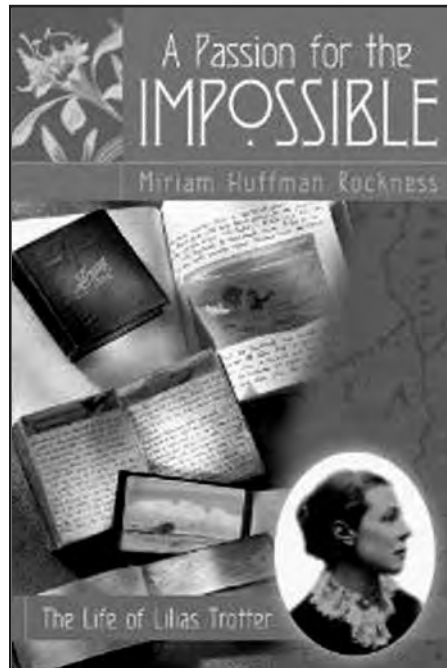
A Passion for the Impossible

Book Review By Trudy Reimer, Heartland Bible Church

One of the projects of the Commission on Women's Ministries is to send to each missionary woman a package of ministry enrichment material (MEM). Some time ago, a questionnaire indicated that missionary biographies were much desired. This past year we included in their packages a copy of the book, *A Passion for the Impossible* by Miriam Huffman Rockness, the biography of Lilius Trotter. We thought you might be interested in what kind of material we send to these missionaries.

Lilius Trotter was born July 14, 1853, in England. Her family was a happy, disciplined family of the Victorian upper classes — godly, serious, kind to the poor at a distance, sheltered from all that was offensive. Her father was a man of strong character and high principles, but his deep faith was demonstrated in his keen interest in people and their welfare. Her mother also had a great evangelistic zeal. Lilius lost her beloved “papa” at the age of 13, which served to deepen her faith and commitment to her Lord.

Her education continued under governesses, exposure to literature and art and travel abroad. She had a keen eye for beauty and developed her own style of art. She also developed a facility for writing. She used both of these throughout her life, leaving behind a great legacy of books, pamphlets and diaries abundantly illustrated with life scenes around her. Meanwhile, her journey of faith continued under the influence of Hannah Whitehall Smith and Dwight Moody. She became involved in many mission activities in London.



Lilius Trotter's love of literature and art became dynamic tools for evangelism.

All of this took place while she had continued her art work and came under the critical eye of John Ruskin, a noted art instructor and critic. He had long held the opinion that as a whole, women could not draw or paint like the masters. He was forced to admit that she had the potential to become one of the best artists of the 19th century. Her sketch book was her constant companion as she pursued this talent. John Ruskin was pressuring her to give herself more fully to her art. Lilius struggled with this, especially after her

mother died. She finally came to a decision: She could not give herself to painting and still seek the kingdom of God. She returned to London to her work with the YWCA, where she demonstrated her deep love for the girls under her care. Her intense work was detrimental to her health, greatly affecting her heart and forcing a time of rest.

Foreign missions were becoming of greater importance to the Christian community, and Lilius felt the call of the Lord to go to North Africa. She applied to a mission board but failed to pass the health exam. She was told that she could go to Algeria to work, but not with their organization. So, at age 35, Lilius Trotter left her London home of comfort for a modest dwelling in Algeria. She did not know the language; was without the sponsorship of any organization; was in frail health and faced many obstacles to work in that country for 40 years, where her love of literature and art became dynamic tools for evangelism. Her compassionate heart captured the hearts of the people. She worked in the city buying property and establishing a work among the young girls. She worked in the south, often traveling on a camel to minister to the Berber people. Her health often enforced periods of rest. Opposition became increasingly a problem.

Anyone would be greatly challenged by the myriad facets of her work. Her legacy can be found in the many books, booklets, story parables and letters she wrote. I encourage all to read this very fascinating book. ■

COMMISSION ON WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Fellowship and service have long been a tradition among the women of the FEBC. Their projects have been a valuable encouragement to missionaries and needy people throughout the world. The Commission on Women's Ministries seeks to affirm the ministries of our FEBC Women and offers guidance to local women's ministries groups.



Last Words

By Connie Yates

“He brought them out of darkness, the utter darkness, and broke away their chains.”

Psalm 107:14 (NIV)

“Connie, can you bring Vinnie to see me tomorrow?”

“Yes, Dad, if that’s what you want, I would be happy to bring Vinnie and come visit. Let me know if you need anything before I come.”

It was a typical conversation and an even more typical request. It also was not unusual to receive a call minutes later of things my dad would like us to bring to him; maybe his favorite soup, new razor or a candy bar. So there was no reason for me to worry when I began to listen, several hours later, to a message he left on my voice mail.

My attitude quickly changed and I dropped the phone, my hands shaking. I was shocked and horrified at the cruel and unspeakable words he left.

My father had been in a nursing facility for more than two years. Originally, a broken rib had sent him there for rehab. He never left. Battling a lung disease, complications, and side effects from medications, it became obvious that he would not be able to live at home on his own. He could not accept this fate. Often he would call and deliver a dose of guilt to each of his children for not bringing him home to live with them. As time went by, dementia made reasoning with him impossible. We were unable to make him happy, no matter what we did.

We would make regular visits, take him out to lunch, shopping at the mall, bring grandchildren to see him, have dinner together and celebrate birthdays. But before goodbyes were said, we braced ourselves for the heartbreaking conversation of not being able to take him home with us.

My mother passed away while Dad was in the facility. He never recovered. He looked at her picture every moment he could and often cried out for her in the night. The one woman who had taken care of him for almost 60 years was gone. But, sometimes we felt as if

he grieved because he could no longer get his way. My dad had an unusual power over us. If we went against his unrealistic wishes, it was my mother who would suffer. He had an argument with his sister several years ago, and we were forbidden to speak to or have contact with our beloved Aunt. We yielded to this kind of nonsense, but only for the sake of our mother. He continued this behavior even after my mother’s stroke when she was confined to a wheelchair.

The reality of knowing Jesus seemed to only complicate our emotions. How do you love someone in a way Jesus would love them? How can you still honor your father even after the cruel way he treated you or your mother? How can you muster up sympathy or compassion when many memories bring quite the opposite emotion? Often it was all too convicting.

As a family, we often ran on auto pilot making sure his needs were taken care of, and at the same time being careful not to take his hurtful words too seriously.

There are five children in our family, and we did our best to protect each other. If one of us was having a tough time emotionally, the rest of us did not expect that one to visit Dad or take his phone calls. It worked out well.

So it was with much relief that after I received the phone message from Dad that frightful day, no one in my family expected me to visit him and act as if nothing was wrong. He had cut deep into my heart and destroyed any respect for him to which I had clung.

For days I dealt with the “no regrets” moments. Would I regret not rising above this situation? Would I blame myself that I couldn’t let the Healer heal the deep wound that was created by my own father? Would I regret that I would have to live with his last words spoken to me should he pass away before we spoke again? I was about to find out.

A few weeks later we received the phone call that Dad was being taken to the

hospital emergency. His condition was serious. My sister and I met him at the hospital. He was so weak he could not open his eyes. An oxygen mask was placed over his mouth and nose to help him breathe. God gave me the strength and compassion to hold his hand. The doctor on call gently told us that there was nothing more they could do. As the rest of the family came and gathered, Dad was given medication so that he would have no pain, no stress, no struggle. We removed the oxygen mask and waited.

For two and a half hours I replayed a lot of things in my mind. Not once did that phone message ever come up. Instead, memories of eating popcorn and watching TV together, trips to get ice cream, or the day he walked me down the aisle all came back.

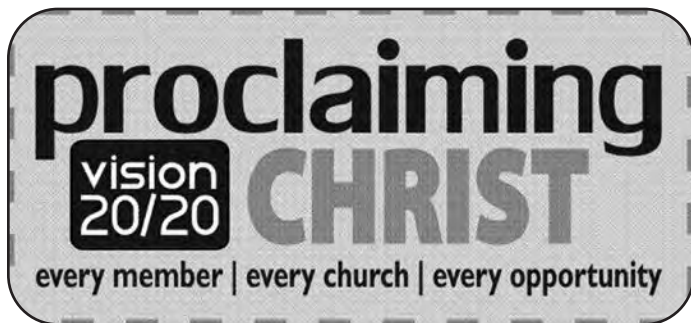
I walked up to his bedside, held his hand and whispered, “I love you, Dad.” If he could have, he would have said, “I love you, too, Caboose (his nickname for me).” At that moment there were no last words that either of us would be sorry for. Our last words were not our only words. There were times in our life that our words brought each other laughter and joy.

Even though his last words to me may not have been the best, my father cannot be defined by those words alone. Leave it to my Heavenly Father to remind me of that. I am thankful that I am not defined by my sins against others. Jesus died on the cross for my sins and my father’s sins.

At the moment my father took his last breath, he was in the presence of God because of Jesus, not because of what he had or hadn’t done in his life, but because of what Jesus did in his life.

We chose the song *Amazing Grace* by Chris Tomlin at his funeral, and the chorus explains it all. “My chains are gone, I’ve been set free. My God my Savior, has ransomed me. And by His love, his mercy reigns, unending love ... Amazing Grace.” ■

Cornerstone Bible Church Welcomes Convention Delegates



FEBC Convention 2011: "Living the Vision: Equipping and Inspiring One Another." Sounds just like dieting: lofty dreams; big aspirations. But, can it really work?

Dieting, as with our Fellowship goal, is best done in partnership with others. That's where equipping and inspiring one another comes into play. To inspire means: *to stimulate, to guide, to move the intellect or emotion, to breathe life into*. To succeed, we need a partner who can spur us on, inspire and move us to keep going toward the goal.

This is what FEBC Convention 2011 is all about. The site is

Cornerstone Bible Church in Mountain Lake, Minnesota. Our goal at Cornerstone Bible, and for this year's convention, is to provide a place where dreams can be shared — where Christ can be glorified — where friendships can be renewed — where inspiration can become action.

The convention is always full of activity, but come to relax, too! What to do when you are not at Convention? A number of you will have friends or relatives to visit. If golf is to your liking, we have a nine-hole course right in Mountain Lake. To visit the past, or share it with your children or grandchildren, visit the Heritage Village Museum. To just get away for a bit, take the walking trail around the lake.

Whatever your choice of activity, make your first choice just to come. Mark your calendar for July 14-17. Together, let's see where God's hand is leading. We're waiting to see you here.

For more information visit these websites:

www.cornerstoneml.com

www.mountainlakemn.com

www.exploreminnesota.com

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Take advantage of learning and enrichment at
Convention Breakout Sessions

- **Dr. Elwood Chipchase** of Encouragement Ministries will discuss what a local church can do to intentionally encourage its growth in our contemporary culture.
- Learn the basics of one-on-one discipleship from **Pastor Charles Tschetter**.
- **Rev. Frank Wiens** will explain how to use everyday encounters to open conversations about Christ.

CHILDREN'S CONVENTION

Panning for the true gold at the
FEBC Children's Convention

At the *Gold Rush* children will learn about our wonderful Creator and Savior, Jesus the Messiah. They'll discover His amazing claims about Himself, His astounding power over His creation, His fulfillment of prophecies and His life-changing love!

Afternoon field trips will provide fun and educational opportunities.

Enjoy shopping, and benefit FEBC missionaries, too!

NEWS FLASH! • NEWS FLASH! • NEWS FLASH!

The Cornerstone Bible Church Women's Ministries is setting up a Gift Boutique for this summer's convention. The boutique is a delightful spot to visit during free time at the convention and a great place to pick up little souvenirs or gifts. All proceeds from items donated to the boutique will be added to the offering for Ministry Enrichment Materials which provides gifts to our 94 missionaries.

Items donated come from FEBC women like you and your

church ladies. Examples of items that have been donated in the past include knitted dishcloths, note cards, cookbooks, needlework (embroidery, knitting, crochet, etc.), table runners, art work, soaps, candles, small jars of jams or jellies, quilts, pictures, to name just a few. Your items can be brought to the convention or sent along with someone who will be in attendance.

Thank you for your part in our missionaries' lives. Come shop with us!

EYES ON THE WORLD

By Fayth Boeker, Commission on Missions



Do you ever find yourself going to a big world map or globe to find where our FEBC missionaries serve? This article may be one of those times. Do you know what countries surround Slovenia? How about Ukraine?

A new church plant is being started by Avant Ministries in Slovenia. Where is that, you ask? Well, check out your globe and find it just south of Austria and not too far from Hungary and Croatia. **Kirk and Dannel Blackwell** head up this team effort. They arrived with valuable experience after doing this same kind of ministry in Poland. This year their team is working on language studies which will be used in relationships and ministry building, as God provides. Their goal is to start at least one new church in 2011. Their 11-year-old and 8-year-old daughters attend a local elementary school and are quickly grasping the Slovenian-language.

Another European country little known to the younger generation is Ukraine (once part of Russia). Some of our Mennonite background originates from this country. Now, 100 years later, missionaries are returning to these FEBC roots to take the Gospel back to them. Since 2002 **Greg and Patti Wilton** have served in Ukraine at a regional Bible college with nearly 150 students. Greg teaches Theology, Spiritual Gifts, Christian Worldview and New Testament Overview. Both are active in their church, serving on the leadership team, working with addicts of any kind and helping weekly at the Coffee House. Patti also does a lot of administrative work for SEND Team.

Separately, **Dan and Carrie Ritzman** served in Belgium in different ministries with different mission agencies. Carrie ministered to women, mainly, through Stonecroft's Friendship Bible Coffee ministry. Dan served in a Muslim ministry. However, since 1994 Dan and Carrie have served in Belgium together under Evangelical Free Church of America/ReachGlobal. In 2000 they began meeting Iranians who were interested in the Bible. Today Dan is pastor of the Iranian Church of Brussels, a community of roughly 40 new believers. Their two sons, ages 14 and 16, are busy with school and also help in the ministry.

Wes and Barb Peters have served off and on in the country of Germany for more than 45 years. Many of those years involved church planting. They have directed retreat centers in Germany and Minnesota. In 1991 they returned to Germany

to work with the German Free Church, starting churches in Koblenz and Trier. After nine years they returned to the United States. Since that time they have worked with ReachGlobal in Church partnerships, mentoring and encouraging young German church planters in Berlin and East Germany.

Four years after **James Wiens** arrived in Volgograd he married **Olya**, a resident of this city. They have served together there for the past 10 years. Jim is a teacher and administrator at the Volgograd Bible College and also serves in leadership of the Baptist Church. Olya keeps busy home schooling their three children (ages 7, 5 and 3) and assisting in the adult and children's choirs. Their goal for 2011 is to expand this school of 27, plus organize and officially register the Volgograd Bible College.

BE IN PRAYER:

- *Kirk/Dannel Blackwell (Cornerstone Bible Church, Mountain Lake, Minn.):* Pray for follow-up efforts from a large April evangelistic event; pray for home ministry, June through August.
- *Greg/Patti Wilton (Grace Evangelical Bible Church, Abbotsford, B.C.):* Pray for a New Testament class taught for the first time by Greg — good communication skills and relationship building; pray for June graduates preparing for short-term missions trip.
- *Dan/Carrie Ritzman (Faith Evangelical Bible Church, Henderson, Neb.):* Pray for their two sons who face exams in June; pray for leadership within the church.
- *Wes/Barb Peters (Evangelical Mennonite Brethren Church, Grunthal, Man.):* Pray for health, energy and wisdom during their time in Europe in May and June; pray for changed lives as the Grace Chamber Singers of Grace University — (Wes is translating) connect with host families and churches.
- *Jim/Olya Wiens (Cornerstone Bible Church, Mountain Lake, Minn.):* Pray for the leadership of the Bible college as they develop a special program for preachers; pray that their home-schooling efforts will be recognized by the local school.



FOCUS ON OUR CHURCHES

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHAPEL

Winnipeg, Man.

John Harwood, Pastor



We had the privilege of hosting an FEBC Evangelism Seminar in March called "Getting On With God," with keynote speaker **Pastor Clem Morency** of Arborg, Man. (see photo). Pastor Clem shared many personal stories of one-on-one friendship evangelism, the do's and don'ts of sharing your faith, and gave some excellent tools to use when we are blessed with an "open door" opportunity.

Our youth hosted a mystery supper in February. It was great to see our pastor eat an entire plate of spaghetti and meat sauce with his hands! Funds raised will go toward the youth's annual retreat in May.

A lively Hymn Sing was well attended and enjoyed by all!

Nancy Kunkel, Correspondent

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHURCH OF RHINELAND

Wymark, Sask.

Alvin Buhler, Pastor

Our Pastoral Search Committee has been actively looking to fill our associate pastor position.

Sharlene Friesen has avoided our cold weather and its side effects by heading to Niger to work alongside **Mikki Schmidt** at Sahel Academy. Visiting missionaries were **Dennis and Sharon Kirsch** representing CAM (Central American Mission) Canada; **Peter and Linda Enns** of New Tribes Mission (NTM); and Nathan and Natasha Enns, who are going to Indonesia with NTM.

Our ladies finished 60 quilts, but had many interruptions because of the weather. Our Ladies Projects Committee organized two days for scrap-book-

ing, crafting and card-making, but winter weather kept our numbers small.

Verna Buhler, Correspondent

COMMUNITY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

Tahlequah, Okla.

Chris Wiley, Pastor

We are nearing the end of our evangelism series using "The Way of the Master" as a very effective communication tool. While some participants are still a little shy about direct witnessing, others have already learned to overcome their fear.

Recently, our Missions Committee arranged a special evening featuring our missionaries from SAT-7, a mission devoted to providing Christian television via satellite to predominantly Muslim countries such as those in the Middle East and Africa. We learned that satellite television in these countries is available at no cost except for the actual satellite. This program has been tremendous in its ability to reach Muslims with the Word. On the menu was a special dinner of Middle Eastern fare.

Pastor Chris recently developed and implemented a new membership class for those considering membership at CBF. Our first set of classes was comprised of seven individuals. Pastor Chris led the group through Scripture as he defined the benefits, expectations and responsibilities of membership.



Recently, we all enjoyed Game Night, a favorite among the membership. We were delighted that a visitor was able to join in the fun. If you haven't tried this kind of activity at your church, we strongly urge you to consider it. This time, we included a chili supper, complete with all the fixin's!

Bryn Smith, Correspondent

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

Omaha, Neb.

Charles Tschetter, Senior Pastor

With many expressions of thanks and some tears, too, we said goodbye to **Associate Pastor Rick Bragg** and his wife, Paula. Rick is following God's leading into Christian financial ministry.

The CBC leadership recently presented a new vision to the congregation, one that would include planting a church within two years.

Sharon Berg, Correspondent

CORNERSTONE BIBLE CHURCH

Mountain Lake, Minn.

Nathan Janzen, Pastor

Vangie Claassen (*Mission Aviation Fellowship*) has come home from Indonesia for a short furlough to be with her mother. She will be in the United States for about three months.

Bob and Carol (Hooge) Marsh shared about their new church planting endeavor in Germany with Converge Worldwide (a part of the international Baptist Convention).

To show Christ's love, our deacons invited some of the older people of congregation to a very nice soup dinner after the service.

Arlene Stoesz, Correspondent

CORNERSTONE BIBLE CHURCH

Steinbach, Man.

Jared Hiebert, Pastor

A group of ladies joined together for a morning of Bible teaching in February, as **Iris Bartel** shared about finding our ultimate soul satisfaction in God alone. We were reminded that we as believers, have a responsibility to pray for each other, exhort each other to pursue Christ wholeheartedly, and to speak the Truth of God's Word into each other's lives. Discussion questions helped the teaching time become even more personal as we sought practical ways to apply Truth to our lives.

Family Ministries hosted a winter fun day on our church property in March. The event included sledding, playing with homemade cross country

FOCUS ON OUR CHURCHES

skis and soccer. We had a good turnout despite the cold temperatures.

New Members

Bob and Iris Bartel

Marsella Wiebe, Correspondent

COUNTRYSIDE BIBLE CHURCH

Meade, Kan.

David Cummings, Pastor

David and Eileen Barkman, missionaries with SEND in Japan, ministered at our church in April. **Kim Cummings** reported on her trip to Russia after Christmas with the Antioch Initiative. **Carlin Toews** and **Michael Reimer** had planned to travel to Haiti in March to help in the post-hurricane rebuilding process with Samaritan's Purse, but the trip was cancelled due to political uncertainty. They plan to go for a longer time following college graduation. **Bryce Reimer**, leaving in April, will spend almost three months this summer helping missionaries in Ecuador under Youth World. **Bill Lurwick** reported on his radio broadcasters' trip to Ecuador.

The men have been busy since the annual church work day in February, as they use proceeds from the soup supper to help with the renovations in the church basement. Some of the men hosted a Valentine's dinner that was enjoyed by a number of couples.

The Ladies Ministry packed care packages for our out-of-town students. These were special gifts to let them know we love and pray for them. The ladies partnered with a church from Wichita, Kan. for a ladies retreat in April with **Susan Heck** of "With the Master Ministries."

Mary Friesen, Correspondent

DALMENY BIBLE CHURCH

Dalmeny, Sask.

Dennis Friesen, Pastor

At our annual meeting we were encouraged to hear testimonies from several people who shared their experiences ministering to others within our church, our town, and camp.

Tyson Kehler reported on a mission trip to Jamaica with Youth For Christ in

February. **Scott and Patsy Buhler** and family, Global Partners with Teach Beyond, were home from Brazil for several weeks.

The youth held a joint meeting at the **Martensville Mission Church** to hear **Rick Langlais** of Hands On Ministry.

Marilyn Harder, Correspondent

EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH

Omaha, Neb.

Dr. Don Pahl, Senior Pastor

EBC's CARE Team continues to operate a food box ministry. The congregation donates non-perishable food items which are boxed, along with information on community resources (including area food pantries) and the Road Map to Heaven salvation message. The boxes are available for anyone in need of food, whether a church family or for anyone to give to someone they know is in need.

EBC has been experiencing growing pains as our worship attendance numbers have continued to climb. We have planned several congregational gatherings to talk about how to positively respond to the challenge of running out of space.

We just completed our annual missions month, "Hearts for the Harvest." The month featured several missionary speakers and all-church evening events, including a variety show with a vignette called "Heroes." Our offerings went to designated projects of sending our youth group to Trinidad (this summer); computer equipment for Harvest Radio in Nova Russas, Brazil; and sports supplies and school equipment for a school in Pifo, Ecuador.

New Members

Blaine and Autumn Donaldson

Sherrie Lindsey, Correspondent

EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH

Langham, Sask.

Greg Guarnett, Senior Pastor

Our centennial committee is busy organizing and motivating the congregation to get involved in our upcoming celebration on July 23-24. For meal-

planning purposes, please let us know by June 30 if you plan to come.

Please keep praying God will send us a youth pastor. **Marv and Heather Wall** and **Darcy and Marilyn Friesen** are encouraged by the 10-20 senior youth they lead each week. Some of the youth attended Youth Quake (Briercrest Schools) and Three60Five Retreat (Nipawin Bible College). They also attended the local Junior Hockey Faith Night in Saskatoon.

God was extremely faithful this year in providing Awana leaders. It was a delight to have many parents and grandparents attend Awards Night as the Cubbies, Sparks and Pioneer Club Explorers celebrated clubber achievements.

Curt and Janeen Penner, along with young sons Wyatt and Elliott, spent a weekend in Mexico with Youth With A Mission. The Penners helped build a Home of Hope for a needy family. Their enthusiasm is infectious, and we were delighted to have them report and show photos of the experience.

Pastor Greg attended the FEBC Workshop in Henderson, Neb., and also the FEBC Pastors Retreat here in Saskatchewan.

We are very encouraged to have a number of new, young families attending in recent months.

Marilyn Friesen, Correspondent

EVANGELICAL MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH

Grunthal, Man.

Russ Reimer, Pastor

This year we want to again emphasize missions throughout the year rather than focus on a mission conference in the fall only. We plan to invite missionaries to speak during the Sunday school hour, and give a short report during the service or bring the morning message. The morning service will be followed by a potluck lunch where we would interact with the missionaries on a more personal level. We plan to do this four to six times a year.

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Our church foyer was transformed for our Valentine banquet into a beautiful, candlelit dining room along a make-believe street in Paris. The organizers did an amazing job of building, painting and furnishing “shops” along the street.

Elfi Zissner taught a four-week German-cooking series. She used recipes brought from her homeland, told short stories of her life and made spiritual applications.

Marilyn Goertzen, Correspondent

EVANGELICAL MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH

Lustre, Mont.

John Skillman, Pastor

We are continuing to learn the value of church this winter! No, we are not having a series of sermons on the benefits of assembling ourselves together. Record snows and drifting have continued to hamper our getting together for worship, ministry and fellowship. Absence has made the heart grow fonder! We have also learned some humility and community by leaning on our neighbors to aid us when stuck in a drift or when we need to borrow eggs or antihistamines. We are also thankful for the connectedness we have experienced through telephone and internet. Pastor Skillman e-mailed his sermon to members on March 27 when services were cancelled.

Because of another storm, the 46th annual Schmeckfest (a fund-raiser for Lustre Christian High School) was postponed twice but was finally held on March 31. We were thankful for the 650 who made the effort to attend!

Sharon Skillman, Correspondent

EVANGELICAL MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH

Marion, S.D.

Randy Maass, Pastor

Annually, eight churches of the Marion community cooperate by hosting pre-Easter services for seven consecutive Sunday evenings in a different

church, with a different pastor speaking. It has worked very well.

The music committee has assigned the men of the congregation to take the lead in providing a special number during the worship services. Each man is responsible for a Sunday. Various talents and gifts are being revealed!

Pastor Maass continues teaching “Sermon Delivery” at Sioux Falls Seminary twice a week; three hours each day.

The Sunday School class is studying the book of Romans.

Ray Becker, Correspondent

FAITH EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH

Henderson, Neb.

Michael Fink, Pastor

It was our privilege to have **FEBC President Blaine Donaldson** as our guest speaker in the morning worship service on Feb. 20, following the FEBC workshop. The church family joined in a “Meet the President” potluck, providing further opportunity to get acquainted and fellowship together.

In response to the desire on the part of many to form closer relationships in the church family, the elders are laying the foundation for small groups to develop. Bible study, prayer and fellowship will help provide accountability in our walk with the Lord.

We are currently learning about “Genuine Fellowship” and “Walking in the Light” through messages from the book of 1 John in our Sunday worship service.

Alice Decker, Correspondent

FAITH EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH

Winkler, Man.

Mike Comtois, Pastor

Pastor Mike traveled to Haiti to continue training pastors.

We hosted a Bible conference in March with **Jody Dillow**, author of “Reign of the Servant Kings.” The conference was an excellent time of teaching on a variety of different subjects. Sessions were recorded and can be downloaded from our website: febc.ca/sermons

Our senior youth attended a retreat at Nipawin Bible College in Saskatchewan. The theme for the weekend was “Save Me from Myself.”

Liane Thiessen, Correspondent

GRACE EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH

Abbotsford, B.C.

Dr. Warren Schatz, Pastor

We were blessed to have **FEBC President Blaine Donaldson** minister to our congregation on Jan. 30. He presented the FEBC 20/20 Vision and challenged us to *walk the talk*, talking about Jesus in addition to living a lifestyle that reflects Him.

A benefit concert for Tabita Ministries by the Abbotsford Male Chorus was held in April. Special guests were **Pastor Marius and Tabita Ianc**, and daughter Debora from Romania. Pastor Marius spoke about the “New Hope” for Romania found in Christ after a troubled past under Communist dictatorship. FEBC missionaries **Milton and Kathi Torio** have traveled there several times and ministered together with Pastor Marius and Tabita. (*See Fellowship Focus March/April 2011 for a detailed report on Tabita Ministries.*)

Grace Toews, Correspondent

HEARTLAND BIBLE CHURCH

Lincoln, Neb.

Scott Hecht, Pastor

Jim Davidson of the Gideons shared about that organization’s Bible distribution efforts through the world.

We were greatly blessed and challenged during our “Not Ashamed of the Gospel” Bible conference which was held March 23-27. Our speaker was **Nabeel Quersh**, a former devout Muslim who was convinced of the truth of the Gospel through apologetics. He has dedicated his life to spreading the Gospel through teaching, preaching, writing, debating and reporting. Nabeel is currently pursuing a master’s degree in religious studies. His wife, Michelle, who is an officer in the United States Coast Guard, accompanied him. Many from

FOCUS ON OUR CHURCHES

other churches joined us to be challenged concerning "Christian Courage in 21st Century America."

Trudy Reimer, Correspondent

HODGSON BIBLE CHURCH

Hodgson, Man.

James Thiessen, Pastor

Ted and Carol Hartog reported on their three-week mission trip to Costa Rica to work in an orphanage. They shared of the many blessings they experienced, together with the group from **Stuartburn Gospel Chapel**.

A huge thank you to the youth from Steinbach's **Cornerstone Bible Church**, who served at our church and at Fisher Bay Bible Camp during the school spring break. They presented the Gospel in the Vacation Bible School program that they held during the afternoons, and worked at the camp during the mornings. We were honoured to have them do the Sunday morning service.

Our winter Bible study is done via a video series: "Effective Parenting in a Defective World." Many of our couples are participating in this study.

Sara Plett, Correspondent

JANSEN BIBLE CHURCH

Jansen, Neb.

Paul Carpenter, Pastor

Pastor Carpenter has deviated from his usual verse-by-verse expository teaching to focus on some relevant contemporary issues, including evolution versus creationism, atheism and humanism.

Our Spring Bible Conference featured **Dr. Robert Wilkin** of the Grace Evangelical Society.

Missionaries **Sam and Deb Dick** (*Avant Ministries*) and their sons, Brian and Andrew, arrived from Spain on March 31 for four months of home ministry.

Our men's quartet joined other quartets for an evening of worship at **Community Bible Church** in Omaha.

Tena Dick, Correspondent

NORTHEAST BIBLE CHURCH

Calgary, Alta.

John Fehr, Pastor



Henry Ogbomo and his wife Sandrine, (his sister, Mary Jane visiting from Nigeria), his daughters Eliya and Athalia.

We confirmed **Henry Ogbomo** as an elder at our annual meeting in January. Henry is a cancer research scientist who joined us from Germany in 2009. His gifts include a deep love for God which is demonstrated in his care and service to people both in and out of the church.

Once each month our church family goes to Sunridge Mall Food Court to have lunch together. In March the children had fun playing games while the adults finished eating and visited. Some

of the other mall shoppers allowed their children to join in the games. We trust that our lives are a testimony to God's love and generosity.

Our women attended a "Girls Night Out" at Central United Church. About 200 women enjoyed a night of humor, inspiration and chocolate together. We each received a book full of encouraging stories told by women who also share this Christian journey with us.

Milestone



The **Rev. George Robinson** celebrated his 90th birthday at a surprise party for him at Prince of Peace Village Lounge on March 27.

Julie Ann Simpson, Correspondent

MARTENSVILLE MISSION CHURCH

Martensville, Sask.

Wilf Gaertner,

Senior Pastor

What's new, you might ask? How about a brand new sanctuary! March was a little busy around here, to say the least. It all started last fall, when our Worship Committee suggested that our sanctuary had been in need of an "up-do" for some time (no argument there!). We assigned a Sanctuary Renewal Committee to price, and then asked for pledges from our church family. To date, more than \$20,000 has been pledged, and the renovations are all but complete! The dust started to fly around the beginning of March, with old carpet torn out, pews removed, new drywall going up; there was drywall dust everywhere! Then the new paint went on, new carpet was installed, pews were put back, and still the dust was everywhere. Finally, the work was almost complete. Many were exhausted, but pleased with the final result.

Joanne Born, Correspondent



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FOCUS ON OUR CHURCHES

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RICHER FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

Richer, Man.

Simon Cheung, Pastor

February temperatures dipped to -20 C, but since we're a hardy bunch we put on more layers and hosted a Valentine banquet. Our special guests were couples from the German congregation. We heated the church with spicy Mexican cuisine (it was a treat to watch some of our guests eat enchiladas and pull pork for the first time), and decorations. Pastor Simon gave a powerful message on Christ's love.



At the Awana Grand Prix in March, one of our youth who attends a different church won our Bible contest for the most Scripture memorized. Her parents were in tears watching her receive a Bible with her name written in gold. Please pray that the 16 children who participated will give their hearts to the author and finisher of our faith, Jesus.

Michelle Driedger, Correspondent

SALEM CHURCH

Waldheim, Sask.

Darrell Derksen, Senior Pastor

It has become a tradition for Salem to offer "Christianity Explored" to our community and church at the beginning of the year. Again this year we had a group of people learn the important truths contained in the Gospel. We are look forward to the brand new seven-week format of this program coming later this year.

We continue to build the financial resources needed to construct an addition to replace the older section of our

present building. Our Building Fundraising Committee will lead our participation in the community garage sale. We anticipate that many treasures will change hands during the day, and a host of people will enjoy the good food and opportunities for conversation.

Salem Church and Waldheim Mennonite Brethren co-hosted the Watoto Children's Choir from Uganda in March. Ladies from Salem also joined with that church to host a women's retreat in May with speaker **Shannon Ethridge**.

New Members

Loretta Young, Dave and Chris Harms, and Don and Kerri Schultz

SARON MENNONITE CHURCH

Orienta, Okla.

Arnold Curby, Pastor

Donations were gathered for the victims of the wildfires at Harrah, Okla., who lost so much.

We appreciated the ministry of **Jim Pence**, a talented artist who gave a chalk-art program for both services on Resurrection Sunday.

We enjoyed the music of our own **Will Nunn** and the Gospel Notes for the Christian Endeavor program in March.

Melba Nickel, Correspondent

STUARTBURN GOSPEL CHAPEL

Stuartburn, Man.

Mark Funk, Pastor

Jared Fast, a member of our congregation, was our speaker for the three Sundays that Pastor Mark was in Costa Rica on the mission trip. Pastor Mark and the team arrived home safely early on Feb. 20. The team was excited to be back home and very willing to share the details of their trip with us. Many lives were touched because of this outreach ministry, and the team shared some specific stories of how God worked in the lives of some of the children in this Costa Rican family.

In March, **Scott Rosen** shared of his work with the young people in the Fisher River and Peguis areas of Manitoba. This is a follow-up ministry for the Fisher Bay Bible Camp. Many children from these areas are reached with the

Gospel every summer, but need someone to disciple them during the rest of the year.

Marilyn D. Thiessen, Correspondent

VITA BIBLE CHURCH

Vita, Man.

Our Women's Ministry held a "Taste and See" banquet. Our speaker, **Sarah Simbi Nakure**, shared how God protected her during the 1994 genocide in Rwanda.

Nine teens and their chaperones attended Youth Quake at Briercrest College, enjoying great speakers and music.

We enjoyed another successful Fish Fry Fund-raiser. **Bill and Susan Fehr** have sponsored it for the last 10 years.

Jane Roman, Correspondent

2011

Annual Convention

July 14-17

Speaker:

**Dr. Elwood Chipchase,
Encouragement Ministries**



Elwood and Joy Chipchase have served together in the ministry for many years. Dr. Chipchase was a pastor over the course of 38 years in both rural and urban settings. They have ministered together serving God's people in churches, conferences, banquets, retreats, Bible conferences, missions conferences and seminars.

THE RECORD

BIRTHS AND ADOPTIONS

Community Bible Church Omaha, Neb.

- Adjo Vanessa to Kokou and Christelle Takara, March 21

Cornerstone Bible Church Steinbach, Man.

- Madilyn Abigail Grace to Trent and Eva Klassen, Feb. 19

Cornerstone Bible Church Mountain Lake, Minn.

- Landon Wayne to Luke and Ashley Busenitz, Feb. 3; grandparents are Wayne and Ashley Klassen; great-grandmother is Sophie Klassen
- Leah Joy to Pastor Nathan and Megan Janzen; born March 20 and joyfully adopted by the Janzens; grandparents are Dale and Sue Janzen and Orrin and Jane Tschetter

Countryside Bible Church Meade, Kan.

- Brax Daniel to Eric and Angela Jones, Feb. 18

Dalmeny Bible Church Dalmeny, Sask.

- Hudson William to Stephen and Charman Hoff, Feb. 18; grandparents are Gary and Darlene Williams
- Zane Leroy to Matthew and Shannon Unruh, March 22; grandparents are Leroy and Verna Peters
- Daxton Matthew to Todd and Melanie Hildebrandt, March 25

Evangelical Bible Church Omaha, Neb.

- Carson Henry to Kyle and Jessica Thorberg, Feb. 14; grandparents are Bill and Dianne Cosgrove
- Callan Wayne to Jake and Kristin Jarvis, Feb. 15; grandparents are Luke and Phyllis Wiese
- Eloise Mae to Doug and Katie Paziak, Feb. 18; grandparents are Danko and Kathy Paziak; great-grandmother is Doris Ewert
- Neva Sue to Timm and Kelsey Bauer, March 6; grandparents are Jeff and Molly Reed
- Elijah Franklin to Ryan and Rachael Means; grandparents are Don and Willa Vesely

Evangelical Mennonite Brethren Church Grunthal, Man.

- Darius Reid to Ryan and Ange Froese, Feb. 13; grandparents are Vern and Hilda Froese
- Cadence Joy to Ron and Elena deJager, Feb 15; grandparents are Herman and Inge Froese

Faith Evangelical Bible Church Winkler, Man.

- Chayenne to Artur and Kristina Eberhardt, Jan. 28
- Dylan Joel to Martin and Ella Pegler, March 26

Grace Evangelical Bible Church Abbotsford, B.C.

- Jaylynn Ann to Shawn and Rebecca Collick, Jan. 9
- Hudson William to Stephen and Charman Hoff, Feb. 18
- Chantelle Joy to Aaron and Melissa Pelletier, March 26; grandparents are Verne and Judy Brown

Hodgson Bible Church Hodgson, Man.

- Tanner Dean to Darcy and Mandy Plett, Dec. 30; Tanner's joyful arrival at the Plett home was Jan. 1

Northeast Bible Church Calgary, Alta.

- Emma Jane to Victoria and Tyler Leslie, March 21

Salem Church Waldheim, Sask.

- Nicholas Alexander to Pietro and Nichole Cara, March 3
- Emilia Marie to Tim and Shauna Jenkins, March 19; grandparents are Ray and Cheryl Unrau; great-grandparents are Art and Mary Ann Harder and Abe and Mary Unrau

Stuartburn Gospel Chapel Stuartburn, Man.

- Aidan Leopold Thomas to Albert and Eileina Niessen, Mar. 9

Vita Bible Church Vita, Man.

- Joshua Benjamin James to Ben and Tiffany Tuurenhout, March 21

WEDDINGS

Countryside Bible Church Meade, Kan.

- Sheila Rae Preedy to Jay Don Reynolds, Feb. 19
- Courtney Cummings to Jackson Caldwell, March 14
- Flint Rains to Michaela Stuard on March 19

Evangelical Bible Church Langham, Sask.

- Candice Hacking to Corey Thiessen, son of Harv and Darlene Thiessen and grandson of Henry and Mary Thiessen, Feb. 12

Faith Evangelical Bible Church Winkler, Man.

- Kim Harder to Lamar Fehr, April 2

Salem Church Waldheim, Sask.

- Belinda Richardson to James Schultz, son of Roger and Gale Schultz, Feb. 19

DEATHS

Cornerstone Bible Church Steinbach, Man.

- Olga (Manke) Friesen (96), March 12

Cornerstone Bible Church Mountain Lake, Minn.

- Louis Klassen (90), Feb. 1
- Melvin Claassen (82), Feb. 2; former assistant pastor at Cornerstone
- Dorothy (John) Thiessen (79), March 28
- Eileen (David) Penner (59), March 28

Countryside Bible Church Meade, Kan.

- Caroline Fransen (87), Dec. 2
- Manford Herron (79), Feb. 1

Evangelical Bible Church, Abbotsford, B.C.

- David Williams (72), Feb. 11
- Gwen Joiner (81), March 12

Jansen Bible Church Jansen, Neb.

- Herman Lee Katz (83), Feb. 4
- Alice (Kroeker) Dalke (75), March 21

NO ENDORSEMENT



Focus on FEBC Church Planting

By Harvey Schultz

Significant News from the Front Line for Your Prayers

We are engaged in warfare. Our church planters are the frontline soldiers seeking to bring release to enemy captives. Our prayers provide “artillery support” to soften up the enemy positions. Every church planter, every missionary, can share stories with you as to how the prayers of God’s people “softened” up enemy strongholds and enabled them to make gains for the Gospel. To be effective, artillery has to be aimed at specific targets. As you read the following, use it to direct your prayer artillery at the strategic points on the frontline.

Paradise Valley Church, Natoma, Kan.:

Are you encouraged when men show an interest in the Gospel and/or start attending your church services? In recent months several men have done just that in Natoma:

- the husband of a long-time believer has finally opened up, and Pastor Ben MacConnell has been able to clearly share the Gospel with him
- a man with a “storied” past has turned to Christ and has been attending services regularly during the past few months. He brings his wife plus a friend (who may not know the Lord) with him
- yet another man, who may or may not know the Lord, has been attending regularly

Four men! All four in different places in their spiritual journey; all four in need of our prayers.

Community Bible Church, Tisdale, Sask.:

The present auditorium is filling up with the addition of new attendees. Among these are several young, Christian families. Seating space is increasingly scarce. Hopefully, May will be sod-turning month for the construction of an addition to the church building. Meanwhile, outreach carries on. Four couples have recently shown an interest in the Gospel by attending church and/or participating in the “Christianity Explored” sessions; *four couples you could help bring to the Lord through your prayers.*

Community Bible Church, Indian Head, Sask.:

Mission33 is in progress; a literature distribution campaign targeting every home in the community with several mass distributions. Sunday, May 15, has been dubbed “Finding the Hope” Sunday. It is the visible climax to the literature distribution campaign. People will be invited to church where they can discover firsthand how the hope mentioned in the literature can be theirs. *Let’s help them “Find the Hope” by praying for this outreach.*

Richer Fellowship Church, Richer, Man.:

Three new families have recently joined the church. This has expanded not only the attendance figures but also the leadership potential and the financial strength of the church.

Let us pray for their full integration into the life of the church even as we praise Him for this encouragement.

Living the Vision
A.D. 2011

117th FEBC Convention

Equipping and Encouraging

ONE ANOTHER

July 14-17, 2011

Cornerstone Bible Church,
Mountain Lake, Minn.

Speaker:
Dr. Elwood Chipchase,
Encouragement Ministries