



FAITH BUILDERS

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, INC.

“Discipling the head, heart, and hands”

Issue 76

May 2005

STATE OF THE SCHOOL ADDRESS 2005: PART 2

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

Let us be honest and real. Not everything is sunshine and blessing. We are human. There are clouds and shadows. There are days when it is dark...and even foreboding.

I have the distinct impression that much has been neglected and that there is a backlog of old

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business that needs attention. I also have the distinct impression that there is a great need for vision renewal at FBEP. I would like for us both individually and corporately to engage with this backlog and the need for vision renewal.

Some of you have spoken and I have been listening. What I am hearing is that there is a **lack of connectedness**, resulting in a growing institutionalism that has sapped our spiritual vitality. I am grieved at this! I am concerned about it and I have felt its effects as well as you. As I have shared with some of you, I have fallen into more brooding and less praying. I am resolved to attack this problem...to learn what I need to learn...to repent

where I need to repent...to be converted where I need to be converted...to beg of you forgiveness where I need forgiveness....to extend mercy where offense calls for mercy. Undoubtedly, there is no single answer to this problem. I call us to seek the answers together. There must be a way to experience satisfying community in the middle of growth and change. Let us seek it and find it together. I call on every department—not to increase the number of meetings, but to be innovative in creating moments of connection and fellowship.

Some of you have spoken and I have been listening. You have hopes and dreams—some of them unspoken, yet they long for expression. You have put some confidence in us. You have dared to hope that FBEP would be a place where your highest and loftiest dreams could come true. I suspect you have expected something of us which we have not been able to deliver. I beg of you to have patience with us. For it is in our hearts to see and experience the Shekinah glory of the Lord filling this place. To this end we are resolved...but more about that later.

Clearly, some of us have a growing concern about our connections with our heritage. I have always dreamed of a school that truly and genuinely supports the conservative Mennonite church. I have sought to be a progressive conserva-

tive within that context. I seek a Bible-based forum for change that embraces the best from our heritage and appropriately honors our fathers with gratitude, while facing squarely the faults and even the imbedded evil that surely is a part of the heritage. And remember, this is all within the context of my own humanity, brokenness, hang-ups and all. This has been no small matter through which to find our way. I call us to prayerfulness and watchfulness. We have seen disasters. We must avoid such a path and such a history. If we are old, we must avoid cynicism and retreat. We must engage the realities of an unprecedented rate of change that confronts all western civilization. Despite our perceptions the next generation looks to us to chart a good course. We cannot fail them. If we are young, we must avoid scorn, disdain, and the folly of ignoring the warnings of past generations and history itself. We must stay in communication and never be rash in judgment or action.

But we have yet another question as part of our vision-building equation: **“What can be?”**

Let us return to our model. More and more of Shelia's puzzle is taking shape. But it seems that there are not nearly enough pieces to complete the picture. There are huge sections missing. She becomes dis-

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couraged and angry with the producer of the puzzle. Then she looks into the puzzle box one more time and finds a set of instructions that she had earlier overlooked. She reads, "Empty the puzzle pieces onto your working surface. Remove the separating partition between the existing puzzle pieces and the creative puzzle completion kit. This kit includes all the tools and materials necessary for you to complete the puzzle. The possibilities are unlimited. Additional instructions are included in the kit." "—Ahhh," she says, "I see...."

Do you get the point? Yes, there is a big picture, but it is never completely understood. After all, it is a puzzle! Yes, we have been given significant pieces of the puzzle—a framework within which to build. Yes, through instruction, obedience, persistence, and even trial and error we have put some pieces in place. And, yes, we have received the tools and materials from a sovereign God to make and shape some significant sections of the puzzle, all under the direction and government of our Father in heaven. But I believe He gives us great freedom and boldness to "have at it." And to this task I call us.

Recently I heard some of you expressing your vision of a garden-spot campus for students and staff to enjoy. I say, "Brothers, have at it." Let's get a plan on the table and let's begin to execute it. If we want a stately old maple tree 500 feet due west of the west wing, we had better get it planted and growing. You know what? We can start that project this year.

For several years we have been frustrated with inadequate kitchen and dining facilities. It really is time to do something about it. We are proposing that this is the year! In a few weeks we will be presenting a plan for that renovation to our board. If the Lord prospers our plans, we will move forward with this project. We are wise to lay this plan—or any plan—before the Lord with the full knowledge that unless He approves, it is folly to proceed.

FB Calendar

European Choir Tour	June 7-23
European Choir Program (at FB)	June 24
Summer Term Orientation ..	June 27, 7:00 PM
College Student Retreat	July 1-3
Final Exams	July 28-29
Teachers Week	August 2-5
FB Council Meeting	August 12
FB Board Meeting	August 13
Fall Apprenticing begins	August 22
Fall Term Orientation	September 19
Teachers Workshop	October 15-16

I have heard some of you speak of a growing sense of mission for the Christian school—interest in inner-city schools, interest in giving birth to other effective Christian schools, interest in foreign mission schools. I say, "Brothers, have at it!" And I raise the question: **What can be?**

This very morning, I heard one of you say that you dream of seeing a twenty-five-bed Personal Care Home with a staff capable of training nurses in a Christian atmosphere. That stirred a vision that I once held that has almost died. I ask you a question. Are we as a people going to watch medical costs rise out of sight and sit helplessly as if there were nothing to be done about it except to find more ways to amass the capital to pay the bills of a corrupt system? Must I remind you that this is not the typical way that we as a people of ingenuity have answered such questions? Again, I repeat the question: **What can be?**

A few years ago, we set a goal of fifty students for Faith Builders—thirty MAP students and twenty TAP students. Today we are inching toward that goal. According to the Mennonite Yearbook (1996), there are some 20,000 members of churches that in my estimation we are able to serve to a greater or lesser extent. That count does not include Beachy Amish congregations. If we include them and others not listed in that directory, the constituency that we could serve is somewhere around 35,000 people, excluding

Board members of FB

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

Service Opportunities at FB

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

Special Projects for FB

- Heavy-duty blender
- Student dorms (Ladies' Dorms 1 & 4, Men's Dorm 2): \$11,000
- West Wing office A/C: \$7,000
- Safety lighting in front of dorms: \$1,800 remaining
- Woodshop tools: jointer, planer, router with table, band saw

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!

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smaller children. If we came to full capacity, and assuming an average of 75 members per congregation (450 congre-



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	TBA
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>

in the sense that we need to raise the awareness of what is offered here, and we must cultivate relationships with this constituency on every level. Focus our appeal in the sense that **we know who we are, what we are about, and we understand our limitations.**

Finally, I have dreamed of a network of Christian communities that agree on the essentials of doctrine and practice. I have dreamed of the day when barrier-building and name-calling and unjust fault-finding would end, when the walls of unholy barriers would come down, the crooked ways be straightened, and a highway prepared for our God to come and dwell among us. I have dreamed of the day when in every congregation there are pastor-shepherds who care and understand and know how to lead their flock to green pastures and cool streams of healing. I have dreamed that this network of Christian communities would someday look upon the harvest that is ripe and ready for reaping—rather than upon their petty differences—and that this would cause them to lay down their hatchets and accept their mission together in service to the King of Kings. I do not know how to build a bridge between such a dream and reality. I do not know how Faith Builders fits into the dream. But I do ask you for the freedom to dream, and I ask you to dream with me...and again I ask you the question: **What can be?**



- Melvin Lehman

NEWS from Faith Builders

Welcome to...

- ❖ Mark Nisly, Oswego, KS, computer tech, April 2005
- ❖ Lois Hershberger, Jessup, GA, PCH supervisor, May 2005

Farewell to...

- ❖ Evelyn Glick, PCH supervisor, Lancaster, PA, May 2005
- ❖ Darrell Hershberger, Stuarts Draft, VA, MAP Graduate, May 2005
- ❖ Jordan Ehst, Narvon, PA, TAP Graduate, May 2005
- ❖ Michael Hochstetler, Cumberland, VA, student, May 2005
- ❖ Becky Chupp, Stuarts Draft, VA, head cook & student, May 2005
- ❖ Shirleen Mullet, Millersburg, IN, PCH & student, May 2005
- ❖ KrisAnne Burkholder, Nappanee, IN, TAP Graduate, May 2005
- ❖ Lonnie Weaver, Quaker City, OH, MAP Graduate, May 2005
- ❖ Amanda Dove, Harrisonburg, VA, student, May 2005
- ❖ Caia Soukup, Guys Mills, PA, TAP Graduate 2004, Domestic, June 2005
- ❖ Naomi Hoover, Marietta, PA, PCH, July 2005

Engagements

- ❖ Marian Frey & Leonard Martin
- ❖ Amanda Dove & Benjamin Yoder
- ❖ Karen Schrock & Wesley Sensenig

Weddings

- ❖ Brenda Slaubaugh & Craig Wenger, January 8, 2005
- ❖ Lucy Loewen & Lyndon Dueck, March 12, 2005
- ❖ Kathy Witmer & Brian Rau, May 6, 2005
- ❖ Andrea Nissley & Kevin Hertzler, May 7, 2005
- ❖ Crystal Gingerich & Brady Hochstetler, May 7, 2005

Births

- ❖ Dave & CharLou Hochstetler, 6th child, 3rd daughter, Lily Ann, March 30, 2005
- ❖ Caleb & Tammy (Eberly) Royer, 2nd child, 1st son, Patrick Caleb, April 8, 2005
- ❖ Eugene & Jewel Yoder, 4th child, 2nd daughter, Sharlene Dawn, April 29, 2005

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gations), we would be serving less than 12% of those congregations. If we run those same calculations based on the numbers we have this year, we are serving less than 5% of the congregations that we ought to be serving. Brothers, we can do better. We must both broaden and focus our appeal. Broaden it



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Deaths: The FBEP Community expresses our condolences and sense of loss at the passing of these FB personnel.

- ❖ Duane Tucker, FB instructor during summers 1991, 1995; died March 27, 2005, from congestive heart failure.
- ❖ Rosalind Gingerich, wife of Dave Gingerich of Faith Builders, died May 10, 2005, after a 2½-year battle with cancer.

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

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