

# Gospel Tidings

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The November/December 2000 issue marked the final issue of the *Gospel Tidings*.

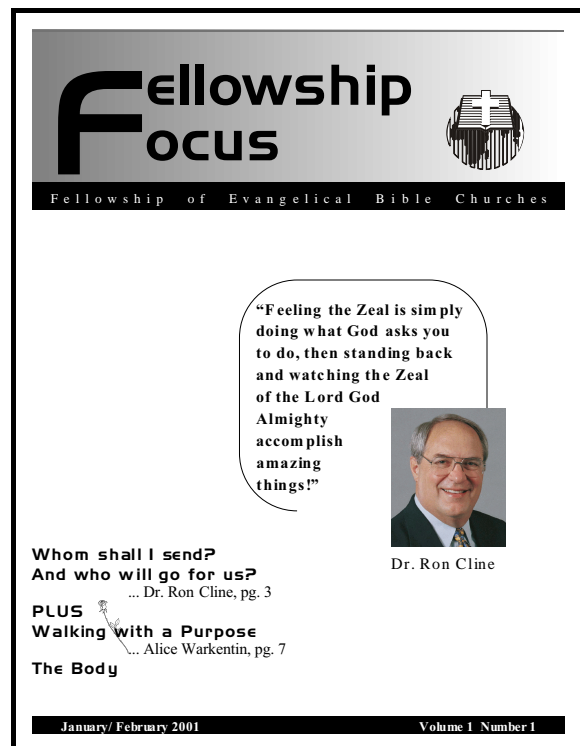
This magazine's first issue was printed in June 1961 with William Regehr serving as editor. Bill continued until December 1983 when Lyle Wahl became editor. Lyle edited the *Gospel Tidings* until September 1987 when Robert Frey took over the helm.

Now, after almost forty years of publishing the magazine for the benefit of members the Commission on Education of the FEBC has ceased publication of this magazine.

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Attached is your first issue of **Fellowship Focus**. Published by the Fellowship of Evangelical Bible Churches for its members, the magazine will endeavor to bring to you news of our churches, informative articles written by our members, pastors, officers and commission members.

We trust that you will find something in each issue that will encourage and edify you.



# Fellowship FOCUS



Fellowship of Evangelical Bible Churches


**“Feeling the Zeal is simply doing what God asks you to do, then standing back and watching the Zeal of the Lord God**

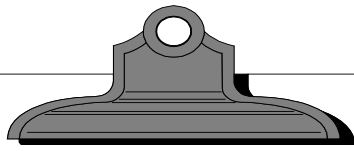
**Almighty accomplish amazing things!”**



Dr. Ron Cline

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And who will go for us?**  
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# CLIPBOARD COMMENTARY

-by **Gerald Epp, President,**  
Fellowship of Evangelical Bible Churches

## *I Do It Self? No Way!*

Many of us in the FEBC family are only two or three generations removed from the pioneering folk who came to farm the western plains of North America. Our God-fearing ancestors survived and flourished, in part at least, due to their ability to work with their hands. Day to day repairs demanded self-reliance. Problems were resolved by one's own wit and skillful action. I still marvel at those stories of breaking and tilling the land, women bearing many children (often without the assistance of even a midwife), daily food preparation for large families, the struggle just to keep warm in winter ... and the list goes on.

That spirit of independence did not die with the pioneers. Several months after our firstborn had learned to walk and run we went outside to play. Not sure of her ability to navigate the uneven ground by herself, I took her hand as we slowly headed toward the swing set.

With a determined tug she pulled herself free from my supporting grasp and emphatically declared, "I do it self!"

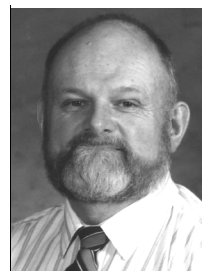
Contrast that spirit of self-sufficient independence with the relationship which God desires to have with His children. He knows our bent toward "I do it self!" attitudes and actions. He knows we are constantly tempted to take personal credit for successes which he has enabled us to achieve. Therefore, like David, we need to continually acknowledge, "Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all."<sup>1</sup> In the same vein, Jesus told the disciples, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."<sup>2</sup>

Nor are we to be independent of our brothers and sisters in Christ. The New Testament "one another" commands clearly enjoin us to live for others—not for self! Included are exhortations to accept, greet, serve, love, and pray for one another. Like the early Christians, we need to gather weekly to encourage each other with our singing, thanksgiving, praising and teaching. So we ask, "Are you active in your Sunday School? Are you committed to an accountability group?"

Looking back to those early pioneers, we see that the really big tasks such as raising a barn, threshing the grain and butchering hogs became community social events. By myself I am unable to plant a church, fully support a missionary, or even significantly alleviate my neighbor's financial plight. However, as we contribute regularly to the ministries of our local fellowship and as we include the FEBC in our charitable giving, God graciously adds a multiplier factor. The results are far beyond anything we could ever accomplish on our own. Therefore, in full dependence on God, let us shun that "I Do it Self" syndrome. May we wholeheartedly *Join Our hands to Strengthen His Church.*

<sup>1</sup> 1Chr 29:12 NIV

<sup>2</sup> John 15:5 NIV



**Gerald** is a retired teacher and coach in Waldheim, Saskatchewan. He and his wife **Ruth** are members of Salem Church (FEBC).

**Zeal:** (n.) Passionate devotion to or interest in a cause, subject, etc.

# *Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?*

By Dr. Ron Cline

In Isaiah 6:8, God asks a simple question: “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” That question is played out every single day of our lives. God looks at the world in which we live ... sees the situation we live in ... the neighborhood we live in ... the place where we work ... the needs of the people around us ... and he asks that question every day, “Who will I send? Who’s going to go for us?”

Isaiah 9:7 tells us the Lord will accomplish what He wants to accomplish by His zeal — the enthusiasm, the power, the strength, the presence of God. So God looks over the earth, and he sees something that needs to be accomplished ... maybe a neighbor who needs to see a live witness ... maybe a single mom who needs some encouragement ... maybe somebody going through a tough physical time who needs you to just sit by them and encourage them and pray with them.

God sees something that needs to be accomplished, and he asks that question, over and over and over.

God will accomplish what He wants to through His zeal, but he does it *through* us. Isn't that amazing? He wants to bless us and give us a sense of His presence while He accomplishes what He wants to do. He doesn't want us to feel like second-class Christians, like spectators sitting on the edge of the road watching other Christians do powerful things. He wants us to be able to pray with somebody and see that person accept Christ. He wants us to feel the zeal of the Lord.

How did Isaiah respond to God's question?

"Here am I, Lord, Send me!" And God saw that, and Isaiah becomes one of the great teachers of scripture.

**It takes a willingness to go** when God asks the question. We have to be willing to leave our comfort zones if we want to feel the zeal.

Clarence Jones, the founder of HCJB World Radio, was a trombone player when God asked him the question back in the 1920s. He didn't know anything about radio, but he was willing to go, and God built a radio ministry that can touch about 80% of the people on earth today with the truth of the Gospel.

**It takes a willingness to care about people.**

If we don't care enough about people, the Lord will just pass us by when He has something to do. Until we care enough, we'll never be available for God to use. We will never feel His zeal.

**It takes a willingness to tell the truth.** It's not politically correct to tell people the truth today ... to say there is only one way to God, and that's through Jesus Christ.

John Wesley, a great 18th century evangelist, was walking down the street one day, and a robber held him up at gunpoint and took all his money. As he turned to leave, John Wesley said, "Wait, wait, wait! You haven't taken the most valuable thing I have!"



**Ron Cline, guest speaker at the FEBC 2001 Convention in Abbotsford, BC**

**“Feeling the Zeal is simply doing what God asks you to do then standing back and watching the Zeal of the Lord God Almighty accomplish amazing things!”**

Dr. Ron Cline

And the robber came back to see what he'd been hiding. "I know who Jesus Christ is, and He's the only one who can get you into Heaven. That's the most valuable thing I can give you today." That robber came to know Christ, because John Wesley wasn't afraid to tell the truth.

It's a scary thing to do. But if you're tired of feeling like an ineffective Christian ... if you're tired of living on automatic pilot ... then it's time to say, "Here I am, Lord. Send me."

Go beyond the call! Be willing to go, willing to care about people and willing to tell the truth, and God will make sure you feel the zeal.

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**Dr. Ronald A. Cline**, president of HCJB World Radio, is a pastor, educator, counselor and missionary. He is an ordained minister and a licensed marriage, family and child counselor, as is his wife, Barbara.

Ron, who grew up in San Diego, was a young man full of anger, due in part to a speech impediment that caused him to stutter. His impediment continued to be a problem until he received Christ as his Savior during an evangelistic crusade at college. He received his salvation on a Monday and on the following Saturday preached his first sermon and did so uninterrupted by his stuttering.

Miraculously, it was gone forever!

Ron is a graduate of Azusa Pacific University in California. He attended Fuller and Talbot seminaries and studied counseling and guidance at Pasadena Graduate School, all in California.

Ron's service with HCJB World radio began in 1976 as a short-term opportunity to pastor the English Fellowship Church in Quito, Ecuador. Since 1982 he has served as president of the mission which has missionaries in Central and South America, Europe, North America, New Zealand, Australia, Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union, North Africa, the Middle East and South Africa.

# Sharpening our Focus!

By Harvey Schultz,  
Ministries Coordinator

## *FOCUS ON LEADERSHIP TRAINING*

Anna Louise and I have just returned from a two week teaching ministry in Haiti. I had been asked to hold leadership seminars for Haitian pastors and church leaders because most of them are under-educated and under-trained for their ministry. My seminars were to help fill this void.

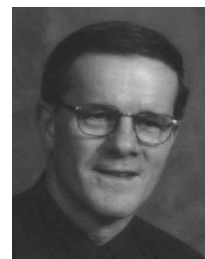
In sharing impressions and observations it would be easy, and yet difficult, to focus solely on the Haitian people and culture. Easy because so much stands out in our minds. Difficult because it is impossible to convey all that one would like in just a few paragraphs.

The purpose of my presence there was to observe, teach and interact with Haitian church leaders. As I did that, I became increasingly aware of what happens when sincere church leaders, who love the Lord, have not received adequate training. They develop misconceptions and poor practices which in turn leave them:

1. ill equipped to combat false teaching
2. ill equipped to evaluate church practices and traditions which might hinder rather than facilitate true spiritual growth
3. ill prepared to discern how cultural leadership patterns may have influenced their own leadership style taking them away from the biblical profile of spiritual leadership.

As a result, the church is vulnerable to false teachings; vulnerable to man-made traditions; vulnerable to leaders who at times unknowingly and unwittingly dominate and exploit God's people rather than facilitate their growth.

As an outsider it was relatively easy to spot dangers and weaknesses in the Haitian church. While it was easy for to spot **their** weaknesses, it made me wonder if we are capable of spotting **our own** weaknesses. Their shortcomings magnified in my mind the importance of adequate, intentional leadership training in all cultures and all churches.



I found myself asking: do we have adequate leadership training programs which enable present and potential church leaders to learn how to:

1. discern erroneous or false teaching which seeks to infiltrate churches in our land?
2. evaluate our practices and traditions in the light of clear biblical teaching, retaining those which are helpful and abandoning those which are not?
3. be aware of non biblical leadership patterns in our own culture which we must avoid in the exercise of spiritual leadership in the Church of Jesus Christ?

We came away from Haiti with a growing burden for leadership training not only in Haiti but also in FEBC churches. If we don't give our present and potential leaders adequate, intentional leadership training from the Word of God, our own churches will become increasingly vulnerable to non-biblical, prevailing, cultural patterns which surround us.

- P.S. At the same time there is much in the Haitian churches which we could and should emulate. While we were there, six people made decisions for Christ in one church due to the activities of a lay group active in visitation and evangelism. Are we doing as much?

# Comment

Changes are happening all over the place!  
A new year. A new magazine. Retirement.  
Moving. Selling. Buying.

Sometimes changes come without our bidding. Other times we welcome them. My wife and I face all of these changes at this time, having known for some time that this would occur. But one cannot be entirely ready for it. Now the time approaches quickly, and we still have so much to do! Packing, getting rid of surplus clothing, etc. Remodeling, cleaning, painting, and buying things for the house.

In the meantime there is still the daily work to do, the magazine to prepare for publication. And the desire to make positive changes but not enough time to devote to it. Soon the daily office work will end. Then editing the magazine for another eleven issues will give activity in retirement.

What do the years ahead hold? Will our health remain good? Will the government pension and personal savings be adequate to meet our needs in the years ahead? Will we have time to do those things we have put off for many years? How will we use our time?

With these, and other, questions bombarding us we can only return to the source of truth and comfort—our God. He has promised to be with us whether we are young or old, sick or well, rich or poor, busy or idle, fulfilled or dissatisfied.

King David said it well in Psalm 16:

<sup>8</sup> I have set the LORD always before me.  
Because he is at my right hand,  
I will not be shaken.

<sup>9</sup> Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue  
rejoices; my body also will rest secure,

<sup>10</sup> because you will not abandon me to the grave,  
nor will you let your Holy One see decay.

<sup>11</sup> You have made known to me the path of life;  
you will fill me with joy in your  
presence,  
with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

Psalm 16:8-11 (NIV)

Please note the new section for children, written and prepared, by Lisa Harriger of Evangelical Bible Church in Omaha. Look for her contributions in the future.

Make plans, even now, to attend the 2001 FEBC Convention in beautiful Abbotsford, British Columbia.

You won't be sorry!



## St. Adolphe, Manitoba Statement

“The Manitoba Ontario Extension Committee and the Commission on Church Planting would like to inform our member churches of the Fellowship of Evangelical Bible Churches that the group identified in the FEBC Day of Prayer Bulletin as Valley Community Bible Church (VCBC) has reluctantly decided to not continue meeting.

Please pray for those who have been hurt by disagreements over the past months about the ministry in St. Adolphe, Manitoba.

Please pray for wisdom for the Extension Committee, Church Planting Commission and the Trustees of FEBC Canada as they clarify and take action to conclude the issues that result from the decision of VCBC to cease.”

### **This statement is authorized by:**

Ed Durksen, Chairman of the Manitoba Ontario Extension Committee

Randy Smart, Chairman of the Commission on Church Planting,

Fellowship of Evangelical Bible Churches

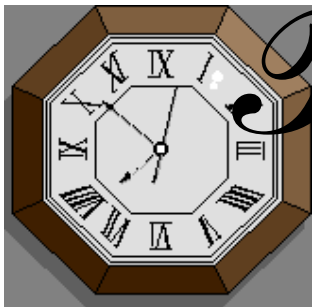
# Focus on Women's Ministries

by Alice Warkentine



## Walking With a Purpose

by  
Alice Warkentin



The phone rings just before 8 a.m. each weekday morning. “Are you ready, Alice?” It’s my friend, Alva. “Yes, I’m ready!”

We take our walk along a beaten path that goes through a lovely wooded park. We continually marvel at God’s creation as we view the foliage, stop to look and listen to the bubbling brook, exclaim at the cute wild rabbits or squirrels, pick a blackberry to eat, check on the ducks at the pond and count the number of ducklings, or look up at the towering trees to see the sky peeking through the leaves.

After a strenuous climb up the path we stop at our “Prayer Bench.” That’s what we call it. This is about half way through our walk. The time of fellowship experienced with our Father is more important than the benefit of the physical exercise.

We share our praise and prayer requests. We prayed for her terminally ill husband who later went to be with the Lord, and we praised Him for taking him home and using the memorial service to speak to many hearts. We pray for her son and family and their ministry as missionaries in Spain. We pray for her visit to Spain for safety and good health. We praise God for answered prayer requests

as we receive them.

I bring my requests: Urgent prayer for grandson in Africa who has malaria. Yes, God answered and he is well today. Art’s second cataract surgery. Yes, both eyes done and all is well. We pray for me as I sing at various locations and at a missions conference in Florida. We pray for my speaking ministry. We pray for the home church and for appointments with unsaved friends. We often bring unsaved relatives and remember them with sincere intercession and for Art and me as we visit my unsaved sister whose husband has terminal cancer.

I tell Alva about my sister, June. Our relationship has always been close. We've been apart for many years and haven't had much contact. June and I were both amazed to see that we had the same desires and habits down to choosing the same type of wallpaper. We both leave kitchen cabinet doors open. I couldn't believe that she left more open than I did! How we laughed when I told them about how Art needed stitches from standing up suddenly and hitting an open door. (Art didn't really think it very funny at the time.) We shared memories of our high school days and how we would sometimes stay over night at each other's place.

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At that time we both lived in different homes earning our room and board.

Now we pray for June and her husband. Both are staunch J.W.'s. We thank God for quiet testimony given during our visit and pray for God to do His miracle work of salvation.

Sometimes Alva and I can't wait until the next day to share an answer to prayer so we phone each other. "God has answered our prayers!" We are so thrilled to have this prayer ministry. Our brisk thirty minute Walk With A Purpose benefits us in more than one way.

So, pull out those old walking shoes, start walking, and discover new meaning in life

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## WHY WALK?

by Charles H. Anderson

Walking takes you away from the TV.

Walking fills your lungs with fresh air.

Walking lifts your spirit.

Walking provides time for fellowship with others and the Lord and intercession for others.

Walking brings you in contact with spiritually lost people.

Walking sharpens your mental faculties.

Walking helps you control your weight.

Walking provides time for planning.

Walking increases your life span, giving you added years to serve God and to enjoy your family."

In past years my husband and I have walked and memorized Scripture. My experience has proven that as we are mindful of walking with God and seeking

His perfect will for our lives, He will use us as we "Walk With A Purpose."

So, pull out those old walking shoes, start walking, and discover new meaning in life.



Alice Warkentin, of Abbotsford, British Columbia, is Vice-Chair of the Commission on Women's Ministries and a member of Grace Evangelical Bible Church (FEBC). She and her husband, Art, are retired SIM missionaries who served in Niger, Africa.

# Women's Ministry Ideas That Work

## 1. *Remember the Shut-ins*

During the winter months organize several evenings of visiting people in your community who are not able to get out. Going in pairs makes it more enjoyable. The shut-ins will love you for it!

2. *Silver Boxes* suitable for a Prayer Sister Night—a night to encourage each other. Each lady receives a small box wrapped in silver with a bow and a magnet on the back. Have someone speak on encouragement using the book *Silver Boxes* by Florence Littauer. At the end of the evening give a door prize consisting of a basket with a mug, special drink mixes and the “Silver Boxes” book. The person who receives the door prize, reads the book, makes up new stuff in the box and sends it along with someone else. This basket continues to make its rounds. The encouragement continues even after the evening!

January 2001

FEBC  
Women's  
Ministries

Memory  
Verses  
with  
Song  
- 2001 -



7. **Proverbs 12:25**  
“An anxious heart weighs a man down, but a kind word cheers him up.”

*Song* “All Your Anxiety”

8. **Psalm 143:1**  
“O LORD, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy; in your faithfulness and righteousness come to my relief.”

*Song* “Faith is the Victory”

# Larry Priebe is Ordained



Larry and Wilma Priebe with sons Dann and Josh.

On a snowy November 12 Sunday afternoon, Richer Fellowship Church, on Southeast Drive in Richer, Manitoba, celebrated the ordination of Pastor Larry Priebe. A large crowd attended to witness the ceremony and stayed to visit during the lunch which followed. Family, many friends, including several pastors from other churches in southeastern Manitoba were able to attend.

D. K. Friesen, the first pastor of Richer Fellowship Church, led the ordination vows, responded to by Pastor Priebe and the congregation. Pastor Bob Vogt from Steinbach's Cornerstone Church gave the ordination prayer. Susan Reid prayed for Wilma in her role as Pastor's wife, and the guest speaker was Pastor Tom Peachey of Grunthal EMB. Special numbers were sung by George Coyle and Ike Tina Doerksen of Paradise Village.

Born and raised in Abbotsford, B.C., Larry Priebe graduated from Briercrest Bible College in 1973, as did his wife Wilma. They served with GMU from 1974 to 1990 as missionaries in Mali, Africa. Larry graduated with a BA from Northwest Baptist Theological College (Vancouver) in 1980 and took his Biblical Studies at Briercrest Biblical Seminary (Caronport, Saskatchewan), graduating in 1993.

Larry and Wilma came to Richer in 1994 following a call to become pastor of the Richer Fellowship Church. They have enthusiastically entered into the life of the community. Wilma is secretary of the Richer Community Club and Larry bears a remarkable resemblance to Santa Claus. Wilma was secretary to the registrar of Steinbach Bible College from 1995 to 2000 and is also a licensed massage therapist. They are the parents of two married sons, Dann and Josh, and their first grandchild, Ruthe Hannah Priebe, was born on November 18.

## Pastor-Church Update

*Fellowship of Evangelical Bible Churches*

The **EMB Church of Marion, South Dakota** has called **Rev. Marvin Wall** to serve as their pastor. Marvin is currently pastor of the Bethel Church in Winkler, Manitoba. No stranger to our Fellowship, Marvin grew up in the EMB Church of Lustre, Montana. He and his wife **Mary Ann** are parents of five adult children. They will begin their new ministry May 1, 2001.

**Community Bible Church** of Omaha, Nebraska announces the hiring of **John Buerger** to serve as part-time youth pastor.

The **EMB Church, Mountain Lake, Minnesota**, seeks a new pastor. **Rev. Ken Unruh**, who came out of retirement to serve the church, will step down when a replacement is found.

**Rev. Thomas Justice** submitted his resignation to the **Faith Evangelical Bible Church** of Henderson, Nebraska December 10, 2000. His future plans are uncertain.

### Churches Currently Seeking Pastors:

- |   |                  |                          |
|---|------------------|--------------------------|
| ◆ <b>EMB Church</b>                     |                  | Mountain Lake, Minnesota |
| ◆ <b>Community Bible Church</b>         | Associate Pastor | Omaha, Nebraska          |
| ◆ <b>Faith Evangelical Bible Church</b> |                  | Henderson, Nebraska      |

**Hodgson Bible Church  
Hodgson, Manitoba  
James Thiessen, Pastor**

Clint Hartog returned to Millar College of the Bible for his second year of studies.

We are back in our weekly Bible studies of a Creation video series by Dr. Kent Hovind. It causes us to marvel at the greatness of God.

The church hosted its annual Thanksgiving supper on October 22. Quite a few community people joined us in the celebration. We were sorry that our pastor, James Thiessen, was unable to attend due to his severe back ailments.

Five of our youth, with sponsors Darcy and Mandy Plett, attended *Youthedge* at Millar College of the Bible. Laser tag, workshops, volleyball, basketball, human football, etc. added to enjoyment of the weekend. Our congregation was much in prayer for them as they traveled home on treacherous roads in the season's first winter storm.

**Evangelical Bible Church  
Dallas, Oregon  
Jerry Franz, Pastor**

We were privileged to have *Faithful Heart*, a country gospel group, in concert at our November Christian Endeavor Service. Our own Jim Rupp, Sheldon Schmidt and Lanny Pope are in the group.

A Sunday evening was devoted to *Reaching our Community for Christ*. This was a presentation of community ministries, including MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers), Child Evangelism Fellowship, International Students, Awana and Weekday School of the Bible

Our youth groups keep busy with the high school gathering to discuss Christian conduct and living, going on a *Manhunt* and co-hosting a fund-raiser with the women's ministries. Their Christmas party had a white elephant gift exchange, and they rang in the New Year with games, pizza and a movie. *No Parking*, the Jr. High Thursday meetings, include games, singing, teaching and food. They went bowling, performed *Rake and Run*, raking leaves for members needing a helping hand, and had a Christmas party.

Women's Ministries Christmas Boutique and Candlelight Dessert is a highlight of the year and an opportunity to expose unchurched friends to the plan of salvation. Guest speaker, Cheryl Peterson, a pastor's wife from nearby Monmouth, presented her talk with humor, openness, and a very clear message of salvation.

Our Missions Committee's creative Missionary Prayer Booklet contained missionary prayer cards.

# Unfocused

## News and Notes about the FEBC Family

Four FEBC Bible college students received scholarships of \$750 CND from the Commission on Education:

- Kevin Adrian** from Salem Church, Waldheim, studying at Nipawin Bible Institute
- Joel Armstrong**, son of missionaries Henry and Jan Armstrong from EMB Church, Grunthal, attending Prairie Bible College
- Arnold Boschmann** from EMB Church, Filadelfia, Paraguay Regent College
- Tawnya Littlejohn** from Community Bible Church, Omaha, attending Grace University
- Robyn Schubert** from Evangelical Bible Church, Omaha, attending Grace University

Two students received \$375 each:

- Matthew Enns** from Faith EBC, Henderson, attending Frontier School of the Bible
- Steve Smith** from Morris Mennonite church in Morris, MB, attending Providence College

Someone left funds from their estate to establish this scholarship fund. You can help students prepare for Christian ministry by giving to the **FEBC Scholarship Fund**.

Four FEBC collegians received grants from the Commission on Missions to attend the Urbana 2000 Student Missions Conference. Laurel Classen, Ryan Schroeder, and Michael Unruh from EMB Church, Mt. Lake, MN and Robyn Schubert from EBC in Omaha. FEBC Missionary Dennis Wiens was one of the presenters at this conference of 18,000 students.

Small groups in our FEBC Churches are using:

- The Testing of your Faith** (video series) from Walk Thru the Bible
- How to Manage Your Money** (video series) by Larry Burkette
- Parenting by Heart** (video series) from Total TV
- The Jesus I Never Knew** (book/video) by Philip Yancey
- Experiencing God** (book) by Henry Blackaby
- Growing Kids God's Way** (video series) by the Ezzos

You can borrow some of these videos and purchase books through FEBC Publications.

The FEBC Trustees have sold the vacant lots across the street from Ember Manor, the FEBC Headquarters. They received \$15,000 for the three lots. Arrangements are being made to sell Ember Manor in the near future and move the office to a new location.

They also prepared Christmas gift boxes for families to take home, deposit their "loose change" or checks and bring to church for love gifts to our missionaries. A great way to involve the whole family.

The musical, *Mission Possible*, was presented by our children. The choir cantata, *Great Day*, was given in the morning worship service on Christmas Eve.

The Dallas, *Fifth Sunday* All City Praise Service, was held on New Year's Eve at the First Presbyterian Church with a theme of *Go Light Your World*.

Dallas had a few exciting days as the "white stuff" fell on December 11. It only lasted a few days but we enjoyed it while it was here. No white Christmas for us, but we did have beautiful sunshine.

Sue Dirks, Correspondent

## Meade EMB Church

Meade, Kansas

David Cummings, Pastor

Laureen Bartel, Shaina Ediger, Luke Enns, and Rebekah Harshberger were baptized and accepted into church membership November 5. Courtney Cummings also joined church that day.

At CE the film *Something to Sing About* was shown.

A community benefit soup supper was held to help the Brooks family. Kyle, the mother, has died of cancer since then. With five children ages 0-12 to care for, Mr. Brooks cannot work.

Our Harvest Mission Festival speakers were Ken and Karen Toews and Marc and Amber Boeker, who were accepted as our church missionaries. At the Men's Breakfast Marc brought the devotional and Karen and Amber shared at the Ladies' Brunch. This was followed by a baby shower for Amber. Ken and Karen had K-6 activities at the grade school gym. Marc and Amber had activities for Jr. and Sr. Hi. A telephone call was made to LaVern and Marlene Smith in Trinidad.

Our church had a Christmas open house displaying more than forty quilts with stories about each one. Many area churches participated in the annual meat canning. They canned 14,190 lbs. of beef.

Christmas activities included a Senior Citizens Luncheon; *The Real Story of the Night before Christmas*, given by the Jr. S.S. Department; Ladies' Christmas Candlelight Dessert; Christmas Worship Service.

The last worship service of the year was a time of sharing, since the pastor was sick. The evening service was cancelled due to snow.

Ann Classen, Correspondent

## Richer Fellowship Church

Richer, Manitoba

Larry Priebe, Pastor

Awana fun nights these past few months included an emphasis on missions. They brought items in their backpacks and dined on *Hobo Stew!* For Christmas, each one lit a candle on a muffin and sang *Happy Birthday, Jesus*—signifying that Jesus came for each one.

Adults didn't miss the fun as they had a Christmas dinner. About 60 people attended and enjoyed skits, carols and *Clogging* demonstration by the Smalls. Game night was another fun gathering.

Our school Child Evangelism groups continue to be a blessing, as it is a different group of children than the AWANA group. We are fortunate to have this opportunity for outreach. Joy Nemez has filled in with the younger children while Lynda Brown was away. The older group watched the *Jesus* video for children for the last few weeks.

Our big November event was the ordination of Pastor Larry Priebe. With the church full of visitors, it was a very special time to share with our fellow churches.

Susan Reid, Correspondent

## Gospel of Grace Church

Hooker, Oklahoma

Tim Elsner, Pastor

Dedication for Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes was held before they were taken to a receiving center in Texas.

The Women's Ministry filled our usual bake-sale booth at our high school sponsored arts and crafts exhibition. Proceeds from this endeavor help support our missionary families.

Missionaries for Missions Conference were David and Eileen Barkman and children and Alicia Kliewer. The Barkmans presented an appeal for fellow-workers, also seeking to build another support team so they may return to Japan in July 2001 to continue ministry. David will serve as the SEND Japan field evangelism coordinator. Alicia Kliewer, our church's "sort-of grandchild," presented her GMU field of ministry at the Málaga Media Center in southern Spain. She plans to leave in January.

*An Old Fashioned Christmas* was the theme of the Women's Ministry party. Following the salad supper, carols and an appropriate devotional by Brandy Elsner, we had "grab box" gift exchange.

It was our privilege to show love with a grocery shower; goods filled Christmas baskets for several of our town's less fortunate families.

Melvina Wichert, Correspondent

## Christian Fellowship Chapel

Winnipeg Manitoba

Allen Dueck, Pastor

November was *Missions Month* at C.F.C. Each Sunday a different local missionary present their work in the city of Winnipeg. The following people shared: Don Amell (Union Gospel Mission); Kevin Clarke (Awana Cubs); Sheldon Rempel (Gospel Missionary Union in Mali—home on furlough); Mark Dobbs (Xpress Lines). At the Men's Breakfast and pm Ladies Tea, Fred & Mary Penner shared some of the unseen difficulties and sometimes negative aspects of being a missionary. We had an informal Sunday Night Gospel Song and Hymn Sing in which we highlighted the life of Fanny Crosby with readings pertaining to her life's experiences, interspersed with a number of songs she had written.

Our Christmas Banquet speaker was Don Pickel (GMU). The Sunday School and Awana presented the Christmas Program. The theme of the Candlelight Christmas Eve Service was *Listen to the Voices of Christmas* taken from Woodrow Kroll's *Twelve Voices of Christmas*.

John & Mary Dyck, Corr.

## Salem Church

Waldheim, Saskatchewan

Darrell Derksen, Pastor

*Salem Family Days*, Nov. 3-5, was a special weekend with events planned for all ages. Rev. Melvin Epp, Swift Current, SK, gave a challenge to each age group.

Our church participated in the province-wide *Power to Change* campaign. Speakers impacted many lives, and packets were given to unsaved people. This will be followed by the Alpha program.

Many boxes were again prepared for *Operation Christmas Child*.

The WM enjoyed a salad supper on Prayer Sister Night. Priscilla Derksen shared on the topic *Friendships of Women*.

On December 3 we received the following new members: Barry and Connie Friesen, Dylan Thiessen, James Schultz, Cheri Derksen and Stephanie Willems.

At our Dec. 9 Christmas banquet David White, Saskatoon, shared in testimony and music.

We participated in the community *Carol Festival*. Our children/youth Christmas program was directed by Len & Marg Fehr. Twenty-seven food hampers were distributed to needy families.

Ray and Cheryl Unrau visited Russ and Sang Hee Harder, missionaries to Morocco.

Gladys Schultz, Correspondent

**Lustre EMB Church  
Lustre, Montana  
John Skillman, Pastor**

Guest speaker Eldon Busnitz brought an encouraging message to the congregation on Nov 5.

An all day women's ministries meeting was held at the home of Donna Waitschies. Donna made homemade soup, and the rest of the ladies brought sandwiches. Ruth Rauch and Nancy Wall led the morning and afternoon devotions. Over 40 shoe boxes filled with Christmas gifts were brought for Operation Christmas Child. People from north of the community wanted to be a part of this exciting project and brought in boxes.

Carolyn Fauth, Correspondent

**Jansen Bible Church  
Jansen, Nebraska  
Paul Carpenter, Pastor**

Our annual Missions Conference was held November 17-19. Most of the speakers were from our church: Jeff and Nicky Porter, preparing for service with New Tribes Mission; Sam and Deb Dick are on furlough from Mali (GMU); and, John Kroeker (GMU) who left for the Bahamas Jan. 2, 2001. David Knapp, representing NTM, spoke to us Friday evening.

The ladies revealed their prayer sisters at a salad supper December 5. New prayer sisters were chosen.

The evening of December 10 we enjoyed a program of instrumental Christmas music. On the 17th we had the regular Christmas program.

After the New Year's Eve service we gathered at the home of Ed and Peggy Friesen for soup and sandwiches. Following that we went to the pastor's house for snacks and dessert and to see in the New Year.

Katharine Kroeker, Correspondent

**Evangelical Bible Church  
Omaha, Nebraska  
Don Pahl, Senior Pastor**

November was an exciting month for EBC as we celebrated our 40th Anniversary. We thank the committee who worked so hard to make this a memorable weekend. Friday night, *Celebrating the Past*, was a nostalgic evening of music, videos of early days, and interviews with former pastors and charter members. An informal Saturday morning brunch gave opportunity to look at pictures and fellowship with former pastors and members. The highlight was a great Saturday evening banquet prepared by Carol Lind and her committee. The evening focused on *Serving Today*, singing, sharing, another video with the emphasis on current

ministries. Sunday morning and evening were dedicated to *Pursuing Tomorrow*, looking to the future. The Sunday evening service closed with communion.

It was a joy to welcome three former pastors. Eldin Classen served early in the history of EBC; Hal and Carol Schultz served from 1974 until 1982 and now serve First Baptist Church in Oceanside CA. Paul and Cheryl Nyquist were with us for thirteen years, moving in 1996 to Des Moines, IA.

A new Adult Bible Fellowship has been organized. Pastor Harvey and Judy Gilbert enjoy working with the 20/30 age group who are married or single.

The annual *Turkey Trek* was a real success as Pastor Gary and a large group of High School youth went to the Leadership Center at Aurora, Nebraska for a weekend of fun and inspiration. On another weekend all the families of Jr. and Sr. High students were invited to ice skating at Ak-Sar-Ben.

Rick and Cheri Romer dedicated their son, Timothy.

Phyllis Watson, Correspondent

**E.M.B. Church  
Mt. Lake, MN  
Ken Unruh, Pastor**

Tuesday Morning and *Breaking Free* Bible studies continue to meet regularly. The Wednesday night Bible Study and the AWANA meet with the M.B. church.

On the first Sunday of November we showed a video on Christian responsibility towards voting.

Missionaries at our Missionary Conference were Wes & Barb Peters and Wanda Classen. At the Women's Ministry annual meeting they shared a missionary tea on Sunday afternoon with our missionaries Wanda Classen and Barb Peters. The woman celebrated with a Christmas supper, emphasizing the light we are in this world and how to carry the light at this Christmas season. They brought baby blankets for the needy as MCC Christmas gifts.

At our CFS evening service we recalled memories of Christmas with caroling and fellowship around beautifully decorated Christmas tables.

The Christmas Eve offering went to Laurel Classen, Ryan Schroeder, and Michael Unruh who attended Urbana 2000.

We were guests at the MB church New Years Eve service. It was an informal evening of fellowship with the M.B. church and the Delft MB and EMB churches. The evening included a Wycliffe video, *You Can't Ride Two Horses*, singing, testimonies and food.

**Dalmeny Bible Church  
Dalmeny, Saskatchewan  
Ron Adrian, Pastor**

Missions services were held with Darryl and Martha Neudorf and Stephen and Charman Hoff. Also, Emie Dyck, WorldTeam Canadian Director, spoke at a reception.

Pastor Harry and Wanda, Pastor Rick and Kelly, and Dora Adrian attended the Billy Graham School of Evangelism at Lake Louise.

Stan and Ricki Reddekopp were baptised and accepted as members on November 26.

The Junior & Senior High participated in a Mall Hunt. They also had Christmas parties, pizza, games, and a gift exchange.

*Women on the Grow* had their Annual Craft & Bake Sale. A good turn out made it possible to raise funds for our missionaries. Janice Dearing shared her testimony.

At our Church Christmas Banquet, *Daystar Praise* provided music. The delicious food was catered by *Oven Scents*.

The Christmas Program was entitled *God Came Near*. Adults and children did a wonderful job.

Christmas Decorating Ideas was the feature at our Ladies Christmas Tea. Laurie Rempel ministered in music. Sande Konechny gave the monologue *A Story for Christmas*.

At our Christmas Eve Candle-light Service Pastor Rick gave a short devotional. Sam Enns and Doreen Benson provided music.

The year ended with a New Year's Eve Service. A video was shown. Time was spent sharing highlights and blessings of 2000.

Marilyn Harder, Correspondent

**Grace Church  
Abbotsford, British Columbia  
Dwain Holsapple, Senior Pastor**

During our Thanksgiving season, we were delighted to list among our blessings our pastoral staff: Pastor Dwain, Steve Sept, Mark Enns and Randy Heinrichs. The church family shared an Oct. 15 service and a Thanksgiving meal.

It was wonderful having Clara Klassen home on furlough this summer. Clara returned to Burkina Faso in September, anticipating involvement in clinic administration with SIM Int'l.

Tony & Rose Dickens, retired from their ministry in Kenya, have settled in Williams Lake, BC. Henry & Lois Hildebrandt returned from their 6 month term in Kenya.

At our Missions Conference, David Collins, Canadian Food for the Hungry, gave stirring accounts of his ministry trips and challenged us to personal ministry. Our church family enjoyed a Youth Progressive dinner, a men's breakfast with David Collins and Stephen Hoff speaking, and a ladies luncheon with Wilma Priebe and Charman Hoff sharing. We have been blessed to have Stephen and Charman Hoff involved in music, VBS, Cross Country and Care Groups. We pray with them as they prepare to minister in East Asia with Wycliffe.

Three couples dedicated their babies Oct. 29: Jacob Waltisbuhl by Ross and Sue; Mackenzie Penner by Dave and Michelle; and Faith Loechmann by Mike and Brenda. Jacob and his family have returned to their native Australia.

Baptised Nov. 5 were Helaine Boyd, Ashley Cowdy, Ashley Fast, Grant Kask and Sarah Niessen.

Dale Regehr returned from the Ukraine in December. He spent 6 months working with *Ezra*, a ministry to street kids.

Family Christmas Night in early December was great fellowship and a fun way to give our church a festive look for Christmas season. Pastor Steve and kids from *Starting Line* led us in celebrating Advent by lighting candles each Sunday. *Grace Kids Productions*, led by Suzanne Fehr and Pastor Steve, presented a wonderful Christmas musical, *A Dream Come True*. We closed the year with communion at the New Year's Eve service.

Elaine Mierau, Correspondent

### **Community Bible Church Wolf Point, Montana David Lind, Pastor**

With joy we witnessed the baptism of five individuals on Nov. 19. Two adults, Bob and Aaron Lee, and three youth, Anthony Lind, Rachel Lee, and Kymbre Lytle, gave testimony of the Lord's salvation of their lives and committed themselves to following Him. Bob Lee was also accepted into the church's membership following his baptism.

Our church participates in Mennonite Disaster Services projects. Anthony Lind joined Lustre youth to help build fences destroyed by summer fires in the Townsend, MT area. Martin Fast of the Lustre EMB Church coordinated that work project and gave a report to the church.

On each fifth Sunday the Wolf Point churches sponsor a singspiration. Our church hosted the singspiration on December 31

and combined it with a New Year's Eve fellowship. The World Wide Pictures video *Something To Sing About* was shown. Fellowship with food and games was available for anyone who wanted to stay to watch the New Year arrive. Three couples (two of them retired) stayed until after midnight. The evening was an encouragement to all who attended, and the video is recommended to other churches.

### **Evangelical Bible Church Langham, Saskatchewan Brian Thiessen, Senior Pastor**

November began with several of our men attending the Promise Keepers rally in Saskatoon.

Many youth and adults attended Campus Crusade's *Power to Change* events during the month. Praise God He has the power to change us to be more like Him!

Our church leadership had an excellent retreat at Camp Kadash with Harvey Schultz leading and teaching the sessions. It was a refreshing learning time which we encourage other churches to do.

We rejoice with Nathan Barth who was baptized and received into membership November 26.

Shoe boxes were collected for Samaritan's Purse through our Awana club program.

Our Christmas Banquet was a good time of fellowship. The offering completed our missions project goal to fund the building of a worship center in India.

Much hard work went into *The Bethlehem Project* musical put on by the Youth and Junior Sunday School department. We had the privilege of sending one of our university students, Collene Hansen, to Urbana following Christmas. Christmas Eve was celebrated in the morning with a candlelight service. We serve a good God—He met every financial need of our church this past year and we praise Him for it.

Marilyn Friesen, Correspondent

### **Holmes Park Bible Church Lincoln, Nebraska Jeff Friesen, Pastor**

On October 21 about 30 people drove to Mulder Park south of Lincoln for a lovely evening enjoying a hayride, wiener roast and singing around the campfire.

On Nov. 7, after sharing their testimonies, father and daughter, Dave and Kate Stajner, Peggy Ruble and Pat and Sandy Devlin followed the Lord in baptism.

About 60 people gathered in the church fellowship hall on Nov. 8 for our Thanksgiving banquet. We were greatly challenged by the message brought by Rev. Kevin

Pringle. The missionary offering will be used by Kirby and Isabelle Dunn for supplies needed for our missionary trip in January.

On Dec. 3 we met to decorate the church for Christmas, including setting up the mitten tree. The articles brought to decorate it were shared with the People's City Mission. Then we caroled at two care centers, several homes and the hospital where Pastor Ray's wife, Trudy, had knee surgery.

The Ladies Fellowship Christmas gathering included singing, games, devotions and good food. An offering and gifts of canned goods were given to the People's City Mission.

Our children presented a Christmas program two times. In the afternoon they gave it at the Ambassador Care Center. In the evening they presented it again for family and friends at church.

We saw the Old Year out by gathering at church for a service to celebrate what God had done for us in the past year. Following the service, all were invited to the home of Jeff and Wendy Friesen to play games and enjoy food until the dawn of a new millennium.

Trudy Reimer, Correspondent

### **North East Bible Church Calgary, Alberta Gilles Castonguay, Pastor**

On November 12, we welcomed speaker Larry Mitchell from Christian Friends of Israel.

The next week, we enjoyed the ministry of Pastor Alvin Buhler and the youth group from our sister church in Rhineland, SK. The youth presented special music to us and Pastor Alvin shared his message, entitled *Eureka!*

After working diligently through the year, the ladies held a craft sale at the end of November. They created the crafts individually, and as a group, meeting together regularly over the year. The craft sale was a great success, as they raised \$362.56. Thank you to all whom participated in this event.

On Dec. 10, we held our Church Family Christmas Celebration. It began with carol singing. A quiz was given to test our knowledge about Christmas. The evening ended with food and fellowship.

Darren and Paula Pietrobono were welcomed as new members of our church family during the Dec. 17 Sunday morning service.

At our Christmas Eve candlelight service Andrew Staples, Crystal Popke, and Candice Popke ministered to us with their special music. Roseanne Staples shared the poem *Once Upon A Christmas* and Tanis Harms and her dad, John

Henry led the carol singing. Pastor Gilles shared a timely message about the birth of Christ and our need for a savior.

Kim Harms, Correspondent

**Morris Mennonite Church  
Morris, Manitoba  
Dave Smith, Pastor**

Over 30 Christmas shoe boxes were dedicated November 12 and sent to Samaritans Purse.

Harold and Cheryl Waldner, missionaries to Columbia, hosted a November 19 appreciation night to 123 people and served a Columbian meal. They shared their work and life style in Columbia.

A Christmas social featured a singers from the local Hutterite Colony. The ladies donated money to buy groceries for a church family.

Conrad and Brenda Dueck, Nathaniel and Samuel, missionaries to Ghana, Africa, returned home for a few weeks of much-needed rest and to enjoy Christmas with family.

Church caroler's ministered at the local villa, hospital, manor and lodge. Several from the church were involved in serving at the Community Christmas dinner for people with no family around.

The program *Glitz and Glory and I Wonder About Christmas* was presented by live actors with slides and junior choir. It portrayed the meaning of Christmas, that neither the past or future can change.

Christmas morning we gathered to sing carols and be ministered to with special music and singing. We were challenged by the symbolism and meaning of the *Star*, the *Stable* and the *Manger*.

Kay Bobrowski, Correspondent

**Christian Fellowship Church  
Rhineland, Saskatchewan  
Alvin Buhler, Pastor**

November began with our annual Missions Conference. Attending were: Steve and Mikki Schmidt (SIM), Walter and Cindy Selke (NAIM), Sheldon Rempel (GMU), and Conrad and Florence Plett (NCEM). Steve Schmidt spoke to us from God's Word each evening.

The same weekend many of our youth attended *Youth Edge* at Millar College of the Bible.

On Nov. 17-19 our pastor, his wife, our youth sponsors and some of our youth group, traveled to Calgary to help with the Operation Christmas Child boxes project. They also spoke and brought music at our sister church.

Our Ladies' Fellowship held elections and hosted prayer sister exchange night. Our church and community were involved in the

*Power To Change* campaign in our province. The Youth Group held a Youth Rally in the local High School Gym. Adults held a friendship Christmas banquet where we were encouraged to reach out and bring friends

The men of our church have met a couple of times for Saturday morning breakfast at a local home, culminating in a time of prayer.

Our Christmas Sunday School Program was held on a Sunday morning this year. The next Sunday we had a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. Our Youth Group Christmas banquet was followed by fun, fellowship, and Chinese gift exchange.

Many of us enjoyed New Year's Eve at Pastor Alvin and Verna's home. The youth saw in the New Year at the church.

Dianne Jansen, Correspondent

**Faith Evangelical Bible Church  
Henderson, Nebraska**

November was busy with pre-election prayer meetings. Missionary Wes Peters shared his ministry. The choir also prepared for the Christmas program under the direction of Mikki Schmidt.

The Women's Ministry sent care packages to our college youth. Their Christmas Tea program included music, carols, devotional readings and poems.

A pot-luck meal was held to honor Pastor Thom Justice and his family as he stepped down as our pastor on December 10.

The SS classes put on a Christmas program of music and the Christmas story. At a Christmas Eve candlelight service Bob and Alice Decker gave a story to the kids using the advent wreath and candles. A New Year's Eve celebration included fellowship, games, snacks and a video.

Awana grey shirts had a sock drive for the Peoples City Mission in Lincoln. Over 100 pairs of socks were collected and gratefully received by people at the mission.

New members inducted were Curtis and Mary Folkerts.

Esther Edelman, Correspondent

**Vita Bible Church  
Vita, Manitoba  
Dave Loeppky, Pastor**

In direct opposition to its bold beginning, the year 2000 quietly stepped into the history books. It was a glorious year of seeing God's faithfulness and experiencing His peace and presence.

Drought, violent storms, flooding, anthrax, personal disaster in the community, building program, crop failures, more flooding—God has moment by

moment, crisis by crisis, been faithful to lead and sustain.

November and December were filled with Christmas activities and programs. December 1 found us enjoying games, Christmas carols and fried chicken at our Christmas Dinner fund raiser. The youth enjoyed a progressive supper and Christmas party. (Bring your own socks! What are they up to?) Together they enjoyed the Christmas pageant at Providence Our Christmas program involved the various Sunday School classes plus the drama, *Halo Express*. On Christmas eve we gathered in the sanctuary to listen to scripture readings and carols reminding us of Christ's birth. We marvel at the magnitude of God's gift of Jesus Christ to us.

New Year's eve was again a time of games, choruses and prayers. Through it all we were blessed with family and friends.

We look forward to special meetings with Mr. Ken Hoepfner, the chaplain for Timer Express Lines, to be held Jan. 12-14.

Our spirits are stirred by Campus Crusade's upcoming spring focus on Southern Manitoba. Our prayers have been for revival and saving of souls. God is responding. Lord, give us grace to die to self, discernment to hear Your voice, and power to obey. Slip us into the current of your movement.

M. Mack, Correspondent

**EMB Church  
Grunthal, Manitoba  
Tom Peachey Jr., Pastor**

Sunday mornings we have pre-service prayer in the Fireside Room.

Women's Ministries organized a Nov. 19 Soup & Dessert dinner

Pastor Tom and Connie were encouraged and refreshed after a retreat at Camp Arnes. Frank Wiens, still fondly known by many as our circuit riding preacher<sup>2</sup>, used his gifts to minister to MOEC pastors and their wives.

At our November 24 business meeting committee positions were filled. We have decided to hire a ministries coordinator to take care of secretarial work and to ease Pastor Tom's administrative duties so he can concentrate on pastoral ministry.

December 4, WM sang carols, watched videos and had a finger food buffet supper.

Youth presented *The Father's House*, written by sponsor Roxanne Classen, at a dessert theatre December 16.

Care groups, the youth, and the Silver Group made sure that many Grunthal and area residents heard

beloved Christmas carols.

On Christmas Eve the Sunday School presented the precious message of our Savior's coming. As few churches have a service December 24, we are always privileged to have many guests. This year, the goodie bags had surprise treats as Ron and Eunice Wiebe had sent candy from Brazil.

The youth organized A "Blast from the Past" for Dec. 31. All age groups took part as a costume contest, games and food kept us busy. Then sharing, singing and prayer took us into the new year.

### **Cornerstone Bible Church Steinbach, Manitoba Bob Vogt, Pastor**

We started November with a special report from Stephanie Reimer, who spent three months on a Missions trip to Bolivia, and Lori Quiring. Lori and her husband Brad are missionaries in Arequipa, Peru with TEAM. Their home was broken into and their electronic goods were stolen. We believe God wanted Lori to make her visit to Canada since her purse which held her ticket and passport were untouched!

YABS (Young Adult Bible Study) made a dramatic move when they changed their name to *Living Word Bible Study*. Many of the "young adults" aren't so young any more since the group began 7 or 8 years ago (myself included).

The Hearts and Hands Ladies again coordinated the Operation Christmas Child shoebox collection. Forty-nine boxes were kindly donated by our members.

We were musically blessed Nov. 26, when Matthew Zacharias from Waldheim, SK gave a mini-concert on his saxophone, accompanied by Cristelle Schultz.

Peter & Helen Kehler celebrated 60 years of marriage on November 30. Congratulations!

December, as usual, was filled with many celebrations. The annual Deacon's Seniors Banquet; the Jesus Seekers Bible Study had a potluck supper; Circle One Ladies had a Christmas Dinner; the College & Career had a party; the Ladies Bible Study enjoyed a Christmas Tea; the Focus ladies, Hearts & Hands ladies and Living Word Bible Study had parties.

The Steinbach Regional Secondary School Chorale visited us on December 10 during the morning worship service with some wonderful music.

The church building was full on December 17 for the Sunday School program. The little ones brought their delightful songs and poems, and the Grades 1-6 put on

"Shine, Jesus Shine" wearing their star costumes. Carol Guenther did a great job of directing this play. Later the *tutjes* were passed around to the kids and guests.

Our Christmas service was held on December 25 and our annual Variety Night on D 31.

Paula Kornelson, Correspondent

### **Community Bible Church Omaha, Nebraska Charles Tschetter, Pastor**

CBC welcomed a new staff member in December. At its annual business meeting, the membership voted unanimously to call John Buerger to serve as the part-time youth pastor. John grew up in Oklahoma City and was the youth pastor at Rolling Hills Church in Papillion, NE, before coming to CBC where he has taught the senior high youth. He is a third-year student at Grace University, working toward a degree in Biblical Studies/Christian Education.

The Thanksgiving and Christmas season brought many opportunities to worship and fellowship. The congregation enjoyed feasting at the annual Thanksgiving dinner held after a Sunday service in November. In early December the women of CBC gathered on a snowy night to warm up at a *Down-Home Country Christmas*. A sampling of delicious soups, breads and desserts were served, followed by holiday crafts and a gift exchange.

This year's Christmas Cantata, *The Wonder of Christmas*, under the direction of Dr. Greg Zielke, provided an important time of rejoicing and reflection on the season. Finally, in addition to our traditional service, we enjoyed food and conversation at a brunch held Christmas Eve morning.

After Christmas, many of our senior high youth headed to Camp Forest Springs, Wisconsin, for Winterainment 2000. The week was packed with Bible teaching, winter sports and fellowship.

Sharon Berg, Correspondent

### **Fairview Bible Church Swift Current, Saskatchewan Tim Zacharias, Pastor**

In December the Power to Change Program was in full swing. Many events were sold out and all were attended very well. It was a very enriching experience to be part of the Prayer Teams and watch how God was touching lives.

The Christmas Season was a time to take a new look at the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. On December 10, Pastor Tim and Elma hosted an Open House for the

Church Family. Our Christmas Banquet was held December 19 as about 60 gathered to enjoy a challenge from God's Word by Pastor Donovan Epp. Pastor Donovan also blessed us with his singing. On the morning of the 24th the Choir presented the Cantata *While Shepherds Watched*.

To end the year we had a fun and fellowship evening at the Pastor's home. It was a wonderful evening of Bible Trivia, singing, games and of course food.

Elma Zacharias, Correspondent

### **Faith Evangelical Bible Church Winkler, Manitoba Mike Comtois, Pastor**

Snow has arrived and winter is now in full force. The farmers are glad for the blanket of white that protects the soil from the harsh elements. Faith Church has been blessed with some new families once again. Pastor Comtois started teaching a second adult class, using the *Fundamentals of the Faith* as a guideline. Meanwhile, Les Thiessen continues to teach the other Adult Bible Fellowship using New Tribe's Chronological teaching of the Bible. Senior Youth Leaders Ike & Eva Klassen and Karl & Tracy Klassen began teaching from Ron Hutchcraft's book *Ten Time Bombs*. The Youth are learning practical straight-up answers to some of the most important questions in life and learning to handle confusing pressures in a young person's life.

On Nov. 19, five children were dedicated to the Lord by their parents. The families were Dave & Heather Whitman, parents of Kyle; Arnold & Susan Wolf, parents of Jasmine and Joseph; Ike & Eva Klassen, parents of Silas and Karl & Tracy Klassen, parents of Natalie. The fathers each committed their children to the Lord with a personal prayer of dedication.

December was filled with many church family activities. There was an adult desert night filled with delicious fancy cheesecakes followed by a Christmas meditation and singing. Several people went carolling to minister to the elderly and the shut-ins.

The three Bible Study groups got together for a pot-luck supper followed by an evening of laughter and games. The pews were full and many family and friends were blessed at the Church Christmas Program, in celebration of our Lord's birth. On the 17<sup>th</sup> of December we enjoyed a visit from one of our students, Pam Zacharias. She is currently in her second year (in the Explore

Program) at Prairie Bible College. She has been growing and has met a young man (pastor's additional note). On New Year's Eve the Church gathered for a time of fun, meditation and prayer.

Tracy Klassen, Correspondent

## Saron Mennonite Church Orienta, Oklahoma

**Arnold Curby, Pastor**  
The Wednesday evening children's Bible Club, as well as the youth group, continues to focus on the Word plus fellowship and fun. The youth traveled to Enid in December to the annual Christmas pageant, and both groups of

youngsters enjoyed caroling to some of our church elderly people.

We ladies enjoyed the annual All Mennonite Women's Meeting. Then we were involved in making New Year's Cookies at the two-day Threshing Bee in Fairview. The money earned is for missions.

Nine members took part in the Enid Life Chain.

Vernard & Rosalie Stucky came for a special meeting. It was good to have them here again.

Arnold Curby, Gene Lohrenz, and Elmer Frantz joined those from the Meade and Hooker churches for an OKReach meeting.

We had a three-day Harvest

Mission Festival with Reg Epp (Mission Aviation Fellowship), Landis Epp (Police Chaplain Ministry in Clark County, Washington) and Chuck & Bev Truxton (SIM in Jos, Nigeria).

We also took part in the yearly meat canning project with the local Mennonite and Brethren churches. Marlene Wichert directed the Christmas program on Christmas eve. It was the lovely Christmas story told in a humorous way and called *The Fumbly Bumbly Angels*. Our planned New Year's Eve fellowship was canceled due to a snow storm.

Carolyn Frantz, Correspondent

## The Record

### Births

A son to Jeff & Stephanie Engelman, missionaries in Indonesia; Jansen, NE  
Jacob Luke to Ross & Sue Waltisbuhl, April 11, Abbotsford, BC  
Mackenzie Grace to Dave & Michelle Penner, June 26, Grandparents John & Janet Penner and Denny & Sheila Friesen, Abbotsford, BC  
Faith Anna to Mike & Brenda Loechmann, July 7, Abbotsford, BC  
Madison Brooke to Doug & Kim Mercer, Oct 11, Grandparents Cal & Leone Heinrichs; Great-grandparents Pete & Margaret Heinrichs, Abbotsford, BC  
Rebecca Suzanne to Weldon "Buck" & Margaret Friesen, Oct 20; Grandparents Al & Mary Friesen, Meade, KS  
Katie Anne to Ken & Christy Leonahard, Oct 31; Grandparents, Darrell & Carol Lind, EBC Omaha, NE  
Madeline Marie to James & Marlene Froese, Oct 31; Grandparents, Herman D. & Annie Froese, Grunthal, MB

Brett Terrence to Kevin & Becky Theise, Nov 4; Grandparents, Isaac & Eva Jansen, Rhineland, SK  
Jackson Daniel, to Jeff & Jayme Coonce, Nov 7; CBC Omaha, NE  
Tyler James to Byron & Patti Isaac, Nov 10; Grandparents, Don & Irene Isaac, Meade, KS  
Katrina Joy to Randy & Kim Hiebner, Nov 13; Grandparents, Thomas Lloyd & Ruebena Hiebner and Bob & Alice Decker, Henderson, NE  
Alexandra Rose to Melvin & Rose Janzen, Nov 14; Grandparents, Isaac & Eva Janzen, Rhineland, SK  
Joseph David and Jonathan Paul to Heath & Annie Klassen, Nov 16; Grandparents, Delbert & Nancy Klassen; Great-grandparents, Louis & Sophie Classen, Mt. Lake, MN

Carissa Marie to Jamie & Charlotte Rogalsky, Nov 19; Steinbach, MB  
Brooklyn Jane to Greg & Judy Willems, Nov 19; Grandparents, Lorne & Margaret Willems, Waldheim, SK  
Phillip Matthew to James & Corrine Loewen, Nov 28, Grandparents Pete & Marie Loewen, Abbotsford, BC  
Hanna Stephanie to Bert & Stephanie Berrigan, Dec 1, Great-grandmother Alva Erickson, Abbotsford, BC  
Taran Christopher, to Chris & Cheryl Gerbrandt, Dec 8; Grandparents, Gerald & Pat Gerbrandt, Grunthal, MB  
Gabrielle Mary Elizabeth to Doug and Connie Hamm, Dec 15; Grandparents, Dave & Mary Hiebert, Grunthal, MB  
Caleb Philip to Jon & Amy Pahl, Dec 21; Grandparents, Pastor Don & Rosie Pahl, EBC Omaha, NE  
A son to John & Amy Regier, Dec 30; Grandparents, John & Edna Regier, Mt. Lake, MN

### Weddings

Trevor Brown, son of Verne & Judy Brown to Kristen Enns, June 23, Abbotsford, BC  
Janet Newton to Tim Biro, August 26, Abbotsford, BC

Corey, son of Alan and Jan Schroeder and grandson of Louis and Sophie Classen., to Dana Montgomery, Nov 4; Mt. Lake, MN

### Deaths

Abe Boldt (85) Oct. 18, 1999; Abbotsford, BC  
Elvera Klassen (74) Oct. 21, 1999; Abbotsford, BC  
Cornelius H. Penner (88) Feb. 7; Abbotsford, BC  
David Neufeld (91) April 25;

Abbotsford, BC  
Lena Neufeld (85) April 25; Abbotsford, BC  
Olaf Erickson (88) April 26; Abbotsford, BC  
Iva Reedman (83) Aug. 15; Abbotsford, BC

Elsie Fast, Sept. 18; Abbotsford, BC  
Anna Friesen (83) Oct 28; Dalmeny, SK  
Ben Reddekopp (71) Nov 6; Dalmeny, SK  
Kathleen Knutson, Nov 7; Steinbach, MB  
Jacob Classen, Nov 26; Langham, SK

Hey,  
that  
means  
us!



# THE BODY

by

**Lisa Harriger**

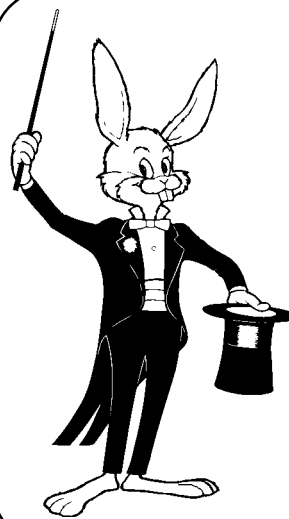
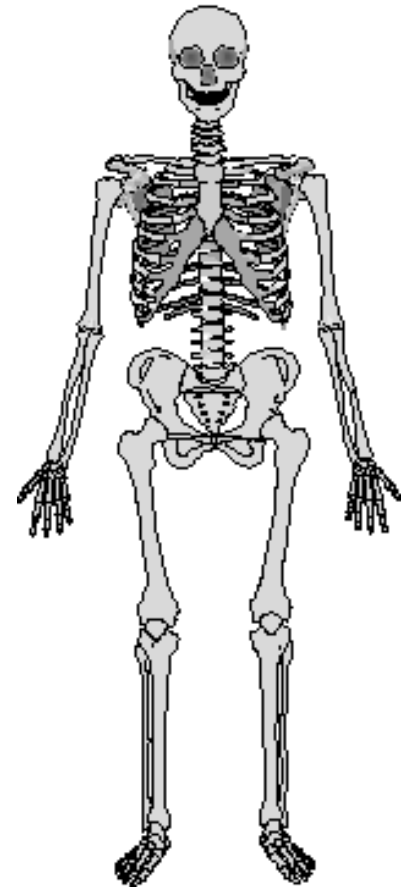
"The ankle bone 's connected to the knee bone.  
The knee bones connected to the hip bone.  
The hip bone 's connected to the .....  
O hear the Word of the Lord."

Have you ever really thought about how the body God gave us really works? It's truly a miracle . There are so many different parts of our body that have to work together to make anything happen. Take climbing a mountain for example. Our leg couldn't step over a large stone in our path without our eyes first seeing the stone and sending a message to the brain that there is an obstacle in our way. Then the brain has to send the message to the muscles to tell them to lift the bones in our legs so we can step over the stone. If we continue on up the mountain, even more body parts would join in the work. Before too many stones were climbed, our muscles would begin to work much harder , sending a message back to the brain that they needed more blood flowing to them to keep going. The brain would then send a message to the heart to start beating faster so more blood would start flowing through the whole body.

The lungs would also get the message to start breathing faster so more oxygen could be sent through our arteries to the hard working heart and muscles. With all this hard work going on, our brains get the message that our body is heating up. Then, faces start turning red as blood comes to the surface of our skin to cool us off. Sweat glands get the message to start sweating to cool us off even more....., and it goes on and on. Soon every part of our body is getting involved. The body knows it must have every part working together doing the job it was designed to do, to get us up that mountain.

Now, all these body parts (the eyes, bones, muscles, lungs, blood, arteries and brain) are different, with different jobs, right? But, they are all still part of your body. You have one body with many parts.

Let's see what the Bible has to say about the body. Romans 12:4 & 5 says: "Just as each of us has one body with many members (parts), and these members (parts) do not all have the same function (job), so in Christ we who are many form one body and each member belongs to all the others."



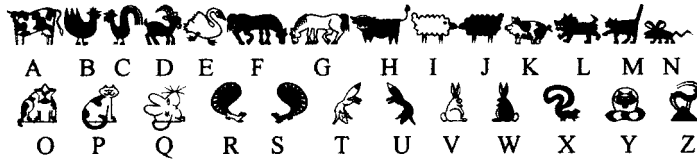
## Hey Kids!

We need your help in finding a name for this column.

Please send your suggestion to:

**Fellowship Focus**  
3905 North 97th Street  
OMAHA, NE  
68134-3801  
or  
**Fellowship**  
Focus@aol.com

To find out the other kind of “body” you belong to, use the alphabet code to solve this puzzle.



I belong to \_\_\_\_\_



Colossians 1:18 says, “He (Christ) is the head of the body, the church...”

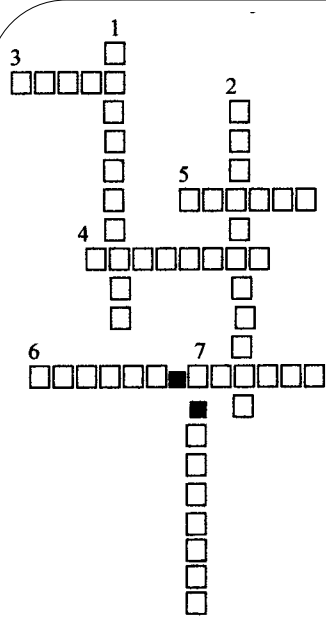
You see, just as the brain inside our heads controlled our physical body’s actions when we climbed the mountain, so Christ controls the activities of His body—the church and its members. Christ is the head or leader of the church. This is true not only in your own church but in the FEBC fellowship to which your church belongs.

Did you know you belonged to the FEBC??

Do the crossword puzzle at the right to find out what FEBC means. (Hint: If you have trouble check out the fine print on the front of this magazine.)

It is through Jesus Christ and *for* Jesus Christ that we all work together to do the job He has given us to do. And we belong to each other. Don’t you think we should get to know each other better? Let’s get started.

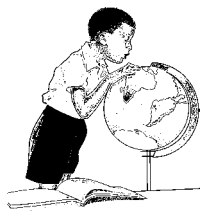
Our 43 FEBC churches are found in Canada, the United States and two countries in South American. On the maps that follow, color in each state, province or country where an FEBC church can be found.



- 1) F\_\_\_\_\_ - a group of people having the same activities and interests. A membership or partnership.
- 2) E\_\_\_\_\_ - churches that believe that the soul is saved only through faith in Jesus.
- 3) B\_\_\_\_\_ - Another name for the Holy Scriptures or The Word.
- 4) C\_\_\_\_\_ - a body or groups of religious believers that meet together regularly.
- 5) a country north of the U.S.
- 6) a country in N. America with 50 states.(across)
- 7) the continent S. of N. America (down)

The F.of E.B.C. has 43 churches in it’s membership and your church is just one of the 43. We all have similar beliefs based on the truth of the Bible. We are many different churches but we are one body. Who unites us and makes us one?

\_\_\_\_\_! ( Use your alphabet code above.)



Canada

- Alberta
- British Columbia
- Manitoba
- Ontario
- Saskatchewan



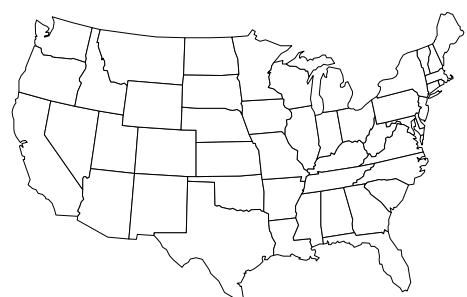
So. America

- Argentina
- Paraguay



United States

- Kansas
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Montana
- Nebraska
- Oklahoma
- South Dakota



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# **P**assion for Your Marriage

by  
**Dolley Carlson**

**P**layful—Plan playful and surprising dates for each other. The only expense: Thoughtfulness.

**A**ttentive—Remember your dating, falling-in-love days? You listened attentively.

**S**ensitive—It's tried but true: put yourself in the other's shoes.

**S**tudy your Spouse—What's important to him and what doesn't matter at all. (Just this morning learned that Tom really likes for the bed to be made. It isn't always, oops!)

**I**nterested and Interesting—Try to be interested in every aspect of life. Keep the "need to do's" (as in "honey do...") to a minimum. Be well informed; peruse the newspaper or watch the news and sports reports on TV each day.

**O**ne and Only—"We're a team" is what Tom and I have said to each other through the years. This proclamation is especially meaningful during difficult times. Then there's the sweetheart meaning of one and only: You belong to me, I belong to you.

**N**earer—and dearer—to each other than anyone else, after the Lord. Your relationship with each other comes first, not to the neglect or exclusion of anyone else, but simply first!

*Excerpt from Mr. & Mrs. Gifts from the Heart, by Dolley Carlson. Cook Communications Ministries. Dolley Carlson has traveled the globe through her speaking ministry, From the Heart, sharing messages of hope, encouragement and inspirational ways to nurture their relationships with friends, family and community. She and her husband, Tom, have been married more than 20 years, have two grown daughters, and reside in sunny Southern California. Used by permission.*



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