

# Fellowship FOCUS



BECOMING A PROCLAIMING PEOPLE...



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*Church News:*  
Churches share their plans  
for outreach in 2012

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# Editor's note

Happy New Year! In this first issue of 2012, we decided to do something a little different with the church news: We asked our correspondents to share the outreach plans for the year ahead of their respective churches. Most responded, and it is heartening to read how "outreach-minded" our Fellowship churches are. Read what individual churches are planning on pages 10-14.

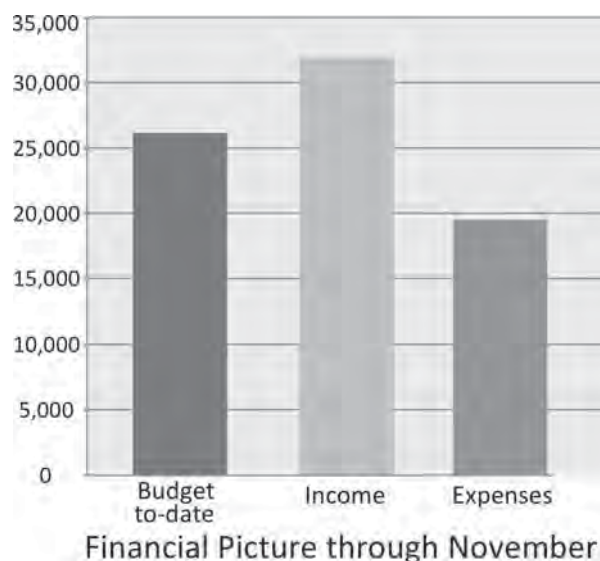
Speaking of church news, I want to thank our correspondents for their faithful work throughout the year. Many have been reporting for years. Although I have not met all of them personally, we do develop an e-mail relationship, sharing bits of our lives here and there. Thank you, correspondents, for your time and effort in giving us a glimpse into the life of your church in your corner of the world.

Another change for this issue: **Connie Yates**, our graphic artist and columnist ("Is It Just Me?") is taking a leave of absence to address some health issues she has been grappling with. I talked to Connie shortly after Christmas, and she sounded in good spirits. Please keep her in your prayers for a quick return to health and energy. In the meantime, we're grateful for the talents of **Adrianna Donaldson**, daughter of FEBC President Blaine Donaldson, as she takes on the task of laying out the Focus.

Ten years – really? When **FEBC Administrator Paul Boeker** pointed out that I have edited *Fellowship Focus* for that long, I thought he was mistaken. But a quick look at past issues confirmed it. Along the way I have met gracious people throughout our churches and learned so much more about the Fellowship's history and its heart for missions and church planting, than I otherwise would have. I have appreciated the help and feedback I have received from so many, but special thanks for support and encouragement go to Paul, **FEBC President Blaine Donaldson**, and former Ministries Coordinator **Harvey Schultz**.

May you be blessed this year with an even closer walk with Jesus Christ, as you seek opportunities to share the life and light He offers.

Blessings,  
Sharon



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 Web: <http://www.febcministries.org>  
 FAX: 402-965-3871  
 Editorial Staff: Sharon Berg, Editor; Adrianna Donaldson, Design & Layout



## President's Challenge

# Jesus is the Gospel

By Blaine Donaldson

Have we proclaimed the Gospel only when we have talked about Jesus' death and resurrection? The Biblical usage of the term indicates that the Gospel certainly includes this (i.e. the Gospel is incomplete without it), but anything about Jesus' relationship with us is also included in the fullness of the Gospel.

It is the responsibility of every believer to proclaim the Gospel. But what is the Gospel? The Gospel is the good news about Jesus. It is the good news of our salvation. At Christmas we were reminded of the name of our newborn Savior. "And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21 NKJV).

The Gospel, Jesus and salvation are inter-related terms. Biblically speaking, salvation and the Gospel are very broad terms. They include what Jesus has done in areas including our calling, our predestination, our justification, our sanctification and our glorification (compare Romans 8). We often associate the Gospel solely with our justification. Let us never minimize the centrality and importance of justification, but the New Testament meaning of the terms salvation and Gospel are far broader than a typical *plan of salvation*, like the "Romans Road" or "Steps to Peace with God."

The good news is that Jesus has saved us. He is transforming us. One day, He will glorify us in heaven. While we are saved solely by God's grace through our faith, God justified us with His purpose of transforming us now and glorifying us forever. All of this is the good news! All of this is the Gospel.

All aspects of Jesus' work — what He has done on the cross, what He is doing in our lives today and what He will do for us in eternity — are part of the Gospel. In a sense, Jesus is the Gospel. In his later years, the devout man Simeon was able to see and hold the baby Jesus. He said, "For my eyes have seen your salvation" (Luke 2:30 NKJV). The Gospel is everything concerning Jesus and particularly His role in our lives. We are to proclaim the Gospel,

*The fullness of the New Testament meaning of the Gospel includes everything that Jesus has done, is doing and will do.*

but it is more than a typical plan of salvation.

Is there a place for our traditional plans of salvation? Certainly there is. Until people, who stand condemned, have been persuaded that Jesus has paid for their sins and offers to them eternal life, they will not be saved. Certainly, this part of the Gospel unlocks the door to the fullness of the Gospel. The plans of salvation that we use seek to ensure that people know the facts and some of the significance of what Jesus has done on the cross. They express how we can receive eternal life — through believing in Jesus. However, most of the plans of sal-

vation have the narrow focus of justification: the moment of conversion. That is a critical part of the Gospel, but it is not the fullness of the Gospel.

Some people come to Jesus because they are convicted of their sins, and they are concerned about what will happen when they die. For these, the traditional Gospel presentation may be well-sufficient.

Some are not concerned about their death or their sins, but they would be attracted by a Savior who loves them and will be with them in the here and now. Do they know that Jesus really is such a Savior? Are we willing to tell them? They will need to believe the truths about justification prior to receiving His companionship, but their initial attraction may be based on their current needs. The Gospel addresses both their eternal needs (justification) and their temporal needs.

No one becomes a Christian without justification through faith alone, and that needs to be shared, but the fullness of the New Testament meaning of the Gospel includes everything that Jesus has done, is doing and will do. In practical terms, I like to think of the Gospel as being about Jesus: Jesus saves; Jesus forgives; He has justified me; He is with me every day; He is changing me; He listens when I pray; He helps me when I need Him; He gives me meaning and a reason to live; He gives me hope for the future; He is preparing a home for me in heaven.... There is no end to the list of what Jesus has done, is doing and will do for me. These truths about Jesus are all good news. They are all part of the Gospel. Proclaim it all. Proclaim Jesus!

### FEBC Workshop

Each February FEBC leaders meet for two days of planning and working on their assignments. This year the FEBC Workshop will be held at the EMB Church of Grunthal, Man., Feb.17-18. Please pray for the 40 volunteers who will come together to work.

# Planning for the Future

By Paul MacDiarmid, Vision Implementation Team

## *Salem Church takes on the challenge of moving forward with Fellowship's vision*

Today my doctor told me he wanted to meet next week to discuss the results of my recent blood test. I don't expect we are getting together to celebrate the impressive health of my body; much to my chagrin, we are likely going to discuss high cholesterol. As I anticipate this conversation, what troubles me most is the change I will need to make in my diet in order to bring down my cholesterol. I love my current diet. I don't want to snack less at work or skip dessert after supper. Nevertheless, if I want to see long-term health return to my body, I will need to find the will to make short-term sacrifices so I can form some new eating habits (I cringe as I type this).

A year and half ago, as a Fellowship, we

*It is so important for us to work together as a Fellowship. Let's share our ideas with one another. Let's share the stories of our successes and failures with one another.*

approved our new vision. I believe our vision paints an impressive picture of a reality that is only possible if God intervenes and changes me and you, and our churches and communities. Typically, we want God to transform the latter ASAP, with minimal work on the former — and preferably in the reverse order, with me last (if at all).

However, as Fellowship churches have discussed the embodiment of our vision within their congregations, it is becoming painfully obvious that the biggest changes must hap-

pen in me and you. We must find the will to sacrifice some of our comforts and form new habits so that we can become a proclaiming people.

Unfortunately, selfless living does not come naturally to any of us. It is a daily choice. And if we do not choose to live in this way, we revert to our default setting of selfishness. Selfishness is also the default setting of our churches. Without vision we tend to focus on what our church is or isn't doing for us, and our most passionate conversations focus on matters of preference like style of music, the youth pastor's tattoo and the color of carpet in the sanctuary.

One of the things I really like about the new vision for the Fellowship is that it takes the focus off of ourselves and places it on those outside our churches, those who desperately need an encounter with Jesus. When the FEBC first cast this vision I felt a renewed excitement and eagerness to work with God as He changes our world. What concerns me now, a year and half after the fact, is that if we are not acting on this vision, we will more than likely settle back into our default setting.

If proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ at every opportunity is going to become a common behavior in our churches, our church leaders must start wrestling with the question: "How is this going to happen?" Obviously modeling the proclamation of the Gospel with their own lives is an extremely important first step for our leaders. However, it is not enough for a leader to plan what *he* will do to fulfill this vision; a leader is also responsible for giving direction to what *we* will do as congregations.

Several weeks ago Salem Church in Waldheim, Sask., took an important step toward figuring out what they are going to do in order to become a proclaiming people. They organized an off-site retreat for their elder board and in-

vited Terry Schultz, a professional consultant and son of former FEBC ministries coordinator Harvey Schultz, to facilitate an action plan. The goal of this process was for the elders to establish four or five points of action that they could begin to implement into their own lives and challenge their congregation to implement as well.

I could tell that even before the weekend began the elders were strongly committed to the Fellowship's vision. They had already committed themselves to praying daily for lost friends by name. Even a small step like this can have a significant impact on raising our awareness to opportunities we have to proclaim the Gospel in our everyday lives.

A few things occurred to me as I listened and participated in the discussion with the team from Salem:

- There are no easy answers. It is going to take time to figure out how to carry out the vision.
- The best plans of action are not likely going to be new programs for our churches to run.
- Some of the most effective items on our action plan will only be discovered through trial and error.

This is why it is so important for us to work together as a Fellowship. If you are a leader in your church, there is a great challenge before you. How are you going to lead your congregation to becoming people who proclaim the Gospel at every opportunity? Remember, you are not alone. We are a Fellowship that, with God's help, can conquer this challenge together. Let's share our ideas with one another. Let's share the stories of our successes and failures with one another. Let's continue to ask God to form His life and love in me and you so we can proclaim this Good News that many have yet to hear.

# A New Identity, with a Purpose

By Blaine Donaldson, President

*"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His glorious light" (2 Peter 2:9 NKJV).*

What a privilege it is to be a believer in Christ and a member of His bride, the Church. Many of us have treasured this verse as representing the great change that has been provided for us through Jesus' death and resurrection. It describes the new identity that we have in Christ.

First, we are **a chosen generation**. Sometimes people's theology of salvation would suggest that God looks up after people choose to follow Him or not and then sees His team. That is not a Biblical perspective. God has chosen you. He saw you amongst all of humanity and has chosen you. That choice was based on His love and grace, but nonetheless, He chose you. You are not the one that no one wanted. God chose you because He wanted you.

We are **a royal priesthood**. The key thought here is that we have been given full access to the presence of God. In the Old Testament, only the priests were able to enter the Temple, which represented the presence of God. In contrast, we have full access to the very near presence of God and from there we

can worship Him and intercede for others directly to Him.

*Consider again what Jesus has done for us. How can we be silent?*

We are **a holy nation**. The word holy means *set apart*. We are set apart by God *from* something and *unto* something. We are set apart from sin. It is God's intention that we overcome sin. He has equipped us by His grace to overcome every temptation. He always makes with the temptation a way of escape (cf. 1 Cor. 10:13). We are also set apart unto righteousness. God's plan for us is that we would perform acts of righteousness; good works which He has already planned for us to do (cf. Eph. 2:10).

We are **His own special people**. We live on a planet of about seven billion people. If you are a one-in-a-million kind of person, there are 7,000 just like you! Yet with God, you are special. You are special because God is infinite.

He intimately knows your uniqueness. He has made you special and He treasures you because He made you like no other. He loves you like no other.

What a description of how blessed we are! Yet these descriptions have a purpose: He has done all of this in order that we would praise Him. **"... that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His glorious light"** (1 Peter 2:9). Praise is an outward expression of thanks to God for what He has done in us. Of course, we should praise Him when we are together as believers. That is the point of much of the singing and praying that we do in church. However, that proclamation of praise ought not to be limited to those who already know Jesus. It should be made before non-Christians. Consider again what Jesus has done for us. How can we be silent?

Sometimes the devil tries to silence our proclamation of God's praise through things like fear and busyness. But it is a deception. God has chosen you. He has brought you into His very near presence. He has set you apart to live in victory over sin and to do acts of righteousness. You are special. Praise Him. Proclaim His praises to both Christian and non-Christian alike.

## Leadership Development Seminar

One day before the FEBC Workshop (Feb. 16), **FEBC President Blaine Donaldson** and consultant **Terry Schultz** will present a leadership training seminar on "Maturing as a Leadership Team." This seminar, which is intended for lay church leaders and pastors, will help a church board develop leadership skills that move the church forward to more effectively influence its community for Christ.

## 2012 FEBC Convention

The 118th Annual Convention will be held at Christian Fellowship Church of Rhineland (Swift Current, Sask.) July 18-22. The theme and speakers have not yet been announced.

# Eyes on the World

By Fayth Boeker, Commission on Missions



Forty percent (about 33) of our FEBC missionary units live in North America. Several of these work exclusively in local ministries: Awana, children's clubs, Canadian Sunday School Mission, rural church/Sunday school development, New Tribes Mission training centers, children and youth development homes or camps and Northern Canada Evangelical Mission. However, many others live in North America but have a ministry that reaches into remote places overseas.

One such family is **Gary and Valerie Brumbelow**. After serving 32 years in the field and as directors of InterAct Ministries, they joined Disciple Nations Alliance (DNA) in 2010. From his home office in Oregon, Gary engages with people in Africa, Latin America and Asia. DNA is working in more than 60 countries, mo-

bilizing trainers who equip churches to bring transformation to their communities. Gary is directly involved in editing a blog for the leader, Darrow Miller. He also writes stories for DNA Global News and publishes the e-newsletter.

After 35 years in Ecuador, working in hospital administration and personnel development, **Roger and Lois Reimer** are newly settled into a home in Oregon. They carry on a ministry with HCJB Global. Their efforts include college internships, ministry teams, working visitors and vision journeys. Just recently they partnered with Apoyo ministry as a teacher/trainer/mentor/coach for national colleagues who serve as pastors or church leaders.

**Please Pray:** Gary is the co-writer with Darrow Miller on a new book on the Great Com-

mission. Pray for successful publication and release of this new book. Also pray for the development of a series of videos designed to be used on Facebook, YouTube and other Arab-speaking social media networks. Immediate concerns are funding and the completion of the project.

In 2012, the Reimers will participate in training workshops in Ecuador and Guatemala, plus lead a college internship in Ecuador. Pray that the right college students will apply in the next few months. Roger and Lois request guidance in this process. A personal request is that God will help their daughter-in-law Melisa Reimer to recover well from kidney transplant surgery received at the end of 2011.

## Church Builders Revolving Loan Fund

In 1995 the Fellowship established a fund to provide low-interest loans to church plants for their first building. As loans were paid back, other churches could use the money. Individual members of our Fellowship were encouraged to give \$5 per month to this fund. By this fall, more than \$34,500 was available in the United States, and the Canadian fund held \$48,000 (but most of this amount is currently loaned out). We deeply appreciate each person who has given to this fund. However, because commercial interest rates are so low, few churches need these loans right now. Only one church is currently using this program. After consideration, the Executive Committee advises that we stop accepting contributions for this fund effective Dec. 31. Current funds will be maintained and will continue to grow through interest.

## Nominations

Except for two paid staff members, our Fellowship is made up of volunteer workers from our churches. Twenty-four positions will be open this summer, and these must be filled by people from our churches. People are needed on the commissions of Church Planting, Churches, Education, Missions, Trustees, and Women's Ministries. If you have an interest in these areas, talk to your church leaders or pastor. They have more information about the qualifications and job descriptions for these positions.

## Estate Planning Phone Seminars

Join in on a toll-free 45-minute call and learn how to:

- Provide for your family
- Reduce taxes
- Support ministries of your choice

Seminars are presented by Fellowship of Evangelical Bible Churches in conjunction with PhilanthroCorp. The next three seminars will be held: Tuesday, Jan. 17, 4:30 p.m. MST (5:30 CST); Thursday, Feb. 16, 2 p.m. MST (3:00 CST); Tuesday, March 20, 4 p.m. MST (5:00 CST). Registering is easy! Visit [www.febclegacy.org/tel](http://www.febclegacy.org/tel) to submit a registration contact form.

# Papyrus Project Takes a Mighty Leap

By Ben Watson

The seed has sprouted! In 2010 FEBC churches gave \$12,000 to Source of Light Ministries to develop Bible studies on a small, solar-powered digital player. Because of your gifts, a limited number of players are now in use in Ethiopia. Thank you!

I recently made a ministry trip to Ethiopia with colleague Les Fox and Pastor Mesfen Tadessa, the associate pastor of a nearby Ethiopian church. Our primary purpose was to train church leaders to incorporate the Papyrus player into their teaching ministries. Thirty-seven leaders from three denominations representing 4,200 churches went through the training.

**Tuesday, Nov. 15:** We divided the 37 into six groups to practice using the players. I wish you could have sat in the front of the auditorium with me and listened as first one, then another, and still another player came on and Pastor Tadessa's voice began to read the assigned lesson. Then, after a few minutes, the voice would stop, and I began hearing the members of the various groups discuss what they had heard. I knew this was the small beginning of a much larger ministry throughout the length and breadth of Ethiopia.

**Wednesday, Nov. 16:** An early morning knock found Ethiopian director Haile Selassie Tefera at the door with an idea: He asked if we could have the group leaders do a demonstration on using the players. This was so successful that we had two of the groups on Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning do similar demonstrations.

**Friday, Nov. 18:** All 37 leaders graduated from the course! Thirty leaders received both a beautiful certificate and a player, and the other seven received a certificate. Will you pray with us that this exciting beginning will result in many turning to Christ for salvation

and then growing in the grace and knowledge of Him?

**Tuesday, Nov. 22:** We got to watch one of our students in action at a church at the edge of what we would call a red light district. Many of the young converts were former prostitutes and drug addicts. I was told that only about 10 percent of the congregation is literate. What a place to try out a Papyrus player! Our student came to the class prepared to teach. He combined the Papyrus audio lesson with a white board and group discussion to create a dynamite 90-minute class. At one point he divided the group of 40 to 50 young people into smaller groups, appointed leaders and then went among them guiding their discussion. Then, at the end of the class he had each group leader give a two-minute report on the conclusions of their group.

We saw two by-products of the training. The first was an apparent jump in the sale of printed lessons. Haile does not have a school in his SLM branch such as we have here in Madison. He establishes associate discipleship schools in churches, and they purchase the lessons for use in their churches' ministries. For example, the director of World Vision for Ethiopia ordered 50,000 lesson booklets the week following the training!

A second by-product of the training was the entrance into a second language. Oromo is spoken by 44 percent of the people of Ethiopia, and our courses have already been translated and printed in this language. One participant asked if we could record the lessons in Oromo. He has a niece who speaks Oromo fluently and who attends Addis Ababa University. She was contacted and has agreed to record the lessons. A Christian radio station will allow us to use a studio; now we hope to soon have all the Amharic audio courses available in Oromo, too.

**Future Plans:** While I cannot now speak officially, I can say that we would like to get 1,000 players into Ethiopia in 2012. One thousand players will cost \$46,000! Please ask that God will provide the monies needed for the players and for several of us to return to Ethiopia next October or November to provide additional training. I hope that Source of Light Ethiopia will be ready to take over the player project by 2013.

**A window of opportunity:** During the training I got a sense of urgency among the assembled leaders. I mentioned this to Pastor Tadessa, and he confirmed that he had picked up this sense of urgency in conversations with several of the leaders. While the church is now free to preach the Gospel, we don't know how long they will have that freedom. Please pray they will faithfully and diligently preach God's Word while this window of opportunity is open.

[www.sourcelight.org](http://www.sourcelight.org)



# Infected!

By Jim Brandt

*Jim Brandt, a former pastor at Mountain Lake, Minn., and his wife, Linda, recently traveled on a short-term assignment to Romania, working with young people in orphanages who have HIV/AIDS. These youth contracted the disease through blood transfusions when they were young. Romanian law does not allow anyone who is HIV-positive to hold a job, so these young people are not even educated. Jim and his group held a camp for some of these in their late teens and early twenties.*

*A new enemy  
was sneaking  
its way into the  
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of innocent  
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children — this  
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HIV.*

Nestled on a quiet, back street in Resita, Romania, is a plain, gray house, one you might not even notice as you walk by it. But this nondescript building is a sanctuary of hope and a place of unconditional love and acceptance for the lost and rejected outcasts of this Eastern European country — the HIV-infected kids of Romania. This building is the home of the Joshua Project Day Center. Most importantly, this house is where, week-after-week, missionary couples Andy and Tresha McKnight and Tony and Claudia Undrea, share the uncon-

ditional love and forgiveness only found in a relationship with Jesus Christ. Since 1999 they have witnessed the heart-change in hundreds of HIV/AIDS infected kids. Hearts once darkened with the pain of rejection and fear of death are now shining brightly, and bubbling over with love for others because Jesus lives in them. How exciting to watch as these kids eagerly share the Good News of what Jesus has done for them with others infected with HIV — kids at their orphanage, kids living in deplorable home conditions due to their infection, or homeless kids they know living on the street. How did this amazing ministry start? Step back to 1989...

... the Communist Party was overthrown in Romania. The world rejoiced at Romania's newfound freedom, and humanitarian aid began to pour into the country to help alleviate the suffering and poverty the Communist regime had left behind. Along with food and clothing came medical supplies — blood products to be used in hospitals, clinics and especially orphanages for the treatment of child malnourishment. Unfortunately, blood screening was not practiced in those days, so although the Romanian people had found political freedom, a new enemy was sneaking its way into the lives of thousands of innocent Romanian children — this enemy was HIV.

Fast-forward to 1999 ... Tresha Inglis, a new missionary to Romania, met Claudia Udrea at a tram stop in Timisoara, Romania.



Conditions at the hospitals were deplorable and supplies limited. Lack of education, hope, and training for staff, families and caretakers caused these children to be abused, abandoned and left for dead — even in the hospital! However, God had other plans, and the Joshua Project World Ministries was born.

In July 2010, while in Romania, a group of four Minnesotans visited Joshua Project and got *infected* with Jesus' love for these wonderful young people; infected with a desire to step out of their comfort zone and share in this unique and exciting ministry to precious ones whose hearts need the healing touch of the Savior; and infected with the desire to love and serve them as Jesus would. Joshua Project World Ministries reaches out to these special kids and their families in a variety of ways, showing them love by being their advocates and counselors. Yes, we're *infected* and it's wonderful! Please join us! For more information about Joshua Project, visit our website - [www.joshuaprojectwm.org](http://www.joshuaprojectwm.org) For a U.S./Canadian contact, email Jim and Linda Brandt and Byron and Pamela Anderson at [pottershand333@yahoo.com](mailto:pottershand333@yahoo.com)



# The Remedy

Commission on Women's Ministries

By Trudy Reimer

I sat there absolutely appalled.

I was sitting at my computer reading the Facebook entries for that day. I don't really remember when or how I got an entry entitled "Mikey's Funnies" as one of my Facebook "friends." Some are very funny; some are thought-provoking; some I just skip. But this one intrigued me so I checked it out. It was entitled the "27 Worst Nativity Sets."

I imagine most of us have one or more nativity sets that we displayed at Christmas. I have one that I can hang on the tree. Another is just a small one made of crystal. And then there is our main one which sits in its place to portray the true meaning of Christmas.

*We all are in need of letting the Holy Spirit remind us of the awesome love of our God. In this New Year, how can we help others to see that love instead of making a mockery of it?*

But these *worst* ones? The characters of Mary, Joseph, the Baby Jesus, even sometimes angels, shepherds and wise men were shown as cats, dogs, mice, bears, chickens, geese, pigs, penguins, owls, butterflies or even rubber duckies. There were scenes built around veggies or marshmallows. Some were displayed on cupcakes or s'mores. And the last one — zombies. *What were they thinking?*

Many people just don't. They think of Christmas as just another holiday of food, family, friends and of course, presents. For some, the real meaning of Christmas has never been shared with them. Others just don't want to know. Others know but reject the message. All of us are in danger of becoming all wrapped up in the commercialization that so pervades our culture. How can we remedy this?

John 3:16 comes to mind:

~ *For God* — The Almighty Creator, the Sovereign of this universe, brought about His plan and purpose. Since I have been studying Genesis with ladies in my Bible study, I have become more and more amazed at our great and awesome God.

~ *so loved* — Can any of us really understand the depth of His love toward a people who deny His existence, defy His authority and despise the mention of His name?

~ *the world* — All of us stand guilty before Him.

~ *that He gave* — That is what Christmas is for, isn't it? So think many people. Black Friday gives evidence of our greed, our materialism and our self-centeredness. Don't we buy for others because we expect to receive? God

didn't keep — He gave.

~ *His only Son* — This was His plan before the foundation of the world. He gave what no one else could. But He was not just that sweet baby in the manger, but the Son of God who would hang on a cross.

~ *that whosoever believes in Him* — This Jesus was the Son of God, holy and sinless that He might die in our place. This we must believe. This Jesus, the Son of God, died that our sins would be paid for and we could have His forgiveness. This we must believe also.

~ *should not perish but have eternal life* — This is the most awesome gift that we could ever receive. In this life He gives forgiveness, peace and comfort; in the future, an eternal existence in the presence of our loving Heavenly Father.

We trust that your Christmas season was a blessed one. We all are in need of letting the Holy Spirit remind us of the awesome love of our God. In this New Year, how can we help others to see that love instead of making a mockery of it? Some don't know the true story — let's share it with them. Some don't want to know — let's show love and kindness to them so they can understand His love. Some just reject the message — let's pray for them that the Holy Spirit will melt their cold hearts. Let's make this the best year ever serving our wonderful Lord.



*Trudy Reimer has served on the Commission on Women's Ministries for seven years. She attends Heartland Bible Church, Lincoln, Neb.*

## FEBC Directory

The 2011 Fellowship Directory and Annual Report is now available. If you would like a copy, contact [orders@febministries.org](mailto:orders@febministries.org). Copies are \$5 plus postage.

# FOCUS ON OUR CHURCHES

*In this issue, many Fellowship churches share their plans for outreach in 2012:*

## *Christian Fellowship Chapel*

**Winnipeg, Man.**

**John Harwood, Pastor**

A lot of planning and training has been underway in anticipation of our first Alpha session set to begin in January. Not unlike most of the FEBC churches, our church has focused on reaching outside our walls. The Alpha program introduces non-Christian people to foundational truths about Jesus and His Gospel in a nonjudgmental way that is not threatening. People who attend Alpha meetings are free to express themselves and ask any questions they have. The Alpha program is not a “magic bullet” in relation to evangelism, but merely an opportunity to introduce the unbeliever to Jesus Christ. Pray with us that the Lord would bring those He has chosen to join us for our Alpha evenings and that they would clearly see Jesus.

*Nancy Kunkel, Correspondent*

## *Christian Fellowship Church*

**Rhineland, Sask.**

**Alvin Buhler, Pastor**

We are planning a mission trip in spring, and are looking forward to a new website.

A number of missionaries recently shared with us: **Howard and Norma Porter** (*International Teams/Bolivia*); **Sharlene Friesen**, home from Niger; **Derek and Kaitlyn Neustaeter**, home from New Zealand; **Mike Schmidt with Mitchell Schmidt** (*SIM/Niger*); **Peter and Kathy Baker**, (field directors of *New Tribes Mission*); and **David and Heather Hildebrandt** (*Africa Inland Mission, Tanzania*).

Recent activities we enjoyed include church camp, a silent auction and youth “redneck” Olympics.

### **New Members**

**Gary and Pearl Frostad and Mandy Janzen**

*Verna Buhler, Correspondent*

## *Community Bible Church*

**Omaha, Neb.**

**Charles Tschetter, Senior Pastor**

In 2012, CBC will continue outreach programs already in place. Through Child Evangelism Fellowship we sponsor Good News Clubs at two elementary schools and one at a junior high school. We plan to hold Financial Peace University again, and we are still involved with Flying Strong, the outreach emphasis of Larry Moyer’s EvanTell. Because of that, we will likely host another Friendship Banquet in

the new year. **Tommy Ice**, our new pastor-teacher/church planter, will oversee our Outreach Committee.

*Other news* — We again participated in “Advent Conspiracy,” focusing on funding a well at an orphanage in Zambia, and in raising funds for Reed Bible Institute in Mali, which trains pastors in biblical teaching.

*Sharon Berg, Correspondent*

## *Cornerstone Bible Church*

**Steinbach, Man.**

**Jared Hiebert, Pastor**

The Cornerstone Ladies enjoyed a wonderful retreat at Pine-wood Lodge in November. The theme of the weekend was “Out the Spout” with Psalm 19:14 as our theme verse. Lori Quiring was the speaker for the weekend and encouraged and challenged us in many ways.

*Marsella Wiebe, Correspondent*

## *Cornerstone Bible Church*

**Mountain Lake, Minn.**

**Nathan Janzen, Pastor**

Our Awana and youth group programs have been effective at bringing in kids from the community, many of whom are unchurched. One way we hope to build on this is by reaching out to their families in a more intentional way. We distributed the Jesus film to many of these families, along with a small Christmas gift. We plan to follow up with a visit early in 2012.

Our church continues to sponsor “A Word With You,” a short devotional each day on our local radio station. It has been one way to allow the community to become more familiar with us and to share the Gospel in a simple but powerful way.

In cooperation with the Elizabeth House, a local ministry seeking to address community needs, a grief support group is planned to be offered in early 2012. Grief support groups often have a good percentage of unbelievers willing to come in search of hope through the loss of a loved one. They can also have an important role in encouraging believers as they deal with the pain of separation. Connecting people with a church family is vitally important for them to continue healing and growing in their spiritual walk.

*Other news* — **John and Cindy Gardiner** shared of their camp and youth ministry in rural southwest Minnesota at our Harvest Festival celebration. The church sponsored “Random Acts of Kindness” by helping neighbors to rake leaves.

*Arlene Stoesz, Correspondent*

# FOCUS ON OUR CHURCHES

## *Countryside Bible Church*

**Meade, Kan.**

**David Cummings, Pastor**

Our counseling center at the church office officially opened in January. A number will attend a conference by the National Association of Nouthetic Counselors in Lafayette, Ind., in February to enhance their skill at biblical counseling.

The ladies enjoyed a brunch during Harvest Missions Festival with **Katie Williams**, missionary to Ecuador, as speaker. Her husband, Chet, was our featured speaker during the men's breakfast and other sessions.

**Ralph and Ann Classen** plan to help at The Roca Blanca Mission in Mexico during most of January.

The deacons held a luncheon for the senior adults in December.

*Mary Friesen, Correspondent*

## *Dalmeny Bible Church*

**Dalmeny, Sask.**

**Dennis Friesen, Pastor**

Our ladies prepared 35 meals together at church for our Love-In-Action. These meals are given to families who have illness, a new baby, etc.

We had the privilege of hosting the Annual Camp Kadesh Banquet.

This year we collected 44 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child.

Former pastor **Rod Masterson** spoke at our Thanksgiving Service.

**Milestone**

**Abe and Laura Goertzen** celebrated their 70<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on Nov. 13.

*Marilyn Harder, Correspondent*

## *Evangelical Bible Church*

**Omaha, Neb.**

**Don Pahl, Senior Pastor**

Greg Koehn, Pastor of Outreach, shares the following information about our current outreach, as well as what is planned for 2012:

"It is important to keep in mind that the number one reason a person comes to the Lord is because of a one-on-one relationship," Pastor Koehn said. "Therefore, we want our congregation to know what to say, how to say it and how to defend what they say."

EBC has ongoing training toward that end. Then, for new believers, the church provides a 12-lesson follow-up book entitled,

"Beginning Bible Lessons," and that is followed up with the EBC's Lifepoint Ministries Bible Institute curriculum, a survey study of the Bible.

The church has targeted two areas in Omaha for outreach: the neighborhood immediately surrounding our church, and an area that is part of the North Omaha networking ministries known as "Adopt-A-Block." EBC sent a caroling team in both areas before Christmas. A movie night is planned for early next year; an outreach dinner in May; and the church will partner with Child Evangelism Fellowship to offer a children's ministry in North Omaha in the summer.

**New Members**

**Jesse, Kathy, Miranda and Micah Busse; Jesse Pauly; Robert and Carol Smith**

*Sherrie Lindsey, Correspondent*

## *Evangelical Bible Church*

**Dallas, Ore.**

**Jerry Franz, Senior Pastor**

Our church has been diligently working with one of our missionaries, **Janice Peter** (SIM/Africa), raising money to have Bibles printed for the ChiYao people.

For 2012 we are continuing our outreach program with the Dallas Resource Center, helping to provide needed food and clothing. We also have a wood-cutting ministry for those who need wood for fuel this winter. We also partner with other churches to offer a lunch program once a month in the local high school. We look forward to what 2012 will bring and what we can offer to others this coming year.

Our Healthcare Committee sponsored two workshops in October. "Super-Sizing Makes You Super-Sized" focused on portion control. Later in the month they looked at the impact of sugar and salt in our diets.

We served more than 465 Thanksgiving meals to our church family and their guests. It was an successful outreach event as our church members were able to share with their neighbors, family and friends. Also in November, we sponsored the "Operation Christmas Child" party. Many items were purchased and lined the gym so that our church members could come and fill a shoebox for a child somewhere in the world who needs to know our Savior.

We began our second class of the Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University. This program has been well received by our church body with a good attendance to all classes.

*Vicki Kibbey, Correspondent*

# FOCUS ON OUR CHURCHES

## Evangelical Bible Church

Langham, Sask.

**Greg Guarnett, Senior Pastor**

Our club program ministers to about 50 children of which nearly half have no church affiliation at all. Pastor Justin and Nashly minister to 20 senior youth and 25 junior youth as well as providing direction to about seven college and career young adults.

The Christmas Banquet was a wonderful time of food and ministry at the local community hall.

**David and Heather Hildebrandt**, serving in Tanzania with AIM, shared with us.

*Marilyn Friesen, Correspondent*

## Evangelical Mennonite Brethren Church

Grunthal, Man.

**Russ Reimer, Pastor**

For our Thanksgiving celebration, we were honored to have **Henry Armstrong** (*World Team*) as our guest speaker. **Wes and Barb Peters** (*REACH*) were also in our midst. **Eugene Enns** of Grace Ministries spoke in October on *Wisdom to Hear God's Word and Do It*.

We praise the Lord together with **Ron and Eunice Wiebe** (*Child Evangelism Fellowship*) in that they were able to sell the old CEF building and purchase a facility more suited to their needs.

October was Menno Home activity month for our Women's Ministry. We participated in a visitation by mothers with tots, a men's coffee, and a party for October birthdays.

*Marilyn Goertzen, Correspondent*

## Evangelical Mennonite Brethren Church

Lustre, Mont.

**John Skillman, Pastor**

Pastor John's Sunday morning messages have centered on Acts the last few months with an emphasis on the vision statement of *using the opportunities to proclaim Christ at every opportunity*. Pastor has showed how Paul used the diverse opportunities presented to him to preach Jesus.

Our annual Missions Harvest Festival in October brought **Harvey Schultz**, chairman of the Commission on Church Planting and former FEBC Ministries Coordinator. Harvey centered his faith-building sessions at church and school chapel around the life of Abraham. By faith we packed approx. 90 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes with gifts and asked God to spread his message of love and grace to those children around the world who will receive them. We com-

pleted Christmas "Goodie Baskets" to reach out to the elderly and our neighbors during the holiday season. Other food-related ministries have included providing a grocery shower to a single man in our church who just moved to his own home, and sharing potlucks with the Lustre Christian High School dorm students, many of whom are from varying world religions. These students will attend our church for the next trimester, and we pray we will be able to proclaim Christ to them as we have opportunity.

*Sharon Skillman, Correspondent*

## Evangelical Mennonite Brethren Church

Marion, S.D.

**Randy Maass, Pastor**

**Ken Ortman** was the featured speaker at this year's Harvest Missions Festival, representing Lives Under Construction Ranch at Lampe, Mo. With God's leading, Mr. Ortman told of success in changing the lives of the boys who live there, and we enjoyed meeting one of the boys who came to visit with him. They lead a very worthwhile mission.

**Pastor Maass** has been preaching through Ephesians.

*Ray Becker, Correspondent*

## Faith Evangelical Bible Church

Winkler, Man.

**Mike Comtois, Pastor**

Our youth group held its annual raking event, visiting people from our church family who are in need of help with raking up all the leaves on their yards.

Our quiz team attended a quiz meet in Yorkton, Sask., doing an excellent job and even taking home first and second place awards.

*Liane Thiessen, Correspondent*

## Faith Evangelical Bible Church

Henderson, Neb.

**Michael Fink, Pastor**

Pastor Mike and Jan were honored for nearly 10 years of ministry to our congregation at a dinner in October. Our church family gave them a love gift, along with cards and notes of appreciation.

The Thanksgiving holiday was celebrated with a time of testimony by families recalling God's blessings in the past year. Sunday school offerings in October and November went toward the Angel Tree project, which provides children of prisoners with a special gift from their incarcerated parent this Christmas.

*Alice Decker, Correspondent*

# FOCUS ON OUR CHURCHES

## Grace Evangelical Bible Church

**Abbotsford, B.C.**

**Dr. Warren Schatz, Pastor**

Earlier in December, Christmas hampers were delivered to those less fortunate in our community.

For several months our congregation has participated in men's and women's breakfasts hosted by Saint Matthew's Anglican church, which meets at our facility, and some from our church helped with their annual Christmas fair. We are getting to know some of our Anglican friends and are privileged to work together in proclaiming God's love to our city.

A music workshop with **Mike Schuster** was held in December. Mike is actively involved in the Gospel Music Association in Canada and many of his songs are being used in congregations throughout North America.

God has provided several capable men to fill our pulpit in the absence of Pastor Warren. A prayer service was held in November for our church staff and leadership and the ministries of Grace Church.

### **New Members**

**Joshua and Teresa Giesbrecht, Richard and Angela Tjepkema, and Lucas and Venette Turek**

*Grace Toews, Correspondent*

## Heartland Bible Church

**Lincoln, Neb.**

**Scott Hecht, Pastor**

A new feature that was inaugurated this fall is for the elders to take turns hosting an informal evening of fellowship to form closer bonds between church members.

**LaVern and Marlene Smith** visited during our annual missions' weekend in October. The Smiths have served on a number of Caribbean islands.

Nov. 6 was a special day for Pastor Hecht as he was formally ordained to the Christian ministry. The challenge was given by a fellow Lincoln pastor, **Rev. Tom Remple** of Faith Bible Church.

*Trudy Reimer, Correspondent*

## Jansen Bible Church

**Jansen, Neb.**

**Paul Carpenter, Pastor**

The 2012 evangelism efforts of our church will continue to keep our Awana Clubs foremost. Along with the 60-70 children of the area, we also are increasingly reaching out to their parents and guardians. We prepared a family supper in November, after which the adults were invited to attend a "Bible time" and puppet show

with their child. Other family events are planned as well. To minimize driving, an informal question-and-answer Bible study is held at the Legion Hall, offering free food and drinks during the Awana hour.

Another outreach is a Sweetheart Banquet that includes a message giving God's answer to rekindling love in marriage. We have found that a Sunday school class for young couples' concerns has helped to bond new families brought to Christ in this way.

The evangelism committee is making further plans that will be revealed on our website: [www.jansenbiblechurch.org](http://www.jansenbiblechurch.org)

*Tena Dick, Correspondent*

## Martensville Mission Church

**Martensville, Sask.**

**Wilf Gaertner, Pastor**

Our church family continues to grow, as do the programs that our church provides to our own church, as well as the surrounding community. Brendon Johnson, our youth pastor, leads several groups throughout the week, including young adults, senior and junior youth, and a worship team.

We started the Awana program in the fall, and it has been a great outreach to our community. The group of kids participating is not large, but they certainly are enthusiastic! Most of the kids do not go to our church, and some do not attend church at all, but they all have a willingness to learn about Jesus, and how much he wants them to be a part of His family.

*Joanne Born, Correspondent*

## Northeast Bible Church

**Calgary, Alta.**

**John Fehr, Pastor**

*This is our outreach strategy:* knowing that one life example is a powerful testimony of who God is and the love He offers to all mankind. Over the last year, six babies have been born to families in our small congregation. We celebrate God's gift to us in these beautiful little lives who will grow up to share in the close bond of fellowship that is developing in our church. From this strong base of worshipping God through loving, serving and supporting one another, we each go out to let our lights shine among the people in our individual worlds of neighbors, work, school and play, as well as the contacts we have all over the world through phone calls, emails and personal visits. Thus we each do our part in the Great Commission of making disciples, returning each week to share our process and to find encouragement, inspiration and guidance for the days ahead.

**Craig Montgomery** was baptized in November. He is part of our church family because of a school bus driver's influence and invitation to his brother's wife and children. His brother came with

# FOCUS ON OUR CHURCHES



his family and invited Craig. One by one the Good News is lived and shared, and people like Craig find themselves loved by God and His people. From this secure place they reach out themselves to those in their own unique worlds.

*Julie Ann Simpson, Correspondent*

## Richer Fellowship Church

**Richer, Man.**

**Simon Cheung, Pastor**

Praises rang as the Eastman Male Choir agreed to perform an outreach concert in Richer. Our target audience was the seniors of the community and outlying areas, but in order to bring them in we “had to” charge admission. If our church hosts any free event, then people do not come. They think we are “up to something” (which usually is the case!). So we charged \$2, with all proceeds going to a well-respected rescue mission/woman’s shelter in Winnipeg. It worked! We also knew that we couldn’t “preach” to them, so we asked a choir member to give a testimonial. The evening was a success!

Our youth ministry is also growing, including Awana. These “lost lambs”— drug addicts and foster kids — are important enough to us to sacrifice our personal time. Shane Reimer manages to teach them life lessons. The youth meet every week for a Bible lesson, games and outings.

Pastor Simon’s outreach theme for 2012 is “connecting with God and others in order to focus on and draw closer to God.” Although our church is small, God is looking at servanthood, not numbers. He raised up prayer partners who meet diligently to pray for our church and community. We also have families who have “a coffee table ministry” with unbelievers on Sundays, encouraging Christians to not get comfortable “just hanging out” with fellow believers on the weekends. We don’t need to go very far: Jesus wants us to ask ourselves “Who is our neighbor?”

*Michelle Driedger, Correspondent*

## Salem Church

**Waldheim, Sask.**

**Darrell Derksen, Senior Pastor**

We have several outreach events which we offer annually, and some that are ongoing throughout the year:

The “Newcomer’s Welcome” is an informal evening where we invite those who are new to our community to get to know us and each other. The evening includes a brief introduction to Salem and other churches in the community, an opportunity to share stories of experiences while moving here and a time to visit.

“Sportsman Night” is an evening where guys of all ages get together and share an enjoyment of the outdoors. This year the event included trail cam shots (of cougars, moose, foxes, porcupines, etc), competitions and a speaker who has written the humour column for a popular hunting magazine. It’s a great place for good conversations to happen.

“Christianity Explored” is an opportunity for anyone to come and learn the basics of Christian faith in a non-threatening atmosphere. People are encouraged to ask questions as they explore the Gospel of Mark.

Food hampers are handed out just before Christmas. These are made possible through generous donations, not only from people in our church, but from local businesses and our local Hutterite colony.

“Financial Peace University,” a 13-week course on money management, was offered to the community this year, and may be offered again in the future.

Kid’s Club for kids from grades 1-6 is operated jointly with other churches in the community. It is an ongoing ministry to the kids of our community, many of whom would not come to church otherwise.

WOW (Women of Waldheim) — We join with women of the other churches to plan events that will be of interest to all the women of our community. The goal is to empower women to be all that God wants them to be.

*Other news* — One of our members, **Vanessa Fehr**, shared her plans to serve as a short-term missionary with Gospel for Asia Discipleship School. She leaves Jan. 21 for an 11-month term of service.

## Vita Bible Church

**Vita, Man.**

**Jurgen Penner, Pastor**

We held fall meetings in November with **Harvey Schultz**, chairman of the Commission on Church Planting and former FEBC Ministries Coordinator. The theme was “Learning to Live and Walk by Faith.”

Bibles and an inspirational DVD were distributed to part of our rural community as an outreach effort in December.

*Jane Roman, Correspondent*

## Births And Adoptions

*Christian Fellowship Chapel,  
Winnipeg, Man.*

**Benjamin Adam** to **Chris and Laurel Harwood**, Oct. 10; grandparents are **Pastor John and Rae Harwood**

*Christian Fellowship Church,  
Rhineland, Sask.*

**Blayse Eric** to **Eric and Shila Janzen**, July 27; grandparents are **Jim and Dianne Janzen**

**Lucas Telford** to **David and Wynnale Ruten**, Aug. 30

**Audrey Helen** to **Daryl and Leah Wiebe**, Oct. 7; grandparents are **Pastor Alvin and Verna Buhler**

*Community Bible Church,  
Omaha, Neb.*

**Josiah Jermaine Keyes** to **Erica Manns-Barnes**, Nov. 11

*Cornerstone Bible Church,  
Mountain Lake, Minn.*

**Salome Pearl** to **Delwin and Kari Derksen**, Nov. 3; grandparents are **Duane and Cheryl Derksen**

**Jacob Robert** to **Josh and Bobbie Jo Nickel**, Nov. 3; grandparents are **Ron and Shirley Nickel**

*Countryside Bible Church,  
Meade, Kan.*

**Rawlin James** to **Tasha Cook**, Oct. 13; grandparents are **Scott and Shelly Cook**

**Chase Michael** to **Justin and Grace Powell** Nov. 14

**Jackson Frank Ediger** to **Tyler and Tiffanie Ediger**, Dec. 2; grandparents are **Darwin and Roxanna Ediger**; great-grandmother is **Rosie Ediger**

*Evangelical Bible Church,  
Omaha, Neb.*

**Liam Regan** to Michael and Malinda Boeker, Oct. 20; grandparents are **Paul and Fayth Boeker** and **Verne and Jan Johnson**

**Kellan Lee** to **Steve and Heidi Van Voorst**, Nov. 4

**Howard James** to **Anthony and Susie Yates**, Nov. 11; grandparents are **Bill and Jayne Janzen** and **Lyle and Connie Yates**; great-grandparents are **Doris Janzen** and **Roy and Phyllis Watson**

*Faith Evangelical Bible Church,  
Winkler, Man.*

**Miriam Lucy** to **Bruce and Heather Fehr**, Nov. 26; grandparents are **Les and Sara Thiessen**

*Northeast Bible Church,  
Calgary, Alta.*

**Lennox Tamuno-Opubo Dan-Adokiene** to **Daniel and Deinma Adokiene**, Oct 26

*Salem Church,  
Waldheim, Sask*

**Theodore Halcyon**, to **Chris and Rebecca Roth**, Oct. 26; grandparents are **John and Janet Bollinger** and **Bill and Louise Bueckert**

**Solomon Telek**, to **Travis and Robin Ens**, Oct. 31; grandparents are **Russ and Lois McAlpine**

## Deaths

*Christian Fellowship Chapel,  
Winnipeg, Man.*  
Ann Berg (93), Nov. 30

*Christian Fellowship Church,  
Rhineland, Sask.*

Anne Fehr (83), Sept. 22  
Mary Friesen (81), Nov. 15  
Art Olfert (65), Dec. 4

*Cornerstone Bible Church,  
Steinbach, Man.*

Ida Kliewer (96), Nov. 18

*Countryside Bible Church,  
Meade, Kan.*

Hilda Friesen (84), Oct. 17

*Dalmeny Bible Church,  
Dalmeny, Sask.*

Luella Lepp (88), Oct. 13

*Evangelical Bible Church,  
Omaha, Neb.*

Doug Steward (82), Nov. 29

*Grace Evangelical Bible Church,  
Abbotsford, B.C.*

Annie Lusty (103), Nov. 10

## Weddings

*Christian Fellowship Church,  
Rhineland, Sask.*

**Bill and Judy Neufeld**, Aug. 14  
**Thomas and Nicole Olney**, Oct. 1

*Community Bible Church,  
Omaha, Neb.*

**Heather Heffernan** reunited to **Dustin Heffernan**, Oct. 23

**Melissa Allbery**, daughter of Larry and Dawn Allbery, to **Curtis Keierleber**, Dec. 3

*Faith Evangelical Bible Church,  
Winkler, Man.*

Cornelia Giesbrecht, daughter of Jakob and Helena Giesbrecht, to Nico Refler, son of Alex and Nadja Refler, Aug. 27

*Salem Church,  
Waldheim, Sask.*

**Chantal Blackmore** to **David Unruh**, son of Dan and Terry Unruh, Nov. 5

NO ENDORSEMENT

# Catch the Vision

## *Colors of the Wordless Bracelet Provide a Golden Opportunity*

After attending a funeral, we traveled home through Montana's majestic mountains by train in the daylight on Thanksgiving Day. We decided to visit the observation car. After enjoying the scenery awhile, I got up to walk about, and as I passed by two fellows on the other side of the car, one called to me, "Hi! We like to visit people. I'm Paul, and my friend is John. We're from Maui, Hawaii."

I replied, "You've got good Bible names. My name is Vivian Wall, and my husband, Dwaine, is sitting right over there."

John's eyes widened. He said, astounded, "You are the third person who has talked to us about the Bible on this trip. The second lady had a bracelet on her wrist with colors that had some kind of meaning. Do you know anything about those colors?"

"Yes, I do," I said. "I taught four and five year olds. They cannot read, so I enjoy using those colors in a wordless book to tell them about the central message of the Bible. Did the lady's bracelet start with the color yellow, and have black or red and white in it?"

"Yes, I think so," John said. "Do you know what they mean?"

I began to explain. "Yellow represents the streets of gold in heaven. If you pretended my hands were a book, and I turned the page from yellow, it would be all black. Black stands for the darkened heart of sin that we are born with. Our grandson, who was born at the end of October, he seemed really perfect, and so innocent. But he will soon enough say "no" to

his Mom and Dad, and no one will have taught him to disobey. He inherited his hair from his Dad, and his face shape from his Grandpa, but he also inherited the inclination to do wrong — sin, from Adam, the first person in the Bible, who passed it on to all of us. All have sinned and fallen short of the perfection God requires."

I continued. "The next color was red. It stands for the blood of Jesus. This is important because Jesus is the Son of God, and His blood was worthy. Because Jesus is God, He could die for the sin of the whole world and it was enough. Nothing more was needed."

I asked John if he would like a New Testament to read.

"No, I wouldn't read it if you gave it to me," he replied. "Besides, I don't believe those disciples were saints or anything but men."

"The disciples were simple men. But they were people God used to tell of the life of Jesus, like a witness on a stand."

John said, "I don't believe it. I'm a quantum physicist, and we've figured out that things we see were made out of nothing. But we don't know what or who did it. We just call it a stream of energy."

"John, God is all knowing, so He knows quantum physics and used it when he created these beautiful mountains," I explained. "He also made a way to be right with God. Salvation is a gift. We don't work for it."

John said, "I've chosen to believe in goodness, gentleness and kindness. I think God

is mostly love; maybe like Buddha. I'll listen kindly to what people say, but I don't usually believe it."

I continued reviewing the colors of the bracelet. "The next color is white. That is because only God can cleanse our hearts of the sin that we are born with, and that we commit. When God forgives us, our hearts feel clean and new. The green is like the evergreen trees. Everlasting life is what God gives. We choose where we will spend eternity now while we are living, according to what we do with Jesus and the Bible truths."

John grimaced when I said "truth." He looked surprised at my next statement.

"John, it's the difference of 18 inches between your head and your heart," I said. "You can know what's in the Bible and the way to heaven, but at some point you need to believe it in your heart. That's when you'll find there is a personal relationship to be had with the Creator Jesus Christ."

He looked thoughtful, and thanked me for talking to him, but said, "You'd get along with my mother. But I'm an unbeliever."

"You don't have to be," I told him as I rose, smiling with thankfulness on a very special Thanksgiving.

*Vivian Wall,  
Community Bible Church,  
Wolf Point, Mont.*