

A PUBLICATION OF THE FELLOWSHIP OF EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCHES



Fellowship Focus

Volume 55 • No. 2 • March/April 2015



Celebrate!

*Jesus said to her, "I am the
resurrection and the life.
The one who believes in me
shall never die."*

~ John 11:25-26



President's Challenge

Blaine Donaldson, President, Fellowship of Evangelical Bible Churches

A Cup of Cold Water

Several summers ago, I was hiking up Grouse Mountain in Vancouver. I realize that my physique throws doubt on that adventure, but months of pain after the fact remind me that it is true. Quite near the top, I met a man walking down the mountain. In our brief conversation, he mentioned that he had forgotten his wallet in the car and did not have the ten dollars to ride the gondola down. He was going to walk down and get his wallet before he could enjoy his time at the top. Because I am a believer in Christ, I gave him the money. He was not asking for it, but I sought to be a blessing.

About twenty years ago, my wife said something to me that I have always remembered, but have never really thought about. (She might suggest that this is how I always listen to her.) In fact, I don't believe that I have ever discussed her remark with her. She had just read Matthew 10:42 in her devotions where Jesus says, "And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward." Her comment was to the effect that the small things we do for others are specially noticed by God — even a cup of cold water.

The context of that verse points to the way we treat new and young believers, but I think that we can rightly apply this to the way we treat the non-Christians whom God puts in our path. God routinely provides opportunities for us to speak about Jesus in a direct way when we are seeking those opportunities. However, God also puts many "cup of cold water" opportunities in our lives.

How can we maximize those "cup" opportunities?

"And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward."

Matthew 10:42 ESV



Pray: The best way to allow a cup of cold water to be used by God is to have an active and vibrant prayer life. Constantly be speaking with the Lord. Try to see the world around you through His eyes.

Look: In most cases when we think that we lack opportunity, our problem is visual — we do not see the opportunities. We need to be alert for opportunities to help someone. Ask yourself, "Is there a way that I could be a blessing in this situation? Is there anything that I can do to show that I care about that person? What do I think that person needs? Can I partially meet that need?"

Act: When we see an opportunity, stop analyzing and do something about it. It does no good to walk away from a situation and then think, "Oh, I should have helped." Unfortunately, I have done that many times. As soon as you see an opportunity to help, act.

Point: Find a way to indicate that the good you are doing is motivated by Jesus. Strive to place the thanks on the Lord rather than on yourself. Phrases like the following may be helpful: "Jesus knows your troubles and cares"; "Jesus cares about you, so I do as well"; "Jesus has been so good to me that I would like to help you"; and "If Jesus were here in the flesh, he would do this for you. I am doing this on his behalf." Think of other ways that you can give Jesus credit. The point is that you want to point to Jesus.

A cup of cold water means that we seek to be a blessing in every opportunity, large or small. There's really no end to the "cups" that we can share in his name. Whether it is paying for the groceries for the person in front of you; shoveling a neighbor's snow; carrying someone's groceries; changing a tire; bringing a co-worker a cup of coffee made the way they like it; if done for Jesus, it will be a blessing.

Be looking to give a cup of cold water to people in your life. ■

Traveling schedule:

Feb. 28–Mar. 16 Saskatchewan ministry trip

March 1 Preaching at Christian Fellowship Church, Rhineland, Sask.

Installation service for Daniel Butt at Fairview Bible Church, Swift Current, Sask.

March 2–4 Prairie West Pastors and wives retreat

March 8 Ordination service for Lee Young at Salem Church, Waldheim, Sask.

March 15 Speaking at Humboldt Bible Church, Humboldt, Sask.

March 17 Western Canada Denominational Leaders Meeting

April 13–20 Kansas/Oklahoma ministry trip

April 27–30 RHMA Small Town Pastors Conference (www.rhma.org)

Comment

By Paul Boeker, Editor



Change is difficult, to say the least. The past year has certainly been full of changes for our Fellowship and for this magazine. Sharon Berg has resigned from her position as editor. I have retired as Administrator but am trying to step into Sharon's place, albeit without her training, skill, and experience.

The *Fellowship Focus* relies on reporters in our churches to keep us posted on pastoral changes, church activities, new members, and special activities. Twenty-seven of our churches have reporters. This month, 15 of them submitted a report. We deeply appreciate their work.

Sharon Berg has been a reporter for Community Bible Church of Omaha for the past 24 years! This issue has her final submission for Church News. Rachel Funk is a new reporter from Vita Bible Church of Vita, Man. Welcome Rachel!

If your church does not have a reporter, request the "Reporter's Guidelines" from fellowshipfocus@febministries.org and consider whether you could do this ministry. Then let your pastor or board know that you are willing to be a reporter.

The FEBC Annual Convention will be hosted by Grace Evangelical Bible Church of Abbotsford, B.C. It has been 14 years since the convention has been in Abbotsford, so many of our participants do not know how delightful it is to visit this church and surrounding area. Read the first information on page 15. I hope you can represent your church in Abbotsford.

Serving Christ with you,

Paul Boeker

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

Editorial Staff: Paul Boeker, Editor; Nikki Krause, Art Director

Inside

President's Challenge

A Cup of Cold Water

Blaine Donaldson, FEBC President Page 2

Focus on the Word

The Real Reason for Israel

By Harvey Schultz Page 4

Fellowship Views Page 5

Easter Eggs in Colossians

By Paul Boeker. Page 5

Focus on Church Life

Making Visits Count (Part 1)

By Julia Quiring Emblen Page 6

Proclaiming Christ

Around the World

By Marilynn Lester. Page 7

Video Library Page 8

Focus on our Churches Page 9-12

Webinar on Bible Study Methods Page 13

The Record. Page 14

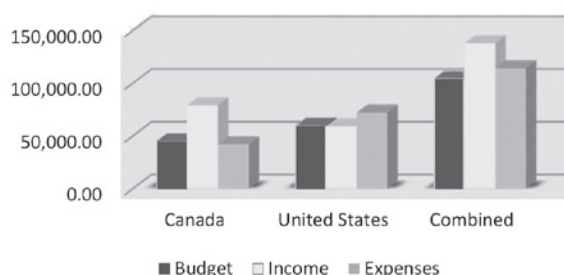
FEBC Annual Convention Page 15

Catch the Vision

FINDING ZACCHAEUS

By Jennifer Funk. Back Page

Financial Report FY2015 First Quarter



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

<http://www.fellowshipforward.org>



Focus on the Word

The Real Reason for Israel By Harvey E. Schultz

Israelites are often referred to in the Bible as God's people — the elect nation — a people chosen by God. This election of Israel is often misunderstood. Unfortunately, Israel itself didn't always seem to understand why God chose them. Today many evangelicals are confused about this sovereign act of God. People hear that Israel is God's chosen nation, and they think: why would God ever choose one nation above another? Doesn't he love all nations? What's so special about Israel?

Right from the start, God made his intentions clear when he promised Abram: "... all peoples on earth will be blessed through you" (Gen. 12:1-3 NIV). Paul revealed that God had in mind that people from all nations would be justified when he made that promise (Gal. 3:8). God chose Abram to be the channel through which the message of salvation by faith in Christ would be made available to all people on earth. That was the reason why God chose the nation Israel. To enable Abram and his descendants to carry out their mission, God promised to bless them materially.

God was not only looking for the *passive* participation of a people through whom He could bring the Savior into the world. He was looking for a people who would *actively* participate in his world-wide salvation program. Israel was called apart by God, instructed on how to live as a nation in this sin cursed earth. They would be blessed by God as a result of their obedience and thus draw all nations to God because of their high quality of life (cf. Deut. 4:5-8).

Again and again, through the prophet Isaiah, God said to Israel: "You are my servant." He also said: "I will also make you a light for the Gentiles that you may *bring my salvation to the ends of the earth*" (Isa. 49:6 NIV). There it is in a nutshell. God chose Israel and promised to bless her for one purpose — to bring his salvation to all nations.

With some notable exceptions, it seems as though most Israelites did not understand this. King Solomon was one exception. In his dedicatory prayer for the temple, he made an amazing statement for a Jew! "As for the foreigner who does not belong to your people Israel but has come from a distant land because of your name ... hear from heaven, your dwelling place, and do whatever the foreigner ask of you, *so that the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you*" (1Chron. 6:32 NIV). He realized that God's way of attracting all nations to himself was by giving Israel wonderful national laws to govern her life and by blessing her.

The author of Psalm 67 was another exception. The opening line of the psalm reads: "May God be gracious to us and bless us — *that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations.*" The psalmist understood that God's purpose in blessing Israel was to the end that all other nations would hear of God and turn to him. The closing lines of this Psalm reiterate this theme: "God will bless us, *and all the ends of the earth will fear him.*" Divine blessings were not an end in themselves. They were given to enable Israel to reflect to the nations God's great love.

The principle of God blessing His people to help them spread the Gospel is carried forward into the New Testament. Divine blessings were not an end in themselves. The Corinthian believers generously participated financially in Paul's missionary work. Paul promised them: "You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion" (2 Cor. 9:11 NIV).

Right from the start, God made his intentions clear when he promised Abram: "... all peoples on earth will be blessed through you" (Gen. 12:1-3 NIV)

The pattern is always the same: God wants to bless his people and thus enable them to share with others. God did not choose Israel and promise to bless that nation so that they could haul in those divine blessings and keep them for themselves. In fact, when they did that, they lost them. His blessings weren't an end in themselves. They were a means to an end. And so the psalmist boldly prayed: "May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine upon us, *that your ways may be known on the earth, your salvation among all nations.*"

We receive God's blessings not only for our (the receiver's) sake but for the sake of those who need to know God. Are we faithfully using our blessings to actively participate more and more in his world-wide missionary endeavor? ■

FEBC Scholarships Available

Students training for Christian ministry may apply for a \$1000 scholarship from the Fellowship. High school seniors and college students may request a scholarship application packet from info@febcministries.org. The FEBC Scholarship Trust Fund, created from bequests and specified gifts, provides the income for the scholarships. Please consider making a special gift to this fund or including the Fellowship in your will.



Fellowship Views

Crosspoint Bennington Campus launch

Crosspoint Bible Church (formerly EBC Omaha) is excited to launch a second campus in Bennington (seven miles northwest of Crosspoint Bible Omaha). The first full service is scheduled for April 12. This is a bold new step for Crosspoint. Former youth pastor Gary Krehbiel will be the campus pastor. Various Crosspoint staff will share the preaching ministry. Crosspoint Bennington will meet at a local school. The congregation will be seeded by many families from Crosspoint Omaha who will make this their home campus. Please pray that the campus will grow quickly as they seek to bring the Gospel to the people of the Bennington area.

Churches seeking pastors

Please ask God to provide pastors for churches without a shepherd. If you know of someone who might be a good fit for these rural/small town churches, please pass this information on to them.

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.

Faith Evangelical Bible Church of Henderson, Nebraska is seeking a Pastor of Student Ministries. Main responsibilities include leading and coordinating Senior High and Junior High youth groups and occasional preaching. To view the complete job description, please go to <http://faithebc.net/ministries/youth-ministry/>. For more information about our church or community, contact Troy Hiebner troy.hiebner@gmail.com.

Hodgson Bible Church of Hodgson, Man., is searching for a pastor who can bring God's Word to a small town, rural setting. For more information, contact Ted Hartog at tchartog@lakenet.ca (phone 204-372-6990) or contact John Plett at john50@mymts.net (phone 204-372-6700).

Vita Bible Church of Vita, Man., is seeking a full-time pastor — someone who has spiritual and character maturity with pastoral experience and is able to connect with rural people in a small farming community. Contact Jake Funk, chairman of Vita Bible Church at (204) 427-2875 or send résumé to Vita Bible Church, PO Box 306, Vita, MB R0A 2K0. ■



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.



Easter Eggs in Colossians

by Paul Boeker

Some software programs have information hidden within them that can be accessed by clicking on a certain icon or pressing a certain combination of keys. These bits of hidden information are called "Easter eggs." With Easter coming so soon, it might be good to have our own Easter egg hunt, but let's do it in Colossians. These Easter eggs are in plain sight, but they blend in so well with the rest of the truth of Colossians, that they are easily overlooked.

You know the characters and events of Easter. Can you find them in Colossians? And what about the effects and significance of Easter? Can you find those as well?

1:1	<i>Christ Jesus/God</i>	<i>Sponsors of Easter</i>
1:2	<i>Saints</i>	<i>Products of Easter</i>
1:2	<i>Grace/Peace</i>	<i>Effects of Easter</i>
1:3	<i>God/Lord Jesus Christ</i>	<i>Benefactors of Easter</i>
1:5		
1:6		
1:6		
1:12		
1:13		
1:14		
1:15-20		
1:20		
1:20		
1:21		
1:24		
2:11,12		
2:13		
2:14		
2:15		

A better word to replace "Easter" would be _____.

Need help finding eggs? Go to page 7.

Making Visits Count (Part 1) *By Julia Quiring Emblen*

Homebound people are often very lonely. They may be forgotten by their friends when they are unable to get out to church services or other events. Fewer visits are also due to the uncertainty that potential visitors feel. Visitors aren't sure how to relate to people who have become so different as they cope with chronic illnesses. So, they send flowers or cards. Or they stop in for a short time to read a few verses from the Bible, pray and leave as quickly as they can — commenting about not wanting to tire the homebound person. But the quick departure often is because the visitor does not know what else to do and has run out of friendly conversation topics. Here are some suggestions a visitor might use to express true caring and Christian love.

Indoor Gardening

On his second visit, Ted found Rives disinterested in general conversation. Ted seemed to hit a blank wall in every conversational direction he tried. So, he thought about some of the hobbies Rives had said he had liked to do. Gardening had been a favorite hobby in past years, but Rives would be physically unable to do much gardening.

So, Ted brought up the idea of setting up a mini flower garden near a window. After discussing with Rives about what he'd like to watch grow, Ted purchased a pottery planter 14 inches in diameter. Rives agreed to try growing a bonsai tree and a few orchids. He had a sunny window that seemed to provide good light. On the next visit, Ted brought garden supplies.

"Rives," Ted said, "I'll put this planter on the table, and you can add the dirt and use the shovel to transfer the plants to the pot."

Ted moved a table, covered it with old newspapers, and put the garden things on the table so Rives could reach it. For the next ten minutes, Rives worked at assembling his garden. When he finished, Ted went to the kitchen sink and brought a small watering can of water and opened the fertilizer bag. Rives stirred in the fertilizer and then carefully poured it around the plants.

"I really like my little garden. I can watch it every day and check it for moisture," Rives happily told Ted. "Before you know it, I'll be giving you an orchid for your wife."

Reading

"Are you interested in reading something together?" Rita asked Susan. She pulled her chair to the right side because she knew that Susan could hear better with her right ear.

"Yes," Susan began, "but I could only bring my Bible when I moved here. I don't have any books to read."

"I have some books at home; we have books in our church library; and then there is the public library where we can get books. What kind of books are your favorites?"

"I always liked to read books about missionaries," Susan stated. "In Sunday school we often suggested books to the children that described missionary adventures."

"I like that kind too. Did you ever read 'Through Gates of Splendor' by Elizabeth Elliott?" Rita asked.

"You know, I always wanted to. Back in the 70s a lot of people were talking about it. But somehow I just never got to it," Susan replied a bit sheepishly.

"I did read it, but it was more than 30 years ago," Rita explained. "I'd love to read the book again."

Homebound people are often very lonely. They may be forgotten by their friends when they are unable to get out to church services or other events.

"I'd like to read the book, too. Now I have lots of time," Susan wistfully commented. "Do you think that we could get a copy?"

"I'm sure that there is a copy in the library. One of my friends will have a copy if we can't get the library copy. GOODWILL® might also have old copies," Rita kept thinking of inexpensive book sources.

"I could pay for a copy," Susan volunteered. "There aren't many people here who read, but maybe somebody else could read it after I have finished with it."

Author Julia Quiring Emblen, a member of the Evangelical Bible Church of Dallas, Ore., has joined with others in her church to rediscover the art of visitation. This article is adapted from her recent book Visiting Mrs. Morgan: A Handbook for Visiting Aging, Homebound and Hospitalized People (Mill Lake Books, 2014). Used by Permission.





Proclaiming Christ around the World

By Marilyn Lester
Commission on Missions

We welcome two new missionary families to our Fellowship. The first family, the Josh Dyck family, has already been on the field a number of years. The second family, the Pietro Cara family, is embarking on a new career.

Josh and Josie Dyck, with their four children, ages 6 to 14, have served under New Tribes Mission in Asia-Pacific since 2006. Their primary ministry is to resource church planting/Bible translation teams among remote people groups across Asia-Pacific. They provide oversight for finances, administration, flight programs, and personnel to enable ministry initiatives. They also provide hospitality and member care to their colleagues, and they serve as a resource for child safety questions and concerns. Their work impacts 150 families/singles among the 20 church planting teams serving in Asia-Pacific.

Josh grew up as a missionary kid in Venezuela. His parents were tribal church planters/translators among the Pumé people. In this setting Josh witnessed the powerful impact God's Word had on the belief system and world view of the Pumé. As these people came to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and grew in their understanding of the Bible, they were freed from the lies of their animistic beliefs (which unbeknownst to them were actually bondage to Satan). They transitioned from utter spiritual darkness to spiritual light, freedom and joy!

This spiritual transformation was the catalyst for Josh to desire to be involved in missions. He attended Bible college in Wisconsin where he met Josie, and they were married in 1996. They lived in Wisconsin for 10 years while Josh continued his education and gained work experience in accounting

and business before going to Asia-Pacific. Personal interests include music, investing, volleyball and guitar.

Josie grew up in a Christian home in a farming community in southern Manitoba, Canada. Her parents had an interest in missions and often had missionary friends in for meals and visits. She remembers watching many slide presentations projected on a white sheet and enjoying the strange foods their friends brought to share. These interactions impacted both Josie and her parents. When she was 15, her family moved to Wisconsin so her parents could attend Bible college and begin missionary training with New Tribes Mission. Moving to a suburb of Milwaukee was a significant adjustment for all, but they knew God was leading them. Josie attended public high school and graduated a year early in 1993. She began Bible college that fall at age 16, and for her first year had the rare experience of attending college with her parents!

Josie met Josh during her second year and they were married after Josh graduated. For several years Josie worked in human resources and served in various roles in Women's Ministries at church from mentoring women and teaching classes to facilitating women's retreats. Personal interests include drawing/painting, cooking, reading, and public speaking.

Pietro and Nichole Cara are in a unique situation. They are returning to Italy where

Missions, continued on Page 13

Relief for Persecuted Christians in Niger

Churches and Christian homes in Niger have been ransacked and burned by angry mobs. You can show love and support to these persecuted people. Send a donation to "Niger Persecution Relief" (NE97308): SIM USA, PO 7900, Charlotte, NC 28241-7900 (800.521.6449). Or give online at <https://web.simusa.org/Give/projects.php> Enter Project ID **97308** and press "Find."



Did you know ...

Fellowship churches support over 84 missionary units which serve in 27 countries. These are building God's kingdom through aviation services, medical care, Bible translation, education, media production, Christian camping, church planting and nurturing, and a host of other skills. Each missionary unit is supported by contributions from churches and generous individuals within our Fellowship. Get to know your church's missionaries and encourage them through email, visits, prayer and financial support.

FEBC Mission Grants Available

College students preparing for a summer mission assignment of six weeks or longer may request a grant from the Commission on Missions. Request an application packet from info@febcministries.org. Applications should be received 60 days before leaving on the assignment.

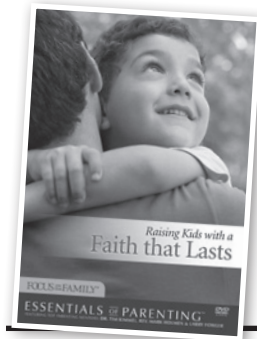


*Joining our hands
to strengthen
His Church*

Is your church looking for good curriculum? Does your Bible study group need a new topic? Check out our Fellowship's Video Library! For example

Essentials of Parenting (focusonthefamily.com)

Everybody needs the essentials! That's what you get in this powerful, entertaining, three-DVD series from Focus on the Family®. *Essentials of Parenting™* brings top childrearing experts into your home or church — with practical wisdom, honest confessions, and decades of experience.



Raising Kids with a Faith that Lasts introduces you to one of your greatest privileges — helping your child begin a relationship with God. You'll see how everyday conversations, family fun, and purposeful projects build spiritual foundations your son or daughter can rely on for a lifetime — and beyond.

Video Library

The Power of Love shows how to enrich and enjoy the bond between your child and yourself. You'll also discover that when it comes to passing along your faith and values, a good relationship with your son or daughter is the sharpest tool in every parent's toolbox.

Be Prepared presents practical plans for dealing with dangers including internet porn, alcohol, drugs, eating disorders, and premarital sex. You'll see how to resist the impulse to overprotect your child — and gain insights to help you prepare him or her for the world of today and tomorrow. (From the publisher)

See more videos at <http://www.fellowshipforward.org/video-lending-library.html>. Contact info@febministries.org to order. ■



Pursue your passion with Youth for Christ Winnipeg.

We're hiring for multiple ministry positions.

Visit yfcwinnipeg.com/careers for more information.

Vision 20/20

Becoming a Proclaiming People

We will be a fellowship of churches that equips and inspires one another so that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is proclaimed by every member of every church at every opportunity.



How many Easter eggs did you find?

1:1	Christ Jesus/God	Sponsors of Easter
1:2	Saints	Products of Easter
1:2	Grace/Peace	Effects of Easter
1:3	God/Lord Jesus Christ	Benefactors of Easter
1:5	hope laid up in Heaven	Purchase of Easter
1:6	gospel	Story of Easter
1:6	Grace of God	Motivation of Easter
1:12	Inheritance of the saints in light	Purchase of Easter
1:13	Delivered us from the domain of darkness/transferred us to the kingdom of his Son	Politics of Easter
1:14	Redemption, the forgiveness of sin	Liberation of Easter
1:15-20	He	Hero of Easter
1:20	Reconcile ...making peace by the blood of his cross	Mission of Easter
1:20	Blood of his cross	Currency of Easter
1:21	And you ... he has reconciled	Transformation of Easter
1:24	Filling up what is lacking in Christ's affliction	Mindset of Easter
2:11,12	Buried with him ... raised with him	Power of Easter
2:13	... having forgiven us all our trespasses	Freedom of Easter
2:14	Record of debt ... nailing it to the cross	Legal Ruling of Easter
2:15	Put to shame ... triumphing over them	Victory of Easter

A better word to replace "Easter" would be **salvation**

FOCUS on our CHURCHES

Evangelical Mennonite Brethren Church

Marion, South Dakota

Randel J. Maass, Pastor

The **Marion EMB Church** continues its “hands on” ministry with our missionaries, **Ken and Sheila Ortmann**. They reported on their ministry at Lives Under Construction Boys Ranch (LUC) on our Harvest Mission Sunday in November. In response, local volunteers with automotive repair experience traveled to Lampe, Missouri to repair tractors, pickups and more.

Every volunteer at LUC is welcomed, and they return with a deep burden for the salvation of souls. They have opportunity to interact with the boys. As a result, the Ortman's' witness is being felt in our community as well.

For our Christmas event, **Pastor Maass** prepared a service of Scriptures and Carols for December 28. **Jeanette and Mark Anderson** of Minnesota, and **Beth Olkiewicz** of Iowa provided organ, piano and vocal music. Additional singers joined them in “Sing Noel, Sing Hallelujah” by Michael W. Smith.

During the winter quarter, each member of the adult Sunday School class is asked to teach at least one Sunday. The material “Grace in the Worst of Times” (Scripture Press), a study of Judges and Ruth, has worked well for this.

Pastor Maass began messages from the Book of Acts the first of the year. This is a great sequence after the Sunday School finished the study of John.

Evelyn Duerksen, Correspondent

Crosspoint Bible Church

Omaha, Nebraska

Dr. Don Pahl, Pastor

Jesus taught one of the greatest Bible lessons of all time while walking along the road (Luke 24). Beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, “he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.” From that beginning, our congregation is walking through the Minor Prophets of the Old Testament searching for Jesus revealed to Israel and to the nations.

April 12 is the launch date for our **Crosspoint Bible Bennington Campus**. **Pastor Gary (and Christi) Krehbiel** will serve as the campus pastor. **Pastors Don Pahl and Gary Krehbiel** will do the bulk of the preaching, assisted by **Pastors Kevin Stone and Josh Klein**. A small team has assisted Gary and Christi in securing the Heritage Elementary School for their campus meetings.

Plans are underway for our annual Hearts for the Harvest, March 7-8, with **Dr. Larry Windle** of Rio Grande Bible Institute (www.riogrande.edu/en) as the speaker. Guests will include **Elwyn and Linda Goossen** (Avant Ministries — Brazil) and **Eugene and Wynette Kliever** (Voice of the Martyrs — Oklahoma), plus a host of local global partners.

Sherrie Lindsey, Correspondent

Grace Evangelical Bible Church

Abbotsford, British Columbia

Ryan Peixoto, Lead Pastor

Pastor Ryan kicked off 2015 with a new message series titled “Ask Anything.” Everyone was invited to submit questions they may have about the Bible, life, God, etc. This has resulted in an overwhelming response.

The Ladies Ministry held a Ladies Movie Night in January, featuring the movie “The Hundred-Foot Journey.” The Ladies ended January with a Coffee Hour featuring a powerful, encouraging testimony by **Becky Schatz** (wife of former pastor) on how the Lord has guided her through many ups and downs in life.

At the January men's breakfast, several men from BC Teen Challenge shared how God has brought them through addiction. BC Teen Challenge (www.bcteenchallenge.com) is a faith-based restoration program for men and women who are trapped in addictions.

We are thrilled with the growth we're seeing at Grace Church. At the Membership/Baptism/Dedication service on Feb. 1, four joined, two were baptized, and seven couples dedicated their children.

Baptisms: Two in February

New Members: Four in February

Diana Dyck, Correspondent



New members at Grace Church



Child Dedication at Grace Church

Focus on our Churches continued on Page 10

FOCUS on our CHURCHES

Continued from Page 9

Dalmeny Bible Church

Dalmeny, Saskatchewan

Dennis Friesen, Pastor

Children and teens did a superb job in their various roles in the Bible Discovery Christmas Program. The three parts presented were: "Little Drummer Boy" (ages 1-3); "The Christmas Story" (age 4-grade 3); and "A Christmas To Believe In" (grades 4-12).

Our church along with the community collected and packed over 20 food baskets which were delivered to friends facing hardships or ongoing sickness.

Joanne Redekop was commissioned on Jan. 4, a few days before she left to minister in Kenya on a church-planting team under AIM for two years.

Pastor Dave and some of his leaders attended the Canadian Youth Workers Conference (www.cywc.ca) in Saskatoon at the end of January.

Marilyn Harder, Correspondent

Countryside Bible Church

Meade, Kansas

Chuck Finster, Pastor

Taylor Wiens was welcomed as the pastor's associate (through August 2016) at an open house hosted by **Pastor Chuck and Kathy Finster**. Taylor grew up in our church and is a recent graduate of The Master's College of Santa Clarita, Calif.

Beginning January 22, our men have the opportunity to study the book, *The Complete Husband*, by Lou Priolo (loupriolo.com).

Pastor Chuck and Kathy will visit Israel in March for the experience of "walking where Jesus walked." Their son, Mark, is studying in Israel this semester under The Master's College IBEX program.

Faith Evangelical Bible Church

Henderson, Nebraska

Michael Fink, Pastor

In response to a series of messages on the doctrine of persecution, our church filled and sent Outreach Packs to Voice of the Martyrs for Syrians refugees. Voice of the Martyrs (www.persecution.com) ministers to persecuted believers throughout the world.

Our church hosted an "Answers in Genesis" conference February 28 - March 1. Topics included: Fossils, Grand Canyon, the Flood, Dinosaurs and Dragons. We also learned about the "Consequences of the Path You Choose," the "Relevance of Creation," and the "Mystery of Ancient Man."

For more than a year our church has been praying about how we can minister to our youth in a more effective way. We are now actively searching for a Pastor of Student Ministries to provide leadership for the high school, junior high and pre-teen ministries of our church.

Alice Decker, Correspondent

Northeast Bible Church

Calgary, Alberta

John Fehr, Pastor

A large number of guests packed our church on Christmas Eve. All visiting children were invited to join with our Junior Church members as they rang bells and sang their special songs. **Henry Ogbomo** gave a powerful message on the "Dimensions of God's Love" from Ephesians 3:18, and challenged us to consider how well we loved others.

At our annual meeting in February, **Pastor John** encouraged us to form deeper, authentic connections with each member of our church family. We explored ways we could reach out to people and invite them to join us in fellowship.

Julie Ann Simpson, Correspondent



Children at Northeast Bible celebrate Christmas Eve

Grunthal EMB Church

Grunthal, Manitoba

Since we are without a pastor right now, we enjoy various speakers. Through December and January, **James Thiessen, Henry Armstrong, Jake Goertzen, Bob Johnson, Rick Neufeld, Jared Fast** and **Randy Fast** ministered to us. These months without a full-time pastor can still be a time of spiritual learning and growth for us as a church!

Please pray for the elders of our church: **Simon Reimer, Allen Thiessen**, and new elders, **Ryan Froese** and **Jeremy Froese** as they grapple with the many decisions leading the church. Pray also for wisdom for the pastoral search committee as it seeks God's direction in finding the right pastor for our fellowship.

In January, we held a potluck lunch and fundraiser for **Cynda**, an international student from Asia. Her financial needs were met for her next semester at Providence College and Seminary. Praise the Lord! Our fellowship has been blessed to have about a dozen international students worshipping with us. Pray that we will be an encouragement to them in their faith, as they are an encouragement to us!

Marilyn D. Thiessen, Correspondent

Stuartburn Gospel Chapel
Stuartburn, Manitoba
Mark Funk, Pastor

It has become our tradition to begin the New Year with a few days of prayer, so we spent four evenings of the first week gathering to reflect on Psalm 85:6 (NIV) "Will you not yourself revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?" Each evening focused on an aspect of prayer including: **Awe** — recapturing the wonder of meeting with God; **Cleansing** — praying for a right heart; **Church** — praying for Christ's bride; and **World** — praying for the lost, near and far. After a short lesson by **Pastor Mark**, we broke into small groups to share and pray. By forming different small groups each evening, we were able to build relationships with many members of our church family. This was such a rewarding experience that we have embarked on an informal mission of intentionally building relationships, both within and outside the church.

In January **Bruce Peters** of Advancing Indigenous Missions gave us a taste of India through his slide presentation and then spoke on how to pray for missions and missionaries.

Women's Ministries held their annual Pie and Praise evening in early February. At this event the ladies change their prayer partners and begin a year of building into each other's lives in a personal and intentional way. Of course, pie is a welcome addition to any occasion!

A teacher training seminar in February will be led by **Pastor Mark Funk** and **Judy Thiessen** using *Understanding Teaching* from the Evangelical Training Association (www.etaworld.org).

Sue Hoy, Correspondent

In December **Evangelical Bible Church** sent three young people and one adult to Ecuador for a short term mission trip. The team (**Ken, John, Josh and Savannah**) worked with Extreme Response International (ERI) (www.extremeresponse.org).

Each year ERI celebrates Christmas with thousands of the poorest of the poor. These celebrations bring hope to the hopeless, build trust and cultivate relationships that ERI has already developed. ERI is designed to bring help and hope to those in need, with particular emphasis on at-risk children and women.

Our team partnered with ERI to provide gifts, food, games, crafts, face painting and lots of hugs. Our church family filled four very large suitcases with over 1000 Beanie Babies! The "Beanies" were added to the gift bags given to the children in Quito.

One of these parties was held at the Quito dump site. When Extreme Response first began having parties in this area, about 300 people who lived and worked in this area attended. Now over 2400 residents enjoy the Christmas celebration each year.

Our team reported to our congregation in January, sharing many stories and pictures. It was an awesome experience for each of them, and they encouraged others to participate in missions. We are so proud of them!



*EBC-Dallas
Quito Team
with Beanie
Babies*

Evangelical Bible Church
Dallas, Oregon
Jerry Franz, Pastor

In January **Tim Brooks** was commissioned to work with Mission Aviation Fellowship in Indonesia as an aircraft mechanic. We are honoured to partner with Tim, and we are excited to see what God has in store for him.

Also in January, several from our church, including some high school students, attended the annual Northwest Missions ConneXion (missionconnexion.com). This year's conference helped us understand how to care for our missionaries both on and off the field.

Awana is going strong — with attendance of about 230-240 each week. The annual Awana Grand Prix ran in January. Several clubbers designed and entered a soap box derby car. We had the opportunity to meet and hear from our new Awana missionaries, Wes and Jennifer Miller.

MOPs (Mothers of Pre-schoolers) continue to add new members — and babies! Meetings are well-attended as speakers touch on some of the challenges facing young mothers.

Women's Ministry held its annual Candlelight Desert in December. Our Activity Center was transformed into a starlit Night of Wonder, as seen through the eyes of a child. Nikki Hughes, author of "Don't Talk Frustrated at Me, I'm Beautiful," (a collection of tales about her wonderful and crazy life as a mom) was our speaker.

New members: Two in January

Vicki Kibbey, EBC Correspondent

Salem Church
Waldheim, Saskatchewan
Darrell Durksen, Senior Pastor

A wise man once said that good things do not come to us easily. Good things are normally a product of vision and planning. This has been the experience of the team that is working hard to see our new Christian Education wing and multi-purpose room become a reality. They still face challenges, but anticipate breaking ground in March. We invite others in our Fellowship to pray with us that God's will is done in and through this building project.

An impromptu Women's evening was planned to provide an opportunity to hear from **Chantal**. She and her husband work in a very difficult place in the world. She had a strong word of encouragement connecting her experiences with the importance of our ongoing prayer ministry. They live in a dangerous place only because God has called them to be there. Using the Biblical analogy of the body of Christ, she described themselves as the hands for Salem's beating heart. Those present described a deep sense of the presence of God as ladies dropped to their knees in prayer for the future ministry of this couple.

Pastor Lee is leading our Senior Youth group into an urban mission experience. Although the distance traveled will be short, the culture will be very different from life in Waldheim. By partnering with MB Mission and its SOAR program (www.mbmission.org/soar), several of our youth will have the opportunity to love and serve those who are on the fringe of our society. Pray that our youth will grow in compassion and see with new eyes the power of God's Spirit to bring hope and transformation to people's lives.

Lois Alpine, Correspondent

Focus on our Churches continued on Page 12

Continued from Page 11

Jansen Bible Church

Jansen, Nebraska

Paul Carpenter, Pastor

Awana Grand Prix races were held on February 8.

The Sweetheart Banquet, our outreach to adults, was held February 14 with Fellowship President, Blaine Donaldson, as the guest speaker.

Our Spring Bible Conference is scheduled for March 20–22. Dr. John Neimela and Frank Tyler will provide instruction on how to witness to cult missionaries who may knock at your door, as well as how to share the gospel with atheists and agnostics.

Correspondent, Tena Dick

Community Bible Church

Omaha, Nebraska

Charles Tschetter, Senior Pastor

CBC is hoping to accomplish several goals in the new year. Our desire to plant a daughter church in Omaha continues, but has been put on hold in 2015 as we seek to enhance our small group ministry and further develop the ministry of music and worship. We are committed to our partnership with Abide in north Omaha and look forward to seeing a family live in our adopted neighborhood after we finish the work on our “Lighthouse” (See www.abideomaha.org/programs/housing-2).

Dr. Bob Wilkin of the Grace Theological Society led us in exploring *Doubt and the New Calvinism: The Current Crisis in Assurance*, at a November conference held at CBC.

Through Advent Conspiracy (in which we seek to celebrate Christmas differently), we joined together to contribute to projects in St. Vincent, Asia and Omaha, with giving totaling more than \$25,000.

Sharon Berg, Correspondent

Cornerstone Bible Church

Steinbach, Manitoba

Jared Hiebert, Senior Pastor

We at Cornerstone are excited by the growth the Lord is blessing us with. On February 1 we affirmed two new deacon couples, Billy and Carey Reimer as well as Tony and Bertha Penner. On February 15 we will affirm two new elders, Cam Hiebert and Bob Bartel as well as a new Family Life Pastor, Eric Honsberger. We are also eagerly anticipating another baptism and membership celebration mid-March.

Marsella Wiebe, Correspondent

Vita Bible Church

Vita, Manitoba

A highlight during the Christmas season was the Adult Christmas Banquet. On Dec. 6, a delicious catered meal was followed by a gift exchange game, singing and fellowship. What a joy to share laughter and build relationships!

January also brought with it a guest speaker as well as several speakers from our own congregation. On Jan. 4 **Dave Loeppky** spoke to us about redemption. Jan. 11 we were blessed to have **Rev. Paul Clerc** from Winnipeg share his message entitled “The Saviour of Sinners.” The following Sunday on Jan. 18th **Dan Rempel** spoke to us about “The Blessings of a Believer.” Then on Jan. 25 **Jon Klassen** brought the message. We are very thankful to have these men speak to us as the church continues its search for a pastor. We ask that you continue to pray for the Vita Bible Church and the pastoral search committee as we continue the search.

Rachel Funk, Correspondent

Cornerstone Welcomes New Pastor

Eric Honsberger began his ministry as Family Life Pastor at Cornerstone Bible Church in Steinbach, Manitoba on February 15. The Cornerstone family is excited to have Eric join their leadership team!

Eric grew up as the son of Wycliffe translators. He admits that he “spent the first 20 years of his life suppressing the truth in unrighteousness.” But then he was saved by His glorious grace! The road the Lord has taken Eric and his wife Kara toward pastoral ministry has included camp work, preaching and teaching in the local church, and a pastoral apprenticeship program. He holds a B.A. in Biblical and Theological Studies from Providence College and was enrolled three semesters at Southern Seminary

in Louisville, Kentucky, working on an M. Div. degree. He is continuing work on this through distance learning.

Eric says, “I love the Lord Jesus Christ and his blood-bought people. I pray the Lord uses me for his people’s progress and joy in the faith, as well as in calling others into that same faith: death to life; darkness to light — to the praise of his glorious grace.” Eric and his wife Kara have four children: Riley, Micah, Keziah, and Haddon.



Webinar on Bible Study Methods

Philemon: The Little Book of Relationships

Do the words “Bible study” make you think of some mysterious process that should only be attempted by a professional scholar? Actually, there is nothing mysterious about Bible study. It follows the same rules we use every day to understand written material. And Bible study is not just for the professional. God intended for each of us to be able to read his word with understanding and teach it to others.

You are invited to join a six hour webinar spanning three Saturday mornings: April 18, 25 and May 2. Each week two topics will be covered in two sessions of about 45-minutes with a short break in between. You will receive a printable syllabus in advance to guide you through the study and help you retain what you’ve learned.

This study will focus on the book of Philemon. The methods of Bible study covered include:

- 1 – **CSI Examines Philemon** (Observation)
- 2 – **Meet the Characters** (Biographical study)
- 3 – **Context — the Container that Shapes our Perspective** (Historical study)
- 4 – **Words at Work** (Rhetorical study)
- 5 – **Meeting God in Philemon** (Theological study)
- 6 – **Repairing Relationships in Christ** (Synthetic study)

The webinar will be led by Paul Boeker. He holds a M.Div. from Grace Theological Seminary and has over 40 years of experience in expository preaching and lesson development. He has taught students on all levels from grade school to college.

All you need is a computer (with speakers/headphone) and an internet connection. Some churches may stream the webinar for a group or pay the registration for their teachers. Caution: This study may result in an urge to teach God’s word.

Register at www.fellowshipforward.org. ■

Missions, continued from Page 7

Pietro’s family lives. They will come alongside an organized but struggling church. Pietro will assist the church with expertise learned while in Canada. The Caras have six children ranging in ages from 15 to 4. They expect to arrive in Italy in March.

The Caras have been connected with the Salem Church of Waldheim, Sask. for seven years. When asked if they were in agreement with the FEBC Statement of Faith, they replied, “Yes! It was one of the determining factors of why we became members of Salem Church seven years ago. We researched denominations and fellowships online, found the FEBC Statement of Faith, and then looked for an FEBC church in our area.” The Salem Church fully supports the Cara family to the point of being their sending agency partnering together with MSC Canada (formerly Missionary Service Committee, Inc.). MSC Canada will handle all finances and legal and government documents for the Caras.

As a sending agent, Salem Church is responsible to provide “ministry-specific direction and spiritual oversight to the worker. Any ministry the workers are engaged in is an extension of the sending local church’s ministry and outreach,” according to MSC Canada’s guidelines. The Cara Ministry Accountability Team (MAT) at Salem Church will provide oversight and direction for the Caras as they set goals, measure achievements, and realign goals to make sure they remain achievable and pertinent. In return, the Caras are accountable to the Missions and Evangelism Committee of Salem, specifically MAT. A Care Team will print newsletters and promote the Cara’s work in various ways. The Care Team is responsible to promote prayer and keep the church personally connected to the Caras and vice versa. The Caras are spiritually accountable to the church through this Care Team and will operate much like any other workers in local ministries at Salem Church.

Pietro explained: “Our vision is to see Italian churches challenged and equipped to effectively fulfil the Great Commission through evangelism and discipleship. Our mission is to equip the Italian churches with practical discipleship tools and training, empowering them to effectively disciple believers from infancy to maturity who in turn are prepared and committed to repeat the discipleship process.” Pietro shared that Italian churches include very few men and thus often lack spiritual leadership. He will go to a church he is familiar with and begin helping in any way he can to bring the church to maturity in Christ.

Please stand by these missionaries by praying and encouraging them as you are able. If you would like more information about these missionaries or would like to connect with them, please contact the Fellowship at info@febcministries.org. ■

Fairview Bible Welcomes New Pastor

Fairview Bible Church of Swift Current, Sask. has called Daniel Butt as their lead pastor. Though he began in December, his installation service was March 2.

He was born in Alberta, but Daniel grew up in the Okanagan Valley in British Columbia. After sensing a call to ministry early in life, Daniel travelled to Edinburgh, Scotland to attend the Faith Mission Bible College. After completing a Theological Diploma, Daniel returned to Canada in 2010 with his newly married wife, Hannah. Shortly thereafter Daniel took a position in a Baptist church in Vernon, B.C. where he was a Pastoral Intern for three

years. During this time he continued his academic study through correspondence at Northwest Baptist Seminary (Langley, B.C.), graduating in spring of 2015 with a Master of Divinity degree.



Daniel and Hannah have a daughter named Charlotte. Some of his interests are (in no particular order): spending time with family, study, hiking, drinking coffee while reading a good book, and fountain pens.



Marriages

Evangelical Bible Church, Dallas, Ore.

♥ Tessa Connolly to Mitch Cavender, Jan. 17

Evangelical Mennonite Brethren, Marion, S.D.

♥ Charlene Dick, daughter of Doyle and the late Connie Dick to Jesse Randall, son of Marlene and the late Scott Randall, Nov. 1, 2014.

Jansen Bible Church, Jansen, Neb.

♥ Shaun Rempel, son of Dave and Jacki Rempel, to Crystal Jazbec, on Sept 24, 2014. Crystal's children, Destiny (8), Hunter (7), and Logan (5), also joined the Rempel family.

Salem Church, Waldheim, Sask.

♥ Erika Block, daughter of Milton and Kelly Block to Nicholas (Nic) Wiens, son of Rod and Brenda Wiens, Dec. 27, 2014.

Births/Adoptions

Crosspoint Bible Church, Omaha, Neb.

♥ Maxton to Jeff and Kim Kliewer, Dec. 17, grandparents are Leon and Dianne Kliewer; great-grandparents are Paul and Mildred Kliewer

♥ Avery to Casey and Tiffany Vohnout, Jan. 12; grandparents are Gary and Arla Vohnout

Evangelical Bible Church, Dallas, Ore.

♥ Kadence Erickson to Adam and Sarah Erickson, Dec. 26, 2014

Jansen Bible Church, Jansen, Neb.

♥ Colter James to Warren and Avery Jennings, Jan. 5

Northeast Bible Church, Calgary, Alb.

♥ Kennley Osarumwense to Destiny and Tessy Iyamu, Aug. 20, 2014

♥ Michelle Elinam, to Daniel and Mary Dawson, Oct 10, 2014

Salem Church, Waldheim, Sask.

♥ Asher Nickolai Livingston, to Dylan and Michelle Thiessen, Jan. 28; grandparents are Gerald and Betty Anne Thiessen

♥ Mila Joy Kathie, born to Cody and Melissa Speiser, Feb. 2, grandparents are Rudy and Barb Speiser

♥ Valin Hunter, born to Terry and Conroy Weir, Dec. 11, 2014; grandparents are Doug and Deborah Thiessen; great-grandparents are Harvey and Agnes Thiessen

Cornerstone Bible Church, Steinbach, Man.

♥ Calvin Joel born to Alexander and Angelika Goossen on Dec. 1, 2014

♥ Aaron Peter born to Greg and Kim Dyck on Jan. 31; grandparents are Myron and Shirley Thiessen.

Deaths

Crosspoint Bible Church, Omaha, Neb.

† Gilbert Backens (87), Nov. 26, 2014

Dalmeny Bible Church, Dalmeny, Sask.

† Abe Goertzen (98), Jan. 3

Evangelical Bible Church, Dallas, Ore.

† Adeline Fast (90), Dec. 10, 2014

† Marjorie Yost (95), Dec. 25, 2014

† Helen Hiebert (91) Dec. 27, 2014

† Ruth Berger (89) Jan. 7

† Harvey Classen (84) Jan. 25

Evangelical Mennonite Brethren Church, Marion, S.D.

† Martha Becker (102), Nov. 10, 2014

Jansen Bible Church, Jansen, NE.

† Captain George E. Smith (89), Dec. 30, 2014

Richer Fellowship Church, Richer, Man.

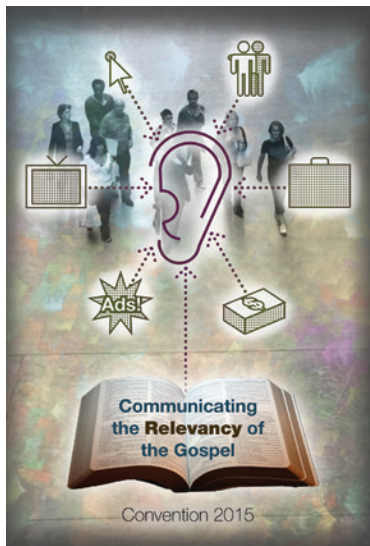
† Georgina Sopko (84), Jan. 6

Community Bible Church, Omaha, Neb.

† Dwayne Ames (71), Jan. 10

Cornerstone Bible Church, Steinbach, Man.

† Sarah Hiebert (86), Dec. 31, 2014



FEBC Annual Convention



Communicating the Relevancy of the Gospel

The Fellowship of Evangelical Bible Churches is pleased to invite you to our 121st Convention, July 15-18, at Grace Evangelical Bible Church, Abbotsford, B.C. Our theme this year is "Communicating the Relevancy of the Gospel." Many more details will be posted on our website www.fellowshipforward.org.

Calendar of Events:

July 14 – Commission Members arrive

July 15 – Commissions meet; Delegates arrive for dinner at 5:30 p.m.

July 15 – 18 – Convention Sessions

Meet our Host

Grace Evangelical Bible Church has been affiliated with the FEBC since its founding in 1946. Grace Church believes that God has placed all of us on this planet for a spiritual purpose. We are called together to help others and to show them God's love in many different ways.

Grace Church is a community where people are discovering ways in which God wants to use them to fulfill His purposes in the world. Their desire is for people to deepen their relationship with Jesus, grow in their knowledge of God, develop the gifts and strengths that God has given them and help them find a place to put those gifts and strengths to work for the kingdom of God (taken from webpage www.graceabbotsford.com/about). Come see how they are "Loving People to Passionately Follow Jesus."

Abbotsford is a beautiful "City in the Country" just outside of Vancouver, B.C. It combines a rich farm heritage, hospitality, ethnic diversity, and urban culture. Abbotsford boasts great shopping experiences, art studios, historic communities, and working farms. The Circle Farm Tour features numerous establishments which cater to individuals and families. For those who enjoy outdoor adventures, Abbotsford features excellent cycling, mountain biking, and hiking. History buffs and art aficionados can wander through the many historic neighborhoods, art studios, and galleries. Come for convention and stay to relax!

Explore the possibilities:

- Abbotsford – www.tourismabbotsford.ca
- British Columbia Tourism — www.hellobc.com/
- Vancouver Island — www.vancouverisland.travel/
- Butchart Gardens — www.butchartgardens.com/
- Whidbey Island — www.whidbeycamanoislands.com/
- Seattle — www.seattle.gov/visiting-seattle
- Mount Hood — www.fs.usda.gov/mthood/
- Mount St. Helens — www.fs.usda.gov/mountsthelens



Convention Project

Each summer the Fellowship promotes a project that impacts God's Kingdom outside of our Fellowship. Our project this year will assist UIM Aviation (UIMA), a ministry that supports the mission of developing reproducing, culturally relevant churches among the people living in the rugged Sierra Madre Mountains of northern Mexico. UIMA partners with tribal missionaries, the local Mexican church, and humanitarian relief teams to help indigenous churches develop within their own unique culture and setting.

Right now, UIMA desires to test out a helicopter in the mountains surrounding Tepic. Their pilots are continually flying for Mexican and Huichol pastors who are passionate about reaching remote villages for Christ. But, what happens when the villages are too far from the airstrip, and there are no roads to reach them? This is where a helicopter might come in handy.

In order to assess whether a helicopter would be effective, UIMA will lease a helicopter and perform a feasibility study in the near future (\$10,000 needed for fall of 2015). The Huichol and Mexican pastors served by UIMA are ecstatic about the possibility of being able to reach these remote people groups for Christ.

Help us to partner with UIMA (<http://uimaviation.com/>) and FEBC missionaries Bryan and Sandy Brock and Tony and Suanne Harmon to help these pastors and missionaries reach villages even more isolated than an airplane can reach.

Fellowship Focus is published by the
Fellowship of Evangelical Bible Churches
11605 W Dodge RD STE 3, Omaha Nebraska 68154-2566
NO ENDORSEMENT

INTL SURFACE AIR LIFT
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
OMAHA NE
PERMIT NO. 922

Catch the Vision

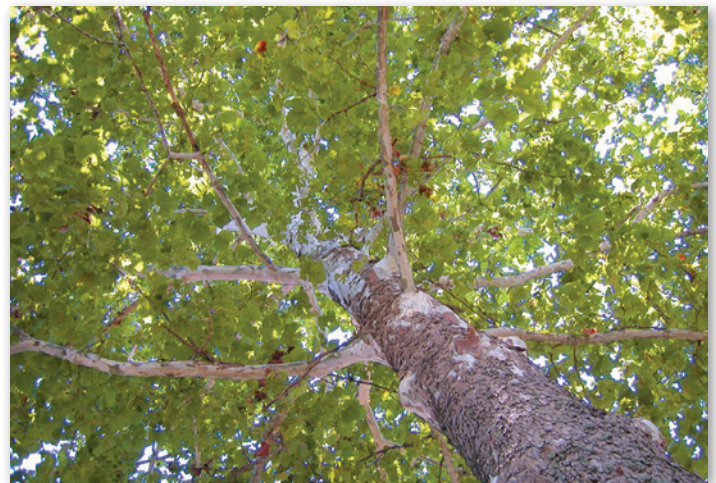
FINDING ZACCHAEUS

By Jennifer Funk

What would have ever become of little Zacchaeus if Jesus had not stopped; looked up into that sycamore tree; called him by name; and gone to his home that day? What a missed opportunity that would have been! Zacchaeus' life changed drastically that day.

We all know the story of Zacchaeus, don't we (Luke 19:1-10). Zacchaeus had heard of Jesus and was curious. Do you know anyone like that? Spiritually curious people are out there — they're closer than you think. How do I find a Zacchaeus? What did Jesus do? He stopped and looked and saw a person with a need. If we are too much in a hurry, we won't see anyone. We must stop and take a look around us. "Well," you might say, "How do I know if they have a need or not?" You might have to actually ask them their name and start a conversation. It really can be done. Trust me.

Recently I met a lady for the first time, and we started chatting. I discovered that she knew who I was. It didn't take long to find out that she was lonely. She eagerly invited me for coffee at her house. How easy it would have been to say (as we often do), "Yeah, that's great; let's get together sometime. See you later." But since I've been trying to think more along the lines of intentional relationships, instead I said, "I'm driving past your place on Tuesday afternoon around 2 o'clock, how does that work for you?" She was very glad, gave me her phone number, and we went our separate ways. I stopped by on Tuesday and had a wonderful time learning about her life. We talked about the Lord, and I even shared some of my testimony with her. What an opportunity! I'm so glad I didn't miss that one like I've missed so many others.



It's up to you. Can you be brave enough to stop and look around at people? Can you be brave enough to start a conversation with someone new (even in your own church)? Can you even be so bold as to go have coffee with someone in their home or even invite them to your home?

Keep in mind the command "Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity" Colossians 4:5 (NLT). I challenge you to go out and find your "Zacchaeus" and see what the Lord has in store for you.

Jennifer Funk lives in Stuartburn, Manitoba. She is the wife of Pastor Mark Funk (Stuartburn Gospel Chapel), mother of four, and is involved in children's and music ministries in the church. ■

