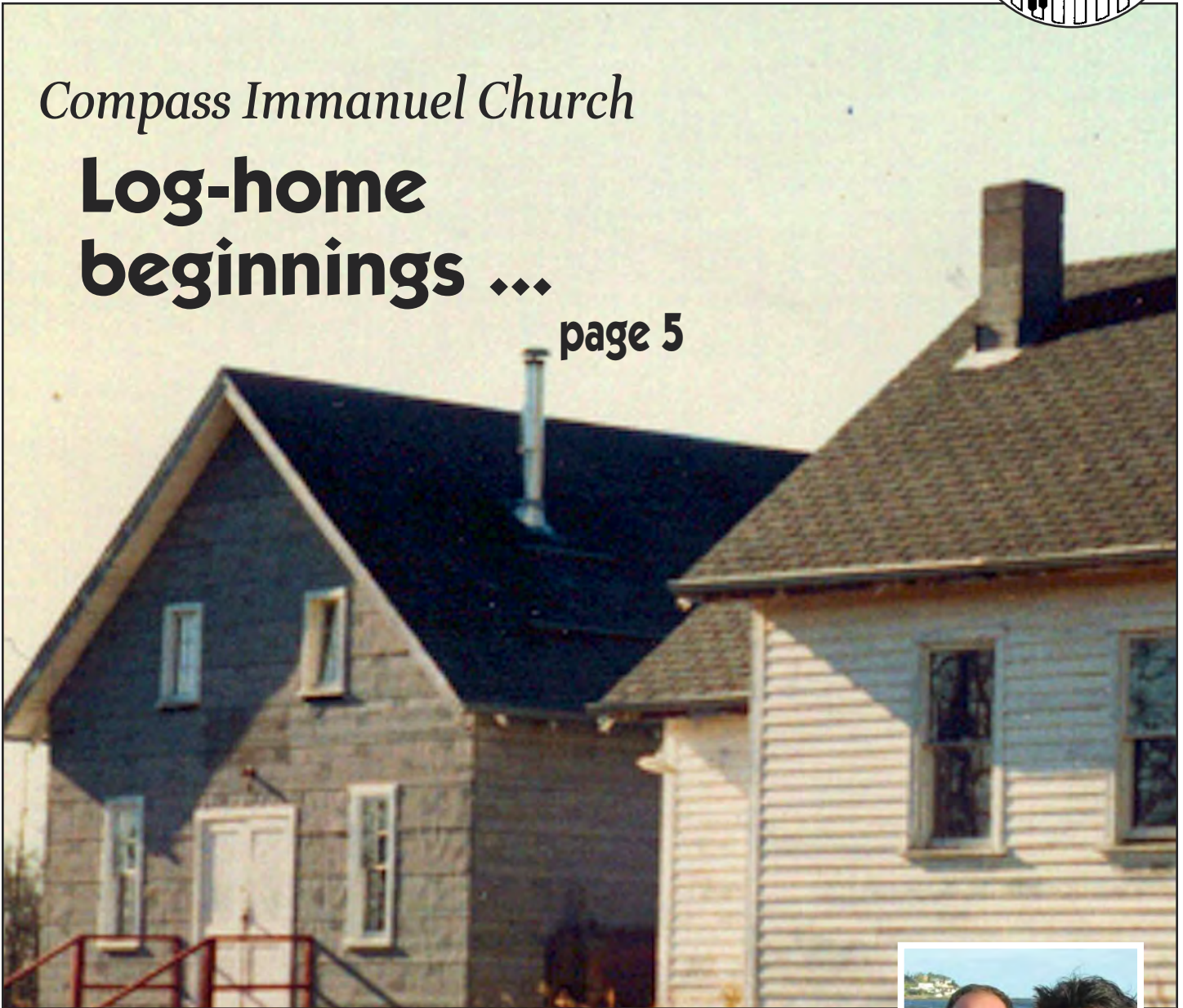




## *Compass Immanuel Church*

# Log-home beginnings ...

page 5



*Inside:*

- Ⓞ **President's Challenge**
- Ⓞ **Focus on the Word**
- Ⓞ **Proclaiming Christ Around the World**
- Ⓞ **Women's Ministries**
- Ⓞ **Focus on FEBC Church Planting**



**Catch The Vision**  
(back page)



# This Day and That Day

**M**artin Luther once wrote that the two most important days are this day and that day. I think he is right.

This day is today. Today is the day of salvation. When we think about our salvation, we often think of the day that we were saved – the day of our conversion. We may even think about the day when we see God face to face. But the most important day of salvation is today.

We are saved with a purpose, a mission. We are saved so that we will bring glory to God by becoming like Jesus and doing His will in this world. We are to be working out our salvation today because:

- ▣ Today is the day that we can put God's salvation on display before a world who does not know Jesus.
- ▣ Today is the day that we experience the presence and power of God.
- ▣ By God's grace, today is the day that we can overcome sin.
- ▣ Today is the day that we can represent Him in the world.
- ▣ Today is the day that we can have boldness to tell others about Jesus.
- ▣ Today is the day that God intends to use us to bring glory to Him.
- ▣ Today is the day of salvation — lived out and proclaimed.

What would our lives be like if we lived like today was what our most important day? Think of the opportunities we might see and seize.

But there is also *that day*. *That day* is a reference to the day that we face the judgment seat of Christ.

*That day* is when we will be face to face with Jesus. John Piper, in his book, "Don't Waste Your Life," recounted the testimony of a man whose dying words were "I have wasted it." It was a reference to the fact that when he would be judged, though his sins were paid for, his treasure was absent. His life was not lived for God's glory. There was so much

opportunity to glorify the Lord while he was on earth, but it was now gone. He had wasted it.

There is a day for every believer when we will give an accounting for our lives. This is not a judgment of eternal location, but it is very serious nonetheless. It is a judgment of the works that we have done while believers on earth. It will be related to the purpose for which God has placed us here on earth. That purpose is articulated well in the Great Commission. Our purpose is to glorify God by proclaiming the Gospel to non-Christians and making them into disciples. This is our mission. We will be judged based on our participation in that mission. Because this day is the day of salvation, God expects us to use today to advance the mission, the Great Commission.

If we know now that we will face the judgment of Jesus, how should we live today? We should have the Great Commission as the focal point of our lives. That does not mean that we are all to become full-time vocational Christian workers. However, our lives should be for God. Our jobs are places where we can be ambassadors of Jesus. Our time, talent and resources have been given to us so that we can accomplish the Great Commission. Everything that we do should be done to the glory of God, and the best way to glorify God is to complete the mission that He has given us.

Mom was going away for the afternoon. She said to her daughter Cassidy, "I want you to wash the dishes and put them away while I am gone." Two hours later, Mom returned to find the undone dishes. Cassidy smiled at Mom's return and said, "Look at the flowers that I picked for you." While Mom was sym-

pathetic and appreciated that her daughter thought of her to give her some flowers, there was also some disappointment and frustration, maybe even anger. The one thing that Mom wanted done was not done.

What would our lives be like if we lived like today was our most important day? Think of the opportunities we might see and seize.

God wants us to proclaim the Gospel and make disciples. On that day, at the judgment seat, this is what He will want. That day is very important because it is certainly coming for all of us.

May the anticipation of that day motivate us to glorify God now, this day. ■

## President's Schedule

**Nov. 10**

Lay Leadership Seminar at Mountain Lake, Minn.

**Nov. 11**

Preaching at Mountain Lake Harvest Festival

**Nov. 18**

Preaching at Winnipeg's Christian Fellowship Chapel

**Nov. 19-30**

Meetings with Lakeland pastors/boards

**Nov. 25**

Preaching at Dallas, Man.

Comment



By Sharon Berg, Editor

It's always encouraging when a congregation joins hands with the Fellowship of Evangelical Bible Churches. At last summer's convention, delegates had the pleasure of welcoming Compass Immanuel Church into the Fellowship fold. Compass ministers to the Rapid View, Sask., community. Read their interesting history and who they are today on page 5.

With a new year on the horizon there will be plenty of God-given opportunities for us to share the Gospel within our spheres of influence. When you do, please consider sharing your experience with the Focus and encouraging others through the "Catch the Vision" page. Contact us at [fellowshipfocus@febministries.org](mailto:fellowshipfocus@febministries.org).

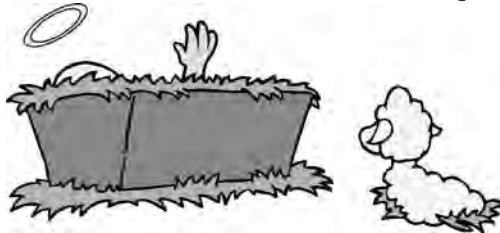
Blessings to you this Christmas and in the New Year.

Sharon

Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you:

You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Luke 2:11-12 (NIV)



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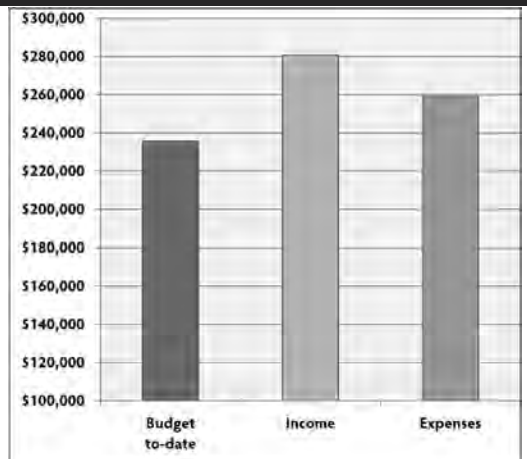
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The Fellowship Focus is available to read online. Check it out!

<http://www.fellowshipforward.org>

click on the Resources tab



# What does it mean to seek God's kingdom first?

It seems to me that sometimes our familiarity with a well-known, oft-repeated biblical text may prevent us from understanding its real meaning and application. Recently I realized that I had never really “unpacked” the full meaning and implications of Matthew 6:33:

***But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.*** (ESV)

Most, if not all of us, have memorized this verse. But do we understand it well enough to know how it applies to us and our relationship to the material things all of us need to survive and which some of us are— let’s admit it, anxious about?

What are these things? In the context, Jesus refers to food, drink and clothing — the necessities of life which we can’t do without. He declares that “your heavenly Father knows that you need them.” The tense in the original indicates that God knows that these are things we continue to need, day after day. It’s not a one-time need which, when met, goes away. It’s a need which renews itself day after day.

He goes on to say that “the pagans run after all these things.” The necessities of life, material things, have become their focus or preoccupation in life.

We all know of people for whom enough is not enough. When they have enough clothes, they buy more expensive clothes. They even buy more than enough. In the rich suburbs of our great cities, garage sales feature excellent clothing worn only once. In like manner,

eating out occasionally is not enough. Good restaurants with excellent food are not enough. They must be high-end restaurants with exotic food. Meals run into the hundreds of dollars. “The pagans run after all these things.” In other words, Jesus says: *Those who have no relationship with Me* (i.e. “the pagans”) *make this the goal of their lives.*

Yet, Jesus does not deny that we need the necessities of life. Rather, He counsels us not to be anxious about these things. Why? Because your Father knows that you are constantly needing them. He will see to it that you have them. Your focus, your goal in life, should not be to run after these things but to focus on His Kingdom

So what does it mean to “seek first His Kingdom.”?

First of all, let me suggest three things that it does *not* mean. One, it does not mean *seek sequentially*. In other words, seek first one, then the other. For a follower of Christ, both the necessities of life and the work of God’s kingdom are daily realities. Neither one should be pursued at the expense of the other. Secondly, it doesn’t mean *seek exclusively*. You can’t ignore the necessities of life. You need food and water to live. None of us will ever become so spiritual that we can do without physical food. Thirdly, He is not suggesting that to be really spiritual, you should focus only on His Kingdom and let others feed and clothe you.

To “seek first” means that our overarching goal in life is to promote God’s

Kingdom here on earth. That is to become my focus; not acquiring more wealth, more status, more fun, more excitement, more “toys,” more exotic experiences, more ...

When I face decisions about getting a better-paying job or enlarging my business or advancing my career, I

For a follower of Christ, both the necessities of life and the work of God’s kingdom are daily realities.

need to ask myself some searching questions: How will this enable me to better promote the Kingdom of God and His righteousness in my community? Will this enable me to serve more effectively, or will it cause me to become so occupied and preoccupied that I won’t have time for my family and service in my church? Is this to fatten my ego or expand God’s Kingdom? What is my motivation? My primary motivation in all such decisions should not be more money, more prestige, more power, or more influence for myself, but more opportunity to promote God’s kingdom and God’s righteousness here on earth.

Jesus says: ***“Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”*** When that is our primary motivator, we won’t go lacking. Our Father will make sure that we have enough of “these things.” And those who have adopted this approach to life have discovered meaning, purpose and satisfaction in the acquisition of “these things.” ■



## Log-home beginnings grew into diverse congregation

*By Pastor Mike Ginther, Compass Immanuel Church*

The very early beginnings of the Compass Immanuel Church date back to the middle 1930s when the fellowship met in a log home just north of Rapid View, Sask. Many new settlers were in the Compass area then, and there was no church or fellowship of any sort.

It all started with Sunday school for all ages, but by 1937 the congregation was worshipping together in a log home that was no longer being used. Since the roof leaked and the home had a dirt floor, services had to be cancelled whenever it rained. In the early 1940s the church built its first sanctuary, adding to it some years later. Eventually the church purchased the Barnes Crossing Church, moving it to the churchyard. One structure was used as a sanctuary and the other as a dining room.

Faithful pastors served through the years. Reverend Jacob Esau was the first pastor (1940-1975), followed by his son, the Rev. Albert Esau (1975-1979); the Rev. George Dueck (1981-1986), and the Rev. John Janzen (1986-1989). Compass' current pastor, Mike Ginther, has served since 1989.

Our church is located five kilometers off the main highway, so the community in which we minister includes the hamlet of Rapid View and the large surrounding area. A few even travel from Meadow Lake to attend Compass. We are a diversified congregation, from the very young to the seniors, and enjoy potluck and fellowship at our monthly evening services. A variety of vocations are represented in the congregation, from farming to mill work, public sector to homemakers. We enjoy one another's company.

In the 1986 Compass Immanuel built a new church on the grounds of the former Champion School yard, and in 2005 added a new sanctuary that seats about 200 people.

We have a great leadership team of three council members, two deacons, Senior Pastor Mike Ginther and Youth Pastor Trevor Krisch.

We are pleased to have a full Sunday school ministry that runs all year round and is well attended, and a Sunday morning worship service with about 85 in attendance. We are thankful for the involvement of our youth in the life of our church. Our youth group meets every Wednesday for Bible study and every other Friday for a group activity, with an average of about 15 in attendance. From January through March or April we meet once a week for a Winter Bible Class, with an in-depth study of a book of the Bible or a topical Bible study. Other outreach includes our children's camp at Bethel Gospel Camp in summer, our Vacation Bible School, and our monthly evening services, which occasionally include a concert.

We love the Lord and desire to please and honor Him in all that we do and say, in both life and conduct. We desire to proclaim the Lord Jesus Christ to everyone we come in contact with, whether it be at work, in the community, at school or in our sanctuary. We consider ourselves blessed of the Lord. ■



# Proclaiming Christ *around* the World

By *Waldo Berg*  
Waldheim Missions Conference Board



*Sixty years ago, a small group of people started the Waldheim (Saskatchewan) Missions Conference, a community-wide event held every summer. Salem Church members have been active in this venture since the beginning. The conference has had a lasting impact on Salem's congregation. People attend from the surrounding area and from the FEBC churches of Dalmeny Bible, Langham Evangelical Bible and Martensville Mission.*

This year marked the 60th consecutive Waldheim Missions Conference, held July 27–Aug. 1. The conference is planned by volunteers from Waldheim and the surrounding communities, with the major work done by people of the churches in Waldheim, including Salem Church.

This year's four-day event was historic, with a ballot question asking whether to close down the conference after this year or to ask the Board to revamp the format to bring it more in line with modern times. That statement was perhaps the sobering ingredient that was needed to challenge the participants to give a clear mandate for the future of the event, because everything about this year's conference was special.

The event opened with a spellbinding **Steve Bell** concert. Steve favoured us with many of his songs, but the stories that went along with those songs were just as moving and made them so much more meaningful. Steve made himself right at home with us, even praying a dedicatory prayer for one of the missionary representatives with whom he had a personal connection.

Conference speaker **Dr. Jay Moon**, Professor of Intercultural Studies at Sioux Falls Seminary in South Dakota, challenged us to expand our vision so that we can see more of what God is doing in the world today.

Emcee **Ralph Gliedge** did a terrific job of involving the children, inviting them to place their offerings each evening in an old tin wheelbarrow onstage. He challenged them to raise

\$150 — enough to train one pastor for two years in Mexico. They went far beyond that amount, raising just over \$450 in three nights.

The adults did just as well. The budget for this anniversary conference was \$33,000. On Sunday night, as part of his opening statement, the board chairman challenged the people to raise \$60,000 for the 60th anniversary. Sunday night's offering was more than \$12,000; Monday's over \$8,000; and on Tuesday more than \$7,000 was given. That left only \$5,000 to be collected on Wednesday night to meet the budget. When the total for Wednesday's offering was brought to Mr. Gliedge on a small piece of paper near the end of the conference, there was a definite air of anticipation. Mr. Gliedge heightened the expectation even more when he said, "**Reg Friesen**, I'd like you to come up and be the first person to see this figure." Mr. Friesen is the elder statesman of the Waldheim Missions Conference, and has attended almost every one of them. Mr. Gliedge then shared that the people had given more than \$35,000 on Wednesday night alone for a total conference offering of over \$63,000. Needless to say, there was a resounding round of applause that was as near to worship as any moving hymn or worship song.

A full slate of board members was chosen (four existing, plus five new), and most of them were younger than 50; in fact, at least one of them is 20-something. The new board now has the challenging but happy task of figuring out what to do with that extra money and, more importantly, in what direction to take the conference. Meanwhile, results of the ballot vote showed only 12 people supported ending the conference, and a majority favoring to reorganize. It seems safe to say that the Waldheim Missions Conference is far from over yet.

To read more on the history of the conference, visit  
[www.waldheimmissionsconference.com](http://www.waldheimmissionsconference.com)

## MOVIE NIGHT Behind the Sun

What happens when a student from a Muslim country comes to the United States for college? Fictional character Samir Majan is impressed with the Christian young people he meets, and he eventually becomes a Christian. After his graduation, he senses a duty to return home and visit his family again. Their response and the difficult choices Samir is faced with form a story of tension and grace.

This 56-minute drama presents a timely story and helps the viewer see the hard choices a convert must make in the Arab world. People like Samir are the focus of SAT-7's TEACH Project that our Fellowship raised funds for last summer.

This movie is licensed for non-profit public use.  
FEBC Churches and church groups can borrow it free from the FEBC Video Library.

## Looking forward to a heavenly trip

By Norma Wiebe

Winter is coming! It is the time of year when many folks begin to plan how they can escape the cold for a week or two. Taking a vacation is something many people dream about. Some may plan a trip to Hawaii and follow through with it, while others dream of it, but never make the dream a reality.

There is such excitement about planning a getaway. You decide where you will go; how many days you can stay; what the best deals are; and what kind of fun and relaxing things you can see and enjoy. The anticipation is almost as much fun as the trip itself!

In a perfect world we would all make a final trip to heaven one day. What am I doing to make sure the lost know the way to heaven? Do I show the same kind of eager anticipation toward my trip to heaven as I do with my Hawaiian vacation? Do others see a difference in my excitement over a heavenly trip versus an earthly trip?

Reality seems to set in once you have your ticket. I made sure I had my ticket to heaven as a young child. My mother read a story to me of a little girl named Susie who wanted to go to heaven, and this was my longing, too. That evening, with my mother's help, I asked Jesus into my heart.

While attending Sunday school in my younger years, I would hear stories about heaven, a place where you would live forever. My mind could not comprehend that concept. I believe these thoughts shaped my desire to learn about heaven in my adult years.

After my parents left their earthly home to go to their heavenly home, I began to read and learn as much as I could about heaven. My anticipation for heaven seems to grow stronger the older I get — seeing Jesus, being with loved ones who've gone on before, streets of gold and mansions! We see beauty in God's creation on Earth, but none can compare to the beauty of heaven.

How many people dream of going to heaven, but have not followed through with getting their ticket? And what am I doing to make them aware that they need one? I have my ticket, and I've done some research, but am I as eager to tell my friends and family about where I am going after I die as I am to tell them about my tropical vacation? Too many times I shy away from it, using excuses like "They don't want to hear religious talk," "Maybe they'll have ques-

tions I can't answer," or maybe I just don't take the time because I'm too busy in the rat race of life.

I care about my loved ones. I pray that they will find the Way, but I shy away from telling them about heaven

**Do I show the same kind of eager anticipation toward my trip to heaven as I do with my Hawaiian vacation?**

and the importance of making sure they have their ticket. Our FEBC vision statement about "taking every opportunity to share the Gospel ..." has been a big challenge to me. I want to obey when God nudges me. I need to look for opportunities to talk freely about heaven. I need to be excited to tell others of how they can be *sure* to get their ticket ... and not just *dream* of going to heaven some day. ■

*Norma will soon complete her first year of service on the Commission on Women's Ministries. She and her husband, Arnold, attend Christian Fellowship Church of Rhineland, Sask.*

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## Letter to the Editor



I want to say a big thank you for awarding me the FEBC scholarship. This scholarship is an answered prayer. I am so excited to be here at Moody Bible Institute. God continues to work in amazing ways, and I can't wait to see how He will use this time for spreading His love and message. I feel so blessed and honored to be here at Moody, but also for you choosing me for the award. May God richly bless each one of you for the way you have touched my life.

Thank you so much for the encouragement!

Warmly,

**Jesse Peters**, Evangelical Bible Church, Dallas, Ore.

*Jesse, along with five other students from Fellowship churches, was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship by the FEBC Commission on Education. The scholarships are given to students preparing for Christian ministry.*



### Convention Project

As of Oct. 15, Fellowship churches and individuals have given \$22,600 to provide Theological Education for Arab Christians at Home (The TEACH Project)! This amount will be matched by another donor! If you wish to continue to support this project, please give directly to SAT-7 Canada [http://www.sat7.org/en/contact/canada\\_office](http://www.sat7.org/en/contact/canada_office) or to SAT-7 USA <http://sat7usa.org/get-involved/make-a-donation/>.

### Happy Anniversary!

Kenora Bible Church celebrated 50 years in October. Begun by **Leander Rempel** under the sponsorship of the Steinbach EMB Church (now **Cornerstone Bible Church**), the church has reached people from a wide spectrum of religious backgrounds. Employment opportunities brought many people to Kenora for seasonal work, and they found Christ through the ministry of Kenora Bible Church. The 25th anniversary invitation in the *Gospel Tidings* (Jan. 1986) said "Although we have never grown into a large group, people all over Canada remember us as the place where they met with God and grew in their faith." Today Kenora Bible Church is a growing, vibrant church influencing its community for Christ.

### Convention 2013

**Evangelical Bible Church** in Dallas, Ore. will host the 119th Annual Convention July 18–21, 2013. Mark out time on your calendar to attend this convention — and plan an Oregon coast vacation. A new model of governance for the Fellowship will be proposed.

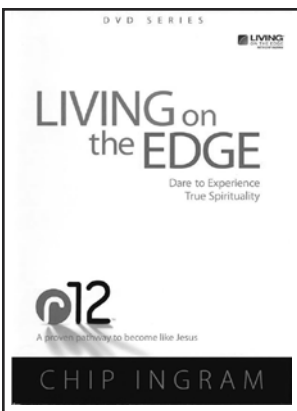
### Churches Seeking Pastors

- ☒ **Community Bible Church** of Indian Head, Sask., is seeking a senior pastor. Please direct all inquiries and resumes to Ed Martens (306) 695-2451; [emmartens@yourlink.ca](mailto:emmartens@yourlink.ca) or Community Bible Church, Attn: Ed Martens, P.O. Box 1096, Indian Head, SK S0G 2K0.
- ☒ **Martensville Mennonite Church** of Martensville, Sask., is seeking a senior pastor. Please send inquiries and résumés **Brendon Johnston** [pastor.brendon@martensvillemissionchurch.com](mailto:pastor.brendon@martensvillemissionchurch.com).
- ☒ **Grace Evangelical Bible Church** of Abbotsford, B.C., is seeking a senior pastor. Please submit résumés or enquiries to Henry Esau at [henryesau@telus.net](mailto:henryesau@telus.net).
- ☒ **Randville Bible Church** of Randville, Mich., is seeking a senior pastor who has a passion for the Word and has church planting abilities. The attendees are mostly older, but would love to see the church reach the lost and grow. Contact Verna Pollock at [vkpollock@yahoo.com](mailto:vkpollock@yahoo.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 inquiries to [fairviewbiblechurch@hotmail.ca](mailto:fairviewbiblechurch@hotmail.ca).

**Correction:** Bequest Goes to Work (Sept./Oct. 2012). The last sentence, "Bill ... served as pastor of the *Filadelfia EMB Church in Paraguay*" should read "Bill ... served as pastor of the EMB Church of Buenos Aires, Argentina."



## Living on the Edge: Dare to Experience True Spirituality



Being a genuine disciple of Christ flows out of a relationship with Him. It's about experiencing God's grace, not earning His love through performance. A real relationship with Jesus Christ will produce a follower whose life looks progressively more like His life. Romans 12 provides a relational profile of an authentic disciple: someone who is surrendered to God, separate from the world's values,

sober in self-assessment, serving in love and supernaturally responding to evil with good. Christians who live out this kind of lifestyle are what we call "r12" Christians. God is willing to go deeper and grow you into a real disciple... are you ready?

*Approved by the Association of Christian Schools International*

This DVD series consists of ten 30-minute sessions and includes the following messages:

- God's Dream for Your Life
- How to Give God What He Wants the Most
- How to Get God's Best for Your Life
- How to Come to Grips with the Real You
- How to Experience Authentic Community
- How to Overcome the Evil Aimed at You

Available on-loan from the FEBC Video Library. Contact [orders@febministries.org](mailto:orders@febministries.org) to reserve for your church. Student books available for sale.

Go to <http://www.fellowshipforward.org/dvd-lending-library.html> to find other studies for your church or group.



# FOCUS ON OUR CHURCHES

## CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHAPEL

**Winnipeg, Man.**

**John Harwood, Pastor**

Our small congregation is hosting a seven-week seeker outreach program entitled “Christianity Explored.” Many people are required to successfully run a program like this, and we are thankful for the resource of people that God has given us. It is exciting to anticipate how God will work through this program and, more importantly, through us!

Our Awana kids received a special visit from **Mike Renaud** of the Winnipeg Blue Bombers Sept. 25 (see photo). Mr. Renaud, a kicker with the Bombers, shared his story of faith with the children and challenged them to ask God to show them how much He loves them.



We experienced a great disappointment in September when the associate pastor we had engaged to lead us in the outreach ministry resigned after less than two weeks, feeling he could not give to the task the full attention it deserved. We press on, under the banner of Jeremiah 29:11, believing God has even greater plans to prosper us in the future.

*Nancy Kunkel, Correspondent*

## CORNERSTONE BIBLE CHURCH

**Steinbach, Man.**

**Jared Hiebert, Pastor**

Cornerstone Women’s Ministry hosted the FEBC Ladies’ Day on Sept. 29. It was very well attended, and the offering project for Compass 31 ministry brought in \$2,300. **Chuck and Sue Nichols** spoke on the theme of “A Lifestyle of Modesty.”

We enjoyed a fabulous time at our annual Fall Kick-off Hog Roast in September, followed by our Sunday School Kick-

off. We praise the Lord that He has provided all the teachers we need for the upcoming year.

*Marsella Wiebe, Correspondent*

## COUNTRYSIDE BIBLE CHURCH

**Meade, Kan.**

**David Cummings, Pastor**

Our women were invited to hear **Elyse Fitzpatrick**, author of *Because He Loves Me*, speak at a conference at Grace Bible Church in Hutchinson in August. The ladies’ Bible studies this fall will feature the book.

**Pastor David** and **Pastor Chuck (Finster)** attended a pastors’ conference in Washington, D.C., in September. Pastor Chuck started leading a men’s Bible study on “The Church” in October.

We have heard missionary reports from **Chet and Katie Williams** from Ecuador and **Jeremy Fruechtings**, who will serve with SIM to Ethiopia. Mission reports were given by our summer missionaries **Gwyneth Nelson, Tanner Wiens** and the TLC (Teens Living for Christ) group on their respective ministries to the Dominican Republic, Nepal, and Oklahoma City.

*Mary Friesen, Correspondent*

## DALMENY BIBLE CHURCH

**Dalmeny, Sask.**

**Dennis Friesen, Pastor**

We are pleased to have **Kristen Cowman** join our church staff as the interim Children’s Coordinator. Kristen and her husband, Benjamin, and daughter, Odysa, moved to Dalmeny this past summer.

Youth are encouraged to bring their friends to *The Meeting Place* (a room in the church) after school where they can play video games, purchase snacks, play in the gym or just hang out.

Our Kid’s Club program started in September with 92 children registering. We are thankful for this opportunity to reach out into the community.

The Marriage Course is once again being offered which is to help couples build stronger marriages.

*Marilyn Harder, Correspondent*

## EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH

**Omaha, Neb.**

**Dr. Don Pahl, Senior Pastor**

For quite a number of years, we have offered “First Place 4 Health,” a Christian health and weight program, which focuses on allowing Christ to be first in every area of our lives. The group is open to all women and meets weekly to go through a Bible study book, weigh-in and turn-in food journals, and pray for and encourage each other. A new study starts each fall and spring. This is a national program, and more details are available at [www.firstplace4health.com](http://www.firstplace4health.com)

*continued on page 10*

# FOCUS ON OUR CHURCHES

continued from page 9

Our congregation is ready to embark on our fourth annual "Destination — Bethlehem." We will walk or exercise 6,457 miles (the distance from here to Bethlehem) over a 12-week period that began Sept. 30. Individuals log the distance they walk (or equivalent distance they exercise) and turn these amounts in weekly, to be added to our congregation total. We have successfully reached Bethlehem (and part of the way back) the past three years. Additionally, we have a "friendly" competition between the men and women. This walking program is offered by our CARE Team and is designed to encourage all of us to be more active and healthy.

Our fall "Fellowship Dinner" groups are off and running. This is an opportunity to develop friendships with others from EBC while enjoying a casual dinner with seven to nine adults in various homes. On a rotating basis, the group meets once a month for four months for a meal (everyone shares by bringing part of the meal) and games or conversation. It is a great way to connect with newer folks and learn more about people we have known for some time.

## **Baptisms and New Members**

Twelve people were baptized, and we welcomed six new members.

*Sherrie Lindsey, Correspondent*

## **EVANGELICAL MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH**

### **Grunthal, Man.**

#### **Russ Reimer, Pastor**

September has been our mission emphasis month, and we've had the privilege to hear from quite a few people who are involved with missions. **Don Pickle** (*Avant Ministries*), **Henry and Janet Armstrong** (*World Team/ Singapore*) and **Ron and Eunice Wiebe** (*Child Evangelism Fellowship/Brazil*) shared about their ministries. We have also recently heard from Ron and Eunice about their plans to move to Eastern Canada in Spring 2013, where they have accepted a new CEF position. During our missions emphasis month, we also heard from **George Klassen** (*Amazon Evangelism Society*), who works with orphans in developing countries; **Nathan Driediger** (*Mission Aviation Fellowship*) who serves in northern First Nation communities, and **Cornie Wiebe** (Bolivia), **Wes and Barb Peters** (*ReachGlobal* Germany), and **Tim Whatley** (*New Tribes*).

Our small groups are underway again, as is the school breakfast program. Breakfasts are prepared in our church basement, and taken across the driveway to needy students from the Green Valley School several mornings a week. We are excited that **Pastor Russ and Sheila** will have the opportunity to minister to pastors with Don Pickle in Cuba in November.

*Tamara Bergen, Correspondent*

## **EVANGELICAL MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH**

### **Filadelfia, Paraguay**

#### **Arnold Boschmann, Senior Pastor**

Missions Festival in the EMB Church — Filadelfia, Paraguay



Our five missionary-pastor couples with their families from our growing churches in Asunción joined us for our yearly weekend of celebration, information and fellowship June 16–17. Both Spanish and German languages were incorporated, so that all could understand and participate.

The youth band led the congregational singing. Videos of local mission projects and participation were shown. These included young people's outreach to children in three Indian villages, and a school on a cattle ranch for Indian children from surrounding ranches that is becoming a church, since some of the children and parents have accepted Christ. Others were of our members' work on mission stations or in radio ministry.

Booths were set up with data and pictures from each church and the mission projects. The Sunday worship service included a sermon about "knowing God and sharing this knowledge with others." Visiting pastors gave short testimonies of their calling, and their present struggles and challenges. Each of them shared their personal reliance on the Lord and the confidence that He would continue to do His work in them and in their churches. They are dependent, not only on the financial support of the EMB Church, but especially on our prayers for them and the churches they serve.

Throughout the conference, the challenge was given for a new commitment to the Lord for life and service, for open hands to give and for faithfulness in prayer.

Though the emphasis was on national missions, an important part was a prayer of dedication for our missionary soon returning to Holland.

Special music with a theme of encouragement to those who serve the Lord and a prayer by the pastor filled the closing moments of a challenging missions festival.

*Linda Boschmann, Correspondent*

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# FOCUS ON OUR CHURCHES

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## EVANGELICAL MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH

**Marion, S.D.**

**Randy Maass, Pastor**

Pastor Maass has started a series based on experiences that members have had in which a Bible verse helped them to cope with a situation. The pastor then uses that verse as his basis for his morning message. One man told of 1 Corinthians 1:27-29, which God used to influence him at age 23 to change his life's direction for three years. He felt he was not well-suited for a voluntary position, accepted another and was amazed at what God did for and through him. These have been interesting.

Pastor Maass is again teaching a class on *Supervised Ministry* and another on *Advanced Preaching* on Tuesdays at Sioux Falls Seminary.

The FEBC gifts a book to each pastor every year. This year it is *Christ's Prophetic Plan*, by John McArthur and Richard Mayhue. The church has purchased a copy of the book for each couple attending Sunday school. We will use the books for discussion and learning.

*Raymond Becker, Correspondent*

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## FAITH EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH

**Winkler, Man.**

**Mike Comtois, Pastor**

This is the first year we are offering an Awana program. Kids in grades 3-6 will meet once every other week to learn about the Gospel, memorize Scripture, study the Bible study, earn awards, and enjoy team-oriented games.

In our women's breakaway group, we are currently studying the book *Love and Respect*, by Dr. Emerson Eggerichs.

Our youth group is going through Ray Vanderlaan's *Faith Lessons Video Series*. Once a month we also split up into small groups to study different books.

*Liane Thiessen, Correspondent*

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## FAITH EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH

**Henderson, Neb.**

**Michael Fink, Pastor**

The high school youth ministry has taken on a new vitality. **Jordan Grantham**, director of the Christian Resource Center, is providing leadership, along with several couples from our own church.

Our adult Sunday school class is studying the "I Am" statements as found in the Book of John; "I Am changes who I am." What Jesus does changes what I am to do. Worship service messages are taken from 2 Timothy, with Paul's instructions to the believer. We have just concluded a Sunday evening study series on "Life after Death."

We hosted a "Concert of Praise" on Nov. 4, featuring area musicians and singers, including members of our own praise team.

*Alice Decker, Correspondent*

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## GRACE EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH

**Abbotsford, B.C.**

**Arden Adrian, Teaching Pastor**

Thank you to all who pray for our fellowship churches. Please continue to pray for our Grace Church leadership in their search for a Senior Pastor, and additional church staff.

In our busyness we often forget to thank the people who minister so faithfully behind the scenes; the hands and feet of Jesus. A heartfelt thank you is expressed to our:

- ▣ Dining supervisor and the team who create our fellowship meals, the set-up/clean-up crews,
- ▣ the Sunday morning coffee crew; those who prepare refreshments for funerals, etc.
- ▣ Trustees, treasurer, and custodian who faithfully keep the building in good repair and look after our financial affairs
- ▣ Christian Education leaders and support team for their love, time and energy as they minister to the children
- ▣ Deacons and visitation team who visit, encourage and pray with our shut-ins, and provide food hampers for those in need
- ▣ Small group leaders
- ▣ Missions Committee who faithfully pray for and look after our missionaries
- ▣ To the people who are Jesus' hands and feet, ministering in our community

*Grace Toews, Correspondent*

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## HEARTLAND BIBLE CHURCH

**Lincoln, Neb.**

**Scott Hecht, Pastor**

Our full schedule of children's and youth's activities has begun. After a very successful 5-Day Club hosted by **Brad and Phyliss Cromer**, a number of the children of the neighborhood have attended the Wednesday evening activities. A few have also started to come to Sunday school. We held our annual fall picnic at Roberts Park to kick off the fall activities.

About 12 members of the Seasoned Saints traveled to Brownsville, Neb., in September to enjoy a cruise on the Spirit of Brownsville. The town was also having its fall flea market, one of the largest in this area, that we were able to browse through and have our noon meal.

*Trudy Reimer, Correspondent*

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## HEBRON BIBLE CHURCH

**Hebron, Neb.**

**Jeff Friesen, Pastor**

We are excited to share that our ministry has grown with several new families, and we shall continue to go forth and share the Gospel, with daily renewed faith.

We are offering and planning outreaches. We have been underway with a Men's Group Study, using *Every Man a Warrior*, with the focus designed to deal with the issues men face and need to succeed in dealing with. Upcoming opportunities

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# FOCUS ON OUR CHURCHES

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include a Women's Bible Study on the book of James, using the *Blue Jean Faith* program, by Kay Daigle. We began the Pioneer Clubs "Discovery" program in October as an outreach to the children of our ministry, and held weekly in conjunction with an adult Bible study on leaning to resolve conflicts. While it is still quite a time out, planning is underway for a Men's Outreach in April.

## Baptisms

We are pleased that several people followed Jesus in obedience by being baptized as believers. Our congregation held a Baptismal Service in August, when seven of our church members were baptized.

*Misty Poisel, Correspondent*

## JANSEN BIBLE CHURCH

### Jansen, Neb.

#### Paul Carpenter, Pastor

Awana kick-off on Aug. 29 brought in families enrolling their kids for the new year.

As a church family, we enjoyed good times of fellowship this summer: FACT (Fellowship After Church Tonight); the Labor Day picnic, and the Sunday School Picnic (which included an informal audience participation service and hymn sing) and a hobo supper.



We witnessed the baptism of 10 in September, and welcomed an additional five into our church membership.

*Tena Dick, Correspondent*

## MARTENSVILLE MISSION CHURCH

### Martensville, Sask.

As another summer came to a close, so did another chapter end for our now officially retired pastoral couple **Wilf and Sharon Gaertner**. We had a wonderful turnout for a combined Thanksgiving and retirement gathering on Sept. 30. We all found it hard to believe that four and a half years have gone by since we welcomed Wilf and Sharon to our church family. We are thrilled to know that they will continue to attend Martensville Mission, and will stay actively involved in many areas of ministry here.

Another season of Awana has begun, with attendance up considerably from last year. So far we have about 30 young people in grades K-6 registered. Praise the Lord! We will continue to pray that the Lord will prompt more parents to bring their children to this vitally important children's program, where they learn who God is, and what Jesus did on the Cross for us all.

Dave Wright with New Tribes Missions will be at our church every Monday evening for the next 26 weeks to teach a course called *Firm Foundations*, a chronological teaching of the Bible. Our church is very excited to host the study.

*Joanne Born, Correspondent*

## NORTHEAST BIBLE CHURCH

### Calgary, Alta.

#### John Fehr, Pastor



In May our church prepared a great celebration in honor of the milestone birthdays of **Pastor John and Marilyn Fehr**. John turned 65 and Marilyn will be 60 before the year is out. We held our morning service around tables in the sanctuary, dinner-theater style. The worship team learned and sang one of John's favorite songs, "Satisfied." Many guests attended, offering words of appreciation for the life-changing influence of Pastor John's ministry over the years. The congregation gave them a 3x4-foot mounted wall map of the world, with each person's name pinned to their country of origin. The heading, "Oh, that You would bless us and enlarge our territory so that we might fulfill your call to: 'Go and make disciples of all nations,'" expresses the prayer of the Fehrs' hearts and ours as a church family. We concluded the celebration with prayer for God's continued blessing on their lives, followed by a special potluck meal and lots of visiting.

*Julie Ann Simpson, Correspondent*

# FOCUS ON OUR CHURCHES

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## RICHER FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

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**Richer, Man.**

**Simon Cheung, Pastor**

In September, **Will Linklater** graciously organized our



first annual motorcycle benefit ride called “Ride with the King” to raise funds for vinyl siding for our youth hut. Twenty-three riders participated. The event was a great outreach and covered about 300 kilometers. The generosity of prize donors and all participating helped raise \$1,550, and the new vinyl siding and steps have been installed at the hut.

This year marks the 10-year anniversary for our beloved **Pastor Simon Cheung**. We put on a skit of his harried arrival to Richer. Being stranded on the highway for many hours, his luggage ending up at the police station, and no one to meet his bus meant “Welcome to Richer — come as you are!”

“Richer Summer Thrill” was this summer’s Daily Vacation Bible School in August. Our theme was “Jesus Comes to Richer Town.” Just as Jesus walked through the different places in Palestine and performed miracles, the children got to put stickers on the map at the end of the story. Each establishment in our town was also represented on colorful murals and with coinciding Bible scenes used as backdrops. The children were given stickers to place on the murals as a visible reminder to them that Jesus visited their town.

*Michelle Driedger, Correspondent*

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## SALEM CHURCH

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**Waldheim, Sask.**

**Darrell Derksen, Senior Pastor**

A year ago a group of women from our community were praying for God to reveal the future of women’s ministry in Waldheim. The FEBC vision statement was central in their thinking as they prayed and discussed possibilities. Eventually WOW (Women of Waldheim) was born. Thank you FEBC for providing leadership through our visions statement. Not only is it shaping our church, but it has had impact on this new ministry in our community. This month WOW is hosting a variety of ongoing Bible Studies, a big evening event with the theme of living for Jesus in challenging job circumstances, and a free lunch for all of the ladies who are working in Waldheim. What a great way to encourage the women in our community.

Last year our children’s Sunday school theme was “Fully Rely On God”, so the kids could periodically find FROG reminders in such places as the stage and on classroom doors. The green frog will soon be replaced with a suitable blue fish to kick-off a new Sunday school year with the theme **First I**

Seek Him. This new theme will motivate us to be part of the learning environment provided each Sunday morning. Our kick-off Sunday included a BBQ lunch and horse-drawn hay rides. Through the help of a former youth pastor, **Leroy Harder**, who presently works for Compassion Canada, we enjoyed some great country music. Our guest musician, **George Canyon**, was in the area to perform at the Canadian Country Music Awards. Only a handful watching him that night knew that in the morning George had led worship at Salem. It was a real joy to learn to know a country music star who is seeking to make a difference.

Salem is now the home of a Kristal Bell Choir. Each Thursday the sanctuary comes to life with the arrival of excited children whose first performance was at our Thanksgiving Celebration.

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## STUARTBURN GOSPEL CHAPEL

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**Stuartburn, Man.**

**Mark Funk, Pastor**

The fall season brings with it a return to regular church program schedules. Stuartburn Gospel Chapel is enjoying the restart of our Awana club, small groups, senior and junior youth clubs and Bible studies. The men’s Thursday morning prayer and breakfast meeting continued through the summer, as did the pre-service prayer time and Sunday school.

There will also be some new activity this season as we begin renovations to enlarge our foyer and washroom facilities and add an office for the pastor. When completed, our church will be more accessible for all and will allow us to welcome friends and visitors with more enthusiasm.

In September we enjoyed a joint service with the **Vita Bible Church** at Roseau River Park which was followed by a barbeque picnic and games for the families. We look forward to taking a selection of students to the Millar College of the Bible youth retreat in November.

**Baptism**

We were pleased to celebrate one baptism in September.

*Sue Hoy, Correspondent*

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## VITA BIBLE CHURCH

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**Vita, Man.**

**Jurgen Penner, Pastor**

The Women’s Ministry hosted **Wilma Doerksen** of Winnipeg in September. Wilma shared her story of recovery after her daughter was abducted and killed. The subject was about moving on. Wilma shared how forgiveness is a daily struggle and decision.

Vacation Bible School was a success again this year. Many of the children from the community were able to attend. The theme throughout the week was, no matter what, “TRUST GOD.” The children were able to make two crafts, enjoy games, sing fun upbeat songs, and enjoy different skits.

This year our family camp was exchanged for a joint service at Roseau River Park with the **Stuartburn Gospel Chapel**.

*Tiffany Tuurenhout, Correspondent*

# God's Word Lighting our Path into the Next Century

By Vicki Kibbey



**A**fter many months of planning and working, Evangelical Bible Church of Dallas, Ore., celebrated 100 years of God's blessings and faithfulness. As we reflected on our 100-year church history, we were reminded many times of God's faithfulness to our ministry here.

The celebration began with a small group gathering for a day trip to the Oregon Coast on Saturday morning.

We served 375 people a traditional German meal on Saturday evening. Days before, the kitchen crew made more than 700 Verenike (cheese pockets) to serve. We also offered sausage, ham, gravy, green beans and Zwiebach (rolls) with homemade blackberry jam. Everyone got to sample homemade Plumamousse (fruit soup), and, of course, cake. Each table was decorated with quilted centerpieces made by our Ladies Missionary Fellowship, with stalks of wheat in old canning jars, and miniature wagons filled with plums.

EBC Alumni were introduced, and it was wonderful to hear their stories of the past and learn what they are doing now. We were also blessed to have the grandsons and great-granddaughters of our church founder, **Reverend Sol Ediger**, attend our dinner.

Many were able to wander into our historical room during the evening program. They viewed many things from the early 1900s that our members shared, including newspaper clippings, blankets and quilts, dresses, pictures, dishes and even a very old German Bible.

On Sunday morning we held a combined service, seating 462 in our sanctuary and balcony. How exciting to have everyone together praising our God!

We heard the glorious sounds of a beautiful offertory on an old pump organ, and then it was joined with our standard organ and piano.

We introduced **FEBC President Blaine Donaldson** and heard an impacting message from our pastor, encouraging us to look to the future.

Many enjoyed reconnecting and visiting our soup bar Sunday afternoon. The weekend concluded with a musical evening service that represented the past, present and future with all age groups and in musical styles. Everyone met one final time in the activity center for continued shared memories, reconnections and delicious brownies and ice cream.

As we look into the future, we remind ourselves that The Great Commission was never qualified by clauses calling for advance only if funds were plentiful and no hardships or self-denial involved. Where Jesus Christ will take us in the years to come, He alone knows. The where is not our concern, but following Him **is** our concern. We are looking forward to the future. ■



*"He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. To this end we strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in us."*

*Colossians 1:28-29 (NIV)*

## BIRTHS AND ADOPTIONS

### Cornerstone Bible Church Steinbach, Man.

- Evelyn Easley to Jordan and Brynn Vogt, Sept. 27; grandparents are Bob and Violet Vogt

### Countryside Bible Church Meade, Kan.

- Joanna Phyllis to Jordan and Anna Hasty, Sept. 21; grandparents are Randall and Michelle Spare

### Dalmeny Bible Church Dalmeny, Sask.

- Lillie Isabella to Tim and Sheena Derksen; Aug. 16

### Evangelical Bible Church Omaha, Neb.

- Remington Daniel to David and Carrie Ingraham, Sept. 26; grandparents are Lee and Therese Ingraham and Chris and Lori Griffith

### Evangelical Bible Church Dallas, Ore.

- Gavin Curtis to Shannon and Lori Glasscock, Aug. 24
- Zavien Jacob to Andrew and Tatiana Anderson, Aug. 27
- Henry Evan and Ryan Gerald to Kevin and Jennifer Domes, Aug. 28

### Faith Evangelical Bible Church Winkler, Man.

- Layana to Arthur and Kristina Eberhardt, July 16
- Vivian Lana to Artur and Tina Refler, Aug. 5
- Aiden William to Willy and Ellie Funk, Sept. 24

### Grace Evangelical Bible Church Abbotsford, B.C.

- James Reginald to John and Jocelyn Ginther, Sept. 6

### Salem Church Waldheim, Sask.

- Tyson Cohen to Luke and Lindy Siebert, Sept. 30

## WEDDINGS

### Cornerstone Bible Church Steinbach, Man.

- Melissa Kroeker to Collyn Voth, son of Lorne and Denise Voth, Aug. 25

### Countryside Bible Church Meade, Kan.

- Briann Ediger, daughter of Laural and Arlene Ediger, to James Wallace, Nov. 16

### Evangelical Bible Church Langham, Sask.

- Chelsea Rempel, daughter of Wilmer and Sharon Rempel, to Matthew Dueck, Sept. 1

### Evangelical Mennonite Brethren Church Grunthal, Man.

- Joey Armstrong, daughter of Henry and Janet Armstrong, to Byron Wiebe, Aug. 25

### Jansen Bible Church Jansen, Neb.

- Jacki Carpenter, daughter of Pastor Paul and Carol Carpenter, to Brendon Stigge, Aug. 4
- Kelsey Frase to Shane Caroon, Aug. 23

### Salem Church Waldheim, Sask.

- Melanie Friesen to Richard Loewen, son of Victor and Sherrylyn Loewen, Sept. 15

### Stuartburn Gospel Chapel Stuartburn, Man.

- Miriam Davis, daughter of Richard and Amar Davis, to Chad Derksen, Aug. 19

## DEATHS

### Dalmeny Bible Church Dalmeny, Sask.

- Delores Peters (85) July 6
- Rev. Frank Funk (84), (former pastor) Sept. 18

### Evangelical Bible Church Dallas, Ore.

- Lydia Fouts (86), June 20
- Harry Wiebe (90), Sept. 22

### Evangelical Bible Church Langham, Sask.

- Frank Eidse (82), (former pastor), Aug. 17
- Susan Epp (82), Sept. 23

### Grace Evangelical Bible Church Abbotsford, B.C.

- Elsie Elliott (93), (missionary) Sept. 14

### Richer Fellowship Church Richer, Man.

- Russell Ducharme (61), Aug. 9

### Stuartburn Gospel Chapel Stuartburn, Man.

- Diedrich Boschmann (87), Aug. 17

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

<http://www.fellowshipforward.org>

click on the *Resources* menu

NO ENDORSEMENT

# Catch the Vision

**On the mission field or at home, share Jesus one person at a time**

By Marilyn Lester, Commission on Missions

If we are looking for motivation and ideas on how to proclaim Christ to our neighbors, we need not look further than to our missionaries who are church planters. Mike Reimer (*Avant Ministries*, Maldonado, Uruguay) shares in his June 13 letter, “The first step of church planting: going, making contacts, and searching for a ‘person of peace’” (referring to Luke 10 where Jesus gave instructions to the 72 disciples sent out to proclaim). Mike goes on to say, “We have found that it’s not that hard to meet people or even form a friendship, and our team has done that at places like the supermarket, mechanic shop, hardware store, the beach and with neighbors. The challenge is to introduce God’s message. It doesn’t matter how many courses you have had in personal evangelism or if your title is ‘church planter;’ there is still a fear factor.”

In his June 1 letter, Mike shares, “I wasn’t sure how Ricardo would respond to my confession of personal frustration yesterday as we talked on his driveway. Somehow, talking about problems in society and neighborhood issues was safe, but could we go deeper? That’s when Ricardo went from talking about Uruguay’s high suicide rate to sharing about his own nephew who suddenly took his life. I could see rays of light through the crack of the door he was opening to his heart. How far will he open that door? Only time will tell, but we will keep praying.”

One day Mike and his wife, Carolyn, were having dinner and discussing with Andre the evangelistic outreach attempts



**Mike and Carolyn Reimer**

***It doesn’t matter how many courses you have had in personal evangelism or if your title is ‘church planter;’ there is still a fear factor.***

made by Andre’s small church. Andre told about all the hundreds of invitations given out for a concert with only one visitor attending as a result. They also handed out thousands of Bibles and tracts, but with little or no visible growth in their numbers. Mike shared Andre’s realization, “After polling most of the new believers in their small church, he discovered that, in almost every case, people came to know the Lord through the personal invitation of a friend that they trusted.”

Mike and Carolyn praise the Lord for opportunities for spiritual conversations each week with people like Ricardo. They ask for prayer that “God will guide us to the people of peace that He has prepared to receive His message. Pray that we will not let fear keep us from doing His will.”

We can see from these comments that missionaries make contacts and have opportunities to proclaim Jesus much in the same way most people in the home churches do – one person at a time in the most ordinary circumstances. Even missionaries have to contend with the “fear factor,” but we all have to rely on the power of the Holy Spirit for open doors and for boldness.

If you are a missionary and you have a story to share, please mention it in your prayer letter that your representative from the Commission on Missions receives, or contact Marilyn Lester directly at [mlynn2@cox.net](mailto:mlynn2@cox.net). We will do everything we can to respect privacy issues. ■