

Fellowship Focus

Volume 52 • No. 5 September/October 2012



Redeemed! How I love to proclaim it! pages 8-11

- Inside:*
- ◎ President's Challenge
 - ◎ Focus on the Word
 - ◎ Proclaiming Christ Around the World
 - ◎ Convention Highlights
 - ◎ Focus on our Churches



**Focus on Our
Church Plants
(back page)**

Welcome to the Fellowship!
Compass Immanuel Church, Rapid View, Sask.



Gladness for Mourning

Jesus' mission on earth was to proclaim the Good News that God had sent a Savior who will deliver us from both the consequences and power of sin. As the Father sent Jesus, Jesus has sent us out into the world to be His ambassadors, proclaiming the same Gospel. This is the foundation of the 20/20 Vision of the Fellowship.

At the FEBC, we seek to encourage all of our people to become more Christ-like in the area of Gospel proclamation. Although this is a very old foundation, it

the temple where they would worship the Lord. It was a time of great excitement, especially for the young who had only heard stories of the land of Israel and the worship of the temple.

If you know the story, then you know that there was another sound that was heard. It was the sound of weeping. Some of the old men who made the trip from Babylon to Israel were old enough to remember the size of Solomon's Temple. It was much bigger than the Temple foundation that they saw before them.

They wept for what was gone, what was lost, and seemed like it would never come back.

Even in the midst of wonderful change, there can be a legitimate sense of mourning for what

even to remember it fondly, but it must not interfere with the wonderful future that the Lord has in store for us.

As a Fellowship, we have struggled, even suffered, over the last couple of decades. Things have not been like they used to be. We can look back and be thankful for what the Lord has done in and through us in the past. Great was the camaraderie that we have shared, and the work that we have done together in missions, church planting and other endeavors. There was a strong sense of connectedness amongst our churches. We rallied around the Gospel, our Mennonite heritage and our family connections. The latter two, our Mennonite heritage and our family connections, are disappearing. These were powerful forces that drew our Fellowship together. However, we do still rally around the Gospel, and in particular, we are calling our churches to rally around the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, by every member of every church at every opportunity.

I hope that you are seeing the foundation of our vision being laid. At Convention in Rhineland, we celebrated many stories of Gospel proclamation. We saw how many churches have taken steps to lead their people to become proclaimers of the Gospel. I hope that you rejoice in the changes that are taking place in our Fellowship.

But are there some voices of weeping as we see in this foundation that all is not the same as it was? It is OK to mourn. There are many rich traditions of the Evangelical Mennonite Brethren that have been lost. Things are not the same as they used to be. I feel your loss. But let us not get stuck there. There is an appropriate place for sadness of times gone by, but do not let that get in the way of what God is doing in the future. ■

It is fine to remember the past and even to remember it fondly, but it must not interfere with the wonderful future that the Lord has in store for us.

is one that needs to be rebuilt in evangelical Christianity.

I was reading with my family about the Israelites returning to the land of Israel after their Babylonian captivity for the previous 70 years. They were Jewish, and they knew that the promises of God were connected with the land of Israel. All of their homes in Jerusalem had been destroyed. They were not even allowed to visit their homeland.

However, everything had changed. God worked through the leaders of the day and allowed the Jews to return to the land of Israel. It was a time of restoration to the Lord. They were rebuilding their lives so that they could worship the Lord and draw others to Him. They were laying the foundation of the new temple as Solomon's temple had been destroyed by the Babylonians.

I expect that you remember the scene. There were great shouts of jubilation. They were starting construction on

has been lost — grieving for the way that things used to be. It is very easy to remember decades past as being the *good ol' days*. Time heals wounds, and we often *only* remember the good things.

We forget much of the bad, especially as we go through a time of suffering. That was part of the case here. We know that the spiritual condition of Judah was not good at all when the Babylonians came. Yet, they remembered the glorious size and grandeur of Solomon's Temple. They forget the idolatry of the nation and the terrible things that were taking place in the temple and the rest of Israel.

While I will legitimize that it was appropriate for these men to feel this way, it would not be right for these men to remain wallowing in the idyllic version of what they remember from the *good ol' days* which from an objective perspective were not all that good.

It is fine to remember the past and

Comment

By Sharon Berg, Editor



The Fellowship of Evangelical Bible Churches welcomed another church into the fold at July's annual convention: **Compass Immanuel** of Rapid View, Sask. Shepherding the church is **Senior Pastor Mike and Julianne Ginther** and **Associate Pastor Trevor and Twylla Kirsch**. We hope to share more about Compass in the November/December issue of the Focus.

Many thanks to **Kathy Knelson** for sharing her time and talent as our convention photographer. We hope you enjoy the moments she captured at the event.

If you look for our regular "Eyes on the World" feature in this issue, you won't find it. In fact, our faithful writer of that page, **Fayth Boeker**, who serves on the Commission on Missions, has "retired" from her assignment with the Focus, having written for the past four years about Fellowship missionaries in every corner of the globe. Our new writer is **Marilynn Lester**, who also serves on the commission, and the name of the page is now "Proclaiming Christ around the World." Thank you, Fayth, for your commitment to keep us updated on the ministries of FEBC missionaries and their prayer requests. And thanks, Marilynn, for the work you will do in keeping us informed about how our Fellowship is sharing the Gospel around the world.

Blessings,

Sharon

FELLOWSHIP FOCUS (ISSN: 1537-4203, USPS# 223-620)

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to FELLOWSHIP FOCUS, 11605 W Dodge RD STE 3, Omaha NE 68154-2566

Periodicals Postage paid at Omaha, Nebraska and at additional mailing offices. Printed in the U.S.A.

The FELLOWSHIP FOCUS is published bi-monthly by the Fellowship of Evangelical Bible Churches

11605 W Dodge RD STE 3, Omaha NE 68154-2566

Phone: 402-965-3860

E-mail address: fellowshipfocus@febcministries.org

Web: <http://www.febcministries.org>

FAX: 402-965-3871

Editorial Staff: Sharon Berg, Editor; Connie Yates, Design & Layout

The President's Challenge

Gladness for Mourning

Blaine Donaldson, President page 2

A Gem in the Book of Ezekiel

Harvey Schultz page 4

FEBC Video Library page 5

Legacy Giving

Are You Ready?

Paul Boeker page 5

Proclaiming Christ Around the World

Marilynn Lester page 6

Women's Ministries

M & M's for Missionaries

Sharon Skillman page 7

Convention Highlights pages 8-11

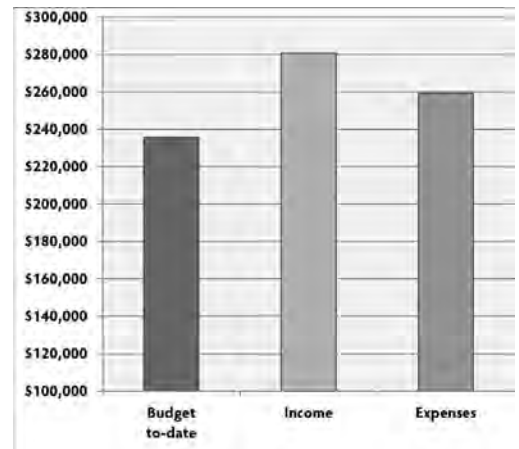
Fellowship Views page 12

Focus on Our Churches pages 13-18

The Record page 19

Focus on Our Church Plants page 20

FEBC Finances through October



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

<http://www.febcministries.org>

click on the *Fellowship Focus* tab



A Gem in the Book Of Ezekiel

The Bible makes it abundantly clear that Israel is God's elect nation. In Genesis 12 God called Abraham out from among his people and announced His intention to make of him a great nation which would bring great blessing to the whole world. That divine declaration was repeated again and again and passed on to Abraham's descendants. Attached to it were many special, unconditional promises.

Many people seem to consciously or subconsciously reach the conclusion that divine election meant salvation for Israel. But salvation has always been and always will be a personal matter; not a national right conferred on a people because they were chosen of God.

Israel was chosen by God for a special job. God would entrust His Word, His revelation and message of salvation to the Israelites. They were His servants who would share it with the rest of the world. God wanted all ethnic groups to know it (compare Genesis 12:3; Exodus 19:5-6; 2 Chronicles 6:32-33; Isaiah 26:18; 49:60; 55:5). To enable Israel to accomplish this worldwide task, God made some very special promises to them, including the promise of a perpetual homeland. Furthermore, His laws would lead them to a high quality of life which would attract other nations to them, which would in turn give them opportunities to share God's revelation with others.

Israel understood those promises very well. But they did not understand the fact that they had received a responsibility of worldwide significance. They allowed sin to corrupt their way of life. National degradation set in. They deluded themselves into thinking that since God's promises were irrevocable, God would never allow them to be judged, punished and dislodged from the Promised Land. Injustice became

prevalent. Idol worship, immorality, sexual perversion, sexual orgies, fraud, extortion, murder, and oppression of the poor and the weak became national pastimes. They despised God, the source of their blessings. Their individual practices and their national life were a disgrace and an offense to God. They were no longer credible bearers of the glorious message of salvation for all men.

God had to act. Their homeland was invaded. Their cities were laid waste. Tens of thousands were slaughtered, and thousands of others were driven into exile. They became oppressed refugees in a foreign land. Through the prophet Ezekiel, God explained once more why He had allowed that to happen. He stated:

"Son of man, when the people of Israel were living in their own land, they defiled it by their conduct and their actions... I poured out my wrath on them... I dispersed them among the nations... I judged them according to their conduct and their actions ... And wherever they went among the nations they profaned my holy name, for it was said of them, 'These are the Lord's people, and yet they had to leave his land.' I had concern for my holy name, which the house of Israel profaned among the nations where they had gone" (Ezekiel 36:17 - 21).

In other words: *I had to act. I had to judge. It was justified.* They deserved what they got!

But then God goes on and makes a marvelous additional declaration.

"This is what the sovereign Lord says: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am going to do these things,

but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you have gone ... I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities

God's dealing with man is never based on man's merits but always on God's holy character.

... I will give you a new heart ... I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees ... you will live in the land I gave your forefathers; you will be my people, and I will be your God. I will save you ... you will no longer suffer disgrace among the nations ..." (Ezekiel 36:22-30).

Yes, you merited the judgment you received. Now I will restore you, not because you merit it, but because I am a God of grace! God had vindicated His holy name (that is, character) by punishing sin. He promised to vindicate His name in the future by saving grace. His dealing with man is never based on man's merits but always on God's holy character.

These two "pictures," set side by side in Scripture, present a wonderful image of our salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. We merited judgment. We received salvation. I invite you to sit down and reread Ezekiel 36:17- 30 several times in a row and let the wonder of divine grace flood your soul. ■

Scripture references are taken from the New International Version.

BRIDGES

Bridges is a curriculum developed by Crescent Project that is meant to introduce Christians to Islam and pave the way for building relationships with the Muslims in your community. Christians have responded to Muslims in many ways, but all too often without the compassion that characterized Jesus. *Bridges* seeks to replace fear and intimidation with love and gentle boldness, reshaping the way Christians view and respond to their Muslim neighbors.

Bridges is one-of-a-kind because it focuses on similarities, not differences. Christianity and Islam are not the same, but they are similar. You can learn how to take similar concepts in Christianity and Islam, and build a bridge. *Bridges* meets you where you are. The teaching found in *Bridges* is easy to understand even if you don't have much prior knowledge of Islam. The material is also valuable to those seeking to build on what they already know about Muslims.

Bridges is practical and biblical. *Bridges* allows you to gain biblical insight into Islamic history and Muslim beliefs, while providing useful next steps and stories that help you put the teaching into practice.

The Bridges Leader Kit, a six-Session DVD Small Group Study, consists of two DVDs and one Companion Study Book. The DVDs feature six, 30-minute video sessions and a short promotional trailer. The Companion Study Book includes Leader's Notes and two full-length books by Fouad Masri. Find sample lessons at

<https://www.crescentproject.org/index.cfm/pageid/1491/index.html>



Bridges is available from the FEBC Video Library. E-mail orders@febministries.org to reserve a copy for your church. Other studies are also available for loan. Visit http://www.febministries.org/pdf/video_catalog_2012.pdf.

Legacy Giving

Today's resources for tomorrow's ministries

Are you ready? By Paul A. Boeker, FEBC Administrator

Years ago it was rare to take a road trip without seeing a sign that proclaimed "Prepare to meet your God!" A relationship with the Creator is obviously the most important step in being ready for death. But each of us should prepare in other ways, too.

Have we prepared for the welfare of our family? Certainly we want to pass on our faith and values. But we should also do what we can to provide financially for our spouse and children.

The Apostle Paul is not talking about parents or children, but he invokes a truism to define his relationship with the church in Corinth: "For children are not obligated to save up for their parents, but parents for their children" (2 Corinthians 12:14). Paul seems to carry this principle even further when he writes that a person who does not provide for his relatives is worse than an unbeliever (1 Timothy 5:8). Are there relatives you could provide for? Could you help a grandchild go to college? Or keep a nephew ministering to an unreached people group?

But another part of preparing to meet God is, as Jesus recommended, to lay up treasures in heaven (Matthew 6:19,20;

Luke 12:21). Jesus' emphasis here was on charitable gifts. Yes, we should be charitable throughout our lives. But usually we can only be charitable from the nine percent of our net worth that is in cash, and we normally only use a small part of that for charity. But through a will, we can tap into the other

91 percent of our net worth and use it for charity.

Do you want to see your church keep ministering? Do you want to see the missionaries you support keep serving? Are there other charities that you want to see succeed?

Your relationship with God is essential. But arranging your estate along God's priorities is a logical consequence of being a child of God. Our Fellowship provides a service to help you think through the estate decisions you want to make. Just go to www.febclegacy.org and click on the Estate Plan Organizer. ■

Proclaiming Christ *around* the World

By Marilynn Lester, Commission on Missions



“every member ... every church ...
every opportunity”

The FEBC 20/20 Vision “Proclaiming Christ...every member...every church...every opportunity” encompasses our missionaries and the churches they have planted around the world as well as churches and members in Canada and United States. Since many of our FEBC missionaries are carrying out this vision in other parts of the world, FEBC wants to give our North American people the opportunity to partner with some of these FEBC missionaries. In May, 2013, a team from our FEBC churches in United

States and Canada will travel to Filadelfia, Paraguay, to pair up with Arnold and Monika Boschmann in their church-planting ministry and to assist Benny and Esther Goertzen in the follow-up work of Christian radio in an area about four hours from Asunción, Paraguay. There will also be construction work, including masonry and carpentry work, to assist some of the poor members of the local church. Specific details of the team ministry will be arranged when we know the make-up of the team.

THE DETAILS OF THE TRIP

Who: Any adult from any of the FEBC churches is invited to join this venture. Doyle and Marilynn Lester from Community Bible Church, Omaha, will lead the team. Doyle and Marilynn have been on numerous mission trips including Ukraine (four times), Russia (two times), Ecuador, and St. Vincent. They have been involved in teaching, orphanage ministries, and construction. Doyle sells brick and stone, lays brick and tile on the side, is chairman of CBC’s Elder Board and heads up the usher and greeter ministry. Marilynn is a preschool director, a teacher in the English Language Learners program, and a mentor in the new Moms to Moms ministry at the church.

When: Dates of the commitment are May 22 – June 7, 2013. The 22nd will be a required training day in Omaha. The team will fly out on the 23rd and arrive back in Omaha on the 7. Lodging for the nights of May 21 and 22 will be arranged in homes of members of Community Bible Church and Evangelical Bible Church in Omaha.

Where: The team will locate in or near Filadelfia and Asunción, Paraguay. Statistics tell us that 97 percent of Paraguayans are Christians. Of that number, 89 percent are Catholics who may be Catholic in name only, but may also embrace all kinds of heathen beliefs. An Evangelical Mennonite Brethren church that is affiliated with the FEBC was started many years ago in Filadelfia. From that church, five more churches have been planted in the Asunción area. In an area about four hours from Asunción, the Goertzens are involved in the follow-up ministry of a Christian radio station.

How can you get involved? Submit an application to FEBC Commission on Missions. Contact info@febcmministries.org to have an application form sent to you. Please apply before Jan. 1, 2013. Training begins online Jan. 22, 2013. You can also be involved by praying for the preparation and carrying out of this mission, by giving to this ministry and by encouraging

people to become involved that you know would be a helpful addition to the team. It would be good to hear from folks who are supporting this ministry in any role. You can communicate directly with Doyle and Marilynn by email to doyledl@cox.net or by mail to Doyle and Marilynn Lester, 7705 Lantana Court, LaVista, NE 68128.

What you need to know:

■ **Language:** Helpful languages to know are Spanish or Low German, although neither language is necessary as interpreters will be provided. Some important phrases will be learned during the training sessions beforehand.

■ **Cost:** A deposit of \$150 should be included with the application, which will be applied to the total cost of the trip of \$2,600. The total will need to be paid one month before departure. This amount includes airfare from Omaha, Neb., to Asunción, Paraguay, travel insurance, visas, in-Paraguay lodging, food and project expenses. Passports, travel to Omaha, vaccinations, souvenirs, etc., are not included. Any funds collected over and above the total team expenses will be given to the ministries in Paraguay.

■ **Training:** There will be training during the four months prior to departure to include opportunity to prepare an effective testimony, to get to know your fellow team members and to learn about Paraguay and special travel information needed for this trip. This training period will also include the required reading of two books selected from a list of books to help each team member grow spiritually and be prepared for what God has for us in this work.

Jesus sent out two mission teams during His earthly ministry; one was a team of 12, the other a team of 72. Each time He sent out a team He reminded them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field” (Matthew 9:37-38, Luke 10:2 NIV). There is plenty of work to do and many opportunities to become involved in proclaiming Christ around the world.

Become involved today! ■

M & M's for Missionaries?

By Sharon Skillman, Commission on Women's Ministries

If you are like me, you have probably given to an organization or ministry and wondered where the money went, how it was used, or if the items purchased with the dollars were at all appreciated. It is an admirable quality to give in faith that the Lord will bless your offering. But once in awhile it is an encouragement to know what happens to our contributions.

One of our FEBC Women's Ministries Projects has to been to provide funds for MEM. But whatever is MEM? Here is a little quiz for you in the box on the right:

MEM stands for which of these?

- A** Money Expressly for Missionaries
- B** M & M's for missionary (to give them a little bright spot in their day)
- C** Mad Money for persons Entering Ministry
- D** Ministry Enrichment Materials

Not that I am opposed to imbibing in chocolate now and then (may it never be), but the answer is "d." With the money received from proceeds at our Convention Boutique, the offering at the convention ladies' tea and gifts from our churches, we supply our Ministry Enrichment Materials fund. The purpose of this fund is to provide the missionaries of our Fellowship with a book or some other type of material to enhance their lives and the services they provide.

For several years now our Commission on Women's Ministries has chosen a book to send to each of our 96 missionary wives financed by the MEM funds, and each year we always receive many notes expressing their thanks for these materials. Following are some of the lines from the cards or emails:

"I am very excited about your latest book, 'A Passion for the Impossible,' about Liliias Trotter. I had looked up on-line, the biography of this woman last winter while reading a book on the history of missions. I'm so happy to have this ..."

"We appreciate so much your input into our lives as missionaries through the resources you just sent. We'll enjoy reading and learning what God wants to teach us through them. We don't always have the time or energy to research good books to use, so these come at a great time for us. Thanks."

"Thanks for your commitment to women in mission. The FEBC's kindness and thoughtfulness in presenting us with these books is a blessing to us!"

"It was a very nice surprise to receive the two books from you. I'm sure they will be a real inspiration to me as I read them. Thank you!"

"I received the two books last week and wanted you and the women to know how much I appreciate your thoughtfulness and help in this way. I began reading Liliias Trotter's biography aloud to our daughter. We are both inspired by her dedication to the Lord."

"I am writing to thank you and the commission for the books you sent me. I have been so thankful every time for your thoughts and prayers and gifts ... I just now read 'She Did What She Could' ... May God richly bless you as you have been a blessing to us."

Although at this writing, I do not have any of the exact quotes from the correspondence received from giving the book "50 Days of Heaven," by Randy Alcorn, I do remember the many appreciative comments upon receiving that book. Missionaries that were burdened, discouraged and depressed were encouraged by the biblical truth about heaven. As Jonathan Edwards said, "It becomes us to spend this life only as a journey toward heaven.Why should we labor for or set our hearts on anything else but that which is our proper end and true happiness?" Being reminded of heaven helps the servants of God keep things in perspective and to carry on.

At this time the Commission on Women's Ministries is in the process of sending out the book "Jesus Calling," by Sarah Young. Sarah herself is a missionary who has helped untold numbers of women and men in their quest for intimacy with Christ. Recently I sent this book to my sister who is a missionary in Ireland, and she replied that it just "hit the spot" at this time in her life. I am certain others will benefit from it as well.

Our thanks to all of you who have contributed in any way to the MEM fund, which truly does appear to be enriching those who receive the materials you helped to provide.

P.S. These same books have also been given to the Pastor's Wives of our Fellowship through a separate FEBC fund. Each year I look forward to reading and being inspired from the words imparted through them. My *personal* thanks go out to you and also from the other pastors' wives! ■

Along with her service on the women's ministries commission, Sharon Skillman ministers with her husband, John, who pastors Evangelical Mennonite Brethren Church in Lustre, Mont.

Convention Highlights 2012

By Autumn Donaldson; Photos by Kathy Knelson



The 118th Annual Convention of the FEBC has come and gone, but it leaves pleasant memories of renewed friendships, great teaching, strengthening fellowship, and new connections with other brothers and sisters.

Christian Fellowship Church of Rhineland, in Rhineland, Sask., was the site of five days of worship, meetings, break-out sessions and times of fellowship. A dedicated group of volunteers, led by **Pastor Alvin Buhler** and the steering committee, went out of their way to welcome guests from across Canada and the United States. Through hot, muggy days and delightfully cool nights, guests enjoyed the prairie landscape in the “Land of the Living Skies.”

Sessions started on July 18 with Commission members meeting to do the work of the Fellowship. That night, other guests arrived to hear **Pastor Jeff Friesen** (*Hebron Bible Church, Hebron, Neb.*) speak about “Proclaiming Jesus in His Story” and to share communion.

Thursday featured business meetings, prayer for our church plants, and an introduction to the proposed new constitution. This document is designed to streamline the decision-making process within the FEBC and to allow the commission members a greater freedom to do their jobs. A copy of the new constitution was sent to member churches earlier this year, and will be voted on at the 2013 Convention. **Pastor James Thiessen** (*Hodgson Bible Church, Hodgson, Man.*) brought the evening message, “Proclaiming Jesus in Our Story.” Amid laughter and self-deprecation, James reminded listeners that each one has a story to tell of Jesus’ great love and mercy, and that we need to pray for opportunities to share that story.

On Friday, Commission members reported on their work from the previous year. The group then split up to attend various Break-Out Sessions. Sessions included **Dr. Tommy Ice’s**

(*Community Bible Church, Omaha, Neb.*) presentation on the Grammatical/Historical Method of Bible Interpretation; **Don Pickel’s** (*Assist Canada*) seminars on encouraging missions within the church; “Launching a Short-Term Missions Team” (**Marilynn Lester**, *Community Bible Church, Omaha, Neb.*); “How to Lead through Change” (**Terry Schultz**, Fort Worth, Texas, and **Paul MacDiarmid**, *Dalmeny Bible Church, Dalmeny, Sask.*); “Using LOGOS Bible Software” (**Paul Carpenter**, *Jansen Bible Church, Jansen, Neb.*); and “Folding Photo Albums” (**Norma Wiebe**, *Christian Fellowship Church of Rhineland*). Friday featured a focus on and time of prayer for our FEBC missionaries. In addition, **Joanna Wiens** was recognized for her many years of service in Japan. On Friday night **Pastor Allan Dueck** (*Kenora Bible Church, Kenora, Ont.*) gave a message entitled, “Proclaiming the Excellencies of Jesus.”

For the first time ever, the FEBC convention had a focus for youth pastors and sponsors, including a special break-out session entitled “Teaching Theology to Young People” (presented by **Lee Young**, *Salem Church, Waldheim, Sask.*) and a golf outing Friday afternoon. At least eight churches were represented. It was a special time of laughter, new and renewed friendships, encouragement, and connection with the greater FEBC family. On Friday evening delegates prayed especially for these young men and their families as they work with our children and grandchildren in a difficult, changing world.

Saturday opened with a Peer Forum, where three pastors shared how their churches are “Becoming a Proclaiming People.” **Jeff Friesen** shared how prayer has made a huge impact in Hebron, Neb. **Brian Friesen** spoke of the opportunities in Tisdale, Sask., and the benefits of being involved in community activities. **Darrell Derksen** talked about the encouraging changes taking place throughout the community of Waldheim as people are grabbing on to the idea that God can use them

continued on next page



Anna Rieger Award

Langham EBC Christian educator honored with 2012 Anna Rieger award

Betty Schierling of Evangelical Bible Church of Langham, Sask., was named the 2012 Anna Rieger Christian Education Worker of the Year at the FEBC convention in July. Commission on Education members Pastor Alvin Buhler and Autumn Donaldson presented the award.

"Betty has done an excellent job of promoting Christian Education through many programs for over 37 years," Autumn said.

Betty taught the nursery Sunday school class for three to four years at EBC and then stepped aside to spend her time raising her twins. When the Lord called one of them home at the age of eight (1974), she began working in Awana. Langham EBC was the first official Awana club in Canada, having started in 1970. Betty was leader and listener in 1975, and became a co-director in 1978. After many years as co-commander, Betty was promoted to commander and performed that role for many more years. "Leader meetings and training sessions were always run effectively, along with laughter and food," Autumn said. "She is a gifted leader and teacher with a true heart of hospitality."

From the time Betty and her husband, Pete moved from

the farm to town in 1981, right until the present, Betty has taught a Bible study in her home, with women from many different churches and nationalities growing in Christ through the studies. She also served in music ministry throughout her life, singing in trios and groups, and continuing to this day.

Betty is also the leader for another women's group at the church, the Willing Hands. She has been a member of this group for more than 35 years. Besides chairing the meetings, Betty is usually the one who leads the devotionals.

Last July the church celebrated 100 years and Betty Schierling was an integral person on the committee as she organized, taught others of church history and showed by example what it means to serve the Lord in prayer, faith and action.

"As a person who is willing to help wherever and whenever she can, Betty has been a real blessing to her church and community," Autumn said. "Her servant heart puts her words into action. Many go to her with questions, and she is always willing to share her knowledge of God, church and life."



Convention Highlights 2012 ... continued

in reaching their neighbors. He left the audience pondering the thought that perhaps busyness is not the problem; instead, busyness is the very vehicle God can use for us to proclaim Jesus.

Saturday afternoon was a time of celebration as Compass Immanuel Church from Rapid View, Sask., joined our Fellowship. **Pastors Mike Ginther and Trevor Kirsch** commented on the warm welcome they had experienced from so many at Convention. On Saturday evening the Anna Rieger Christian Educator Award was presented to **Betty Schierling** (*Evangelical Bible Church, Langham, Sask.*). **Pastor David Cummings** (*Countryside Bible Church, Meade, Kan.*) pointed us back to the

Gospel yet again in his message, "Proclaiming Reconciliation."

On Sunday morning, guests joined Christian Fellowship Church for their worship time. **Pastor Russ Reimer** (*Evangelical Mennonite Brethren Church, Grunthal, Man.*) shared the message, and Convention 2012 concluded.

Convention is always a time of great fellowship: people talk, cry, laugh and pray together. Year after year, friendships are built. Host families and churches provide huge blessings to their guests. Absent friends are missed. Both young and old benefit from being together, and all are reminded of the great work Christ will accomplish in and through the Fellowship of Evangelical Bible Churches.



Convention 2012



Peer Forum Summary: What does the FEBC vision look like in our churches?

By Blaine Donaldson, FEBC President



"This is the best thing that the FEBC has done at Convention in years." That sentiment was expressed to me by several people at the annual convention in Rhineland in July. They were talking about the Peer Forum.

This two-hour plenary session featured three Fellowship churches which have taken steps to implement the vision. The presenters were pastors Jeff Friesen of Hebron Bible Church, Hebron, Neb.; Brian Friesen Community Bible Church, Tisdale, Sask.; and Darrell Derksen of Salem Church, Waldheim, Sask.

Each presenter shared the following:

- ☐ a summary assessment of their church and community
- ☐ the primary internal and external challenges they faced
- ☐ the initiatives that they had tried along with outcomes
- ☐ the lessons learned from their initiatives
- ☐ the next steps they were planning

After their presentations, the moderator, Terry Schultz,

asked some follow-up questions and allowed those attending to also ask questions.

Our goals were twofold. First, we wanted to help the presenters think through their planning and evaluation. You can

By seeing what the Lord was doing in these three churches, I believe that many were inspired to try to do some similar things.

learn by doing it, but you learn best when you teach it. The forum put the presenters in a place where they were teaching us what they had done.

The second goal was to inspire the rest of us to implement the vision in our own churches and in our own lives. By seeing what the Lord was doing in these three churches, I believe that many were inspired to try to do some similar things.

There were many ideas that we gleaned and honed during the discussion. Each person took away good ideas about what vision implementation might look like in their own church.

Convention Highlights 2012



Convention 2012



Joanna Wiens

Honored for many years of Japan ministry

The Fellowship of Evangelical Bible Churches honored Joanna Wiens for years of faithful service at the annual convention, thanking her “for her faithful work in His name. We are confident that

God will reward her for the efforts and sacrifices she has made to bring the good news of God to Japan.”

Joanna was born in Langham, Sask., and her family attends the Dalmeny Bible Church. At the age of seven she answered the call to missions during the Waldheim Missions Conference. Joanna attended Miller Bible Institute for three years and studied at the University of Saskatchewan for her teaching degree.

While at Miller she met a Japanese student, and while at the university, her friend’s mother acquainted her with a need for teachers in Japan for MKs (missionary kids). This woman introduced her to leaders of Japan Evangelical Mission (JEM). Joanna had taught third grade for two years in Climax, Sask., as she worked her way through school. By 1971 (the time JEM was praying she’d be able to come), Joanna found herself in Japan. She began teaching grades 1-3, eventually adding more grades. She completed her Bachelor of Education during furloughs, graduating in 1977. The Evangelical Alliance Mission recognized her retirement after 35 years of service.

Joanna taught 22 years in the MK school until it was closed when JEM merged with TEAM. During her final year she taught all six grades to students in her home in Karuizawa. She also helped with church planting in two churches and tutored junior high level students.

Among Joanna’s joys was finding that a former student now teaches MKs in Jordan. She joyfully led children of unsaved foreign workers to the Lord. Joanna also led adults to the Lord through English classes in her home. One day she was called to the home of a former student. When she arrived, she learned the woman, whose husband was Buddhist, was dying of cancer and wanted Joanna to help her pray for salvation. Later Joanna distributed Gospel tracks at this friend’s funeral.

It was and is a great joy to introduce youth to missionary service as a vocation. This past year Joanna was able to return to Japan to visit believers, accompanied by her 19-year-old niece. They shared their testimonies with individuals, visited the ladies Bible studies, and pastor’s wives Joanna so much enjoyed discipling in church planting.

Joanna’s favorite verse is I Peter 1:8. “And though having not seen him, you love him, and though you do not see him now, but believe in him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory.” The verse affirms that even in a culture that honors many visible idols, one can look with faith on an unseen God. It reminded Joanna to exhibit joy in her life.

Joanna credited the Fellowship’s role in her ministry. “It is because of the churches in the FEBC that any of these things happened,” she said. “I could not have been out there without the backing of encouraging letters, prayer and support. Thank the ladies for sending gifts each year.”

Meeting other missionaries at the Omaha convention (Ann Classen, Martha Classen Baerg, Marie Olfert Dahlenberg, and Dorothy Peters) meant so much to her. Currently living with her mother in Saskatchewan, Joanna participates in “Go-Getters” at her church.

Convention Highlights 2012





Convention Brief

Our thanks to the convention team at Christian Fellowship Church of Rhineland. They did an excellent job of hosting the convention, in spite of this being their first occasion to host it. About 115 guests attended. Twenty-nine of our 43 churches were represented, with 87 delegates seated.

Speakers from Fellowship churches gave the convention a good focus on the theme "Redeemed! How I Love to Proclaim It." These "in-house" speakers also added to the camaraderie of the event. A variety of 10 break-out sessions provided attendees many options for learning.

Convention Project

Many new believers across North Africa and the Middle East have nowhere to go to get more Bible teaching. SAT-7 is meeting this need by providing The TEACH Program [Theological Education for Arab Christians at Home]. Now Arab Christians can study through satellite TV or via the internet. Our Fellowship set a goal of providing \$20,000 for this project. As of the end of July, Fellowship churches and members had given \$22,720! The Fellowship will continue accepting contributions through Oct. 15. The TEACH Project will require nine million dollars over the next nine years for lesson development, video production, website development, and satellite time.

Day of Prayer for Church in North Africa and Middle East

Nov. 4 is the International Day of Prayer for SAT-7 and Church in the Middle East and North Africa. For this special event, a website has been set up with Day of Prayer downloadable resources: www.sat7usa.org/dayofprayer

Please mark your calendar and join the friends of SAT-7,

from around the globe on Nov. 4 as we pray for the Middle East.

The website has a poster and flyers (to help spread the word), prayer guide, recipes to make a Middle Eastern meal for your friends, prayer requests for the Middle East and SAT-7, and a DVD "Hope for a Generation."

Bequest Goes to Work

Community Bible Church of Indian Head recently suffered water damage due to a storm. Insurance will not cover all the damage and repairs to the roof, so they applied for a loan from the Church Builders Revolving Loan Fund. Fortunately, just a few weeks before, the Fellowship received a bequest from the Adela Peters Estate that was designated for the Revolving Loan Fund. Because of that bequest, the fund had sufficient money to meet the church's needs. Rev. William "Bill" and Adelia Peters had a heart for church planting and missions throughout their lives. Bill started the Evangelical Mennonite Brethren Church of Grunthal, Man. and served as pastor of the Filadelfia EMB Church in Paraguay.

CHURCHES SEEKING SENIOR PASTORS

- **Community Bible Church** of Indian Head, Sask. Please direct all inquiries and resumes to Ed Martens (306) 695 2451; emmartens@yourlink.ca or Community Bible Church, Attn: Ed Martens, P.O. Box 1096, Indian Head, SK S0G 2K0 (More details on p. 18).
- **Martensville Mennonite Church** of Martensville, Sask. Please send inquiries and résumés Brendon Johnston pastor.brendon@martensvillemissionchurch.com.
- **Grace Evangelical Bible Church** of Abbotsford, B.C. Please submit résumés or inquiries to Henry Esau at henryesau@telus.net (More details on p. 18).

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 2012 Scholarship Recipients ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Six students from Fellowship churches were each awarded \$1,000 scholarships by the FEBC Commission on Education. The scholarship recipients were announced at the annual convention in July.

The scholarships are given to students preparing for Christian

ministry and are paid out of income from trust funds built through bequests or contributions designated to the FEBC Scholarship Fund. Sometimes these are matched by the college or university the student attends.

★COLTON BERCIER★
Briercrest Bible School, Caronport, Sask.

★DOUGLAS REIMER★
Grace College, Winona Lake, Ind.
Cornerstone Bible Church
Steinbach, Man.

★TABITHA WAHLSTROM★
Liberty University online, Lynchburg, Va.
Community Bible Church
Prince Albert, Sask.

★HANNA OLNEY★
Millar College of the Bible, Pambrun, Sask.
Christian Fellowship Church of
Rhineland - Wymark, Sask.

★STEVEN HAMILTON★
John Brown University, Siloam Springs, Ark.
Evangelical Bible Church
Omaha, Neb.

★JESSE PETERS★
Moody Bible Institute, Chicago, Ill.
Evangelical Bible Church
Dallas, Ore.



FOCUS ON OUR CHURCHES

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

Omaha, Neb.

Charles Tschetter, Pastor



We welcomed **Jeremy Wissink** and his wife, **Rachel**, as our Pastor of Student Ministries in July.

Jeremy was blessed to grow up in a Christian family with parents who love the Lord and serve Him faithfully. Their example and instruction contributed to Jeremy placing his faith in Christ at a very young age. He attended college at Grace University in Omaha, where he began to feel the Lord leading him toward entering full-time vocational ministry. He came to see the importance of understanding and applying the Bible to life in order to live faithfully in this world for the glory of God. To continue this process, he decided to attend Dallas Theological Seminary.

Jeremy met Rachel while they were both in college in Omaha. They were married in 2006 and have enjoyed growing in their relationship and learning what it means to sacrificially love each other. The couple was blessed to welcome their son, Elliot, in 2010.

Jeremy loves music, from classical to rock. He enjoys playing the violin, especially with Rachel at the piano. Jeremy enjoys watching sports and playing basketball and golf. He also greatly enjoys spending time outdoors in God's creation, camping, hiking, snow skiing, and picnics with Rachel.

We honored **Pastor Chuck and Lydia Tschetter's** 25 years of faithful ministry with a celebration dinner and program in August. To thank them for the impact they have had on our lives, the CBC church family gave gifts toward a future travel experience of their choice.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

Prince Albert, Sask.

Jim Fast, Pastor

New people are attending CBC, and there seems to be a new sense of excitement at the church. God is blessing in our Sunday morning services; the auditorium is filling up. People are plugging in to various areas of ministry. After some long hours, we are nearing the completion of renovating the kitchen and back area of our church facilities.

The city is growing, and changing quickly. Much construction is taking place and different ethnic groups are moving here from around the world. Pray for the opportunities we frequently have to broadcast the Sunday morning messages on our Christian FM radio station. The station reaches a large population of people in the Prince Albert area and region.

At a recent two-day seminar on "The Marks of an Effective Church," **FEBC President Blaine Donaldson** and church planters **Bill Glasspell** and **Brian Friesen** shared on various

themes. People were challenged to apply the principles to the ministry here; pray for us that we might be diligent in this matter.

A new ministry has started for the 60+ group. **SOC** (SomeOne Cares) is seeking to minister to this age group and, among other things, challenge them to reach out in simple acts of care to their peers at church and within our city.

We recently hosted a speaker from Creations Ministries, who shared to a packed audience in our church building. **Darek Isaacs**, a Messianic Jew, spoke about what Charles Darwin believed and where this belief would take mankind. A young lady who teaches evolution at her school attended the event and asked some questions at the end. Later that evening she put her trust in Christ and is meeting with a Christian couple.

Beth Fast, Correspondent

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHAPEL

Winnipeg, Man.

Pastor John Harwood

The wheels are in motion and we are gearing up hard for "Christianity Explored" to begin in October. This is a seven-week series designed to present Christianity in a simple, non-threatening way to those who have questions and are looking for answers. Please pray with us as we begin this endeavor, that the Lord would be in all of our preparations and that He would be hand-picking those whom He wants to attend.



We were thrilled as a congregation to send our best wishes and encouragement to **Nicole Edwards Sifuentes** who competed for Canada at the London Olympics in the Women's 1500 metres in August.

Nancy Kunkel, Correspondent

CORNERSTONE BIBLE CHURCH

Steinbach, Man.

Jared Hiebert, Pastor

Cornerstone sent a team of 40 people on a mission trip with Northwest Haiti Christian Mission July 1-12. What a tremendous time of spiritual growth through ministering the

continued on page 14

FOCUS ON OUR CHURCHES

continued from page 13

Gospel in Haiti, as well as being ministered to by the Haitian people.

Over the summer, children from grades 2 – 6 took part in a “Precepts for Kids” inductive Bible study based on 2 Timothy. The kids had a great time and learned so much, too!

Our annual Fall Kick-Off Hog Roast was held on Sept. 15, followed by the Sunday School kick off. Our executive ladies are also busy planning for the FEBC All Ladies’ Day which will be hosted by Cornerstone on Sept. 29.

Marsella Wiebe, Correspondent

CORNERSTONE BIBLE CHURCH

Mountain Lake, Minn.

Nathan Janzen, Pastor

Darwin and Karen Stoesz (*SEND International*), along with Anna and Clara arrived in America on June 19. They were serving in Japan. They will spend their time resting and adding to their prayer and financial support. **Jon and Karen Schmidt** (*South America Mission*) and **Fred and Desi Schmidt** (*Mission Aviation Fellowship*) shared of their work in South America and as they re-locate to the U.S. **Darrel Heide** was also here to report in his home church about their work with **Jim and Linda Brandt**, and **Byron and Pam Anderson** will leave to serve in Uganda with an orphanage, sharing Christ with orphans who have AIDS.

Our church contributed to the annual city community service at the Pow Wow in the city park in June. Seven different local churches from the Ministerial Committee added music or messages. We also held a joint Vacation Bible School with three other churches. About 48 children attended “The Sky is the Limit,” and we raised \$130 for “Camp Grace” for **John and Cindy Gardiner**.

Arlene Stoesz, Correspondent

COUNTRYSIDE BIBLE CHURCH

Meade, Kan.

David Cummings, Pastor

Seventeen youth from our church, plus two from other towns, attended a Precepts camp in Tennessee, and shared the impact the Word had made on them individually. The TLC (Teens Living for Christ) had a retreat near Oklahoma City in August. They performed maintenance work at a missionary camp. Our **Associate Pastor Chuck Finster** spoke at the Kan-OK camp. Our church supplied 26 of the staff workers for the camp.

Jordan Friesen and **Kjell and Laressa Nordgren** reported in July on their ministry in Sweden. **Carlin Toews** shared his work in Alaska with Samaritan’s Purse. **Tanner Wiens** left for his ministry in Nepal in June. We offered a prayer of commissioning for **Dale and Sara Deighton** as they left for their ministry to Honduras in July. A reception for the Roca Banca Missions Medical Team was held in July. **Ralph and Ann Classen** served with them many times over the years.

Mary Friesen, Correspondent

DALMENY BIBLE CHURCH

Dalmeny, Sask.

Dennis Friesen, Pastor

Along with the Community Church, we participated in a Family Celebration Service in the park in June in conjunction with Dalmeny Days. Various activities were planned for children, breakfast was served, and several groups of singers participated. The Community Church joined us for our service on July 1. We held Vacation Bible School in August together with the Community Church. This year’s theme was Daniel’s *Courage in Captivity*.

Our Men’s Fishing Retreat was a great outreach for guys of all ages and was well attended at the Neimeben Bible Camp in June.

Pastor Dennis and **Dave Cornelius**, our youth pastor, along with **Dale Epp** and **Len and Myra Zacharias**, attended the FEBC Convention this year.

Marilyn Harder, Correspondent

EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH

Omaha, Neb.

Dr. Don Pahl, Senior Pastor

We held an outreach in North Omaha that included a Bible club taught by Child Evangelism Fellowship. We put up a tent, handed out flyers, held the Bible club each evening, and served refreshments to the neighborhood children who came. This neighborhood is in a part of the city that our church has adopted.

Our theme for Vacation Bible School was “IncrediWorld Amazement Park: A Thrill Ride Through God’s Creation.” We had 130-150 children attend each day. The children (and workers) learned about God, His plan of salvation, and His Creation. A high number of our attendees come from families who do not attend EBC, so it is a wonderful opportunity to share the Gospel and reach homes that may not be associated with any church. Our congregation shows strong support for VBS by providing staff, scenery and drama, music, refreshments and prayer.

Our women’s ministry, OASIS (Obedient And Strong In Scripture), is getting ready for another year of “Heart-to-Heart.” This is a mentoring ministry for females from ninth grade on up, designed to develop supportive friendships between older and younger women. Women understand women — they have gone through the same experiences and have felt the same emotions. The Heart-to-Heart ministry can be a source of healing, strength, and growth as spiritually mature women are given meaningful influence in the lives of other women. The mentoring relationship is a one-year commitment, and promotes regular contact as the two women do things together, whether it is Bible study, shopping, learning a new skill or going to coffee or lunch.

Sherrie Lindsey, Correspondent

FOCUS ON OUR CHURCHES

EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH

Dallas, Ore.

Jerry Franz, Pastor

We are fast approaching our 100-year anniversary, and in our next newsletter we will have much to share about that. We have had a good response from alumni who will attend. For more information, please check our web page at www.ebcdallas.org.

Our high school youth group spent a week in Montana, assisting and encouraging the youth group at the church in Hamilton. Not only was this a great way to share the Gospel with others in town, it was a way to build friendships with another church and within our group. We look forward to having them share with our congregation soon.

EBC recently included **Tim and Sondra Armstrong** to our list of missionaries. Tim and Sondra are serving in Thailand and were home on leave this summer, sharing about their work in that country.

We have had many young people working in the ministry field this summer. **Julia Quiring** has been working at camps in Washington, Oregon and Idaho. **Helen Chaffee** is serving at an orphanage in Mexico. **Lindsey West** and **Zach Denny** are working as camp counselors. **Nathan Johnston** is ministering with Child Evangelism Fellowship on St. Kitts in the West Indies. Adults also have been active in ministries. **Galen and Jonell Harms** are teaching English in Lithuania, and **Dr. Nathan and Sylvia Thomas** are working in Romania.

Dallas recently held its Summerfest celebration. EBC was well represented with a float for the parade. The float held a replica of our first church in Dallas and featured some of our musically gifted young people. Included was the organ player and a preacher on horseback! This group won "Best of Show," and we are so proud of them.

Baptisms and New Members

We baptized three people and added two new members to our church, praising God for His newfound children.

Vicki Kibbey, Correspondent

EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH

Langham, Sask.

Greg Guarnett, Senior Pastor

This year's FEBC Convention at the Christian Fellowship Church of Rhineland was a highlight, and it was a blessing to see our own **Betty Schierling** receive the Anna Rieger Christian Educator Award from the Fellowship.



The External Ministries Committee showed a creation-themed movie as an outreach event. They were also able to sponsor two community youths to attend Bible Camp. **Pastor Justin** has been busy this summer working a week each at Ranger Lake

Bible Camp, Camp Kadesh and Millar College of the Bible sports camp. Pastor Justin and Nashly plan to take a group of youth to North Carolina next July to work with *YouthWorks* organization.

Marilyn Friesen, Correspondent

EVANGELICAL MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH

Grunthal, Man.

Russ Reimer, Pastor

Recently, our church had a potluck in honour of **Elfi Zissner** from Germany. Her willingness to get involved, and her cheerful spirit will be missed as she returns to pursue a ministry opportunity there.

We serve coffee and muffins a half hour before the service as a way of connecting with each other during the busy summer months.

Barry Rempel and his family from SEND International visited in July and shared about their work in Anchorage, Alaska.

Janet Armstrong (*World Team/Singapore*) is spending time with her children in British Columbia, helping one daughter prepare for a wedding and another start a ministry to foreign refugees.

Tamara Bergen, Correspondent

EVANGELICAL MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH

Lustre, Mont.

John Skillman, Pastor

Bees were a buzzin' as the ladies held our annual outreach Garden Party in July. Decorations, including cotton ball bumblebees and inspiration from "be" verses of Scripture, made it a sweet event. Special features included guest **Kristi Parrotte**, who is Mrs. Montana, and inspirational speaker **Connie Bogar**, a local pastor's wife and former missionary to Spain.



Three youth were baptized and one new member was added to our congregation.

Sharon Skillman, Correspondent

EVANGELICAL MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH

Marion, S.D.

Randy Maass, Pastor

FEBC President **Blaine Donaldson** ministered to the church on June 10, informing and encouraging us in the ministry, and met with church leadership.

continued on page 16

FOCUS ON OUR CHURCHES

continued from page 15

A dedicated offering was taken in July in support of the convention project of SAT-7 TEACH.

A community-wide worship service was held in June at the Marion High School gymnasium.

The *Half-ton Quartet* sang several of the old favorite hymns during a worship hour in July. The congregation doubled in attendance due to visitors.

Raymond Becker, Correspondent

FAITH EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH

Henderson, Neb.

Michael Fink, Pastor

Our Missions Committee is helping to sponsor a “backpack” program to provide food for underprivileged families in our community. A backpack filled with basic food supplies will be delivered to designated families each week.

Vacation Bible School was a highlight for our children in June. Our theme was “Backstage with the Bible.” The kids enjoyed singing with the GoFish Guys on DVD during their concert time. Bible time was extra special as **Karen Martens** and **Kim Hiebner** staged the scene to go with each lesson keeping the kids wondering “what’s behind that door?” each day.

Baptisms - 1

Alice Decker, Correspondent

GRACE EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH

Abbotsford, B.C.

Arden Adrian, Teaching Pastor

We honored **Pastor Warren and Becky Schatz** for their many years of faithful service to the congregation here at Grace during a night of appreciation on Sept. 16. We wish him God’s blessing and direction so his gifts will be used in a way that is fulfilling for him and glorifying to God.

The Africa Team reported on their trip to visit FEBC missionary **Clara Klassen** (SIM/Benin) in July.

Upcoming events include a day-long *Walk through the Bible* seminar (Sept. 22); a message from **FEBC President Blaine Donaldson** (Sept. 23); and our annual Thanksgiving Celebration.

The busy fall season ramped up with a Youth/Family BBQ on Sept. 5, followed by our annual Kick-off Breakfast/Communion Service on Sept. 9, when we gathered to celebrate the church family coming together in expectation of what the Lord will be accomplishing through us during the next year as He directs.

Grace Toews, Correspondent

HEARTLAND BIBLE CHURCH

Scott Hecht, Pastor

Lincoln, Neb.

We gathered in the Fellowship Hall for the annual Spring Ladies’ Brunch in June. There was good food, great fellow-

ship, special music and a young speaker. **Anna Seeley** reported on her work with Youth With A Mission (YWAM). While stationed in New Zealand, she has served with this group for two years, leading mission teams to Southeast Asia — Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, India and Nepal.

Our annual picnic in recognition of those moving into their new Sunday School classes was held in June at Roberts Park. While **Pastor Scott** was on vacation, we enjoyed a family night instead of our usual preaching service. A good group met to eat, play board games, eat, visit and eat.

Trudy Reimer, Correspondent

JANSEN BIBLE CHURCH

Jansen, Neb.

Paul Carpenter, Pastor

Members of our evangelism committee and volunteers staffed a booth at the annual July 4th Flea Market in the city park. Many wondered why they were giving free bottled ice water to all who wanted it. It provided an excellent opportunity to tell of God’s free gift of eternal life. Free copies of “Living Water Gospels of John” were also available. Face painting and the Gospel colors were popular with kids.



Thirty-five to forty children attended Vacation Bible School in June. An offering of \$2,200 was given to send **Gwen Flaming** on a ministry trip to India.

A monthly Men’s Fellowship Breakfast has been started at a Fairbury steak house. The women of the church enjoyed a retreat at the Leadership Center in Aurora, Neb., in August.

Tena Dick, Correspondent

MARTENSVILLE MISSION CHURCH

Martensville, Sask.

Wilf Gaertner, Pastor

We are very excited that **Dave Wright** of New Tribes Missions will offer a chronological teaching of the Bible starting this fall on Mondays from 7-8:30 p.m. Anyone living in the Martensville area is invited to join us!

Fifty-one children enjoyed a “Treasure Hunt” during Daily Vacation Bible School week at our church. **Betty Reimer** of Canadian Sunday School Mission created and led the pro-

FOCUS ON OUR CHURCHES

gram, and I highly recommend her for your next DVBS if your church is located anywhere near Martensville. The children learned five important truths that week about God as our powerful creator, loving provider, just king, merciful Savior and ever-present guide.

We anticipate another great year with the Awana program, and we know that God will provide us with a Commander, so we will already thank Him for that!

Joanne Born, Correspondent

RICHER FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

Richer, Man.

Simon Cheung, Pastor

"But now indeed there are many members, yet one body. And the eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you;' nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you'" (1 Corinthians 12:20-21 NKJV).

How often do we pay attention to the "feet" of the church, those reliable people who sometimes are overlooked because they are "expected" to do the menial tasks? For example, when the burned out lights are magically changed in the dead of winter, it must have been those "invisible hands" that made sure we could see when we pulled into church. Or how about the "willing hearts" who always come early on Awana night just to make sure everything is prepared for the kids? Let's not forget the "chameleons," the ones who wear different hats so they can go from being the chauffeur of shut-ins to taking out the garbage after the potluck meal on Sunday.

At Richer Fellowship it's the "feet" who help the body to stand. Thank you to those who never expect thanks.

Michelle Driedger, Correspondent

SALEM CHURCH

Waldheim, Sask.

Darrell Derksen, Senior Pastor

This was a summer of celebrations for Waldheim. For 60 years, the churches in the area have hosted a mid-summer missions conference in Waldheim. Over the years, about \$900,000 has been provided for missionary support and projects. Many missionaries have been encouraged and been an encouragement as the stories of what God is doing around the world are shared. This year we celebrated "60 Years of Harvest" with speaker **Dr. Jay Moon**, and guest musicians **Steve Bell** and **Eduard Klassen**, as well as local talent. A concert with Steve Bell brought many people from the surrounding area.

The second event was the Waldheim Centennial Celebrations in August. Our community was filled with activity in celebration of 100 years. One of the highlights was a Community Worship Service, with guest speaker **Daniel Derksen**. We are thankful that, despite the changing face of our community, the worship of our Lord is still an integral part of our celebration.

STUARTBURN GOSPEL CHAPEL

Stuartburn, Man.

Mark Funk, Pastor

Summer is a very busy time for many of our families as they work at various Bible camps. **Pastor Mark** led the way with speaking assignments at Beacon Bible Camp in Frazer, Mont., and Dallas Valley Ranch Camp in Lumsden, Sask. He also lead the SLT at Roseau River Bible Camp here in Manitoba. We are also blessed to have members who donate their time and energy for several weeks in a variety of duties, including speaking, kitchen and cleaning tours, and building and maintenance projects at Roseau River as well as Fisher Bay Bible Camp. We are grateful for the opportunity to interact with children of all ages and circumstances. What a joy to see some of the children, who have been return campers for a few years, mature into cabin leaders and counsellors who help other kids find their way to truth and salvation!

Mark and Jennifer Funk and **Peter and Linda Elias** were also able to attend the FEBC Convention in Rhineland, Sask., putting the finishing touches on a very active July schedule.



We were pleased to take advantage of the Canada Day celebrations in Vita, Man., as an outreach. We built a float for the parade with the theme "Jesus – it's all about Him. Yesterday, Today and Forever." Our Awana program was also represented in the parade by many of the children. We also took part in the service on the fairgrounds by writing and presenting, along with the **Vita Bible Church** (also a part of the FEBC), a puppet play for a children's feature. We are trusting God for His promise that the Word will not return void.

Sue Hoy, Correspondent

VITA BIBLE CHURCH

Vita, Man.

Jurgen Penner, Pastor

We continue to raise money and accept donations for back surgery for a member of our church. We hosted a chicken barbecue, held a scrap metal drive and women's ministry garage sale.

Children in our community who do not attend church regularly had the opportunity to hear the Gospel at Vacation Bible School in August. We also enjoyed our Sunday school picnic in August.

Tiffany Tuurenhout, Correspondent

FOCUS ON OUR CHURCHES

Paradise Valley Painters *By Paul Boeker, FEBC Administrator*

Sixteen people from Evangelical Bible Church of Omaha traveled to Natoma, Kan., on July 27. Led by Kim Palmer, and accompanied by seven ladders, three power washers, 28 gallons of paint, and a multitude of scrapers, brushes, sanders and other equipment, the team tackled the job of painting the 110-year-old church building where Paradise Valley Church meets. This FEBC church plant, led by Pastor Ben MacConnell, ministers to people in several small villages throughout Paradise Valley in north central Kansas.

The team arrived about 1 p.m. and jumped into the work. Neither the 100° heat nor the 25-year-old paint was any match for the tough Nebraskans. By 9 p.m. the church had been completely power washed, and large areas had been scraped, sanded and primed.

By 8 a.m. the next morning the

team was back to work. Scraping, sanding and priming continued while Kim began to apply the finish spray coat. As others finished their prep work, they moved to clean-up projects such as pulling weeds or trimming trees. By 7 p.m. the painting was finished, the equipment was loaded up, and the team was ready for one last dinner and a trip home.

Fayth Boeker provided meals for the team. The workers quickly went through 48 bottles of water and gallons more of water, lemonade and soft drinks. They used 100 lbs. of ice over a day and a half!



Back row: Blaine Donaldson, Carl Kuhns, Larry Kirkpatrick

Third row: Paul Boeker, Kim Palmer, Duwayne Backens, Randy Lambert

Second row: Fayth Boeker, Riley Lambert, Gregg Mattox

Front row: Anthony Donaldson, Trevor Lambert, Lyle Reinholz, David Ingraham



Seeking Pastors

Community Bible Church Seeks Pastor

Community Bible Church of Indian Head, Sask., invites applications for the position of full-time pastor with the following primary qualifications:

- ▣ a deep commitment to Christ and a passion for His Word
- ▣ ability to preach sermons which challenge us to think through our faith and give us strength and encouragement for our daily lives
- ▣ a vision to mentor, lead and enable the congregation to evangelize locally
- ▣ enjoys working with children and youth
- ▣ Bible training/experience equivalent to that of a Bible college Bachelor's Degree
- ▣ previous ministry experience and a supportive wife if married
- ▣ doctrinal views which are compatible with the articles of faith of the Fellowship of Evangelical Bible Churches of which the church is a member

A more complete job description as

well as a church and community profile is available upon request. Please direct all inquiries and resumes to Ed Martens (306) 695 2451; emmartens@yourlink.ca or Community Bible Church, Attention Ed Martens, P.O. Box 1096, Indian Head, SK S0G 2K0

GRACE EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH (Grace Church), Abbotsford, BC

Grace Church, located in an urban setting, is affiliated with the Fellowship of Evangelical Bible Churches of Canada (FEBCC). The church has a heart for missions with a desire to reach the lost, locally and abroad.

Grace Church is looking for a Senior Pastor who will match the following profile:

- ▣ Experience as a Senior Pastor
- ▣ Ability to demonstrate love and acceptance of all people with varying spiritual needs
- ▣ Bible training, with a Master's degree preferred

- ▣ A good communicator, able to teach and preach God's word accurately
- ▣ Ability to provide leadership, working with the Elders
- ▣ Able to train others and provide leadership in discipleship
- ▣ Some experience working with a multiple staff
- ▣ Ability to relate to various age groups
- ▣ Ministry experience in an urban setting
- ▣ Doctrinal views which are compatible with the doctrinal statements of Grace Church and the FEBC

More information is available on the following web sites:

- Grace Church:
www.graceabbotsford.com
- FEBC:
www.febcministries.org

Please submit resumes or inquiries to Henry Esau at henryesau@telus.net.

BIRTHS AND ADOPTIONS

Community Bible Church Omaha, Neb.

- Bode Elijah to John and Jenni Kadner, July 6

Dalmeny Bible Church Dalmeny, Sask.

- Kyler John Robert to Lorne and Sherry Cornish, July 16
- Lillie Isabella to Tim and Sheena Derksen, Aug. 16

Evangelical Bible Church Omaha, Neb.

- Mariah Arianna to Ken and Courtney Williams, July 10

Evangelical Bible Church Dallas, Ore.

- Orrin Baxter to Alan and Kelly Casey, June 10
- Ruth-Ann Marie to Leonard and Jennifer Hackett, July 14

Evangelical Mennonite Brethren Church Grunthal, Man.

- Isolde Catherine to Nathan and Annie Driediger, May 29
- Zoey Faith and Makaila Joy to Tyler and Alishia Froese, July 5; grandparents are Vern and Hilda Froese

Faith Evangelical Bible Church Henderson, Neb.

- Lamar Jesse to Jeff and Lacey Gloystein, June 29
- Barrett Jack to Andrew and Sarah Nunnenkamp, July 23; grandparents are Gary and Joyce Nunnenkamp

Heartland Bible Church Lincoln, Neb.

- Jenna Catherine to Josh and Christie Dorsey, June 25

Jansen Bible Church Jansen, Neb.

- Graysha Janae to Aric and Toni Brandt, June 5

Salem Church Waldheim, Sask.

- Avishay Theodore to Brian and Rachel Schultz, Jan. 21; grandparents are Harvey and Anna Louise Schultz
- Jesse Joshua to Mark and Tamara Heppner, March 19; grandparents are Wayne and Donna Heppner
- Reuben Blaise to Nathan and Louise Heppner, May 1
- Wiese Riley to Jeremiah and Jamie Klauke; grandparents are Heather Klauke and Pastor Alvin and Verna Buhler of Christian Fellowship Church of Rhineland
- Kaleb David to Danny and Arlynn Redekopp, Aug 4; grandparents are Tim and Lorraine Redekopp

Vita Bible Church Vita, Man.

- Casia Rachele to Mike and Rachel Funk, June 22; grandparents are Jake and Mary Funk
- Joscie May Elizabeth to Kris and Jessica Driedger, July 8; grandparents are Steven and Marilyn Brink

WEDDINGS

Cornerstone Bible Church Mountain Lake, Minn.

- Sara Taber, daughter of Jeff and Karla Taber, to Austin Klassen, son of Wayne and Annette Klassen; grandmother is Sophie Klassen, June 30

Cornerstone Bible Church Steinbach, Man.

- Jenny Harder to Christian Kornelsen, son of Viktor and Irene Kornelsen, July 21

Evangelical Bible Church Omaha, Neb.

- Tasha Brim, daughter of Mark and Sharon Brim to Nathan Cropper, June 2
- Tania Brim, daughter of Mark and Sharon Brim, to Tom Hinder, July 14

Evangelical Mennonite Brethren Church Grunthal, Man.

- Tamara Martens, daughter of Frank and Margaret Martens, to Brian Vetter, May 11
- Christina Jackson to Ethan Wiebe, son of Ron and Eunice Wiebe, July 13

Evangelical Mennonite Brethren Church Marion, S.D.

- Kayse Lee to Zac Maass, son of Pastor Randy and Kathleen Maass, June 9

Grace Evangelical Bible Church Abbotsford, B.C.

- Becky Hildebrandt to Bryan Siemens, Aug. 11
- Esther Cailin to Joe Cardwell, Aug. 18

Jansen Bible Church Jansen, Neb.

- Aubrey Godfrey to Jeremy Carpenter, son of Pastor Paul and Carol Carpenter, July 7

Salem Church Waldheim, Sask.

- Jeannie Goertzen to Barry Loewen, June 16
- Ramona Swift to Cary Thiessen, son of Harvey and Agnes Thiessen, July 1
- Valerie Clark to Kelly Friesen, son of Barry and Connie Friesen, July 7

Stuartburn Gospel Chapel Stuartburn, Man.

- Vanessa Thiessen, daughter of Melvin and Marilyn Thiessen, to Jonathan David, July 28

DEATHS

Christian Fellowship Chapel Winnipeg, Man.

Myrtle (Janzen) Wall (80), June 18

Cornerstone Bible Church Steinbach, Man.

Anna Reimer (94), June 10

Evangelical Bible Church Dallas, Ore.

Martha Hamm (91), June 13

Joseph Roy (94), July 5

Jerry Friesen (78), July 22

Evangelical Mennonite Brethren Church Grunthal, Man.

Linda Fehr (59), May 11

Faith Evangelical Bible Church Henderson, Neb.

Luetta N. Nunnenkamp (84), July 26

Grace Evangelical Bible Church Abbotsford, B.C.

Gordon Diggins (85), Aug. 21

Evangelical Bible Church Abbotsford, B.C.

Annie Reimer (83), July 18

Frank Martens (90), July 25

Lynne McNair (66), Aug. 7

Salem Church Waldheim, Sask.

Rita Loewen (90), May 11

Stuartburn Gospel Chapel Stuartburn, Man.

Cornelius Rempel (78), July 26

Focus on Our Church Plants



Community Bible Church of Tisdale, Sask., recently celebrated the grand opening of its new 150-seat auditorium. The new auditorium was made possible by a \$60,000 loan from the Fellowship's Prairie West Extension (PWE). The FEBC also gifted the auditorium with a new sound system.

A crowd of 97 enjoyed the festivities as **Bill Neufeld, Ken McEwan, Brian Warkentin, John Weins, Harvey Schultz, Blaine Donaldson, and Brian Friesen** led the ribbon-cutting ceremony. Former **CBC Pastor Jim Fast** was on hand to share greetings, and **Daryl Reaume**, chairman of the building com-

mittee, shared the history leading to this time in the life of the church.

FEBC President Blaine Donaldson represented the Fellowship at the event. Also celebrating with CBC were representatives from other Fellowship churches in Saskatchewan: **Salem Church, Humboldt Bible, Community Bible of Prince Albert, Dalmeny Bible and Langham's Evangelical Bible Church**, whose pastor, the **Rev. Greg Guarnett**, also serves on the PWE. The **Rev. Jack Wilson** of the Tisdale Ministerial and **Mayor Roly Zimmer** were also on hand.