



CONVENTION!

RELEASING

*God's Power
through Prayer*

120th FEBC CONVENTION 2014

July 17-20

Evangelical Bible Church, Langham, Sask.





If the Foundations are Destroyed

Our culture today highly values tolerance and individual opinion. As a result, people are much less concerned about doctrinal distinctions. More value is placed on inclusive perspectives than on discrimination between right and wrong.

I often find myself thinking about doctrine and beliefs. Where should we draw lines in our Fellowship? What beliefs should be commonly distinctive about the FEBC? In this article, I would like to briefly consider two significant issues in contemporary theology and the underlying threat that they may represent. Traditionally, FEBC had held somewhat exclusivistic viewpoints on these issues. However, most Bible colleges are either promoting several viewpoints ("We must not divide over these minor things") or sometimes views that outright contradict the FEBC view.

Did God create everything in six days or through evolutionary processes over billions of years? Most Bible colleges would say that this is not something to divide over. They would suggest that Genesis was not written to be a science textbook.

Is a dispensational view the right way to interpret the Scriptures? Does it really matter whether God has a future plan for the Jews on earth or not? They might suggest, "Is it not more important that we agree on the doctrine of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ?"

Please note that I do hold very firmly dispensational and young earth creation views. However, how do we respond to people who say, "These kinds of issues are not important compared with salvation. We should not divide over them?"

Consider creation: Would it really matter whether God created through a process that took millions of years or through an immediate act? In one sense,

it does not matter. God could have done whatever He wanted. However, the issue comes into focus when we consider what God actually said about creation and how that is best understood.

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

2 Timothy 2:15 ESV

Knowing how to understand writing is the science of hermeneutics. To understand anything written, there are rules. When we violate these rules, we depart from understanding what the author intended to say. Since God wrote the Bible, it is imperative that we understand what God wanted to say. It is dishonoring and disrespectful to misinterpret what God has said to us.

Said simply, hermeneutics is the process of knowing the intent of the author. There are rules to do this. The rules include respect for the genre of the material and the context. Hermeneutics is the foundation of knowing what God has said. I oppose anything that undermines the foundation of rightly understanding what God has said.

"I love pizza ... I love my wife." Correct hermeneutics demand that I am using the same word *love* in very different ways. Right hermeneutics allows you to understand what I intended to say with my two statements.

So, how did God create the world? Genesis 1-11 appears to be a historical account. Other Scriptures seems to allude to these chapters as history. Con-

sistent hermeneutics dictate that Genesis 1-11 is rightly understood as God's account of the early world history.

The biggest problem with theistic evolution is not about how God created the world. The problem lies with the fact that we would have to forsake right hermeneutics in order to believe it. One would need to change the hermeneutic rules in Genesis 1-11.

However, if we can change the rules in Genesis 1-11, why can't we apply these revised rules to the rest of biblical history? If so, we could apply these new rules to the resurrection and conclude that Jesus was not really resurrected. That is the real danger of theistic evolution. While most theistic evolutionists would never deny the resurrection, they have laid the groundwork for someone to use the same hermeneutic rules to do just that.

In part, covenant theology teaches that the promises of God to national Israel do not have a future fulfillment. To make this assertion, they must change the way that they interpret prophecies concerning Israel. These prophecies must be considered as figurative or allegorical. Said another way, prophecies concerning Jesus' first coming are taken literally and prophecies concerning His second coming are taken figuratively — this is a change in hermeneutic rules. A new, fallacious set of rules is added to take away the literal quality of prophecy concerning national Israel. Right hermeneutics is again undermined.

I am comfortable with theological tension held between people with the same good hermeneutic. However, I become very concerned when right hermeneutics are replaced to maintain a doctrine or theological perspective.

Good hermeneutics is the foundation of all that we believe. If this foundation is undermined, so is all that we believe. ■

Comment



By Sharon Berg, Editor

Welcome to our convention issue. Delegates from Fellowship churches will gather in July at **Langham Evangelical Bible Church** in Langham, Sask., for the 120th annual FEBC convention. They'll discuss the business of the Fellowship, renew old friendships and make new ones, and enjoy break-out sessions of various topics. In the midst of all that, they'll celebrate the 125th anniversary of the FEBC.

This year's event also centers on the all-important topic of prayer. Speaker **Ed Johnson** of Millar College of the Bible will share his thoughts on the convention theme: "Releasing God's Power through Prayer." Read more on pages 6-7.

One who was very active in the Fellowship and will be missed is **Marvin Wall**, who went home to the Lord on March 11. Marv, Visitation Pastor at Omaha's Evangelical Bible Church, served as the first chairman of the FEBC Commission on Outreach. He also pastored several churches including EMB Church, Marion, S. Dak. and Community Bible Church of Wolf Point, Mont. He also directed Youth for Christ Manitoba and Alberta and the Christian Businessmen's Committee in Canada. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Mary Ann, and their five children. Marv and Mary Ann's daughter Marcia was the FEBC secretary for eight years.

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

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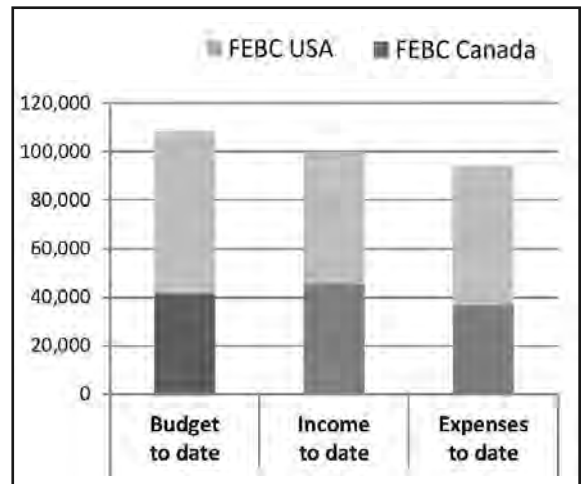
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The *Fellowship Focus* is available to read online. Check it out!
<http://www.fellowshipforward.org>



Antidote to Idolatry

“For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him ... their foolish hearts were darkened ... (they) exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images ...” (Rom. 1:21 - 23 ESV).

Idolatry! It takes just two steps down the slippery road of moral and spiritual degeneration described by Paul in Romans 1:18-32 to reach idolatry. And those two steps are (1) failure to honor God as God and (2) failure to give thanks to God.

What is idolatry? It is nothing more than a false conception of God and then making that concept the object of your worship. It doesn't have to be a “graven image.” It is the mental concept which gives rise to the image and therefore may exist only in someone's mind.

How does thanklessness contribute to this moral and spiritual degeneration and help speed man down the path to idolatry?

If you fail to honor God for Who He really is and thereby refuse to recognize Him as the eternal, all-powerful, all-wise, loving Creator, you are left with a distorted caricature of God. He no longer resembles the One true God. Why would you honor and thank such a God? Why honor or thank a God who isn't wonderful?

Furthermore, idolatry is a religion of fear. You do not love your idol. Your idol does not love you. Idols must be appeased or they will harm you. They are thought to reward good behavior and punish bad behavior. So you live in constant fear of not having approached your “idol” with the right ceremony, the right conduct, the right sacrifice.

Over against that, imagine someone who constantly and consciously remembers and acknowledges Who God is and what He is like. He remembers that God loves him because God is a God of love. He remembers that God is favorably disposed toward him because God is good all the time. He

Idolatry ... is nothing more than a false conception of God and then making that concept the object of your worship.



remembers that God accepts him in spite of his failures because God is a God of grace. Overwhelmed by Who God is, his heart rises up in thanksgiving, praise and worship to this awesome God. His relationship with God is not based on his own good conduct but on God's grace, love and goodness. He doesn't have to earn brownie points with God.

Now take it a step further and imagine that that person goes through difficult, painful experiences. He reminds himself that God in His sovereignty could have prevented that painful experience from taking place. He reminds himself that God's love and unlimited wisdom never fail and nothing happens which is contrary to God's loving wisdom. Therefore, even though he does not understand how, this experience must be for his own good. With that assurance, he thanks God *in* his pain and even *for* his pain. His thankfulness is one of the deepest expressions of faith and trust; not thankfulness because he has learned to enjoy pain.

Or, in the words of Paul (v.21), he knows God, honors Him as God and gives thanks to Him. As a result, his

thinking does not become “futile.” His heart is not “darkened.”

Acknowledging Who God is, what He is like and offering Him trustful thanksgiving and praise has prevented his rational processes from becoming distorted. Increasingly his relationship with God is founded on gratitude and love instead of the fear of displeasing God and suffering the consequences. His relationship with God has not degenerated into a performance-based religion but is growing on the marvellous fact that God loves us, desires our highest good, never makes a mistake in what He allows to come into our lives and in His free grace strengthens and sustains us through each and every circumstance of life.

Failure to recognize and honor God for who He is in all circumstances of life distorts our concept of God. That in turn stifles true worship and thankfulness. Our relationship with God will degenerate into a fear-based, performance-based relationship.

Is it any wonder that Paul exhorts us to be “... giving thanks *always* and *for everything* to God the Father ...” (Ephesians 5:20 ESV). ■

Proclaiming Christ *around* the World

By Marilyn Lester
Commission on Missions



Paul exhorted in his second letter to Timothy: “The things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others” (2 Timothy 2:2 NIV). While many of our missionaries are involved in some kind of ministry through Bible studies and mentoring, some of our missionaries are directly involved in training teachers and leaders.

Keith and Jeannette Shubert serve the Lord at East Asia School of Theology (EAST) in Singapore. Their students come from various countries of East Asia. In January they had the opportunity to teach about leadership in a different way. To prepare for the Chinese new year, a thorough house cleaning was necessary. Students, staff and faculty participated. Since some of the students come from countries where leaders don’t do “menial” work, seeing their professors getting down and dirty was a new and learning experience about servant leadership. *Keith asks for prayer as he balances administrative and teaching responsibilities. Jeannette would like prayer for the reaccreditation preparations that she coordinates in addition to teaching.*

Darrel and Susan Heide worked with the International School Project (ISP) through Cru. The Heides have been involved in introducing teachers in Guatemala to the ISP curriculum which teachers can use to teach Christian ethics and morality at the primary and secondary school levels. Through this program, the teachers are taught a biblical worldview and learn that the Bible “teaches that a personal relationship with God is the foundation on which Christian Ethics and morality can flourish.” Teachers can take the next step for their own growth and spiritual development by participating in a Leadership Development Conference, where the teachers are encouraged to establish a personal relationship with Christ. One conference participant shared, “I give thanks to God because this week I have been given the Word of God that I can share with children; I can share with my co-workers to give them spiritual food that our children in our schools are in need of.” The third step in this process of training teachers is the Future Leaders Training Conference. The staff in Guatemala brought together emerging leaders in the Christian Teachers’ Movement in Guatemala and prepared them to conduct their own trainings and outreaches to other teachers around them. *Pray the movement will continue to grow in Guatemala.* Darrel has also been involved in training in Honduras and building the teacher’s movement in Ukraine. *Pray that God will work in the hearts of these teachers who will carry the message to others.*

Duane and Joetta Moyer have been involved in leadership training since 1978 in Guadeloupe and have now worked themselves out of a position. Guadeloupeans are now training their own

people in areas of church leadership and children’s ministries. The Evangelical Church of Guadeloupe has just appointed a new executive director of the denomination who is not from a missionary background. It is time to turn over the reins to the younger nationals who have been trained well. For the future, Duane shares that his purpose remains the same as it was many years ago — “to equip and enable faithful servants of Christ who have a passion for making disciples.” With this in mind, Duane plans to continue to be a visiting professor at the Institut Biblique and Faculté Théologique in Haiti. The Moyers are working with mission leaders to identify other ministries they will be involved in. *Please be in prayer for the Moyers as they look ahead to what God has for them in the future.*

Paul urged Timothy to “correctly handle the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15 NIV). Pray that these missionaries will have the wisdom to impart the truth correctly to the leadership in their respective fields.

Anja Goertzen among newest Fellowship missionaries

Anja Goertzen is the daughter of current FEBC missionaries **Benny and Esther Goertzen** in Paraguay who are members of **Grace Evangelical Bible Church** of Abbotsford, B.C., and was approved by the delegation at the 2013 Convention as an FEBC missionary.

Anja is an advocate for children living in alternative care such as institutional homes, separated from their families. She became passionate about the underprivileged and homeless children at the young age of 10. She remembers seeing “a child alone in the streets of Asunción, Paraguay, without family and without refuge — without hope for life. Could it be that God can respond to that incredible need? Can He really use me?”

Anja received her law diploma in Asunción in September 2013, and has been working with the National Department of Children in the Special Protection office over the past year. She has been on staff as coordinator for four years with the Viva Network in Paraguay, an organization partnered with Action International that ministers to children at risk. In January 2014, Anja married **René Ganoa**, who has applied to be an associate with Action International, so they can serve together reaching children and adolescents in need, as well as their families.

You may contact Anja and René
either through Grace Church in Abbotsford
(www.graceabbotsford.com) or the FEBC International Office
(info@febministries.org).



Langham Evangelical Bible Church Hosts 2014 Convention



All of us here at Langham Evangelical Bible Church extend a warm welcome to our brothers and sisters of the Fellowship to gather at our church for the FEBC 120th Annual Convention and to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of the Fellowship!

Commission meetings take place on Thursday, July 17, and convention business meetings and activities are Friday and Saturday, July 18-19. All guests are welcome to stay over and worship with us on Sunday morning, July 20. We look forward to the privilege of serving as your hosts.

Small-town hospitality; urban proximity

Langham is located 33 kilometres or 20 miles northwest of Saskatoon on Highway 16. We have a small-town atmosphere with a growing population of more than 1,500. The local Subway restaurant, River Valley RV Park and Motel 6 exist to make your stay more enjoyable.

Saskatoon is Saskatchewan's largest city and is centrally located in the province of Saskatchewan about five driving hours north of the U.S. border. Saskatoon is situated on the banks of the South Saskatchewan River, and the Town of Langham, only 25 minutes away, is near the North Saskatchewan River; thus the area north of Saskatoon is often referred to as the "valley area."

More than 100 years of ministry

Langham Evangelical Bible Church was established in 1911 under the ministry of Rev. Jacob R. Doerksen. It was known in German as "Sud Bruderthal Bethaus" and later, the Langham Evangelical Mennonite Church. In the 1970s the name was changed to its present form.

Our first church building was located four miles south of Langham, but burned down in 1929. A basement was quickly

built, but due to tough times in the 1930s the upper structure was not built and dedicated until 1942. Our cemetery is here, and the original foundation stones can still be located. In 1956 the church building was moved to the main street in Langham

and expanded in 1973. In 1991 the present structure was built on Fifth Avenue in Langham. Our 100th anniversary in July 2011 was a great time of celebrating God's faithfulness. We continue to praise Him for his work in our midst.

Multi-generational; missions-minded

Always a missions-minded congregation, our church has supported and sent numerous missionaries. As well, the first Awana club established in Canada was at our church. Today we have a multi-generational congregation of about 90 people. We endeavour to reach those in

our community for Christ and minister through learning groups and activities for all ages.

Langham is surrounded by grain fields, open skies and Saskatoon berry bushes. We love it here, and hope you will, too. Join us at Convention!

RELEASING
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120th FEBC CONVENTION 2014
You're Invited!

Travel links:

Langham Evangelical Bible Church:
www.LanghamBibleChurch.homestead.com

Town of Langham: www.langham.ca

City of Saskatoon: www.saskatoon.ca

Saskatchewan Tourism: www.tourismsaskatchewan.com

Border Crossing:

www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/publications/pub/bsf5082-eng.html

Meet Our Speaker

Ed Johnson has been the Internship Director at Millar College of the Bible (Pambrun, Sask.) for the last three-and-a-half years. Ed teaches Evangelism, Homiletics, Biblical Foundations of Marriage, Ministry Management and Biblical Counselling. He has also taught Pastoral Epistles and I and II Thessalonians.

Mr. Johnson comes with nearly twenty-nine years of experience in pastoral (senior, associate and youth) ministry. He came to faith in Jesus Christ at a young age and during his teen years felt a call to full-time ministry and to witness to his peers.

After completing high school, Ed attended and graduated from Berean Bible College (Calgary, Alta.) with a BRE in Missions. He also graduated from Trinity Western University (AA), the University of Calgary (BA), and Trinity Evangelical Divinity School (MDiv) (Deerfield, Ill.). Having completed his Doctor of Ministry courses at Providence Semi-



nary, Ed is now working on a final doctoral project related to attitudes of the un-churched in rural Canada.

During his schooling years Ed was also involved in sports, touring vocal ensembles, choirs, teaching Sunday school, leading youth groups and preaching. Ed utilized the secular work place as opportunities to pay his way through school and share his faith.

Ed is married to Wilma who has served alongside of Ed for all their married life. Ed and Wilma have three children who love and serve the Lord. The two oldest children are married and raising their own children while the youngest is single and serving as a youth pastor.

Ed has a heart for evangelism as well as pastoral care which is evident at Millar and in the surrounding communities. Ed's wife,

Wilma, has similar passions which add fuel to his desire to be used by Christ to reach the lost. ■



FELLOWSHIP VIEWS • FELLOWSHIP VIEWS • FELLOWSHIP VIEWS

New Canadian Office

Beginning in February, all financial matters for FEBC Canada will be handled from the new office in Langham, Sask. Since at least 1964, the FEBC Administrator has doubled as the Canadian Treasurer and CEO, and all bookkeeping was done in the international office in Omaha. **Herman Kasper** has served as our agent in Steinbach since 1987, collecting our mail, making deposits, and taking care of various administrative tasks. We deeply appreciate his faithful service which has enabled our long-distance accounting system to operate smoothly.

The new address for FEBC Canada is PO Box 115, Langham, SK S0K 2L0. **Samantha Nemanishen** will serve as the Financial Secretary for FEBC Canada. All contributions and correspondence (including group insurance issues) should be directed to that address. The Omaha office will continue to take care of tasks related to the International Board and the commissions.

Summer Missionaries

Financial aid is available for students who will be on a short-term cross-cultural mission assignment this summer. Students serving at least six weeks may receive a grant of \$300. Students serving four months or more may be eligible for up to \$750. Contact orders@febministries.org for details and application forms.

Studying for Christian Ministry?

Students who are preparing for Christian ministry (pastor, missionary, chaplain, etc.) may apply to the Fellowship for a \$1,000 scholarship. Send a request for an application packet to orders@febministries.org. Individuals currently in ministry (pastors, missionaries) who are taking graduate-level classes can apply for a Continuing Education Scholarship. Applications must be received by May 31.

Churches Seeking Pastors

Please ask God to provide pastors for churches without a shepherd.

■ **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.

■ **Community Bible Church** of Wolf Point, Mont., is seeking a pastor. For additional information, contact: Mr. Richard Desch at desch5@yahoo.com or phone (406) 653-2974 or (406) 471-3030 (cell). Résumés may also be mailed to 330 Dawson St., Wolf Point, MT 59201.

■ **Randville Bible Church** of Randville, Mich. is seeking a senior pastor who has a passion for the Word and has church-planting abilities. The attendees are mostly older, but would love to see the church reach the lost and grow. Contact Verna Pollock at vkpollock@yahoo.com.



Focus on FEBC Church Planting

By Harvey Schultz

A New Chapter in Church Planting at Indian Head, Saskatchewan

On January 19, the members of Community Bible Church at Indian Head, Saskatchewan, voted unanimously to extend a call to Jearim Woodall to be the next pastor of their church. A few days later Jearim accepted the call. With that the 18-month pastoral search process came to an end, and a new chapter in the life of the church began.

The search process had been a long, faith-testing process. Bill Glasspell had signaled his intent to retire effective the end of December 2012. The search began well before that date. Several times a promising candidate was scheduled to visit the church only to be obliged to withdraw at the eleventh hour for personal reasons. In June 2013 the church lost its one local elder who moved to British Columbia. In September 2013 a candidate actually visited the church. The vote that followed was split down the middle: Fifty per cent in favor; fifty per cent against — obviously not the candidate of the Lord's choosing. Several other promising candidates indicated an interest but none fit the profile the church desired of its next pastor.

Then Jearim applied. He is in his mid-twenties, recently engaged to Sarah Roy, and a graduate of Millar College of the Bible, where he has taken the pastoral internship program offered by that school. Although he has limited pastoral experience, he has had extensive experience working in camps with children and youth. Several members of his extended family are seasoned pastors. Jearim was brought up in Winnipeg, but his mother grew up in the Stuartburn Gospel Chapel, Manitoba.

He brings with him an enthusiasm for youth and children's ministries as well as a passion to teach and preach God's Word. His ministry at Indian Head began on March 1. We look forward to the official celebration of the beginning of his ministry, hopefully on April 13.

Community Bible Church did not just tread water during this extended search process. Bill Glasspell graciously carried on as part-time interim pastor. People continued to give generously to their church's ministries which were carried on faithfully. The extended search time stretched their faith and their commitment. Today they are financially self-sufficient and, more than ever, able and willing to carry on the ministry of their church.

Pray that penetration into the community would grow and that quantifiable growth of the church would continue. The one major drawback to full local church autonomy is the lack of



local, qualified men to serve as elders. Pray earnestly that God would raise up the spiritual leadership needed to lead the church. Meanwhile, the FEBC Prairie West Extension Steering Committee will continue to give spiritual direction to the church and accountability to Jearim.

P.S. Read Jearim's testimony in a future issue of *Fellowship Focus*. ■

~Abundant Blessings!~

The Lord has blessed Richer Bible Church with continued growth. Typically 50 or so people worship together on a Sunday morning. Pray for wisdom in training leaders and for elders for the church. The church has rented their building to a German congregation for the last number of years, and this arrangement has helped both churches by sharing the cost of the building.

Just One Gift

By Connie Yates

Life has a way of changing quickly and can blindside you just as easily. You stumble, you get up, you wipe the dust off and keep going. But when the cycle continues it begins to wear you down. Eventually your cries for help seem to fall upon a seemingly silent God. Is He really silent? Or are His words falling on my own deaf ears? Are my circumstances causing a chasm that makes Him hard to reach?

As my life takes a backward motion, I fall more and more into a loneliness that now becomes my comfort. The quietness of my self-destructing body becomes my friend. We enjoy wallowing in our own self-pity since no one really wants to wallow with me.

My son and daughter-in-law gave me a book for Christmas: *1,000 Gifts*. I have wanted to read this book for a long time. But that time had passed. Gifts? What gifts have been freely given to me?

I know that you may be thinking that there is a pill for this type of problem. Although I hadn't fallen into depression, I did feel desperate. Desperate for a love that consumes you. Desperate for a friend that acts without waiting for your call. Desperate for someone to see how close the end of my rope had become. Desperate to wake up to a new life, a new hope, a new meaning.

The alarm rings every morning and the routine begins. Then the customary greetings start. "Good morning, how are you?" "Fine, great, thank you, and you?" I wonder what would happen if I would stop and grab them and say, "I'm NOT fine; I'm miserable! I'm not sure when it happened, but God moved, I moved, my world is rocked, I'm nothing but a hunk of Jello® on a hot sidewalk. Look at me! Do I look fine?"

I know, I know; I look fine. Expensive make-up, hair color and a curling iron make you look fine. But can someone take a closer look?

I suppose my expectations are unrealistic. It's not their fault that I've learned to exist without looking desperate. Many of us do this everyday.

The day came when I finally opened the book. The first few pages made me weep uncontrollably. Sadness overcame me. I put the book down. I got my paper and pen out and started my list of "gifts" from God.

I couldn't think of one. Besides my family, and that is a freebie like the middle box on a bingo card, I couldn't think of one. Heavy sigh. Maybe tomorrow. Each night I would pull out the paper ... nothing.

I prayed, "God, you are an endless giver. Why can't I see them? Why can't

I own them? Had my own selfishness and sin made every gift you have ever given me become mute? Lord, please, just one gift. Let me see just one gift. I need to know you see me."

It was January 21, 2014. It was cold outside but the sun was glistening on the frozen snow. I was taking my son to work. As we waited for the light to change he looked up into the sky and said, "Mom! Look at that!" I looked up. Rainbow — big deal, I thought. But it was odd that there was a rainbow in January without a rain to preclude it. Vinnie said, "Mom, it's not a half rainbow, it's a full circle. I've never seen that before!" I looked again. Chills ran down my spine. It was a sun halo.

Thank you, Lord; gift #1*.

*A halo (from Greek ἅλωος, halōs; also known as a nimbus, icebow or gloriole) is an optical phenomenon produced by ice crystals creating colored or white arcs and spots in the sky. —Wikipedia

Connie Yates, wife, mother, homeschool mom, Nana to three (soon to be one more), art director for Fellowship Focus, and Caregiver. This is me with expensive make-up and hair-color, I'm fine; really, I am.



EMB Women Reach Out to the Congo

In the 1960s, many of our women's groups sewed layettes, surgical gowns, patient gowns and other items for medical clinics in the Congo. An envelope of patterns on craft paper or heavy, waxy paper, all with hand-written notations, recently surfaced in the FEBC Office. These pattern "masters" had been sent from church to church. The local women copied the patterns, made the items and sent them to our many missionaries in the Congo. This collection of patterns was donated to the Kauffman Museum in North Newton, Kan. www.bethelks.edu/kauffman/



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

FOCUS ON OUR CHURCHES

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

Omaha, Neb.
Charles Tschetter, Pastor

At their January retreat, CBC elders reaffirmed a desire to expand through a church plant or extension and are exploring ways to begin the work of expanding our outreach into Omaha.

CBC has partnered with Abide Network and Bridge Church to adopt a neighborhood in north Omaha. Our first event was a cookie distribution designed to reach out and invite our “neighbors” to Bridge Church for an event.

CBC men and sons joined other Omaha congregations as they participated in the “Iron Sharpens Iron” men’s conference in February, with speaker Gene Getz, author of *The Measure of a Man*.

Sharon Berg, Correspondent

COUNTRYSIDE BIBLE CHURCH

Meade, Kan.

Eleven from our area attended the Faith Biblical Counseling conference Feb. 8-15 in Lafayette, Ind. In the pastor’s absence, the **Rev. Tim Elsner**, associate pastor of Cornerstone Bible Church in Wichita, filled the pulpit.

Our church was responsible to supply items for the local Food Bank in December.

The men began a 14-week study in January on the book by Jerry Bridges, *Trusting God*.

Our annual soup meal was Sunday noon, Feb. 2. Proceeds of our annual soup luncheon will go toward a sign for our church property.

We enjoyed our family retreat in Woodward, Okla., in March. **Dr. Michael and Martha Ann Grisanti** will be our speakers. Dr. Grisanti is a professor at Masters College in California. His topics centered on passages from Deuteronomy and Isaiah: “Our Incomparable God,” “A Generational Per-

spective,” “What Does God Want Most?” and “God Demands and Deserves Our Absolute Trust.”

Mary Friesen, Correspondent

DALMENY BIBLE CHURCH

Dalmeny, Sask.
Dennis Friesen, Pastor

We offered the “Parenting Children’s Course” to parents of children through age 10 on Sunday mornings for four weeks.

The DBC staff hosted a Legacy Luncheon (age 65 and up) in January. We had a good time getting to know the older generation, and spent some time singing.

The ladies attended a Project Day, where we tied blankets for missions or worked on our own sewing projects.

Christmas events included the Kid’s Club presentation, “The Christmas Story”; a church banquet and jazz concert featuring **Tenielle Bennett**, together with the Community Church; the Camp Kadesh Dinner and Concert by the Freedom Singers; and our Bible Discovery children along with some adults presented “A Reason to Celebrate.”

We collected nonperishable food items for the Dalmeny Christmas Baskets. Twenty-three food baskets were delivered to families with various needs to show that the community cares about them.

Marilyn Harder, Correspondent

EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH

Omaha, Neb.
Don Pahl, Senior Pastor

Back in the sixties, coffee shops were very popular as places where one could share a song, poem, or just sit and talk about life. Christian coffee shops also popped up to provide opportunities to share the Gospel and the Christian perspective. This type of thing is now making a comeback, and our church is excited to be a part of this as another means of outreach.

RELEASING
*God's Power
through Prayer*

120th FEBC CONVENTION 2014

July 17-20
**Langham Evangelical Bible
Church, Langham, Sask.**

FOCUS ON OUR CHURCHES

This coffee shop ministry will be held on the second Friday of each month from 8 p.m. – midnight. Our coffee shop is located in the Old Market, a popular destination in Omaha for individuals of all ages. We have no specific agenda or paradigm. This is going to be a ministry where we go and see how the Lord leads and how the Spirit will guide us.

The coffee shop will be a place for anyone to ask questions about Christianity in a low-key, non-church environment; share conversation about life issues; for Christian bands to try out their music, Christian writers to float new book ideas, and Christian poets to test the waters and share their heart with others; to sit around a table studying God's Word; to relax and reflect over a favorite coffee; and to gather with friends for fun and fellowship.

By Sherrie Lindsey, Correspondent

EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH

Langham, Sask.

Greg Guarnett, Senior Pastor

A community fundraiser was held at our church for a local family's medical needs. We have also begun hosting the local public health "baby clinic" on a monthly basis. We are pleased to give people reasons to come through our doors who otherwise would not.

Congregational Care Committee organized another "Big Cook" where a large number of meals were prepared in record time and frozen to be given away to those in need.

Steve and Mikki Schmidt (SIM) brought us news of their ministry and work in Niger and a number of us enjoyed a fellowship lunch with them.

December was a focus on Christ's love for us and our love for others. We enjoyed a Christmas potluck meal, and contributed and helped with community food hampers.

Continue to pray for our church as we make plans for hosting the FEBC Convention in July. We look forward to growing together through this task.

Marilyn Friesen, Correspondent

EVANGELICAL MENNONITE BRETHERN CHURCH

Grunthal, Man.

Russ Reimer, Pastor

Members of our congregation helped with activities and services at the Menno Home, a care facility, during December. The residents appreciate the time that we spend with them, and it is a good reminder to us that everyone is important in God's eyes.

Also in December, our church youth group met at the fire hall in town to help the "Caring Hands" organization package Christmas food hampers for families in need.

Ron and Eunice Wiebe, now serving in New Brunswick with Child Evangelism Fellowship, visited for a few weeks. Their visit included an after-wedding reception Jan. 4 for their

son and his new bride, and Ron's ministry updates and a Sunday morning message. They ministered in Brazil for a few weeks before returning home.

FEBC President Blaine Donaldson shared Fellowship updates and gave the morning message on Jan. 19.

Christmas festivities included an evening of caroling in the community, at a seniors' apartment complex, and at a care home in town.

Marilyn D. Thiessen, Correspondent

EVANGELICAL MENNONITE BRETHERN CHURCH

Lustre, Mont.

John Skillman, Pastor

One of our most appreciated Christmas outreaches was to give "goodie tins" to singles, the elderly or needy. The goodies included zwieback, peppernuts and fruit.

Pastor John faithfully prepares a Bible study each Friday for the residents of the Faith Home in Wolf Point. Our church also conducts a service there on several Sunday afternoons.

At our Christmas program, "O What A Savior," we featured testimonies of several church members, musical specials and Scripture reading. This inspiring and worshipful program was a fitting service before the various festivities of Christmas Eve and Christmas.

Sharon Skillman, Correspondent

EVANGELICAL MENNONITE BRETHERN CHURCH

Marion, S.D.

Randy Maass, Pastor

The music of our cold-weather concert series is always an uplifting experience for the community, as is the fellowship that follows. We hosted a local quartet called the Gospel Gold in February, and in March we welcomed our local Grace Lutheran choir.

Pastor Randy is traveling to Omaha once a week through May to teach the class "Biblical Foundation of Sermon Preparation" through the Sioux Falls Seminary.

We will again participate in our local pre-Easter community services that span five Sunday evenings starting March 9. Six area churches take part. This year's theme is "The Kingdom of God is at Hand." We will share a joint Tenebrae Good Friday service in our church with our sister church that is open to the community.

We continue to enjoy seeing **Martha Becker** fellowship with us on Sunday mornings. She is 102 years old and an inspiration to all.

Historical highlight: A front cover of a 1976 *Gospel Tidings* (now *Fellowship Focus*) included a reminder that the upcoming workshop would be held at our church.

Lois Regehr, Correspondent

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FOCUS ON OUR CHURCHES

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FAITH EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH

Henderson, Neb.

Michael Fink, Pastor

A positive, forward-looking annual business meeting was held in January. Committee chairmen presented projections for the coming year, and the church family enjoyed fellowship over a warm soup supper following the meeting.

Pastor Mike taught about the minor prophets in our Sunday evening Bible studies the past year. We are concluding this series in the book of Malachi. Sunday morning messages are taken from the book of Galatians with the theme "Set Free."

Two evening DVD Bible studies are being offered to our women during the next few months: "Respectfully Yours," by Dr. Emerson Eggerichs, and "Discovering the Voice of God," by Priscilla Shirer.

Alice Decker, Correspondent

GOSPEL OF GRACE CHURCH

Hooker, Okla.

Chris McFarland, Pastor

Fellowship groups have been meeting in various homes throughout year for small-group Bible studies and fellowship. Several groups are finding opportunities to serve the church and the community. Various services have been performed, including preparations for the youth events, cleaning and repairing various locations in the church facilities, meals for families, adoption celebration, and baby showers. A child-care service is planned to provide the opportunity for parents of young children to have a night out as a couple.

Preparations have started for summer Vacation Bible School. In the past, this program has provided an excellent opportunity for our congregation to minister to the families in our community, making this event an outreach for our church. This is a great time to work together and use the gifts God has given and serve the Lord together.

Pastor Chris has completed a series of sermons related to the purpose of the church and the necessary characteristics of a healthy church. Evaluating the biblical leadership patterns established in Scripture and examining our church practice has been encouraged as we seek to honor and glorify God as we minister together.

Several new students attended a Super Bowl party hosted by the church youth group, "Blaze." Students invited their friends to enjoy games, food and fellowship. Although the outcome of the game was a disappointment, the youth enjoyed this time together.

Sandy McFarland, Correspondent

HEARTLAND BIBLE CHURCH

Lincoln, Neb.

Scott Hecht, Pastor

This year we partnered with Prison Fellowship in Project Angel Tree by ministering to two families. We delivered a Christmas basket to each and shared the Gospel with them.

We welcomed **Pablo and Judi Perez** to our services on Jan. 19. They are eager to move back to Ecuador and work with AMEE (Ecuadorian Evangelical Missionary Association). They shared their pictures and how God was leading them to return to Ecuador soon to help develop discipleship and missionary vision with the various ethnic groups of the country.

Our Wednesday Night Kids have worked diligently to earn points and were able to spend them at the Christmas Store. They invited the adults to join them for Christmas caroling at some local care centers in December. Christmas Eve Services included luminaries outside, the adult and kids' choir, and a special message from Pastor Scott based on I John 4:14.

Trudy Reimer, Correspondent

JANSEN BIBLE CHURCH

Jansen, Neb.

Paul Carpenter, Pastor

Jesus' love and reception of all little children was emphasized at the beginning of Right to Life Week in January. **Arie and Tony Brandt** presented the Nebraska foster care program by Christian Heritage. Church members were encouraged to prayerfully consider attending one of three 10-week training sessions with a view toward serving needy families through foster care or even respite care on weekends. Children and their parents might in this way encounter God's love.

A new Awana clubber, Sparky **Blaine Smith**, set a new speed record for our church's Awana racing history at the Grand Prix in January. **Pastor Joe Lombardi** of Wahoo, Neb., spoke at our Sweetheart Banquet in February at Valentino's in Beatrice, Neb.



The Fellowship exists to provide a framework which enables member churches to stimulate and encourage each other to be more effective in building the Church of Jesus Christ through interaction, joint service projects, mutual assistance, accountability and fellowship.

FOCUS ON OUR CHURCHES

Dr. Tommy Ice, executive director of the Pre-Trib Research Center, will speak at our Spring Bible Conference March 21-23.

A large group of carolers visited assisted living, nursing and private homes of our shut-ins to encourage them with cards and greetings.

Tena Dick, Correspondent

NORTHEAST BIBLE CHURCH

Calgary, Alta.
John Fehr, Pastor



This year we hosted a brunch following the morning service, and held our Christmas banquet at a hotel near the church. Almost the entire congregation attended for a lovely meal and a good time of visiting together. Our Christmas Eve service included the children singing and ringing their bells as we celebrated Christ's birth. We heard a beautiful rendition of *O Holy Night*, and closed with *Silent Night* by candlelight, followed with refreshments and Christmas goodies.

As 2014 was ushered in, a small group of our church family met to give thanks for God's faithfulness and ask for His blessing and direction in the new year.

Julie Ann Simpson, Correspondent

RICHER FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

Richer, Man.
Simon Cheung, Pastor

A cold snap set the atmosphere for our third annual Hockey Night in Richer (see photo on next column)! Four players from the Steinbach Pistons, Manitoba Junior Hockey League champions, traded their hockey sticks for "dry" ice to play floor hockey with the clubbers. The youth later gathered to hear retired hockey player **Andrew Penner**, of the Portage Terriers and the Nanaimo Clippers, who broke both his shoulders playing hockey, give his testimony of grace as the Lord delivered him from drugs and depression. When

asked what important lesson he learned from all those tough years, Penner told the kids not to shut out the love of family who want to help through difficult times. Afterward, the kids were presented with solid chocolate "Stanley Cups" to commemorate the evening, and lined up to get autographed hockey cards from the players.



Youth leader **Mikaela Driedger** had another agenda in mind, though, when organizing these hockey nights. Working closely with the guest speaker and **Mike Kehler**, Campus Life Hockey Chaplain of the Pistons hockey team and Youth for Christ in Steinbach, she makes sure that the hockey players who are chosen to come out for Hockey Night are those needing to hear the Gospel! Kehler's signature verse is 2 Corinthians 5:18-20, which sums up in hockey terms what we all are for Christ: "Ambassadors in the Arena of Life."

Michelle Driedger, Correspondent

SALEM CHURCH

Waldheim, Sask.
Darrell Derksen, Senior Pastor

Thanks to our friends at **Evangelical Bible Church** of Dallas, Ore., who hosted the 2013 FEBC convention, our pastor was reintroduced to FEBC missionaries **Steve and Mikki Schmidt**. A visit to Waldheim would become their most northerly stop during their current season of travel and reporting. For Steve, a Saskatchewan winter was something he experienced as a youth, but after years in Niger—who wouldn't become a bit soft? Many who live on the prairies year round consider it a badge of honor to survive a harsh winter, so it was a little surprising to have the Schmidts accept our invitation to choose to visit during winter. Steve's update covering ministry and leadership was appreciated, and Mikki shared her testimony. Pieces of her life story were

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FOCUS ON OUR CHURCHES

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a strong encouragement to several who related directly to the events of her life. Others also joined in “ascribing glory to God” by sharing words of testimony and praying together. Our “Testimony Nights” have been uniquely encouraging this year.

The Women of Waldheim are offering two Bible study options through the winter season. They are also inviting ladies to have some fun and attend their new initiative, “Cooking for Dummies.” No doubt this will prove to be an evening filled with laughter and learning.

Several families from Salem partner with in providing Compassion Canada to provide care for children in other nations. **Scott and Heather Langelaar** left their poultry farm in the care of others and participated in a trip to El Salvador to visit firsthand Compassion’s impact on communities. They have supported a child for years and had the unique joy of visiting him. We received an update in February that helped us to really understand all that Compassion does for the kids and communities that we are individually supporting.

STUARTBURN GOSPEL CHAPEL

Stuartburn, Man.

Mark Funk, Pastor

We began the year 2014 with a Communion Service and the dedication of our new addition on Jan. 5. Our guest speaker was **Dr. David Robbins** of Advancing Indigenous Missions. It has also been our practice to start a new year with a few days of prayer meetings. This year our theme was “IN-TERCEDE,” and we met on three days. In spite of the cold and snow, we had a number of people who were determined to pray intentionally and specifically for the needs of our families and community.

We have also launched a challenge within our church family to read the entire Bible in one year. We have all received a reading schedule (with the freedom to follow it using any pattern and at any speed we choose), and we are encouraged to sign or initial the list of the Books of the Bible that are

posted in the church as we complete each one. It is both fun and encouraging to watch the list of names grow each week. From time to time in our service, we take time to share some of the things God has impressed upon us as we read His Word.

We continue with our men’s morning meetings on Thursday, Awana, small Bible study groups, women’s ministries and youth. Our memory verse for the month is a reminder that we want to approach all our busyness with this in mind: “Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable — If anything is excellent or praiseworthy — think about such things” (Philippians 4:8 NIV)

Sue Hoy, Correspondent

VITA BIBLE CHURCH

Vita, Man.

Juergen Penner, Pastor

We enjoyed our annual fish fry March 16. This event is always a wonderful opportunity to include or attract those from within our community that may not otherwise attend church. It has always been a delicious meal following our Sunday morning service.

Some of us had talent, and the rest just came to watch: In January we held our own talent night, where anyone and everyone was able to share any and all talents they might have, musical or otherwise. Overall, there was some really great entertainment.

Another opportunity to have fellowship and fun as a church family was the annual moonlight ski and games. We had some great weather for those who enjoyed skiing and some great laughs for those playing games, as well as a wonderful potluck to follow.

Women’s ministry hosted a bowling night in February. This time we invited the men! This is a great night out on the town where we can enjoy time together with our spouses and have fun as couples.

Tiffany Tuurenhout, Correspondent

We are a Fellowship of Churches

We associate together voluntarily as interdependent churches. We share common beliefs and mission.

24 in Canada (Western Ontario to British Columbia)

19 in the United States (Northwest Michigan to Oregon and Oklahoma north to the Canadian border)

1 in Paraguay, South America

Births/Adoptions

Community Bible Church, Omaha, Neb.

- **Hillary Margaret** to **Derrick and Haley Dick**, Jan. 27; grandparents are **Dennis and Kathy Dick** and **Flint and Renee Calvin**

Countryside Bible Church, Meade, Kan.

- **Samson Liddell** to **Doug and Tiffany Ritter**, Dec. 3; grandparents are **Doug and Sue Ritter**
- **Channing Robert** to **Justin and Grace Powell**, Dec. 11

Dalmeny Bible Church, Dalmeny, Sask.

- **Zavier Shane** to **Mitch and Wendy Schultz**, Dec. 17; grandparents are **Alvin and Emma Schultz**; great grandmother is **Wilma Schultz**

Evangelical Bible Church, Omaha, Neb.

- **Karina Faye** to **Casey and Tiffany Vohnout**, Dec. 13; grandparents are **Gary and Arla Vohnout** and **Chris and Lori Griffith**
- **Cannon Edward** to **Richard and Sheila Carter**, Jan. 11

Evangelical Mennonite Brethren Church, Grunthal, Man.

- **Wyatt Henry** to **Nathan and Annie Driediger**, Jan. 16

Gospel of Grace Church, Hooker, Okla.

- **Jeremiah LaShawn**, adopted by **Jeff and Shanda Oden**, December 2013

Salem Church, Waldheim, Sask.

- Adoption of **Dallen, Kelly, Deacon, and Logan** into **Don and Laurette Thompson's** family, Jan. 10



Marriages

Countryside Bible Church, Meade, Kan.

- **Rachael Johnson** to **Bradon Wiens**, son of **Jerome and Anita Wiens**; grandson of **Rolly and Marge Wiens**, Dec. 21
- **Stephanie Boaldin** to **Tanner Wiens**, son of **Kevin and Debbie Wiens**, Feb. 8

Salem Church, Waldheim, Sask.

- **Sarah Sacher** to **Kraig Heppner**, son of **Murray and Wendy Heppner**, Dec. 12

Deaths

Countryside Bible Church, Meade, Kan.

- **Rosella (Rosie) Ediger** (81), Dec. 19

NO ENDORSEMENT

Catch the Vision

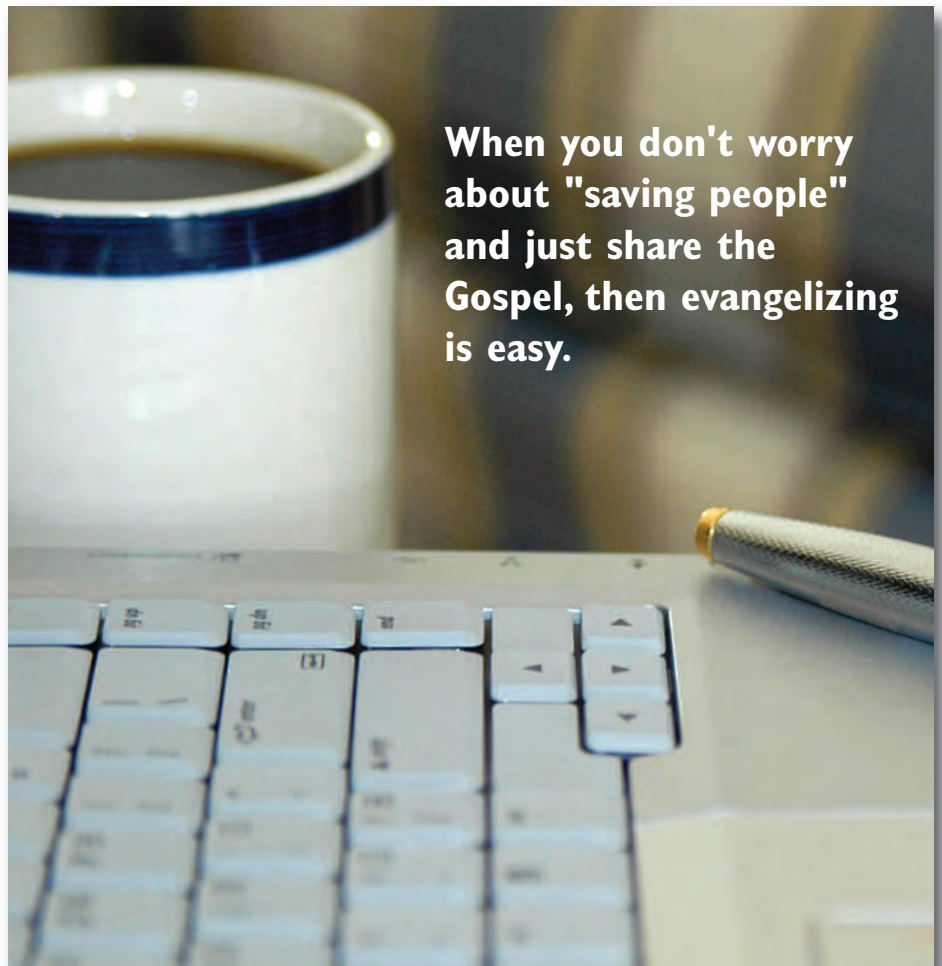
Coffee Shop Encounter ... *By Jesse Pauly, Evangelical Bible Church, Omaha, Neb.*

I am just an ordinary person who loves Jesus: I'm a 24-year-old full-time student at Grace University, pursuing a degree in Intercultural Studies with an emphasis on church-based ministry. I also work part time at a local office equipment business, and am a volunteer rugby coach.

One day I went to a coffee shop with a friend to do homework. As we were sitting on the couches reading, a man was painting on a canvas next to us. We made some small talk, and the fact that we were Christians came out of the conversation. The artist was a Christian as well. While we were talking, a fourth person, a gentleman probably in his forties, sat down next to us. As he talked to the artist, I overheard the painter offer the gentleman an opportunity to be certified as a "Master Artist." The man told the painter that he was not that interested, but he was grateful that he was offered the opportunity to add value to his life in that way; no one had ever offered him an opportunity to add value to his life, he said.

This was a no-brainer for me. I remember thinking, *I have something very valuable to add to your life.* I waited for the opportunity to interject into their conversation, and when the time was right I "offered value" to his life. "I was nervous at the beginning, because my mom taught me not eavesdrop on conversations, and that is what I was doing. The gentleman did not believe in God or the Bible. I started asking him some questions and talked to him about different philosophies. By the end of the conversation he was convinced of intelligent design, but that was about it.

I am not sure how to say this, but when you don't worry about "saving people," and you just worry about sharing the



When you don't worry about "saving people" and just share the Gospel, then evangelizing is easy.

message, then evangelizing is easy. I realized that I had an "in" to sharing the Gospel when the man said no one had offered him value.

The gentleman did not end up falling to his knees and praying right there with me. God gave me a divine encounter, and I was faithful to take advantage to share Jesus with him. ■