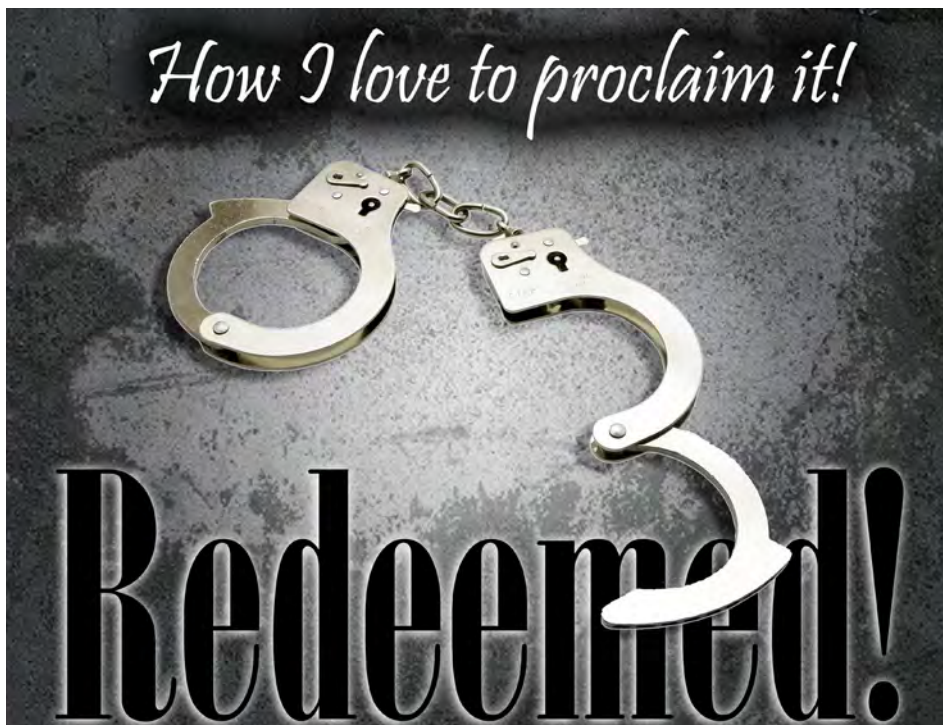


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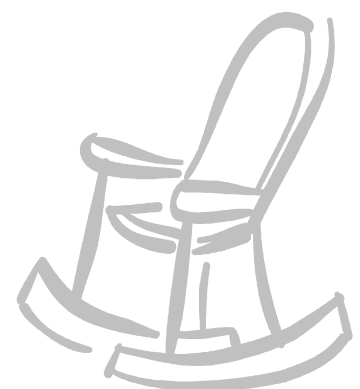
BECOMING A PROCLAIMING PEOPLE ...



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The Heart of Proclamation

President's Challenge

By Rev. Blaine Donaldson
President of the FEBC

Have you ever done the right thing for the wrong reason? What is the right motivation for us to be proclaimers of the Gospel?

I suspect that for most of us, our greatest motivation for sharing our faith has been guilt. Certainly that has been true in my life. We tell people about Jesus because the pastor communicated something like this: "If you do not tell non-Christians the Gospel, you are not a very good Christian." But proclaiming Jesus out of guilt and duty misses the mark of honoring Christ through our witness.

For many of us, our greatest motivation for sharing our faith has been guilt.

What is the right source of our motivation to proclaim Jesus? It is God's love for people. It is God who so loved the world. It is Jesus who left the 99 to save the one who was gone astray. It is Jesus, fully equal with God the Father, who humbled himself and took the sins of all people upon Himself. There are no adequate words to express the vastness of God's love for unsaved mankind. The passion that we should have for evangelism should come from the love that God has for non-

Christians.

This source is so important because it changes the way that we approach non-Christians. We ought not to be motivated primarily by a sense of duty or guilt. Rather our hearts should be stirred by the Spirit to genuinely care about them. We should genuinely seek God's glory and their good.

One evangelist wrote the following concerning Jim, a man with whom the evangelist proclaimed Christ: "Showing Jim Christ before I earned the right to tell him about Christ was where I missed the mark. At that time my passion for evangelism was not purely driven from the source of God's passion. Once I discovered

how God felt about Jim, my approach to everyone I encountered dramatically changed" (Simpson, *Permission Evangelism*, 2003, p. 41).

Loving people the way God loves people is the only way to be a God-pleasing proclaimer of the Gospel. This needs to be at the center of our worship.

There is also a practical reason that love for people ought to be our motivator. It is captured in the Christian adage, "People do not care how much you know until they know how much you care." That may be overused, but there is a kernel of truth in it. In your interactions with non-Christians, do you genuinely care about them? Is that something that your actions and words communicate?

Yes, sometimes people do witness with wrong motives. Does that mean that non-Christians cannot be saved that way? Can God use those who are motivated through guilt? Certainly He can, and He does. However, is there any reward from the Lord for such service? In such a case, I believe that God can use it for His glory (see Philippians 1:15-17; however, I hesitate to think that there is any praise from God for the effort.

Let's do the right thing, the right way. Think, really think about, and meditate on how much God loves the lost. God's love needs to be our motivation. It is this foundation for which the Apostle Paul declares, "For the love of Christ compels us" (2 Corinthians 5:14). The Bible reveals God's heart in so many ways.

Are we seeing His heart through our daily intake of Scripture? If we are experiencing God in this way, this vision will enlarge our hearts. How could it not? We need to be people of prayer. Praying for a non-Christian does more to give us God's heart for that person than anything I know. See the person as God sees him, and love him.

However, are we showing non-Christians, communicating to them, how we (and God) really feel? This is the heart of Gospel proclamation. Without this heart, we are missing the point of proclamation. ■

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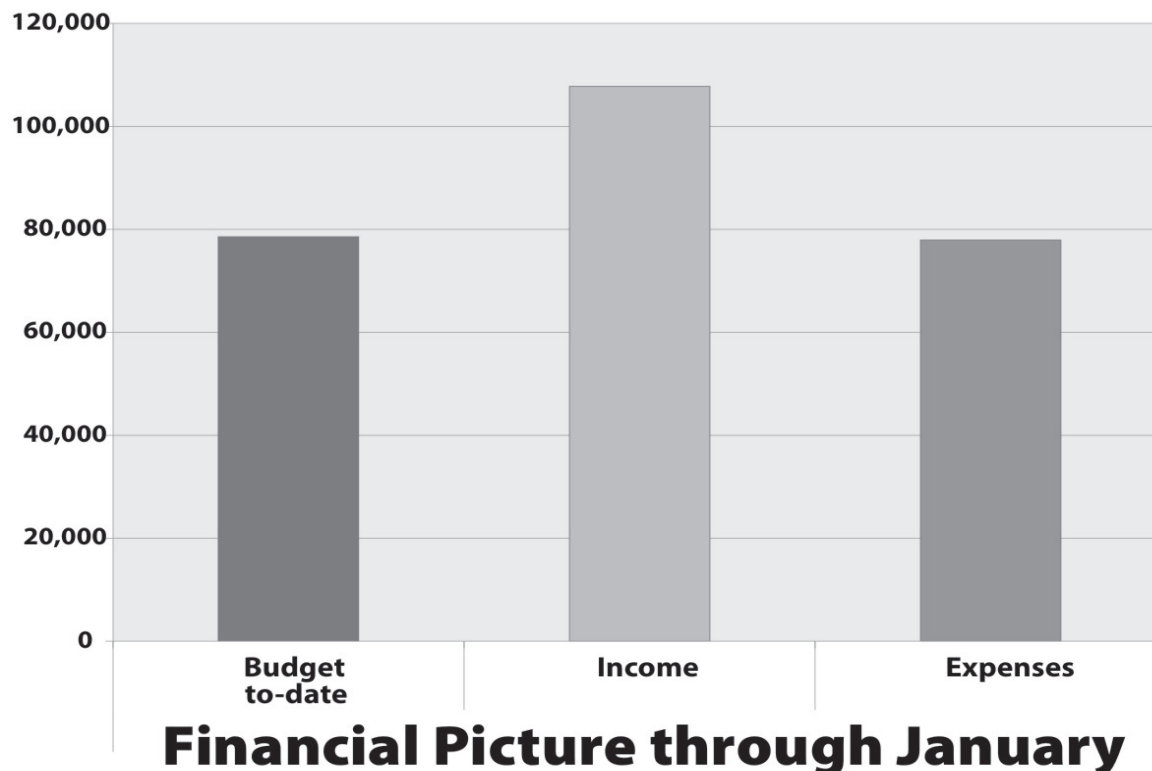
Editor's Note:

Welcome to the March/April issue of *Fellowship Focus*, traditionally our "convention issue." You'll find all you need to know about this FEBC annual event on pages 6-7. Delegates this year will meet July 18-21 at our host church, Christian Fellowship Church of Rhineland in Wymark, Sask. Speakers are drawn from the pastors of four Fellowship churches: **David Cummings**, Countryside Bible (Kansas); **Allan Dueck**, Kenora Bible (Ontario); **Jeff Friesen**, Hebron Bible (Nebraska); and **James Thiessen**, Hodgson Bible (Manitoba).

This year's convention theme of "*Redeemed! How I love to proclaim it!*" is, of course, taken from the title of the great hymn, and complements the Fellowship's vision of "Proclaiming Christ: every member – every church – every opportunity."

This "vision thing" can make life pretty interesting, because God may surprise you by where and when he leads you to share your faith. **Rick Herrig** of Cornerstone Bible Church discovered that in an encounter at a most unlikely place: along the freeway! Turn to the back cover to read his story in "Catch the Vision." And consider sharing your own story with others. Contact us at fellowshipfocus@febcministries.org.

Blessings,
Sharon





Focus on the Word

Our Tower of Refuge

The Name of Jesus Christ

by Harvey Schultz

*"Your name is a strong and mighty tower.
Your name is a shelter like to other."*

—Paul Baloché

"The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer;
my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge;
my shield and the horn of my salvation.
He is my stronghold, my refuge"

2 Samuel 22:2-3

We often sing the words from the worship song above. We read David's words in 2 Samuel. But do we really grasp their deep significance? I sometimes get the impression (perhaps wrongly so) that many people think that there is some magical spiritual force which is released when we utter the name of Jesus. He has become our spiritual "open sesame;" our Christian "abracadabra."

True, when ordered in the name of Jesus Christ to be gone, demonic forces must obey and release their captive. But there is a much deeper significance to David's reference to his tower; his stronghold; his refuge.

Ancient as well as medieval walled-in cities often had within their walls a special, fortified tower into which people retreated when attacked by a powerful enemy. It was much harder for the enemy to penetrate its defenses. My wife and I had the privilege of visiting the remains of several such towers during our time in France. It was truly a place of refuge. The Bible has several references to such towers or strongholds (2 Samuel 5:17; 23:14; Judges 9:46-53, etc.).

David obviously had this image in mind when he wrote about God being his stronghold or refuge. When in danger he fled to the Lord and asked for protection and deliverance from his enemies. He declares that God delivered him even though often David and his men had to physically engage in a battle. And God is still the One Who protects and delivers us from tangible, physical danger.

But I believe there is also an additional, deeper meaning to this concept. Often our thoughts and emotions are troubled. Difficult circumstances make it appear that God is not in control; not all-knowing, all-wise, all-powerful; not loving or just. He doesn't

answer our prayers. He isn't with us. Subconsciously, and sometimes consciously, we question those realities. We become troubled, agitated and stressed out in our minds and emotional beings.

We have begun to allow ourselves to listen to the lies of our troubled emotions and thoughts.

It is then that we need to run into our tower. Merely repeating the name of Jesus Christ usually won't bring relief in such situations. Our enemy is not some spiritual demon, but our own misguided thinking. We have begun to allow ourselves to listen to the lies of our troubled emotions and thoughts. It is then that we need to remember what the name of Jesus Christ represents: it represents Who He is and all that He is. Knowing that, we should then stop our agitated thinking and discipline our thoughts to consciously remind ourselves that God is still Who He says He is. He is the all-powerful, all-knowing, all-wise, loving God. He is in complete control. He is with us. He is aware of our situation. He does hear every one of our prayers. Circumstances may be screaming that that is not true. But it is! It is impossible for them not to be true. It is impossible for God not to be what He says He is.

When we run to Him in this way, consciously reminding ourselves of what His name represents, of Who He is, of what He is constantly doing, then deliverance comes to our troubled mind and emotions. We experience firsthand that the name of Jesus Christ is a strong and mighty tower, able to shelter and save our minds and emotions from reasonings which deny the truth of His Person and plunge us into fear, anguish, agitation and despair.

Isaiah said: "You will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you because he trusts in you" (Isaiah. 26:3 ESV).

David said: "I have set the Lord always before

me. Because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken" (Psalm 15:8).

The hymn writer wrote: "Stayed upon Jehovah, hearts are fully blessed; finding as He promised, perfect peace and rest" ("Like a River Glorious" — Frances Havergal).

Do you and I consciously flee to this tower when danger threatens our minds? When we do so by consciously, deliberately thinking about all that that name represents, we will find that the name of Jesus Christ is a tower of strength, a refuge like no other for our thoughts and emotions.

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture references are New International Version. ■

Fellowship Views

Fellowship Missionaries

Our Fellowship has long valued missions. Today, 84 missionary units from our fellowship are serving around the world. Where do they serve?

- 1 island of the Caribbean
- 1 country of Central America
- 3 countries of North America
- 5 countries of South America
- 5 countries of Africa
- 8 countries of Europe
- 13 countries of Asia

Twenty-two of our churches have members serving in missions. The top three are

- Evangelical Bible Church of Omaha, Neb. (12)
- Grace Evangelical Bible Church of Abbotsford, B.C. (9)
- Cornerstone Bible Church of Mountain Lake, Minn. (8)

Count the Cost

What does it cost per day to support and equip a missionary? Most missionary units would fall between \$130 to \$250 per day! That must cover travel, ministry expenses, administration, training, health care, retirement, housing, auto, children's schooling, and salary. How many days per month is your church providing for its missionaries?

Continued on page 8 —



Eyes on the World

By Fayth Boeker

Commission on Missions

The "Fellowship Directory and Annual Report" lists all of our FEBC career missionaries. Missionaries are categorized according to the areas of the world where they serve. Familiar areas include: Africa, Asia, Caribbean, Central America, South America, limited access countries and Europe. Three less familiar categories are Global, North American and Home Staff. What do missionaries in these categories do? God is using missionaries who live in North America in some amazing ways.

Willis and Ruby Wantoch have a home in El Paso, Texas, but minister just across the border in Cd. Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico. For 52 years they have served under Gospel Missionary Union/Avant Ministries. Although officially retired, they continue to work daily as volunteers, doing church planting, counseling and personal visitation.

For more than a decade **Frank** (10 yrs.) and **Lori Ward** (12 yrs) have been affiliated with Northern Canada Evangelical Mission (NCEM). Today they serve at Key-Way-Tin Bible Institute. Frank teaches Bible classes and Lori is the Outreach/ Internship Coordinator and works with the annual youth retreat, ministering to First Nations youth. They both mentor students. Frank teaches the Bible in chronological order with the goal of changing students' lives by giving them a firm foundation and helping them grow to maturity.

Ben and Gladys Watson have been with Source of Light Ministries (SLM) since 1997. They first served in Omaha, Neb., and then eventually moved to the SLM headquarters in Madison, Ga. Ben is close to retirement, but "so busy he can't stop working long enough to see just how to retire." Ben oversees the Alternative Media department, but is gradually making a transition from leadership to developing and teaching Source of Light's courses online. Ben and SLM are hoping to see God provide \$50,000 to purchase 1000 Papyrus solar-powered media players for Ethiopia.

Wycliffe has had the pleasure of using the gifts of **Gary and Darlene Williams** for 38 years. Today the Williams serve in Saskatchewan as the Wycliffe representatives responsible for recruitment and public ministry. In this coming year they hope to 1) recruit college students for missions; 2) preach missions in any church that gives them opportunity; 3) represent Wycliffe at every mission conference open to them; 4) minister to campers at summer camps.

Update: Russ and Sang Hee Harder were expelled from Morocco by the government in 2010 (along with 130 others). Today they serve in Montreal among displaced Moroccans and Algerians! They now are affiliated with Pioneers and have seen God open amazing doors of opportunity for ministry.

Russ and Sang Hee are both involved in teaching English to immigrants.

Pray ...

The Wantochs (*Saron Mennonite Church, Fairview, Okla.*): Times are difficult in Cd. Juarez, both economically and politically, due to continued violence and drug activity. Pray that the believers would continue to grow and mature in their faith.

The Wards (*Christian Fellowship Church, Wymark, Sask.*): Pray that Frank has wisdom in teaching and mentoring. They seek God's leading in the students' lives with the goal of finishing the school year.

The Watsons: (*Evangelical Bible Church, Omaha Neb.*): They are asking God to make them a blessing as they minister to blind folks in a conference in North Carolina, April 20-22. Also pray for wisdom as they work towards semi-retirement.

The Williams (*Dalmeny Bible Church, Dalmeny, Sask.*) request prayer for wisdom as they continue their ministry this spring in churches, Bible colleges, and mission conferences. Pray that the Williams can be an encouragement to their children who return from ministering in a limited-access country for a visit this spring. ■

Legacy Giving

Give Your House and Live In It, Too

Don and Della want to do something significant for their favorite charity. They considered making a current gift of their residence, but decided against it because they like their home and want to enjoy it until they pass away.

The logical solution seemed to be a bequest. They could revise their wills and transfer their house to charity after the death of the second spouse.

Then Don and Della heard about a special provision in the tax code allowing them to give their house to charity now, get a sizable income tax deduction and still be able to live in their home for the rest of their lives. This seemed, for them, a perfect solution.

Here's how it would work through the Fellowship of Evangelical Bible Churches: Homeowners may deed a personal residence or farm to the Fellowship through a retained life estate

agreement. The deed indicates that the owners reserve the right to use the property for the rest of their lives. At the death of the last life-tenant, the Fellowship could sell the property and use the proceeds to further their mission.

Before the property deed is conveyed to Fellowship of Evangelical Bible Churches, the property must be appraised to determine the fair market value. Then the life expectancy of all the life tenants is considered along with other factors to determine the present value of the remainder interest. This amount represents the charitable gift value of the arrangement and is the amount the donors may claim as an income tax charitable deduction.

It is precisely this income tax deduction feature that makes the retained life estate agreement so attractive. If the property were transferred through

the will at death, no income tax deduction would be allowed. But making the transfer during life (while retaining the right to use the property) creates the deduction, because the transfer is irrevocable. Also, removing the property from one's estate now may reduce estate taxes and probate costs later.

The life tenants would be expected to maintain insurance, pay property taxes, care for typical maintenance and repair items, and permit Fellowship of Evangelical Bible Churches to assist as appropriate.

This all may sound a little confusing, but it really is quite easy to accomplish. If you would like more information about this kind of planned gift or other possibilities, please visit our web site at www.febclegacy.org/re. ■

Redeemed!



How I love to proclaim it!

You're Invited

All of us here at Christian Fellowship Church extend a warm welcome to our brothers and sisters, both in the Lord and in the Fellowship of Evangelical Bible Churches, to gather at our church facility for the FEBC's 118th Annual Convention. Commission meetings will take place on Wednesday, July 18 and Convention meetings and activities will take place Thursday, Friday and Saturday, July 18 to 21. You are all welcome to stay over for a Service of Praise and Worship to the Lord on Sunday morning, July 22. We look forward to having you come and to the privilege of serving as your hosts.

Rhineland is located about twenty-five kilometers or fifteen miles southeast of the City of Swift Current, a small city of about 15,000 people. Swift Current has a wide range of restaurants, numerous hotels, two shopping malls, numerous downtown shops, a Pioneer Village, and several campgrounds. For you avid golfers, Swift Current has two 18-hole golf courses with another golf course located about a half-hour north of Swift Current, Sask.

Convention 2012:

July 18–22, 2012
Christian Fellowship Church of Rhineland
Wymark, Saskatchewan

Registration pamphlets, with information and forms, will be available shortly. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact our church office via e-mail at cfcor@sasktel.net or by phone at 306-773-6845.

Evening Sessions:

Wednesday: "Proclaiming Jesus in His Story"
(Rev. Jeff Friesen)

Thursday: "Proclaiming Jesus in Our Story"
(Rev. James Thiessen)

Friday: "Proclaiming the Excellencies of Jesus"
(Rev. Allan Dueck)

Saturday: "Proclaiming Reconciliation"
(Rev. David Cumming)

Travel Links:

<http://www.sasktourism.com/>

<http://www.city.swift-current.sk.ca/>

<http://transcanadahighway.com/>

Passports are required for USA travelers to Canada.

http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1082.html



Our History

Our church began as a Sunday School Class in the living room of Rev. J.J.M. and Mrs. Margaret Friesen in 1943. When the church was formally organized as a church in 1958, Rev. J.J.M. Friesen became the founding pastor of the Christian Fellowship Church. Pastor Friesen began a radio ministry called the "Bread of Life Broadcast" broadcasts could be heard in Saskatchewan and points in Bolivia (through short-wave), in both English and German, from 1957 to 1972.

Our first missionaries, Kay [Unger] Friesen (TEAM, India) and Freda [Rempel] Daku (TEAM, China) left for their fields of ministry in March 1954. They were soon followed by other missionaries from our congregation going to numerous fields around the world.

Over time, our church has gone through many changes. Yet a constant of our church is that the Word of God is our standard for faith and practice (living) and the Triune God is worshipped as the only true, living and eternal God who saves by grace, through faith.

Today our church has a multi-generational congregation, of about 145 people, well-distributed through all age groups. Active programs that minister to these groups are Awana clubs, Junior Youth, Senior Youth, College & Career, and Sunday School. Our church has sent out a number of dedicated missionaries to fields around the world. Christian Fellowship Church continues to stand as a lighthouse (John 8:12) on the wind-swept prairies of southwest Saskatchewan.

Our church is located in the Village of Rhineland (Yes, you can Google® "Rhineland, SK"). The village is surrounded by grain fields, pastures and wide-open spaces. In this part of the world "rush hour" means that two or three other vehicles are on the road the same time you are. In the latter part of Psalm 104:3 (NIV) the psalmist writes, "He [the Lord] makes the clouds His chariot and rides on the wings of the wind." That verse resonates in a person's soul on a day when light clouds dot the otherwise blue sky and a gentle, and often brisk, wind blows in one's face.

Convention Speakers



Rev. Jeff Friesen

Jeff Friesen was born in rural Nebraska, but for the next 18 years, his family was on the move — Nebraska, Texas, and back to Nebraska. After high school, he attended the University of Nebraska at Lincoln (Bachelor of Science in Broadcasting) and then went on to Grace Theological Seminary (Master of Divinity) in Winona Lake, Ind.

Jeff became a Christian as a four-year-old, after attending Vacation Bible School. He remembers clearly how the teacher described the consequences of one's sinful nature. At home, his mother explained the Gospel, and Jeff asked Jesus to forgive his sin. However, he chose rebellion during his college years, but the Lord graciously brought him back to Himself during his junior year of college. During his senior year he began to experience God's leading to ministry and decided to further his education towards that goal.

In 1990, as Jeff was finishing his degree at the university, he met Wendy Southwick at a church they both attended. Jeff went to Grace Seminary that fall, while Wendy went to Calvary Bible College for a year before transferring to Grace College. They were married in May 1992. The Friesen have four children: Ethan, Caryn, Cienna, and Isaac.

After both graduating in 1995, they returned to Lincoln and Jeff became an intern at Holmes Park Bible Church. A few years later, when Pastor Ray Reimer

retired, Jeff was asked to become the pastor. Then in 2001, Holmes Park began meeting with Prairie Bible Church. Ultimately, the two churches merged to become Heartland Bible Church.

Around the same time, in 2001 Jeff was asked to consider leading a potential church plant in Hebron, Neb. After much prayer and discussion, the Friesens moved to Hebron, with the intent of planting a church. They have now been in Hebron for almost nine years. Today, Hebron Bible Church is autonomous.

Jeff pursues a wide range of hobbies in addition to reading (which is a constant). A recent hobby is cabinet making. He is also training for the Lincoln Marathon, scheduled for May.

Jeff is passionate about conversations that matter. Rather than engaging in small talk, he prefers to talk with people at the level of the ideas and commitments that shape how they live. Francis Schaeffer, C.S. Lewis and Alvin Plantinga have influenced Jeff's approach to conversations. He appreciates the ways they engaged in evangelism from a worldview perspective. Jeff also wants to encourage people to think.

Jeff's other passion is evangelism. Since the Gospel is the first thing that matters, he tries to encourage people to consider their relationship with Christ from the perspective of Scripture. His approach is to ask questions and then follow up with more questions that bring the point home.



Rev. James Thiessen

Most of James Thiessen's growing-up-years were spent in Roseau River, Man. His family attended Stuartburn Gospel Chapel. James came to know Christ as his Saviour at the age of 16, at a Wes Aaron Crusade held in their area.

After graduating from Shevchenko High School in Vita, Man., in 1976, James continued his studies at Nipawin Bible Institute and graduated in 1980. That same year he also married Juliann. They raised three children; two are now married: Elishema and Landon, Joshua and Cara, and Jerome. All are serving the Lord.

In the fall of 1981, the Hodgson Bible Church called James to be their pastor. Although, by his own admission "still wet behind the ears," James accepted that call. He and Juliann also directed nearby Fisher Bay Bible camp

for the first six years. They have now ministered at Hodgson for 31 years! For many years, James has served on the FEBC Commission on Church Planting and on the Executive Committee.

James has many interests loves hunting (including target shooting), fishing (especially ice fishing), camping, as well as gardening and general yard work. Most of all, he enjoys trapping which also helps put food on the table. He raises chickens as well as other fowl. Having always had an interest in small farms, he strive to be as self-sufficient as possible.

James is passionate about everyday practical Christian living being part of the community and living the faith among non-Christian friends. He really enjoys working with young believers. Of course, his favorite part of pastoring is preaching.



Rev. Allan Dueck

Allan rebelled against Christianity and vowed that he would never be a "hypocrite" like some of the people he observed in church. But God would not let him go. The "Hound of Heaven" kept pursuing him and used Wes Aarum, an evangelist, to bring him to faith in Christ when he was 17 years old.

Immediately following his conversion, Allan sensed God's call into ministry. After completing high school he enrolled at Winnipeg Bible College (now Providence University College), graduating with a Bachelor of Religious Education. Following a short-term ministry in Germany where Allan met and married his wife, Eva, they returned to Canada, and he began seminary training at Winnipeg Theological Seminary (now Providence Seminary). Two years later he graduated with a Master of Arts. in Christian

Education. After ministering in several churches, Allan returned part-time to Providence Seminary, completing his Master of Divinity degree in 2000.

Allan's ministry experience includes:

- Pastor: Humboldt Bible Church, Humboldt, Sask., 1978 – 1981
- Pastor: Manitou Evangelical Free Church, Neilburg, Sask.
- Missionary: Evangelical Free Church Mission, Austria
- Pastor: Christian Fellowship Church, Winnipeg, Man. 1999 – 2007
- Pastor: Kenora Bible Church, Kenora, Ont., 2009 – present

Allan loves spending time with their four grandchildren. He also enjoys hiking in the mountains and doing photography, capturing the beauty of God's nature in pictures. But his real passion is to teach and preach, helping people to grow in their relationship with the Lord.



Rev. David Cummings

David Cummings grew up in Texas, mostly in cities. His father was a pastor, so he grew up sitting under the Word of God. Although he resisted the Gospel for several years, when he was 12 years old David realized his sin and need for a savior and put his faith in Jesus Christ alone to be reconciled to God. Since then, He has sought to grow in His grace and serve Him with his life daily.

In 1986 Dave married Kim Eden. God has given them two children: Courtney (married and working in Dallas, Texas) and Chris (a high school senior).

David's studies at Texas A&M University resulted in receiving a bachelor of science in Environmental Design and one in Construction Management. These

degrees led to Dave becoming a Manager of Projects in the Petrochemical industry and a Marketing Development Manager for Weyerhaeuser.

Later Dave decided to make a career change. He enrolled in The Master's Seminary in Sun Valley, Calif., graduating with a Master in Divinity degree. David was an elder in various churches until he graduated from seminary. He now has been the pastor of Countryside Bible Church of Meade, Kan. since May 2000.

Dave's interest include computer technology, books, and not surprisingly, Aggie sports, especially football.

The passion of David's ministry can be summed up by Colossians 1:28: "I desire to '... proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we might present every man complete in Christ.'"

Focus on FEBC Church Planting

By Harvey Schultz

Official Opening In Tisdale, Sask.

Sunday, April 29, has been set as the official opening of the new building of **Community Bible Church** in Tisdale, Sask. But meetings in the new facility have already begun, even though finishing touches are being applied and renovations ongoing in the old building. What a pleasure to meet in a spacious auditorium — almost three times the size of the old one! What a pleasure to have permanent Sunday school rooms which don't have to be dismantled after every session! What a pleasure to be able to host joint community church services. Many, many volunteer hours have gone into this project. A \$3000 sound system has been installed thanks to last summer's Convention Offering Project. A \$60,000 loan from Prairie West Extension, a \$15,000 grant from the FEBC, and the generosity of local believers have made this a reality. Now the number one prayer request is that God would use this facility to enlarge the ministry and the church in Tisdale.

"Steady As She Goes" in Richer, Man.

Richer Fellowship Church has seen stability and slow growth during the past six months. Attendance is steady and gradually increasing. Penetration into the community is deeper. Giving to the local budget is healthy and increasing. Pray for perseverance and continued growth.

Changes coming to Indian Head, Sask.

As you near Indian Head, Sask., on the TransCanada Highway approaching from the east, you will soon see a large new highway sign announcing that "Jesus is the Light of the World" and inviting people to check out **Community Bible Church**. That sign is another tangible evidence of our Convention offering in July 2011. Past advertising in Indian Head has had an impact.

That change is small compared to what will happen in the next 10 months. Our church planting couple, **Bill and Sandra Glasspell**, have reached retirement age and will step down from the local ministry by the end of this year. A new phase will begin in the development of that church as they learn, with assistance and the guidance of the Steering Committee, how to go about recruiting their next pastor. Pray for God's guidance in this process and for unity in the body.

Generosity and Encouragements at Natoma, Kan.

Many of you are already aware of the tremendous outpouring of generosity manifested by FEBC people in January. **Sharon MacConnell** of **Paradise Valley Church** was increasingly confined to a wheel chair with a spinal nerve being pinched. The Victory Medical Center in Houston, Texas, with Dr. Kenneth Alo of the North American Spine

Institute, was ready to perform the surgery on Jan. 26. It would cost \$19,500. Within two weeks, many of you responded and the money was provided. The surgery went well, and Sharon is now recuperating at home, gradually regaining the use of her legs.

Two years ago a thorough review of the Natoma ministry was conducted by the Commission on Church Planting because the outward signs were not encouraging. Changes have since been implemented and a commitment made to review progress in February 2012. As these lines are being penned, the results of this latest review are not known. However, the encouragements during the past two years are known. Pastor Ben and Sharon are now regularly ministering to more than 50 people each week through Bible studies in surrounding communities and in Natoma itself. Worship service attendance has doubled. Believers are demonstrating genuine ownership. Pray that there would be tangible results and growth from this faithful ministry, and that God Himself would build a strong, stable, viable local church in Paradise Valley at Natoma.

After Sharon's surgery, for which many, many people were praying, Ben shared this quote with us: *Where prayer is focused, power falls.* We have often found this to be true. Maybe that's one reason why God allowed Sharon to suffer. Let's focus our prayers on all these projects, and watch God work. ■

Fellowship Views continued ...

Missionary Glimpses

Would you like a quick glimpse of our missionaries? A free CD is available from our office with a slide of almost every missionary (some have been omitted for security reasons). Please include \$3 for shipping and handling.

Leadership Training

Thirty church leaders attended a seminar to learn how they could help their congregation move toward a clear vision. The seminar, led by **Terry Schultz** and **Blaine Donaldson**, was held at the Evangelical Mennonite Brethren Church in Grunthal, Man., on Feb. 16.

How a Fellowship Works

Sharon MacConnell, the wife of one of our pastors, needed surgery to correct a spine

problem that was causing pain and paralysis in her legs. They found a facility that performed a very specialized surgery, but the cost was \$19,500, and they had no medical insurance.

When the Commission on Church Planting learned of this need, it immediately contacted our churches. Because of time considerations, only churches in the United States were notified. But they responded quickly, and in just a few days we had received enough gifts and pledges to allow us to pay for Sharon's surgery in advance. Additional gifts even covered the cost of travel.

Just today I opened an old binder. I found it contained news bulletins for Fellowship church leaders. An item from January 1984 caught my eye: "Response to the Hiebner Emergency Medical Fund has been encouraging." As happened now, our Fellowship worked together then to meet the need of a suffering pastor and family.

Through the years, our churches have used

their relatedness to help other churches through disasters; help missionaries in crises; provide immediate financial aid to church plants; and assist pastors.

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

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These seminars are presented by Fellowship of Evangelical Bible Churches in conjunction with PhilanthroCorp. The next three seminars will be held:

- Tuesday, March 20 at 4 p.m. MST (5 p.m. CST)
- Thursday, April 5 at 3 p.m. CST

Registering is easy! Visit www.febclegacy.org/

Letting Go

Commission on Women's Ministries

By Bernice Karnop

Alice sat down heavily at the table in the retirement center where we were about to start our Bible study. The former missionary's eyes were downcast and her lips were quivery. Clearly, she was upset.

In her firm and plain-spoken way, she stated, "My church asked me not to play the organ anymore."

She'd made a blunt comment about the kind of music they were using and someone else had been offended. A younger member was poised to take over. Alice could scarcely imagine attending morning worship sitting somewhere besides in front of that keyboard.

Alice isn't the first to be denied the privilege of doing what God has given the skills and desire to do.

The Bible tells how David wanted desperately to build a house for God, but God refused to let him. "You did well to have this in your heart, nevertheless, you are not the one to build the temple," God told him (1 Kings 8:18-19).

God affirmed David's desire but denied him the privilege. I imagine David's disappointment was great, but he didn't lose interest in the temple. With great enthusiasm, he set about doing everything he could to insure the success of a project that would belong to another. He drew plans, gathered material and rallied others.

This incident, also recorded in Chronicles 28 and 29, emphasizes the inner attitude, which God examines and values. David tells his son, Solomon, to serve God with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind. "For the Lord searches every heart and understands every motive behind the thoughts" (1 Chronicles 28:9).

David's heart was right toward God. He felt no threat in turning over a job he loved to a younger person because he felt confident that God loved him. Being denied the task of building the temple did not signal rejection by God.

David cared more about the success of the project than he did about his part in accomplishing

it. He cared more about God's glory than about his desires. He looked for things he could do rather than fighting or fretting about the things that he was not allowed to do.

I can either take my wounded feelings and retire to the rocking chair, or I can ask God what He wants me to do.

We might imagine that David did this effortlessly. For Alice and the rest of us, it can be a real struggle. We have to deal with our anger and hurt feelings before we can step back graciously.

The story reminds me that I can either take my wounded feelings and retire to the rocking chair, or I can ask God what he wants me to do. He may show me how to help the project at hand, or he may open my eyes to fresh areas of ministry.

There are always jobs that aren't being done. A mature person might volunteer to keep the church kitchen stocked and in order. An individual might offer to keep the toys and furniture in the nursery repaired and disinfected. Someone might take responsibility for spending a few hours a week tending flowers in the church yard, trimming trees or raking leaves.

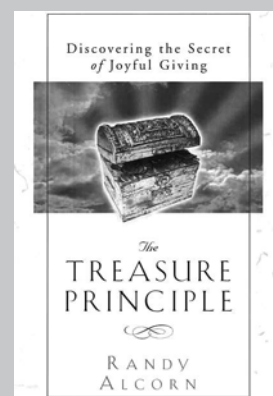
And while doing these jobs, the volunteer may pray for the people who come to mind. For example, they might pray for children as they wash toys, pray for those who drive by the church as they work in the yard, pray for the pastor, his wife and children, and praise God for everything.

What a difference it would make if elder church members encouraged younger folks in their ministries instead of criticizing them or competing with them.

Paul was no youngster when he penned these words to the Philippians: "Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press

on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. All of us who are mature should take such a view of things" (Philippians 3:13-14). ■

Bernice is the cousin of Pastor John Skillman of the Evangelical Mennonite Brethren Church in Lustre, Mont. She is a freelance writer who lives with her husband, Jake, and tortoiseshell cat "Millie" in Great Falls, Mont. Bernice volunteers with Compassion International, and is a member of Grace Baptist Church.



FEBC Video Library

The Treasure Principle: Discovering the Secret of Joyful Giving

Most people can significantly give to the Kingdom of God, but they don't know how or haven't been taught the awesome eternal benefits of sowing into God's work on Earth. Author Randy Alcorn calls it "a hidden treasure," and we all must learn this life-changing principle to find that hidden treasure.

The Treasure Principle Workshop teaches the joy of giving. Some Bible studies use guilt as a motivation for giving; this one doesn't. In a dramatic teaching style, this video workshop inspires those who watch to learn the principles of giving in a way that causes lasting change.

The Treasure Principle Workshop is a six-session study (DVD) produced by Crown Ministries. Recommended for small groups or Sunday school classes. ■

FOCUS ON OUR CHURCHES

Summer is on its way, so we asked Fellowship churches to share their plans for youth and children's ministries:

Community Bible Church

Indian Head, Sask.

Bill Glasspell, Pastor

This year we have switched to a "Club DJ" for children as well as "DJ Connection" for youth during our Sunday School Hour. These programs are extensions of our five-day clubs that are operated during the summer in Indian Head and the surrounding communities of Wolseley, Katepwa, Montmartre, and the reserve of Carry the Kettle. The results have been favorable, with several new families of children attending, and our Adult Sunday School class is growing as well. Five-day clubs and "Club DJ" are the ministries of Child Evangelism Fellowship. The originator of the "Club DJ" program, **Jerry Durstan**, lives close by in Regina.

Bill Glasspell, Correspondent

Christian Fellowship Chapel

Winnipeg, Sask.

John Harwood, Pastor

On the first Sunday of 2012, we joined with 60 other Winnipeg congregations for a massive worship service called "One Heart" held at the MTS Centre, an indoor arena. The venue was full to capacity; more than 15,000 people enjoying each other, worshipping our Savior together and bearing witness that the Church of Winnipeg is united and for God and each other.

We have been praying and searching for an associate pastor candidate for a year now. We enjoyed hosting a candidate couple and family in January. Please pray with us for the Lord's guidance in the direction He chooses. Maybe in the next *Fellowship Focus*, we will have big news to announce!

Nancy Kunkel, Correspondent

Christian Fellowship Church

Rhineland, Sask.

Alvin Buhler, Pastor

We are looking forward to hosting Convention this July.

A web site has been designed for our church and is still in its growing stage ... check out cfcor.ca to see our current bulletin, calendar events and other information.

Three cheers to **Pastor Tim Knelsen** and four other FEBC Saskatchewan Youth Pastors: **Martensville's Pastor Brendon Johnson**, **Dalmeny's Pastor**

Dave Cornelius, **Langham's Pastor Justin Epp**, and **Waldheim's Pastor Lee Young**, who organized a weekend retreat for the youth of our churches at Camp Kadesh in northern Saskatchewan. This was our youth group's first year to attend.

Our ladies have been quilting and are now sewing pillowcase dresses to be sent to Haiti or to Samaritan's Purse.

Verna Buhler, Correspondent

Cornerstone Bible Church

Mountain Lake, Minn.

Pastor Nathan and Megan Janzen

The Christian Education Committee is in the process of planning for the youth work this summer. The Sunday school department is planning the children's programs.

JESUS film DVDs were made available to distribute, focusing on immigrants to the United States. We're praying that they will be effective tools in proclaiming the Good News in Mountain Lake.

The movie "Courageous" was shown at Cornerstone in February. We hope the film will be used to encourage and challenge many parents to honor the Lord in their families.

Arlene Stoesz, Correspondent

Countryside Bible Church

Meade, Kan.

David Cummings, Pastor

This summer's Vacation Bible School will be held under the leadership of the Emmanuel Church. Camp for the children is in the planning stages.

Les and Margaret Clevenger recently shared with us about their planned return to Italy and their financial needs. We are continuing to host opportunities to help the young people going to Ecuador over spring break earn money to support the trip.

We held the dedication and hosted an open house in February for our biblical counseling center.

Pastor David continues the verse-by-verse exposition of 1 Peter: "When the Going Gets Tough — Hope for the Hopeless" on Sunday mornings. On Sunday evenings we study "Genesis: Book of Beginnings." Some of our men attended 2012 Ironmen Summit, with the theme centered on a biblical vision of masculinity.

Mary Friesen, Correspondent

FOCUS ON OUR CHURCHES

Dalmeny Bible Church

Dalmeny, Sask.

Dennis Friesen, Pastor

We reach more than 100 church and non-church children through our Club program. Vacation Bible School, together with the Community Church, is always planned for August.

Next year we hope to reach out to the community with a new event the ladies' group hosted at Christmas: a family party with wagon rides, hot chocolate, snacks, children's activities, games, visiting and supper. About 61 people of all ages attended this year.

Five of our FEBC Saskatchewan youth pastors, along with 35 youth, enjoyed their annual *Freezin'* Retreat up at Camp Kadesh at the end of January.

The Brazil Missions Team hosted a soup lunch to raise money for the team's trip in August. Also in August, a team of 12 is traveling to Brazil to see one of our global partners, **Scott and Patsy Buhler** and family.

Marilyn Harder, Correspondent

Evangelical Bible Church

Omaha, Neb.

Don Pahl, Senior Pastor

EBC's CARE Team is pleased that we have given 73 boxes of food since we started our Food Box Ministry 18 months ago. The mission of this ministry is to provide pre-packaged non-perishable food items for those within our body as well as for others seeking assistance. Because the boxes are intended for many circumstances, they also contain printed information on community resources (including area food pantries and Angel Food Ministry sites), as well as the "Road Map to Heaven" message of salvation.

IronSharpeners is our men's ministry, with the goal of providing a forum in which men can get to know other men in the church and encourage them in their roles as Christians in the world, as husbands and fathers, and as leaders in the church. The men hold a monthly breakfast featuring a speaker or program that relates to men, and also attend area conferences specifically geared for men. They also host recreational and fun events such as frisbee golf tournaments. The goal of IronSharpeners is to provide a forum in which men can get to know other men in the church and to encourage them in their roles as Christian men in the world, husbands and fathers, and leaders in the church.

MUMS (Mothers Uplifting Mothers) is a ministry of encouragement that seeks to strengthen mothers with the truth of God's Word. A monthly MUMS night offers moms the opportunity to hear a speaker on a timely parenting topic and sometimes even enjoy a meal to give the moms a break. Mentoring relationships within the group also provide invaluable sources of encouragement.

Sherrie Lindsey, Correspondent

Evangelical Bible Church

Dallas, Ore.

Jerry Franz, Pastor

One of our primary Sunday school classes gave a short presentation to our congregation. The children had collected money to buy Sunday school materials for a group of kids who did not have the materials they do. Several of the kids gave money that they had been saving for special things for themselves. One little boy, when asked why he gave his money for this, simply said, "I knew it was the right thing to do, so I did it!"

Every month our Healthcare Committee composes a letter of encouragement and information for our homebound members. We have several from the committee that visit the homebound on a regular basis also. Our Ladies Missionary Fellowship group provides books for the homebound, and continues to be busy with many projects, including making lap blankets for the care centers and knitted baby blankets for the pregnancy center.

Vicki Kibbey, Correspondent

Evangelical Bible Church

Langham, Sask.

Greg Guarnett, Senior Pastor

We are able to minister to community kids through club and youth programs. Pastor Justin and Nashly are developing relationships with the youth and the College and Career group. Pray for our Christian Education committee: We need volunteers, and this impacts many areas of ministry, including any summer plans for Vacation Bible School.

The Congregational Care Committee hosted an appreciation banquet for the seniors of our church. We are thankful for the wisdom and experience our seniors bring to us. We dearly miss the many that have moved away.

FEBC President Blaine Donaldson spoke on New Year's Day. Opportunities to learn from God's Word sprung up in January, including our first men's group, HIT Men (Honesty, Integrity, Transparency), which was formed to promote fellowship, encouragement and discipleship.

Marilyn Friesen, Correspondent

Evangelical Mennonite Brethren Church

Grunthal, Man.

Russ Reimer, Pastor

Our church hosted the FEBC Workshop in February, as well as a Valentine's Day banquet. We are encouraged to invite others who don't normally come to our church for this banquet.

This January, Pastor Russ challenged our church to work on memorizing together. Each week, there are two verses in the bulletin to work on, which

FOCUS ON OUR CHURCHES

we recite together on the next Sunday.

Some of the ladies of our church sewed a blanket as a fundraiser for a family whose young daughter is suffering with leukemia.

Mrs. Adila Peters went home to be with the Lord in December. She is the wife of the late **Rev. Bill Peters**, who was one of the founding pastors of our church.

Tamara Bergen, Correspondent

Evangelical Mennonite Brethren Church

Marion, S.D.

Randy Maass, Pastor

Pastor Maass travels to Grace University in Omaha weekly to teach a seminary level class on Sermon Preparation and Delivery on Monday evenings and then at Sioux Falls Seminary on Tuesday afternoon. Here at EMB, he continues preaching through the book of Mark. The next Sunday his message is discussed in Sunday school, and has led to interesting and informative discussions.

Our beloved organist and pianist of some 50 years, **Connie (Doyle) Dick**, passed away. We will really miss her ministry of music.

Ray Becker, Correspondent

Grace Evangelical Bible Church

Abbotsford, B.C.

Dr. Warren Schatz, Pastor

Arden Adrian has been invited to serve as Interim Pastor while Pastor Warren is on indefinite medical leave. Arden comes to us in his 40th year of ministry, having begun as a church planter and then served in roles as lead pastor, Bible college teacher in Australia and then again as pastor. For more than a decade he has served as an Intentional Interim Pastor, helping churches that were going through a year or two when they needed a temporary pastor to help them navigate a time of change or difficulty. Though he has served in this capacity in three other provinces, he has most recently served in our province at Kamloops Alliance Church, Heritage Alliance Church here in Abbotsford, and at the North Shore Iranian Church in North Vancouver.

Arden has a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Regina, and a Master of Divinity degree from the Canadian Theological Seminary. His wife, Pat, is a pastor's daughter and a graduate of Bethany Bible College in Hepburn, Sask.

Arden and Pat will celebrate their 45th anniversary this summer. They have two daughters who are married and living in the Vancouver area. They also have twin teen-age granddaughters. The Adrians no longer move around the country in ministry and have made their permanent retirement home here in Abbotsford.

Baptism: **Ron Mickelson**

New Members: **Doris Klassen, Leonard Klassen and Ron Mickelson**

Grace Toews, Correspondent

Faith Evangelical Bible Church

Henderson, Neb.

Michael Fink, Pastor

Dr. Jim Eckman from Grace University will be with us on March 11, speaking primarily on Israel and how current events point to God's fulfillment of prophecy.

Adult Sunday school classes offered this spring will include "Sharing Jesus without Fear" and "Raising Kids with a Faith that Lasts."



New Members: Sam and Beth Burnham, Glenn and Jo Larson, and Dewayne and Sharon Hiebner.

Alice Decker, Correspondent

Heartland Bible Church

Lincoln, Neb.

Scott Hecht, Pastor

A short DVD presentation from Faith Comes by Hearing highlighted the Military Biblestick. This is a small personal listening device pre-loaded with the Audio New Testament and is specifically designed for combat situations, with a non-reflective finish and low-power operating light that fits perfectly with military camouflage. The offering we took raised \$1,260 to provide these for soldiers.

Missions Movie Night in January featured the first of a series entitled «Torchlighters — Heroes of the Faith.» One segment is an animated cartoon for the children and another for the adults. Our first showing featured the story of missionary Jim Elliot. Steve Saint, son of martyred Nate Saint, gave an interview about the continuing work among the Wuarani people.

FOCUS ON OUR CHURCHES

Precious Memories Quartet, which includes one of our own as a member, ministered to us with Southern Gospel Music. They have a great ministry in various care centers around Lincoln.

Trudy Reimer, Correspondent

Hebron Bible Church

Hebron, Neb.

Jeff Friesen, Pastor

We have discussed, but not yet decided, on a Vacation Bible School and youth program. The SLX group (Student Life Extreme) enjoyed an annual Super Bowl Party.

Pastor Jeff has started a prayer meeting on Thursday mornings for the laymen and pastors in our county, with the focus on a renewal of faith. The Wednesday night Bible study group is diving into the book of Revelation.

Jean Shipley has graciously agreed to serve as our new visitation ministry person.

We ask you to keep us in your prayers, as many in our church family have lost loved ones and contend with illnesses.

Linda Krueger, Correspondent

Jansen Bible Church

Jansen, Neb.

Paul Carpenter, Pastor

At the end of the Awana year, all clubbers are invited to register if they wish to attend our Vacation Bible School in June. The curriculum will be chosen by the new Christian Education committee. One thing is a constant, however — the crafts. Every year each student makes one ceramic figure for his own manger scene, which will be complete when finishes eighth grade. These crafts have been treasured through the years by students and parents.

Sunday school and Wednesday evening classes for elementary grades continue all summer.

During the long summer evenings, on one Sunday each month we celebrate FACT (Fellowship After Church Tonight) at the parsonage. The church family and visitors are welcome. We fill house, deck, garage and overflow to the yard. It's a monthly picnic for all ages.

To raise money to travel to the FEBC youth convention, our youth will again run the food concession at the Washington, Kan., rodeo. They desire that their love for Christ and those around them be evidenced by their gracious service and the Scripture references on their T-shirts and beverage cups. More than half of the group that attends the regular Saturday night fellowship and Bible study attend other churches and come with pertinent Bible questions.

Tena Dick, Correspondent

Northeast Bible Church

Calgary, Alta.

John Fehr, Pastor



Our annual "Potluck Birthday Party for Jesus" has become an annual outreach event for our neighbors and their children. The celebration included a clown who made balloon animals, face painting and a specially decorated birthday cake with candles and sparklers.

A Filipino congregation uses our building on Saturday nights. Their youth performed a play that showed the kind of gift Jesus wants from us at Christmas and every day — namely ourselves.

January's Sunday lunch was held at a food court of a mall. This is a great time for visiting and building relationship while the kids enjoy each other's company over burgers and fries.

Julie Ann Simpson, Correspondent

Salem Church

Waldheim, Sask.

Darrell Derksen, Senior Pastor

Salem Church has had the privilege to both send out and welcome home young missionary women from our congregation. **Larissa Wiens** returned from Zurich, Switzerland, where she has served Operation Mobilization for the past year with an exciting story of God's redeeming love for the lost. **Vanessa Fehr** began ministry Jan. 20 with Gospel for Asia's School of Discipleship.

Our building committee hosted a fundraising "Dessert Night" in February. This fun-filled evening included a silent auction in which participants can bid on items and services donated by members of congregation.

FOCUS ON OUR CHURCHES

A new women's ministry event, "Women of Waldheim: In The Name of Love" kicked off in February. Women of Waldheim is a community women's ministry in which we partner with two other churches.

Baptisms: **Kaia Nickel**

Nikki Willems, Correspondent

Richer Fellowship Church

Richer, Man.

Simon Cheung, Pastor

Community service is a positive way to win the trust of families in Richer. For the past few years the Ladies Fellowship has been baking cookies for parent-teacher nights at the local school. This, along with Awana Commander **Rick Betts** driving the school bus, has opened doors to invite children to church events.

How does Richer Fellowship celebrate the return of the Winnipeg Jets? We hosted "Hockey Night in Richer" (floor hockey, of course)! The Awana kids invited their friends to play, and everyone wore their favorite hockey jersey. Afterwards, parents were invited to hear the story of hockey great Paul Henderson (Toronto Maple Leafs), and how his true goal was to win people to Christ.



Proverbs 16:9 says "a man's heart plans his way but the Lord directs his steps." Reaching out to Richer is really about waiting to see how the Lord will direct the next ministry opportunity (planning Daily Vacation Bible School, sending children to camp, encouraging the youth to get summer jobs), the offering of ourselves, and giving people time to respond.

Michelle Driedger, Correspondent

Saron Mennonite Church

Arnold Curby, Pastor

Oriente, Okla.

At the church business meeting in January, we voted to give the missionaries we support a one-time gift of \$500, as all are in need of extra funds.

We hosted our monthly program at the Fairview Fellowship Home in January. We appreciate all of the singers who participated.

Melba Nickel, Correspondent

Vita Bible Church

Vita, Man.

Jurgen Penner, Pastor

As a special outreach to our rural residents, we distributed Bibles and the Christian film "The Secrets of Jonathan Speery" DVDs. An invitation to our annual Sunday School Christmas program was also included to give them the opportunity to join us in the celebration of the birth of Christ.

Jane Roman, Correspondent

Legacy Giving 
Today's resources for tomorrow's ministries

Stocks, bonds, or other publicly traded securities make great gifts! You can transfer them directly to Fellowship of Evangelical Bible Churches and receive a charitable deduction for the full fair market value of the gift, including all the appreciation. Upon receipt, Fellowship of Evangelical Bible Churches would sell the stock and utilize the proceeds. What's more, neither you nor Fellowship of Evangelical Bible Churches will have to pay capital gains tax on the gift. To learn more, visit www.febclegacy.org/stock

Births

*Cornerstone Bible Church,
Mountain Lake, Minn.*

Miles Gabriel to **Dusty and Kristin Pfeiffer**, Dec. 22; grandparents are **Rick and Jan Herrig**

Jaacci Riddell to **Ken and Jacci Classen**, Jan. 26; grandparents are **Gary and Mary Classen**; great-grandmother is **Esther Kroeker**

*Dalmeny Bible Church,
Dalmeny, Sask.*

Bella Grace to **Russ and Kathy Penner**, Dec. 29

*Evangelical Bible Church,
Omaha, Neb.*

Jackson Paul to **Gabriel and Amy Smith**, Dec. 1; grandparents are **Steve and Terri Smith**

Bridget Corinne to **Randy and Kimmie Shideler**, Dec. 19; grandparents are **Kim and Linda Palmer**

Malachi Paul to **Jeff and Kim Kliwer**, Jan. 17; grandparents are **Leon and Dianne Kliwer**; great-grandparents are **Paul and Mildred Kliwer**

Greysen Thomas to **Tim and Kendra Eveland**, Jan. 22

*Evangelical Bible Church,
Dallas, Ore.*

Andrea Marie to **Jamie and Kari Godeaux**, Jan. 9; grandparents are **Chuck and Doreen Godeaux**

Caleb James to **Scott and Michelle Christensen**, Jan. 31; grandparents are **Neil and Sandy Christensen**

*Evangelical Mennonite Brethren
Church, Grunthal, Man.*

Aidan Henry Martin to **Rick and Charlotte Durksen**, Dec. 21; grandparents are **Ed and Anne Durksen**

Mitchell Pearce to **Jeremy and Cheryl Froese**, Jan. 30; grandparents are **Ernest and Gwen Froese**

*Faith Evangelical Bible Church,
Henderson, Neb.*

Beckett William to **Taylor and Jessica Siebert**, Dec. 7; grandparents are **Lowell and Shannon Siebert**

*Salem Church,
Waldheim, Sask.*

Kenya Joy to **Gary and Tobey Thiessen**, Jan. 3; grandparents are **Martin and Elma Thiessen**

Koston Jacob to **Shawn and Tamara Reimer**, Dec. 2; grandparents are **Barry and Connie Friesen**

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

Kezzia Grace, to **Joshua and Teresa Giesbrecht**, Feb. 11; grandparents are **Dave and Grace Toews**

Deaths

*Christian Fellowship Chapel,
Winnipeg, Sask.*

Kay Friesen (89), Dec. 31

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

Levi Reimer (86), Jan. 19

*Evangelical Mennonite
Brethren Church, Marion, S.D.*

Connie (Doyle) Dick (65), Feb. 1

*Salem Church,
Waldheim, Sask.*

Jordan Lee Zacharias (18), Dec. 3

*Evangelical Bible Church,
Omaha, Neb.*

Danko Paziak (60), Dec. 20

*Evangelical Mennonite Brethren
Church, Grunthal, Man.*

Adila Peters (96), Dec. 15

Weddings

Evangelical Bible Church, Dallas, Ore.

Johnny and Crystal Hauge, Jan. 21

Faith Evangelical Bible Church, Henderson, Neb.

Micah Crosley to **Lisa Weedon**, daughter of **Don and Kathy Weedon**, Dec. 17

Catch the Vision:

Freeway Connection

By Rick Herrig

Running out of gas on the freeway can be a major headache. Is it a nightmare in the making, or the beginning of a blessing? Therein lies the rest of the story.

Commuting 50 miles to work is part of the normal routine; not much excitement today. "Normal" ended the moment the pickup sputtered to a stop on the side of the freeway. The needle on the gas gauge pointed to empty. The driver had heard of others who had run out of gas, but it was the first time for him. The verse, "all things work together for good" came to his mind, but an empty gas tank? You've got to be kidding.

Few motorists stop to help on the freeway these days. Today seemed to be no exception. Resigned to his fate, he started walking toward the next exit where he knew he would find gas. A car passed him, pulled to the side of the road, and began to back up. Could it really be that he had a ride?

The Good Samaritan was a middle-aged woman driving alone. Her name was Crystal. The man explained that he had run out of gas. "Could I get a ride to the next exit?" he asked. As they drove, she told him that she never picks up hitchhikers. Her husband will probably disapprove when she

tells him. Crystal said that it was just like her car pulled over on its own. She had gotten a phone call from the nursing home where her dad lives. "If you want to see your dad one last time," the nurse had said, "you had better come now." Crystal had been driving for more than an hour. Her mind was flooded with memories. She was overwhelmed with the thought that this would be her last time to see her dad. As she prayed, tears welled up in her eyes. "Lord, my sadness is more than I can handle. I need someone with me now. Please send someone." That's when she saw the man on the side of the road.

**Only God could
have arranged
such a meeting.**

Crystal offered to give him a ride back to his vehicle. The man wondered if he dared share about his faith. As if in direct answer to his wondering, Crystal began to tell him of her faith in Jesus Christ.

Her dad, too, was a Christian. Even though her dad would soon be seeing heaven, the thought of his leaving left her feeling very sad.

With gas in the tank, the pickup started right up. The man walked back to the car to say thank you. He asked Crystal what he could do to repay her for her kindness. "Would you pray with me?" she asked. On the side of the freeway, with vehicles speeding by, he leaned into the car window and prayed for Crystal and her dad. As he prayed, Crystal put her hand on the man's arm. "Thank you," she said. The smile on her face let him know that she would be alright.

"All things work together for good." Was it really possible for a woman who never stops for hitchhikers and a man who never runs out of gas to meet? Only God could have arranged such a meeting. Did God love Crystal enough to answer her prayer? The answer is yes. I was privy to watch the answer unfold, for I was that man on the freeway. ■

*Rick Herrig is a member of the
Cornerstone Bible Church
of Mountain Lake, Minn.*

