

FB FAITH BUILDERS

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, INC.

"Discipling the head, heart, and hands"

Issue 102

Winter 2012

NEEDED—A CONSERVATIVE MENNONITE COLLEGE

A partial list of the needs among us for a discipleship training center on the adult level, by John D. Martin
reprinted from *Articles of the Covenant*, Issue 3, December 1984

FROM THE ARCHIVES: Next year, 2012, marks the 25th anniversary of the first classes offered by Faith Builders. We are grateful for how God has led and blessed this work. As a way to remember His faithfulness, we plan to reprint several articles that were published in this newsletter over the years. The articles are ones that have been formative in what Faith Builders has become. The article republished in this edition was written by John D. Martin several years before classes were offered. He was a part of the committee first assigned the task of charting a way for conservative Mennonites to develop training opportunities for our own people. Although not everything in this article represents our current mission, it does reflect some of the early vision and motivation.

The Mennonite Church needs a college to assist in the discipleship training of her people. Can such a need be met without surrendering to secularism as many schools have? The Bible portrays highly developed mental skills given up to the Spirit of God. Moreover, the need for stronger formal training in the conservative Mennonite Church is urgent. What are these urgent needs?

1) We need a Kingdom vision that is fully informed.

People can be Christians and miss the essential meaning and potential of their high calling. The Apostle Paul feared this very thing. He prayed not that his people would be given more faith, but that they would grasp the knowledge upon which a powerful faith is built.

So urgently did Paul feel this need, that he added systematic teaching to his prayers. At Ephesus, he conducted daily discussions about the Kingdom of God in the lecture room of Tyrannus: "And this continued by the space of two years; so that all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus."

This amazing spread of the Gospel came directly from Paul's daily discussions in that lecture room. Did he spend the two years training disciples in that formal setting? Very likely he did in order to evangelize such a large area while he was busy teaching at Ephesus.

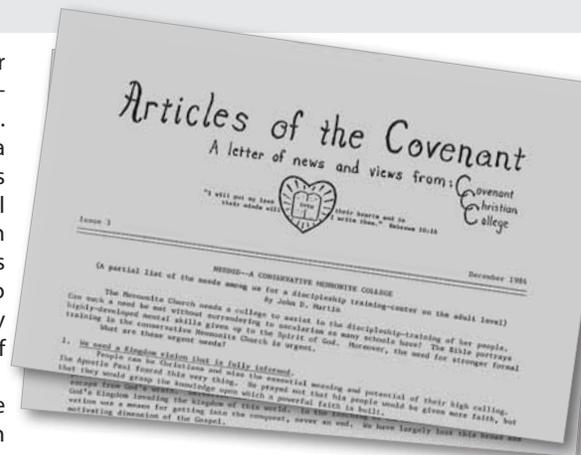
Additional training at the adult level could do much to stimulate church members to see beyond their own personal needs. Education could help many envision the "Asia" beyond "Ephesus."

The need for intensive, adult training in our day also shows up in a lack of depth in the personal commitment of many church members. The Gospel, to many of our people, means only a personal escape from God's wrath. Salvation has become an end in itself. This is not the biblical Gospel of God's Kingdom invading the kingdom of this world. In the teaching of Christ and His Apostles, salvation was a means for getting into the conquest, never an end. We have largely lost this broad and motivating dimension of the Gospel.

Formal training could help disciples acquire a better understanding of their own faith, an understanding they need if they are to be successful evangelists in the war against Satan and his host.

When Jesus said, "I will build my church (governing body); and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it," was Jesus picturing a beleaguered but victorious church with the armies surrounding it? No, armies do not carry their gates to battle. Instead, Jesus was picturing His Church as an offensive force able to march up to territory usurped by the kingdom of this world and break through hell's defenses to claim it for its rightful King. Gospel invaders can profit from training and weapons to assist them in the conquest.

Instilling a fully-informed Kingdom vision in disciples will require intense and systematic exposure to the truth of God's word and world. Every soul in our world must be seen as territory that belongs to God's Kingdom. Men and women must be trained to claim each of these for God, assisted by a fully-informed faith.



2) We need a thorough understanding of our heritage.

History provides brilliant models to sharpen our Kingdom focus. Most notable and informative are the early Anabaptists. But few of our people enjoy the light of their example. Disciples can profit from the Anabaptist concept of the Church as a functioning body.

History cannot be easily learned in short, widely spaced, informal settings. Neither can it be fully grasped by children and young teenagers at the elementary and high school levels. This large task requires the time, system, and maturity of formal adult training.

3) We need a biblical emphasis on values.

Many of our people have come to believe that Christianity is primarily a matter of good morals. For example, a person among us can pursue almost any reputable vocation without being called into question as long as he is hon-

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est, pure, and kind in his dealings. Too often, upright living passes for Kingdom-building, without demonstrating any of the other fruits of discipleship.

Christ spoke clearly to the issue of high morals, but He made values basic to the Christian commitment when He said, "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God." His righteousness is indeed an important part of the Gospel, but only if it exists where Kingdom values have been put first.

A college dedicated to an emphasis on biblical values and their priorities could do much to help orient disciples at a crucial time in their lives: socially, spiritually, materially, and vocationally.

4) We need many more effective teachers for our churches and Christian day schools.

Quite a few of our teachers are presently doing an excellent job of presenting facts and developing study skills. But, interestingly, many of our best teachers express a desire for more formal training. In other cases, school boards scour the churches in search of Christian teachers who have the required knowledge and the ability to teach. Some Christians have tried teaching and failed, not due to a lack of dedication but due to a lack of preparation.

A college could help prepare disciples interested in teaching to fill their role in the classroom better. This in turn would aid in abating the dearth of effective teachers for our churches and Christian day schools.

5) We need Christians who can bring unselfish love into the practice of medicine.

Exorbitant costs and immoral trends in the medical profession should challenge the Christian community to develop a practice of medicine that reflects the compassion of Christ for the suffering.

6) We need competent Christian counselors for the difficult mental cases that confront us.

Even some of our most conservative churches sometimes use the services of professionals in the field of mental health. If this field has validity, it lies within the Kingdom of God. He then expects His people to use it to manifest His healing power and love to a world fragmented by the stress of its own disharmony. Certainly, God's own people should be able to apply godly wisdom in a field dominated by men who lack spiritual discernment.*

7) Finally, we need writers and speakers who can communicate the Gospel effectively in a variety of literary forms.

The skills of captivating communication belong to the heralds of His Kingdom. There is no

* After 27 years, I have reservations about this one unless it means training counselors who will work within the local church and not in a parachurch organization. John D. Martin, Oct 2011

JOIN US FOR WINTER TERM 2012

We invite pastors, mission workers, business owners, families, college students, and youth to our Winter Term, running January 2-February 3, 2012. This winter, we are offering several new courses by guest instructors, in addition to courses taught by our regular faculty. Guest instructors for Winter Term 2012 include Collier Berkshire, Stephen Byler, John D. Martin, Gary Miller, Bill Mullet, Chris Stoltzfus, and Dean Taylor. Courses are offered in history, theology, Bible, music, inter-cultural studies, business, and personal growth. As of November 20, we have openings for 35 additional students for Winter Term 2012. Applications for the entire five-week term are given admissions priority, but we hope to be able to accommodate everyone who desires to attend.

The following classes are slated to run in 2012:

- » American Church History (3)Stephen Russell (Guys Mills, PA)
- » An Introduction to Apologetics (1) Stephen Byler (Singers Glen, VA)
- » Anabaptism as Worldview (1)..... Steven Brubaker (Guys Mills, PA)
- » Anabaptist History (3) Dean Taylor (Ephrata, PA)
- » Choral Conducting (1)..... Brandon Mullet (Guys Mills, PA)
- » Cross-Cultural Understanding (1) Collier Berkshire (Plymouth, IN)
- » Ephesians (1) John D. Martin (Chambersburg, PA)
- » Growing into a Godly Woman (1) Marie Mullet (Guys Mills, PA)
- » Homemaking—An Art for All Women (1).....Cynthia Brubaker (Guys Mills, PA)
- » Interpersonal Relationships (3)..... John Coblenz (Guys Mills, PA)
- » Introduction to Ministry (1)..... John Coblenz (Guys Mills, PA)
- » Kingdom of God (1) Melvin Lehman (Guys Mills, PA)
- » Leadership & Life for Men (3)..... Melvin Lehman (Guys Mills, PA)
- » Music and the Church (1)..... Brandon Mullet (Guys Mills, PA)
- » Music Fundamentals (3) Brandon Mullet (Guys Mills, PA)
- » Music History & Appreciation (1) Brandon Mullet (Guys Mills, PA)
- » Pastoral Care (1)..... John Coblenz (Guys Mills, PA)
- » Reading the Bible (2) Steven Brubaker (Guys Mills, PA)
- » Starting and Running a Christ-centered Business (1).....Bill Mullet (Sugar creek, OH)
- » Systematic Theology (3)Stephen Russell (Guys Mills, PA)
- » The Freedom of Contentment (1)..... Gary Miller (Hutchinson, KS)
- » The Sermon on the Mount (2)..... Stephen Byler (Singers Glen, VA)
- » Understanding Muslims: History, Faith, and Culture (3).....TDW

Check our website for this application, or call our office to receive a copy.

PLAN AHEAD FOR SUMMER TERM 2012

Mark your calendar for Summer Term June 25 – July 27, 2012. This five-week term offers classes in the following categories:

Pedagogy

Foundations of Education | Steven Brubaker
Principles of Teaching | Patrick Heatwole
Course Development Practicum | Gerald Miller
Child Development | Jonas Sauder
Principles of Teaching II | Patrick Heatwole
Teaching Language Arts | Sharon Yoder
Teaching Literature | Jonas Sauder
Teaching Music - Secondary | TBA
Storytelling | Jonas Sauder

History/Theology

Anabaptist History | Stephen Russell
Church History: Early & Medieval | Stephen Russell
Nonresistance | Stephen Russell

Practical Ministry

Helping the Hurting | John Coblenz

Math/Science

High-school Algebra | Earl Koch
Algebra or Calculus | Earl Koch
Joy of Mathematics | Earl Koch
Mathematics for Elementary Teachers | Esther Bean
Biology | John Mark Kuhns
Chemistry | John Mark Kuhns

Music

Music Fundamentals | TBA
Music Theory I | TBA
Music History & Appreciation | TBA
Beginning Class Voice | Brandon Mullet
Beginning Choral Conducting | Brandon Mullet
Music for Elementary Teachers | Crista Bontrager

Our Summer Term application will be available online and from the office in January 2012.

reason why we should settle for a second-rate communication of our first-rate message.

Many of the biblical writers were highly trained, including Moses, Ezra, Isaiah, Daniel, Luke, and Paul. Nowhere is their training denounced in Scripture. In fact, the Bible makes a favorable comment on Moses' knowledge acquired in Egypt: "And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and deeds" (Acts 7:22). Although formal training alone didn't call or qualify these men to write the Scriptures, God did use their skills to record His Word.

Every disciple needs communication skills as a representative of Christ. But missionaries, teachers, preachers, writers, artists, publishers, and other leaders obviously need a double portion of that blessing. A college could be used of God to help train disciples in the skills of communication.

The world before us lies blighted under the rule of a usurper. We have been given the mandate and authority to conquer it for its true King.

"Who then is willing to consecrate his service this day unto the LORD?"

Brother John D. Martin is a Bible teacher from Shippensburg, PA. He recently spoke at Faith Builders' Teachers Conference in October 2011 and will teach in Faith Builders' upcoming Winter Term in January 2012.



NEWS FROM FAITH BUILDERS

Correction

- » Our last newsletter neglected to include Jeanette Zook (Belleville, PA) as a kitchen cook. Jeanette began a year of voluntary service in August 2011.



Engagements

- » Rebekah Miller & Javon Miller

Weddings

- » Sara Yoder & Jared Mast, Oct 1

Births

- » Joel & Kelsey Martin, Yoanna Charis, 1st daughter and child, June 19
- » Mark & Esther (Weaver) Nisly, Ian Samuel, 1st son and child, Oct 23
- » Mark & Marla (Stoltzfus) Kurtz, Yosef Gideon, 1st son and child, Nov 2
- » Matthew & Larisa (Zehr) Mast, Adrian Daniel, 2nd son and child, Nov 19

Personnel Needs

- » We are needing short-term volunteer cooks to help in the kitchen during our upcoming Winter Term (Jan 1 – Feb 4).
- » Faith Builders is accepting applications for a full-time, paid receptionist starting in the summer of 2012. We are looking for someone with computer and organizational skills complemented with enjoyment of people.
- » We are accepting applications for a full-time paid staff position managing and supporting our computer network and systems, beginning July 2012. This person would be responsible for planning and implementing solutions, providing end-

user support, and overseeing technical services.

- » Faith Builders Christian School is currently seeking applications for a grades 1-2 teacher (Aug 2012).
- » We need a single man to serve as Dean of Men for male students and volunteers (Aug 2012).
- » We need a retired or semi-retired couple to serve as house parents (Aug 2012 – May 2013). They provide an older, married presence to volunteers and students on campus. Opportunities for other involvement include maintenance, domestics, kitchen, and spiritual life activities.
- » We need a maintenance volunteer willing to serve a one-year term beginning June 2012. Basic skills in mechanics or one of the building trades are preferred but not required. Typical responsibilities include building upkeep, basic vehicle maintenance, remodeling projects, school equipment repairs, lawn and landscape care and janitorial work. This person can be married or single, young or old.
- » We are interested in individuals or small groups of volunteers willing to come for a few days or up to a week to work on remodeling projects. If you are an experienced builder, remodeler or handyman we will provide you with meals, lodging, tools and materials while you donate your time to projects such as painting, plumbing or finish carpentry.

If you are interested in any of these opportunities, please contact our office for more information.



David Sarraino
Teacher Apprenticing Program

"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6).

My decision to come to Faith Builders was a result of these verses. After graduating high school, I knew I wanted to pursue some form of higher education and God clearly led me to FB. I was really attracted to the Christian-Anabaptist environment of study as well as the TAP program that FB offered. I hoped to learn a lot of skills and acquire a lot of information that I would someday be able to use in my own classroom.

Studying here at FB has begun to prepare me for the work God has called me to do for His Kingdom. God has called me into the classroom to teach and FB has provided numerous experiences that have helped prepare me for this ministry. I greatly enjoy working side by side with the FBCS staff and value their input into my teaching. Also, I have greatly enjoyed and learned a lot in the TI classes. These classes have helped me to see the world through a Christian perspective, leading to a strengthening of my faith.

Through my time here at FB I have learned a lot of new information that brought me closer to God in my Christian life. My eyes have been opened to the world around me in new ways, allowing me to see God everywhere and in everything. I am looking forward to being able to share my experiences with others after I leave FB. Over the past year and a half, I have grown in many unexpected ways and I want to continue growing in Christ and seeking His plan for my life.



Sarah Miller
Ministry Apprenticing Program

As I pulled into the Faith Builders parking lot, I began to wonder. Do I really want to do this, the next two years of my life committed to living and studying in this place? Yet I

walked through those doors and, before I knew it, right through the next whole year of my life.

I carried a purpose with me the day I arrived at Faith Builders. At home, I had determined that to live my fullest for the kingdom of God, I needed training. At the time, my focus rested on missions. I knew that if I wanted to reach people, I first needed to be sure of my own beliefs. The mentoring program appealed to me. Who was I? What might God want me to do with the gifts He had given me? I stepped through those doors with many questions in mind.

A year later, the door swings open with confidence. The grounds are no longer unfamiliar, and normal now consists of books and binders staring at me from my desk while schedules repeatedly pop up on my laptop. What have I discovered through this new normality? Two themes come to mind—discipline and beauty. While discipline calls me to live to my fullest potential, beauty calls me to approach life with passion. Through my studies and in the lives of my instructors, mentors, even fellow students, passion stares me in the face. This passion springs from struggle, from the reality of a broken world. That is what I call beautiful.

My time here is half-way over. Soon I will walk out of those same doors into my future. As I leave, I want to take with me this passion for Christ that continues to appear. I would give testimony to the faithfulness of God as He continues to show me who He is and who I am in Him. May it all be for His glory!

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John D. Martin addresses educators at FB's Teachers Conference.

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Visit us on the web at www.fbep.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

FBCS Christmas Program | 7:30 PM, December 9, 2011

FB Chorale Christmas Concert | 4:00 PM, December 11, 2011

Winter Term 2012 | January 2 – February 3, 2012

» As of November 20, we have openings for 35 additional students for Winter Term 2012. Applications for the entire five-week term are given admissions priority, but we hope to accommodate everyone who desires to attend.

Summer Term 2012 | June 25 – July 27, 2012

» See course listing on page 631.

College Student Seminar and Retreat | July 5-8, 2012

» Registration for this weekend is open online at www.fbep.org.

Teachers Week 2012 | July 31-August 3, 2012

INVITING STUDENTS FOR FALL SEMESTER 2012

We are accepting student applications for the 2012-2013 year. We have space for twenty new students in the Institute for next year, with room for ten new students in the Teacher Apprenticing track and ten new students in the Christian Ministries and General Studies tracks. Applications are reviewed in January, March, and May. The application packet is available at www.fbep.org. Parents, pastors, and school boards: we invite you to identify men and women in your churches and communities who would benefit from studying at Faith Builders and encourage them to apply.