

# Fellowship Focus

Volume 54 • No. 1 January/February 2014



## SPLAT in Richer

### Church News



**They just look mild mannered ...**

*Oh sing to the Lord a new song; sing to  
the Lord, all the earth!*

Psalm 96:1 (ESV)



Baptism in Langham, Sask.  
Church News



# For Such a Time as This

I hope that your mind's eye travels to the life of Esther as you read the title of this article. If not, please read the book of Esther today. The statement emphasizes God's sovereignty over the affairs of our lives. He put Esther in a place where He would use her to deliver an entire nation. It is an amazing story of God's deliverance and Esther's faithfulness.

God's sovereignty is not just for the moments that change the course of history. It applies just as thoroughly to our day-to-day affairs. It is my belief that God regularly puts you and me in situations where He intends to use us. It is you who have been brought to these situations *for such a time as this*.

Brandon, a 16-year-old, walked alone to and from school each day. He usually walked down Coleman Street. On this particular day, he decided to walk down by the river instead. Walking the other direction was Mr. Rivers. Brandon knew of him for years. Previously, he only had a couple of short conversations with him. Mr. Rivers' head was down, and he was mumbling to himself. He inadvertently walked into Brandon. Brandon looked up and it was obvious that Mr. Rivers was distracted and upset about something.

However, Mr. Rivers apologized for the collision. Brandon asked if Mr. Rivers was okay. He was not. They talked for about an hour, and Brandon helped Mr. Rivers know how much Jesus loved him. Even though he had been a lifelong agnostic, that day, Mr. Rivers believed in Jesus.

Many events had to occur to create this encounter. Many of them seemed random, but the sovereign hand of God was working in the background. Brandon did not usually walk that route. Mr. Rivers should have been out of town that day. God brought Brandon to that place and time for *such a time as this*.

God is working in all of our lives. He creates opportunities to share Jesus with

God's sovereignty is not just for the moments that change the course of history. It applies just as thoroughly to our day- to-day affairs.

those around us. We just need to be looking for them. Has there been a situation in your life last month that God chose you for *such a time as this*? I believe that He has. Are you willing to look for God to work this way in your life next month? ■

## President's Travel Schedule

- Jan. 5** ..... Installation service; **Martensville Mission Church**, Martensville, Sask.
- Jan. 6-10** ..... Meetings; Saskatchewan churches
- Jan. 12** ..... Preaching; **Hodgson Bible Church**, Hodgson, Man.
- Jan. 19** ..... Preaching; **Evangelical Mennonite Brethren Church**, Grunthal, Man.
- Jan. 19-21** ..... Pastor's and Wives Retreat; Manitoba

## 125th Anniversary of the Fellowship Wanted: Historians

As our Fellowship looks back over 125 years, it would be great to gather historic material about our churches. In 1939 (50th Anniversary) each extant church wrote a history of itself. In 1989-1990 (100th Anniversary) many churches wrote a one-page history for the *Gospel Tidings*. We will try to get those onto our web site ([www.fellowshipforward.org](http://www.fellowshipforward.org)). But if your church was not part of the Fellowship in 1989, we would love to include a history of your

church. Could you volunteer to write this? Or you could volunteer to discover what Bible translations our Fellowship missionaries have published. Or you could discover what books our FEBC missionaries have written or what books tell the stories of our missionaries. Who are the pastors who have served our churches? Our list is incomplete, and you could add to that. If you would like to help in any way, contact Paul Boeker at [paul@febcministries.org](mailto:paul@febcministries.org).



## Comment

By Sharon Berg, Editor



Welcome to the first issue of the New Year. This year is historically significant for the Fellowship of Evangelical Bible Churches, as we celebrate our 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary. No doubt that the Fellowship's long and rich history will be of special focus at this summer's annual convention. For those of you planning to attend, the event is scheduled for July 17-20 at **Langham Evangelical Bible Church** in Langham, Sask.

*Fellowship Focus* plans to feature historical highlights in each issue this year. And if you enjoy history, there are opportunities to put that interest to use. Read more on page 2.

Are you a Facebook user? You might not be aware that the Commission on Women's Ministries has a Facebook page. Just type W Com Connections on the search bar of your page, and you'll be right there.

As always, we welcome readers' ideas and feedback. Contact us at [fellowshipfocus@febministries.org](mailto:fellowshipfocus@febministries.org).

Blessings,

*Sharon*



## THE FEBC'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

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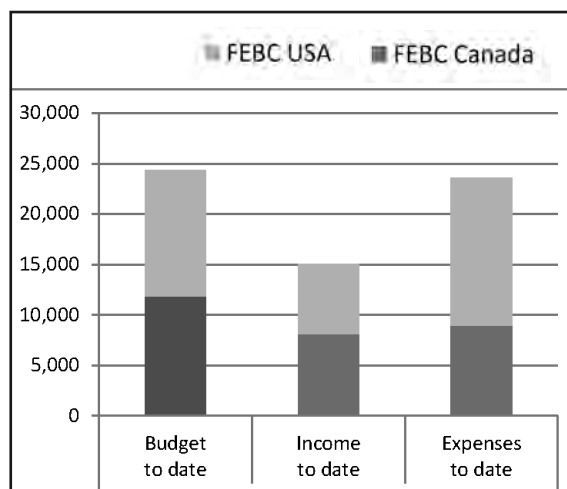
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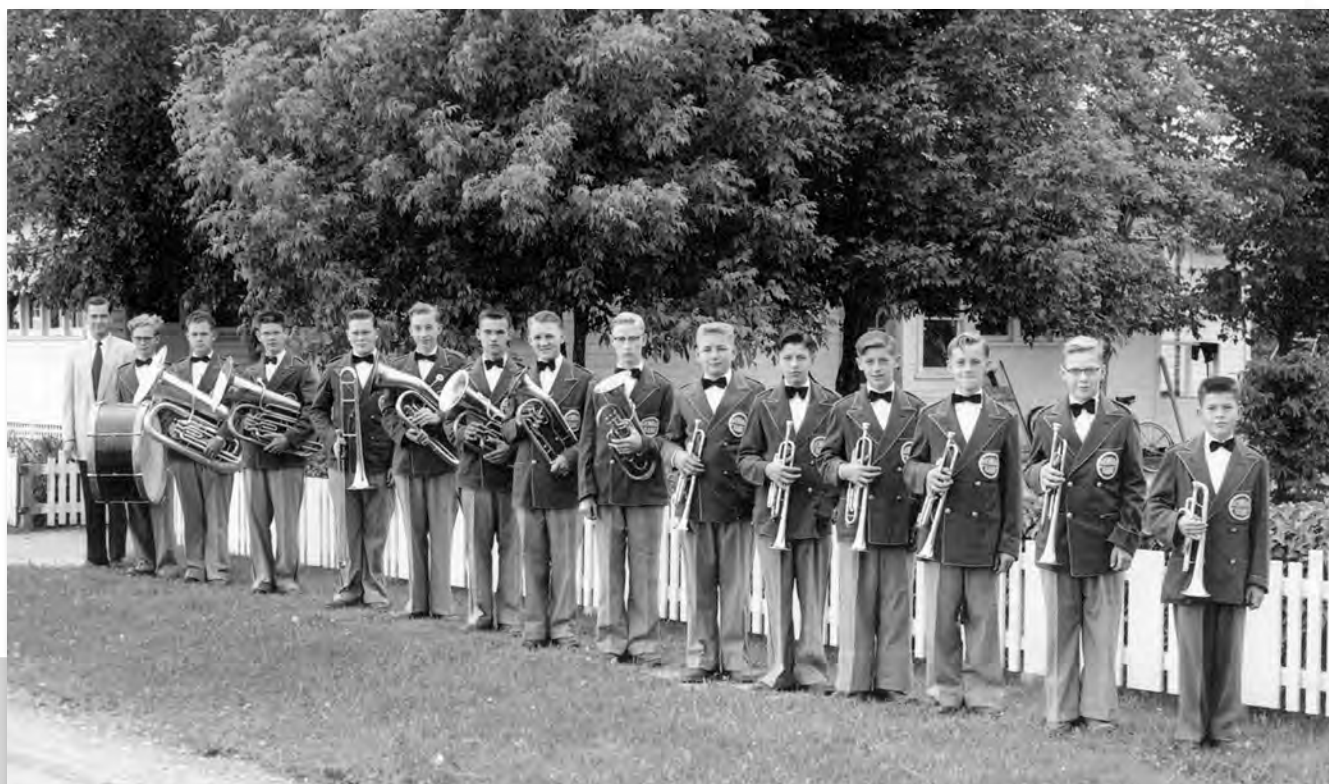
## FEBC Finances through November



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

<http://www.fellowshipforward.org>

## THE FEBC'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR



### Band to Tour U.S.

American marching bands were the order of the day for most parades in Steinbach, Man., but in 1953 the tables were turned when the Steinbach Boys Band received an invitation to attend a Tri-State Youth Camp on Lake Okoboji in northern Iowa, sponsored by the Evangelical Mennonite Brethren Conference of the United States and Canada. The 18-member group was able to travel to the United States in time to catch the three final days of the camp at the end of August. Members of the band are (left to right): **Bandleader Dennis Barkman, Glenn Loewen, Garnet Reimer, Gilbert Penner, David Brandt, George Rieger, John Henry Friesen, Gordon Kreutzer, Ernie Toews, James Penner, Gerald Reimer, Travis Reimer, Mervin Brandt, Raymond Loewen and Richard Hildebrand.**

*From "A Carillon Flashback: From the Archives" by Wes Keating, published in The Carillon, June 28, 2012 (Steinbach, Man.). Used by permission.*

*Submitted by Henry Esau, Abbotsford, B.C.*



## Celebrating God's *Faithfulness*

**Christian Fellowship Church of Rhineland, Sask.,** has now been affiliated with the FEBC for 50 years! The church was introduced at the 1963 convention, and formally accepted at the 1964 convention.

### ■ Fifty years ago

- New missionaries included the **Marvin Dicks** (Mali) and the **Wesley Peters** (Germany).
- **Pete and Gladys Buller**, missionaries supported by our Fellowship, established a girls' school in Mukedi, Congo. At that time, the majority of our Fellowship missionaries were in Africa, with at least 16 missionary units in the Congo, all of whom served under Congo Inland Mission, an agency operated jointly by the FEBC and several other Mennonite denominations.
- **President John R. Dick** proposed that the Fellowship hire an "Executive Secretary." This was approved at the 1964 Convention. **William "Bill" Regehr** was the first person to hold that position. Over the past 50 years,

only two other men have served in that position (later re-titled "Administrator": **Robert Frey** and **Paul Boeker**. *Note* This will mark the last year that this position will exist in its current form. In the future, the responsibilities will be divided among three people: an FEBC Canada finance secretary, an FEBC USA finance secretary, and an administrator who will coordinate non-financial matters.

### Churches Seeking Pastors

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

- **Fairview Bible Church** of Swift Current, Sask. is seeking a part-time senior pastor. Most attendees are mature believers who appreciate traditional music and Bible preaching. Direct enquiries to [fairviewbiblechurch@hotmail.ca](mailto:fairviewbiblechurch@hotmail.ca).
- **Kenora Bible Church** in the lovely Lake of the Woods area of Kenora, Ont., is looking for an associate pastor with a focus on youth and possibly worship. Contact Pastor Allan Dueck at [allan\\_and\\_eva@hotmail.com](mailto:allan_and_eva@hotmail.com).

## Meet our Newest Worker

Cristy Hofer has just been recognized as an FEBC global worker. A long-time member of Community Bible Church of Omaha, Christy has been accepted to work as a video editor at Málaga Media Center in Spain.

Cristy has been editing video with high-tech software since she was 14 for her dad's ministry, Living For Eternity. Cristy described her passion by saying "I never dreamed I would have the chance to do the two things I love most — working

overseas as a missionary and telling stories through video. Now I get to tell the most important Story through the avenue of video."

Málaga Media Center produces media in both Arabic and Spanish. Due to the sensitive nature of this ministry, we cannot give details of their work. Individuals or churches interested in learning more and in supporting Christy can contact her through Community Bible Church or the FEBC Office. ■



# Proclaiming Christ *around* the World

By Marilyn Lester  
Commission on Missions



The Commission on Missions desires to recognize missionaries after they have served 30 years, have reached the age of 67, or upon official retirement from their mission, whichever comes first. This recognition *does not* mean the missionary is retiring. We also want to recognize missionaries who have served at least 20 years, but are leaving full-time missionary service. The following people were acknowledged at last summer's FEBC convention in Dallas, Ore., with either a plaque or certificate of appreciation. Please read on and be inspired.

**Kirby and Isabelle Dunn** served the Lord for 20 years with New Tribes Mission, working in Mexico for 17 years as Bible translator and church planter, and on staff in the home office for three years. Kirby heard the short "Wycliffe Spotlight" radio clips interviewing Wycliffe missionaries, piquing his interest at the same time that he was reading about missions in the Old Testament. The Dunns were in the application process with Wycliffe when people from Papua New Guinea with New Tribes Mission spoke at their church. This mission's goal to plant churches as they translate the Word matched the Dunns' longing to do church planting as well. They then changed directions and applied with great peace to New Tribes Mission.

Isabelle wrote that they wanted to work with people who would not otherwise hear the Gospel. God directed them to El Manzano, Mexico, in the Sierra Madre Mountains where they lived among the Tarahumara tribe. They worked with a small group of believers and also evangelized the unreached. "Today there is a growing church with the son of one of the original Taramuhara believers as pastor," she wrote.

The Dunns also worked in Chihuahua, Mexico, where Kirby worked on the construction team as coordinator and later served as national representative of the training program for the Mexican people who desired to become New Tribes missionaries. Isabelle worked in the mission school as teacher for the fifth and sixth grades.

Currently, the Dunns live in Michigan and are pastoring their sending church, the **Randville Bible Church** (an FEBC church), as Kirby undergoes treatment for leukemia.

**Roger and Lois Reimer** signed on with HCJB in 1975 after graduating from Grace University (then known as Grace Bible Institute). Roger's first big assignment was to establish the cardiopulmonary department at Hospital Vozandes in Quito,

Ecuador, and later became director of all HCJB's health care ministries in 1982. During that time Lois served as an administrative assistant in the Field Administration Office and at Alliance Academy, and later as manager/hostess of HCJB's Quito Guest House. Some of the visitors to the Guest House included family members of past presidents of Ecuador, Waorani indigenous people, Steve Saint, Steve Saint (son of missionary pilot Nathan Saint), and a whole host of missionary colleagues from a variety of mission organizations. Together Roger and Lois participated annually in the college summer missionary program.

Roger felt privileged to work with health care professionals from around the world as well as Ecuadorian doctors. He found great

satisfaction in creating a health care environment that demonstrated the reality of Christianity to the medical community, as well as to patients and their families.

Roger emphasizes that he is *not* retiring. He continues to serve as a mentor/coach/writer for leadership conferences in Latin America for HCJB. He also continues to service as the Director of Global Involvement for HCJB Global.

The Reimers' personal goal has been to be faithful and obedient to God's call on their lives to lifelong service as cross-cultural missionaries.

**David and JoAnn Loewen** met at Grace University and were

◎

**"The purpose of maintaining contact with the missionaries is to encourage them in their work, be a connecting link between them and the power of God, and in this way participate in the proclamation of the Gospel throughout the world."**

◎



## Deliberate Generosity

By Paul Boeker, FEBC Administrator

**D**eliberate generosity may sound like an oxymoron. Isn't generosity something we do impulsively, at the spur of the moment? Yes — but that's where the problem is. A few years ago, a shooter at a Von Maur store in Omaha killed eight people and wounded four others. Immediately, a fund was set up to help the victims and their families. People gave generously to this fund, although the purpose of it was not clear. In the end, \$1.33 million was given to the fund. The IRS ruled that this money could not just be given as "bonuses" to families. It had to go to real needs. But the real needs had already been taken care of by insurance assistance from the Von Maur family.

eventualities.

Generosity needs to be deliberate to be effective. Have you planned how you will be generous this year? What portion of your resources will you give to your church? What missionaries will you support? How will you help family members? How will you minister to those out of work or suffering hardship? How will you provide spiritual training for your children?

Deliberately plan your giving for 2014. What is your anticipated income? What other resources may be available? I just discovered some almost forgotten points on a credit card that I could convert into a gift. Perhaps you could give those air miles to parents pursuing an in-

ternational adoption. How can you be generous with your home or auto?

Once you have some idea of your resources, begin your generosity plan. Offer your missionaries the use of your extra car. Sign up to take meals to the sick. Set some money aside so you can give it to individuals — especially within your church — whom you see in need. Plan how much you will give to the benevolence offerings at your church. What will you regularly give to your church? Are there other worthy charities you would like to help?

You will discover that when you deliberately plan your generosity, your giving is more satisfying — and is more likely to meet real needs. Plus, deliberate generosity changes your heart. Rather than being irritated by constant pleas for gifts, you can go through the year confidently and joyfully making an impact for God's glory. ■

## Proclaiming Christ around the World, *continued from page 6*

married upon graduation in 1966. They began their 42-year mission career with SEND International in Japan in 1970. David and JoAnn spent 23 years in Japan as church planters during which time they were involved in preaching, home Bible studies, language acquisition assistance and orientation for new missionaries, and evangelism coordinators, placing missionaries in teams and coordinating new places to plant churches.

The Lord later led them to work from the international office for 10 years as Asia regional director assisting the international director in overseeing the ministries in Japan, Philippines, Taiwan, Hong Kong and mainland Asia, and later for seven years as personnel director, assisting and training new missionaries, training missionaries during home service, and providing care for MKs (missionary kids) and retirees. In their most recent assignment as member care consultants, the

Loewens introduced two new programs to SEND — SYIS (Sharpening Your Interpersonal Skills workshops) and CSA (Czerny-Smith Assessments for empowering global people to adjust and excel abroad). Dave has also served on the FEBC Commission on Missions for the past 15 years and has shown by example his sensitive care of missionaries.

Although retired from SEND, the Loewens will continue their leadership responsibilities in the churches they presently attend in Detroit — Highland Park Baptist Church and Detroit Japanese Christian Fellowship.

Dave shared, "I thank God for churches and individuals who partnered with us in prayer and finances. I know that there will be Japanese in heaven as a result. May God be glorified!"

We praise God for these individuals who have served God faithfully all these years. ■



## MADE IN CHINA

By Sharon Skillman

"Made in China" — I must admit that this phrase has brought up rather negative thoughts in my mind, and I can guess it may bring to mind adverse thoughts in yours as well.

But during the summer of 2013, the three words "made in China" started to take on new meaning for me. Lustre Christian High School, located in our community, now has an enrollment of several international students. Last fall we had students from Korea, Thailand, Ruanda,

of inclement weather usually hinder me from venturing far in order to "GO" and spread the Gospel. And most suggested ways of building "redemptive relationships" just do not apply to my situation. But now, expanding my border to China by providing hospitality appeared to be a way God was leading.

So, very fearfully, I offered to have Hua for the summer. I was frightened for several reasons. First, I am way past the age of the rearing of a teen. Second, I know

country of China! My territory was reaching even further.

I learned that God has ways of "expanding our borders" if we are willing, *wherever* we reside and *whoever* we are. He can even find a way for a private, isolated, homebody-type gal who lives in Lustre, Mont.

No, it was not always easy. The drama of the female teen lifestyle was actually more challenging than I expected. But the joy of obedience to God made the tough times worth it. Also, it was exciting to see God provide the extra finances needed for this "Chinese ministry." And fortunately, in this particular outreach I did not have to deal with jet lag, sleep in different beds or learn a new language. There was also the "perk" of being able to eat Chinese food, a favorite, on a regular basis.

Now when I see three words on products that were made in "the land of the big exports," I think of and pray for our "summer daughters" and over a billion *real* people with normal emotions and struggles who were "made" in China. ■

*\*Names have been changed*

Sharon Skillman serves on the women's ministries commission and with her husband, Pastor John Skillman, at Evangelical Mennonite Brethren Church of Lustre, Mont.



Lustre, Montana, is 100 miles from Walmart and 300 miles from a decent mall; 10 miles of gravel roads and nine months of inclement weather usually hinder me from venturing far in order to "go" and spread the Gospel. But expanding my border to China by providing hospitality appeared to be a way God was leading.

Haiti, Ethiopia and nine from China. Not many of those kids have Christian backgrounds, and some haven't had any exposure to the Gospel. During the school year, the dormitory students stay in community homes for several weekends when the "dorm parents" need a break. We had gotten to know two of the Chinese students who had stayed with us for some of these weekends. I was now getting to know actual people in the country that manufactures products that are "Made in China."

My husband came home one day with the news that several of the international school students needed to stay in the United States for the summer. One of those he mentioned was Hua,\* a small, dark-haired gal we had hosted a few times. There was a hint in his voice suggesting that we might be willing to keep her. Being a person who enjoys the private sanctuary of my own home and my alone times, I dismissed the idea immediately.

But, during a day when I was down with the flu and listening to some Christian sermons on Internet radio, a message convicted me to "enlarge my borders." Lustre, Mont., where I live, is quite isolated (100 miles from Walmart and 300 miles from a decent mall). Ten miles of gravel roads and nine months

little about girls, since I raised only guys, and I am the grandmother of mostly boys! Third, I knew there would be some extra expense of having another person with us for the summer.

But, nervously, I asked Hua if she would like to live with us for three months. Surprisingly enough, she accepted the offer! *But then*, she mentioned that her Chinese friend, Jiao,\* also needed a place to stay in June. Goodness, now this conviction was starting to get involved! After viewing her pleading eyes, I said yes, and now had *two* girls coming to my once quiet sanctuary.

I soon found out that Hua and Jiao are quite normal girls with female emotions, interest in guys, strong academic concerns, etc. And as time went by, my heart went out to them, and one in particular would "bare her soul" to us.

Hua, being a thinker, brought up many questions about our Christian faith, and deep discussions would follow. This stretched my faith and her thinking as well. A redemptive relationship was forming.

Our technological age also made it possible for me to speak to Hua's English-speaking father several times using Skype. Wow, I was talking to another person who was actually *in* the far away

**The Commission on Women's Ministries invites you to join with other Fellowship women in memorizing 2 Peter 3: 9-18, this year's Bible passage.**



**W Com Connections**

# FOCUS ON OUR CHURCHES

## CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHAPEL

**Winnipeg, Man.**

**John Harwood, Pastor**



We had the privilege of ordaining Pastor John Harwood on Sept. 15. The Ordination Council, consisting of the reverends **Randy Smart** (Lead), **Allan Dueck** and **Jake Froese**, gave charge to Pastor John in his ministry here. It was a special moment for our congregation to witness and be a part of. We are thankful for our pastoral couple, John and Rae, and have all been encouraged and challenged by their ministry in our midst. The council prayed over Pastor John as well as the church elders, **Larry Kunkel** and **Fred Penner**. A Certificate of Ordination was presented to Pastor John by Fred on behalf of the congregation.

*Nancy Kunkel, Correspondent*

## CORNERSTONE BIBLE CHURCH

**Steinbach, Man.**

**Jared Hiebert, Pastor**

Once again, children in grades 1-6 had the opportunity to participate in an inductive Bible study in December.

Our church body has been richly blessed with many men who are gifted in the preaching and teaching of God's Word. Pastor Jared is excited to work with and give opportunity for these men to use their gifts to serve the Lord within our church. **Eric Honsberger**, **Jim Penner** and **Mark Reimer** filled the pulpit for him during December.

It was the season to remember and celebrate the joy of the birth of our Lord and Savior! Cornerstone Women's Ministry hosted a Christmas Celebration with two of our senior ladies sharing about their "Christmases Past." We also enjoyed our annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.

*Marsella Wiebe, Correspondent*

## COUNTRYSIDE BIBLE CHURCH

**Meade, Kan.**

We celebrated the Harvest Missions Festival in November with speaker was **Randy Patten**, the Director of Training and Advancement for the Association of Certified Biblical Counselors (ACBC). At a brunch he spoke on "Lord, I Have Sinned,"

and the evening topic was "Lord, They Have Sinned." At Sunday school Randy shared "Lord, I Need Your Counsel." The morning worship topic was "Lord, Give Me Hope." Offerings were designated for our missionaries, ACBC, the speaker and the general missions fund.

**Tyler and Tiff Ediger** will "serve" at an orphanage and minister alongside missionaries in Uganda Jan. 14-26.

The deacons and their wives honored the senior citizens with a special Christmas lunch in December.

Our church again participated in Immanuel's Child by remembering Russian children with Christmas gifts.

*Mary Friesen, Correspondent*

## DALMENY BIBLE CHURCH

**Dalmeny, Sask.**

**Dennis Friesen, Pastor**

Our senior high youth, along with the youth from the Dalmeny Community Church, enjoyed a retreat at Ranger Lake Bible Camp.

The *Parenting Children's Course* was offered to parents with children age 10 and under for four Wednesdays during our Kid's Club Program.

The ladies held their annual Craft and Bake Sale (Silent Auction) at the end of November. **Yvonne St. Germaine** shared her life story in word and song. Many women enjoyed the evening of shopping, making a craft to take home, visiting and, of course, eating.

Photos were taken to create a Church Photo Wall in the hope it will help us put names to faces.

*Marilyn Harder, Correspondent*

## EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH

**Omaha, Neb.**

**Dr. Don Pahl, Senior Pastor**

We observed Orphan Sunday on Nov. 3. Our Forever Families ministry provided prayer cards of waiting children who are available for adoption. Forever Families, which promotes awareness and provides support to adopting and fostering families, has a vision of growing within our church a community of families involved in adopting, fostering and global orphan care.

We are celebrating with two of our pastors! Pastor Don and his wife, Rosi, have just completed their fifteeneth year of ministry at our church (and 40 years of pastoral ministry). Pastor of Outreach and Fellowship, **Greg Koehn**, was notified that his Ph.D. dissertation was accepted, and he will graduate from Louisiana Baptist University in May with a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Biblical Studies.

We are beginning plans in earnest for our church plant, which will be located in a small but quickly growing community outside Omaha. Since our youth pastor, **Gary Krehbiel**, will take on the pastor position at the church plant, we have a search committee in place to find a new youth pastor.

We celebrated two baptisms and welcomed two new members.

*Sherrie Lindsey, Correspondent*

*continued on page 10*

# FOCUS ON OUR CHURCHES

continued from page 9

## EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH

**Dallas, Ore.**

**Jerry Franz, Senior Pastor**

All of our outreach activities started again with the arrival of the fall season. Lots of new moms outside of our church family joined our MOPs (Mother of Preschoolers) group. This is great outreach for mothers of young children. Our Awana program is showing a steady increase in attendance each week and got off to a good start with 55 families and 116 registrations.

We hosted the "Annual EBC Missions Conference" in October. Our theme was "God Moving Me to Move Mountains," and each speaker was dynamic in his or her presentation. We were fortunate to have many of our missionaries home at this time, or near enough that they were able to attend: **Jan-ice Peters**, SIM, Mozambique; **Ian and Linda McFarland**, HCJB, Ecuador; **Steve and Mikki Schmidt**, SIM, Niger; and **Ivan and Mary Goossen**, Avant, Brazil.

Our conference began showing a video of an Indonesian tribe receiving God's Word in their own language. What an inspiration to us to watch them celebrate this long-awaited treasure, as the translation project had taken 15 years. Ivan Goossen shared at a men's breakfast, and Linda McFarland gave a wonderful demonstration of God moving a mountain in her life at a women's ministries' brunch. We enjoyed a meal that included a recipe that originated in Brazil, and Steve Schmidt shared with us about the mountains and valleys that we each battle. Steven also gave a compelling sermon at the Sunday worship service. The Sunday school hour was led by Janice Peters, who shared some of the mountains she has faced while in Mozambique.

A panel of all seven missionaries answered questions about the inspiration that drew them to the field, the difficulties that they face, and how they would encourage young beginners in the mission field.

We gathered more than \$3,500 for a church being raised in Muembe, Mozambique, which the missions committee was able to match. What a blessing for this church, as they have such a great need.

Following the conference, the EBC health care committee decided to "Walk to the Missionaries." They estimated the miles to the location of each of our missionaries, and every week participants log the miles they walk, swim, bicycle or run. We have had a huge interest from our congregation. What a great way to encourage exercise and pray for all of missionaries.

*Vicky Kibby, Correspondent*

## EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH

**Langham, Sask.**

**Greg Guarnett, Senior Pastor**

We are looking for ways to serve and bless our community. Our elder team hosted a free community appreciation

barbecue on Main Street in September, with good results and opportunities to meet people. In October, our church joined three other churches to set-up and serve the town's annual fowl supper to 655 guests.

We were excited to hear the Youth Missions Team report of their time in Washington, D.C., earlier this summer. It was a growing and stretching time as the team helped with established ministries in the area.

Our youth group joined other youth at **Salem Church** in Waldheim for a fun missions evening with a speaker from South Africa.

The Willing Hands Ladies hosted a *Costume Jewelry Exchange & Appetizer Evening*, an opportunity for our ladies to get to know one another better.

Pray for our church as we recruit people and plan for hosting the FEBC Convention next summer. We look forward to growing together through this task.

Praise the Lord for a baptism held in August.



**Pastor Greg and Jason Nemanishen - August 18 baptism**

*Marilyn Friesen, Correspondent*

## EVANGELICAL MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH

**Grunthal, Man.**

**Russ Reimer, Pastor**



**Baptismal candidate on left, Heidi Boehr and new member, Natanael Ralaimiarison, Pastor Russ and Elder Ryan Froese**

We celebrated a baptism and new membership with a potluck lunch in October. It is encouraging to see the friends who come to support those taking these steps. We also cele-

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# FOCUS ON OUR CHURCHES

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brated Thanksgiving as a church during the month of October with a traditional Thanksgiving meal and lots of pies.

Pastor Russ taught from the book of Revelation last fall, as he worked to unveil Jesus to us. There are many pictures of Jesus through the book of Revelation, and in this New Year, Pastor Russ is teaching through the letters to the seven churches.

Our church once again participated in packing shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse. We've had the privilege to have people in our church who have at one time been recipients of a shoebox. We anticipated a special Christmas event author and humorist **Phil Callaway** and musician **Jay Calder**. Phil recognizes that Christmas is a stressful time of year for many. At this writing, we hoped to have a full house for this event.

*Tamara Bergen, Correspondent*

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## EVANGELICAL MENNONITE BRETHERN CHURCH

**Lustre, Mont.**

**John Skillman, Pastor**

**Jesse Sauskojus**, son of our own **Gerhardt and Gerane Sauskojus**, spoke at our Harvest Missions Festival in October. Jesse grew up in our church and now pastors in Laurel, Mont. His encouraging and challenging messages on the book of Jonah were titled "Resistible Grace, Relentless Grace, Radical Grace and Rotten Grace." **Dennis Wiens** (SAT-7 USA) gave several presentations promoting the ministry.

In November, we dedicated the 106 shoeboxes that our community sent to Operation Christmas Child.

Most of our Thanksgiving worship service was given to testimonies of praise to God for His love and many blessings to us throughout the last year.

*Sharon Skillman, Correspondent*

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## EVANGELICAL MENNONITE BRETHERN CHURCH

**Marion, S.D.**

**Randy Maass, Pastor**

**Jesse Walhof**, a student at Sioux Falls Seminary, has been working part time with Volunteers of America, serving the homeless in Sioux Falls. Due to a cutback of federal funds, the organization's pantry is short of supplies. Our church is helping to restock their pantry as well as matching some finances with a grant from Everence.

At a November service we were challenged by the question, "What would you be willing to give up if we could win 23 to the Lord in the next year?"

The Marion Area Ministry Association is spearheading a drive to compile a list of men and machinery that would be capable, ready and able to assist should a crisis situation present itself such as a tornado, plane crash, house fire, etc. A financial fund is being assembled to be used in such emergencies.

Pastor Maass has started classes at the Sioux Falls Seminary in pursuit of a Doctorate in Ministry degree, which is a three-year study. This compliments the continuation of min-

istry here at EMB. May the words fall on open hearts and ears to extend the message to our community.

**Martha Becker**, retired missionary to Ecuador under Gospel Missionary Union (now Avant Ministries), offered a special number during a worship service. She chose the hymn, *I've Found such a Friend*, reading the verses and commenting on each phrase. Then she played them on the piano slowly and emotionally. What's interesting about this? She'll be 102 years old in December!

*Raymond Becker, Correspondent*

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## FAITH EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH

**Henderson, Neb.**

**Michael Fink, Pastor**

Our church family was invited to a Thanksgiving dinner hosted by the elders and their wives. The evening began with a Thanksgiving service, where everyone was encouraged to write a note card of thanks to God. All of the cards were posted on the bulletin board where everyone could read them and be reminded of God's goodness and His involvement in our lives throughout the year. The evening also served as an opportunity to invite guests to fellowship with us.

Special Christmas activities included a Christmas program presented by our children as part of a worship service. Our church family also enjoyed a special time of fellowship at an open house hosted by Pastor Mike and Jan Fink.

We were privileged to celebrate the baptism of one of our young people in November.

*Alice Decker, Correspondent*

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## GOSPEL OF GRACE CHURCH

**Hooker, Okla.**

**Chris McFarland, Pastor**

The first semester of the school year provided the opportunity for the youth of our church to invite friends from the community to the afterschool youth program for fourth through sixth grade students. This group was named "Ignite," and more than 40 attended this ministry. Ignite had the opportunity to serve children around the world by packing shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. The junior and senior high student group, "Blaze," met on Wednesday evenings. The students enjoyed bowling and caroling during the Christmas season. Seventeen students attended during December.

The hospitality committee kicked off the holiday season with a delicious meal to celebrate Thanksgiving. Further fellowship could be observed during the women's Christmas party where the church fellowship hall was festively decorated and a lovely catered meal was served. The annual Christmas program provided multi-generational expressions of worship, followed by a fellowship meal.

*Sandy McFarland, Correspondent*

*continued on page 12*

# FOCUS ON OUR CHURCHES

*continued from page 11*

## HEARTLAND BIBLE CHURCH

**Lincoln, Neb.**

**Scott Hecht, Pastor**

As an outreach to the neighborhood, we hosted a wiener roast in the church parking lot in October. We had good attendance from our congregation, but not as many from the neighborhood as we had anticipated. We hope for a better attendance next fall.

**Brad and Phyllis Cromer** are conducting a Good News Club every week at Holmes Public School. They have been well received by the school staff, who are very helpful in providing whatever they need to make this club successful.

With Pastor Scott being on vacation, the pulpit was filled on this Reformation Sunday by **Chan Taylor**. He spoke about the events and issues surrounding this important milestone in the history of the evangelical church, and the heritage that we seek to promote through our witnessing.

About 10 individuals spent a "Leaf Day" in November raking leaves for a number of elderly folks of the church, as well as help get their yards in order for the winter.

Our annual Thanksgiving Banquet had good attendance, including the parents and children of a number of families whose kids attend our Wednesday evening youth meetings. Many participated in giving thanks for various things the Lord has brought into our lives.

*Trudy Reimer, Correspondent.*

## JANSEN BIBLE CHURCH

**Jansen, Neb.**

**Paul Carpenter, Pastor**

Our Harvest and Missions Festival in November featured missions right here at home. **Amal and Carol Bejjani**, serving with Christar, are befriending the 12,000 refugees from the Middle East and Sudan living in Lincoln, Neb., as they share the Gospel cross culturally in our own backyard. **Waldo Goossen** with AIM, presently living in Omaha, seeks out Africans there. He speaks their language and helps them adjust to our way of life while sharing the Gospel as he can.

**Jonathan and Yoli Musgrace**, Nebraska directors of Child Evangelism Fellowship, along with three CEF missionary families from nearby counties, reach children in after-school Good News clubs. Another outreach to the children is the Awana club. Missionaries **Rick and Fairy Hattan** and **Tom and Sandy Hofmann** told of new clubs started in unreached counties.

A special joy was hearing the testimony of our University of Nebraska graduate **Garrett Schlake**. The Navigators played a major role in discipling him, and now he is a Navigator missionary on campus reaching many students, including foreign students who can return to countries that are closed to missionaries.

**Pastor Jeff Friesen** shared his experience as a church planter at **Hebron Bible Church**. God established the Hebron

church, and now we are praying about another town that needs a Bible-teaching church.

**Jeff Porter** with New Tribes, spoke of needs to be met as he transitions to serve at headquarters in Florida. Jeff works in information technology at the ministry's Wisconsin Bible school.

**Kelly Hoeting**, who grew up in our church, shared with us in December. After years of foreign service with Youth for Christ to military families, she now serves at headquarters in Colorado, helping recruit workers and prepare them to reach middle and high school students.

Our congregation prepared 17 Christmas gift boxes for the children in Haiti with Grace Missions of Henderson, Neb.

*Tena Dick, Correspondent*

## NORTHEAST BIBLE CHURCH

**Calgary, Alta.**

**John Fehr, Pastor**

On Nov. 10, we honoured the memory of our Canadian soldiers who had given their lives to secure our country's freedom. The Junior Church children held up poppies and white crosses while the Youth Group recited the poem "In Flanders



Fields." A video presentation of honour and remembrance followed.

We held a Service of Celebration on Nov. 24, where we affirmed our recognition of God's call on Pastor John's life by facilitating his ordination. Our praise and worship included songs that were especially meaningful to him. **Henry Og-bomo** gave a message outlining scriptural leadership. He also reflected on the love and practical acts of service that characterize John's everyday life and which provide an excellent example for us for us to follow. As we gathered around Pastor John, many members of the congregation prayed prayers of blessing and thanksgiving, concluding with a prayer by **FEBC President Blaine Donaldson**.

*Julie Ann Simpson, Correspondent*

## RICHER FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

**Richer, Man.**

**Simon Cheung, Pastor**

*Splat!* What's that sound? Perhaps it's multiple teenagers ripping a mattress in four directions so that not

# FOCUS ON OUR CHURCHES

even the coils are recognizable, and carrying it to their team's corner like an ant fighting to carry a crumb? More



than 200 youth gathered at Steinbach Bible College for a Youth Retreat called "Splat!" Several churches in Manitoba were represented, including Richer Fellowship. As Youth Leader, I took a leap of faith and thought, *Why not ask the parents if their youth would like to go, and the church would cover the cost?* Surprisingly, some of them said, "Yes!" Amazingly, the youth of Richer were the only "unchurched" youth at this event, but they received much exposure to hearing about what God is doing in the lives of young people just like them. The college students shared testimonies, with much teaching based on Colossians 3 — "seeking the things that are above" — along with wonderful praise music, lots of food, and outrageous games.

During the "concert of prayer" which is a serious time of prayer and reflection, I asked the youth pastor if perhaps our kids could be excused. I didn't want to embarrass them, nor pressure them to stay. The college graciously offered their student centre so that our kids could just hang out and play pool. The miracle happened when some of our youth said they said wanted to see what goes on in a concert of prayer. So back into the chapel we went. They took in the experience for a whole five minutes and then asked to leave. God's grace is always abundant when he uses a Christian youth event like "Splat!" to draw those children who don't have any self-worth or family stability to Himself.

Please keep our youth ministry in your prayers, as we have much work to do in Richer to help these kids get off the street and live for Christ.

*Michelle Driedger, Correspondent*

## STUARTBURN GOSPEL CHAPEL

**Stuartburn, Man.**

**Mark Funk, Pastor**

There was excitement in the church in November as we welcomed Pastor Mark home from his mission trip to Myanmar. He brought back many pictures and stories that helped to give us a real sense of both the struggles and the victories that the body of Christ is experiencing across the ocean. Although we sent our pastor with a team that was intended to help equip the missionaries there to evangelize their homeland, we found ourselves encouraged by their passion and reawakened to the abundance of God's grace to us by their simple trust in His provision. We are humbled before our Lord and Saviour as we realize that He not only used us to answer a need in Myanmar, but He used His people there to speak to our hearts or our own need that can only be met in Jesus.

Our church family has also been busy in the pastor's absence with the renovations to the foyer and the addition of washrooms and a proper office. As with many of these kinds of projects, we have had some bumps in the road, but we are pleased to finally give our pastor a bright and spacious room for working and ministering, and washrooms accessible to everyone. We are grateful to so many who have given freely of their time and talents to overcome obstacles and turn plans to reality.

Our Christmas celebration included a banquet held at the Roseau River Bible Camp and the children's program. Our prayer is that you may all experience His faithfulness and love throughout the coming year.

*Sue Hoy, Correspondent*

## VITA BIBLE CHURCH

**Vita, Man.**

**Juergen Penner, Pastor**

In November, we enjoyed hearing the testimonies of four newly accepted members. It is always encouraging to hear how God works through the good and bad experiences in our lives to draw us all to Him.

For any and all craving Italian this Christmas, we hosted an Italian potluck and gift exchange for our adult Christmas banquet. It was so enjoyable to get together with our church family and have some fun together during such a busy yet joyous time of year.

Once again, we presented a Christmas program and invited family, friends and the surrounding community. All ages took part, including an adult choir, to share the wonderful Christmas story.

*Tiffany Tuurenhout, Correspondent*





# Focus on FEBC Church Planting

By Harvey Schultz

## Another FEBC Church Planting Project in Saskatchewan

FEBC churches in Saskatchewan have an encouraging church planting track record which is carried on through Prairie West Extension (PWE).

- In 1960 they took the initiative to plant a church in Saskatoon (this church ceased to exist in 1979, long after it reached autonomy and was not due to faulty church planting strategies).
- In 1968 Fairview Bible Church in Swift Current was born.
- In 1974 the foundations of Humboldt Bible Church were laid.
- In 1990 another project was undertaken with the beginning of a church in Prince Albert.
- In 2000 a new initiative was undertaken, this time in the town of Indian Head.
- In 2005 the FEBC Commission on Church Planting began to support a new church in Tisdale, and in 2010 PWE assumed full financial responsibility for that church.

Since the end of 2012, the church in Tisdale is financially self sufficient. The church in Indian Head may need some additional help, but it will be minimal. However, the 11 FEBC churches in Saskatchewan continue to make regular contributions to PWE, almost \$25,000 per year! And that is in addition to their faithful contributions to the general operating budget of the FEBC. As a result, a healthy church planting reserve fund is growing and will be ready to fund a new church planting project in the near future.

After undertaking initial demographic studies, PWE has determined that the next target

area for a new church will be the greater Saskatoon area. Saskatchewan has experienced unprecedented economic and population growth for a number of years. It is predicted that this growth will carry on indefinitely. It is in this context that the Saskatoon area has become one of the fastest

growing urban areas in all of Canada and indeed, in all of North America. There is a growing migration of people from other parts of Canada and immigration from, literally, the rest of the world. Satellite cities are burgeoning on the open prairie. This growth is fueled by mining (potash, gold, coal uranium, rare earths, diamonds), oil and natural gas (Saskatchewan now produces more conventional oil than Alberta), manufacturing (more innovative farm implements are invented and manufactured in Saskatchewan than anywhere else) and a strong farm industry.

Early in 2014, PWE plans to set up an ad hoc church planting project committee entrusted with the responsibility of articulating the step-by-step process that should be followed to begin a new church in this urban area. With four nearby FEBC churches and Humboldt just an hour away, the new church will be well surrounded by sister churches.

Pray that the right people will be chosen to form this ad hoc committee and that God would give them wisdom as they seek to provide a “road map” for this new church planting endeavor. Let us also begin praying now that God would raise up just the right couple to serve as lead church planters in this new venture. ■



**“The Saskatoon area has become one of the fastest growing urban areas in all of Canada and indeed, in all of North America. There is a growing migration of people from other parts of Canada and immigration from, literally, the rest of the world.”**

## Births/Adoptions

### Christian Fellowship Church, Rhineland, Sask.

- Oakley Braelynn to Dustin Tschetter and Shania Banman, Nov. 6; grandparents are Clarence and Brenda Tschetter

### Countryside Bible Church, Meade, Kan.

- Sydney Claire to Ryan and Shannon Potter, Oct. 14; great-grandparents are Al and Mary Friesen
- Kinley Rae to Tanya Cook, Oct. 21; grandparents are Scott and Shelly Cook
- Emma Nicole to Jonathan and Nicole Iman, Nov. 18; great-grandmother is Helen C. (Nick) Ediger

### Dalmeny Bible Church, Dalmeny, Sask.

- Noah Jace to Anthony and Courtney Unruh, Nov. 1

### Evangelical Bible Church, Omaha, Neb.

- Weston Isaiah to Jake and Kristin Jarvis, Aug. 18; grandparents are Luke and Phyllis Wiese
- Natalie JaVee to Nate and Chessie Vesely, Sept. 19; grandparents are Don and Willa Vesely
- Mariah Arianna, born July 10, 2012, and adopted by Ken and Courtney Williams Oct. 21
- Eliza Jae to Andrew and Jessica Wehrli, Nov. 1; grandparents are Ron and Sherry Dick

### Evangelical Bible Church, Dallas, Ore.

- Kylie Lynn to John and Kelly Peters, Oct. 15

### Evangelical Bible Church, Langham, Sask.

- Andrew Darin to Darin and Tanya Neudorf, Sept. 17
- Julia Marie born to Taija Watson and Shawn Rosenfeldt, Sept. 25; great-grandparents are Stan and Shirley Rosenfeldt
- Taya Christine born to Gordon and Danielle Neufeld, Oct. 2; grandmother is Velora Neufeld.
- Eve Marjorie to Brian and Sara Giesbrecht, Oct. 22; grandparents are Pastor Greg and Brenda Guarnett

### Faith Evangelical Bible Church, Henderson, Neb.

- Adam Luke born to Andrae and Stephanie Franz, Nov. 11

### Jansen Bible Church, Jansen, Neb.

- Kahleesi to Joel and Denise Carpenter; grandparents are Pastor Paul and Carol Carpenter

### Evangelical Mennonite Brethren Church, Lustre, Mont.

- Joshua Richard to Dan and Melissa Marasco, Oct. 13

### Salem Church, Waldheim, Sask.

- Quade Arley to Tamara and Shawn Reimer, Oct. 9; grandparents are Barry and Connie Friesen
- Mckenzie Marie to David and Stephanie Neufeld, Dec. 2; grandparents are Ken and Annette Neufeld

## Marriages

### Christian Fellowship Church, Rhineland, Sask.

- Kelsey Dyck, daughter of Steve and Darlene Dyck, to Shayne Grose, Aug. 4
- Sara Wiens to Daryl Kehler, Oct. 5
- Brooklynn Tschetter, daughter of Gary and Wendy Tschetter, to Jeremy Schroeder, Oct. 12

### Dalmeny Bible Church, Dalmeny, Sask.

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

### Evangelical Bible Church, Omaha, Neb.

- Debbie Janzen to Derek Peckenpough, Aug. 30

- Molly Swartz to Ryan Lucas, Aug. 31
- Laura Paziak to Dylan Bowley, Sept. 28
- Bonnie Crowley to Michael Buchanan, Oct. 5

### Evangelical Bible Church, Langham, Sask.

- Michelle Ens, daughter of Eldon and Caroline Ens, to Bart Klein, Sept. 7

### Salem Church, Waldheim, Sask.

- Wyatt James to Stephanie and Quinton Kyler, Dec. 11; grandparents are Bob and Sherry Willems

## Deaths

### DALMENY BIBLE CHURCH, Dalmeny, Sask.

- Sadie Bergquist (94), Aug. 2

### Christian Fellowship Church, Rhineland, Sask.

- Steven Dyck (54), Sept. 26

### Cornerstone Bible Church, Steinbach, Man.

- Elvina Loewen (93), Oct. 28

### Evangelical Bible Church, Omaha, Neb.

- Dick Paulson (83), Oct. 22

- Diane (Mrs. Lee) Johnson (66), Oct. 25

### Evangelical Bible Church, Dallas, Ore.

- Dale E. Schrag (68), Oct. 12

### Evangelical Mennonite Brethren Church, Lustre, Mont.

- Marvin Fast (92), July 19
- Marvin Bartel (90), Oct. 24

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

- Rose Becker (97), Nov. 16

# Catch the Vision

By Special Arrangement ... *By Ruth Richert Jones*

I marveled at God's leading. If the caretaker had chosen either of the other two dates, our paths would not have crossed.

"May we watch?"

Startled, I turned to see two fashionably dressed women admiring the engraved memorial brass I was rubbing.

"Sure," I told her. "But this brass is only a hundred years old. You'll have to stop and see the one my husband, Russ, is rubbing. It's 600 years old and is England's largest brass. It measures 5 x 12 feet and will take at least four hours to rub while kneeling on this cold floor."

We were in England's Salisbury Cathedral and had only recently learned about brass rubbing. Memorial brasses honoring individuals are usually found on floors or walls of churches or cathedrals. To bring up the raised details of the brasses we lay architectural detail paper over the brass and rub with black heel ball wax. When finished, and done evenly, these rubbings make artwork worthy to frame and hang.

We talked about brasses, and then our conversation drifted to our two countries.

"I'm really worried about conditions in England," Natalie\* said. "We're in deep financial trouble. I just don't see any way out."

"Things don't look good in the States either," I said, "Nor for the rest of the world, for that matter. But these things didn't take God by surprise. He's still in control."

"Do you really believe that?" she wanted to know.

Gladly, I took advantage of this opportunity to share God's love and concern. Hadn't I prayed that very morning for just such an opportunity?

I took a little booklet titled "Four Spiritual Laws" from my purse and turned to the first page. Natalie listened attentively as I showed her how she could become God's child.

"You mean you don't have to do something?" Natalie asked.

"As a matter of fact, the Bible says we're saved by faith, not works," I told her. "It says our works are like filthy rags."

"If God doesn't accept good works, then why are you doing good works by telling me all this?"

"We do good works after we become His children. It pleases Him."

Natalie made no move to leave so I asked her if she'd like to receive Christ right there in the cathedral.

She hesitated, then said. "I can't just accept without thinking it over."

"I sure wish I had a Bible to give you," I told her. "You could check it out for yourself."

Natalie's eyes brightened. "There's one in the motel. I can read that. But where do I start?"

I suggested the third chapter of the Gospel of John. Promising to read those verses, she and her friend took their leave.

A couple of weeks later, after we had returned to our flat in Bournemouth, the postman handed me a letter.

The postmark was Broadstairs, Kent, the village where Natalie lived. My hands trembled as I opened the envelope and unfolded the letter.

"My dear Mrs. Jones," the letter began. "I've taken Christ in. It's such a relief," she continued. "For all my life I've done good works just in case there is a God. I only wish I had taught my twin daughters, now nurses, not only to love people but also to love God."

We continued to correspond after Russ and I returned to the United States. Later, she wrote that she had been reunited with her son and his family. Because of a family argument, she had not seen nor heard from them in years.

As I held Natalie's letter in my hand, I marveled at God's leading. We had written to Salisbury Cathedral suggesting three possible dates for an appointment to rub the big brass. If the caretaker had chosen either of the other two dates, our paths would not have crossed.

This had to be a special appointment arranged by God. ■

\*Not her real name

Ruth Richert Jones attends Community Bible Church in Omaha. Six of her books and over 100 of her articles have been published. Her recorded books are available free of charge for the visually and physically impaired from Talking Book and Braille Service.

