

FB FAITH BUILDERS

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, INC.

“Discipling the head, heart, and hands.”

Issue 75

March 2005

STATE OF THE SCHOOL ADDRESS 2005



(This article—part 1 of 2—is an edited transcript of an address Melvin shared at FB on February 10, 2005.)

My wife Shelia is a genius at completing puzzles, undaunted by a 2,000-piece system. With courage and patience she tries a piece here and then there, only to set it aside because it doesn't fit anywhere...at the moment. Every ten minutes, she carefully studies the picture on the box cover, and then arranges things a little more. She stays at it tenaciously in her spare moments until the last piece finds its place. Bravo to her, I say!

Life is like a puzzle. A puzzle and its pieces model the interaction between the particulars and big-picture vision. The details make little sense without the picture on the box. The final work of art cannot be realized without the pieces filling their role. The burden of my heart is to move toward common vision and purpose, connecting the dots between what I do daily at FB and the larger vision ultimately couched in the reality of the Kingdom of God on earth. We must bring the puzzle pieces together to get a composite of the purpose and goals of Faith Builders, but we also need to fit our little picture into a evolving picture being sketched daily by our God's sovereign hand.

Recently, some of us met to reflect, plan, and dream about the place of Faith Builders in the Kingdom. I directed our attention to a passage in I Kings 6—the startling story of Elisha, his servant, and the Syrian army. God empowered Elisha to lead an entire army single-handedly to Samaria and deliver the captive army into the hands of the astounded king of Israel. Elisha suggested a picnic before they sent the enemy home. What was Elisha's secret? He knew the Lord, and thus he saw things that nobody else was seeing. He had vision.

Vision building must begin with an accurate picture of what is true about the present. We can never answer that question exhaustively. Pieces of life's puzzle are often lost, misplaced, trampled, or simply overlooked. However, familiarity with the puzzle pieces and a dogged determination to fit them into the bigger picture yields results, as Shelia's persistence illustrates. When we

engage the puzzle pieces of FBEP, the results will be good. As shown by the story of Elisha and his servant, the untrained eye will miss huge pieces of the puzzle and thus have a misinformed view of what is true. Elisha asked the Lord to open his servant's eyes to behold the armies of the Lord mustered on their behalf. Let us look beyond the superficial. Let us gaze upon the glory of the Lord. Behold the armies of heaven poised and ready to do battle on our behalf—in the details as well as in the larger picture!

Another question inherent in developing vision is “What can be?” As we begin a puzzle, precious few pieces have found

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UPCOMING EVENT: APRIL 2005 WORLDVIEWS WORKSHOP

Current Issues in Conservative Mennonite Thought & Practice

April 2-3, 2005: Saturday 9:00 AM-4:00 PM, Sunday 9:15-11:45 AM

Guest Speakers Merle Burkholder, David L. Miller, Val Yoder

Responders Collier Berkshire, Melvin Lehman, Roy Longenecker

Who are we and where do we fit? What are the greatest challenges facing us in 2005? How can we avoid the dangers and maximize the opportunities of the next 20 years?

The speakers will offer 25-30 minute presentations on each major theme, followed by a panel discussion and questions from the responders.

If you would like to attend this event, please call the office to register.

Deadline for registering for this workshop is March 25, 2005.

Get more info about FB Summer Term 2005! Call the office for a brochure and application.

their interlocking partners. We have confidence in a larger picture, one that includes each seemingly insignificant piece. The healing power of hope springs up within the soul when one dares to engage this great second question "What can be?" The answer to this question defines the soul of a man's being and vision.

So we ask these two questions: "What is?" "What can be?"

When I joined the FBEP board as a freshman member in 1992, we met in the parking garage. We crowded into a little travel trailer, for around us lay 85,000 square feet of chaos. The building's roofs leaked. The plumbing froze and burst. The plaster fell from the walls. Vandals had shattered the windows. Debris littered those 85,000 square feet. Then we discovered that FBEP was \$100 in the red because of our last newsletter printing. In that little trailer we met and prayed and dreamed and planned. Why? We believed this chaos would be sorted and pieced together into a bigger picture if only we would obey the Lord.

Today we behold the partially completed puzzle. We are in the dry. We are warm. We worship in a beautiful room created by men and women who dreamed much. Today the 85,000 square feet have been renovated—not perfect, but beautiful nonetheless. This has come at a price. This physical plant alone represents an approximate \$800,000 investment by our communities (incidentally, almost \$10 per square foot). Of course, the physical plant is only a means to an end. Yet it stands as a testimony to the men who wrestled with the question "What can be?" This building is the most obvious answer to the question, "What is?"

What is? This very day some 93 day-school students gathered in the West Wing of our facility. I can declare with boldness that those 93 students are getting one of the finest educations in the world. That's because some of you on the so-called departmental level have met and prayed and thought and planned until the

FB Calendar

Weekend Workshop	April 2-3
Shady Maple Presentation	April 21
FB Chorale Program	May 15 7:00 PM
Commencement	May 20 7:00 PM
Choir Tour	May 21-30
European Study Trip	June
Summer Term Orientation ..	June 27, 7:00 PM
College Student Retreat	July 1-3
Choir Tour	July 23-24
Final Exams	July 28-29
Teachers Week	August 2-5

puzzle pieces began to fall together. Your part of the picture is looking good. I honor you and the Lord for that. My impression is that we need to find a few more pieces so that we can link you fast and securely into the ever growing tapestry of Faith Builders.

What is? This past fall semester, we were able to offer intense teacher apprenticeship to a rising generation of teachers. Some of you worked hard and gave more than your share to give next-generation teachers the experience of a lifetime. What can I say? At least some in my generation would have wept with joy at such an opportunity.

What is? This past fall semester we were able to offer structured course content and hands-on opportunities to young men and ladies who want to minister in their communities and beyond. I speak of the MAP course of study. Only time will tell what will come of your priceless investment. I am trusting the Lord for a hundred-fold harvest.

What is? Most of the courses we offer have been validated for their academic rigor and integrity by the American Council of Education—an organization that has no vested interest in our aims and goals, yet affirmed us in what we are doing.

What is? We just finished our first winter term with some sixty students participating. We discovered that our water well is inadequate for such a crowd and we got a taste of what it may be like to

Board members of FB

- ï John Miller, chair (Bourbon, IN)
- ï Wayne Martin, vice-chair (Wallenstein, ONT)
- ï Sam Bontrager (Middlebury, IN)
- ï Roy Gingerich (Uniontown, OH)
- ï Leroy Martin (Latham, MO)
- ï Reuben Yoder (Free Union, VA)

Service Opportunities at FB

- ï Kitchen: August, November 2005
- ï PCH: May, December 2005
- ï Domestic: May 2005
- ï Volunteer youth groups to schedule spring projects

Special Projects for FB

- ï Heavy-duty blender
- ï Last restrooms for West Wing: \$3000
- ï Window A/C units: \$1200
- ï TAP/MAP scholarship funds
- ï Library: book donations, financial donations
- ï Safety lighting in front of dorms: \$1800 remaining
- ï Woodshop tools: jointer, planer, router with table, band saw
- ï Commercial-grade front-deck lawn mower

Teachers Week

August 2-5, 2005

Prepare your heart and mind for the 2005-2006 school year! Join us for four days of enriching study and fellowship with other teachers and FB instructors.

Main sessions topics are **Inspiring & Motivating Students** and **Nurturing the Heart and Mind**.

Other sessions include *Keeping Parents Informed and Involved*, *Teaching Spelling*, *Teaching Tips for 1st Grade Reading*, *Creative Writing*, *Simple Demonstrations for Science*, and more!

Call for more information today!



Summer Term

June 27 - July 29, 2005

Join us for a five-week summer term! FB will only offer one summer session since we have added Winter Term as our second short term.

Algebra (3)	<i>Koch</i>
Anabaptist History (3)	<i>Russell</i>
Basic English	<i>TBA</i>
Calculus (3)	<i>Koch</i>
Chemistry (3)	<i>Brubaker</i>
Child Development (3)	<i>Sauder</i>
Children's Literature (3)	<i>Yoder</i>
Cross-Cultural Understanding (1)	<i>Sauder</i>
Foundations of Education (3)	<i>Brubaker</i>
Foundations / Spiritual Formation (2)	<i>Zehr</i>
Intro to Computers (3)	<i>Zook</i>
Intro to Literature (3)	<i>Sauder</i>
Mathematics for Teachers (3)	<i>Brubaker</i>
Menno Simons Seminar (1)	<i>Russell</i>
Old Testament Survey (3)	<i>Russell</i>
Principles of Teaching (3)	<i>Lehman</i>
Romans (1)	<i>Zehr</i>
Secondary English/Literature (1)	<i>Sauder</i>
Secondary Mathematics (3)	<i>Koch</i>
Teaching Reading (3)	<i>Yoder</i>
World Geography (3)	<i>Russell</i>

reach our goal of fifty matriculated students in the TAP and MAP Programs. But I think it a resounding success.

What is? This very moment as you sit in this room, the Personal Care Home is providing sterling quality care to eight senior citizens from our community who need a Christian's care. At the same time they are making it possible for young ladies to gain experience and training in geriatrics. Besides that, the staff is providing a great opportunity for each person to grow personally before the Lord in mentoring class. And may I add that our Personal Care Home is generating some \$8,000 of cash flow per month. That's 14.1% of our budget.

What is? Today we have a kitchen facility and staff that provided according to my guesstimate 100 meals per day—a reasonable average—for staff and students of FBEP. Based on current budgets and my guesstimate, this means the per-meal cost at FB is \$3.15! This is monumental and incredible.

What is? Today the lights are on, the room is clean, and we are comfortable...thanks to Dave Gingerich, Caia Soukup, Joel Thomas, and Willie Miller.

What is? Our current fiscal budget is almost \$700,000—meaning \$1,896 every single day. In addition to meeting costs, we have reduced debt on our line of credit by \$50,000 to about \$30,000. I cannot guarantee this will be tomorrow's accounting, but those are the numbers today. The Lord has provided and we trust Him to continue.

What is? Mentoring groups have arisen at Faith Builders. Many have had opportunity to build friendships on a level hitherto unknown. Many have found hope for the future, confidence in their fellowmen, and a shared humanity in these groups. I have the impression that this may be the vanguard to the answer for stability and guidance in a rapidly changing secular society that our church communities have struggled to grasp.

What is? We serve the same God who empowered Elisha to win handily over the entire Syrian army. We serve the same God who sent fire from heaven at Elijah's request one evening long ago. We serve the same God who directed that fish to scoop up a coin from the water just in time to pay the temple tax for Peter and Jesus. We serve the same God who raised up Jesus Christ from the dead. That's what is!

In the next newsletter, Melvin will continue his message on vision by considering the question "What can be?"

Mennonite College Student Retreat

How can Mennonite young people study in college, wrestle with core issues, and confront the complexities of a postmodern worldview without abandoning their own beliefs? If you are attending or considering college, this retreat is for you.

The Retreat is a weekend for young people in college to engage peers with their questions and struggles. It's a safe place to discuss and think about college experiences and our Mennonite heritage.



- Where:** "The Castle," the Sibley Mansion near Franklin, PA
- When:** July 1-3, 2005, Friday evening through Sunday afternoon
- Theme:** Bridging the Gap: Reconciling College and our Mennonite Heritage
- What:** Fun-filled activities including
 - + Small-group discussions
 - + Thought-provoking sessions
 - + Panel discussion of issues
 - + Building friendships
 - + Nature walks
 - + Recreation

Cost: \$99 per person – this includes lodging (2 nights), meals and retreat expenses

This retreat is limited to the first 50 people who register. Please call the FB office for an application for the College Student Retreat.



NEWS from Faith Builders

Life at FB

- ▲ Winter Term included nearly 70 students taking classes during 5 weeks.
- ▲ Almost 200 people attended FB's Money Colloquy on Jan 29, 2005.

Welcome to

- ▲ Pam Witmer, Spring Grove, PA, PCH, December 2004.
- ▲ Matilda Byler, Summersville, MO, kitchen, January 2005.
- ▲ Amanda Dove, Harrisonburg, VA, FBEP student, February 2005.

Engagements

- ▲ Kevin Hertzler & Andrea Nissley.

Weddings

- ▲ Matthew Mast & Larisa Zehr, March 5, 2005.
- ▲ Lyndon Dueck & Lucille Loewen, March 12, 2005.

Births

- ▲ Ben & Juanita (Zehr) Miller, 2nd daughter, JoAna Luisa, born Jan. 28, 2004, and 1st son, John Casey, born March 9, 2004, received for adoption on Nov. 26, 2004.
- ▲ Michael & Michelle (Funk) Fisher, 3rd child & son, Bryce William, Dec. 13, 2004.
- ▲ Jonathan & Brenda (Beachy) Sauder, 1st child & daughter, Faith Elizabeth, Dec. 17, 2004.
- ▲ Jon Alan & Laureen (Strite) Zehr, 4th child, 2nd daughter, Katherine Anne, Jan. 1, 2005.
- ▲ Reuben & Patty (Musser) Petersheim, 1st child & daughter, Holly Grace, Jan. 13, 2005.
- ▲ Glendon & Edith Eshleman, 4th child, 2nd son, Lee Edward, Jan. 26, 2005.
- ▲ Curvin & Sharon Weaver, 5th & 6th children, 3rd & 4th daughters, Jolene Sue & Kaylene Ann, Jan. 30, 2005.
- ▲ Phil & Rosie (Smucker) Leichty, 1st child & son, Blaine Nicholas, Feb. 14, 2005.

Get Involved!

If you would like to become a student, register for workshops, or inquire about VS opportunities and other ways to be a part of the FB vision, you can contact us ...

- ☎ **By Phone** 814-789-4518
- ☎ **By Fax** 814-789-3396
- ✉ **By E-mail** fbep@fbep.org
- ✉ **By Mail** PO Box 127, Guys Mills, PA 16327

Response Form

Please check all that apply.

- 1. I want information on a workshop or colloquy. _____
- 2. Please send a copy of your catalog.
- 3. Please correct my address as listed below.
- 4. I am interested in a VS opportunity. Please send an application.
- 5. I would like to make a donation toward _____ .

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Town/State/Zip: _____
 Phone: _____ Church: _____
 E-mail address _____

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