

FAITH BUILDERS

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, INC.

"Discipling the head, heart, and hands"

Issue 79

February 2006

DISCIPLESHIP AT FAITH BUILDERS

Our mission statement at Faith Builders Educational Programs reads: "Faith Builders Educational Programs serves the Conservative Anabaptist community by discipling people towards humble servant leadership for joyful, Christ-centered participation in the Kingdom of God."

The motto that appears on all our literature encapsulates the areas of discipling we engage in: "Discipling the head, heart, and hands." Discipling the head takes place in classes. Discipling the heart takes place in mentoring groups, in planned meetings, and in various informal discussions and relationships. Discipling the hands (apprenticing) takes place as students put into practice their gifts and skills in a directed, "hands-on" ministry situation. When we speak at FB about discipling the heart, then, we use the term "mentoring" in order to distinguish it from discipling the hands, which we refer to as "apprenticing."

The FBEP administration is committed to mentoring as a biblical method for making disciples. Not only did Christ disciple people in his sermons and one-on-one relationships, but the Bible teaches that believers possess the life of God, spiritual wisdom, and the ability to love, instruct, and admonish one another to walk in faith and obedience to Christ. But in the midst of our commitment to mentoring, the people at FBEP recognize that there are differences of understanding among committed Christians concerning how people grow and change, in part because growth and change does not happen automatically and is not a science. We are committed to complete openness about the philosophy, goals and methods that constitute FBEP's mentoring program, to reflective listening to the criticisms and critiques offered to improve the FBEP mentoring program, and to constant

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Join us for our March Workshops

DISCIPLESHIP AT FAITH BUILDERS

March 18-19, 2006

Join us to consider issues in discipleship, evaluate strengths and weaknesses of our current mentoring program, and reflect on similarities and differences between student mentoring and church discipleship. We invite prospective students and their friends or parents, pastors or church workers, and anyone interested in developing intentional relationships for personal spiritual development.

SATURDAY MORNING

- 9:00 – 9:15 Opening
9:15 – 10:00 Biblical Basis for Discipleship – Melvin Lehman
10:10 – 11:00 The FB Mentoring Program – Steven Brubaker
11:10 – 12:00 Reflections on the FB Mentoring Program – Alumni

12:00 – 1:30 Lunch

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

- 1:30 – 2:30 Points of Tension in Discipling – Brandon Mullet
2:40 – 3:30 Split Session: Men and Mentoring, Women and Mentoring
3:40 – 4:40 Panel Discussion of Audience Questions

SUNDAY MORNING

- 9:15 – 9:30 Opening
9:30 – 10:20 Discipleship and the Past – Brandon Mullet
Discipleship and the Future – Steven Brubaker
10:30 – 11:30 Church Discipleship – Dave Hostetler
Church Discipleship – Milo Zehr

Please register if you wish to attend this event. Registration helps us to prepare for meals, lodging, and event accomodation.

Interested in attending Faith Builders but not sure you can afford it?

Some financial scholarships are available for new TAP and MAP students enrolled for Fall Term 2006. If you would like to study at FB and wish to apply for financial assistance, contact the office for a student and scholarship application. Initial awards were made on January 16, 2006, and additional awards are planned for May 15, 2006. Scholarships are considered after admission is approved.



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evaluation and adjustment of the mentoring program as we learn and grow. The purposes of the March workshop are to consider issues in discipleship, evaluate strengths and weaknesses of our current mentoring program, and reflect on similarities and differences between student mentoring and church discipleship. The purpose of this article is to clarify the questions and problem areas we have faced, call you to ponder and pray with us about these questions, and describe how we intend to consider these questions during the March workshop.

When we formed the first mentoring groups for the fall of 2000, we were very inexperienced: we didn't know the challenges and questions, to say nothing about answers. Since that time we and others have asked many questions. The issues and questions fall into the following categories: goals, content, methods and activities, and adaptability to church life. I will list some questions that represent the kinds of issues we have faced.

Goals

- Does the Bible teach that a believer needs relationship with other believers, or a group of believers, in order to experience spiritual transformation? If so, how much and what kind of assistance does a person need?
- Does the FB mentoring program foster spiritual transformation and growth into the image of Christ as described in the Bible?
- How can FB help people acknowledge their gifts, skills, and God-given desires, and help people yield these to Christ, without people becoming proud, selfish, and demanding?

- Our classes and mentoring groups can disrupt people's minds and hearts. How much disruption is necessary for a person to develop passionate beliefs or to experience repentance? What kind of precautions does FB take not to disrupt people inappropriately?

Content

- What has Jesus Christ done in His life, death, resurrection, and present work through the Holy Spirit that makes spiritual transfor-

mation possible?

- What is God's view of believers who sin? Showing mercy to people in their failures and sins seems to deemphasize moral victory and God's holiness.

- What kind of material should people read in relation to spiritual growth? Should the Bible be the only textbook?

- If the focus is on how people actually live, should the focus be altogether on how people live in the present, or should people be allowed or expected to talk about the past or future?

- What role does the Bible assign to feelings, emotions, and desires (as compared to the role of ideas and truth) within the transformation process, and how are these redeemed, according to Scripture?

Methods and Activities

- Should the primary focus in group sessions be instruction about what a person should believe or discussion about how people actually live?

- What methods are biblical or appropriate to use to help people experience in their hearts what they say they believe in their minds?

- Is it appropriate or even right (respectful) to expect people to participate in a group of complete strangers? Do some people's spiritual and emotional difficulties or past relationships prohibit their involvement in group discipling?

- How can FB help people forgive others and receive forgiveness without undermining confidence in one's background and traditions?

- How should FB respond to people who refuse to enter into discussion about major sins or character failures?

- What legal or pastoral responsibility does FB have in relation to reporting alleged abuse situations to civil, church, or parental authorities?

- Is cross-gender discipling ever appropriate or necessary, and if so, under what conditions and with what methods?

Inviting all teachers for
TEACHERS WEEK

August 1-4, 2006

Experience hands-on work sessions, practical workshops, inspirational addresses, and discussions with other growing and experienced teachers. Plan now to attend Faith Builders' Teachers Week.

Faith Builders will mail Teachers Week information with the Summer Term Brochure in March.

Join us for five-week
SUMMER STUDIES

June 26-July 28, 2006

Algebra (3)	Koch
Art Appreciation (1)	Sauder
Basic English (NC-3)	TBA
Beginning Class Voice (1)	Mullet
Child Development (3)	Sauder
Children's Literature (3)	TBA
Choir (1)	Mullet
Choral Conducting (1)	Mullet
Creative Writing (3)	Sauder
Educational Administration (1)	Miller
The Exceptional Learner (3)	Zucconi
Foundations of Education (3)	Brubaker
Foundations of Spiritual Formation (2)	Zehr
Galatians (1)	Zehr
Geometry (3)	TBA
Introduction to Computers (3)	Zook
Mathematics for Teachers (3)	Brubaker
Music Fundamentals (3)	Mullet
Music History & Appreciation (1)	Mullet
Principles of Teaching (3)	Lehman
Teaching Practicum (3)	Miller
Teaching Secondary Mathematics (3)	Koch
Trigonometry (3)	Koch

Faith Builders will mail the Summer Term Brochure in March.

ELIST UPDATES

Faith Builders regularly sends email updates to a growing list of subscribers. Updates include information on special events and recordings, personnel or project needs, and FB news. Each email update contains information on subscribing, changing, and removing your address from our list. To join email elist@fbep.org with "subscribe" as the subject line.

WEB UPDATES

Faith Builders is beginning to communicate with our students, staff, alumni, and supporters with periodic updates via the web. Newsletters, brochures, and applications will also be made available on this site. Visit the new blog at www.fbep.org/blog for details. This blog will be incorporated in our updated web design later this year.

Board members of FB

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

Service Opportunities at FB

- Computer tech: August 2006
- Domestic: January 2007
- Kitchen: Aug 2006, Jan 2007
- PCH: 2 in Nov 2006

Renovation Project

- We are looking for bricklayers to lay 25,000 bricks on the little gym project this spring, hopefully near the end of April or early May. Pouring concrete floors and brick work will cost an estimated \$25,000. We plan to transform the building into a student lounge, a laundry, CLR bookstore, and offices on the first floor. The second floor will become FB's library.

Special Projects for FB

- One open dorm still needs comforters. Thanks so much for those who contributed sixteen last year.
- Ladies' dorms hallway carpet: \$3,000
- West wing office A/C: \$7,000
- Safety lighting in front of dorms: \$1,800 remaining
- Gas-powered power washer
- We are thankful for the donation of quality wood-working equipment this winter.

FB CALENDAR

<i>Spring Semester</i>	<i>2/13-5/18, 2006</i>
March Workshops	Mar 18-19, 2006
Spring Chorale Program	May 14, 2006
Choir Tour	May 20-29, 2006
<i>Summer Term</i>	<i>6/26-7/28, 2006</i>
College Student Retreat....	June 29-July 2, 2006
Teachers Week.....	Aug 1-4, 2006
Renovation Committee Mtg	Aug 10, 2006
Pastoral Council Meeting	Aug 10, 2006
Advisory Council Meeting.....	Aug 11, 2006
Board Meeting	Aug 12, 2006
<i>Fall Semester</i>	<i>8/21-12/15, 2006</i>
Apprenticing Term Begins	August 21, 2006
Weekend Workshop	Oct 21-22, 2006
Men's Music Weekend	Nov 10-12, 2006
Chorale Christmas Program	Dec 10, 2006



EUROPE TOUR CD

The Europe 2005 Faith Builder Chorale CD, *The Lord is King*, will be released soon. Call CLR at 877-222-4769 to order your copy. Price is \$15 plus shipping and handling.

- How is mentoring at FB different from professional Christian counseling? What place should psychological or non-biblical language and supposed solutions have in addressing spiritual, physical, and emotional problems?

Adaptability to church life

- What is FB doing to reduce the problematic disconnect between the experiences students have in formal, organized mentoring at FB and the kind of relationships and experiences they have when they return to their home church?

- How could the mentoring goals, methods, and activities used at FB be adapted to the life of a church?

These questions, although not exhaustive, represent the kind of issues we have tried to address during the last six years. We believe that all discipling requires methods and activities of one kind or another. We do not assume that an FB-type mentoring group is the only framework within which God can work. Neither do we see these goals, methods, and activities as a science or formula that will ensure a certain end result. The purpose of the March workshop, then, is to provide a public format to present what comprises FB's mentoring program, to honestly address questions you have, to hear your concerns, and to learn from your input.

We invite prospective students and their friends or parents, pastors or church workers, and anyone interested in developing intentional relationships for personal spiritual development. We look forward to your participation.

~ Milo E. Zehr

COLLEGE STUDENT RETREAT & SEMINAR

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?

The Seminar (June 29) is a one-day conference on "Developing a Christian Mind," filled with lecture, breakout sessions for discussion and study of the philosophies young people may encounter on college campuses.

The Retreat (June 30-July 2) is a weekend for young people in college to engage peers and mentors with their questions and struggles. It's a safe place to discuss and think about college experiences and our Mennonite heritage. Activities include small-group discussions, thought-provoking sessions, panel discussion of issues, organized recreation, and times for relaxing and visiting.

Faith Builders hosts both events at the Castle, a turn-of-the-century mansion built by an oil baron, now turned into a retreat center. The Seminar will cost \$50 per person, including overnight lodging, meals, and seminar expenses. The Retreat will cost \$120 per person, including two additional nights' stay, meals, and retreat expenses. Students registering for both events will receive priority.



This retreat is limited to the first 42 people who register. Please call or email the FB office for an application for the College Student Retreat & Seminar.



NEWS from Faith Builders

Winter Term: January 3-February 3, 49 full-time students from across the continent

Welcome to...

- ❖ Malinda Eberly, domestics, Lowville, NY, January
- ❖ Curt & Tresa Weaver and family, student, East Earl, PA, February

Farewell to...

- ❖ Alena Martin, short-term kitchen help, Lititz, PA

Births

- ❖ Kevin & Glenda (Yoder) Yoder, 1st child & son, Andre Layne, Jan. 6, 2006

- ❖ Jason & Gloria Croutch, 4th child, 3rd son, Ravi Stewart, Jan. 14, 2006

- ❖ Florence Nolt, Karalyn Rose, Jan. 30, 2006, received for adoption Feb. 3, 2006

Engagements

- ❖ Joe Miller & Crystal Good
- ❖ Jordan Ehst & Robin Brubaker

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 am interested in becoming a student. Please send information.
- 2. I would like information on a workshop or colloquy. _____
- 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 _____ .
- 6. Please send me information about contributing to student scholarships.
- 7. Please add my address to your mailing list.
- 8. Please add my address to the FB email list.

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

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