



Fellowship Team Ministers at Paraguayan Churches

Pages 8-9



Waiting to hear the Gospel

- Inside:*
- ◎ President's Challenge
 - ◎ Focus on the Word
 - ◎ Proclaiming Christ Around the World
 - ◎ Focus on FEBC Church Planting
 - ◎ Catch the Vision



Page 10

Focus on FEBC Church Planting



A Visit with EMB Filadelfia in Paraguay

I recently returned from a wonderful opportunity that the Lord provided for me to travel to Evangelical Mennonite Brethren (EMB) Filadelfia in Paraguay with the FEBC short-term missions team. I would like to share with you a brief report of what the Lord has done and is doing in that country through our brothers and sisters there.

Through great faith, cooperation, suffering and hard work, Mennonite immigrants were able not just to survive in a seemingly unlivable land, but they have thrived. They have developed agriculture and husbandry. They have built a community. As remarkable as this story was, I am far more impressed with the spiritual vision and accomplishments they have achieved.

The first Mennonites arrived in the Chaco (the Western region of Paraguay) in 1927. It was believed to be uninhabited, but they soon found that indigenous peoples were already living there. They took this as a sign from God that they were to bring the Gospel to these people. In 1935 they started a mission to them. The Mennonites were represented by three groups: the EMB; the Mennonite Brethren (MB); and the General Conference. They worked cooperatively to reach out to the indigenous people. The General Conference and MB conferences and the Mennonite Central Committee gave much support as well. To this day there is a great deal of theological agreement between these three churches. There are some differences in vision, emphasis and organization, but they share the same beliefs about God.

At this date, more than half of the indigenous people have professed faith in Christ. There are many of native churches. The Bible has been translated into some of the native languages, and several more are being translated. A hos-

pital and Bible college and other facilities serve the Guaraní. Tribal people who have been hunters/gatherers are being taught to farm and build foundations so that they can have economic and social stability.

Around 1989, independently of the native work, the EMB Filadelfia church implemented a vision to reach the Mestizos of Asunción with the Gospel. Asunción is a five-hour drive east from Filadelfia. They have planted five churches, and hundreds of people have been saved and are attending these churches, located in some of the poorer areas of the city. The EMB Church has continually supported these churches through prayer, leadership guidance and financially. One of the churches has daughtered another church, and they are making plans to plant another in a nearby town.

Apart from growing the EMB Church to more than 550 members, the Lord has used them to reach hundreds of Mesti-

zos in Asunción and thousands of indigenous people. God has done an amazing work, and I am thrilled to have seen some of it firsthand.

It was such a blessing for me to meet these fine Christians. We discussed the FEBC vision, and I sensed that this is an area that they need to grow as well. I hope that we can learn from each other as we move into the future. ■

God has done an amazing work, and I am thrilled to have seen some of it firsthand.



(Photo from EMB Filadelfia Facebook Page)

President's Travel Schedule

June 30	Cornerstone Bible Church, Steinbach, Man.
July 1-5	Connecting with Saskatchewan pastors
July 7	Northeast Bible Church, Calgary, Alta.
July 9-12	Vacation in/near the Rockies
July 14	Grace Evangelical Bible Church, Abbotsford, B.C.
July 16-22	Convention in Dallas, Ore.
July 23-25	Vacation at Glacier National Park, Mont.
July 28	Community Bible Church, Wolf Point, Mont.

Comment

By Sharon Berg, Editor



Talk about having a plan: With a growing desire to share Christ with their community, **Cornerstone Bible Church** in Mountain Lake, Minn., has set a church-wide goal to have 1,000 conversations revolving around the Gospel by the end of 2013. How is that even possible? Read more in "Catch the Vision" (*back cover*).

It goes without saying that members of our Fellowship churches are involved in outreach abroad, too. A team just recently returned from visiting Fellowship churches in Paraguay, building relationships and helping with ministries already established there. They returned with new memories and fresh perspective. Two of the team members, **FEBC President Blaine Donaldson**, and **Marilynn Lester**, who serves on the Commission on Missions, share more about the trip in their respective columns in this issue.

Look for the next issue of *Fellowship Focus* to feature news coming out of July's annual FEBC convention at **Evangelical Bible Church** in Dallas, Ore.

Sharon

The President's Challenge

A Visit with EMB Filadelfia in Paraguay

Blaine Donaldson, President page 2

Focus on the Word

Servant Leadership?

Harvey Schultz page 4

Fellowship Views page 5

From Randville to Randville page 6

FEBC Video Library page 6

Women's Ministries

Revelation Reveals to Me

By Jennifer Funk page 7

Proclaiming Christ Around the World

By Marilynn Lester,

Commission on Missions page 8-9

Focus on FEBC Church Planting . page 10

Focus on Our Churches pages 11-14

Legacy Giving page 14

The Record page 15

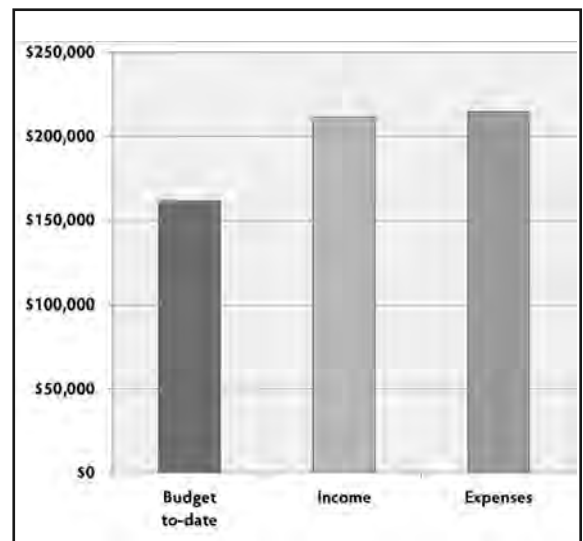
Catch the Vision

Pastor Nathan Janzen back page

For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.

Matthew 16:25 (NIV)

FEBC Finances through May



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: www.fellowshipforward.org

FAX: 402-965-3871

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

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

<http://www.fellowshipforward.org>



Focus on the Word

Harvey Schultz

Servant Leadership?

Jesus used, and is always using, His position, power and authority to promote our well being, our advance, our interests.

“**S**ervant leadership” has been a popular “buzzword” in Christian circles in recent years. It is an important concept, and much has been done to encourage us to practice it. However, at times I wonder if we have lost sight of its true significance because of familiarity and because we attach a meaning to it which was not intended.

Remember the request James and John brought to Jesus? Supported by their mother, they asked for a position of prestige in Christ’s kingdom. In response to that request and its obvious motivation, we find these words in Matthew 20:25-28:

“Jesus called them (i.e. his disciples) together and said, ‘You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave — just as the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many’” (cf. Luke 22:24-25).

Here then, is where the concept of “servant leadership” was first enunciated.

Jesus was not denying the need for leadership among Christians. He Himself was their “teacher and Lord” (John 12:13). Other New Testament passages teach that there is to be a clear structure of leadership in the local church (1 Timothy 5:17; 1 Thessalonians 5:12; Hebrews 13:17). Paul even instructs Timothy, as a local church leader, to go so far as to “command” certain things (1 Timothy 1:3).

Neither is Jesus saying that a leader is one who necessarily does the menial, servant-type tasks among us, although it is certainly refreshing to see a leader who is willing to roll up his sleeves to wash the

dishes, mop the floor or clean the flower bed at your local church. But that is not what makes one a servant leader.

Jesus was contrasting the *personal attitude toward leadership* of a “Gentile” leader and that which a leader in a Christian community is to demonstrate. The former used their leadership position for personal gain; the latter are to use their leadership position for the benefit of those they lead.

We are all well aware of what happens in our society. A person accedes to a leadership position. Gradually he begins to use the power inherent in that position to promote personal prestige, advancement, comfort, and even personal financial gain. Usually this is done at the expense of the ones he is leading. He exalts himself and puts them down. He “lords” it over them and, if needed to achieve his own personal ends, he will “exercise authority over them.”

Jesus said it is not supposed to be like that among his disciples. In essence he declared: “You are to lead like I did; ready to give my life as a ransom for those I am leading.” He was, and is, our undeniable leader. But He used, and is always using, His position, power and authority to promote our well being, our advancement, our interests. That’s “servant leadership”: serving the best interests of those one is leading, not one’s personal well being.

What might this look like in a local church? A servant leader will consider questions like:

- *What is in the best interests of the church?*
- *How can I help this person grow?*
- *Should I take my stand on biblical principle or go with the flow?*

The right course of action may go contrary to his own interests or prestige. It may bring emotional, mental and physi-



cal discomfort. But as a servant leader, he will use his leadership position to promote the best interests of those he is leading. He won’t use it to promote personal comfort, prestige or popularity.

“Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death — even death on a cross” (Phil. 2:4-8).

That is the ultimate example of servant leadership: using leadership position and power not for personal gain but for the benefit of those being led.

P.S. By the way, ultimately that approach to leadership will result in great personal, inner reward and satisfaction! ■

All Scripture quotations are taken from the New International Version.



Restore Sahel Academy

Churches and donors have already given more than \$4,000 toward the Fellowship goal of \$20,000 to restore the flood-damaged Sahel Academy in Niamey, Niger. A work team from **Evangelical Bible Church** in Omaha was planned, but did not work out. However, one member did go to provide technical assistance to set up their computers and networks.

Paraguay Short-term Team

The eight-member Paraguay team returned June 6. Not only were they able to see the many ministries developed by the **Filadelfia Evangelical Mennonite Brethren Church**, but they were able to assist some of the churches by building library shelves and painting and holding evangelistic services in the public schools.

Volunteers Needed

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.

Fellowship Finances

April marked the end of the first half of our fiscal year. Because of a large anonymous contribution, FEBC USA was able to end in the black. However, monthly church giving is \$2,000 less than what we anticipated each month. Please ask God to provide this shortfall for us through other sources.

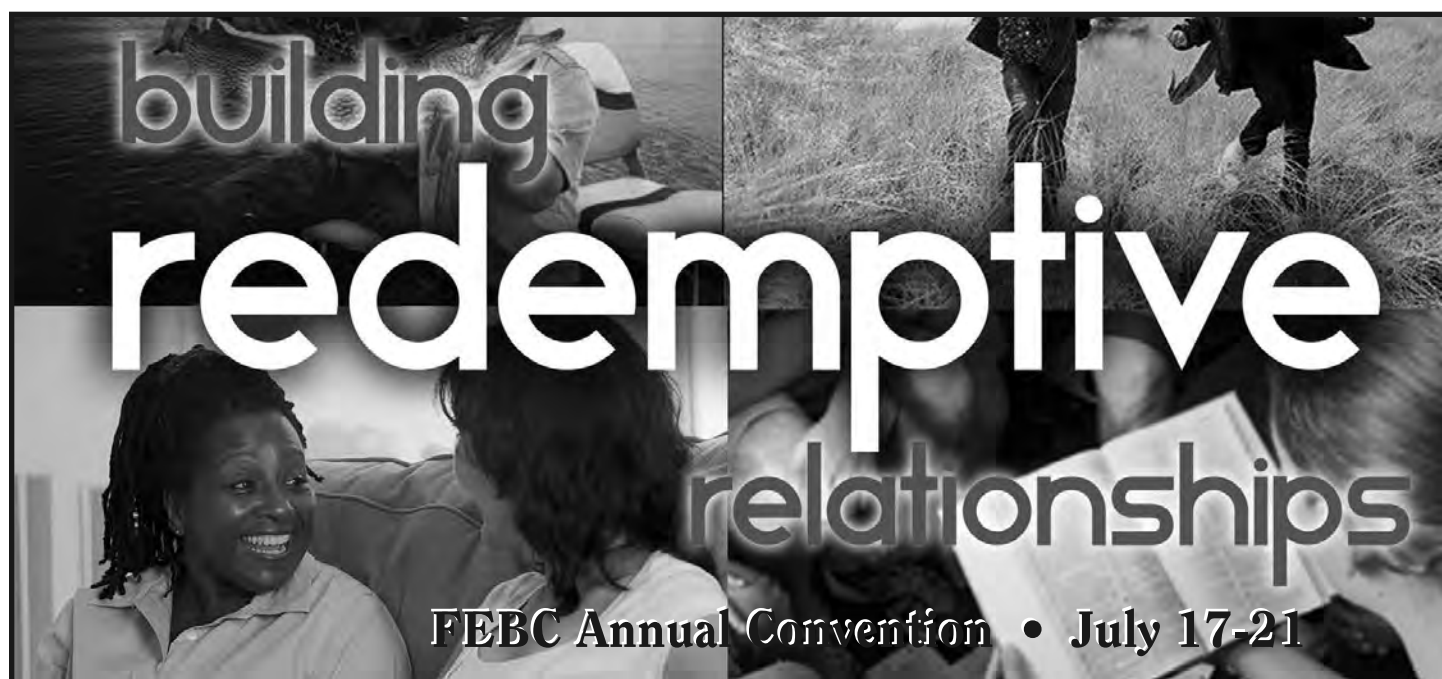
FEBC Canada ended the first half in the red, but churches are giving as expected, and we are confident that we will end the year in the black.

The Fellowship is suggesting that each church give four percent of its income to operate the Fellowship. It is crucial that the Fellowship have solid church support to continue into the future. Our Fellowship was created by our churches, and our churches provide most of the support for it.

Churches Seeking Pastors

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

- **Community Bible Church** of Indian Head, Sask., is seeking a senior pastor. Please direct all inquiries and resumes to Harvey Schultz at hesals@aol.com or to PO Box 8, Waldheim, SK S0K 4R0.
- **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.
- **Christian Fellowship Church of Rhineland** (Wymark, Sask.) is seeking a senior pastor. Send enquiries and résumés to Kevin Krahn sandyplain@yourlink.ca.





From Randville to Randville

Kirby and Isabelle Dunn have, in a sense, gone full circle. Back in 1990, Randville Bible Church in rural Iron Mountain, Mich., became their sending church, sending them out to New Tribes Mission (NTM) missionary training. They had been in regular at-

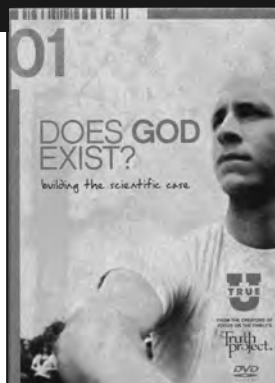
tendance at Randville Church for only a few years when the Lord challenged them to join New Tribes Mission. After missionary training, they were assigned to Mexico to serve the Lord as church planting missionaries. At first they lived among the Tarahumara Indian tribe and planted a church there. Eventually they were relocated to Chihuahua and served in a support role in the big city for a number of years.

When Kirby's health caused them to return to the States, they spent three very good years on staff at the New Tribes Bible Institute (Waukesha, Wisc.). At the close of that time, Randville Church invited them to con-

sider being their pastor. The Dunns were surprised and honored, but spent some time waiting on the Lord for what they should do.

Both Isabelle and Kirby had a distinct peace in going to help out their home church. NTM was very encouraging about this new ministry, and was so willing to help in any way they could. The Dunns moved to Randville in April. They are very content in their ministry, and find the church people to be so encouraging and helpful. They are trusting the Lord to bless the work and accomplish His desire within the flock at Randville Bible Church. ■

TrueU from Focus on the Family



Each series has ten 30-minute sessions. Available on loan from the FEBC video library.

For other studies on loan, visit

<http://www.fellowshipforward.org/dvd-lending-library.html>



Many young adult Christians are failing to keep their faith after they begin college or enter the workforce. Focus on the Family's *TrueU* curriculum offers an introduction to apologetics (a defense of belief in God) that aims to help reverse this trend. *TrueU* is a valuable resource for youth groups, college campus clubs, Sunday school classes, home-based small groups, home schools, and individuals who want to strengthen their faith. Visit www.trueu.org to learn more about the curriculum. Two series are available from the FEBC Video Library.

Course 1: Does God Exist?

Belief in God is often classed as "unscientific" or "superstition." Both universities and media often portray the person who still believes in God as silly or uninformed.

In *Does God Exist?* (the first in the *TrueU* series by Focus on the Family and Tyndale), Dr. Stephen Meyer explores four worldviews to show which one best fits the evidence we see around us. In this 10-session series, the student is confronted with the evidence and provided

tools to defend his or her faith.

However, this is not an evangelistic tool. People are not won to Christ by argument. But for young adults especially, this is a valuable series to strengthen their faith so they can better resist so-called "intellectual" attacks on their faith.

Course 2: Is the Bible Reliable?

This second set in the life-changing DVD series asks, "Is the Bible reliable?" Proven facts and insights from philosophy, cosmology and biology will help you engage intellectually with professors and peers, both in and outside of the classroom. For centuries, intellectuals and critics alike have questioned inconsistencies in the Bible. Dr. Meyer examines ancient texts and archeological evidence to build a compelling case for the accuracy of Scripture — and why the Bible is trustworthy.

Both DVD series contains a leader's guide and several promotional resources (included on DVD 1) that can be printed and used by churches and small groups. *Audience:* High school juniors and seniors, college students and adults.



Revelation Reveals to Me...



By Jennifer Funk, Commission on Women's Ministries

For the last couple of years, I have been involved in a ladies' Bible Study. We take turns hosting it in our homes, and over coffee, tea and yummy snacks, we open up our Bibles and study God's Word. We bring our prayer requests together and pray for each other. It is a great time of fellowship. We have asked our leader to give us homework, and she graciously gives us three to six pages each time. It is a commitment, but a very rewarding one. We dive deeply into each verse, and it has been an incredibly valuable time to me.

In the last two years, we have studied the book of Revelation. I have never been so excited about a study before. What a fascinating book! I'd like to share a few things that I've learned along the way (and by the way, we're only halfway through the book):

God is Sovereign

I am reminded again and again who is in control of this universe and this earth. It doesn't matter what Satan's plots and schemes are, God still is and will always be in control of it all. His timing is perfect. This reassures me during the times when I feel that life is spinning out of control. God is in control, and nothing happens without his knowing. Revelation assures me that God is Sovereign, and knowing this truth I can rest in Him. I can't trust Him enough!

Jesus is worthy

He was the Lamb; the only one worthy to open the scroll. Revelation 5:9 tells us, "And they sang a new song,

saying, 'Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.'" He is not only worthy to bring judgement, but also because He has redeemed us He is worthy of praise. "...Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!" (Revelation 5:12). I need to be reminded

These thoughts lead me to share Jesus with others and to offer them the chance to choose Jesus now.

over and over again how precious Jesus is and how worthy He is to receive my praise. I can't praise Him enough!

For His glory

This truth has really struck me in the last year. I often pray that all goes well, that we have healing, for safety, etc. but I need to pray that whatever happens, because God is Sovereign, it will bring glory to Him. Every outcome should bring glory to God. When I pray for others, no matter what they are going through, I ask that God would be glorified through them. I desire to bring Him glory as Christ did when he humbled Himself and came to this earth to die for my sins. And what was the result of Christ's humility? "Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus

every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Philippians 2:9-11) I can't bring enough glory to God.

Now is the time

The time is near for Christ's return. I need to be most concerned for the souls of people. I do not desire that anyone should go through the judgments that God is ready to pour out on the earth. Therefore I need to pray for unbelievers, that their eyes will be opened. I must pray that their hearts will be softened and that the seed of the Gospel will grow in them. I can't tell others about him enough.

These thoughts lead me to share Jesus with others and to offer them the chance to choose Jesus *now*. The time of His coming is near. "He who testifies to these things says, 'Surely I am coming soon.' Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!" (Revelation 22:20). ■

Scripture taken from the English Standard Version

Along with her service on the Commission on Women's Ministries, Jennifer ministers alongside her husband, Pastor Mark Funk, at Stuartburn Gospel Chapel, where she is active in music and children's ministry.



Proclaiming Christ *around* the World

Marilynn Lester
Commission on Missions



Fellowship Team Ministers at Paraguayan Churches

Eight individuals from the two Omaha FEBC churches made their way to Paraguay on May 23. They were **Blaine Donaldson**, **Adrianna Donaldson**, and **Stanley Fast** from Evangelical Bible Church, and **Lawson and Debi Weihing**, **Kathryn White** and I (**Marilynn Lester**), and my husband, **Doyle Lester** from Community Bible Church. The goal of this trip was to build relationships between the North American and South American churches, and to support the Paraguayan church in its local ministry. We arrived in Asunción, Paraguay, on May 24 with **Benny and Esther Goertzen** (Evangelical Mennonite Conference) greeting us at the airport. After enjoying some Paraguayan refreshments at **Pastor Orlando and Lily Wiens'** home, we made our way to Campo Nueve, some four hours away.

The first order of business was to get acquainted with those in our host homes, some of whom did not speak English. By the end of our time in Campo Nueve, the language barrier was overcome and some good friendships were formed. On Saturday morning, the men started building bookshelves for a nearby school where the church has been trying to minister. The school has hundreds of unused books because of a lack of bookshelves. Making these shelves was a gesture of Christian goodwill which will enable the Goertzens and the church to continue to reach out to this school. The bookshelves were completed on Tuesday and handed over to the school during a dedication ceremony on Wednesday morning.

The team presented about 10 children's programs during our entire time in Paraguay. Some were like backyard Bible clubs, called "Hora Feliz" (Happy Hour); some were in the public and private schools; and some were in the churches. More than 500 children heard the Gospel through puppets, Bible stories, songs and the Gospel Bracelet. Two "Hora Feliz" programs were presented in Campo Nueve in connection with the Goertzen's church, and two programs were presented to their church children showing them how to share the Gospel with their friends.



On Wednesday, we left Campo Nueve and headed for Asunción. On the way we stopped at La Colmena, a new church plant headed by Orlando and Lily Wiens, to present another "Hora Feliz." Once in Asunción, we presented four programs with the Evangelical Mennonite Brethren (EMB) churches in the area. Three programs were presented in schools, one of which was a presentation to a room packed with teenagers sitting in the aisles on the floor and three to four students squeezed into one desk. Two of the school programs were presented outside while the students stood lined up ready to go to class. One morning we painted the sanctuary of the Costa Azul church which before we left Paraguay held a wedding, a marriage vow renewal service and a birthday party for the pastor's daughter in that sanctuary (the pastor made up a "thank you" album with pictures of all the events for each of us).

On Saturday, after doing an "Hora Feliz" in Orlando Wiens' Asunción church, we headed to Filadelfia by bus where again we stayed in host homes. The people were warm and hospitable. **Arnold Boschmann**, pastor of the EMB church in Filadelfia, wanted to acquaint us with the ministry of the local church. We were introduced to the history of the Mennonite movement in Paraguay through a talk and tour of the local museum on Sunday, and on Monday we visited Yalve Sango, a community that included a Bible school, a radio station and a hospital for the indigenous people.

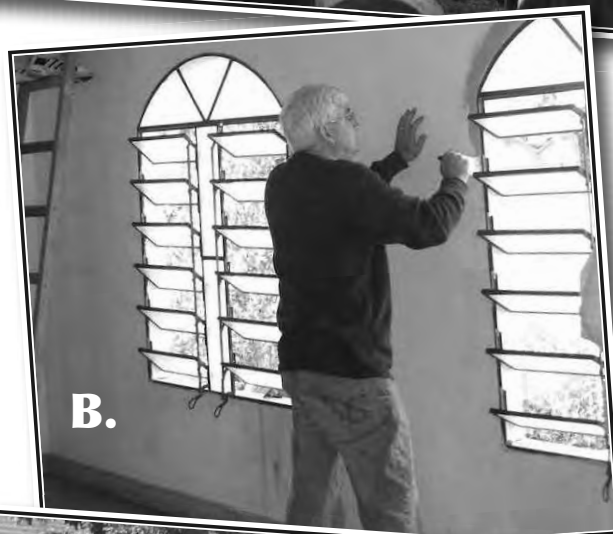
We recall the looks on the children's and the young people's faces as they listened intently to the Gospel being presented, and are thankful for the church that will be there to cultivate the field where the seed has been sown.

ple. On Monday afternoon while I (Marilynn) presented a workshop to the indigenous parents and teachers, the rest of the team painted window frames at an indigenous school.

Besides the team projects, Blaine and I had individual opportunities to minister to the people. Blaine preached in the churches at Campo Nueve and Filadelfia. He challenged the people with his passion to see each person individually proclaiming the Gospel at every opportunity to their neighbors. He also met with the church leaders in Filadelfia on Monday evening. I presented four workshops to parents and teachers regarding creating an environment in the home and in the school that would produce children who are disposed to use their independent thinking abilities. Blaine and I were also interviewed on the local Christian radio station where Benny and Esther work.

The goal to build relationships and support the local Paraguayan church was met many times over. We were given opportunities to be involved in ministries the church was already doing, and the entire team was amazed at the friendliness and hospitality of the Paraguayan people and the openness of the churches. We were impressed with vibrancy of the ministries of the churches and that Christians have the freedom to share the Gospel in the public schools. We recall the looks on the children's and the young people's faces as they listened intently to the Gospel being presented, and are thankful for the church that will be there to cultivate the field where the seed has been sown.

As President Blaine so aptly stated, "When God is active in ministry, both sides are blessed." We have been blessed by this experience and trust the people in Paraguay have been blessed as well. ■



A. Bookshelves being turned over to the school, Campo Nueve

B. Painting Costa Azul church sanctuary

C. Children waiting in line to enter the school while we give a program

D. Teamwork

Focus on *FEBC* Church Planting

Thank you for your gifts to the Convention Project of 2011. Your gifts provided tools for church planting. The Church Planting Reserve Fund also received an infusion to help begin another church plant.



Community Bible Church of Indian Head, Sask., was able to erect two signs on the highway near Indian Head. Former pastor Bill Glasspell reported that hits on the church website rose after the sign was placed.



Paradise Valley Church of Natoma, Kan., was able to erect two signs on the main highway through town and put another on its building.



Richer Fellowship Church of Richer, Man., is located just a few blocks from Canada Highway 1. Since its new signs have been placed, several people have contacted the church for more information.



Tisdale Bible Church of Tisdale, Sask., received funds for a new sound board. This was a needed upgrade to go with the church's new sanctuary which can seat 150. This church plant has now "grown up" and will join the Fellowship this summer as an autonomous church.

FOCUS ON OUR CHURCHES

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

Omaha, Neb.

Charles Tschetter, Senior Pastor

Five people from CBC were part of an FEBC team that traveled to Paraguay in May to minister to the churches there (*read more on pages 8-9*).

Our high school students served in a local outreach in June with Urban Plunge. The youth ministered to some of the neediest people in Omaha and collected bags of personal hygiene products to give to the homeless.

This summer our elementary Sunday school students are being taught biographies of various Christians who lived throughout history. We hope these studies will encourage the children as they learn of others who spent their lives serving God.

Lydia Tschetter is leading a women's workshop on prayer this summer, using Ray Pritchard's book *Beyond All You Could Ask or Think – How to Pray Like the Apostle Paul*.

At SonWest Round-up, our Vacation Bible School in June, up to 175 students attended, with a high attendance of 154. We offered free dinner each night, and 739 meals were served throughout the week to the children and volunteers.

Sharon Berg, Correspondent

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHAPEL

Winnipeg, Man.

John Harwood, Pastor

More than 15,000 worshippers flocked into the gates of the brand new home of the Winnipeg Blue Bombers, Investor's Group Stadium, for a massive citywide church service called "One Heart" on Sunday, May 26. Although this was the third year for One Heart, it was the inaugural event for our city's new stadium, and the churches of Winnipeg were abuzz with excitement over the opportunity to initiate the building with prayer and blessing! Even more amazing was that it was the Blue Bomber organization itself that *offered* their brand new facility to One Heart to be the first to use it. As in most church services, an offering was taken but this was no ordinary offering. After costs were covered, a gift of approximately \$40,000 was given to the City of Winnipeg Policemen's Fund (for their work with the city's at-risk youth) from the churches of Winnipeg.

One Heart kicked off the citywide love fest called "Love Winnipeg." The churches of Winnipeg get into their various communities and cover our city with the love of Christ in tangible ways, asking nothing in return. Christian Fellowship Chapel participated by cleaning and beautifying the children's park a few doors down from our church building, hosting a free hotdog barbeque on a beautiful sunny Saturday and baking and delivering goodies to the teachers of our three community schools.

Nancy Kunkel, Correspondent

CORNERSTONE BIBLE CHURCH

Steinbach, Man.

Jared Hiebert, Pastor

Cornerstone enjoyed our annual church picnic at Mitchell Park in June. The beautiful day began with our worship service there at which one of our returning Bible college students, **Mark Reimer**, spoke. We were also blessed to receive three people into our church membership at this service. Afterward, we enjoyed a lunch of barbecued chicken and a potluck of salads and desserts. We had a great time of fellowship in God's beautiful creation.

Marsella Wiebe, Correspondent

COUNTRYSIDE BIBLE CHURCH

Meade, Kan.

Chuck Finster, Senior Pastor

Chuck Finster was voted to be our senior pastor on April 28 at our semi-annual meeting. Pastor Chuck is beginning a series of sermons on 1 Corinthians.

Jaden Friesen is serving Christ this summer at Echo Ranch in Alaska, and **Mark Finster** at La Hacienda El Refugio in Ecuador. **Chris Cummings'** summer ministry is at the Cowboys Rest Christian Camp and Retreat Center, and **Kayla Stevenson** is serving in Mexico with Athletes in Action, a ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ.

Darwin Stoesz of SEND International shared his ministry in Japan on April 28, as well as **Ken and Karen Toews** with InFaith in South Dakota.

Our Vacation Bible School in June highlighted Kingdom Chronicles. Eight youth attended Precepts Teen Boot Camp in Tennessee June 12-19. Our Kan-OK Bible Camp, a summer camp sponsored by several church in Kansas and Oklahoma, was held June 23-28.

Mary Friesen, Correspondent

DALMENY BIBLE CHURCH

Dalmeny, Sask.

Dennis Friesen, Pastor

Two couples plan to visit our sister church in Talnoe, Ukraine, in July. They provided a lunch at the end of May to raise funds for the Ukraine Youth Camp. **Pastor Dennis and Faith** and eight others are preparing to visit our global partners, **Scott and Patsy Buhler** (TEACH) in Brazil in August to help with their ministry. We trust the LORD for the acceptance of visa applications.

Wendell Heppner, director of Camp Kadesh, shared about the camp ministry at a morning service in April. A fund-raising dinner followed.

The Annual Dalmeny Ladies' Salad Fiesta in April brought 262 ladies. **Marlynn Heagy** spoke about "Beauty in the Desert." The event also featured a Dutch Growers' presentation on succulent containers.

Marilyn Harder, Correspondent

continued on page 12

FOCUS ON OUR CHURCHES

continued from page 11

EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH

Omaha, Neb.

Dr. Don Pahl, Senior Pastor

Evangelical Bible Church has adopted a section of North Omaha. In the first week of June, we pitched our tent in the neighborhood there and passed out flyers for a Vacation Bible School. The VBS included games, crafts and Bible lessons led by the members of our youth group who were traveling to Trinidad for a mission trip later in June. This gave them the opportunity to use what they have prepared for Trinidad. At the conclusion of the VBS week, the children were invited to come to VBS at EBC the following week. We provided transportation for those who wanted to come.

EBC now has a Stephen Ministries. Based on Acts 6:5, this ministry will try to meet the needs of people for Christ-centered care. The pastor cannot meet all of the needs, and lay people can be trained to do ministry, which involves coming alongside of one who is hurting. This is done with the knowledge that it is God who does the curing — it is our part to listen, pray and provide the Scriptures that are needed to help bear another's burden. In the coming months, we will provide additional information to our congregation about how they can become involved in this important and valuable ministry.

Sherrie Lindsey, Correspondent

EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH

Langham, Sask.

Greg Guarnett, Senior Pastor

We praise God for the youth we are able to impact in our community. Pray for opportunities to reconnect with them over summer break. Our first Youth Missions Trip took place June 29-July 8 as eight youth traveled to Washington, D.C., to minister with YouthWorks.

Congregational Care Committee hosted an open house at Pastor Justin and Nashly's new home, a Newcomers Luncheon, and also prepared 56 frozen meals with *The Big Cook*. They continually look for ways to encourage our students and congregation.

Baptism Sunday was a powerful service of testimony and prayer. One person was baptized and four people were welcomed into membership this spring.

Marilyn Friesen, Correspondent

FAITH EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH

Winkler, Man.

Mike Comtois, Pastor

We enjoyed having **Jody and Linda Dillow** at our church for a Bible Conference in May. The Dillows have written many books including "Reign of the Servant King" and "Calm my Anxious Heart." Among the topics they spoke on at the conference were marriage, ministry, and their personal testimony.

continued on page 13

EVANGELICAL MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH

Lustre, Mont.

John Skillman, Pastor



A group of youth and adult from our community have been traveling to Poplar, Mont., on Wednesday evenings to help serve a meal and assist at a kids' club. Sometimes as many as 90 Native American children are present for the dinner, Bible lesson and a coloring time. Poplar is the seat for the Fort Peck Sioux and Assiniboine Tribes and is about an hour's drive away.

Special speakers recently at our church have been **FEBC President Blaine Donaldson** in March, and **Jerry and Bev Lehrman** in April. The Lehrmans minister with Brazil Gospel Fellowship.

We were busy getting Beacon Bible Camp ready for the summer season and are especially excited to have the new chapel useable. Pastor John is a co-director for the Junior High Camp.

Sharon Skillman, Correspondent

FOCUS ON OUR CHURCHES

More than 400 verses were memorized by the completion of Awana this year.

Liane Thiessen, Correspondent

FAITH EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH

Henderson, Neb.

Michael Fink, Pastor

"Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?" was an evening designed to promote fellowship in our church family by our hospitality committee. Host families prepared a main dish, and guests brought the side dishes. The names of hosts and guests were kept secret until the evening of the event. All those involved enjoyed conversation with couples whom they seldom interact with otherwise. Children had their own pizza and movie party at the church, and everyone ended the evening at the church with an ice cream dessert.

Darwin and Karen Stoesz of SEND International were recently adopted by our church as one of our missionary families. After several visits by Darwin and Karen presenting their work in Japan, we are pleased to be involved in their ministry.

Our youth group ended the school year by, spending time with the children at the People's City Mission in Lincoln, Neb. They also delivered non-perishable food items that were sent as a gift to the mission from our church family.

Alice Decker, Correspondent

HEARTLAND BIBLE CHURCH

Lincoln, Neb.

Scott Hecht, Pastor

Kim McCarthy of the Crisis Pregnancy Center spoke at our annual Ladies Spring Brunch on April 27. New or gently used items were brought for donation. This Christ-centered ministry will soon move into new facilities to be better able to serve the Lincoln area.

A number of us attended the Wycliffe Bible Translators Banquet on April 27. **Jack Popjes**, who served in Brazil for 24 years, was a most interesting and challenging speaker. Mr. Popjes shared with us the difficulties of translating the Scriptures when the native Canela language had no words that would express the idea of a particular verse. He challenged us to pray for translators so they would have wisdom to express spiritual concepts.

Missions Movie night on May 11 featured another episode from Dispatches from the Front, where we traveled to the Cambodia, Singapore, and Indonesia observing a Buddhist monastery and viewing Asia's secret slave trade.

Trudy Reimer, Correspondent

JANSEN BIBLE CHURCH

Jansen, Neb.

Paul Carpenter, Pastor

The Awana Grand Prix races in April gave us the opportunity to mingle with families not of our church body. The

racers and their families shared a picnic supper after the event, which was clocked on a brand new race track. At the Awana Games, our Sparks and T&T did well, with each club placing second.

Sixty children have been regular attenders of Awana.

Darwin and Karen Stoesz (SEND) were on hand in May to share with us what God is doing in Japan today.

Our youth group and sponsors serve at the food concession at the century-old Washington, Kan., Rodeo. Vacation Bible School took place in June.

Tena Dick, Correspondent

STUARTBURN GOSPEL CHAPEL

Stuartburn, Man.

Mark Funk, Pastor



In the past few months we have enjoyed communication with the wider Church through the ministry of guest speakers **Chuck Nichols**, who spoke on what happens when a part of the Body doesn't function as it should; **John Feakes** ("Creation: The Real Deal"); **Ron Wiebe** of Child Evangelism Fellowship; **Scott Rosom** of Fisher Bay Bible Camp; and our own **Jared Fast**, now also on staff at Roseau River Bible Camp along with **Duane and Sylvia Goertzen**. Both Fisher Bay and Roseau River Bible Camps have held their fundraising ban-

continued on page 14

FOCUS ON OUR CHURCHES

continued from page 13

quets and work weeks, and are gearing up for a very busy camp season. As usual, both camps are a blessing to our local church in providing opportunities for many of our members to serve in several roles from kitchen to podium.

The youth were engaged in a weekly Bible study on Genesis and also enjoyed the opportunity for special events such as the “SOULD” concert in Altona.

Women’s Ministries soup and pie fund raiser for three missionaries was a memorable event in May. We enjoyed the fun and fellowship of a photo scavenger hunt and a hotdog roast after the meal.

As we think about and pray for those who will be graduating from school this month and venturing into new territory, we know that God may also lead us into untried regions of service. Our desire is to put our fear behind us and go boldly where He leads. May your summer be full of His blessed surprises!

Sue Hoy, Correspondent

VITA BIBLE CHURCH

Vita, Man.

Jurgen Penner, Pastor

This year our Missions Committee has asked all Vita Bible Church gardeners to plant an extra row of vegetables in their gardens to donate to Union Gospel Mission in the fall.

Our Junior Youth group stayed a weekend at Fisher Bay Bible Camp to help prepare the camp for this year’s campers. They performed a wide variety of jobs, including building picnic tables, grouting floor, repairing, and cleaning.

Women’s Ministry held a garage sale in Steinbach in May. All ages enjoyed fellowship and fun at “The Great Game,” a family fun night in June.

Tiffany Tuurenhout, Correspondent

The *Fellowship Focus* is available to read online.
<http://www.fellowshipforward.org>

Legacy Giving
Today’s resources for tomorrow’s ministries

Turning Dirt into Treasure

Barnabas is introduced to us in Acts 4:36-37 as a man with a generous and faith-filled heart. He provides us with a great example of a way of giving that is not widely recognized — gifting assets rather than cash. Acts tells us that “Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas, sold a field he owned and brought the money and laid it at the apostle’s feet.” What’s remarkable about this example is that Barnabas did not choose to increase his giving from his harvest, say from 10 percent to 20 percent. He found what God was doing in the first century church so compelling that he desired to be a part of it by giving not the first fruits of his labor, not the harvest, but the field itself — the proceeds from the sale of his land — to the work of Christ.

In Barnabas’ day, he could sell his field and give all of that money to the church without any tax penalties. However, modern day giving is quite different — and more complicated. The laws in America make it more tax efficient at times for someone to give an asset such as a field or stock or other assets rather than giving cash. By avoiding long-term capital gains tax, you not only receive more tax benefits, but more of the gift goes toward the Lord’s work.

What about you? Do you have any “fields” that you would like to see invested into ministry? Samples of modern day “fields” can be: investment real estate, public stock, property/land, business inventory, stock in a family business, or an IRA.

God calls us to manage all that He gives us; not just our income. But giving assets can be complicated — that’s when we need trusted advice. If you would like to find out whether or not this makes sense in your situation, please visit www.fellowshipforward.org/legacy-giving.html. Here you can learn more about gifting stock, real estate and retirement assets. From there, if you would like more personalized assistance, submit a contact form and a representative will be in touch with you.

You can benefit from a phone seminar on estate planning with our partner, Philanthrocorp. Seminars are scheduled for

- Tuesday, July 23 at 3 p.m. Central Time
- Thursday, Aug. 29 at 2:30 p.m. Central Time
- Tuesday, Sept. 17 at 4 p.m. Central Time

**Learn more about these seminars and sign up to participate at
www.fellowshipforward.org/legacy-giving.html**

Births/Adoptions

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH Omaha, Neb.

- Iver Lee to Crale and Rachel Swanson, May 16
- Madeline Ann to Jed and Carrie Fong, May 23

CORNERSTONE BIBLE CHURCH Steinbach, Man.

- Madelyn Divonne to Doug and Janelle Reimer, May 20; grandparents are Billy and Carey Reimer
- Libby Ann to Tyler and Tiff Ediger, April 26; grandparents are Darwin and Roxanna Ediger; great-grandmother is Rosie Ediger

EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH Dallas, Ore

- Emily Joy to Greg and Michelle Fink, May 30; grandparents are Dave and Pris Reimer and Pastor Mike and Jan Fink (Faith Evangelical Church, Henderson, Neb.)

EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH Omaha, Neb.

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

EVANGELICAL MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH Lustre, Mont.

- Curt Tyrel to Nolan and Michelle Teichroew, May 27

FAITH EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH Winkler, Man.

- Holland Grace to Keith and Stacey Friesen, April 14; grandparents are Les and Sara Thiessen
- Aria Grace to Lamar and Kim Fehr, May 28

FAITH EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH Henderson, Neb.

- Taylor Jayne to Grant and Jami Schmidt, March 13

HEARTLAND BIBLE CHURCH Lincoln, Neb.

- Mazzlynn Jane to Garry and Samantha Burns, April 27; grandparents are Bruce and Claire Burns

HUMBOLDT BIBLE CHURCH Humboldt, Sask.

- Silas Austin to Pastor Sean and Marsha Brandow, April 24

JANSEN BIBLE CHURCH Jansen, Neb.

- Callen Paul to Brendon and Jackie Stiggi; grandparents are Pastor Paul and Carol Carpenter, April 18

Weddings

RICHER FELLOWSHIP CHURCH Richer, Man.

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

COUNTRYSIDE BIBLE CHURCH Meade, Kan.

- Devenie Kay, daughter of John and Ginger Borth, to Kyle Scott Ross, June 1
- Mary Detrick to Jordan Friesen, son of Mike and Cindy Friesen, June 8

STUARTBURN GOSPEL CHAPEL Stuartburn, Man.

- Pearl Behnk to Nathan Funk, son of Mike and Carol Funk, May 4

CORNERSTONE BIBLE CHURCH Steinbach, Man.

- Isabel Fehr, daughter of Ken and Maxine Fehr, to Dale Hiebert, son of Darrel and Dianne Hiebert, June 1

Deaths

CORNERSTONE BIBLE CHURCH Steinbach, Man.

- Peter K. Reimer (95), April 17

HEARTLAND BIBLE CHURCH Lincoln, Neb.

- William Broadgate (84), April 6
- Gloria Hunter (65), April 27

JANSEN BIBLE CHURCH Jansen, Neb.

- Nic Flaming (32), April 18; son of missionaries Vic and Gwen Flaming

*Truly my soul finds rest in God;
my salvation comes from him.*

Psalm 62:1 (NIV)

NO ENDORSEMENT

Catch the Vision

By Pastor Nathan Janzen,
Cornerstone Bible Church

These past several weeks, Cornerstone Bible Church has launched a new adventure. Over the last several years, the leaders of our church have had a growing desire to see the congregation take some steps of growth in sharing Christ with our community. As this burden has grown, we realized this needed to be the focus of our attention for the next few years. But as we have talked about this, we have struggled with follow-through. We all recognize the need for the Gospel to be proclaimed, but many of us get caught up in the whirlwind of life and find little time that we have invested in this key responsibility.

As I (Pastor Nathan) preached through Acts, I also sensed this growing responsibility to carry out Christ's *calling* for his disciples: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth" (Acts 1:8 NASB). The early church grew as the Gospel was proclaimed. Believers faced hurdles and had to remove some of the cultural walls they had built that kept them from going to the Gentiles in order to develop a *passion* for the lost (Acts 10-11). They also had to overcome their fears with the confidence and *courage* that came from trusting God's protection even against the greatest opposition (Acts 12). They had to recognize their calling and *go where they were sent* (Acts 13).

As a pastor, part of my responsibility is to help people recognize their calling and to send them into the world as Christ's witnesses. To do that, our leadership has initiated the following challenge to strive for in the power of the Spirit by the end of 2013:

1,000 conversations with an individual for whom I am regularly praying for salvation

Why did we choose this particular challenge?

This challenges people to focus on the first steps in fulfilling the responsibility that God has given them. I cannot save someone, but *I can influence* the number of conversations we have in attempting to "build redemptive relationships."

I expect this is a **key first step** to lead me closer to a conversation about spiritual things, and about Jesus Christ, which I am praying and trusting God will use to bring that person to faith in Jesus. Starting to build a relationship will allow spiritual conversations to come naturally by providing me an opportunity to love and show compassion. God can use these expressions of love to open hearts to the Good News.

I am fully dependent on the Holy Spirit, so **prayer is a must**. It is great if you are having conversations, but don't leave out the work of the Spirit in this effort! Be in regular prayer for several people; keep a list as a reminder. And see how God can open your eyes and their hearts and your mouth!

Just like effective weight loss requires me to step on the scale, I can also **measure** the number of conversations I have, and particularly with someone I am regularly praying for (not just a one-time event, but as a regular, intentional

action). We will do this with weekly **accountability** sheets handed out each Sunday to complete and turn in. We also started a Facebook group to share encouragement, provide opportunity to report, and to track where we are at.

This will be a **team** challenge. To reach the goal of 1,000 conversations by the end of the year, as a church we are setting that goal of 15 per week, and every fifth week increasing the goal by five. So, by the last five weeks of the year, our church goal is 45 conversations a week. We need something that will draw us together as a team! "You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:9 NASB).

Will you join us in this challenge? *Willingly accept* God's calling you, and *go* — take the first step of building redemptive relationships by praying for and interacting with someone God has placed in your life.

I look forward to what God will do through His People, walking in His Spirit, and Living for His Glory. ■

