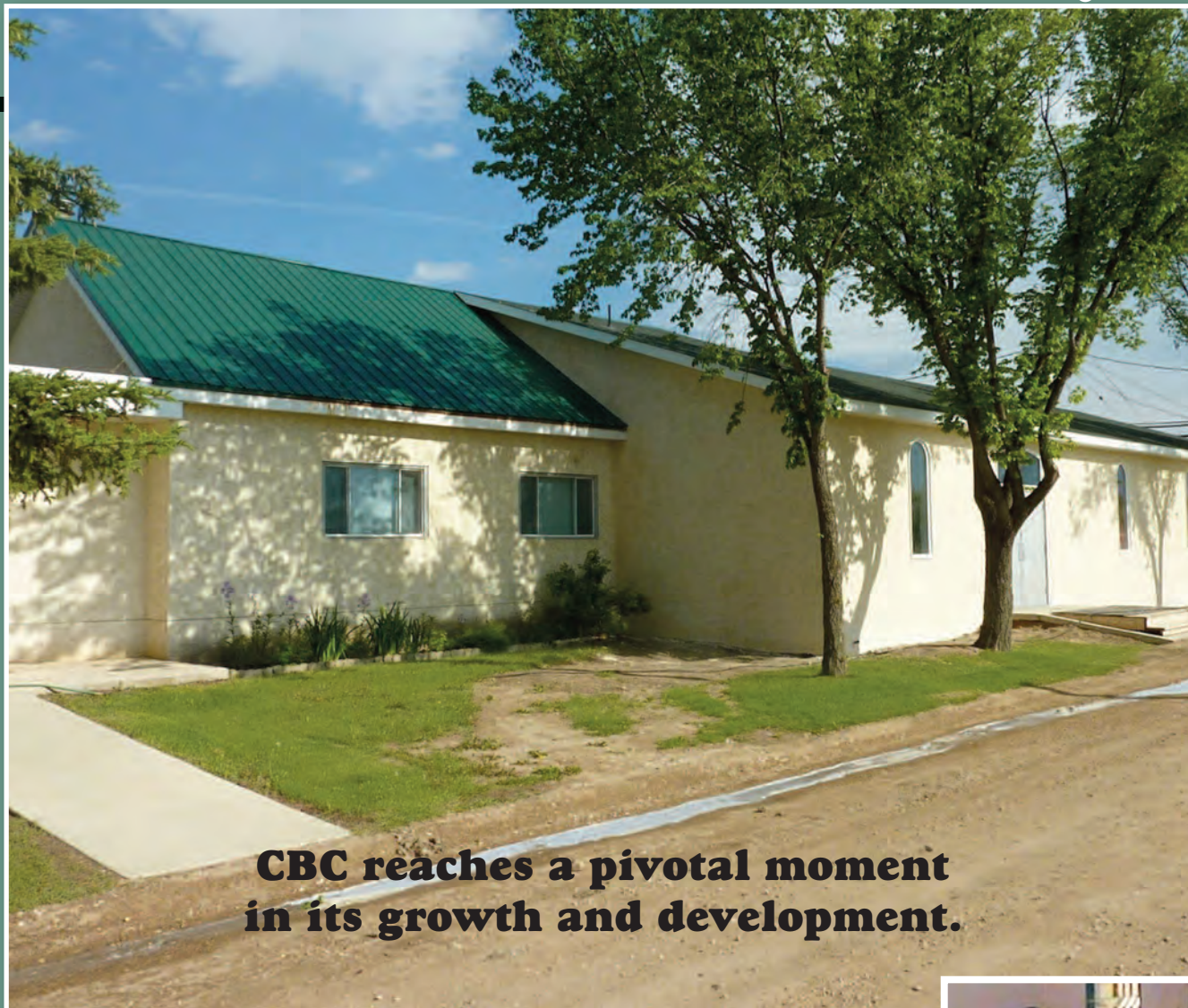




Historic Moment in Tisdale, Saskatchewan

Page 10



**CBC reaches a pivotal moment
in its growth and development.**

- Inside:*
- ◎ President's Challenge
 - ◎ Focus on the Word
 - ◎ Proclaiming Christ Around the World
 - ◎ Convention Project: Restore Sahel Academy
 - ◎ Catch the Vision



Page 9



Community Service: *An Open Door for the Gospel*

What good does it do to feed starving bellies without ministering to their spiritual starving souls? It is offensive when social action replaces the proclamation of the Gospel. However, my tendency is to overreact to this thinking by having little or no involvement in social action.

By social action, I mean service outside the walls of the church to people who do not go to our church. Social action focuses on the physical, financial, social or emotional needs of those outside of our churches. While social action is often associated with homeless shelters and feeding the hungry around the world, it legitimately includes serving as a coach of a community softball team to volunteering at a local hospital.

So often, we have thought of evangelism as knocking on doors and other cold-contact connections with people. God has used cold-contact evangelism in the lives of millions in North America. He continues to use this today, but to a much lesser degree than a few decades ago. People today are predisposed not to trust a person with whom they have no relationship. Without trusting the messenger, they are much less likely to listen to the message of the Gospel. God

can work despite the lack of trust barrier, but why not share the Gospel in a way that does not have that barrier?

We have the opportunity to build trusting relationships in our community through serving. Can you imagine how many opportunities to share Jesus we would have if every family in our church volunteered one night a week in some community service activity? In a small town, we would have someone serving on every program in that town (and we would create a few more). Even in a city, we could have a consequential and noticeable presence.

How can we find these opportunities? It may be as simple as just going up to a school administrator and asking, "What can I do to help the people that you work with?" We could ask the same question at the hospital, nursing home, Boy Scouts, Department of Natural Re-

sources, Social Services, police, Humane Society, fire department, Red Cross, etc.

Serve God by serving the community. Serve as unto the Lord. But service

Serve God by serving the community. Serve as unto the Lord. But service is not the end. Service is the door for the Gospel.

is not the end. Service is the door for the Gospel. As you go through the doors of service, make disciples. Proclaim the Good News of who Jesus is and what He has done for you. It is not enough just to serve; we are called to both serve and speak.

So do we proclaim Christ or serve in the community? That is the wrong question. We should ask ourselves "How can we proclaim Jesus through our service in the community?" We should be serving and proclaiming. As we go and serve, proclaim Jesus. ■

President's Itinerary

May 22 – June 6..... Paraguay

June 7 – 10 Randville (Iron Mountain), MI

June 30 – July 30 Steinbach, Man.; Calgary, Alta.; Abbotsford, B.C.; Dallas, Ore.



Ladies, we are so pleased to have you join us this summer for the FEBC Convention! We have many great things planned. During three breakout sessions there will be various presentations by our Health Care Team, our FEBC and EBC Women's Ministry Team, including an afternoon tea. As in the past, a boutique will be open, with all proceeds going to our missions project. If you have items you would like to donate for sale, you may send them ahead to EBC at 1175 SE Howe, Dallas, OR 97338, or you may want to bring them with you when you come. We look forward to seeing all of you!

Comment

By Sharon Berg, Editor



What happens when more than 100 men and boys gather in the great outdoors to enjoy sharpening their outdoor hunting, fishing and shooting skills? Not only is it a time of adventure, but a great opportunity to strengthen relationships and share the Gospel.

That's exactly what Hebron Bible Church did recently when it helped to sponsor and organize Men's Outdoor Adventure Day near Fairbury, Neb. Hebron's Pastor Jeff Friesen shares more in "Catch the Vision" on the back cover of this issue of Fellowship Focus.

A lot of prayer went into the planning, Jeff said. "We prayed that we would have cold and wet weather up to the event, and great weather on the day of; that God would turn the hearts of the fathers to their sons and the sons to their fathers; and open up the hearts of those there to respond to the Gospel message." Organizers also prayed for clarity for those sharing their testimonies.

God answered very specifically, Jeff reported. "We had a beautiful, 60-plus degree day, surrounded by cold, rainy and snowy weather on both sides. We had more than 100 people at an event that had never been held before, competing with lots of other activities. We had only one injury, despite all of the crazy things that we were doing."

And, Jeff added, testimonies of how God has used the day are coming to light. One mother shared that it had been a long time since her son came home "fired up for the Lord," as he had when he returned that night. Another father was grateful because "I don't get to do a lot of things with my sons, because we don't have a whole lot of money. This was a great day for us." Still others were inspired to evangelism, as was one boy when, on the ride home, he asked a friend if he had ever placed his faith in Jesus Christ, encouraging him to do so.

When God's vision becomes ours, He takes the events of our lives, and our prayers, and uses them to bring others closer to a saving knowledge of Him, as He did through Men's Outdoor Adventure Day. Living in light of that vision does indeed take us on the adventure of a lifetime.

Sharon

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@febministries.org

Web: www.fellowshipforward.org

FAX: 402-965-3871

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

The President's Challenge Community Service

Blaine Donaldson, President page 2

Focus on the Word From Behavior Modification To Transformation

Harvey Schultz page 4

Fellowship Views page 5

FEBC Video Library page 5

Proclaiming Christ Around the World

By Marilyn Lester,
Commission on Missions page 6

Women's Ministries

Draw'n to Jesus
By Sharon Skillman page 7

FEBC Annual Convention pages 8 & 9

Focus on FEBC Church Planting . page 10

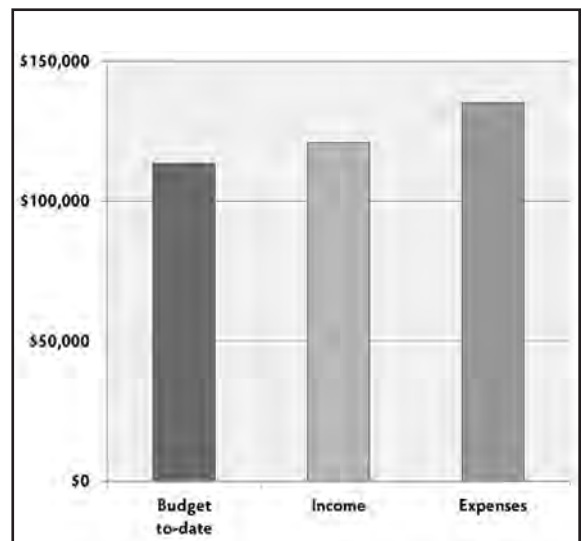
Focus on Our Churches pages 11-14

The Record page 15

Catch the Vision

Pastor Jeff Freisen back page

FEBC Finances through March 2013



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

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



Focus on the Word

Harvey Schultz

From Behavior Modification To Transformation

Have we conveyed to believing children and new believers that victory is ours via a behavior modification program?

Paul declared to the Galatians that following a set of religious rules and regulations can actually hinder us from living the Christian life because it may divert us away from relying on the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit (see last month's article entitled *Fallen From Grace?!).* I'd like to expand that discussion.

Some human beings can achieve great moral victories by their own self-discipline in following a strict code of moral ethics. And there is great danger that we attempt to follow and teach that formula for the Christian walk. We know that God expects us to live a life of moral excellence. Certainly, as sinful human beings, we need some restraining influence on our lives. So we develop a set of principles to prevent us from falling into sin. Read your Bible. Pray daily. Don't tell lies. Pursue purity. Confess your sins. And to motivate ourselves to do these things, we remind ourselves of the consequences of failure. We fear those consequences. We fear God's displeasure. We don't want to miss His best for us. We don't want to be in God's spiritual "doghouse" of discipline. So we adopt a behavior pattern which we think will enable us to avoid and overcome sin and avoid God's displeasure. It can easily become a fear-based behavior modification program. Do this, this and this, or suffer the consequences!

God has a better way. In fact, it is the only way which is equally effective for

all types of personalities. It is so simple that we may fail to pick up on it. He says: *"Live by the Spirit and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature"* (Galatians 5:16). All too often our approach is: *Don't gratify the desires of the sinful nature and you will live by the Spirit.*

Living by the Spirit can be encapsulated by two simple principles: *Submit* to His leading and — all-important — *trust* in His indwelling power to enable us to do it. The Spirit of God leads through the Word, through the teaching, guidance and advice of others, and through our enlightened conscience. But knowing and being willing to follow His leading will not enable us to do it. We totally lack that ability because His standard is absolute divine perfection. So we must trust Him to accomplish these things in us and for us. He is God. He is all powerful. He is our new life. He dwells in us. He waits for our invitation (our trust) to do in and through us what God wants.

How will we know if we are actually trusting Him to live His life in us? As He has the freedom to live His life in us, the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) will begin to be evident in our lives. And where the fruit of the Spirit is abundant, there will be no room for the works of the flesh (Galatians 5:19-21). So it isn't a question of trying to repress the works of the flesh or of seeking to produce the fruit of the Spirit (patience, for example). Rather, it is a question of trusting the indwelling

power of the Holy Spirit to enable us to follow His leading. As we do that, His life will be increasingly evident in us and He is love, joy, peace, patience, etc.

What would motivate me to live such a life? Gratitude! Out of gratitude to Him for all He has done for me, I am motivated to trustingly submit to His leading. Instead of seeking to please God by a fear-based behavior modification program, I am now experiencing a love-motivated, Spirit-enabled, inward transformation which is increasingly outwardly evident. It's a way of life accessible to all character types, the young and the old, the mature and the immature.

Listen once more to the Apostle Paul from Galatians:

"Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort?" (3:3).

"... Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God" (2:20).

"... live by the Spirit and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature" (5:16).

One final question: Have we clearly taught our believing children and the new converts among us *why* the Holy Spirit lives in them? Or have we conveyed to them that victory is ours via a behavior modification program?

Scripture quotations taken from the New International Version . ■



Nominations

This summer our Fellowship hopes to elect 38 people to commissions and leadership positions. It is essential that each church consider who might serve our Fellowship in leadership or on a commission. If you are interested, contact your pastor or elder board for more information. Local churches must nominate those who will serve our Fellowship.

Missionary Transitions to Pastor

Kirby Dunn has accepted a call from **Randville Bible Church (Iron Mountain, Mich.)** to pastor on a part-time basis. Kirby and Isabelle have been missionaries under New Tribes Mission in Mexico since 1993. A few years ago health issues led them to work at New Tribes Bible Institute in Waukesha, Wisc. Now they have retired from New Tribes to minister to their sending church.

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@febministries.org for details and application forms.

Studying for Christian Ministry?

Students who are 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@febministries.org. Individuals currently in min-

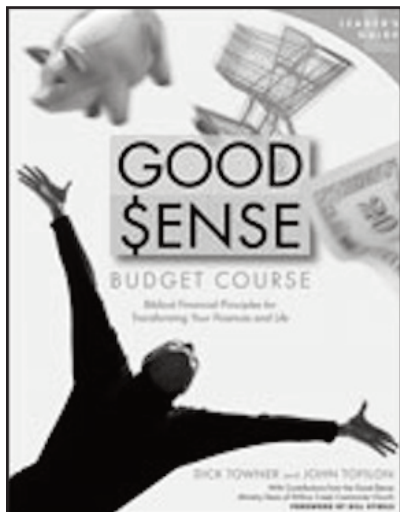
istry (pastors, missionaries) who are taking graduate-level classes can apply for a Continuing Education Scholarship. Applications must be received by May 31.

New Web Address:

The FEBC Web site is now found at
www.fellowshipforward.org.

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 S0G 2K0.
- **Martensville Mennonite Church** of Martensville, Sask., is seeking a senior pastor. Please send enquiries and résumés to Brendon Johnston pastor.brendon@martensvillemissionchurch.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.



The Good Sense Budget Course

By Dick Towner and John Tofilon

Everyone in your church can experience financial freedom.

These are the words people most often use to describe the GOOD \$ENSE BUDGET COURSE — a proven resource for changing hearts and lives in the area of finances. Field tested for more than 16 years at Willow Creek and other churches, GOOD \$ENSE can help relieve the crushing stress and anxiety caused by consumer debt, restore marriages torn by conflict over money, heal wounded self-esteem and shattered confidence resulting from poor financial decisions, and remove stumbling blocks to spiritual growth.

GOOD \$ENSE will help the people in your church discover tools and develop skills that enable them to control their finances rather than allowing their finances to control them.

This study is complete with video clips, PowerPoint lessons, hand-out notes. It does require a teacher, but provides all the material a teacher needs for an effective class. Course requires six 50-minute sessions and includes DVD, CD, Leader's Guide and Student Guide. Student guides can be purchased from FEBC.

Borrow this resource for your church from the FEBC Video Library. Contact orders@febministries.org to reserve it.

Visit www.fellowshipforward.org/resources to find more studies.

Proclaiming Christ *around* the World

Marilynn Lester
Commission on Missions



This month we focus on vignettes from three missionaries in three very different circumstances and locations, all proclaiming Christ where they have been placed.

Darwin and Karen Stoesz began their missionary career with a couple of short-term mission trips. First Darwin went to Mali, followed by one year in Japan teaching English. From the trip to Japan, God gave Darwin a heart for the 99.5 percent of the Japanese people who do not know Christ. After Darwin and Karen were married, they went to Japan for two years to teach English. They returned to the States to raise support to return to Japan for a four-year term. Darwin recalls, "I remember studying at a McDonalds in Tokyo. It was hard work, I didn't get it, and I wanted to give up. I remember looking around the room and seeing how everyone appeared happy and content. Then it struck me: They may look okay, but if everyone in that McDonalds went through eternity separated from Christ because no one told them about Jesus, was that okay? God has moved in our hearts in a special way and has given us a burden specifically for the Japanese. It's this burden that keeps us in Japan to see what God will continue to do in the lives of these amazing people."

As Darwin and Karen look forward to another term in that country, they are seeing changes again in the responsibilities and the avenues God is giving them to reach the Japanese people. Darwin will partner with the Nishibori Christ Gospel Church to encourage the Japanese Christians to proclaim Christ in their community, as well as take over the responsibility of treasurer and business manager of the SEND Japan office. As such, Darwin will also have the opportunity to proclaim Christ in the marketplace. Karen will build relationships with Japanese women in her community and help them understand the God of the Bible and their need of a Savior.

Darwin and Karen plan to return to Japan in June and are looking for prayer and financial partners to make this return possible. If you would like to help the ministry to the Japanese people, you may contact the FEBC office for details.

Doug and LeAnn Clark serving with Village Missions, have many reasons to celebrate God working in and through their

ministries in Nisland, S. D. Progress is being made on the "Celebrate Recovery" ministry as three leaders attended training in Spearfish. They hope the recovery ministry will be up and running by May. Pray for an additional male leader for this ministry. Also, a bus has been put into service to transport kids and adults to various activities. Pray for the Lord's direction and blessing as they seek to use the bus to facilitate life-changing ministry in the lives of precious people.

The Clarks were also able to take part in the Spiritual Leaders Summit at the State Capitol. They met with lobbyists and became acquainted with the key bills lawmakers will be voting on that will influence matters of life and faith as a Christian. Pray for Christians everywhere to *stand* for biblical principles in the face of ridicule and rejection.

Valentine's Day was an opportunity for the youth to reach out to the elderly of the community with Valentine cards. Pray for a harvest of souls and spiritual growth there. The Clarks also saw God's healing power in the lives of individuals who had surgeries. These were just more opportunities to proclaim Christ to the community of Nisland.

Sam and Debra Dick are involved in the regional office, assisting the director of Avant Ministries in Spain. Sam's responsibilities include writing letters to the Ministry of Justice, meeting with lawyers, and helping with legal documents on behalf of the Avant missionaries in there.

Sam shared a time he had to proclaim Christ. "Over this past year, I've had opportunity to connect with a vegetable seller in the market downtown. His name is Julio. He's very friendly and loves to visit with me in English, though I try to chat with him in Spanish when I see him. A few weeks back I was able to give him a copy of a booklet that clearly presents the Gospel, "You Can Be Sure." He was happy to receive it (in Spanish) though he seemed like he would maybe have appreciated getting a copy in English. He seems open to "spiritual" things, though I'm not sure how open he is to what the Bible has to say. Pray that Julio would read and be able to understand the offer of God's grace for him, and pray that I would have more opportunities to follow up with conversations with him." ■

Please keep these missionaries before the Lord in prayer. Write a note to them to encourage them and thank them for their ministry. Support them in any way that you can.

Draw'n to Jesus

By Sharon Skillman

As a very young person I had opened my hand and
given Him my life and abilities. Later
when the time was right,
He again placed a pencil in that hand
to serve and praise Him.



From the time I was old enough to grip a crayon or pencil, drawing has been a personal passion. Much to my mother's dismay, by the time I could stand, walls would become my canvas to cover. Then, during my school years, I was introduced to a variety of mediums and canvases. My impatient and perfectionist nature caused me to give up on slow drying, messy and unpredictable art ventures. I found that the portable and erasable pencil was more my style. Besides, my allowance then and my budget now easily affords a #2 pencil and the art gum eraser that quickly removes my errors.

As a young child I had been drawn to Christ through my Christian parents and my Bible church. I trusted Jesus as my Savior at the age of six. As I grew older my desire was to use my art to bring others to Him, but how? After high school I began by majoring in art in secular college, not having any plan after finishing.

However, during my first year at the university, I read a line in a pamphlet that stated something like this: *The world needs more full-time Christian workers, not another musician, teacher or artist.* After contemplating those words, thinking my drawing was not very useful to God, I decided to attend Bible school the next year and give my life to full-time Christian service. For the time being, I was being drawn to study His Word, a decision I have never regretted! But the art pencils seldom came out of the box.

During those years I was also drawn to a relationship with John Skillman, marriage and later motherhood. Following were the busy years of being a pastor's

wife and raising two boys. The pencil container became quite dusty. This did leave me somewhat frustrated, feeling as though there was still a creative part of me that needed to be fulfilled. But thankfully, Edith Schaeffer's book *Hidden Art* was brought to my attention, and her words left me content to use my artistic gifts to contribute to the beauty of my family, home and church. No longer did I feel guilty about neglecting a gift, but happily cooperated with God in designing lovely young lives for eternity rather than designing a picture that in the long run would end up in the trash or gather dust in some attic.

When my children were older I did find small bits of time for sketching. Also, during that era, some visiting missionaries saw some of my work and said that they needed similar pictures to decorate a coffee house in Japan. I felt as though God was saying that the time had come to open the lid of the pencil case. Later, after moving to Lustre, Mont., and being involved in fundraisers for the Christian high school, I was able to give many drawings to their auctions. Church-related artistic endeavors followed. Now the pencil case was open quite often! Soon I was also designing brochures for Bible camp, making report covers, and completing a variety of artistic projects for Christian uses. Also, I found that making cards scanned from drawings made nice gifts and encouragement notes. Sketching for relaxation has become valuable to me as well. On long isolated winter days, the pencil brings a kind of spring to my life.

As a very young person I had opened

my hand and given Him my life and abilities. Later when the time was right, He again placed a pencil in that hand to serve and praise Him.

(My pastor husband, during a series on the Psalms, recently challenged us to write our own Psalm. One early March day I penciled these words, adapted from Psalm 150):

*Praise the Lord!
Praise God in His golden dwelling.
Praise God in His sapphire skies.
Praise Him for the lingering of the silvery winter.
Praise Him for the soon coming of the emerald spring.
Praise Him with the stroke of the graphite pencil.
Praise Him with the mark of the colored pencil.
Praise Him with the soft streak of the pastel pencil.
Let every drawing in the sketchpad praise the Lord!*

Sharon ministers with her husband, Pastor John Skillman, at Evangelical Mennonite Brethren Church in Lustre, Mont. Along with blessing others with her art, she serves on the FEBC Commission on Women's Ministries.



FEBC Annual Convention ~ July 17-21

Evangelical Bible Church, Dallas, Oregon

www.ebedallas.org

• www.dallasoregon.org

New governance model for the FEBC will be proposed

www.fellowshipforward.org/proposed-constitution.html

Convention speakers will be pastors from our Fellowship

- Darrell Derksen
(Salem Church, Waldheim, Sask.)
- Jerry Franz
(Evangelical Bible Church of Dallas, Ore.)
- Don Pahl, (Omaha's Evangelical Bible Church)
- Charles Tschetter
(Community Bible Church of Omaha)

Youth and children's conventions

Caught Up

In the Larger Story of God

• 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.

DALLAS OREGON
YOUTH convention

- 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

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.

Restore Sahel Academy

This summer's convention project is to provide \$20,000 to Sahel Academy in Niamey, Niger, to repair damage caused by last summer's devastating and long-lasting flood. Here is an update on the progress at the school from Director Brian Bliss:

Some facts and figures ...

Schooling materials, books, etc, were mostly spared by planning ahead and placing items up high. We were blessed. This is what allowed us to continue schooling in temporary facilities.

Some of the large expenses are ...

- *Repainting* – by the time all the walls are repainted, we will have used more than 200 gallons of paint. A five-gallon bucket costs about \$80.
- *Carpentry* – All cabinetry that could not be moved will have to be rebuilt. We do not have stores or factories to buy our furnishings. Skilled African carpenters from a country where woodworking is done (Ivory Coast) are here, working almost non-stop 10 hours a day, six days a week, to complete the approximately 600-linear feet of counters, desks, bookshelves, and cabinets. Everything is made from plywood. A sheet of plywood costs \$40. To date, more than 250 sheets of plywood have been purchased, with more still needed. Once built, everything receives four coats of varnish. We are going through gallons and gallons of varnish (\$7 a gallon)!
- The industrial stove/oven (Wolf Brand) sat mostly submerged for almost two weeks. We have cleaned it up, but are sure that we need new parts for the oven to work again (\$800).
- Thirty air conditioning units sat in the flood waters. An electrician has cleaned and tested them. Amazingly, most have survived. Some did not. We must replace 10 units (\$600 each).

We have been blessed to have some come to help. They truly brought hope and gave us a glimpse of the “light at the end of the tunnel”!

There is still so much to do. Thanks for your prayers!

Brian Bliss, Director – Sahel Academy



Focus on *FEBC* Church Planting

By Harvey Schultz



Historic Moment in Tisdale, Saskatchewan



Community Bible Church of Tisdale has reached a pivotal moment in its growth and development.

When the Commission on Church Planting agreed to adopt Community Bible Church as a church planting project in 2005, it committed our Fellowship to provide the resources which would enable the church to develop and attain full autonomy within the Fellowship of Evangelical Bible Churches. What resources have we provided, and how has this affected Community Bible Church?

Monthly financial subsidies

enabled the church to meet all of its financial obligations, including the pastor's salary, even though the group was small. Subsidies peaked in 2006 at \$35,800! Since then, as planned, subsidies have been steadily reduced (early in 2008 Prairie West Extension assumed full responsibility for the subsidies) as the church has grown and increasingly taken on greater financial responsibility.

Guidance: Saskatchewan churches, through Prairie West Extension, established a Steering Committee to guide and nurture the new church. Thus, two important principles were respected:

■ *Financial accountability:* FEBC sub-

sidies are never granted without accountability.

■ *Spiritual and strategic support for the church planter:* All FEBC church planters are to receive strategic guidance and spiritual support to enable them to be effective in their ministry. This is crucial when there is lack of depth in local church leadership.

Building loan: The original building became just too small. Last year, combining local church savings, a

recognized as local church elders. Both of them have been carefully evaluated as to their spiritual and moral maturity and integrity. In addition, qualified men serve on a very capable Property and Finance Committee.

It is exciting to report that today the congregation is meeting in a spacious auditorium. Subsidies have ceased as of Jan. 1, 2013. The Steering Committee was dissolved on March 24. On that date, at the Annual General Meeting of the church, we celebrated the autonomy of Community Bible Church.

At the Fellowship's convention in July, the FEBC Commission on Church Planting will make a motion to the convention delegates that Community Bible Church of Tisdale, Sask., be recognized as an autonomous church within our Fellowship.

March 24 was indeed an historic moment in the life of Community Bible Church. Rejoice with them! To all who prayed for them, we say

thank you! We encourage you to continue to pray earnestly for this church. Pray for robust spiritual, numerical and financial growth along with healthy internal development and organization. This will enable the church to maintain a solid foundation for future ministry to the growing community of Tisdale. ■



\$60,000 loan from Prairie West Extension and a lot of local volunteer labor and donations, the church was able to expand that building and celebrate the opening of a 150-seat auditorium.

As this was happening, local men have been trained and encouraged to serve. Today two local men have been

FOCUS ON OUR CHURCHES

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

Omaha, Neb. **Charles Tschetter, Senior Pastor**

The launching of our new church plant has been delayed from March until this fall, as we wait for plans to finalize on the possible purchase of property south of Omaha in the city of Papillion.

At our annual missions festival in April, **Lee and Michelle Sonius** (*HCJB Global-Ghana*), **Dennis and Cindy Wiens** (*SAT-7*), and **Jim and Trish Allen** (*HCJB Global*) shared their ministries. In spreading the Gospel, Jim spoke about the impact of technology, Lee discussed the importance of radio broadcasting, and Dennis helped us to understand more about the role of satellite TV. At the same time, a children's missions festival theme explored the joy, courage and perseverance of believers who boldly follow Christ.

Sharon Berg, Correspondent

CORNERSTONE BIBLE CHURCH

Steinbach, Man. **Jared Hiebert, Pastor**

Forty ladies of all ages joined together for a teaching time on March 23. Guest speaker was **Peggy Penner** of Morden, Man., who used music, stories and Scripture to focus the hearts of the ladies on the God Who is faithful.

We once again hosted the Fisher Bay Bible Camp banquet on April 26.

We celebrated three baptisms and welcomed three new members.

Marsella Wiebe, Correspondent

COUNTRYSIDE BIBLE CHURCH

Meade, Kan.

Pastor Finster has preached from Colossians on Sunday mornings and continued our study of Genesis on Sunday evenings. We will hold a baptism class soon. We held a Wednesday prayer meeting monthly during the winter.

A Country/Gospel Music Sunday in February was especially enjoyed by the elderly.

At our April spring event, "New Beginnings," author Susan Heck of Tulsa, Okla., spoke at our annual spring event.

Milestone: **Jake Z. Friesen** celebrated his 100th birthday (March 27)

Mary Friesen, Correspondent

DALMENY BIBLE CHURCH

Dalmeny, Sask. **Dennis Friesen, Pastor**

Ten adults and teens from our congregation are preparing to serve in Brazil in August for a mission trip. **Sheldon and Laurie Rempel** (*Avant*) visited for a Sunday morning, and a representative from Ranger Lake Bible Camp gave a presentation.

The two churches of Dalmeny hosted Holy Week Services with the theme "Voices of Easter."

In February, Teen Challenge staff and students shared their testimonies of freedom from drug addiction.

Marilyn Harder, Correspondent

EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH

Omaha, Neb. **Dr. Don Pahl, Senior Pastor**

Our high school youth will travel to Trinidad on a mission trip in June. The group will work with Trinidad and Tobago Urban Ministries, an organization dedicated to establishing a church with a fully-trained pastor in every village in those countries and throughout the Caribbean. The youth will do construction as well as serve as a children's ministry in schools and orphanages. Besides raising their financial support, they are meeting on a regular basis for team-building exercises, study, learning how to share the plan of salvation, and work in their mini-teams to plan the children's ministry.

We showed the movie "Letters to God" on March 8. This movie has a great message, and the event was a wonderful opportunity for individuals from our church to invite friends and neighbors for a Family Movie Night.

We celebrated seven baptisms and welcomed 15 new members.

Sherrie Lindsey, Correspondent

EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH

Dallas, Ore. **Jerry Franz, Senior Pastor**

Since EBC will host the FEBC convention this year, preparations have begun. Committees are already planning events, publicity, housing, food and more. We are so excited to have all the delegates come to Oregon; registrations will be available very soon. We look forward to seeing all of you in July!

Last fall the children from our Junior Department were encouraged when they heard stories of hardship for one family in China. The children began saving their change and collected \$140 to send to this family. We are so proud of them, and we were all blessed through this ministry.

In March we hosted the Grace University Chorale, as they toured the Willamette Valley. What an incredibly group of gifted young people, and so talented and so eager to share their testimonies as well. February began with a family movie night. We set up in the gym, everyone brought their own "lawn chairs" or blankets to sit on the floor and we watched "Last Ounce of Courage."

Vicki Kibbey, Correspondent

EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH

Langham, Sask. **Greg Guarnett, Senior Pastor**

The Youth Missions Team is headed to Washington, D.C. to serve with YouthWorks this summer. Working with established ministries there, the youth will help with food distribution and assist in park clean-up and beautification, work with seniors, and serve at relief/resource centers and transitional/day shelters.

We have a mission field in our own backyard, with 70 percent of our Awana clubbers unchurched. We wrapped up the program with Awards Night at the end of March.

continued on page 12

FOCUS ON OUR CHURCHES

continued from page 11

We hosted an annual outreach event in April, the Ladies' Salad Supper. We had a record attendance of 121 ladies. Yvonne St. Germaine, an aborigine who became a Christian in 2006, shared her story and music, and a clear Gospel presentation.

The Congregational Care Committee hosted a Seniors Appreciation Banquet, as well as Elder Appreciation, and sent care packages to our college kids.

Our sympathies were with Pastor Greg as he spent February in Arkansas following the death of his father, **Jerry Guarnett**.

Marilyn Friesen, Correspondent

EVANGELICAL MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH

Grunthal, Man.

Russ Reimer, Pastor

Pastor Russ recently finished a series of messages on our vision statement, which is: *We will be a repentant people working together; declaring the Gospel to all ages.*

On Easter weekend, **Frank and Margaret Martens** reported on their work at the New Tribes training centre in Waukesha, Wisc. In other mission news, our church will welcome home **Ron and Eunice Wiebe** of Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF), but only temporarily. They have completed their term in Brazil and are changing directions. After a brief stay, they will pack their bags for the Maritime provinces, where Ron has accepted the position of director of CEF for the East Coast of Canada.

Our youth and sponsors recently returned from a youth retreat at Camp Cedarwood. They had worked hard to help pay for this retreat through different projects this year.

Tamara Bergen, Correspondent

EVANGELICAL MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH

Marion, S.D.

Randy Maass, Pastor

We have been encouraged by several community people starting to attend our church. We welcomed one new member.

Community pre-Easter services were held in six of the seven churches belonging to the Marion Area Ministerial Association. The pastors of the churches were the featured speakers.

We met with the neighboring Bethesda Church on Good Friday for worship and communion together. We celebrate communion at our church every fifth Sunday, so we also had communion on Easter, which started with a breakfast and was followed by an Easter quiz by our pastor's wife, Kathleen.

Raymond Becker, Correspondent

FAITH EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH

Henderson, Neb.

Michael Fink, Pastor

Grace Mission sponsored several trips to Haiti in January to help with church building projects and ministry to churches in outlying areas. Six men and one of our teenage girls were part of two of the teams. In addition to the work they ac-

complished, they were exposed to the ministry of the Drop of Love School and the orphanage in Haiti. These team mem-



bers shared their stories with the church family in a panel discussion, followed by an ice cream social. A truckload of corn was donated to Grace Mission in February for distribution in Haiti. Fifteen men and young people met to bag the corn and prepare it for

shipment.

The Christian Education Committee is sponsoring an appreciation dinner for all those involved in teaching ministries in our church family. The topic of discussion at this dinner will be the implementation of our new Child Protection Policy.

Alice Decker, Correspondent

HEARTLAND BIBLE CHURCH

Lincoln, Neb.

Scott Hecht, Pastor

The Seasoned Saints Dinner-A-La-Heart was held on Feb. 15. All were to wear something red. The men served the ladies a well-planned meal. Stories, games, trivia, serenading, word scrambles and more entertained us for the evening. Prizes were given for game winners and for the best dressed.

Work is progressing on our remodeling of the foyer area and construction of two bathrooms that meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. A luncheon in March was held to thank the contractors and others for their service on the project.

Palm Sunday featured the adult and kids choirs as well as several solos. On Easter Sunday we did not hold Sunday school, but instead enjoyed an Easter breakfast. More special music enhanced a very meaningful morning service.

Trudy Reimer, Correspondent

JANSEN BIBLE CHURCH

Jansen, Neb.

Paul Carpenter, Pastor

A soup dinner in February helped fund the trip to Mexicali, Mexico, for four from our youth group. They joined the thousands sponsored by Azusa Pacific University the last week in March. Each teen helped with Vacation Bible School and a community development project there.

Three of our Awana teams took first place and one second place at the Awana Bible Quizzing in Lincoln, Neb. This was the first time we participated in the event.

The ladies staged a Swap Day in March in our Fellowship Hall. All items were free, and those remaining were taken to the city mission.

Dr. Bob Wilkin of the Grace Evangelical Society spoke at our Spring Bible Conference in April.

Tena Dick, Correspondent

FOCUS ON OUR CHURCHES

NORTHEAST BIBLE CHURCH

Calgary, Alta.

John Fehr, Pastor

At our annual meeting in March, we thanked God for the unity and love He is fostering among us. Following the meeting most of the congregation went to Sunridge Mall to have lunch together. We find this is a great way to visit and support each other as we deepen our relationships.



We enjoyed a large turnout for our pancake breakfast on Good Friday, followed by a service of worship and thanksgiving for God's great sacrifice.

Henry Ogbomo spoke about how a very bad

day for Jesus turned out to be such a good day for us.

Julie Ann Simpson, Correspondent

SALEM CHURCH

Waldheim, Sask.

Darrell Derksen, Senior Pastor

We celebrated two baptisms this spring.

SARON MENNONITE CHURCH

Orienta, Okla.

Arnold Curby, Pastor

Hannah Curby (*Avant*) returned to Italy in March. Thank

you to all who are supporting her financially and prayerfully.

We celebrated a joyful and fun Valentine's Day with a catered dinner and games for our members and their guests.

Resurrection Day was a great way to end the month as we shared communion and dinner with members and visitors in the knowledge that because Jesus was raised, we have the assurance we will live with Him!

Mary Curby, Correspondent

STUARTBURN GOSPEL CHAPEL

Stuartburn, Man.

Mark Funk, Pastor



The last two months have been very busy. We hosted the Awana Grand Prix car race, a well-organized and exciting night for the club members and their families, with more than 40 cars submitted and winners chosen for design as well as speed.

The Awana club also held a movie night, and once a month the Awana Store was available for the children to spend coupons they had earned in memory work and lesson goals achieved.

Women's Ministries met in February and March to enjoy pie, prayer and praise together as they strengthen their fellowship. They hosted a soup and pie fund raiser at the



Pastor Chun Kau Simon Cheung and pilot **Susanna Joy Markeli** tied the knot on Monday, April 1, at Richer Fellowship Church while close to 100 family and friends joyfully looked on, including Sue's relatives from Canada and Indonesia. **Helen Cheung**, Simon's mom, came from Hong Kong, bringing the hand sewn wedding gown she made for Sue along with a traditional Chinese pink silk dress for the reception, which were also hand sewn as gifts for Sue.

Pastor James Thiessen of *Hodgson Bible Church* officiated the wedding. Sue in her elegant white gown, and Simon in his dashing suit read their vows in 2013-style — from their iphones, pledging their love and commitment to Christ and to each other.

The Richer church family looks forward to serving the Lord with Pastor Simon and Sue.

Michelle Driedger, Correspondent

RICHER FELLOWSHIP CHURCH ■ Richer, Man. ■ Simon Cheung, Pastor

continued on page 14

FOCUS ON OUR CHURCHES

continued from page 13

church in April to help support ongoing projects in the church and for chosen missionaries.

We were pleased to hear **Vanessa David** speak about her teaching position with St. Aidan's Christian School in Winnipeg, and their desire to reach at-risk children in the city with the Gospel and an education which would otherwise be unavailable to them. She spoke passionately about the needs of the children and informed us of the many ways we could support this cause with prayer, donations of money or supplies, and volunteer opportunities.

Preparations are being made for the summer months in the Bible camps, as several of the volunteers are part of our church family. The Roseau River Bible Camp (RRBC) held a Man Camp pre-game that was very successful, and 100 men (including about 20 from our church) enjoyed the activity and fellowship. This year marks the 25th birthday for RRBC, and we look forward to being a part of their celebration and min-

istry. Fisher Bay Bible Camp held its banquet in April as well, and this is another camp that is of special interest to many of our members.
Sue Hoy, Correspondent

VITA BIBLE CHURCH

Vita, Man.

Jurgen Penner, Pastor

Our church hosted **Jack Klassen** (*Gospel for Asia*) in March. Mr. Klassen spoke about what is being done to educate those considered lowest of the lower class, giving many a hope for the future. After the service, we held a fish fry to raise money for a new photocopier for our church via a free will offering. All were welcome to attend, including from the surrounding communities.

Our dinner and a movie night in February was a success. Those attending enjoyed a delicious meal made by our senior youth group. Afterward, the couples watched the movie, "Grace Card."

Tiffany Tuurenhout, Correspondent

Paraguay Short-term Team

A team of eight from two Omaha churches will head to Paraguay on May 24 for two weeks of ministry and work.

Team leaders are **Doyle and Marilynn Lester** from **Community Bible Church**. Team members are (from Community Bible Church) **Debi and Lawson Weihsing** and **Kathryn White**. From **Evangelical Bible Church** are **Adrianna Donaldson**, **Blaine Donaldson** and **Stanley Fast**.

From May 24–28 the team will assist FEBC missionaries **Benny and Esther Goertzen** in an area called Campo 9 by holding workshops for teachers and parents of the church. They will also provide children's ministries. During the following days they will help build a house for a poor family in one of the Asunción churches. In the evenings they will be involved in evangelistic opportunities.

From June 1–5 the team will be in Filadelfia assisting **Pastor Arnold Boschmann** in various community activities.



Left to right: Doyle and Marilynn Lester, Stanley Fast, Kathryn White, Lawson and Debi Weihsing, Blaine Donaldson and Adrianna Donaldson.

Team leader Marilynn Lester said, "Our main goal is to build relationships with the FEBC churches in Paraguay, and encourage and support them in their ministry in any way that we can."



**As you pray
for this team,
ask God
to give them**

- Safety and health as they travel
- Sensitivity to the people in other cultures so they won't offend
- Open hearts in the people they minister to so they will respond to God's message
- Servant attitudes as they minister and interact with people
- Sensitivity to the Holy Spirit's leading that the team might use every opportunity to share the Gospel with everyone they meet — both informally and in organized events

BIRTHS AND ADOPTIONS

Community Bible Church Omaha, Neb.

- Cassidy Laura to Joe and Michele Shanahan, Feb. 4; grandparents are Kim and Allene Cornelius

Cornerstone Bible Church Steinbach, Man.

- Stephen Robert to Jonathan and Stephanie Coutts, March 29

Evangelical Bible Church Omaha, Neb.

- Anilyn Marie to Trevor and Megan Wenger, Feb. 8; grandparents are Doug and Laura Swartz

Evangelical Bible Church Dallas, Ore.

- Madeline Ann to Ben And Danielle Vosborn, March 4

Evangelical Bible Church Langham, Sask.

- Jase Ryley to Marlon and Jennifer Friesen, March 12; grandparents are Henry and Elaine Friesen and Harvey and Darlene Thiessen

Jansen Bible Church Jansen, Neb.

- Grant Mitchell to Mitchell and Kelli Heidemann, Feb. 4; grandparents are Robert and Nancy Heidemann

Salem Church Waldheim, Sask.

- Karsten James to Kevin and Caryn Adrian, Feb 14; grandparents are Wilmer and Phyllis Adrian
- Zachary David Lyle, to Lorne and Charmaine Ashton, Feb. 2

WEDDINGS

Christian Fellowship Church Rhineland, Sask.

- Kimberlee Olfert, daughter of Wanda and the late Art Olfert, to Nicholas Koltun, Feb. 18
- Sharlene Friesen, daughter of Harry and the late Trudy Friesen, to Kendal Dunnett, April 6

Community Bible Church Omaha, Neb.

- Lauren Strasser, daughter of Keith and Lisa Strasser, to Justin Dick, son of Ron and Sherry Dick, March 16; grandparents of Lauren are Chuck and Ellen Thompson

Richer Fellowship Church Richer, Man.

- Susanna Joy Markeli to Pastor Chun Kau Simon Cheung, April 1

DEATHS

Dalmeny Bible Church Dalmeny, Sask.

- Betty Doerksen, (90), March 29

Evangelical Bible Church Dallas, Ore.

- Brenda Graham (67), Feb. 1
- Evelyn Hamm (91), Feb. 2
- Edmee Pankratz (90), Feb. 22
- Gerhard (Gary) Pauls (90), March 18

Evangelical Bible Church Langham, Sask.

- Albert Mierau (84), March 7

Grace Evangelical Bible Church Abbotsford, B.C.

- Peter Koop (84), March 26

Heartland Bible Church Lincoln, Neb.

- Sandra Klotz (62), Feb. 27

Reduce Taxes by Giving from IRAs to Fund Ministries

Seventy is the magic age at which people must begin to make withdrawals from their IRAs. However, the U.S. government has provided an incentive for people over 70½ to turn their withdrawal into a charitable gift to their church or charity. These gifts must come directly from their IRA account and go directly to a charity (or church). This window is only open until Dec. 31, 2013.

The gifts are limited to a maximum of \$100,000 for the year, and must be made directly to a charitable organization such as the Fellowship of Evangelical Bible Churches (gifts to donor-advised funds and charitable trusts do not qualify). For donors who meet the qualifica-

tions of this legislation, this gift is accomplished without triggering any federal or state income taxes, until Dec. 31, 2013. **Do not withdraw money from your IRA and then write a check to a charity — you will lose tax advantages. The money must come directly from the IRA account to the charity.**

Making a gift utilizing the IRA provision is simple, but there are some important details that must be carefully considered. For help in making a gift, please go to www.febclegacy.org and click on the "IRA Rollover" button, or call (800) 876-7958 and our partners at PhilanthroCorp (a Christ-centered estate planning firm) will contact you.

Legacy Giving
Today's resources for tomorrow's ministries

NO ENDORSEMENT

Catch the Vision

By Pastor Jeff Friesen, Hebron Bible Church, Hebron, Neb.

The arm of the skeet thrower whizzed. A shotgun echoed a response, filling the air with what had been a clay pigeon. Powder was poured into the barrel of a muzzle loader, and patch and ball were rammed into place. A pull of the trigger and a small explosion, followed quickly by a metallic ting as the ball hit the target. Arrows began to fill up the 15 or so decoys that had been placed on the sand volleyball court. A line was cast, and the smiles followed soon after. An afternoon of adventure had begun!

More than 100 fathers, grandfathers, sons and grandsons gathered for Men's Outdoor Adventure Day at Camp Jefferson outside of Fairbury, Neb., in April. Participants were assigned to small groups of about 15 people, and the groups cycled through six stations of trap shooting, muzzle loading, archery, fishing, trapping and big game hunting. In most stations, presenters spent a few minutes reviewing hunter safety tips and then allowed the participants to try some target shooting. Muzzle loaders, archery equipment, shotguns and fishing poles were all

provided by the Nebraska Game and Parks. Another seminar demonstrating trapping techniques and one on big game hunting, led by Scott Glasscock, a biologist with the Christian Outdoor Fellowship of America, rounded out the stations.

Hebron Bible Church, in conjunction with a couple of other local churches, sponsored and organized the father-son event. Organizers had two goals in mind: to call peo-

ple into a relationship with Christ and to challenge the men present to become the spiritual leaders in their homes, using the venue of an afternoon filled with outdoor activities.

Our goal was that the event would be Gospel-infused — meaning that participants would hear the Gospel multiple times throughout the day. Presenters at a few stations took a couple of minutes to share their testimony of how a relationship with Jesus had impacted their lives.

When the sessions were finished, participants enjoyed a barbecue meal, while door prizes, donated by several local businesses, were given away. After supper, Nebraska Cornhusker Assistant Football Coach Ron Brown shared the Gospel to the men and boys present. He began by sharing a bit more about seven-year-old cancer patient Jack Hoffman's 69-yard touchdown run in Nebraska's spring game. Jack has been adopted as a little brother by the Cornhusker football team. As a special gift to him, Nebraska coaches had Jack suit up for a play that has now garnered more than seven million hits on YouTube. Brown explained, "Like any typical man, he had his own direction he wanted to go. He was going the wrong way. The play was supposed to go to the right. Jack started running left, and there were no blockers on the left side The most interesting part of the play was that our quarterback, Taylor Martinez, grabbed the kid and pointed him in the right way, and he took off down the sideline Like young Jack, all of us start off going the wrong way. Someone had to come along and show us that there is a right way."

At the end of the evening, Ron Brown patiently answered questions and signed autographs as volunteers began to clean up. The smiling faces and comments from those who attended echoed the thoughts of event organizer Brad Seitz. "Adventure Day was a special occasion for all because it was such a God-honoring event," Seitz said. "Sharing our relationship with Jesus Christ and our passion for what the Lord has blessed us with was awesome."

