

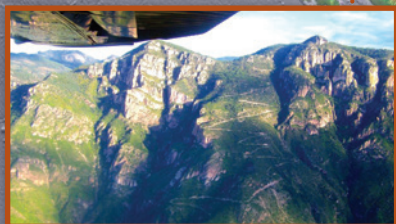
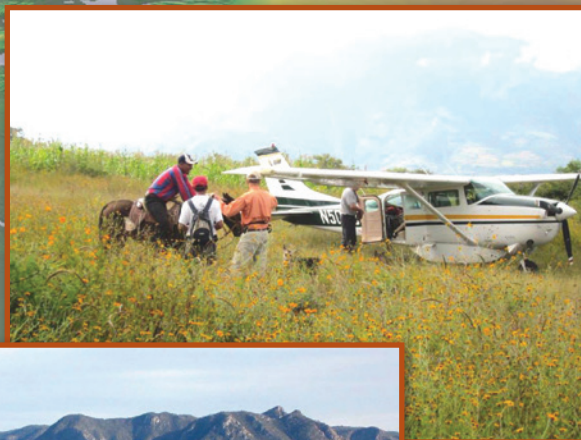
A PUBLICATION OF THE FELLOWSHIP OF EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCHES



Fellowship Focus

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Annual Convention Project



*New Life for Old Plane;
New Life for Huichol People*

Photos courtesy of UIM Aviation



President's Challenge

Blaine Donaldson, President, Fellowship of Evangelical Bible Churches

Well-Intentioned Dragons

About twenty years ago, Marshall Shelley wrote the book *Well-Intentioned Dragons*. The subtitle was "Ministering to Problem People in the Church." From my experience with these situations, I fully understand that it feels like they are problem people, but I think that it is unhelpful to act as if the people are the problem. Rather, they are brothers or sisters¹ with problems. This is not just a semantic distinction, but a substantive distinction as it relates to the way that we look at people.

May I state that I am not writing this thinking of any specific situations in any of our churches. I am writing this as general counsel as these situations come up from time to time. Each church situation is unique, but it would be helpful to keep some principles in the front of our minds as we deal with conflict in the church.

Principle 1: Stay Humble

In almost all conflict, we have contributed to the conflict. We have not communicated effectively. We have not demonstrated love, patience and caring effectively. We have not been as observant as we should have been. In many cases, we ourselves have behaved badly by gossiping, ascribing bad motives when none exist, believing every bad thing about a brother or sister, misrepresenting or lying about a person, etc. Most of us are proud creatures, and we need to humble ourselves. We need to pull the log out of our own eyes. The spirit of humility should be pervasive as we deal with conflict in the church.

Principle 2: See the person

I hate to hear leaders describe people in the church as "the problem." Do we forget the extent of the love that Jesus has for this person? Do we forget that this *problem* is a person whom Jesus loves so much that he laid down his life for them? I know that people willfully do terrible things, and they will give an account for them at the judgment seat of Christ. But the real enemy is the devil. Think of the person you know who has caused the most grief in your church. This is a child of God who has been deceived in so many ways. Again, I know that they are accountable to the Lord, but they are also victims. Jesus lives in them, and yet they have allowed the devil to gain a foothold. They have somehow insulated themselves from the changes that the Holy Spirit is working to do in them. I think that it is helpful to see each one as a child of God who is straying, rather than a monster who is destroying.

Do we forget that this *problem* is a person whom Jesus loves so much that he laid down his life for them?

Principle 3: ALWAYS seek restoration

At times church discipline is necessary. Sometimes a person must be banned from attending church services, but this does not mean that we should ever be happy when a

person leaves the church. Jesus told the story of the shepherd who left the ninety-nine to seek the one that was straying. When such a person with problems leaves the church, the shepherds have failed. It was their job to help the straying person be restored to the Lord and to the local body. There may not have been anything more that they could do, but it should sicken them to lose a straying sheep. In many cases, shepherds are secretly (or not so secretly) glad when a person, a child of God, leaves the church. This is less than God calls us to be. It is not human to love when a sheep strays in this way, but Jesus loves this way, and he calls us to do the same. We love, always seeking restoration. No matter what sin has been done, our goal needs to be repentance and restoration.

These principles are not just hard — they are impossible in the flesh. Only as we are connected to and controlled by the Holy Spirit can we be the kind of Christians that God wants us to be.

¹I am speaking of people who claim to have faith in Christ. I assume for this article that they are born again. I do not think that the application of the principles would change much, if it turned out that the person was not a believer at all.

President's Itinerary

April 27–30	Small Town Pastors' Conference, Morton, Ill.
May 11–12	CAN Missions Conference at Avant Ministries in Kansas City, Mo.
May 25	Lakeland Ministry Trip
June 28	Michigan Ministry Trip
July 15	FEBC Convention

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.



Comment

by Paul Boeker, Editor



The exciting news for Nikki Krause, our layout director, is that she and her husband are awaiting a new baby! This addition means that Nikki will no longer have time to layout the *Fellowship Focus*. I am so grateful for the year she has given us with her professional skills and servant spirit. Thank you, Nikki!

Adrianna Donaldson did layout for a few issues in 2012. Now she has been hired as the Publishing Specialist for the Fellowship. Adrianna will begin to layout the *Fellowship Focus* along with other publishing assignments. Welcome, Adrianna!

Missions has been the heartbeat of our Fellowship since its beginning in 1889. True, we have less career missionaries than we did three decades ago, but our congregations still have a heart for missions. Pages 8 and 9 outline some of the creative ways our churches and members are involved throughout the world.

Grab your passport and head to the FEBC Convention in Abbotsford, B.C. Page 15 has an update on the convention project and speaker. Schedules and registration info will be on the web at www.fellowshipforward.org. Church delegates are the communication line to keep your church informed of Fellowship progress and activities.

Serving Christ with you,

Paul

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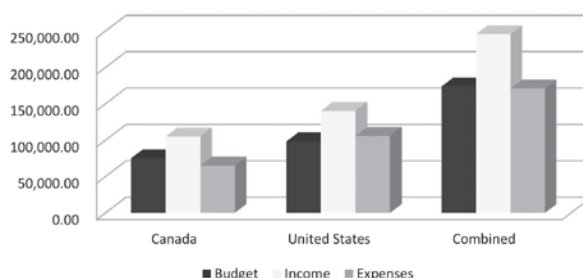
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Financial Report FY2015 First Quarter



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

<http://www.fellowshipforward.org>



Fellowship Views

Crosspoint Bennington launched

Crosspoint Bible Church (formerly EBC Omaha) has launched its second campus. Pastor Gary Krehbiel is serving as campus pastor. About seventy Crosspoint members have made the move to the Bennington campus for Sunday mornings. Each campus will have live music and preaching most Sundays. Messages will be coordinated as pastors work together for sermon development. Scriptures and emphasis will be the same, but communicated in the particular style of the preacher. Crosspoint Bennington and Crosspoint Omaha people will join together for programs like Awana, MUMs, Iron Sharpeners and Connections small groups. For an expansion, this is a different model than FEBC churches have used before. We are excited to see what the Lord is going to do.

Salem prepares to say farewell to Youth Pastor Lee Young

After ten years of service as youth pastor at Salem Church of Waldheim, Sask, Pastor Lee Young has submitted his resignation. God has made it clear to Lee and Bree that he was leading them to a teaching role. They are still determining how this might take shape, but they are stepping out in faith for the next steps of their journey with the Lord. They are leaving Salem after a very successful ministry. They love and will deeply miss the community of Waldheim, and they will be deeply missed as well. Salem Church is going through a process of assessing their staff needs as they move into the future.

Randville Bible Church Has Lead Pastor

Several months ago, Randville Bible Church hired Jim Janofski (his wife is Lonnie) to serve as lead pastor. Jim has served previously as a lead pastor in a Baptist General Conference church just north of the Randville community in Witch Lake, Mich. We are excited to see the Lord provide for this little church, and Jim has been very blessed to be serving there.

Paradise Valley celebrates ten years

Congratulations to Paradise Valley Church of Natoma, Kansas. Pastor Ben MacConnell wrote, "It's hard to believe, but Paradise Valley Church will be celebrating ten years of ministry on April 19, 2015. God has blessed us immensely over the last decade, and we desire to praise Him for His goodness and grace towards Paradise Valley Church. The years have definitely proved to us that Paradise Valley Church is part of God's Church. He's made sure that all the bills were paid on time every month and that, through sacrificial giving of faithful people and churches, money was always available to pay the church's obligations. He also saw fit that people felt comfortable and accepted when attending. This church has been and continues to be a lighthouse for those seeking refuge from the storms of life. It has also been a light upon the hill of Calvary to those in need of forgiveness and salvation."

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) 653-297 or (406) 471-3030 (cell). Résumés may also be mailed to 330 Dawson St., Wolf Point, MT 59201.

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. ■

Legacy Giving

A Child with Generous Faith

by Paul Boeker

Legacy giving usually concerns wills and major gifts — and people thinking of the legacy they want to leave behind. But godly generosity should not be an end-of-life decision. In Christian families generosity should be a childhood practice. How are you training your children to be generous toward God?

Can you enlist their help to choose and pack groceries — then secretly deliver them to an unemployed family? Can you let them contribute to a family money box that will be used to help a family with a medical emergency pay for meals or travel expenses? Do you point out generous people to your children and hold them up as models?



And missions — do you involve your children? Our extended family once took on a Thanksgiving project to help pastors in Mali. Each family member was encouraged to contribute something to help one pastor purchase a bicycle, and another a hand cultivator. Even the child who could only give a few coins felt a part of the project. Many mission agencies now have a "wish list" on their websites in the fall to encourage families to fund a project.

A favorite character of the Gospels is the little unnamed "lad" who brought a lunch to the "Jesus on the Shore" event. When Jesus prepared to feed the huge crowd, only one person had a lunch. This boy with generous faith gave his five little loaves and two small fish to Jesus. And Jesus multiplied it to satisfy the crowd. Will you help your child develop generous faith? ■



Focus on the Word

Possible or Impossible: Is *That* the Question?

by Harvey E. Schultz

What conclusion do we reach when we read the scriptures on the right? Do we conclude that **it was possible for him not to sin**? Or do we conclude that **it was impossible for him to sin**? I'm sure many readers have heard about this debate among theologians.

Take the first statement: *It was possible for him not to sin*. That suggests that Jesus *could* have fallen into sin but didn't. But that is unthinkable because he is God! So, the second proposition must be the correct one: *It was impossible for him to sin*.

But if that is true, in what sense was it a temptation like ours? Every time I am tempted to sin, there is very real possibility that I will sin. If that wasn't true of Christ, how can we say that he was tempted like we are?

Perhaps the questions posed above are the *wrong* questions! They are "wrong" in the sense that they deter us from discerning the real value of Christ's temptation for us.

Someone might say, "How does Jesus know how I feel when I am tempted? How does he know how to help me? After all, he wasn't really tempted because it was *impossible* for him to sin. But for me, yielding to temptation is a very real possibility every time I am tempted. So how can Jesus help me?"

Jesus is not only the Savior who died for our sins, but he is also our *example* or *role*

model. It is in this role that his temptation becomes significant for each one of us. He did not win the victory because he was God. It was as a *perfect man* that he was victorious. Jesus did not use his divine power to defeat Satan when tempted.

During his life on earth Jesus did not use his divine power to enable him to live his daily life. He didn't accomplish miracles to help himself out of difficult situations. He didn't accomplish miracles to overcome his own fatigue, hunger or thirst. As our perfect example, his whole earthly life was a demonstration of a life lived in complete *submission* to the Father — as you and I are supposed to live — and in *dependence* upon the Holy Spirit — as you and I are supposed to live.

That's why his temptation is so important for us. He showed us how to be victorious by limiting himself to the resources that you and I have at our disposal when tempted in order to show us how to have victory.

What were those resources? The *Word* of God. The *exercise* of his own will and trust in God's power. His mind was saturated with God's Word. That enabled him to discern satanic tricks and lies. Although he was a man of intense feelings and deep cravings, Jesus did not let his conduct be dictated either by his feelings or by his legitimate desires. Rather, he chose to act according to God's Word in submission to God's will. Having done that, he depended on God to do the rest.

"Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil" (Matt.4:1).

"... But we have one who was tempted in every way, just as we are — yet was without sin" (Heb. 4:15).

"... God cannot be tempted by evil" (James 1:13).

Against such a "No!" Satan was powerless. And the good news is that even today Satan is powerless when you and I, in obedience to the Word and in dependence upon God, exercise our wills and take our stand against our enemy. God's promise is: **"Resist the devil and he will flee from you" (James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8, 9)**. He doesn't flee because he is afraid of us. He flees because our obedience to God and our trust in God turns all of God's power against him.

Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway. Used by permission. All rights reserved. ■

FEBC Missionaries Celebrate 50 Years of Ministry

Congratulations to Wes and Barb Peters who celebrated 50 years of ministry in February. On February 23, 1965 they set sail from New York, heading for Rotterdam, Netherlands. Their final destination was Germany where they served as church planters and continue to train national church planters.



Making Visits Count (Part 2) *by Julia Quiring Emblen*

Making a Reminiscence Box

Liz knew Adelle pretty well, and in reviewing the hobbies Adelle enjoyed, Liz had an idea. She explored a toy and craft shop and a discount paper store to gather a few things to put into a reminiscence box for Adelle. She recalled that Adelle had sent many cards to people over the years, so she got some paper that they could use to write notes to people at church or elsewhere. Adelle had also baked lots of cookies for Sunday school, vacation Bible school and other church events, so Liz thought that a miniature mixing spoon, bowl and small plate from a toy store might jog Adelle's memory of her previous activities. Liz secretly hoped that one day Adelle would even get interested in baking cookies in the kitchenette the care center maintained for residents' use.

Liz was trying to give Adelle something to do so that her sadness would not completely take over her life. Before she went to visit Adelle, Liz dusted out an old shoebox that she had in her closet. She found some pretty paper and covered the box. She decorated the lid with a miniature set of measuring spoons labeled "pinch, dash, and smidgen" she'd once received as a door prize. She pasted a ribbon on the side of the box, arranging it so that she could tie several ball point pens into it. Then she put the miniature kitchen tools and paper inside.

When she carried the box into Adelle's room Thursday morning, Adelle was in her wheelchair with her back to the door—her usual spot.

"Hi, Adelle," Liz called loudly enough to awaken Adelle, who seemed to always be asleep when she arrived. "I've brought something to show you today."

"Hello," Adelle responded a bit less than enthusiastically. "I was asleep." She looked sleepily at the box Liz placed in her lap.

"I have made a remembrance box for you," Liz explained. "You can look at the things in it and think about how you used them, and when I and others come, you can tell us stories about using them. Your friends and family can bring little things to add to the box."

Making a Visitor Book

"Did you have any visitors come to see you this week?" Hazel asked Betty.

"You are the only one who ever comes to see me. All I do is lie here all the time and hope that someone will come." Betty expressed her sense of being alone.

Hazel talked a little more with Betty, and when she left, she went to the nurses' station and asked if Hazel's family or other friends ever came to see her.

"Compared to other residents, Betty probably would hold the record for visitors," the desk clerk told Hazel. "Her daughter was here shortly after breakfast. Another friend came shortly before lunch, and her granddaughter stopped in to eat lunch with her. You came just after her nap, and her son usually stops in on his way home from work."

Hazel realized that Betty probably forgot a lot of the events occurring in her day. Then she remembered that years ago she had a guest book that she invited guests to sign when they came to her home. That really helped her to remember who had been there. She decided that Betty needed a guest book too. On her way home, she stopped at a stationery store but found that the new guest books did not have the right kinds of spaces for visitors to write much. So she bought some card stock, paper and ribbon. At home she made a sample page with the headings "Date/time," "Visitor's Name" and "Note of Conversation or Activity." Then she put in five lines and repeated the heading. She was able to put records for six visits on a standard

sheet of typing paper. Using the church copier, she made 30 copies of the page and punched holes through the paper and the colored cardstock she chose for a cover. She tied ribbons through each hole and attached a pen so that visitors could sign the book whenever they came. She put a flower on the

How can we befriend and encourage homebound people? Julia Emblen suggests some scenarios that may trigger ideas for you as you visit a homebound person.

front of the book with an attractive note that read: "Please sign the book when you visit so that Betty and her family will know that you stopped in to see her. Thank you for helping us know that you were here."

Setting up a Bird Feeder

Connie and Bonnie had been talking near the window while they watched a sparrow and then a robin perch for a moment on the windowsill.

"Say, Bonnie, the birds like your window. What would you think about getting one of those little feeders and attaching it to your windowsill?" Connie asked.

"You know, I'd never thought of that. A feeder would bring more birds, and I could watch them. Since I can't hear well, I don't like to socialize too much with my neighbors," Bonnie stated. "Watching the birds would give me something to do."

They then spent time deciding what kind of feeder to get. Bonnie decided that she wanted one that she could fill with grain by just reaching out of her open window.

On her visit a week later, Connie brought the bird feeder and her husband, who

Continued on Page 9

Additional Resources

Stephen Ministries www.stephenministries.org trains lay persons to provide one-to-one, Christ-centered care to hurting people. Several of our Fellowship churches have developed Stephen Leaders and Stephen Ministers.

Our Journey of Hope (www.ourjourneyofhope.com) provides pastors and ministry leaders with the tools, training and support to raise up cancer-care ministries in their churches and communities.

Where is Your Prayer Closet? *by Paula Folkers*



In a small California town is a house that was built by the daughter-in-law of the founder of the Winchester Repeating Arms Company, maker of "The Gun that Won the West." The odd thing about the house is that building went non-stop for 38 years; 24 hours a day; seven days a week. And "Why?" you may ask.

Sarah Winchester lost her baby daughter in 1866. Fifteen years later she lost her husband. She was a woman grieving — a very wealthy woman grieving. Instead of going to God to find peace, she went to a medium, a spiritualist, who told her the ghosts of those killed by her family's guns have taken her daughter and her husband, and now they are out for her. She needs to move west and build a house for them. But the sneaky part of this plan is that the house will never be finished, thus they will never get her!

When I visited this mystery mansion a few years ago, what struck me the most was the prayer room, set in the middle of the house. Reportedly, every single night for at least one hour, Sarah Winchester was alone in her "prayer closet" figuring out and designing the next thing to build in or onto the house. However, she wasn't alone. She was consulting the "good" spirits to help her deceive the evil spirits who were after her.

As I left that house, I questioned myself on my own devotion to my Lord. Did I spend that much time consulting him on every aspect of my life? Was I not willing to make a move unless my Lord told me to? I felt that this woman — this terrified, grieving and deceived woman — was showing me up! Sarah Winchester faithfully met with the spirits for guidance and direction. I grieved for this woman who was so misguided by fear that she neglected the One who could give peace and contentment and eternal direction.

What about you? Do you have a prayer room in your life? Is there an inner closet or space you go to get away from distractions and to meet with our Lord and seek him? It is a powerful thing to have a specific place to be quiet before God and get direction and guidance from him for your life. If you don't have a place, do you have a time that you regularly give to God in the form of prayer?

God wants to lead you and to be consulted. He is our Shepherd, and those who hear his voice follow him. Are you allowing yourself time to listen to the Shepherd in order to follow? So many things can rob of us our time and our devotion, but time spent with our Lord always brings delight to our heart, inspiration to our mind, cleansing to our soul and a peace that passes all understanding.

Continue the building that is going on in your life — not your home, but your heart for your prayer life to grow deeper in love with our Lord and for you to seek him continually.

Joy is the confident assurance that God is in control of the details of your life! You find that joy while sitting in His presence!

Paula Folkers is a wife and mother of four. She and her family have been at Crosspoint Bible Church of Omaha, NE., for eight years. She leads the women's ministry called O.A.S.I.S. and teaches Bible studies, as well as keeping up with her children's activities and assisting her husband at his office. Paula is the newest member on the FEBC Women's Commission. Her desire is for every woman to connect to other women in the church while connecting to God. ■



W Com Connections

Did you know ...

The Fellowship is mainly a volunteer organization. Only one employee, the president, is full time. Volunteers serve on the Board of Directors. The six commissions — Churches, Church Planting, Education, Missions, Outreach, and Women's Ministries — are composed of and led by volunteers from Fellowship churches. If you would like to serve in any position, contact your pastor or church board. About 55 volunteers are needed to fully staff the Fellowship. Nominees will be elected at the annual convention in July.

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@febministries.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.

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@febministries.org. Applications should be received 60 days before leaving on the assignment.



Fellowship Churches Field Summer Mission Teams

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHURCH OF RHINELAND, SASK., will send a team of eighteen youth and sponsors to Costa Rica from August 14–21 to minister to children and youth in inner city and rural settings. Operation Mobilization Canada (www.omcanada.org) is overseeing the team.

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH OF OMAHA, NEB., has a team heading to Cambodia in June for two weeks to work with Foursquare Children of Promise (www.promise.org/homes/Cambodia.htm). This team will provide medical and dental care to the Foursquare orphans. For the kids, music education might be more fun, so the team will teach them to play traditional Cambodian songs on simple flutes.

A team of nine is preparing to go to Thailand from July 18–25. Pastor Chuck will share the Word and encourage missionaries of Christar. The rest of the team will lead worship and minister to missionary children.

CORNERSTONE BIBLE CHURCH OF MOUNTAIN LAKE, MINN., is training a youth team for ministry to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota from July 13–19. The Cornerstone youth will work alongside the established church in Pine Ridge. A Native American Concert is drawing many people to the park at that time, so the youth will be involved in “street evangelism” with an emphasis on relationship building and prayer. Cornerstone youth will provide a “grill out” for visitors and spectators. Youth on the “Rez” have very little hope. They feel an overwhelming sense of being trapped in the lifestyle of substance abuse leading to physical abuse. The Cornerstone church and team is praying that they can give God’s hope to a few of these youth.

CROSSPOINT BIBLE CHURCH OF OMAHA, NEB., is training 18 students and five leaders to minister in Trinidad from July 4–18. Over the years, Crosspoint has developed a relationship with Trinidad and Tobago Urban Ministries which organizes team activities. The team will hold VBS for elementary children, help with construction work, and minister to senior care centers and orphanages. The team is praying that they can impact Trinidadians for Jesus Christ as well as grow themselves into world Christians. Crosspoint is encouraging the team with finances and prayer and is helping gather needed supplies.

Crosspoint is preparing its fourth team to go to Guatemala July 12–20. Led by the Josiah Foundation (www.josiahfoundation.com), the team of 15 will:

- Build a house for a homeless family (pre-fab, metal frame, concrete floor)
- Distribute and fit wheelchairs (each recipient and their family hears a gospel presentation and meets with a local pastor)
- Distribute food, clothing, and black shoes (mandatory for school children)
- Interact lovingly with severely handicapped orphans (treating some of the children to lunch).

DALMENY BIBLE CHURCH OF DALMENY, SASK., celebrates 20 years of partnering together in ministry with its sister church in Tälnoe, Ukraine! Nine-members are gearing up to visit Ukraine for 10 days in July to help the church reach out to its community through English classes. They will also minister in the Home for the Elderly and in the Rehab Center. Dalmeny Bible is encouraging the team by collecting supplies and supporting fundraisers. This is the seventh team Dalmeny Bible has sent to Tälnoe.

EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH (EBC) OF DALLAS, ORE., is sending Pastor Jerry and his wife Joy to Mozambique in June. Pastor Jerry will be the main speaker at the SIM Life Conference, teaching two sessions per day for four days. After the conference, they will accompany EBC Missionary Janice Peters to Muembe for the dedication of a church EBC supports. They will also visit a church in Lichinga that EBC helped to build.

EBC youth will go to Rockaway Beach on the Oregon Coast to lead a Sport Camp/Vacation Bible school in the mornings. During the afternoons the team will connect with these kids on a deeper, more personal level with field trips and other activities. Evenings will be spent sharing and encouraging each other as well as learning and growing in God together.

For over 15 years, the Thomas family from EBC has held children’s camps in Romania. The EBC congregation is honored to partner with them and to pray for the many youth who will be introduced to Christ during their camp experience.

Another team is being organized to teach English as a Second Language (ESL) to teens and adults at Lithuania Christian College in Lithuania from July 5 through August 2.

Two work teams will head to Bolivia. Six or eight men will spend two weeks in June or July reroofing one house and building another small house. The second team will make books: copying, folding, stapling, and taping for one week in early 2016.

GRACE EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH OF ABBOTSFORD, B.C., has a youth team going to Oliver, B.C. for a week in August to help Okanagan Gleaners (www.okanagangleaners.com). The youth will clean and chop donated produce into a cut-up, ready-for-the-dryer mix that will spend anywhere from 8-to-10 hours in an industrial-size drying unit. The final product is packaged in small portions as dried soup mix. It is distributed by reputable Christian agencies in needy third world countries. Last year, Okanagan Gleaners produced 636 barrels of dry soup mix! The youth raised funds for this trip with a delicious soup and bun luncheon in November.

LANGHAM EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH OF LANGHAM, SASK., will send twelve teens to East Farnham, Quebec, from June 27 – July 5. The students anticipate serving a local church in the cross-cultural context of French Canada. Money for travel costs has been partially raised through a chili dinner and homemade pierogi sales. ■

Library in a Sea Can *by Larissa Wiens*

Makwati Compound, a large slum in Kabwe, Zambia is home to 40,000 people, all struggling to exist. Children are in the streets, working in shops, transporting goods, and even raising other children. But children in school? Almost none.

The Freedom Climb (www.thefreedomclimb.net) has a great vision for education. We have the vision to see children of our surrounding communities transformed through education and grabbing hold of God's purpose in life. Makwati Compound currently has only one school — the one built and operated by The Freedom Climb.

Every school needs a library for students which will also provide a basic resource center for teachers. But trying to acquire library books and basic school resources in Zambia is a nearly impossible task! Just a few months ago, my team and I were struggling to find a way to create a library — but how?

Thank God for his out-of-the-box ideas! With his help the Library in a Container project was born! We decided to buy a 40-foot sea can in the USA. Then we would partner with Canadian and American schools, churches and individuals to gather resources (library books, teaching aids, bookshelves, textbooks, computers, chalkboards, school supplies, etc.), bring them all to a central point, fill the sea can and ship it to Zambia! The sea can itself would

be transformed into the library/resource centre by adding a few windows, a door, paint, etc.

The initial response from some people was, "You're doing what?! That is so unrealistic!" However, the desire to develop a library was greater than the criticism anyone could give.

Supportive and generous businesses, schools, churches and individuals have made this large undertaking a beautiful reality! It was amazing to see many schools and churches from Saskatchewan as well as from all across the USA unite to fill the container.

Salem Church in Waldheim, Sask., became the Canadian staging hub as people from Salem and surrounding communities gave desks, school supplies, chalk boards, books, plastic storage containers, etc. My father, Rod Wiens, built wooden crates to ship everything to Pennsylvania so that the supplies were protected from wind, rain and snow en route. My mother, Brenda Wiens, helped sort and organize items for the crates. Other volunteers from Salem helped pack and load these crates. It all came together very fast, and it was so exciting to see it all come together.

We continually saw this as God's project, not ours. The cost of buying the sea can and shipping it to Zambia totaled \$20,000. This



Photo courtesy of Tsai Design Studio

Vissershok Container Classroom in South Africa designed by Tsai Design Studio

was at first a daunting number, but little-by-little donations came in. Q-Line Trucking shipped all of the Canadian and northern USA donations to the loading/shipping point in Pennsylvania. We thank God for their help! At this writing, the sea can is currently en route to Zambia, and we are eagerly awaiting its arrival!

An additional \$5000 is needed to finalize the conversion of the sea can into a library (pad, windows, doors, etc.). Please pray and trust with us for God's continued provision! Soon the one school in the large Makwati slum will have a beautiful library!

Larissa Wiens is a member of Salem Church of Waldheim, serving with Operation Mobilization (www.omcanada.org). She is currently the Project Director for all The Freedom Climb projects in Africa. The Freedom Climb is a ministry within OM that aims to bring hope and transform the lives of women and children who are being exploited, enslaved, oppressed and trafficked. Larissa has been in Africa for the past 2½ years. ■

Continued from Page 8

was able to attach the bird feeder to the windowsill. It was on a pivoting extension so Bonnie could pull it close to her to fill and then turn it so that it extended from the window by 18 inches. They didn't want the birds to see their reflection in the glass and bang into Bonnie's window.

As she filled the feeder, Bonnie smiled and then turned it away from the window. Bonnie and Connie and her husband were delighted when two sparrows almost immediately flew to the feeder and began pecking on the seeds.

Writing Life Stories

After Mary took a class on writing life stories, she told June about it. "I would like to write down some of the nursing stories you have told me."

"Oh my stories aren't anything." June seemed embarrassed about writing down any of her nursing experiences.

"Well, let's try and see how one comes out," Mary responded. "I will just ask you questions, and you can answer them. I'll use my tape recorder to get all the details."

At her next visit, Mary gave June a copy of the first story. June made a few corrections, and they decided to send it to the local nursing school. They hoped the pediatric teacher might use it as an illustration.

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 by Julia Quiring Emblen (Mill Lake Books, 2014). Used by Permission. ■

FOCUS on our CHURCHES

Christian Fellowship Chapel

Winnipeg, Manitoba

John Harwood, Pastor

Praise God! For many years we had no little ones in our midst, but now nursery care volunteers are again required. One baby was dedicated in April.

Several guest speakers have challenged us recently. Detective-Sergeant George Labossière shared Chief Devon Clunis's vision for transforming our city through prayer and community involvement. Christian Fellowship was the first church to pray as part of a program called "365 Police Prayer Watch." This program is now in its second year, and even though the Winnipeg Police Service has not changed its approach to providing police coverage, it has noticed a significant drop in crime that cannot be explained by normal enforcement efforts.

Fellowship president, Rev. Blaine Donaldson, emphasized the importance of being "winsome," so that God can "win some." Rev. Peter Fast of Bridges for Peace taught us about God's unchanging plan for the nation of Israel. He also demonstrated to our "Keenagers" in April how Christ is the fulfillment of the Passover. We are thankful for Peter and Deanna Fast who are now a regular part of our fellowship. It is their son Judah whom we dedicated.

We welcome Mike and Carolyn Reimer and their family back to Winnipeg. The Reimers, long time missionaries to Bolivia and Uruguay, have relocated as Mike now serves as Executive Director of Avant Ministries Canada. They are a real encouragement to us.

Linda Edwards, Correspondent



Mike Reimer Family relocates in Winnipeg

Langham Evangelical Bible Church

Langham, Saskatchewan

Greg Guarnett, Senior Pastor

Winter evenings have been filled with church ministries. The HITmen (men's encouragement group — Honesty/Integrity/Transparency) meet weekly as do childrens club and youth night. The Willing Hands ladies group meets monthly for prayer, devotional and encouragement. Also this winter, a number of ladies participated in a daily online Bible Study with periodical in-person meetings. Pastor Justin leads five couples in a weekly home Bible study and Pastor Greg meets weekly with one couple for discipleship and prayer.

A highlight for Junior Youth (grades 7-9) was the Freezin' Retreat held in January at Camp Kadesh. This FEBC youth retreat draws kids from our sister churches in Saskatchewan. God's Word was presented, and the kids enjoyed fun, food plus music provided by the band of pastors.

Singer/songwriter Nic Brouwer (www.facebook.com/nicbrouwersings) led a seminar on worship. Our music team members appreciated this. Worshipping God is much more than just the music we sing!

In February we hosted President Blaine Donaldson and others for the FEBC International Board meeting.

Marilyn Friesen, Correspondent

Faith Evangelical Bible Church

Henderson, Nebraska

Michael Fink, Pastor

One of our young adult Bible study groups hosted a well-attended outreach event in March. A taco supper was followed by the feature movie "God's Not Dead." Besides being evangelistic in nature, the movie served to clarify and confirm the faith for believers.

We honored our teachers from the past year with an appreciation dinner in April. This event, provided by the Christian Education Committee, was also an opportunity to discuss and lay out plans for the coming year.

Two of our young people, Vanessa Hiebner and Rebekah Larson, joined a mission team to Mexicali, Mexico from March 28 – April 4. They shared their faith at churches through VBS and ministered in an orphanage. Our teens joined 40 teens from Country Bible Church in Bennett, Neb.

Alice Decker, Correspondent

Evangelical Mennonite Brethren Church

Marion, South Dakota

Randel J. Maass, Pastor

Grace Lutheran Choir of Parker ministered in our church on March 1. Many visitors came in response to our invitation. The musical program "God of Our Praise" emphasized the praise we Christians should exhibit through our daily lives for the wonderful blessings God has given us. The upbeat songs were fun to sing and carried a great message!

Mennonite Disaster Service (South Dakota branch) organized volunteers to restore property and buildings at Pilger, Nebraska beginning March 1. Pilger was destroyed by twin tornados last summer.

Pastor Maass is leading the adult Sunday School class in a verse-by-verse study of the Book of Acts. We had studied the life of Jesus from John's Gospel. It is refreshing to watch the disciples' preaching ministry and the outreach of the early believers continue to unfold in Acts.

Our Pre-Easter services began with Pastor Maass delivering the Ash Wednesday message in a joint service with Emmanuel Presbyterian Church of Marion. On Palm Sunday, all pastors of the Marion Area Ministerial Association led a joint service with the six community churches. Pastor Maass gave the message at the Good Friday Communion service held jointly with neighboring Bethesda Church.

Evelyn Duerksen, Correspondent

Northeast Bible Church

Calgary, Alberta

John Fehr, Pastor

On March 8, five children, six youth and two adults were baptized. Each candidate confirmed their faith in Jesus Christ and told how God has revealed himself to them. The choir sang verses of "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" as each stepped forward to obey Christ in baptism. One candidate later said that as she came up out of the water, she felt God's love so fill her heart she thought it would burst. Many friends and family members came to join us in this great celebration. We shared God's goodness over a potluck meal, thanking him for his incredible gift of love and faithfulness to us.

Baptisms: Thirteen in March

Julie Ann Simpson, Correspondent



Jansen Bible Church

Jansen, Nebraska

Paul Carpenter, Pastor

Our missionaries Sam and Deb Dick are returning to the States after 10 years in Spain. In August they will begin new responsibilities as host/hostess, event coordinator, and food service personnel at the Avant Training Center in Kansas City, replacing retiring couple Al and Trudy Meendering.

Frank Tyler, a local church evangelism trainer from Sequim, Wash., and Dr. John Niemelä, professor at Rocky Mountain Bible College and Seminary shared a simple way to evangelize cult teachers, atheists, agnostics, and anyone else, using the Living Water edition of the Gospel of John, "the only book in the Bible clearly written for non-believers to persuade them to believe in Jesus Christ for eternal life."

René and Anja Goertzen Gaona from the Paraguay FEBC Church spoke to Awana clubbers in March, sharing their burden to work with unreached youth in Paraguay. Anja, a children's advocate attorney, is the daughter of FEBC missionaries Benny and Esther Goertzen.

High school senior Riley Ensz went on her third mission team to Mexicali, Mexico March 28 –April 4. The team of 60 high school students from south-eastern Nebraska shared God's love through VBS and other venues. Azuza Pacific University organizes this ministry each spring.

Coming events: VBS, June 8-12; Womens Retreat, August 7-8, at Prairie Creek Inn near Lincoln.

Tena Dick, Correspondent

Cornerstone Bible Church

Steinbach, Manitoba

Jared Hiebert, Pastor

We as a church body were so blessed to add a number of people to our membership in March.

Cornerstone hosted the annual Fisher Bay Bible Camp Fundraiser Banquet in April. Fisher Bay Bible Camp (www.fisherbaybiblecamp.com) reaches children and youth from the three nearby First Nations reserves. Owned by the Fellowship of Evangelical Bible Churches of Canada, this camp is supported mainly by the Fellowship churches in Manitoba.

Baptisms: Two in March

New Members: Thirteen in March

Marsella Wiebe, Correspondent

Faith Evangelical Bible Church

Winkler, Manitoba

Mike Comtois, Pastor

What a privilege to see three men display their obedience to Christ through baptism! We are excited for this step of faith in their lives, and we prayerfully uphold them as they continue to serve God.

Our Awana Grand Prix was held in March. Each year Awana clubbers receive blocks of wood to transform into a unique race car with the help of their parents. Cars are then judged and raced, and the clubbers with winning cars are awarded. This is a fun and encouraging time for clubbers and parents alike. Our Awana leaders do a wonderful job discipling the children with a mix of fun and learning.



Baptisms: Three in February

Beth Bickell, Correspondent

Paradise Valley Church

Natoma, Kansas

Natoma, Kansas

We have found new opportunities to share the Lord by moving our Tuesday evening Bible Study to Paradise, Kansas (8 miles away). The group, which used to meet in Waldo, now meets in a home, and other family members have become involved. This is a praise! Another new face in our church is Sharon MacConnell's mother who has moved to Natoma.

In March we enjoyed a well-attended heritage dinner followed by games. One of our ladies has sung for years in a community cantata held in an old historic church in Damar, Kansas. So on April 1, our group all attended this special Easter event.

For the tenth year, Paradise Valley Church hosted the ministerial Good Friday service. Many community people attend. Mary Kaufmann, Sharon's sister was here visiting from Wyoming so she sang a special as well as Ben and Sharon sang a special, too.

Sharon MacConnell, Correspondent

Continued on Page 12

FOCUS on our CHURCHES

Continued from Page 11

Crosspoint Bible Church

Omaha, Nebraska

Dr. Don Pahl, Lead Pastor

Easter Sunday was our last Sunday together as one congregation. We dedicated and “sent off” 70+ from our congregation to become our Bennington Campus congregation. Bennington is a fast growing community northwest of Omaha. April 12 was the official first Sunday of worship. These 70 provide set-up, staffing and leadership for the Bennington campus. We miss them but celebrate with them as they begin to fulfill the dream we have had for several years. Please join us in prayer support of this church plant.

On Palm Sunday, twenty-eight students from grades 1–6 presented the Easter musical, “It’s All Because of Jesus” (www.brentwoodbenson.com).

In the recent Awana Games, our T&T Team One took second place, T&T Team Two took first place, and Sparks took first place.

Sherrie Lindsey, Correspondent

Dalmeny Bible Church

Dalmeny, Saskatchewan

Dennis Friesen, Pastor

Adults in our Sunday Bible Discovery hour are studying: *To Live is Christ — To Die is Gain* (Matt Chandler and Jared C. Wilson) while Parents of the Three-and-Under Crowd are studying *Jesus, the Gentle Parent: Gentle Christian Parenting (Little Hearts Handbooks)* (L.R. Knost).

Teen Challenge and Ranger Lake Bible Camp (with Greg Benson) have recently presented their ministries to our congregation.

Two fundraising meals have provided funds for our sister church in Talnoe, Ukraine and for the youth going snowboarding to Jasper in April.

Families came out to watch their children participate in the Children’s Club closing program at the end of March.

Marilyn Harder, Correspondent

Countryside Bible Church

Meade, Kansas

Chuck Finster, Pastor

Retired missionary Ruby (Mrs. Gerhard) Fast passed away November 16, 2014. On February 14 the children of Gerhard and Ruby Fast gathered here for a memorial service and burial of the parents’ cremains. The visual pictures of their lives together, especially of their many years of ministry in Peru, were very interesting.

Our men in leadership attended the Shepherd’s Conference at The Master’s Seminary in California March 2–7.

Abigail Spare joins the Kaleo Missions (www.kaleomissions.org) summer training program this summer as a Discipleship

Group Leader. This program is designed to help college students grow spiritually as it trains them in inductive Bible study, evangelism and discipleship. Abigail will minister in Gulf Shores, Alabama from May 23 — July 30.

Mary Friesen, Correspondent



Countryside Bible Church places new sign.

Evangelical Bible Church

Dallas, Oregon

Jerry Franz, Pastor

During February our church was abuzz with many activities. We hosted a CPR class, and the Dallas Ministerial Association Teacher Appreciation Luncheon for all teachers in the community. Two music groups performed with incredible attendance from our members and the community. Good music and testimonies made these great outreach opportunities. MOPs (Mothers of Preschoolers) continues to encourage young mothers. Seven babies were dedicated in February!

Our church partners with several others to sponsor “Soul Food,” a community outreach at the high school. “Soul Food” provides lunch for any student who wants to attend. This opens the door to connect and share the gospel with kids who may not otherwise hear God’s word. A young woman from our youth group recently spoke at “Soul Food.” She told how she was questioned on her “perfect life” when others have so many struggles or dysfunctional lives. She explained that her father had come from a very difficult background, but turned his life around so that her life would be better. She challenged these students to turn their lives around and follow Jesus. Then their children could have better lives than they have had.

Our Healthcare Committee hosted a workshop on “Alzheimer’s and Dementia.” Attendees received good information about the different stages of these diseases and how best to care for the patients and help them with the struggles they face.

Women’s Ministry held a fun “Ladies Night Out!” Several people used this for an outreach as they brought guests. What a blessing to get together to have some fun and share the love of Jesus with our friends and family.

Dan and Judy Burke, our missionaries to the Chimane people group of Bolivia, have been home on furlough. As soon as they return, they will begin their first building project, a Bible training center in Triunfo, Bolivia. The building must be elevated off the ground. Please pray that they can design good plans and complete the center this year.

Our choir performed the cantata “Alive!” on Palm Sunday evening. What an incredible reminder that despite what Jesus had to endure, he is indeed alive!

Baptisms: One in March

Vicki Kibbey, EBC Correspondent

Vita Bible Church

Vita, Manitoba

Women's Ministry put on a Valentine's date night. The group went bowling and out for supper. They also hosted a "Homespun" in March where ladies could enjoy baking cinnamon buns, receiving manicures and making greeting cards.

Jon Klassen went on a mission trip to Mexico in February together with fellow students from Steinbach Bible College. Our church was blessed to support him with finances and prayer. Jon reported on his ministry in March.

The Fun-in-the-Son Kids Club enjoyed a car rally in March. Families were invited and the kids really enjoyed this event.

The church held its annual fish fry on March 22. It was a good turn out and the food and fellowship was enjoyed by all.

Baptisms: Two in February

New Members: Two in February

Rachel Funk, Correspondent

Salem Church

Waldheim, Saskatchewan

Darrell Derksen, Lead Pastor

Commissioning full-time missionaries to Europe and Africa on the same Sunday (March 15) was a unique moment in the life of our church. Pietro and Nichole Cara, together with their six children, are presently getting settled in Italy, where they will work together with local churches in Italy, encouraging and equipping Italian believers to be disciples who make disciples. We praise God with them in his provision of a van; please join us in praying for influential contacts in the churches with which they will be working.

Larissa Wiens ministers with OM Africa in Kabwe, Zambia on a team of ladies which reaches out to ladies in vulnerable positions (some widowed, uneducated, or jobless). Their goal is to empower these ladies through spiritual development and by teaching basic life skills plus specialized skills such as tailoring, catering, farming, etc, to help them become independent. Larissa will also participate in The Freedom Climb (www.thefreedomclimb.net) in July 2015. This eight-day trek through the Alps seeks to raise awareness and funds to help women and children who are at risk of exploitation.



Video Library

Walk Thru the Pentateuch

Walk Thru the Pentateuch, with Dr. Bruce Wilkinson, is part of the Walk Thru the Bible Classic DVD Series (10 lessons, approximately 30 minutes each).

The first five books of the Bible contain some of the most fascinating stories about God and His people. In *Walk Thru the Pentateuch*, you'll discover the truth about the God of the Old Testament, the tenderness of His affection, the heights of His holiness, and the selflessness of His mercy.

Grunthal EMB Church

Grunthal, Manitoba

While we are without a pastor, God has provided many speakers. In recent months outside speakers Missionary Rick Neufeld, Bob Johnston, Trent Reimer and Missionary Mike Reimer ministered. From our own congregation, John Reimer, Jake Goertzen and Natanaela Ralaimairison and Duh Tin Kep (International Student at Providence College and Seminary) spoke. Continue to ask God to give us a full-time pastor!

Two ladies Bible study groups are studying *Esther: A Woman of Strength and Dignity* by Chuck Swindoll. May this study help to bring out the God-given strengths that the women never realized they possessed!

In February, we gave "CARE packages" to our thirteen international college and flight-school students. We appreciate their decision to fellowship with us while studying in Canada. Their help in various ministries, especially music and speaking, has been a huge blessing to our congregation.

Many of our children and youth are using their talents to serve God by ushering, playing offertories, singing or playing instruments on music teams. Knowing that these youth will be our church leaders someday, we encourage them using their talents for the sake of Christ!

In our Good Friday morning service, eight members read Old and New Testament scriptures that predicted how Christ would come to be crucified. Readings were interspersed with fitting hymns and choruses, with the service ending in prayer. What a reminder of the price that Christ paid, *just for us!*

Marilyn D. Thiessen, Correspondent



Grunthal members celebrate at dawn

Here is a rare opportunity to really understand the books we all too often overlook. And to draw closer to the God who always was, and always will be, a God of love.

One of the benefits of studying these books is to see how much of Jesus is revealed. Much of what is known about Jesus and His ministry on earth is foreshadowed in the people and stories of the Pentateuch. While this study will give an overview of the teaching of the Pentateuch, special attention will be drawn to the pictures of Jesus revealed more than a millennium before Jesus was born in Bethlehem. See www.walkthru.org/store/product-categories/video-series.*

To request a study, e-mail info@febcministries.org or call (402) 965-3860.

* Significant portions of this description are from the publisher. ■



Marriages

Evangelical Mennonite Brethren Church, Grunthal, Man.

☺ **Darren Wesley**, son of **Wes and Val Froese**, to **Juliana Wollman**, March 27

Births/Adoptions

Cornerstone Bible Church, Mountain Lake, Minn.

☾ **Evan Daniel** born to **Micah and Brittany Siebert**, Sept. 25, 2014

Cornerstone Bible Church, Steinbach, Man.

☾ **Jettsen Carter** born to **Coltyn and Melissa Voth**, Feb. 13

☾ **Issac Francis** born to **Josh and Andrea Screpnck**, Feb. 17

Dalmeny Bible Church, Dalmeny, Sask.

☾ **Luke Walter Douglas Snider** to **Tyson and Jayna Snider**, March 26

Faith Evangelical Bible Church, Henderson, Neb.

☾ **Jacob Dee** born to **Trevor and Anna Nunnenkamp**, March 31. Grandparents are **Gary and Joyce Nunnenkamp**. Great grandparents are **Felix and Vivian Fortune**.

Langham Evangelical Bible Church, Langham, Sask.

☾ **Bowen John** to **Bart and Michelle Klein**. March 30; grandparents are **Eldon and Caroline Ens**

Salem Church, Waldheim, Sask.

☾ **Serenity Kimora Annlyse Abby**, born to **Maria Klauke**, Feb. 25. Grandmother is **Heather Klauke**.

☾ **Airlie Grace**, born to **James and Belinda Schultz**, March 18, Grandparents are **Roger and Gale Schultz**. Great grandparents are **Harvey and Agnes Thiessen** and **Ron and Gladys Schultz**.

☾ **Nathaniel Milton**, born to **Nic and Erika Wiens**, April 2, Grandparents are **Rod and Brenda Wiens**. Great-grandparents are **Dave and Ethel Wiens**.

Deaths

Christian Fellowship Church, Rhineland, Sask.

† **Abe Andres** (97), Jan. 14

Cornerstone Bible Church, Mountain Lake, Minn.

† **Martha Classen Baerg** (88), Sept. 10, 2014

† **Betty Marlene Fast** (74), Oct. 5, 2014

† **Will Schroeder** (100), Oct. 20, 2014

† **Leonard Schultz** (87), Nov. 20, 2014

Cornerstone Bible Church, Steinbach, Man.

† **Alvin Janz** (91), March 9

† **Laura Reimer** (88), March 30

Crosspoint Bible Church, Omaha, Neb.

† **Doris Ewert** (86), Feb. 25.

Dalmeny Bible Church, Dalmeny, Sask.

† **Rev. Peter Peters** (94), March 13.

Evangelical Bible Church, Dallas, Ore.

† **MaryLou King** (78), Feb. 8

† **Esther Eckert** (84), March 12

† **Ron Blessing** (72), March 13

Jansen Bible Church, Jansen, Neb.

† **Jessie Hensarling** (86), Jan. 24
(Former pastor, 1985–1988)

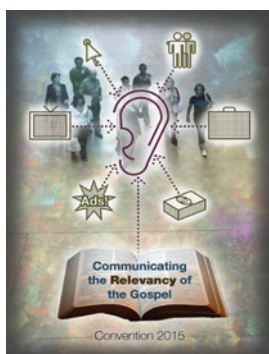
† **Hildegard Goossen** (87), March 4
(Wife of former pastor Paul Goossen)

Langham Evangelical Bible Church, Langham, Sask.

† **Elmer Quiring** (84), Dec. 26, 2014

Vita Bible Church, Vita, Man.

† **Maggie (Margaret) Bordun** (82), Feb. 17.



FEBC Annual Convention

Grace Church, Abbotsford, B.C., July 15-18

Communicating the Relevancy of the Gospel

For schedule and registration information, go to www.fellowshipforward.org.



Photos courtesy of UIM Aviation

Convention Project Update

In the last issue, we announced that the Convention Project would provide funds for a helicopter trial for UIM Aviation (UIMA). We have some great news about the project, yet this news disrupts our plans. Originally, UIMA planned to rent a helicopter in fall of 2015 at a cost of \$10,000.

New Tribes Mission found that they had a window in May 2015 when a helicopter would be available. They offered to provide a helicopter for UIMA's feasibility study for about half of the original cost. However, the study had to be completed in May for those savings. FEBC USA recently received a bequest, and the directors decided to use part of that for the helicopter project. So the great news is that UIMA was able to do this study for much less than the anticipated cost! So our original Convention Project is no longer needed. Praise the Lord!

However, it is still our desire to work with UIMA for the Convention Project this year. A plane that the Lord has used for many years to deliver missionaries across Mexico now needs an engine overhaul. Our Convention Project has been redirected to fund this urgent engine overhaul.

New Life for Old Plane; New Life for Huichol People

by Danielle Bahnsen, Office Manager, UIM Aviation

Deep in the Sierra Madre mountains of northern and central Mexico are an uncountable number of pockets of indigenous people groups that have not heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ. UIM Aviation utilizes air travel as way to bridge the gap between Native and Mexican pastors and these tribal villages. An eight-hour drive for a pastor or missionary can be reduced to a twenty-minute flight and prevent dangerous encounters on hazardous mountain roads. The time is short, and we need to have a sense of urgency when reaching the lost for Christ. The airplane is the necessary tool in spreading the Good News quickly, safely, and efficiently.

One of UIM Aviation's oldest aircraft, airplane N50901, is currently serving in the Tepic, Nayarit area of central Mexico. This airplane has been flying in Mexico for over 15 years. Every week this airplane flies Huichol believers and pastors to and from villages and in and out of the city. These pastors not only fervently seek to share Christ's love with their own people, but they are also heavily involved in translating the Bible into the Huichol language. The pastors depend on this faithful aircraft in serving in the Great Commission; however, this particular vessel is due for an engine overhaul. Every plane has a finite number of hours it can fly before needing an overhaul. N50901 has almost hit that mark; it only has fifty hours of flying time left before it will have to be parked at our maintenance base in Tucson.

The total operation will cost \$63,250 from start to finish. The process of repairing the engine will cost \$35,000. We are asking the FEBC to partner with us by taking on this cost as we seek to raise the additional \$28,250 for other aspects of the overhaul (i.e., propeller and accessories like engine controls, hosing, etc.).

Meet our Speaker

Andy Steiger will address this summer's convention under the theme "Communicating the Relevancy of the Gospel." He will speak each evening Wednesday through Saturday, July 15-18.



Andy Steiger is the founder and director of Apologetics Canada (www.apologeticscanada.com), an organization dedicated to helping churches across Canada better understand and engage today's culture. He created and hosted the Thinking Series and is the author of *Thinking? Answering Life's Five Biggest Questions*. He has spoken on life's big questions internationally in universities, conferences, churches, prisons and coffee shops. Andy lives in Abbotsford, BC, Canada with his wife, Nancy, and their two boys. ■

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Catch the Vision

Prepared to Proclaim

by Linda Edwards

The welcome winds of change are beginning to stir over our small congregation. Let me tell you how we came to this point.

At Christian Fellowship Chapel of Winnipeg, we are very aware of the vision of our Fellowship: that the gospel of Jesus Christ be proclaimed by every member of every church at every opportunity. This theme of evangelism has been strong in our church for as long as I have attended — at least 45 years. Nevertheless, over this period of time, our congregation has steadily diminished, until it is now about a quarter of what it was back then. In recent years, no children attended, and Sunday school classrooms sat empty. Clearly the teaching and encouragement to do evangelism was not working.

Our church leadership decided to ask the Lord why this was so, and the answer was clear. We needed to better understand the work of the Holy Spirit and follow His direct guidance. Our response was to form small home groups and study the Holy Spirit and prayer using video teaching by Jim Cymbala¹. To be a proclaiming people, we need to be a people personally passionate about Jesus, and the Holy Spirit works this in us.

The study of the Holy Spirit naturally led to a study of the gifts of the Spirit using video material by Chip Ingram². To be a proclaiming people we must be a people who use our spiritual gifts to build each other up so that we are equipped for works of service. We are learning what our spiritual gifts are and exploring how to use these purposefully to build one another up. We are learning that in order to step forward with the gospel, we need to first take some steps back so that the basics which naturally result in proclamation are established within each of us.



Small groups have replaced the sparsely attended weekly prayer meetings. As a result, more people gather for Bible study and prayer than before. Time is devoted to corporate prayer each Sunday morning, and we are taking advantage of this. These are refreshing breezes of change. But we want to see the breezes become winds as we grow to become a truly praying church. Tremendous room for growth remains in the area of prayer. Please pray with us that we will become a people positioned to receive the many blessings that the Lord has for us as we align our steps more and more to those of the Holy Spirit, and keep in step with him.

Finally, our numbers. Our pastor has been praying that one young family and some new young people would come and stay. Quoting from the recent Annual Report, "Prior to consciously deciding to intentionally honour the Holy Spirit's place in our corporate life, I had seen no answers to my simple requests." Since then, however, this prayer has been answered in a remarkable way. (See "Focus on our Churches," Christian Fellowship Church, page 10.)

¹"When God's Spirit Moves" and "When God's People Pray." Available from Brooklyn Tabernacle at <http://store.brooklyntabernacle.org/categories.php?category=DVDs>.

²"Your Divine Design" by Chip Ingram. Available from <http://livingontheedge.org/group-studies>.