A PUBLICATION OF THE FELLOWSHIP OF EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCHES

Fellowship Focus



FEBC Annual Convention July 17-21

Inside: © Focus on the Word

- President's Challenge
- Proclaiming Christ Around the World
- Convention 2013
- Catch the Vision





Blaine Donaldson, President, Fellowship of Evangelical Bible Churches

The Evangelical Disdain for Theology

read quite a bit of material on evangelism. A theme that often comes through is what could be called a disdain for theology. Applauded are statements like, "I do not tell people about theology, I just tell them about Jesus."

The concern is that sometimes people argue with non-Christians about things like end time events, the nature of the Trinity, moral issues, creation/evolution, or even politics. This takes the place of talking about Jesus. The Gospel is Jesus, so why should we be concerned about theology? Taking it one step further, it is charged that we are wrong to talk about how to get to heaven rather than talking about Jesus. If our witnessing does not talk about Jesus, it is not witnessing.

Do we sometimes get caught up in talking about other things instead of witnessing of Jesus? How much of our "witnessing" does not mention God or Jesus? I will leave it to the reader to answer these questions. But some would say that much of our "witnessing" is really not witnessing at all.

A common conclusion is that theology is in opposition to just talking about Jesus. But what is theology? It is God (*Theo*)

study (*logos*). It is to consider what God has said about Himself. When theology is done correctly, it informs us as to who Jesus is. If this is the theology that we are

telling to non-Christians, we are talking about Jesus.

For the person who says, "I do not want to talk about theology, I just want to talk about Jesus," about whom is he really talking?

If we abandon theology, what informs us about who Jesus is? Often, people use their own personal morality to inform them. I saw Oprah several years ago (a very rare occurrence) speaking on the subject of homosexuality. A Christian woman in the audience, in tears, shared about the dangers of homosexuality and what the Bible says about the subject. To a round of applause, Oprah replied, "I believe in a god who loves everybody." Her final authority for her understanding of God was her own morality. Witnessing of God without the guardrails of theology endangers us to fall off a cliff. Potentially, we invent a god, rather than proclaiming the true God.

Witnessing is about revealing the true God. And the true God is primarily revealed through biblical theology. Jesus is a specific Person. He is revealed in the

Witnessing of God without the guardrails of theology endangers us to fall off a cliff. We invent a god, rather than proclaiming the true God.

Bible. That must inform us so that we can witness of Him as He really is.

Some time ago, more than a century in fact, the "WWJD" expression was popularized. "What Would Jesus Do?" While I think that there is merit in this question, the answers that have followed have been used to justify almost any righteous or sinful behavior.

It would be better to ask WDJD. What Did Jesus Do? This is a far better question because it points us to the Scriptures — the source of theology. What Jesus did informs us about who He is. The real Jesus, the Jesus of theology is the One that whom we need to be proclaiming.

Proposing a New Governance Model

For decades the Fellowship has been directed by an Executive Committee made up of the chairs of the various commissions plus the president, vice-president recording secretary and administrator. Although this has had some advantages in keeping all the commission chairs "in the loop" about what the other commissions were doing, it has created a huge time commitment for the chairs. Not only do they have to direct their commissions; they also have to meet several times a year for Executive Committee meetings.

A new structure will be proposed this summer that would replace the Executive Committee with a Board of Directors. This board would be responsible for the direction and management of the Fellowship. The commission chairs would then be only responsible to guide their commissions in the work they have been assigned.

Another new group, the Doctrinal Council, will ensure that the Articles of Faith of the Fellowship articulate, to the current generation, an accurate understanding of the Scriptures, and that the Fellowship is addressing pertinent social issues through Position Papers.

These changes will be presented in a new constitution. No changes are proposed to the current Doctrinal Statement or Position Papers with the exception that the "Ordinances and Practices" section of the current constitution would be promoted to a Position Paper status in the proposed constitution. Learn more at www.fellowshipforward.org/proposed-constitution.html.

Comment

By Sharon Berg, Editor

When delegates gather at the annual FEBC convention in July, they'll mark the 119th year of this event. This year's theme is "Building Redemptive Relationships," and as at last year's convention, the featured speakers will be taken from churches within the Fellowship. Make note of the details: The congregation of Evangelical Bible Church at Dallas, Ore., will be our gracious hosts for this gathering on July 17-21. You'll find more about convention offerings, the Dallas community and a bit of EBC history on pages 7-9. I hope to see you there.

Blessings,

Sharon

FEBC

119th

Annual

Convention

Dallas, Ore.

FELLOWSHIP FOCUS (ISSN: 1537-4203, USPS# 223-620)

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to FELLOWSHIP FOCUS, 11605 W Dodge RD STE 3, Omaha NE 68154-2566

Periodicals Postage paid at Omaha, Nebraska and at additional mailing offices. Printed in the U.S.A.

The FELLOWSHIP FOCUS is published bi-monthly by the Fellowship of Evangelical Bible Churches

11605 W Dodge RD STE 3, Omaha NE 68154-2566

Phone: 402-965-3860

E-mail address: fellowshipfocus@febcministries.org

Web: http://www.febcministries.org

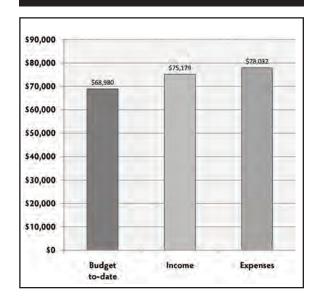
FAX: 402-965-3871

Editorial Staff: Sharon Berg, Editor; Connie Yates, Design & Layout

Inside

The President's Challenge
The Power of Story Blaine Donaldson, President page 2
Alienated from Christ – Fallen from Grace? Harvey Schultz page 4
Fellowship Views page 5
Proclaiming Christ Around the World By Marilynn Lester, Commission on Missions page 6
FEBC 119th Annual Convention pages 7-9
Missions – Calling or Job? By Roger Reimer page 10
Focus on Our Churches pages 11-14
The Record page 15
Catch the Vision Blaine Donaldson back page

FEBC Finances through January



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

http://www.fellowshipforward.org click on the *Resources* tab



Alienated from Christ – Fallen from Grace?

Had the Galatians lost their salvation?

Paul's statement in Galatians 5:4 is as unexpected as it is troubling because it was written to Christians: "You who are trying to be justified by law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace."

Believers in Galatia were confused. Paul had preached the Gospel to them. They had put their faith in Christ for salvation. Then along came Jews, who professed to believe in Jesus as their Messiah, and in effect told the Galatians: Paul didn't give you the whole Gospel. In addition to putting your faith in Christ, you must observe the Jewish Law: circumcision, dietary regulations, Jewish holy days, etc.

That threw them into confusion, creating havoc in their churches. Paul wrote this epistle to correct their doctrine. In chapters three and four he had shown, with compelling arguments based on Scripture, that justification is by grace alone through faith alone in Jesus Christ alone. Period!

Gradually he moved on from the subject of justification to sanctification — from right standing before God to right living. By chapter five he is directing their attention from how to be saved to how to live the Christian life. In the first verse he declares with no uncertainty that the believer has been set free from the obligation to follow the Law. He urges them to "stand firm" in this truth. It is in this context that he makes that troubling statement. Had they lost their salvation?

Although these Galatians were confused about how they should live the Christian life, they had experienced justification. They had placed their faith in Christ, and Paul deals with them as believers. He is not telling them that they have lost their right standing before God.

Verse seven helps us begin to understand what he is getting at. He declares:

... justification is by

arace arme

through faith alone
in Jesus Christ alone.

Period!

"You were running a good race. Who cut in on you and kept you from obeying the truth?" Using the metaphor of a foot race, he refers to the unsportsmanlike conduct of a runner who hinders another runner by cutting in on him. When he says "You were running a good race" he is saying in effect: You were doing well in your Christian walk. Who hindered you?

It was a rhetorical question. We know who and what hindered them. It was the teachers who told them that as believers they had to obey the Law in order to live the Christian life. Paul says in effect: That hinders you in your Christian race. Trying to observe the Law prevents you from obeying the truth, because you stop relying on God's grace for living. You cut yourselves off from grace.

The same is true for us. Following religious rules and regulations does not help us live the Christian life; it hinders us. It hinders us because we no longer rely on the indwelling Holy Spirit but on our own strength — our personal discipline. We attempt to please God with a code of conduct which is nothing else but a man-made behavior modification program whereby we seek to transform our lives from the outside in. That is not God's provision for a holy life. Sanctification (right living), like justification (right standing before God), is by grace through faith. God will enable us to "obey the truth."

The Galatians had not lost their justification. They had lost sight of the only way to live the Christian life: *by trusting in the indwelling Spirit* to produce righteous living in them.

We often make the same mistake. Instead of trusting in Him to communicate His strength to us (live by faith), we attempt to do it ourselves (following our own religious code). When we do that, we cut ourselves off from His sanctifying grace.

Verse five declares: "By faith we eagerly await through the Spirit the righteousness for which we hope." That is, we expect the indwelling Spirit of God to produce in us the righteousness which we long to experience in our daily lives. It agrees with Galatians 2:20: "The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God." That is transformation from the inside out.

With that approach to the Christian life, we experience God's grace for living. We are not falling away from grace. Salvation (justification) is by grace alone. Sanctification (living right) is also by grace alone.

Scripture quotations are taken from the New International Version.



FELLOWSHIP VIEWS • FELLOWSHIP VIEWS • FELLOWSHIP VIEWS

Annual Reports

The 2012 Fellowship Directory and Annual Report are available. To purchase a copy, e-mail **orders@febcministries.org**. Cost is \$5 plus postage.

What Happened to the FEBC Workshop?

For decades, FEBC leaders and commissions have gathered for two intense days of planning in February. This meeting is called the FEBC Workshop. This year no Workshop was held. Instead, commissions have been meeting by video conference every few months, and each commission has arranged for a longer meeting in February. Some commissions were able to meet face-to-face in a location that best suited them. Other commissions met by GoToMeeting®. Calculating that the average attendee to past Workshops had to travel at least one day to the meeting and one day back, lost work and travel expenses averaged \$600 per person for this two-day meeting. Thus, the new meeting options saved money for churches and individuals.

Pastor's Pen Points

What does a pastor do with 60 years of sermons and studies? Retired pastor **Johnny Reimer** condensed his material into a year's worth of daily devotionals. He has published a three-volume set entitled *Pastor's Pen Points: Daily Challenges for Your Heart from God's Word.* For information on how to get a copy of this devotional book, contact Johnny at **faster pastorak@yahoo.com**.

Summer Missionaries

Financial aid is available for students who will be on a short-term cross-cultural mission assignment this summer. Students serving at least six weeks may receive a grant of \$300.

Students serving four months or more may be eligible for up to \$750. Contact **orders@febcministries** for details and application forms.

Studying for Christian Ministry?

Students preparing for Christian ministry (pastor, missionary, chaplain, etc.) may apply to the Fellowship for a \$1,000 scholarship. Send a request for an application packet to **orders@febcministries.org.** Individuals currently in ministry (pastors, missionaries) who are taking graduate-level classes can apply for a Continuing Education Scholarship. Applications must be received by May 31.

Churches Seeking Pastors

Please ask God to provide pastors for our Fellowship churches. Perhaps you know of someone who would fit into these positions:

- Grace Evangelical Bible Church of Abbotsford, B.C., is seeking a senior pastor. Please submit résumés or enquiries to Henry Esau at henryesau@telus.net.
- Community Bible Church of Indian Head, Sask., is seeking a senior pastor. Please direct all inquiries and resumes to Ed Martens (306) 695-2451; emmartens@yourlink.ca or Community Bible Church, Attn: Ed Martens, PO Box 1096, Indian Head, SK SOG 2KO.
- Martensville Mennonite Church of Martensville, Sask., is seeking a senior pastor. Please send enquiries and résumés to Brendon Johnston pastor.brendon@martensvillemis sionchurch.com.
- 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.

Another important consideration has to do with the loca-

tion of the guardians. We recommend that you choose

guardians who live nearby, if possible, so your death does not



Guarding Your Child's Future

One of the most important decisions families need to consider is the choice of someone to take responsibility for raising minor children if Mom and Dad die prematurely. Deciding whom to name as guardian for your young children is critical.

We recommend that you select as guardians a couple who share your spiritual values, first of all, and who will raise the children using the same godly principles that you are committed to.

It's also important that they be in the same stage of life as you; couples who have already raised their children (including your own parents) may not welcome the challenge of starting afresh to raise the children you leave behind.

Legacy
Today's resources for the same stage of life as you; couples who have already raised their children your own parents) may not welcome the challenge of starting afresh to raise the children you leave behind.

Dad die preo name as also mean that the children will be uprooted from their neighborhood, their church, their school friends, etc., and moved to another city or state. The trauma of losing Mom and Dad couple who aise the chilis required.

For more information on appointing guardians or preparing a will, go to www.fellowshipforward.org/legacy-giving.html.

You'll find biblical teaching, examples of

You'll find biblical teaching, examples of what others have done, and an interactive Estate Planner to help you think through the decisions you need to make.



Proclaiming Norld Proclaiming World

Marilynn Lester Commission on Missions



Trbana: a city in Illinois where a branch of the University of Illinois is located; a major Christian missions conference that is held in Urbana, Ill., every three years since 1948.

The conference moved to a larger campus in St. Louis, Mo., in 2009 but still retains the Urbana name. Urbana challenges students to consider missions and and allows them to discover op-

portunities in world missions. The FEBC assists young people from Fellowship churches who attend the conference. This year, eight students attended Urbana:

Jaden Friesen, Tinese Friesen, Braden Wiens, Tanner Wiens, and Taylor Wiens from Countryside Bible Church, Meade, Kan. Kara Friesen from Christian Fellowship Church, Rhineland, Sask., Sierra Harder from Cornerstone Bible Church, Mountain Lake, Minn., Joanne Redekop from Dalmeny Bible Church, Dalmeny, Sask.

Students agreed that what prompted them to go to Urbana 2012 was the desire to see how they might serve the Lord anywhere in the world. Kara Friesen wrote, "I wanted to practice saying 'yes' to God, to be open to what He wants for my future I saw Urbana as an opportunity to see God's work across the world, and to take time to listen and hear His plan for the next chapter of my life." Joanne Redekop said, "I decided to go to Urbana to learn ... how I can use my nursing degree to further God's kingdom." And Sierra Harder thought Urbana "was a wonderful opportunity to learn more about God's heart for missions and fan the flame that already existed in my heart." Jaden Friesen reported that "Urbana opened my eyes to all the different opportunities to serve in outdoor ministry." Jaden was able to connect with representatives from Christian camps and got some good solid leads that he considers God "opening obvious doors." Kara described how students

helped World Vision prepare 32,000 medical kits to be sent to Swaziland to equip village medical providers. All 16,000 students in the audience walked through an assembly line to fill bags with the needed supplies.

Several emphasized that they were challenged to live out their Christian faith right now, right where they are. Taylor Wiens said he was "encouraged ... to make daily life a mission for God." Joanne Redekop expressed, "For me, the most significant aspect of the convention was learning how to incorporate my faith into the workplace." As a nursing student she feels limited in what she can say to her patients unless the patient initiates the conversation, but she recounted, "One seminars

students, Urbana was a turning point in their lives; for others, it was a reaffirmation of the direction they felt God was already leading.

For some of the





tient to start asking you those questions." Sierra mentioned that she came away with "more of a passion to reach out to my peers right here on campus I learned that my training for missions starts right here." Kara gained greater understanding that "missions happens where you are." She went on to state, "So especially after Urbana, I see my campus, where God continues to bring many nations together to study, as an opportunity to do world missions in my home country." For some of the students, Urbana was a turning point in their lives; for others, it was a reaffirmation of the direction they felt God was already leading. Sierra Harder expressed, "A significant event for me while at the conference was dedicating my life to long-term missions I don't know what this will look like, but I am open and ready for what God has in store." Taylor Wiens shared, "Urbana was a big step in my decision to go into ministry. Although it is something that I was already pursuing, Urbana helped me confirm that this is something God has for me." Taylor, who is currently studying in Israel, can see how God used Urbana to prepare him for this opportunity. Joanne decided that she would like to use her nursing degree "to work in another county with a health care mission organization, such as Hospitals of Hope, or SIM." Kara will be listening to God's direction as she finishes her schooling and then decides where God wants her to go. Jaden

talked about what we can say to cause the pa-

sumed up the experience for everyone: "The conference gave me a ton of direction in life."

As you have personal contact with these young people, give them opportunities to tell you about what they have learned and are learning about God's leading. Also, pray for them and encourage them to follow through with their commitments.



FEBC 119th Convention Dallas, Ore. July 17-21, 2013

2013 Convention Project SAHEL ACADEMY FLOOD RESTORATION

Last August, Niger experienced unprecedented flooding. Sahel Academy, a school for missionary and expatriate children, was severely damaged. School officials are making an all-out effort to get the school ready to resume classes in August 2013. At least one of our Fellowship churches, Evangelical Bible Church of Omaha, is forming a work-team to help with clean up and repairs. Our Fellowship goal is to raise \$20,000 to help repair and replace flood-damaged furnishings and classrooms. Although more information will be sent to churches soon, visit

http://simusa.org/content/latest-news/1616/sahel_academy_update to find more information and progress reports.

"It is simply by the grace of God that we are able to keep Sahel Academy running this year. When the flood happened in August of 2012, people wondered if we would close the school. We thought about it — for a few seconds. We knew that if we were to close the school it would have far-reaching effects on many ministries in the area. Parents would be forced to return to their home countries to obtain an adequate education for their children or to stop their ministries and

home school full-time. Our primary beneficiaries are the children of missionaries from throughout West Africa. About 30 percent of our students come through other non-profit organizations like World Vision, Samaritan's Purse, etc. Several of our students are the children of diplomats or military personnel. Some of them have been evacuated from wartorn countries, and when they come to Sahel, they are ripe for the good news of the Gospel. Many find peace and healing as they come to know the gift of the Savior." ~ Mikki Schmidt, Sahel Academy teacher and FEBC missionary

Discover Oregon

http://traveloregon.com http://www.travelportland.com/
Passports are required for Canadian travelers to the USA. http://www.ppt.gc.ca/index.aspx

You're Invited! FEBC 119th Annual Convention ~ July 17-21, 2013

We at the Dallas, Ore., Evangelical Bible Church are excited to host the FEBC's 119th Annual Convention this summer, and extend to you a very warm welcome.

Commission meetings will take place on Wednesday, July 17. The Convention begins Wednesday evening and continues through Saturday, July 20. We invite you to stay and worship with us on Sunday morning at 8 a.m. or 10:45 a.m.

We are so looking forward to seeing all of you, and we are pleased to be your host this year!

And a little about us ...

In 1912 a few families began to meet for prayer and worship in North Dallas. As they grew, a church was established and dedicated in 1917. Over several years the church grew, as families moved to this area from other states. Among them were willing leaders and pastors who could deliver the Gospel message in both English and German. In 1923 the Orchard View School burned down, so the congregation allowed the school to hold classes in its building.

Again the church building became too small, and in 1924 a new building was completed (now our Youth Building). And yet again, we outgrew the building and a new church, existing today, was built.

Last year EBC celebrated its 100th anniversary. God has been very gracious

to us; our membership has grown to more than 500.

Senior Pastor Jerry Franz and his wife, Joy, came to Dallas EBC in 1987 and have served here for more than 25 years. Along with preaching the Gospel and overseeing the spiritual maturity of the church in partnership with the deacons, Pastor Jerry counsels church members and the community.

Pastor Alan Wiebe was Senior Pastor



from 1962-1968, and returned as our Visitation Pastor in 1994. Pastor Nathan and Kelsey Ensz began their Youth Pastor ministry at EBC in 2000.

In 2000, as our membership continued to grow, we began to offer two Sunday morning services. The early service follows a contemporary style, but the later a more traditional service, and Sunday school classes are available for all ages. EBC has something for everyone: prayer meetings, Bible Studies, Awana, MOPs (Mothers of Preschoolers), Ladies

Missionary Fellowship and a very active Women's Ministry. Check our webpage at www.ebcdallas.org

... and the Dallas, Ore., community ...

The lovely community of Dallas is located in the heart of the Willamette Valley, just 13 miles west of Salem, and only 30 miles east of the Pacific Ocean. Many have been impressed with the Willamette Valley's beauty, orchards, vineyards and fertile farm land. Dallas has become a favorite choice of many families.

The quiet town of Dallas is the county seat and rich in history. Our downtown is home to many historic buildings, including the historic Polk County Courthouse and city hall. Dallas also has shopping available, a wide range of places to eat, galleries, museums and parks. We have seven city parks; the largest is 35 acres with an attached arboretum. Several parks feature disc golf courses.

Golfers can enjoy a nine-hole golf course here, with another course five miles out of town; a third can be found 10 miles from Dallas. An indoor aquatic center offers classes, open swim and even a slide and rope swing! Basket Slough National Wildlife Refuge, only a few miles out of Dallas, provides a lovely place for bird watching and hiking.

For more information about the Dallas area go to www.dallasoregon.org

Caught Up

• Come ready to be spiritually challenged and encouraged through our speaker, Dave Jongeward, former youth pastor and current professor at Multnomah University in Portland. Ore.



In the Larger Story of God

- Enjoy the beauty of the Great Northwest and the spiritual support of other teenage believers through shared time together in outdoor activity!
- Stand in wonder at the ocean as we spend a special night together on the Oregon beach!
- Cost: \$50 per student if registered before June 1, 2013. Registration forms are available at your church office.



Dave Jongeward

Meet the Convention Speakers

Rev. Darrell Derksen, Salem Church, Waldheim, Sask.

Darrell was introduced to the Gospel through his family and home church, providing fertile ground for the ministry of the twin evangelists Ralph and Lou Sutera in revival services. At nine years old, Darrell joyfully received Jesus Christ a Lord and Savior at their invitation.

After one year at the Okanagan Bible Institute in Kelowna, B.C., Darrell transferred to Briercrest Bible College, graduating with a Pastoral Major in 1984. He was immediately called by Langham Evangelical Bible Church (Sask.) to be its associate pastor, working under Frank Eidse. After a year and a half, Darrell resigned and became a long-distance trucker. But two years later, when Pastor Eidse moved away, the church called Darrell to be its senior pastor. He served there until 1994 and then took a sabbatical to continue his studies at Briercrest Biblical Seminary. Before he could graduate, Salem Church of Waldheim called him to be its senior pastor. Darrell did receive the Master of Biblical Studies degree in 1997.

One of the high points of ministry for Darrell is observing peoples' eyes light up as God leads them to apply a new truth into their life. "When their eyes cannot hide the excitement, you know that their souls have been shaped. To play a part in this process is humbling."

Darrell served on the FEBC Commission on Education for many years and is now a member of the Commission on Churches. Apart from ministry, he enjoys playing hockey and water-skiing.

Darrell and Priscilla will celebrate their 30th anniversary in July. They have four adult children and three grandchildren.

Rev. Jerry Franz, Evangelical Bible Church, Dallas, Ore.

Jerry Franz has pastored EBC for almost 26 years. Before that, he was pastor of the EMB Church (now Faith Evangelical Bible Church) of Henderson, Neb., for 16 years.

Jerry's spiritual journey began at home — his mother led him to the Lord. He attended Grace University in Omaha where he received a Bachelor of Arts in Pastoral Ministry and a Bachelor of Theology.

When asked to describe his philosophy of ministry, Jerry responded, "In relationships, my desire is to share Jesus Christ. In preaching my desire is to see believers matured and to become practical in sharing the Gospel. In counseling, my desire is for others to see that Jesus Christ is the one who gives total meaning to life."

Jerry served our Fellowship as president from 1978-1990.

Jerry and and his wife, Joyce, have been married for 44 years and are blessed with two married daughters and five grandchildren.

Dr. Don Pahl, Evangelical Bible Church, Omaha, Neb.

Dr. Don Pahl has pastored Omaha's EBC since 1998. Other Fellowship churches he has pastored include Fairview Bible Church of Swift Current, Sask., and Cornerstone Bible Church (then Evangelical Mennonite Brethren Church) of Steinbach, Man. He has also pastored outside our Fellowship at Ebenezer Mennonite Church of Bluffton, Ohio, and Grace Baptist Church of Manhattan, Kan.

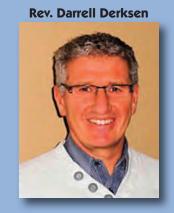
Don is a graduate of Grace University (Bachelor of Arts), and Denver Theological Seminary (Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry.). His ministry focus includes biblical preaching and missions. He has served on short-term mission assignments to Haiti, Brazil, Mexico, Hawaii, Siberia, the Philippines and Guatemala.

Don has given many years of service to our Fellowship, having served on the commissions of education and churches and as vice-president of the FEBC.

Don and his wife, Rosi, celebrate their 40th anniversary in June. They enjoy two married sons and five grandchildren.

Rev. Charles Tschetter, Community Bible Church, Omaha, Neb.

Chuck was born and raised in Omaha, Neb. He grew up in a home focused on the Lord and believed in Jesus at a young age. After graduating from Grace University, he attended Dallas Theological Seminary where he received the Master of Theology degree. Chuck joined the staff of Community Bible Church of Omaha in 1987 and became Senior Pastor in 1990. He and his wife, Lydia, are the parents of six children.



Rev. Jerry Franz



Dr. Don Pahl



Rev. Charles Tschetter



Missions – Calling or Job? By Roger Reimer Think clearly about the process of becoming a missionary, and recognize the distinctions that go along with that walk of life.

A fter observing the transitions of a wide variety of missionary colleagues having departed from their country of service, and personally experiencing the emotional stresses of that kind of change, I've decided to write some of my thoughts and impressions regarding the process leading to this phase of a missionary's life.

Early on during my years as a college student, I remember making a commitment, at a mission conference, to be willing to consider serving as a missionary if God would call me to serve. That initial response was an important first step in the process God chose to mold my thinking.

In the ensuing years of career development, God continued to put people and events in my life that encouraged me to explore avenues of missionary service. Attending church events that focused on missionary presentations were part of that environment. I was always interested in their process of becoming a missionary.

Reading and responding to a recruitment advertisement in a monthly magazine from a mission organization was another step along this journey. Even though initially this step was more of an expression of curiosity, God used it to move me along.

I clearly remember in the actual interview sessions, with various members of the mission candidate committee, the questions regarding our sense of God's calling in our lives. That key component was used as a determining point in our acceptance into the mission. Being regular members of an interdenominational, international missionary fellowship had a lot of connotations attached to that relationship. In those days we were privileged

to have an actual voice and vote in all major mission decisions. On the field our national colleagues assumed we were owners of the ministry.

Soon after, we were accepted by the mission as regular members. A commissioning service was planned at our home church. A long-time family friend and veteran pastor was invited to be a part of this event. Commissioning was the next step in the process of becoming a missionary. With that step completed, we were ready to go!

The process of transferring the security of a regular paycheck from a place of employment, and learning to depend on the Lord's provision through the voluntary financial support of others was an experience that continues to this day. That step of faith includes a whole variety of ingredients. I won't belabor this point except to say that it is a key component to a complete picture of a faith-based missionary effort.

Finally arriving on the field of ministry and becoming a part of the missionary community has a sense of arrival, becoming, joining a team, being a member of this adventure of God's leading.

A short time after I had been appointed to the position of director of the health care division of the mission, a board of trustees' member and his wife were at our home for an evening meal. He asked if I had been anointed with oil to serve in this leadership position. When I responded that this had not happened yet, he led in a time of prayer and anointing with oil right after the meal. Even though this was in the context of our home, it became another significant step in my life as a missionary.

I am grateful for each of these steps along the journey that God has led us. They were foundational for us during times of testing and positive and enjoyable years as well. This is an integrated view of all of the pieces that form a life of commitment, obedience to God's calling and faithfulness.

At the same time, anything that appears to derail this journey requires real discernment and wisdom in handling, so that everyone can clearly see evidences of God's hand and be at peace.

Can you remember going through this kind of process the last time you landed a job? Now hear me clearly: I in no way want to diminish the value of working in the marketplace and having a strong sense of ministry in that context. I do, however, ask you to think clearly about the process of becoming a missionary and recognize the distinctions that go along with that walk of life.

The next time you hear about a missionary returning to his country of origin, please pray that his adjustment will reflect sensitivity to that initial process in a way that shows meaning and God's loving and guiding hand.

These thoughts reflect my personal experience, and I acknowledge that every Christ-follower will have a unique and different path through which God has led them.

Roger works under HCJB Global. He was the administrator of the HCJB hospital in Quito, Ecuador, for many years. Since then he has led groups of nursing students on short-term assignments, and helped set up medical facilities in other countries.

CORNERSTONE BIBLE CHURCH

Steinbach, Man. Jared Hiebert, Senior Pastor

Cornerstone sent **Associate Pastor Doug Reimer**, along with his family, on a sabbatical to Texas Nov.1–Dec. 18. Pastor Doug had the privilege of working at The Village Church alongside some of their pastors and staff. The Village Church is a vibrant, Gospel-proclaiming church in Flower Mound, Texas. Doug and his family had a great time of spiritual renewal and growth, as well as an intense time of learning.

We were richly blessed through the testimonies of three people, as we received them into church membership.

Marsella Wiebe, Correspondent

COUNTRYSIDE BIBLE CHURCH

Meade, Kan.

Pastor David's last Sunday was Jan. 6. We held a farewell service followed by a potluck dinner. We wish David and Kim blessings as they get established in California and pursue the leading of the Lord.

Ralph and Ann Classen served in Mexico Jan. 26-March 1 with the Roca Blanco Mission. Chris Cummings, Jaden Friesen, Tinese Friesen and Dalton Wiens will spend a semester in Israel from Masters College.

Our Prayer Band will begin meeting at a retirement center to accommodate three of our members who have taken up residence there.

Mary Friesen, Correspondent

DALMENY BIBLE CHURCH

Dalmeny, Sask. Dennis Friesen, Pastor

Pastor Dennis has started a message series about the Holy Spirit called "The Forgotten God."

Thirteen youth and sponsors enjoyed Freezin' 2013, a retreat for youth from Fellowship churches in Saskatchewan, at Camp Kadesh in January. **Joanne Redekop** attended Urbana, a missions conference in St. Louis. We sent **Tyson Kehler** with YWAM (Youth With A Mission) for discipleship training.

In conjunction with the Community Church and Dalmeny businesses, we gathered non-perishable food and helped assemble 23 food hampers for families in need.

Adults were well fed as they participated in a Progressive Appetizer New Year's Eve Night.

Marilyn Harder, Correspondent

EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH

Omaha, Neb. Dr. Don Pahl, Senior Pastor

Our membership voted to pursue a capital funds campaign this spring with a two-fold purpose: 1) To pursue several needed changes/additions to our present location to facilitate present and future growth; and 2) To pursue a second campus in the northwest part of Omaha to reach out with the Gospel to a wider audience of those who simply need to know Jesus. Change is rarely easy, and unity is always challenged during change. But as our congregation has begun to make changes, and envisions additional changes in the coming year, we have reason and opportunity to glorify God!

Our CARE Team coordinates medical equipment check-out. Church members who have medical equipment and are willing to loan it out have let our CARE Team know. When another church member has a need, he can borrow such equipment as walkers, blood pressure cuffs, slings, canes, wheelchairs, crutches, etc.

MUMS (Mothers Uplifting Mothers) is a ministry of encouragement that seeks to strengthen mothers with the truth of God's Word. Open to moms of newborns through elementary grade children and expectant moms, the monthly gatherings provide time for fellowship, guest speakers talking about a variety of topics, and occasionally even dinner.

Sherrie Lindsey, Correspondent

EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH

Dallas, Ore. Jerry Franz, Pastor

EBC hosted the annual "Adopt-a-Family" program for the Polk County Resource Center. More than 300 families were helped with donations of gifts, food and coats. On the day that all donations arrived, our gym and several other rooms were filled with the community's generosity. Recipients began to arrive the next day, and were so blessed by the gifts that they received. After hours of organization, foot work and many volunteers, this was another huge success for our community.

January is time of reflection on God's blessing for our church. It is also a new beginning, new budgets, new committee members and a time of identifying what works well in helping our church to grow for God's glory. We are so excited about hosting FEBC Convention here in Dallas in July. We hope to see many of you attend. This is going to be a great year!

Vicki Kibbey, Correspondent

LANGHAM EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH

Langham, Sask. Greg Guarnett, Senior Pastor



The youth missions team hand-made and sold 210 dozen perogies as a fundraiser. Eight of our youth, along with **Pastor**

continued on page 12

continued from page 11

Justin and Nashly and Marv and Heather Wall, will travel to Washington, D.C. in July to minister with *YouthWorks*.

A couple of our youth enjoyed the FEBC Freezin' Youth Retreat at Camp Kadesh, put on by our local FEBC youth pastors of Saskatchewan.

Thirty-one children took part in the club car races, an annual January highlight.

Marilyn Friesen, Correspondent

EVANGELICAL MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH

Grunthal, Man. Russ Reimer, Pastor

It has been exciting to see the enthusiasm generated by one of the small groups at our church as they desire to reach out to marriages in our community. This small group planned and held a "Love and Respect" DVD conference. They advertised it on local radio stations, took care of organizing babysitting and served the snack and meal. The material presented challenged us to learn to speak the "language" of our spouse or future spouse. To continue keeping the sparks alive, there is a committee planning a "Maritimes Valentine's Banquet" at our church, with the help of a group from Briercrest College. This has been a very special outreach event for us the last couple of years.

Another important event was when four new members joined the church in January. We are glad to have them join us, as both couples have been involved already in various areas of service.

Tamara Bergen, Correspondent

EVANGELICAL MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH

Lustre, Mont. John Skillman, Pastor

As an outreach to several neighbors, our women prepared 20 goodie baskets to take during the Christmas season. Another outreach included the 93 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes sent. Our ladies also served a potluck dinner for the Lustre Christian High School dormitory students and our church family.

Having finished a series on the book of Acts, Pastor Skillman is beginning a study of the book of Psalms. We look forward to learning to respond appropriately to God and His work in our lives. A ladies home Bible Study, led by Sharon Skillman, has been started on the book of Philippians. Since joy is the theme of the book, we are striving to replace the winter *blues* with winter *blessings*, focusing on what we have in Christ and being thankful for what He gives us.

Sharon Skillman, Correspondent

EVANGELICAL MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH

Marion, S.D. Randy Maass, Pastor

The Marion Ministerial consists of seven community churches. The pastors meet regularly. Some time before

Christmas, each congregation donated groceries for the needy people of the community. These were packaged, and the pastors visited the unfortunate homes with a gift for Christmas. These are good contacts.

Joint community church services are planned for pre-Easter services. These services are held in the various churches starting Sunday evening, Feb. 24, and ending on March 27, with our Pastor Maass speaking. Marion EMB (*The Country Church*) will host Palm Sunday. We will share a Good Friday service with the neighboring Bethesda Church.



Retired missionary to Ecuador, **Martha Becker**, was honored with a church-sponsored 101st birthday party on Dec. 27. The party was held at the Mennonite Home for the Aged, where she resides.

Ray Becker, Correspondent

FAITH EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH

Henderson, Neb. Michael Fink, Pastor

In order to better equip us to share the Gospel at every opportunity, **Paul Harkness** of EvanTell conducted an evangelism seminar at our church on Jan. 27. Thirty-two people attended and appreciated the simplicity of the message. Our current series of Sunday morning messages are also focusing on the Gospel and the difference between salvation and discipleship.

Our church family celebrated one baptism and welcomed seven new members in November and December.

Alice Decker, Correspondent

HEARTLAND BIBLE CHURCH

Lincoln, Neb. Scott Hecht, Pastor

The demolition in the church foyer started in January. We are installing bathrooms that are friendly to the guidelines of the American Disabilities Act. Our fund-raising drive for this project exceeded our expectations, for which we are grateful.

The Seasoned Saints met for an evening of fun and fitness in January, with various games available to test our agility and expertise. Our own **Tracy Kingman**, who is a personal trainer, led us in exercises to help with balance, agility and strength. We ended with a delicious supper featuring healthy foods.

Our Missions Movie Night featured a video from "Dispatches from the Front," set in the urged regions of Albania, Kosovo and Montenegro.

The men continued their study of the "Disciplines of a Godly Man" at their prayer breakfast.

Trudy Reimer, Correspondent

JANSEN BIBLE CHURCH

Jansen, Neb. Paul Carpenter, Pastor

Our big outreach event of the year is the Sweetheart Banquet. **Pastor Mike Friesen** of Eagle Heights Church in Omaha was our featured speaker this year.

Awana missionary **Rick Hattan** gave a clear Gospel presentation as guest speaker at a Parent's Night soup supper.

The New Year's Eve food, fun and fellowship celebration was well-attended despite snow and cold.

Tena Dick, Correspondent

NORTHEAST BIBLE CHURCH

Calgary, Alta. John Fehr, Pastor



Last year our ladies' group decided to produce a church cookbook with Pat Bell as coordinator.

The finished product had great appeal to both the congregation and the many extended family members who

received them as Christmas gifts.



We celebrated Jesus' birthday with a potluck and party following a December morning service. The children had a happy time with the clown, **Derek Clark**, who comes each year to entertain them. With their faces

gaily painted, they gathered around the table for a special birthday cake honouring Immanuel, God with Us.

Our Christmas banquet included worship music, good food, great visiting, and gifts that were especially enjoyed by the children

Julie Ann Simpson, Correspondent

PARADISE VALLEY CHURCH

Natoma, Kan. Ben MacConnell, Pastor

We hosted our annual Valentine Banquet on Feb. 9, with guests' ages ranging from one to 98. We look forward to this opportunity to bring in a Christian group or speaker, and the quar-

tet this year sang gospel favorites. The meal was catered by a lady who attends our church. Ben got to know her through the weekly Bible Study he has held for years in Lucas, Kan. Ben also had the privilege of presiding at her daughter's wedding and her mother-in law's funeral last year. It is encouraging when we see how far the hands of God reach and the many opportunities He gives us to share Jesus Christ.

Sharon MacConnell, Correspondent

RICHER FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

Richer, Man. Simon Cheung, Pastor

When it came to helping us plan our Awana "Hockey Night in Richer," God answered our prayer "exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think" (Ephesians 3:20). **Mikaela Driedger**, one of our Awana leaders, arranged for three hockey players from the Steinbach Pistons Manitoba Junior Hockey League, their chaplain, **Mike Kehler**, and special guest **Jeff Penner**, a National Hockey League prospect (of Steinbach, Man.) to come for our second annual floor hockey event! The local radio station covered the event.



The whistle blew and clubbers got to try the "thrill of the chase" playing against "real" hockey players, not to mention the excitement of the staff! Penner shared his testimony, and the kids were in awe as he told them how he broke his back as a young person, and how suffering multiple concussions ended his professional hockey career. Through all of his hard times, God still protected him and had a plan for his life. He encouraged the kids to read the Bible.



We have received positive feedback about the evening from the community. You can look us up on Youtube "Hockey Night in Richer." Richer is on the map!

> Michelle Driedger, Correspondent continued on page 14

continued from page 13

SALEM CHURCH

Waldheim, Sask. Darrell Derksen, Senior Pastor

FEBC youth from Saskatchewan were invited to participate in the annual Freezin' Youth Retreat. This is a unique opportunity for Fellowship youth to gather together. Although the weather seems to be particularly cold on the weekend Freezin' is held, each year the youth come home encouraged.

The Women of Waldheim hosted "Declaring Freedom" on Feb. 26. **Denise Heppner** shared her faith story of how she found freedom through Christ, and how she will participate in Operation Mobilization's Freedom Climb in April. This adventure will take her on a trek to the Mount Everest base camp, with the purpose of raising awareness and funds to combat the exploitation of women and children through human trafficking. If you would like to lend your support to this great cause, contact her at **denise.heppner@usask.ca**. Her involvement in the Freedom Climb is causing us to become more aware of human trafficking in our world.

A full house was in place for our morning worship service on Jan. 20, as family and friends joined us to celebrate the baptism of seven youth. There was a strong sense of spiritual excitement as each of these young people boldly declared their faith in Jesus Christ.

SARON MENNONITE CHURCH

Orienta, Okla. Arnold Curby, Pastor

We enjoy having **Hannah Curby**, missionary to Verona, Italy, with us on home assignment as she does deputation work. Perhaps she will speak at your church. Hannah is the daughter of Pastor Arnold and Grace Curby.

We now have several new families attending our services. Some have inquired about church membership. All are faithful in attendance and in participation in community affairs, such as meat canning for the Mennonite Disaster Fund. It was a special blessing to see their children join in our Christmas program, which was well attended by people in the Orienta/Fairview community.

Mary Curby, Correspondent

STUARTBURN GOSPEL CHAPEL

Stuartburn, Man. Mark Funk, Pastor

We started the new year by focusing on praying for opportunities to reach those who have not yet responded to the gift of salvation through Jesus. As we have done in the past, we set aside a "Prayer Week" early in January to focus on rekindling our passion to make God's purposes our own. Each evening, we met at the church for a short time in the Word, and then broke into small groups of three or four to pray fervently on the issues that

the Scripture revealed. A great deal of attention was given to spiritual protection and guidance for our children and families, and we surely felt the burden of the Holy Spirit to reach the lost. The final evening was celebrated by sharing the Lord's Supper with a renewed commitment to hearing His voice and obeying with joy.

We continue with the ongoing building project to enlarge the foyer and bathrooms and add a pastor's office. Our Sunday school, Children's Church, youth groups, Awana program and small group Bible studies and prayer meetings continue to challenge us to excellence. We held our annual meeting, took part in Mission Fest, added a men's and boys' floor hockey evening to our schedule and made improvements in the way we prepare for events and communicate through our bulletin. We trust God that the blessings He pours out on us so abundantly will not be hoarded by us, but will flow to the community at large.

Since we have found the Christmas season very full, we decided that instead of holding a Christmas banquet in December, we would host a "Winter Gala" at the end of January. Many members were able to attend the Roseau River Bible Camp for this entertaining evening of games and fellowship.

Sue Hoy, Correspondent

VITA BIBLE CHURCH

Vita, Man. Jurgen Penner, Pastor

Our Bible distribution on Dec. 9 was a success again this year. In following years, we plan to reach the immediate and surrounding areas also. The Bibles and Jonathan Sperry DVDs were received well, and we pray that they will draw more to Christ as He speaks to them through this material.

The senior youth prepared supper for a "Dinner and Movie Night" in February for all who wished to attend.

Gordon and Linda Reimer hosted their annual family night on their farm this February. The evening included cross country skiing along with fellowship and board games for those who wanted to keep warm.

Tiffany Tuurenhout, Correspondent

The *Fellowship Focus* is available to read online.

Check it out!

http://www.fellowshipforward.org

click on the Resources menu

THE RECORD

BIRTHS AND ADOPTIONS

Community Bible Church

Omaha, Neb.

• Annelise Mae to Don and Danielle Prell, Jan. 20

Countryside Bible Church, Meade, Kan.

 Javan Job to Kjell and Laressa Nordgren, Dec. 28; grandparents are Mike and Cindy Friesen; great grandfather is Mick Friesen

Dalmeny Bible Church

Dalmeny, Sask.

- Persephone Grace to Devin and Jenn King; Dec. 30
- Chael Matthew to Matthew and Shannon Unruh; grandparents are Leroy and Verna Peters; Jan. 10

Faith Evangelical Bible Church

Henderson, Neb.

• Ruby Nae to Trevor and Anna Nunnenkamp, Dec. 18

Salem Church

Waldheim, Sask.

Avery Katherina, to John and Karissa Cuvala, Jan.
 31; grandparents are Ken and Annette Neufeld

Stuartburn Gospel Chapel

Stuartburn, Man.

- Annabelle to Jason and Elisha Ginter, Nov. 6; grandparents are Dick and Bonnie Wiebe
- Jewelz to Albert and Eileina Niessen, Nov. 15; grandparents are John and Fran Wiebe
- Megan Lynn to Karl and Shauna Wagenhoffer, Jan. 25

Vita Bible Church

Vita, Man.

- Jasmine Jewel to Daniel and Crystal Barnabe, Dec. 14; grandparents are Ed and Yvonne Penner
- Celia Rayanne Tiffany to Ben and Tiffany Tuurenhout, Dec. 29; grandparents are Abe and Mary Dyck

WEDDINGS

Dalmeny Bible Church

Dalmeny, Sask.

• Kailey Petryshyn, daughter of Rod and Carla Petryshyn, to Dean Bernard; Jan. 26

Evangelical Bible Church

Omaha, Neb.

- Laura Bascom, daughter of John and Laverda Bascom, to Mark Stevens, Dec. 8
- Tiffany Griffith, daughter of Chris and Lori Griffith, to Casey Vohnout, son of Gary and Arla Vohnout, Dec. 15
- Emily Lovgren, daughter of Bill and Melanie Lovgren, to Vincent Lau, grandson of Doris Janzen, Dec. 21
- Sheila Page to Richard Carter, Dec. 22

DEATHS

Cornerstone Bible Church

Steinbach, Man.

• Fran Koop (95), Jan. 22

Evangelical Bible Church

Dallas, Ore.

- Pastor Allan Tschiegg (82), Jan. 5
- Marcella Brown (85), Jan. 8
- Martha Teichroew (97), Jan. 16

Evangelical Bible Church

Langham, Sask.

- Mary (Maria) Klassen (97), Dec. 6
- Verna Friesen (92), Dec. 18

Evangelical Mennonite Brethren Church Marion, S.D.

• Hulda (Alvin) Becker (93), Jan. 10

Jansen Bible Church

Jansen, Neb.

• Lois Friesen (76), Dec. 17

Salem Church

Waldheim, Sask.

• Sadie Dirks (96), Jan 23

Five Lies That Ruin Relationships ... By Chip Ingram





Have you ever looked back over a circumstance or relationship in your life and wondered how it became so messy or difficult? This series, centered on James 4–5, defines five of the most common lies that have the potential to ruin relationships with those we love. Uncover the source of quarreling, how our words wound, how not to make decisions, and why better things don't always make things better.

Together we'll ask and answer "Do wrong beliefs produce wrong behavior?" What we think about life determines how we live it. There is power in knowing and applying God's truth when confronted with these lies and discovering the freedom He longs for us to enjoy in our relationships.

This ten-session study is available on loan from orders@febcministries.org. Discover more video studies at www.fellowshipforward.org/resources.

The Fellowship Focus is published by the Fellowship of Evangelical Bible Churches 11605 W Dodge RD STE 3, Omaha Nebraska 68154-2566

NO ENDORSEMENT

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

Catch the Vision

Calling All Evangelists

By Blaine Donaldson, FEBC President

"And He gave ... the evangelists ... to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ ..." (Ephesians 4:11-12).

Last week "Dave" invited me to a high school basketball game. He was an acquaintance from church. He had greeted

me a couple of times, but I did not know him very well. I was surprised by the invitation, but I agreed to go. Dave seemed to be a nice guy and a solid Christian.

When we got to the game, Dave sat right next to some people that I did not know. He greeted them. He asked them about their children by name. He seemed to know quite a bit about them. I

asked Dave if he had known these people for long. He said that he had just met them a couple of weeks previously. Dave introduced me to this couple and said to them that we went to the same church together. He told them about my family and how my wife plays piano in church and that I teach Sunday school.

Two or three times, Dave found a way to bring God in the conversation very naturally. Once, after a great play on the court, he said, "It is amazing how God has gifted that young man to be so quick and accurate with his passes." It was not a plan of salvation, but he was continually planting seeds about the wonders of God.

After halftime, we sat by another family, and a very similar pattern followed.

God has called all believers to proclaim the excellencies of God to those who do not know the Lord. Yet most believers find this a daunting task. Is there an aspect of discipleship that evokes more fear and trepidation?

It seems that in every church God specially gifts or equips certain people with the passions and skills to proclaim Jesus to

others (like Dave above). In evangelical circles, we often call this the gift of evangelism.

Have you ever considered why God did this? The command to evangelize is given to all Christians. Why would God specially design and equip some people to do this more easily?

God did this so that these people, these evangelists, would inspire and mentor others to do the work of evangelism. He gave evangelists to equip the saints so that they (all the saints) would do the work of the ministry.

Some of you reading this are the "Daves" out there. You may believe that God has given you the gift of evangelism, and you have been using

it to reach many with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Continue doing this. Use it to reach others for Christ.

However, do not use it alone. As often as you can, tell others about how you evangelize. Listen to them; encourage and teach them to evangelize in their lives. Take them with you when you can. Encourage them. Pray for them. Mentor them.

Why would God specially design and equip some people with the gift of evangelism?

President's Intinerary

Feb 9-10	Ministry trip to Tahlequah, Okla.
Feb 16-18	Ministry trip to Meade, Kan., and
	Orienta, Okla.
Feb 22 -25	Ministry trip to Dallas, Ore., and
	Abbotsford, B.C.
March 1-29	Ministry trip to Montana,
	Saskatchewan and Alberta
April 28	Ministry trip to Butterfield, Minn.
May 22 - June 6	Paraguay mission trip