

TD FAITH BUILDERS

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, INC.

“Discipling the head, heart, and hands”

Issue 100

Summer 2011

In 2007 I was studying Arabic with a former Muslim who had just returned from study at a Christian seminary abroad. We met for several hours per day and often shared personal stories of our lives in our sessions. When Ahmad discovered my affiliation with the Anabaptist people and I showed him photos of my

and following the teachings of Jesus in a practical manner is of utmost importance to me. The tone in his voice revealed his surprise as he asked “Are there more people like you in America?” This was the first time he realized that there are Americans who aim to live godly lives.

Sadly, many Muslims are familiar with

Some of our men cut off the heads of their enemies...shot them with arrows, so that they fell from the towers...[and] tortured them longer by casting them into the flames... At nightfall the crusaders' hands were still bloody when they folded them in prayer and knelt at the Church of the

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The ANABAPTIST ADVANTAGE

among MUSLIMS

by TDW



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family, he became excited. “When you live in the Middle East,” he instructed me, “you need to hang a large picture of your family on the wall.” He offered this suggestion realizing the impact a photo of my family would have on Muslims whose perception of Christianity and the West is shaped largely by modern media.

A Syrian friend I met in the oil-rich United Arab Emirates best illustrates the view that many Muslims have of the West. I met him first under the palm trees of an outdoor café in the town where I was studying. Almost immediately he was curious about my faith so I explained to him how following Christ affects my life. I explained that living morally clean

Christianity only as portrayed through Western media. They see Hollywood actors and actresses with crosses around their necks and watch the violent news from “Christian America” and form an impression of what Christianity must be like. Even their own religious teachers inform them of the immorality and violence of Christians.

They recall the savageness of cross-bearing warriors who invaded Muslim lands during the Middle Ages. The Crusaders captured Muslim-ruled Jerusalem in 1099 and massacred its inhabitants. A witness from the crusader camp described the bloodshed as follows:

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OPPORTUNITIES AND EVENTS AT FAITH BUILDERS

Summer Term



We have 18 openings remaining for summer term, primarily for men. Interested students should apply as soon as possible to secure a space. The application is available from the office or online at www.fbep.org/st.

College Student Seminar and Retreat



We have 17 openings remaining for this weekend event. Scheduled for June 30 – July 3, 2011, the College Student Seminar & Retreat offers encouragement to college students through workshops on current challenges to the Christian worldview, opportunities for small group discussion and prayer, and informal interaction with others who have walked or are walking a similar path. Seminar speakers include Patrick Heatwole, Jonas Sauder, Michael Sauder, and Byran Smucker. Marcus Yoder (Martinsburg, OH) will be the guest speaker for the retreat. Contact the office for a registration form or register online at www.fbep.org/csr.

Teachers Week



Registration for Teachers Week is now open! Teachers Week 2011 is scheduled for Tuesday-Friday, August 2-5. Those who attended Teachers Week in 2009 or 2010 will receive a brochure by mail; others may request a registration form from the office or register online. Complete schedule information is available online at www.fbep.org/tw. The registration deadline for this event is July 25, 2011.

Fall Semester



We have four openings for students in the Teacher Apprenticing track for the 2011-2012 year and one opening in the Christian Ministries or General Studies track. Interested students should contact the office for an application.

Teachers Conference



Mark your calendar now for Friday-Sunday, October 14-16! The theme of the 2011 conference is "For Such a Time as This," with a focus on helping teachers develop a vision for the lasting impact of their work in training the next generation. This event is planned with the committed, longer-term teacher in mind. The schedule is relaxed, offering teachers, administrators, and board members time to be refreshed and to be engaged in conversation with other educators. John D. Martin will present four keynote addresses. In addition, various educators will present workshops on a variety of topics. Plan now to attend this encouraging, refreshing weekend.

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Holy Sepulcher, sobbing for excess of joy (Shelly 189).

It was a tragic time when Christians took up the sword in the name of Jesus, an era that Muslims have never forgotten and continue to associate with the cross.

More recently European colonialism has sullied the name of Christ in the East. Beginning gradually through trade in Muslim nations, "Christian" European powers took control of and eventually subjugated entire Muslim populations for long periods of time. The French invaded Algeria in 1830 where they seized 100 million francs and transferred about half of that to France (Ansary 244). A French commission sent to give recommendations for the annexed territory described the terrible treatment of the local population as follows:

We have sent to their deaths on simple suspicion and without trial people whose guilt was always doubtful and then despoiled their heirs. We massacred people carrying [our] safe conducts, slaughtered on suspicion entire populations subsequently found to be innocent... (Ruedy 50)

Such measures of control and suppression spread across the Muslim world by other European powers. Egypt was first invaded by the French and later brought under British authority for several decades. Gradually, local Muslim populations formed resistance

movements. But it was not until the mid-1900s that the last Muslim nations shook themselves free from foreign rule. Then in 2001 the self-professing "born-again" President George Bush called for another round of violence against the Muslims when he said, "This crusade, this war on terrorism, is going to take awhile" (Ford). For many Muslims, this was just further proof that the power-hungry Christian West continued its crusading zeal.

But as Anabaptist people we "march to a different drumbeat." Our commitment is not to an earthly kingdom bearing guns and ammunition, but rather to Jesus and his kingdom of peace. This lifestyle of following Jesus has shaped us in a variety of ways that speak loudly to the Muslim heart and mind.

For example, when Muslims flip through my small album of family pictures and see Grandma, Grandpa, and seven children plus the grandchildren and all of them dressed modestly, they are stunned. "It's like a Muslim family," they proclaim as they observe an American lifestyle unknown to them before. A family visit can leave an even deeper impression. After taking a Palestinian to visit my family in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, he spent nearly forty-five minutes describing the experience to his family. Among other things, he highlighted the length of my father's beard, the way my sisters dress, and the absence of television in the home. This same young man was nearly moved to tears several months later when a Mennonite church shared hundreds of dollars with him in a time of desperate

FBEP CALENDAR

Summer Term 2011

Orientation and registration	7:00 PM, June 27, 2011
Classes begin	June 28, 2011
College Student Retreat	July 1-3, 2011
Final exams	July 28-29, 2011
Teachers Week	August 2-5, 2011
Pastoral Council meeting	August 11, 2011
Renovation Committee meeting	August 11, 2011
Advisory Council meeting	August 12, 2011
Board meeting	August 13, 2011

Fall Semester 2011

Apprenticing Term begins	August 22, 2011
Teachers Conference	October 14-16, 2011
Men's Music Weekend	November 11-13, 2011
Chorale Christmas Program ..	4:00 PM, December 11, 2011

Winter Short Semester 2012

Orientation and registration	7:00 PM, January 2, 2012
First day of classes	January 3, 2012
Colloquy	January 28, 2012

need. "You people are the real Christians that the Quran talks about," he said as we discussed the possibility of him going with me to church to thank the "priest."

Furthermore, our commitment to Jesus means that our young men are not in Iraq, Afghanistan or Libya manning guns, fighter jets or warships. This commitment to the teachings of Jesus presently and historically is an enormous asset in reaching out to Muslims with the Good News. And it is especially so at present when Muslims are mistrusted and portrayed as terrorists and enemies of the world.

The portrayal of Muslims as dangerous and frightening is not new to our age. During the time of the Reformation the Muslim Turks were viewed in a similar way. Catholic and Protestant leaders were terrified that an invasion by the Turks was imminent and active



Photo credit: Rachel Gross, used by permission



preparation was absolutely necessary. Robert Friedmann describes the general feeling of that time saying:

Today one can scarcely realize the fear and horror which Europe of the sixteenth century felt at the sound of the word "Turk." It made everybody shiver and tremble. From the beginning of the century the Turks had advanced in ever renewed waves...killing, pillaging, burning wherever they came (73).

The Hutterites of Moravia suffered heavily during this time (1593-1606). Property was seized, women and children taken captive and their communities were virtually destroyed. One Hutterite brother, Salomon Boger, spent the next several years trudging through Ottoman territory to free Hutterite women and children who had been sold into slavery. He died before finding his wife and daughter who had been taken captive by the Turks (Friedman, 73-86). Despite such tragic encounters with the Turks, Anabaptists refused to engage in combat against them.

Hans Denck, for example, wrote that all men should be allowed to "move and dwell in peace—be he Turk or heathen" (Klassen 292). Michael Sattler, who penned the famed Schleithem Confession of Faith, said at his trial:

If the Turks should come, we ought not to resist them...I would rather take the field against so-called Christians who persecute, capture and kill pious Christians than against the Turks...The Turk is a Turk, knows nothing of the Christian faith, and is a Turk after the flesh. But you, who would be Christians and who make your boast of Christ persecute the pious witnesses of Christ and are Turks after the spirit (Klassen 270).

Michael Sattler died for his commitment to Christ rather than agreeing to fight the terrorists. What are we doing? Are we like fellow Americans who cheer on our government as they drop bombs on people for whom Christ died? Or are we holding to the Gospel of love that extends to Muslims of any culture or ethnicity?

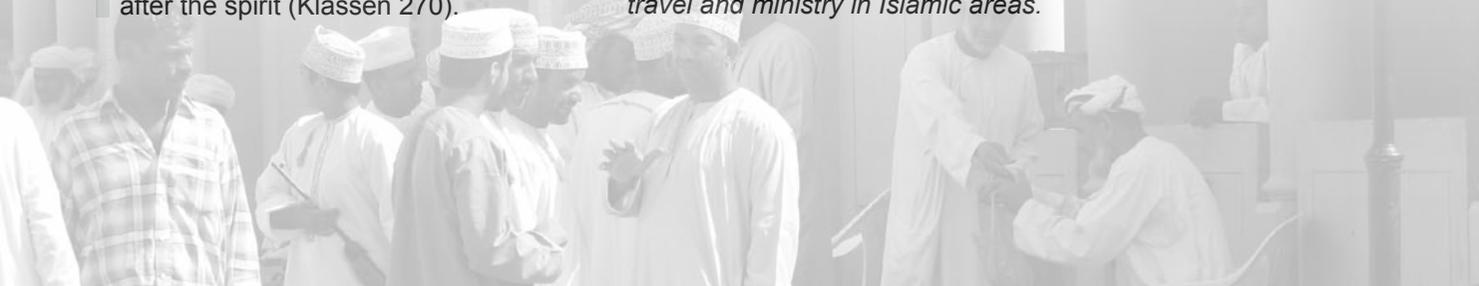
Studies have shown that the primary factor in bringing Muslims to Christ has been the lives of Christians (Woodberry *et al.*). The Gospel lived out among Muslims has a deep impact on their perceptions of what Christianity is about and opens their hearts to the truth. Through traveling, studying and living among Muslims for the past several years, I have become increasingly convinced that conservative Anabaptists have a distinct advantage in bringing the Gospel to Muslim people. No doubt there are weaknesses in our tradition that hinder us. However, our long tradition of practical obedience to the teachings of Jesus gives us an advantage in sharing the good news of Jesus Christ over and over again.

The founder of an evangelical mission organization in a Muslim nation summed up this argument succinctly, "God is raising up men within the Mennonite constituencies to take the gospel to the yet unreached people of the world. You are the ones that have practice behind your faith that God can greatly use to win the world" (personal email). We have a special gift to offer in this field of ministry. We must not bury it or cast it away, but rather, we must take advantage of our advantage and use it for building the Kingdom of God among Muslims.

TDW is a kingdom worker among Muslims and recently taught a class at Faith Builders on cross-cultural interaction with Muslims. He is not identified by name to preserve his opportunities for travel and ministry in Islamic areas.

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News from Faith Builders

Happenings at Faith Builders

- » Fifty teachers packed into a conference room to hear Gerald Miller's presentation at Shady Maple in Blue Ball, PA, on April 1. The Lancaster SHARE Team organized a meal followed by a presentation by Faith Builders.
- » A youth group from Virginia landscaped and added mulch around trees and flowerbeds April 29 – May 1.
- » Faith Builders Christian School students participated in a choral festival in Lancaster April 1-3.



- » The FBTI students enjoyed a cabin retreat near Lake Erie April 1-3.
- » Staff, volunteers, and students pitched in and helped clean the facility in our annual cleaning evening on May 2.



- » Sam Fisher (Lancaster, PA), Jason Beachy and Gerald Lapp (both from Washington County, PA) renovated the gym stage doors and steps. Maintenance volunteer Daniel Yoder and operations administrator Sheldon Kauffman sanded and finished the stage floor.



- » Faith Builders Christian School hosted the annual benefit auction on May 7. They enjoyed sunny weather and a good crowd. Net income was approximately \$17,300.



- » Faith Builders Christian School held its annual field events on May 11-12, with long- and short-distance running, long jump, a variety of races (including an egg race, pictured above), softball and baseball throws, jump rope, and sit-ups. The activities focus on teamwork, good sportsmanship, physical fitness, and a fun time together for patron families.
- » Faith Builders is planning a western choir tour for June-July, offering programs in North Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Oregon, California, Colorado, Kansas, Iowa, and Indiana. Confirmed programs will be posted to www.fbep.org/blog.

Farewell to...

- » Crystal Strubhar (Perkins, OK) concludes her year of service as a domestics volunteer June 2. Crystal plans to return this summer as a Teacher Apprenticing student.

Engagements

- » Anne Yoder and Lucas Hilty
- » Natalie Good and Joel Butikofer

Weddings

- » KrisAnne Burkholder and Dustin Beiler, April 23

Births

- » Michael and Mary Lois (Breneman) Petersheim, Nathaniel Duane, 4th child, 2nd son, February 10
- » Tim and Lisa Miller, Dominic Jose, 1st child and son, February 27
- » Ernest and Cathy Eby, Heidi Renae, 2nd child, 2nd daughter, March 17

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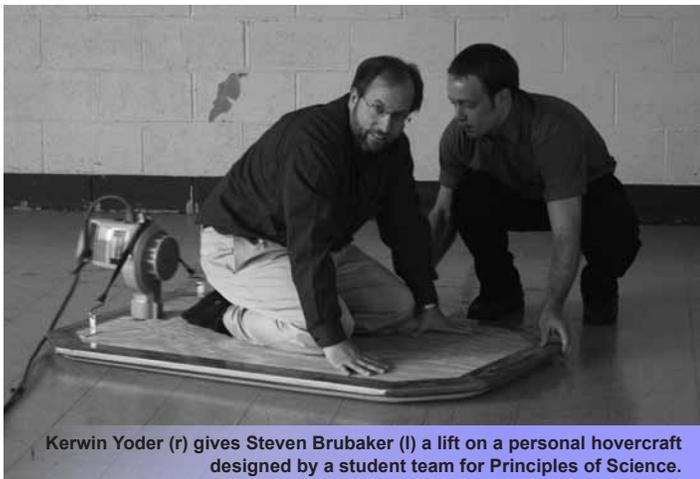
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“Discipling the head, heart, and hands”



Kerwin Yoder (r) gives Steven Brubaker (l) a lift on a personal hovercraft designed by a student team for Principles of Science.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Summer Term | June 27 - July 29, 2011

- » We have 18 openings remaining for summer term, primarily for men. Apply as soon as possible!

College Student Weekend | June 30 - July 3, 2011

- » Seminar speakers include Patrick Heatwole, Jonas Sauder, Michael Sauder, and Byran Smucker. Marcus Yoder (Martinsburg, OH) will be the guest speaker for the retreat. Reserve your spot today!

Teachers Week | August 2-5, 2011

- » Join us to kick-start your school year. Gerald Miller (Guys Mills, PA) and Peter Whitt (Montezuma, GA) will each offer four main sessions. We are planning 45 practical workshops and 11 work sessions. Registration is available online.

Teachers Conference | October 14-16, 2011

- » The schedule for this weekend is relaxed, offering teachers, administrators, and board members time to be refreshed and to be engaged in conversation with other educators. John D. Martin (Chambersburg, PA) will present four keynote addresses during the conference. Complete schedule details and registration information will be posted to our website in July.