



Dalmeny's Brazil Missions Team

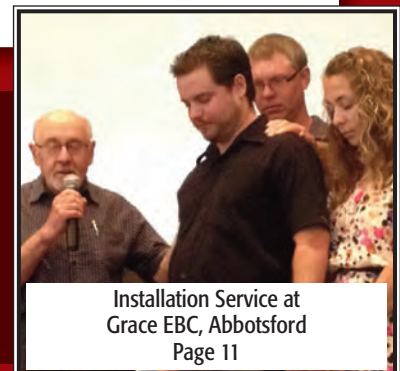
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serving our global partners ...

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Reaching out with the Gospel?

Here's how to overcome the most common barriers you'll face.

For a non-Christian to be saved, conversion is plainly a work of God. God can use any means that He sees fit. I would suggest that He intentionally, occasionally works outside of the normal to remind all of us that salvation happens because God does it. The key to spiritual success is following His leading rather than a manmade program or strategy. However, there are sometimes "normalities" in conversion stories. While I would not suggest that any of these things are required for conversion, it may serve us well to note them as we consider reaching out to non-Christians around us.

In their book, "I Once Was Lost," Don Everts and Doug Schaupp describe five thresholds that most people cross before they are likely to become a Christian. Stated another way, any one of these thresholds may be a barrier that is preventing a non-Christian from believing in Jesus. These are not necessarily in order and several can be crossed simultaneously and quickly when the Spirit wills. However, I think that these provide some excellent food for thought.

To accomplish the crossing of each threshold, it is essential that God be at work by His Holy Spirit. We are not capable of moving people through these thresholds without the Spirit working in them. However, I believe that the Holy Spirit delights to use people like you and me to move non-Christians closer to faith in Jesus.

Threshold One: Trusting a Christian

Christians are portrayed in society in a very negative light. Many people think, "Why would I want to be like that?" It is typically necessary that a non-Christian develop a trusting relationship with at least one Christian. In reaching out, is there anything that we can do to help

people develop a trusting relationship with us?

Threshold Two: Becoming Curious

Many people are busy living their lives. They work and play immersed in noise and haste. They make very little effort to be contemplative. Life seems to move so fast that they do not slow down to think and ask many of the deep questions of life. Ultimately, they do not care about spiritual things.

In reaching out, is there anything that we can do to whet people's appetites to think about spiritual things? Could we share with them the impact that Jesus makes in our lives from day to day?

Recognize that there is far more work to be done in evangelism than just presenting a plan of salvation.

Threshold Three: Opening up to Change

While it is true that a person must only believe to become a Christian, God intends great transformation for every believer. Non-Christians are intuitively aware of this, and sometimes they do not want to believe because that think that many things will change in their lives. Change is hard and painful — at least that is the perception of change. Fear of change keeps many people from Jesus. In reaching out, is there anything that we can do to help people recognize that this kind of change has far more benefits than cost? Can you live like the Christian life is completely worth it — full of joy and hope?

Threshold Four: Seeking after God

It is one thing to be curious about spiritual things. It is significant to be willing to change. It is quite another thing to look to God as the one who will meet a non-Christian's deepest needs. No one believes in and receives Jesus (compare John 1:12) without wanting Him. Sometimes people want the benefits of Christianity without wanting Jesus Himself. Plainly, we can only work in concert with the Holy Spirit and His conviction. In reaching out, is there anything that we can do to help people see the attractiveness of Jesus? Do we publically love Jesus in a way that others find Jesus attractive?

Threshold Five: Entering the Kingdom

"How can I become a Christian?" When a person is ready to believe in Christ, they begin asking this kind of question. It is helpful for every Christian to be prepared to explain how this transition can happen. We often have used what can be called a *plan of salvation*. Traditionally, Christians have used things like the "Four Spiritual Laws," "Steps to Peace with God," "Bridge," etc.

Believers are justified by faith. This is an internal act, but it is helpful to have some outward expression or articulation of that newfound faith (compare Romans 10:9-10). In reaching out, is there anything that we can do to make a plan of salvation clear to a prospective believer? Can we explain how a person can enter the kingdom in a way that is accurate and makes sense, even to a child?

As you seek to reach out to your community, recognize the thresholds a non-Christian needs to cross on their journey to trust God. Although we should always be seeking opportunities to help a person enter the kingdom, recognize also that there is far more work to be done in evangelism than just presenting a plan of salvation. ■

Comment



By Sharon Berg, Editor

By the time this issue arrives, your mailbox might also be offering a steady stream of annual holiday letters from family and friends. Relaxing with a cup of coffee while reading those updates are one of my favorite parts of the Christmas season.

A lot has happened in the Fellowship this year, too, and **Administrator Paul Boeker** has put together a good overview for us with the “2013 FEBC Ministries Review” on page 14.

Be sure to read this issue’s “Catch the Vision” (back cover). **Michelle Driedger**, the correspondent for Richer Fellowship Church (Manitoba), shares one of her experiences with outreach in her own community. Consider telling your story, too, as we all try to encourage each other to simply share the Gospel in our various walks of life. We’d welcome hearing from you at fellowshipfocus@febministries.org.

Have a blessed Christmas and New Year celebrating the gift of the Son.

Sharon



President’s Travel Schedule

- Nov. 15-18**..... Visit to Grace Evangelical Bible Church, Abbotsford, B.C.
- Nov. 21-Dec. 2** Visit to Alberta and Saskatchewan churches; includes the **John Fehr** Ordination Service (Northeast Bible, Calgary, Nov. 24) and preaching at Christian Fellowship Church of Rhineland, Sask. (Dec. 1)

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@febministries.org

Web: www.fellowshipforward.org

FAX: 402-965-3871

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2013 FEBC Ministries

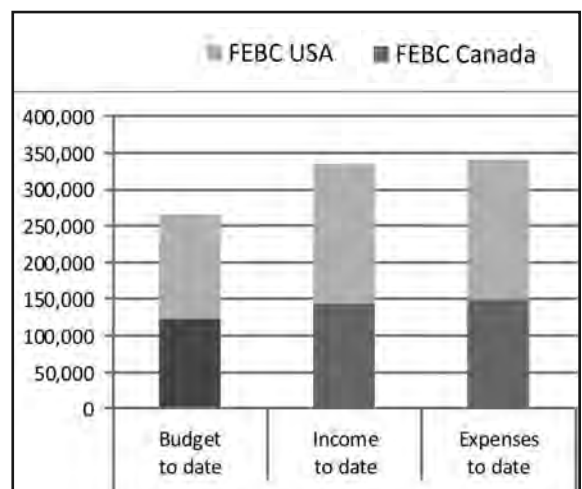
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The *Fellowship Focus* is available to read online. Check it out!

<http://www.fellowshipforward.org>



Left Hand Ignorance

“But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing ... ” (Matthew 6:3).

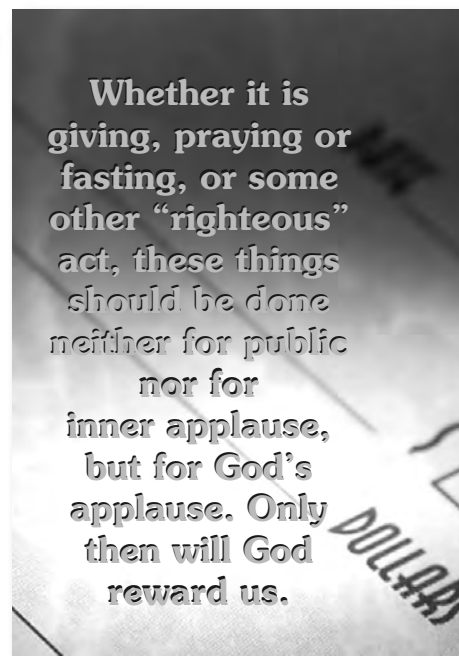
Have you ever wondered what that sentence means? Certainly one hand cannot be ignorant of what the other hand is doing. How are we supposed to understand and apply this statement? Some teach that it means that we should give without calculating; without first determining if we can afford to give — just dig in and give, without knowing how much you are giving or keeping.

Yet that explanation doesn't seem to fit the context. Remember, Jesus was addressing people who had been taught to *tithe*. How do you tithe if you don't do some calculations? Some years later Paul would teach believers to *give in proportion* to their income (compare 1 Corinthians 16:2). How do you give in proportion to your income if you don't do some calculations and determine what your income is?

Jesus had begun the dialogue by saying: “Be careful not to practice your righteous in front of others to be seen by them” (Matthew 6:1). In the verses following verses He identified some of the “righteous” acts He had in mind: giving, praying, fasting. Then, in each case, He singled out a negative example of someone doing these things “to be seen by men.” They made sure that

others would take note of their righteous acts by drawing attention to what they were doing.

In that context He says that in giving to others, *our left hand should not know what the right hand is doing!*



No doubt Jesus was using an idiomatic expression which isn't to be taken literally. Together with its context we could understand it as follows: Some

people give to get public applause by drawing attention to their giving. Don't do that. In fact, don't even let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. Don't give so that you can pat yourself on the back. Don't dwell on it in your own mind.

I may not be attracting public attention to my giving. I may not be looking for public applause like the hypocrites do. But maybe I am inwardly applauding myself for my generosity, my faithfulness in giving. That inner attitude fosters inner spiritual pride.

Yes, we are to practice righteousness. In fact we are commanded to let our lights shine so that others will see it (compare Matthew 5:16). But deeds of righteousness must not be done for self-glorification. Whether it is giving, praying or fasting, or some other “righteous” act, these things should be done neither for public nor for inner applause, but for God's applause. Only then will God reward us.

So, what is our motivation in giving? Have I, have you, been giving for public applause? For inner applause? Or for God's applause? ■

Scripture verses taken from the New International Version

125th Anniversary of the Fellowship Wanted: Historians

As our Fellowship looks back over 125 years, it would be great to gather historic material about our churches. In 1939 (50th Anniversary) each extant church wrote a history of itself. In 1989-1990 (100th Anniversary) many churches wrote a one-page history for the *Gospel Tidings*. We will try to get those onto our web site (www.fellowshipforward.org). But if your church was not part of the Fellowship in 1989, we would love to include a



history of your church. Could you volunteer to write this? Or you could volunteer to discover what Bible translations our Fellowship missionaries have published. Or you could discover what books our FEBC missionaries written or what books tell the stories of our missionaries. Who are the pastors who have served our churches? Our list is incomplete, and you could add to that. If you would like to help in any way, contact Paul Boeker at paul@febministries.org.



Churches Welcome New Pastors

Christian Fellowship Church of Rhineland (Wymark, Sask.) has called **Dwayne Easton** as senior pastor. He will begin in November. **Martensville Mission Church** (Martensville, Sask.) has called **Justin Klassen** to be its senior pastor beginning Jan. 1.

Wanted: Faithful Stewards

In the fiscal year ending Oct. 31, contributions from churches were \$20,000 below what the Fellowship budgeted from churches! Only two churches in our Fellowship were unable to give last year, but several other churches are still giving on the level they gave in 2000. Can you fill this gap?

Fellowship people have given generously this year to a number of different projects. But the “apostles’ feet” undesignated gifts (Acts 4:34-35) which fund the ministries of our Fellowship are lacking. These ministries include leadership training, assistance with pastor recruiting, church planting, intervention teams for churches in conflict, pastor care, annual convention, etc.

Each church is encouraged to commit four percent of its income to fund the Fellowship to get the Fellowship onto a more solid financial footing. As a Fellowship created by our churches, we depend upon the mercy of our churches for continued support. But we also need gifts from faithful individuals to fill the gaps of churches unable to give more.

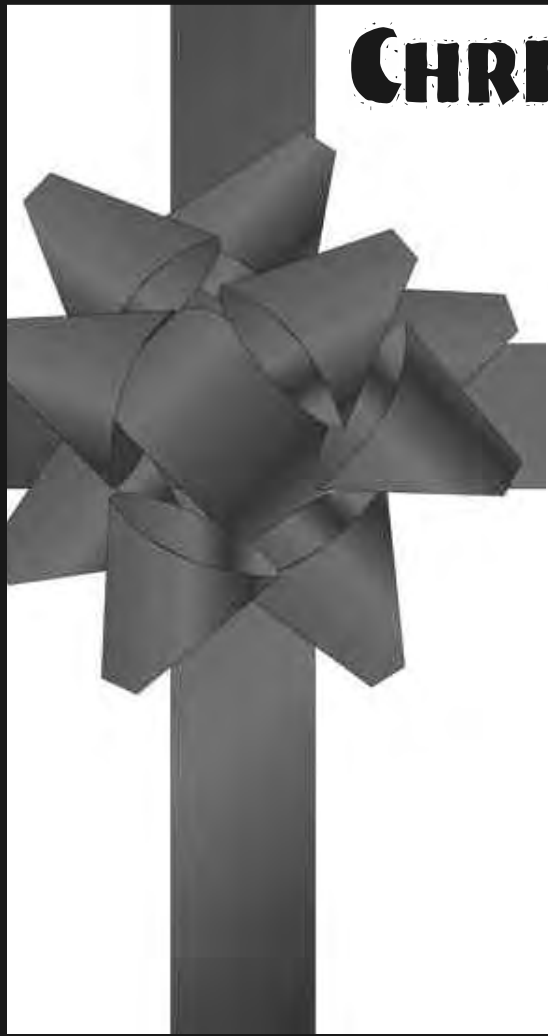
Churches Seeking Pastors

Only two churches are currently without pastors. Perhaps you know someone who would fit into these positions.

■ **Community Bible Church** of Indian Head, Sask., is seeking a senior pastor. Please direct all inquiries and resumes to Harvey Schultz at hesals@aol.com or to PO Box 8, Waldheim, SK S0K 4R0.

■ **Fairview Bible Church** of Swift Current, Sask., is seeking a part-time senior pastor. Most attendees are mature believers who appreciate traditional music and Bible preaching. Direct enquiries to fairviewbiblechurch@hotmail.ca.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS



What will your family give Jesus for Christmas? Perhaps your church has a special project, but if not, consider getting God’s Word into the hearts of people who cannot read.

FEBC missionaries **Menno and Barb Kroeker** (retired) have spent years translating God’s Word for the Nambikuara people of Brazil. Menno has recorded Scriptures and a chronological plan of salvation. These can be listened to on a solar-powered audio player (MegaVoice®) or on a cell phone through a special chip.

The cost of a MegaVoice® player is \$35 each. A cell phone chip costs only \$5. For a tax-deductible receipt, write your check to Wycliffe Bible Translators and send it to:

Wycliffe Bible Translators
PO Box 628200
Orlando, FL 32862-8200

Designate on a note that your gift is for:

Brazil Branch Nambi Lang Project # AMG Nambikuara 44419-BTNM53

FEBC missionary **Ben Watson** has prepared similar players for Ethiopia, Ghana, Indonesia and other countries. These include Scriptures and Bible lessons. Your gifts can be sent to:

Source of Light Ministries
1011 Mission Road
Madison, GA 30650-4908

Include a note indicating your gift is for “Papyrus Player Project.”



The Reward Factor

By Paul Boeker

Blue ribbons at the fair ... An "A" on a report card ...

A promotion at work ... A parent's approval ...

God has created each of us to be motivated by rewards. Yes, I've heard people say that "real Christians" should only be motivated by love for God, but God himself holds out rewards for His children. God's rewards prompt our righteousness and faithfulness. But they also relate to the character of God. God is a rewarder. Abraham learned that from God himself (Genesis 15:1). Ruth learned that from Boaz (Ruth 2:12).

Many of God's rewards relate to our generosity. Solomon discovered that "Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed" (Proverbs 19:17).

Jesus stressed that flaunted giving has its own reward, but secret giving will be rewarded by God (Matt. 6:3-4). He also held out the promise of reward as He urged his followers to "love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High ..." (Luke 6:35).

Paul went back to something else Jesus had said to remind his friends from Ephesus that they should be generous. "In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive'" (Acts 20:35). Then in his great "blog" on giving in 2 Corinthians, Paul goes back to the character of God: "God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7).

What motivates you to give? Hopefully, you are motivated by the tremendous love God has shown you in the gift of salvation. Hopefully, you are motivated by your love for God. But I also hope that you catch the game-spirit of giving and become the best giver you can be for the reward God holds out — and for his pronouncement "Well done!"

All Scriptures are from the English Standard Bible



The Way of the Master



Based on the award winning TV series "The Way of the Master," by Kirk Cameron and Ray Comort, the Basic Training Course is specially formatted to train believers in a group setting to simply and confidently share the Gospel with family, friends and strangers.

This eight-session course will teach you to overcome your fears by using a proven, powerfully effective way to make the Gospel make sense. You won't be at a loss for words. You don't need to be an expert in apologetics. Instead, you'll learn the forgotten biblical principle of bypassing the intellect (the place of argument) and speaking directly to the conscience (the place of the knowledge of right and wrong) — the way Jesus did.

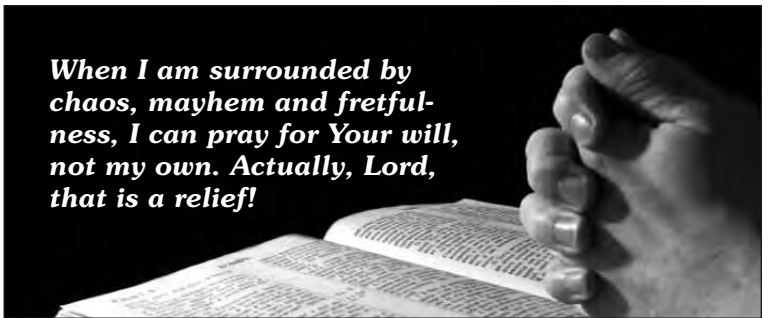
Weekly homework assignments will gradually coax you, step by step, out of your comfort zone to reach your loved ones for Christ. You will be inspired and motivated as you learn, watch, and then do.

Eight 30-40 minute sessions. Available on loan from the FEBC video library. This can also be purchased for your church through the FEBC. Borrow or purchase from orders@febministries.org.

For other studies on loan, visit <http://www.fellowshipforward.org/dvd-lending-library.html>

Be "Fret-Free"

By Beth Fast,
Community Bible Church, Prince Albert, Sask.



When I am surrounded by chaos, mayhem and fretfulness, I can pray for Your will, not my own. Actually, Lord, that is a relief!

Look around you. One doesn't have to cast her eyes very far to see that the world is coming apart at the seams. Wars, threats of wars, chemical gas attacks, terrorists attacking not just somewhere across the oceans, but right in our own backyards, and challenges within both our countries' political arenas. We can easily become panicked and fearful, but as the Lord spoke to Israel when surrounded by evildoers in the past, He speaks to us today. Psalm 37: 1 says, "Fret not." I say, "Easy to say, but difficult to do!" Will you come and look in my journal with me today at Psalm 37:3-5? Please pardon my personal notes, but that's how I learn best.

"Trust in the Lord" Well, I think I have *that one* down. Wait a minute! Maybe I don't trust him *all* the time. There are times when I fret about my life, but these days I am beginning to fear the *world* because the world is coming closer to my door! Sorry, Lord, I really need You to help me with this area. Would You help me be "fret-free" and give me the peace that comes from trusting You alone?

"... and do good;" Well, Lord, I am trying to do "good" most of the time. It seems, though, when pressures mount, I go into my "safe place," and doing anything, including "good," goes by the wayside. Fretting takes over and influences everything. Forgive me, Lord, for missing opportunities to "do good" to those around me, especially when bad things happen. Maybe that good is just sharing comforting words about You with someone. Will You open my eyes to the good that I can do wherever I am?

"Dwell in the land" What does that mean? Here I am, a city girl from Toronto stuck out on the "bald" prairie. Well, it's not so *bald* here, but it is the prairies! *Maybe* it means be content where God has placed me. Don't fret because I am out of my comfort zone. Trust God where I live. There's a reason You

put me here, Lord, and if I would just quit fretting I might find out what it is.

"... and cultivate faithfulness." "Cultivate" is a good farming term. I think that means to learn to be faithful and not fret, even in difficult situations. This is getting a little too personal! To grow something, I have to plant a seed. I wonder if the difficulties and challenges I face are really the seeds to help me to cultivate more faith. I should rejoice and learn, even in the challenging moments, to be faithful. Of course it's those *challenging* moments that *challenge* my faith. I guess, Lord, that it's a change in perspective that I need. While others around me are growing wheat, canola and hay, may I grow faithfulness!

"Delight yourself in the Lord;" When Jim and I were dating, we "delighted" in each other. Seriously, Lord, is *that* how You want me to delight in You? I don't think I really do that very much. When I fret about what is happening, I tend to *whine* to You more than *delight* in You. I know You are in control, but sometimes my heart takes over and fretting overrides what I know. I need to cast *all* my cares on You. That means, throw them into Your lap, and don't reel them back in, but let *You* deal with them!

"... and He will give you the desires of your heart." My favorite part of these verses! Isn't this where I get to "pick" the "prize" out of the bucket?! Actually, Lord, I see that maybe I have been reading it wrongly. I think You not only give me the *things* I want, but more importantly, You give me the *desires* for the right things. Yes, I think that is closer to what it means. *You* help me desire the right things, things that will glorify You in my life. When I am surrounded by chaos, mayhem and fretfulness, I can pray for *Your* will, not my own. Actually, Lord, that is a relief! I can trust You to be in control of everything — even my life!

"Commit your way to the Lord"

Lord, this means I need to let you have where I am, what I am doing, wherever I am bound, and take my hands off, right? A missionary once shared about following a native man on a trek over a mountain. The path was narrow and precarious, the mountain shrouded in cloud. The guide told him, "Don't look around, watch my feet, put your feet where my feet are, and you will be safe." He did that, and he was. Lord, let me not fret, but follow Your footsteps and let *You* be the leader.

"Trust also in Him, and He will do it." That about sums it all up doesn't it, Lord? Hands off, and let You look after it. Amen!

"Fret-free!" That's even better than "fat-free." (Don't worry, Lord; I'm working on that too.) ■

Scripture verses taken from New International Version.

Along with her service on the Commission on Women's Ministries, Beth Fast ministers with her husband, Pastor Jim Fast at Community Bible Church of Prince Albert, Sask.



The Commission on Women's Ministries invites you to join with other Fellowship women in memorizing 2 Peter 3: 9-18, this year's Bible passage.



W Com Connections

Proclaiming Christ *around* the World

By Marilyn Lester
Commission on Missions



“The purpose of maintaining contact with the missionaries is to encourage them in their work, be a connecting link between them and the power of God, and in this way participate in the proclamation of the Gospel throughout the world.”

According to the Purpose Statement of the Commission on Missions, the CoM is to encourage and assist FEBC churches in promoting missions by educating and informing through the *Fellowship Focus*. Therefore, in this month’s article we give ideas that either we as CoM members have tried ourselves or that have come to us through other people involved in missions:

- *Skype your missionaries during a Sunday morning worship service.* Questions are prepared ahead of time and shared with the missionary. The face-to-face meeting during the service is projected on the screen for the entire congregation to see. Talking with them and allowing them to share their heart in this way is the next best thing to having them personally at your service.

- *Set aside a regular time during the morning service for a “Missionary Focus”* — no more than three to four minutes. At this time a picture of the missionary is projected on the screen while someone gives a short update on and prays for his or her ministry.

- *Ask a Sunday school teacher to ask two or three students to e-mail this missionary family.* This assignment could be voluntary or made to coincide with students who are the age of the children of the missionary, or if your adult classes are divided according to age, choose an adult class that would have children the ages of the missionary family. This project could be done by both adult classes and children’s classes. It’s a great way to get the children involved and interested in missions. When a response is received, ask that class to pray for them during class time. This could be an extension of the “Missionary Focus” suggestion or as a stand-alone idea.

- *Introduce your congregation to all the Fellowship missionaries by showing the DVD supplied by the CoM during the offering.* If extra information is desired to get to know some of them better, contact the missionaries directly or a member of the Commission on Missions through the FEBC office.

- *Challenge your church members to collect all the prayer cards from all the missionaries supported by the church.* Once a month, when a particular missionary is being spotlighted for a Sunday, have current prayer cards available for each member (you will probably want to have extra cards since the children also like to get in on this challenge.) Each card should have a hole punched in one of the corners, and a carabiner provided for each person wishing to participate. The cards are then attached to the carabiner to keep the collection together. Encourage your people to keep these cards handy as a reminder to pray for the missionaries. Also encourage your peo-

ple to write (email) the missionary of the month or send them birthday or anniversary greetings. If you want to go the extra mile, the information and picture from the prayer cards could be printed on uniform size cards front and back, and collecting the cards would be similar to collecting baseball cards. When you have included all your missionaries you could consider making a card for your pastor and other church leaders. They need our regular prayer also.

- What is a carabiner? According to Oxford American Dictionary a carabiner is “a coupling link with a safety closure, used by rock climbers.” Our prayer is our coupling link between our missionaries and the power of God. We can be a connection between God and the missionary and in this way share in the ministry of that missionary.

Our prayers should include a request for wisdom, knowledge and spiritual understanding on the part of the missionary. Paul wrote to the Colossians, “For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding ...”(Colossians 1:9 NASB).

News came to Paul of the Colossians’ newfound faith and the fruit it was bearing; therefore, Paul felt compelled to pray for the Colossians “so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord ... bearing fruit in every good work ... increasing in the knowledge of God ... strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; ... giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light” (Colossians 1:9-12 NASB). Our carabiner (prayer) linking the missionary to God can provide the strength and steadfastness the missionary needs to carry on his work.

At the end of Paul’s letter to the Colossians, he asks for prayer for himself “that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should” (Colossians 4:3-4 NIV). The carabiner of prayer can open doors and hearts as it also clears minds, enabling the speaker to proclaim Jesus Christ clearly.

The purpose of the Commission on Missions is to maintain contact with the missionaries and to encourage the local churches to do so as well. The purpose of maintaining contact with the missionaries is to encourage them in their work, be a connecting link between them and the power of God, and in this way participate in the proclamation of the Gospel throughout the world. ■

FOCUS ON OUR CHURCHES

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

Omaha, Neb. Charles Tschetter, Senior Pastor

We held a church plant “reset” meeting to gather a core group of people who will begin fellowshiping together and organizing the ministry of a future church plant.

Our Family Ministries **Pastor Daniel Bear** taught a class for children on baptism. The class was designed for children in third through sixth grade, and its purpose was not only to teach children about baptism, but also to give them a chance to talk to their parents about whether they would like to be baptized in the near future.

“Hold the ROPE” was an event for the parents of junior and senior high school youth that provided special training to introduce “Rites of Passage Experience,” a new resource from our Student Ministries. These yearly experiences that are planned out for parents to experience with their youth provide opportunities to pass along their faith in meaningful ways.

Dr. Bob Wilkin of Grace Evangelical Society (GES) spoke at our Fall Bible Conference on passages from Revelation and Galatians. GES tries to promote a clear message of salvation through faith alone in Christ alone.

Sharon Berg, Correspondent

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

Prince Albert, Sask. Jim Fast, Pastor

Summer ended with some very hot weather that took us into harvest. During the summer months we offered discipleship training during the Sunday School Hour. This year we have been watching the DVD series on Ephesians and becoming more like Christ [EPHESIANS: Resources and Responsibilities], by Charles Price of the People’s Church Toronto, In our morning worship, Pastor Jim took us through the Letter to the Romans, answering the question “What is the Gospel?”



We hosted our second annual Vacation Bible School in the mornings during the week of Aug. 19-23. The theme was “Athens,” and explored Paul’s ministry in Greece. Our volunteer workers dressed in first century attire. Tents were set up in the auditorium amidst a Greek décor. The children met in “oikos” groups (households). We were thrilled at the way the week turned out. The Gospel was clearly shared, new contacts were made and friendships were established. The week climaxed at our Sunday morning worship service, with some of the families attending. Pray that we will be a proclaiming

people who follow up all year.

Beth Fast, Correspondent

CORNERSTONE BIBLE CHURCH

Steinbach, Man. Jared Hiebert, Pastor

Pastor Jared brought back two ministries that he previously led. “Christian Life Development” classes are designed to encourage fellowship while exploring the Bible, theology and Christian practice in a more in-depth manner. “Bible and Theology” is a reading intensive for those interested in going even deeper in the study of Christian doctrine and biblical theology.

Cornerstone’s annual Fall Kick-Off Hog Roast was held in September. It was well attended by our own congregation, as well as friends and family who were invited. September also brought the kick off of our Christian education and youth ministries, as well as our Youth Café. The Youth Café provides a place for high school students to hang out during their lunch period and break times from classes.

October was Pastor Appreciation Month, and we praise God for the blessing of the two faithful men He has sent us. We celebrated this occasion along with Canadian Thanksgiving at a church potluck.

Marsella Wiebe, Correspondent

COUNTRYSIDE BIBLE CHURCH

Meade, Kan.

Mark Finster shared about his summer ministry in Ecuador before he left for college.

Our church conducted the service at the Lone Tree Retirement Center on Aug. 18. The senior citizens really like music, and the old gospel songs are their favorites.

The fall studies for women were *Trusting God*, and the men studied *True Community*, both by Jerry Bridges.

Our times of fellowship are special. We enjoyed a faspá (an ethnic meal) with homemade ice cream, and a “hobo” soup meal, both in September. At a business meeting in September we elected a deacon and heard some proposed constitutional amendments. In the evening we had a fifth Sunday “fiesta meal” complete with sopapillas, a pinata for the children, and fellowship sharing of favorite Bible verses and hymns.

Mary Friesen, Correspondent

continued on page 10

*Enter His gates with thanksgiving
and His courts with praise.
Give thanks to Him
and praise His name.*

FOCUS ON OUR CHURCHES

continued from page 9

DALMENY BIBLE CHURCH

Dalmeny, Sask.

Dennis Friesen, Pastor



Dalmeny's Brazil Missions Team members were Dennis and Faith Friesen, Mark and Jessica Redekop, Rachele Harder, Ryan Harder, Tammy, Chris and Shelby Pearson, and Selena Scheller.

An intergenerational team of 10 people from our congregation were in Brazil from Aug. 6-22 serving our global partners, **Scott and Patsy Buhler**. They completed several work projects on the Camp Quest mountainside property, connected with local youth groups and volunteered at an orphanage in Curitiba — a life-changing experience for all!

Once again, we worked alongside the Community Church to run Vacation Bible School the week of Aug. 18. Our theme was "God's Kingdom — Where Kids Stand Strong for God." We praise the Lord for the attendance of more than 100 children.

Our fall programs are underway, and we're excited for the opportunities that lie ahead.

Marilyn Harder, Correspondent

EVANGELICAL MENNONITE BRETHERN CHURCH

Grunthal, Man.

Russ Reimer, Pastor

September was missions' emphasis month, and we enjoyed hearing reports from various people involved with missions. We heard how **Ken and Bernice Frenzel**, a couple who have been part of our congregation for some years, sought to establish churches in France. **Nathanaela Ralaimiarison** of Madagascar, who has been worshipping with us and who is taking flight training, desires some day to fly with Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF), possibly back in Madagascar. We heard how the church planting project is coming along in Uruguay, as **Mike and Carolyn Reimer**, who serve with Avant Ministries, reported. They need our prayer support as they seek the bride of Christ in a highly secular nation.

Because MAF recently discontinued its work in northern

Canada, **Nathan and Annie Driediger**, who have been a part of our congregation for several years, shared how God is redirecting them from working with First Nations communities in northern Manitoba and Ontario to desiring to work with the people in more northerly communities with SEND International.

Rick and Elizabeth Greer of Pathway Ministry shared about their involvement in running camps in several First Nations communities in the North Interlake region of Manitoba, some of which are only accessible by air.

Our highlight was a potluck fundraiser for Nathanaela to make up some of the funds he is lacking to complete his flight training. Nathanaela and some of his friends cooked up special ethnic dishes. They also sang special numbers during the evening service, some in French, one in Indonesian and another in English.

Tamara Bergen, Correspondent



EVANGELICAL MENNONITE BRETHERN CHURCH

Lustre, Mont.

John Skillman, Pastor

Melody Nickel, Sharon Skillman's sister and missionary to Ireland, was the speaker at our "Treasure Chest" ladies' garden party on Aug. 15. The Nickels presented their ministry with Crossworld (formerly UFM) on the Emerald Isle during our Sunday morning service.

Several of our men attended a Men's Advance in September at Beacon Bible Camp. (The guys insist that men *advance*, not retreat!). **Levi Durfey** of Baker, Mont., presented several messages on spiritual leadership from 1 Timothy.

A ladies' Bible study on Genesis 1-11, began in November. The focus will be on the first six days of creation.

Sharon Skillman, Correspondent

EVANGELICAL MENNONITE BRETHERN CHURCH

Marion, S.D.

Randy Maass, Pastor

The Board of Elders initiated a "listening meeting" for the congregation one late afternoon. Some meaningful and positive conversation resulted, followed by an ice cream social.

Two of our men are co-teaching the book of John in Sunday school, resulting in excellent discussions.

Doyle Dick volunteered some time and ability at the Lives Under Construction (LUC) ranch near Lampe, Mo., where **Ken and Sheila Ortman** are the managers. LUC hosts young men who have lost their way and teaches them to be good citizens again. Hopefully, they accept the Lord Jesus as their Savior during their stay. The Ortman's were in our church one Sunday telling about the work there. They always have interesting experiences to relate.

FOCUS ON OUR CHURCHES

Kent and Sonya Becker and family, missionaries to France with Tentmakers Bible Mission, traveled the United States during the summer, visiting supporters and looking for new ones. They rendered a program in the neighboring Bethesda church, which was well attended by both churches and others from the community.

Pastor Maass is again teaching at the Sioux Falls Seminary on Thursdays on *Supervised Ministry*.

Raymond Becker, Correspondent

FAITH EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH

Henderson, Neb.

Michael Fink, Pastor

Our Awana program is off to a great start this year. Our prayer team has been praying for God to bring us in contact with the children that He would have us reach. It has been exciting to see how God is answering that prayer, bringing us kids who are ready and eager to respond. It's exciting to see children come to that "aha" moment and put their faith in Jesus Christ.

Our adult Sunday school program is offering a special class for women this quarter titled "Respectfully Yours," helping women to strengthen their marriages through respect. A study in the book of Joshua "Claim the Victory" is also being offered. The qualities of faith and fortitude never go out of style, and fit triumphant Christian living today.

Pastor Mike was the keynote speaker at the Awana Conference in Pensacola, Fla., in September, and spoke at a mini-conference in Panama City as well. He and Jan were also able to spend time with **Tom and Sandi Hofmann**, our Awana missionaries in Florida. In Pastor Mike's absence, **FEBC President Blaine Donaldson** spoke in our worship service, challenging us with the 20/20 Vision to use every opportunity to share Jesus Christ.

Alice Decker, Correspondent

HEARTLAND BIBLE CHURCH

Lincoln, Neb.

Scott Hecht, Pastor

We enjoyed our annual missionary weekend with the **Kenton Becker Family** the week of Aug. 4. The family shared about their work in France with Tentmakers Bible Mission, and enhanced our sessions with their wonderful musical talents. Kent and Stefan shared at the men's breakfast especially about the opportunities that basketball had afforded them in their contacts with young men. Sonya and her girls told of their opportunities to share the Gospel in Keys Club, Bible Club, and with neighbors and friends of the children they reach. Just before returning home, they were blessed by holding a baptism for seven individuals.

Our Missions Movie Night in September featured a journey to the Horn of Africa, featuring Ethiopia's Great Rift Valley and the White Nile to South Sudan. We saw the power of Jesus to save Muslim people and turn persecutors into preachers of faith.

Trudy Reimer, Correspondent

JANSEN BIBLE CHURCH

Jansen, Neb.

Paul Carpenter, Pastor

A men's breakfast and Bible study has been started at the Community Center in Plymouth, Neb., every Tuesday at 6 a.m.

At our Sunday school picnic in September, Pastor Paul shared how he overcame a life of fear and bondage due to seeking assurance through his own works. When he was encouraged to focus on the promises of eternal life as a free gift through faith in Christ, assurance resulted and service out of love. We also heard several members' testimonies about God's recent working in their lives.

Our women enjoyed their annual retreat in Aurora, Neb., in August. The entire church body helped make the Awana Kick-Off on Sept. 4 a success, with a Family Fun Fair for the clubbers and their families.

Tena Dick, Correspondent

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GRACE EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH

Abbotsford, B.C.

Ryan Peixoto, Pastor

God is so good! On Aug. 18, 2013, we had the installation service for Pastor Ryan Peixoto. Pastor Ryan has been preaching on a series themed "Spiritual Terrorists and Spiritual Heroes." We are also so blessed to welcome **Ryan Carlson** as an interim worship leader. We are currently in the process of looking for a part-time youth pastor.

Our Fall Family Kick-Off began on Sunday, Sept. 8, with a breakfast, followed by the worship service where Pastor Ryan spoke about "Why I Love the Church."

This summer we enjoyed many fun activities and fellowship in the warm sun. The "Good Friends" group enjoyed their annual corn roast dinner. The youth enjoyed night sliding at Cultus Lake Waterslides and Beach Day at Hayward Lake.

We were so excited to witness two of our youth baptized, and we also welcomed 12 new members.

Donna Wiebe, Correspondent



FOCUS ON OUR CHURCHES

continued from page 11

RICHER FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

Richer, Man.

Simon Cheung, Pastor



Dreams and Hopes for a Future

What happens when women pray? Our fingertips dare to touch our dreams, and hopes become reality! On Sept. 28 we had the privilege of hosting the 40th anniversary of Manitoba Ladies' Day. The first guest speaker, **Shon McLaren**, from our church family, and Inner City Women's Ministries, shared about God's wonderful orchestration in setting up "safehouses" for women, helping them take refuge from their present situations. Paradoxically, Shon shared that women in prison are realizing their self-worth in Christ, and yet the statistics of human trafficking going on in our province are shocking! We were encouraged to strike up conversations with women in service industries, to find out about their home life, and told how to look for clues in order to help rescue them from slavery.

Kim Lowes of Teen Challenge of central Canada, shared about the new home in Brandon, Man., for women with life-controlling addictions. The complete roster ranges from teaching women simple life skills like making a bed, to taking care of a garden and animals. It is exciting that at the end of the one-year program the women are honoured at a graduation ceremony. One woman who made a decision for Christ won a used car from Teen Challenge by reciting Psalm 119 by memory! Others wanting to do more for God have gone into discipleship programs or Bible school.

Our theme verse Ephesians 3:20 says in part, "now to Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think".... We know that with Christ women can even dare to dream.

Michelle Driedger, Correspondent

SALEM CHURCH

Waldheim, Sask.

Darrell Derksen, Senior Pastor

Our fall has been filled with special events. In September we enjoyed an evening of spiritual encouragement. **Shawna Epp** shared some of her experiences as a leader at summer camp. God very powerfully acted around her to draw girls in her cabin to believe in Him. It was a strong encouragement for all of us to hear from others who took hold of the opportunity to give testimony and praise to God. A week earlier our youth provided the church with a summary of their mission trip in Vancouver. They left feeling that their time was too short. They saw how God was beginning to draw attention to the Gospel through their actions and would have liked to have been able to serve the same people for a second week. That opportunity may come in the future.

In October we hosted **Boyd Hopkins** with *Spoken Word Ministries* as he taught about forgiveness through a weekend seminar. We are called to be a people who reflect the steadfast love of God, Who is ready to forgive, gracious and merciful. How incredible to receive and live in the forgiveness of God, and how freeing to invite Him into our places of pain and offer this same forgiveness to others.

At the special *Doing Family Right* weekend, Nov 1-3, **Dave and Donalyn Currie** presented *IParent* on Friday, *Fusion 2.1* on Saturday, and spoke on Sunday morning. We believe that this weekend was a highlight for many as we partnered with the churches of our community to bring the Curries to Waldheim.

Our Sunday School theme for this year is G.O.L.D.: "Glorify Our Lord Daily." An appropriately heavy "gold" bar is hidden on the platform most Sunday mornings reminding kids and adults alike to "Glorify Our Lord Daily."

SARON MENNONITE CHURCH

Oriente, Okla.

Arnold Curby, Pastor

We praise the Lord as we welcome 15 new members (four of whom came by baptism) to our fellowship. We covet your prayers for them and for all of us as we continue to witness in the Oriente/Fairview area.

Willis and Ruby Wantoch recently visited us. They are FEBC missionaries with Avant in El Paso, Texas, and Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. They reported that the drug trafficking has decreased marginally, but they continue to need prayer for protection for themselves and for members of the four churches in Ciudad Juarez.

Mary Curby, Correspondent

STUARTBURN GOSPEL CHAPEL

Stuartburn, Man.

Mark Funk, Pastor

As we enjoyed the extended summer weather, many of our families were hard at work harvesting the abundant crops that have blessed our gardens and fields. That swirl of activ-

FOCUS ON OUR CHURCHES

ity is also evident in our church as September arrived with a bustle of activity.

A joint service with the **Vita Bible Church** at the Roseau River Park with a shared picnic to follow gave us much enjoyment and an opportunity to visit with our friends from Vita.



Board Chairman Martin Loeppky presented the certificate of ordination to Pastor Mark.

There was a good deal of busy activity in the new addition to get the washrooms ready for operation, as the real highlight came when we gathered for the ordination service for our own Pastor Mark. **Pastor James Thiessen** of **Hodgson Bible Church** delivered the charge, reminding us that we must encourage our pastor, and the best way to do that is to exhibit lives that are changed to resemble and represent Christ in our church and community. **Pastor Simon Cheung** of **Richer Fellowship Church**, reminded Pastor Mark that the mercy of God is the means and the power of victory to be forgiven and to forgive. Those of us in the congregation felt the Spirit speaking to us as well. **FEBC President Blaine Donaldson** brought greetings. Several people who had pastored our pastor, or who had been pastored by him, rose to express their gratitude for the way God has used him in the lives of others.

We headed into October ready to formally express our thanks to God for His provision and protection for Pastor Mark as he embarked on his mission trip to a country closed to the Gospel. We look forward to all that God will do, both here and there.

We also celebrated the opening of our Awana program with a carnival. We hope to have more family nights this season so that the impact of Christ might spread through the kids to their families and throughout the community.

We were excited to celebrate a baptism in September, and heard many good things from several of our church family who attended the FEBC Ladies' Day in Richer.

Sue Hoy, Correspondent

VITA BIBLE CHURCH

Vita, Man.

Jurgen Penner, Pastor

We hosted our very own "Amazing Race" in September. Our hope was to have at least two members in each group of four who do not currently attend church. Upon completion of the race, there was a wiener roast at the "secret" final destination. It was a great opportunity for fun and outreach.

We had the pleasure of hosting Union Gospel Mission's (UGM) public relations manager, **Paul Kimball** on Sept. 29. Mr. Kimball shared about the many sources and programs available to those living in the north end of Winnipeg, as well as some of their experiences and hard times. Our vegetable drive was a success, and our donations were delivered in August. A group of volunteers worked at UGM, offering their services wherever needed.

October's Fall Supper was a benefit to fund constructing a well for a family in Asia.

Pastor Simon Chung of **Richer Fellowship Church** was the speaker for this year's fall meetings in November. The theme was "Digging Deeper in Discipleship."

Tiffany Tuurenhout, Correspondent

CLARIFICATION: **Laverne Fehr** serves with SEND International's Canadian office in Ontario. She and her mother live at an apartment complex where there are many Christians, but also many people who do not know the Lord. Through participation in some activities, she has opportunities to talk with non-Christians. Several years ago, the Lord led Laverne to decrease her hours at SEND during the last few years before retirement, and she has gradually decreased to about 62 percent of full time. She now serves as Project Assistant, using her experience with SEND as well as gifts in researching information for various projects.

CORRECTION: **Henry and Jan Armstrong** serve with World Team, not with SEND International as stated in the September/October issue.

2013 FEBC Ministries in Review

By Paul Boeker, Administrator

This has been a tremendous year for our Fellowship.

In 2012, more than **100 church leaders** received training on how to guide their congregations toward a vision. This year, **20 more leaders** received training at the annual convention. Because of this, **nine churches** are now actively focused on outreach. **One church** has signed up for formal coaching on vision implementation. Several others are close to doing so.

At convention, **three churches** shared in a vision-sharpening session where they displayed their outreach efforts for review by other pastors and lay leaders. **Three more churches** signed up to do this next year.

Three churches requested an intervention team from the Fellowship, and the teams offered significant help in each case.

The Fellowship provided support for **five churches** seeking pastors — and four have now called a pastor. In fact, the Commission on Churches screened at least 13 applicants for pastoral positions. Several more applicants removed their names from considerations early in the screening process as they realized that they would not be a good fit doctrinally with our Fellowship.

We celebrated the graduation of **one church**, Tisdale Bible Church of Tisdale, Sask., from church plant to autonomous church!

Our churches adopted a new constitution for the Fellowship. Now an International Board of Directors will come from the **churches** and be ratified by **church delegates**. This Board will advance the vision and purposes of our Fellowship. Commission chairs, who in the past served as the Executive Committee, can now focus on guiding their commissions for effective ministry back to our churches.

FEBC Churches in Paraguay were encouraged by a short-term work team from **Omaha Churches** that worked alongside them in community outreach and teacher training.

One church was able to provide its pastor with a short but well-structured sabbatical for renewal and recharging. The **Shepherd Renewal Fund** is designed to **help churches minister** to their pastors who may need rest or counseling.

Sixteen students from **our churches** are preparing for Christian ministry! The Commission on Education was able to award scholarships to six of these students from the FEBC Scholarship Fund.



100 church leaders



20 more leaders



three churches



three more churches



five churches



nine churches



sixteen students



church missionaries



church delegates



Churches in Paraguay



Shepherd Renewal Fund



Your **church missionaries** are being encouraged and honored by the Commission on Missions and Commission on Women's Ministries. Five missionary units received awards this year for their many years of faithful service to our Fellowship.

Fellowship people have given generously this year to a number of different projects. However, the "apostles' feet" undesignated gifts (Acts 4:34-35), which fund the ministries of our Fellowship, are lacking. These are the ministries you have just read about.

The Fellowship is basically a volunteer organization. Two full-time employees and three part-time employees form the hired staff, plus 35-40 volunteers from **our churches** make the Fellowship work. But it still costs money to mobilize these volunteers and manage the programs, property and finances of our Fellowship.

In the fiscal year ending Oct. 31, **contributions from churches** were \$20,000 below what the Fellowship budgeted from churches! Only two churches in our Fellowship were unable to give last year, but several other churches are still giving at the level they gave in 2000. Can you fill this gap?

Each church is encouraged to commit four percent of its income to get the Fellowship onto a more solid financial footing. As a Fellowship created by our churches, we depend upon their commitment to continue. But we also need gifts from faithful individuals to fill the gaps of churches unable to give more.

Due to changes in Canadian Bylaws and the approaching retirement of our administrator, we will restructure our staff. The ongoing cost is not expected to change much, but we will need additional funds for overlap and training during the transition.

We are asking **each church** to take a one-time "Apostle's Feet" offering in November (in addition to their regular giving). This will go to FEBC Ministries (general fund). We are also asking **each church** to consider budgeting a percentage of its annual income to keep the Fellowship operating. We recommend four percent, but churches giving far less right now may want to begin with a lower percentage and then increase the percentage each year until they get to four percent. By committing a percent of its income, each church is committing to the future of our Fellowship and enabling Fellowship ministries which can make **our churches** more effective. ■

Births/Adoptions

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH Omaha, Neb.

- Aria Kuhn to Billy and Maria Kuhn, Sept. 26
- Owen Thomas to missionaries Ted and Alicia Smith, Sept. 27; grandparents are Randy and Bonnie Smith
- Henry James to James and Arliss White; grandparents are Steve and Becky White; great-grandparents are Dr. Russ and Ruth Jones

CORNERSTONE BIBLE CHURCH Steinbach, Man.

- Ariana Eleanore to Jerry and Eleana Unrau, Aug. 28

HEARTLAND BIBLE CHURCH Lincoln, Neb.

- Garrett Anders to Luke and Chelsea Fulliton, Aug. 19; grandparents are Don and Kayleen Fulliton

EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH Omaha, Neb.

- Emmitt Graysen to Jeremiah and Sarah Kuhns June 12; grandparents are Carl and Marlene Kuhns.
- Harlan Isaac to Ryan and Rachael Means, June 20; grandparents are Don and Willa Vesely

SALEM CHURCH Waldheim, Sask.

- Lucas Kenneth Sawyer to Mike and Tamzyn Neufeld, Aug 29; grandparents are Ken and Annette Neufeld
- Levi Jacob to Nathan and Lynnette Martin, Sept. 5

SARON MENNONITE CHURCH Orienta, Okla.

- Kenidy Klassen to Johnny and Sara Pendergraft, April 24
- Lydia Elaine to Austen and Dacia Wallace, May 25

Marriages

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH Omaha, Neb.

- Allison Maspons, daughter of Carlos and Debbie Maspons, to Caleb Palmer, Aug. 17

CORNERSTONE BIBLE CHURCH Steinbach, Man.

- Sandra Heilmann to Shane Reimer, Aug. 3
- Marlaena Frayle to Matthew Guenther, Aug. 10

JANSEN BIBLE CHURCH Jansen, Neb.

- Denise Busboom to Joel Carpenter, son of Pastor Paul and Carol Carpenter, Sept. 21

Deaths

DALMENY BIBLE CHURCH Dalmeny, Sask.

- Sadie Bergquist (94), Aug. 2
- Norman Wiens (84), Aug. 20
- Joy Picard (79), Aug. 22
- Clarence Thiessen (97) Oct. 6

GRACE EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH Abbotsford, B.C.

- Peter Koop (84), March 26
- Frank Thiessen (86), Sept. 25
- Nina Wakelin (93), Sept. 11
- Helen Dick (104), Aug. 27

Harvest is here ☉ Rice ripe on the stalk ☉ Look at the fields ☉ Grain-golden
The back-breaking labour ☉ Makes muscles melt ☉ But the joy up ahead ☉ Never fades
The workers, so few? ☉ Where are they? ☉ In factories confined ☉ Twelve hours a day
Working for what ☉ Just slips away
But harvest is here ☉ And the Farmer still calls
Come work in fields ☉ Grain-golden

A cross-cultural worker in Asia

NO ENDORSEMENT

Catch the Vision

By Michelle Driedger,
Richer Fellowship Church,
Richer, Man.

From Faith to the Furnace

If even one person who doesn't know the saving knowledge of Christ would come ...

That was my prayer before I shared my testimony at an outreach event last April in Richer, Manitoba. A small crowd of people sat waiting, looking as though they wanted to hear something worth coming for. Looking at those staring faces, I asked myself, *How can I better share the love of Christ unless I allow myself permission to become vulnerable to them? I guess this is the jumping off place!*

Two thoughts occurred to me: *People from the community are actually sitting in church on a Friday night; maybe they came to escape the drone of another boring evening at home?* and *Either I wear my faith on my sleeve, or they'll think it's just a show.* I dove in, feet first. I told them about the paralyzing fear of death I had as a child, and what it was like to grow up in a religion of works that taught about a God who could kill me at the point of a finger.

Now I had their attention. I told them how I opened a drawer that contained the forbidden Bible I hid for years and how I discovered the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, the Light that dispels the darkness!

Did I dare tell them about my other miracle? My husband talked about the fiery furnace, and running a smelter that was believed to be the ultimate cause of my liver shutting down

for two years, including while we expected our second child. People reeled as they learned the medical gavel came down, and the death sentence was read: "Three to nine months to live: You will not see your next birthday."

Then the breakthrough came: I shared how I'm no longer afraid of death; I accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour, and no matter what happened I would be with Jesus. I declared to them that the God I used to be terrified of not only pardoned me from death, but chose to heal me on my birthday Sept. 11. One year later I

was humbled to be alive and well, praying for those who lost loved ones on 9/11.

People started crying. Larry and Nancy Kunkel of Christian Fellowship Chapel of Winnipeg ministered in song. I implored people not to wait as long as I did to put their faith and trust in Jesus, but to allow Him to change their lives.

Then came Sunday morning: *Electricity!* There sat the wayward teenager I had seen in the back of the church Friday night. My prayer was answered! I sat down with him. God brought the "one" who didn't know the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

From faith to the furnace ... sparks of revival are starting in Richer. ■

**There sat the wayward teenager I
had seen in the back of the
church Friday night.
My prayer was answered!**