

# FB FAITH BUILDERS

## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, INC.

*“Disciplining the head, heart, and hands”*

Issue 80

May 2006

### WESTERN CIVILIZATION AND THE KINGDOM OF GOD

*This article—part 1 of 2—is an excerpt from Melvin Lehman’s State of the School address given March 22, 2006.*

I feel very certain that Western Civilization is doomed. The warnings are all around us and really quite evident. The handwriting is on the wall. According to the Guttmacher Institute, America will allow approximately 1.4 million legal abortions this year alone. Over the past thirty-three years since *Roe v. Wade*, we have aborted over 40 million babies in the United States. This is nothing short of a holocaust. In my opinion as a student of history, the Canaanites of old fell from grace and were subsequently expelled from the land of Canaan because they murdered their own little ones in the worship of their gods. The Central-American Indians apparently made the same mistake as well, and they too were brought down from their lofty place and humbled before the nations of the world.

Recently, I read an article in *Time* about the movie “Brokeback Mountain,” which from what I can tell not only exonerates a homosexual lifestyle but also promotes it. The magazine article itself clearly had

an agenda—any moral opposition to such lifestyles should be ridiculed for being out of touch with reality.

We must understand this situation. You see, it is one thing for a society to take its drugs in secret because the law forbids drug abuse. It is quite another when the body that governs a group of people makes such action legal, and on top of it, even buys the drugs for the addict. I speak metaphorically, but the metaphor applies to the issues I have cited. The implications are incredible. I am astounded and frightened by this paradigm shift in Western Civilization. We must understand that the legalizing of sinful practice—even murder—is posited as a solution to the problem of a promiscuous society by intelligent, educated people. This is precisely the case with abortion. This is where we are.

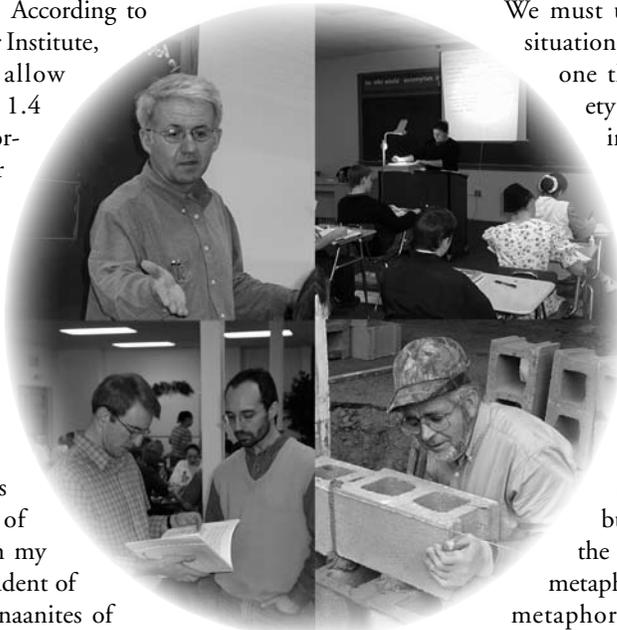
The article in *Time* represents a similar shift in popular culture. Not many years ago, general culture frowned upon and ostracized homosexual behavior. The laws of the land

discouraged such practices. Perhaps such an orientation was ostracized too much. I acknowledge this and the subsequent dishonor to people. Nevertheless, I must insist that a major milepost on the slippery slope of destruction has been passed when the laws of the land overtly encourage such behaviors and absolutely refuse to consider the possible involvement of a gross moral violation. To top it off, popular writers in popular magazines glorify and sanction such perversion. I remind you that there was once a society of people that gave way to such moral perversity and the Lord brought judgment via fire and brimstone.

And so I repeat: I believe Western Civilization is doomed.

The decline of Western Civilization will follow a path. I doubt that an apocalyptic day will come in which everything goes up in smoke and the survivors will awake to bury the dead and rebuild our cities. I expect a slower

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### Study at Faith Builders!

We still have several openings for students in TAP and MAP. If you are interested in spending two years of your life developing your relationship with God, your service to others, and your participation in the Kingdom, please contact us! We would love to talk with you about studying in our two-year programs.

### 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 31, 2006. Scholarships are considered after admission is approved.



College students! We welcome you to FB's

## COLLEGE STUDENT SEMINAR & 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?

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 think about and discuss 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.

*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. Applications are also available on the web at [www.fbep.org](http://www.fbep.org).*

### FBEP Board Members

John Miller, Chair; Wayne Martin, Vice-Chair; Roy Gingerich, Secretary; Leroy Martin; Melvin Lehman; Reuben Yoder; Sam Bontrager

### FBEP Advisory Council

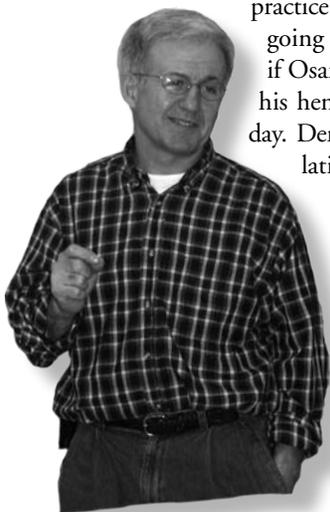
Dave Nisly, Earl Koch, Gordon Goertzen, Howard Lichty, John Nisley, Jonas Sauder, Jonathan Sauder, Lamar High, Norman Yoder, Richie Lauer

### FBEP Pastoral Council

Ernest Hochstetler, Howard Brubaker, John Coblentz, Sr., Paul Miller, Roy Longenecker, Walter Beachy

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but relentless decline in economic stability, productivity, creativity, law and order, quality of education, and beyond. The decline will affect every critical area of civilized life. Authentic Christianity will come under attack; this is certain. Why? Radical Islamic



practice and reaction is not going to disappear even if Osama bin Laden and his henchmen all die today. Demographics (population patterns) alone tell the tale. While Western Civilization is murdering their babies at a horrific rate and refusing to rear families of strength and character, the Moslems are having large families.

And they are rearing these families in such a way that their sons and daughters are willing to blow themselves up

in suicide attacks for the cause of the Islamic nation. The Western framework of selfishness and protectionism and atheism will never produce such a person—at least not in significant numbers, that I promise you. In short, there will be continual conflict between Islam and the West. It will not go away in spite of the moderate voices of Islam that seek to quiet our fears.

Now, here is the critical point. Eventually, mainstream evangelical Christianity will be accused of having a mindset that parallels the radical Islamic mindset. Unfortunately, the accusations will have some points where they stick. It gets closer home. No matter how hard we try to distance ourselves from this scenario, we as an Anabaptist people will surely be caught in the web of this conflict. Islam will understand us to be the enemy because we are Bible-believing Christians. Mainstream Western fundamental Christianity will be very angry with us because we will not take up arms against the Islamic encirclement. It could turn ugly.

And let me say additionally that no society has indefinitely tolerated a group of people who maintain that there are absolute standards

Consider these invigorating summer opportunities:

## SUMMER TERM

June 26-July 28, 2006

Join us for five weeks of studies in education, music, Bible, and practical skills.

## TEACHERS WEEK

August 1-4, 2006

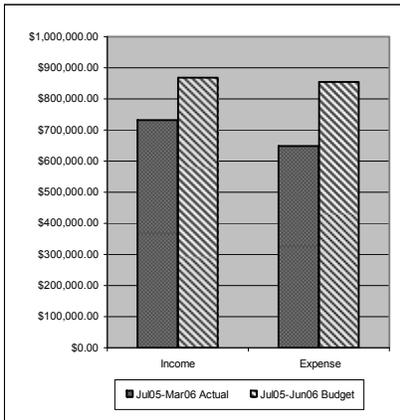
Experience hands-on work sessions, inspirational addresses, practical workshops, and discussions with other growing and experienced teachers.

*If you have not received a summer term and teachers week brochure, please request one from our office.*



## LITTLE GYM RENOVATION PROJECT

THIRD QUARTER ACTUAL TO BUDGET COMPARISON		
	Jul05-Mar06 Actual	Jul05-Jun06 Budget
<b>Income</b>		
Donations	\$179,412.50	\$242,000.00
Academic Income	\$252,307.76	\$279,820.00
PCH Income	\$83,093.58	\$102,719.60
Other Operational	\$216,594.10	\$244,237.51
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$731,407.94</b>	<b>\$868,777.11</b>
<b>Expense</b>		
Personnel Exp.	\$382,627.97	\$520,918.19
Academic Exp.	\$38,004.58	\$68,807.00
PCH Expense	\$7,432.42	\$10,645.00
Other Operational	\$220,489.28	\$253,575.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$648,554.25</b>	<b>\$853,945.19</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$82,853.69</b>	<b>\$14,831.92</b>



### Service Opportunities at FB

- Computer tech: August 2006
- Domestic: January 2007
- Kitchen: Feb, April, June, Aug 2007
- Maintenance: Nov 2006
- PCH: Two lady volunteers in November, December 2006; all training required will be provided here, including CPR/First Aid. Applicants must be at least 21 years old.

### Little Gym Renovation Project

- We are looking for bricklayers to lay 25,000 bricks on the little gym project this spring, hopefully yet in May. Pouring concrete floors and brick work will cost an estimated \$30,000. We plan to transform the building into a student lounge, a laundry, CLR bookstore, and instructors' offices on the first floor. The second floor will become FB's library.

### Special Projects for FB

- Ladies' dorms hallway carpet: \$3,000
- West wing office A/C: \$7,000
- Safety lighting in front of dorms: \$1,800 remaining
- Skid-steer loader / snow plow

## FB CALENDAR

Choir Tour ..... May 20-31, 2006  
see [www.fbep.org/blog](http://www.fbep.org/blog) for details

### Summer Term ..... 6/26-7/28, 2006

College Student Seminar ..... June 29-30, 2006  
College Student Retreat..... June 30-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

### Fall Semester..... 8/21-12/15, 2006

Apprenticing Term Begins ..... Aug 21, 2006  
Teacher Workshops ..... Oct 21-22, 2006  
Men's Music Weekend..... Nov 10-12, 2006  
Chorale Christmas Program ..... Dec 10, 2006

### Winter Term..... 1/1-2/2, 2007

Student-Staff Social ..... Jan 19, 2007  
Colloquy 2007 ..... January 27, 2007  
Choir Programs..... Feb 3-4, 2007

### Spring Term..... 2/14-5/15, 2007

Board Meeting ..... Feb 24, 2007  
Shady Maple Banquet ..... Mar 30, 2007



## EUROPE TOUR CD

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

Simply stated, I expect in the decades ahead—if the Lord tarries—to see the Church of Jesus Christ censured, ridiculed, pressured, and even persecuted from three sources: Islam, government, and tragically, a Christianity that has accepted the Constantinian heresy. By this I mean the marriage of church and state. This will affect us at every level of our lives.

*(to be continued in Issue 81)*

- Melvin B. Lehman

by which they may be judged in every aspect of their lives. Eventually they come to hate those who hold this position.

### UPCOMING FBEP EVENTS...

#### Teachers Week 2006

August 1-4, 2006

#### Teacher Workshops 2006

October 21-22, 2006

#### Colloquy 2007

Fighting Evil with God's Weapons

Featured Speaker: Stephen Russell



FOR MORE DETAILS, REQUEST A PROJECT REPORT



## NEWS from Faith Builders

### Welcome to...

- ❖ Andrea Nisly, kitchen, Hutchinson, KS, March
- ❖ Esther Weaver, PCH, Bird-in-Hand, PA, April
- ❖ Alena Martin, kitchen, Lititz, PA, June
- ❖ John & Barbara Coblenz and family, FBES / FBEP instructor, Plain City, OH, July

### Farewell to...

- ❖ Carolyn Miller, student, Plain City, OH, February
- ❖ Janith Miller, student, Hicksville, OH, April

### Births

- ❖ Myron & Sarah (Dietz) Sauder, 1<sup>st</sup> child & son, Reuben Michael, February 21, 2006
- ❖ Les & Helen Loewen, 6<sup>th</sup> child, 3<sup>rd</sup> son, Kelton Ravi, February 27, 2006
- ❖ Ben & Robin (Martin) Wingert, 3<sup>rd</sup> child, 1<sup>st</sup> son, Jordan Caleb, March 10, 2006
- ❖ Matt & Daria Peachey, 2<sup>nd</sup> child, 1<sup>st</sup> son, Joshua Earl, March 11, 2006
- ❖ Daniel & Amy (Myers) Hershberger, 4<sup>th</sup> child, 3<sup>rd</sup> daughter, Gloria Dawn, March 12, 2006
- ❖ Atlee & Racheal (Pfisterer) Graybill, 1<sup>st</sup> child & son, Nathaniel Martin, March 14, 2006

- ❖ Amos & Shaunda (Lehman) Stoltzfus, 2<sup>nd</sup> child, 1<sup>st</sup> son, Nicholas Hans, April 17, 2006
- ❖ Reuben & Patty (Musser) Petersheim, 2<sup>nd</sup> child & daughter, Heather Jo, April 18, 2006
- ❖ David & Grace (Breneman) Strubhar, 3<sup>rd</sup> child, 2<sup>nd</sup> daughter, Elizabeth Marie, April 24, 2006
- ❖ Kevin & Sheila Groff, 6<sup>th</sup> child, 3<sup>rd</sup> daughter, Hadassah Rose, April 29, 2006
- ❖ Andrew & Jolynn (Lehman) Schmucker, 3<sup>rd</sup> child & daughter, Maya Linn, May 3, 2006
- ❖ Karlin & Rosemary (Zook) Miller, Joshua Elliot & Josiah René, 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> children & sons, May 9, 2006

## FAITH BUILDERS EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

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### 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

Visit us on the web at  
[www.fbep.org](http://www.fbep.org)

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