

# FB FAITH BUILDERS

## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, INC.

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

Issue 89

Fall 2008

In January 2008 Faith Builders hosted a colloquy focused on developing a Christian understanding of technology. Following some introductory sessions, participants discussed some statements in small groups. We have summarized those statements here, incorporating the small-group discussions. The statements attempt to answer the question “What does faithfulness to Christ in this generation look like?” regarding technology. Most statements are pairs of positive (black) and negative (gray) responses to present the opportunities and dangers that technology offers. This summary is not a formula for dealing with technology, but a starting point for discussion in local churches and church groups.

### GENERAL STATEMENTS

Faithfulness to Christ in this generation means that Christ’s followers and communities will...

- + cultivate an ongoing confidence in God’s ability to guide us by His Spirit in these areas both personally and corporately.
- + redemptively engage the opportunities and challenges of technology.
  - not ignore, ban, or embrace technology thoughtlessly.
- + appreciate/respect technological ingenuity as resulting from the image of God in people.
  - not assume that technological ingenuity represents the highest possible form of human achievement.
- + actively cultivate a Christ-centered, biblical understanding of technology.
  - reject responses to technology that bypass the responsibility of disciples to cultivate renewed minds.
- + use technology as a tool to pursue the values of Christ’s Kingdom.
  - resist the power of technology to control the user.
- + reevaluate our responses to a given technology when we become aware of the unintended consequences.
  - not allow economic advantage or expedience to overrule commitment to Christ.



- + demonstrate that fulfillment and satisfaction in life are found in Christ.
  - resist the notion that fulfillment and satisfaction come from having the latest gadget.
- + define progress and quality of life in terms of growth toward Christlikeness and unity in His body.
  - not define progress as increasing technological sophistication.

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## EFFECTS ON OUR VIEW OF REALITY

Faithfulness to Christ in this generation means that Christ's followers and communities will...

- + cultivate an appreciation for the real world above any virtual world.
  - avoid the comfortable unreality of virtual worlds.
- + embrace God-focused creativity as essential for growth in truth.
  - not equate the whole realm of imagination with reality.
- + reaffirm that living and working close to people and God's creation is an anchor to reality (e.g., gardening, flowers, cutting wood, farming, bird-watching, hiking).
  - admit that absorption in technology tends to skew our grasp of reality.

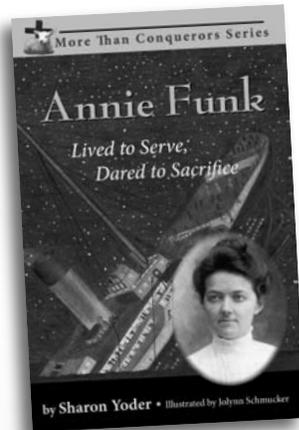
## EFFECTS ON OUR VIEW OF TRUTH

Faithfulness to Christ in this generation means that Christ's followers and communities will...

- + reaffirm our confidence in Jesus Christ as the Truth (Source and Revealer).
- + reaffirm our confidence in God's self-revelation through Christ and the Scriptures as the most reliable source of truth.
  - recognize the arrogant illusions that easily develop with technological expertise
- + value tradition and community as guides/venues for knowing and understanding truth.
  - resist the chronological snobbery of both "the good ol' days" and "the backward past."
- + recognize that technology's multi-faceted engagement of our senses provides special challenges to understanding truth and heightens oppor-

## NEW BOOKS FROM FAITH BUILDERS

Faith Builders Resource Group has recently released two new books written by instructors at Faith Builders. Both of these books are available from Christian Learning Resource. To order from Christian Learning Resource, call 877-222-4769 (toll-free), email [clr@fbep.org](mailto:clr@fbep.org), or visit us on the web at [www.christianlearning.org](http://www.christianlearning.org).



### **Annie Funk: Lived to Serve, Dared to Sacrifice**

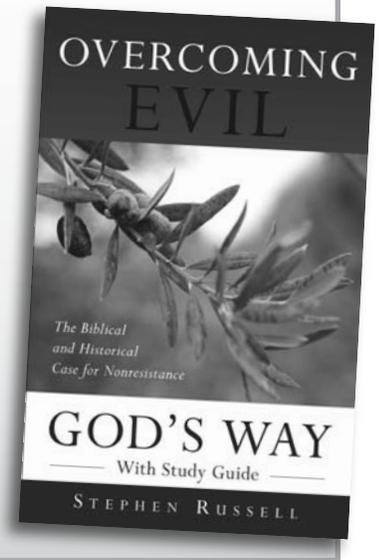
Sharon Yoder/Jolynn Schmucker  
Paper, 52 pp. \$5.99

As a young Mennonite woman, Annie Funk had a strong desire to serve God wherever He would call her. This fully-illustrated children's story tells the story of her life and the many ways she served God during her short life. Annie Funk is a role model of Christian service and sacrifice that we hope many children learn to follow.

### **Overcoming Evil God's Way**

Stephen Russell  
Softcover, 320 pp. \$12.99

We live in a world wracked with violence and despair. Does that mean that every act of violence must be met with an equal or greater counterblow? *Overcoming Evil God's Way* asserts that the biblical message offers hope of repentance, forgiveness, and reconciliation in place of hatred, vengeance, and fear. This book looks at both the historical and the biblical evidence for the nonresistant lifestyle of the Christian.



## APPLY NOW FOR WINTER TERM 2009

We especially invite older students and pastors for several weeks of spiritual renewal and study. Classes planned for this term include The Anabaptist World-view (Steven Brubaker), Helping the Hurting (John Coblenz), Sermon Preparation & Delivery (Wendell Heatwole), The Kingdom of God (Melvin Lehman), 1 Corinthians (Tim Miller), Growing into a Godly Woman (Marie Mullet), Church Planting (Allen Roth), Nonresistance (Stephen Russell), Singleness & Women (Sharon Yoder), and many more!

We will be mailing winter term brochures to students of 2007 and 2008 winter terms as well as several copies to each church on our mailing list. You may request a copy from our main office or download it from our website. We plan to enable online registration soon at [www.fbep.org](http://www.fbep.org).



## TEACHER RETREAT 2008

### You're invited to join us for a retreat for teachers!

On Friday-Sunday, October 10-12, Faith Builders is offering a weekend of relaxation, refreshment, and interaction with other teachers. We invite school administrators and committed teachers to this weekend of connecting and networking. We plan to offer times of focused interaction for administrators who attend. This retreat provides an opportunity for teachers and administrators to refresh their vision, renew their energy, and develop relationships with other teachers.

**Location:** This retreat will be held at the Castle, an old stone mansion built at the turn of the century by a wealthy oilman and US senator, in Franklin, Pennsylvania. Set in the mountains overlooking the Allegheny River, the Castle is an unforgettable setting for reflection and renewal.

**Staff:** The weekend will be hosted by the staff of Faith Builders Christian School and Mennonite School Services: Gerald Miller, Amos Stoltzfus, Javan Bender, Sharon Yoder, Esther Bean, Anna Zehr, Vivian Mast, Steven Brubaker, and Matthew Mast.

**Purpose:** The purpose of the weekend is to provide a context for renewal of energy and vision as teachers.

**Highlights:** Some of the highlights include relaxed interaction, group discussions, short presentations, brainstorming sessions, delightful meals, recreation, and more.

**Costs:** The retreat will cost \$199 per person attending the event (\$149 for spouses), including two nights' stay, meals, and other retreat expenses.

**Apply:** The retreat is limited to 45 teachers (not including spouses). Teachers with more experience will receive higher priority. Retreat applications are available by request or by downloading an application form from our website. You may also apply for this event on our website, [www.fbep.org](http://www.fbep.org).



- tunities for deception.
- + embrace the pursuit of understanding God's self-revelation in creation as consistent with being made in His image and with His command to fill and subdue the earth.
- resist the notion that Science (the systemic human observation of the human world) is the only system of thought capable of producing truth.

### EFFECTS ON OUR USE OF TIME

Faithfulness to Christ in this generation means that Christ's followers and communities will...

- + seek to participate in appropriate rhythms of work and recreation.

- resist the deadening distractions of a-musement (a=not, muse=to reflect).
- + value work and contributing to the community as more satisfying than consumption.
- not make efficiency, speed, and productivity supreme values.
- balance efficiency, speed, and productivity with values of relationships, contentment, etc.

### EFFECTS ON BELIEFS & VALUES

Faithfulness to Christ in this generation means that Christ's followers and communities will...

- + rigorously wrestle as communities towards prophetic understanding of our times.

- not confuse information with understanding.
- + prioritize godly values over technological expertise and innovation.
- + recognize that growth toward understanding and wisdom is often time-consuming and slow and clashes with fast paced values of expedience and efficiency.
- + keep Christ and His Kingdom as the focal point of belief and as the greatest good.
- + value character of material, relationships over possessions, wisdom over knowledge, worship over entertainment, simplicity over sophistication, and serving others over the accumulation of wealth.



## FB CALENDAR

### Fall Semester 2008

Apprenticing Term begins .....	August 18, 2008
FBCS First Day of School .....	August 22, 2008
Fall Term Classes begin.....	September 17, 2008
Teacher Retreat.....	October 10-12, 2008
Men's Music Weekend.....	November 7-9, 2008
Thanksgiving Break.....	November 26-December 2, 2008
FBCS Christmas Program .....	7:30 PM, December 5, 2008
FB Chorale Christmas Program.....	4:00 PM, December 7, 2008

### Winter Short Term 2009

Orientation & Registration .....	7:00 PM, January 5, 2009
First Day of Classes .....	January 6, 2009
Staff-Student Social .....	January 23, 2009
Last Day of Classes.....	February 6, 2009
Choir Programs .....	Feb 7-8, 2009

### EFFECTS ON INDIVIDUAL CHARACTER

Faithfulness to Christ in this generation means that Christ's followers and communities will...

- + take personal and corporate responsibility for dwelling on the excellent and avoiding all forms of evil.
  - resist the modern tendency to blame others or conditions (victim mentality).
- + actively disciple each other toward personal transformation (internal character, a renewed mind, godly habits).
  - not rely only on community rules and expectations to control behavior.

### EFFECTS ON OUR RELATIONSHIPS & COMMUNITY

Faithfulness to Christ in this generation means that Christ's followers and communities will...

- + give a place of honor and influence to our elders.
  - not regard the aged as irrelevant.

- + value community discussions, agreements, and life as the corporate expression of committed individuals in life-giving relationship.
- + proactively evaluate developments in technology and work toward community consensus as a response.
  - resist thoughtless capitulation to or retreat from developments in technology.
- + demonstrate humility, honor, and respect to other Christian groups who are attempting to engage redemptively with these issues but whose practice differs from our own.
- + pay the price for significant human relationships – the price of presence, time, and effort.
  - resist the reduction of relationships to electronic interaction.

### EFFECTS ON THE FAMILY

Faithfulness to Christ in this generation means that Christ's followers and communities will...

- + create nurturing environments of work, recreation, creativity,

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and safety for our children in our homes and communities.

- limit time spent with and content of videos, video/computer games, and other technological diversions.
- take positive actions to avoid the negative effects a fascination with technology can have on the family – these effects include addictions, poor use of time, disinterest in God's creation, and stymied intellectual development.
- + take seriously the meaning of family loyalty and honor.
  - refuse to accept efficiency as the pre-eminent goal of human relations.
- + consider working together as families sufficient reason to accept less efficient technologies.

### EFFECTS ON OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH GOD

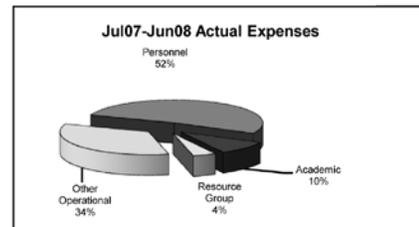
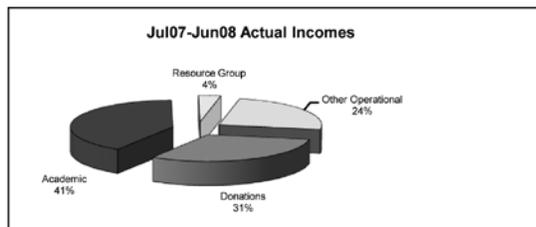
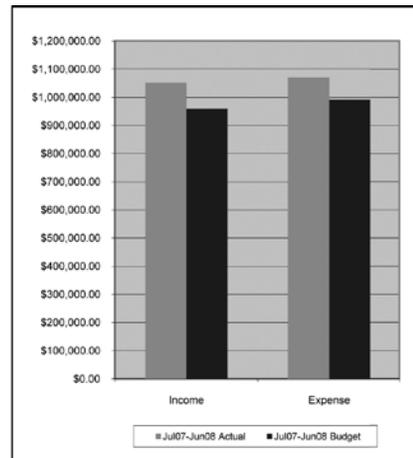
Faithfulness to Christ in this generation means that Christ's followers and communities will...

- + reaffirm a commitment to the glory of God and emphasize the place of worship in the Christian community.
  - encourage fasting from forms of technology that are addictive.
  - be watchful for where technology is attempting to avoid God's intended outcomes (e.g., attempts for immortality).
  - reject the mantra "if it can be done it should be done."
  - not make avoidance of suffering or the sustaining of life a highest good.
- + reaffirm of the focus of life's purpose as ongoing acquaintance with God.
- + resist trusting in technology.



## FB FINANCIAL REPORT

	Jul07-Jun08 Actual	Jul07-Jun08 Budget
<b>Income</b>		
Donations	\$328,504.79	\$267,500.00
Academic Income	\$428,388.93	\$403,425.00
ResrcGrp Income	\$36,985.44	\$9,400.00
Other Operational	\$258,067.11	\$277,550.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$1,051,946.27</b>	<b>\$957,875.00</b>
<b>Expense</b>		
Personnel Exp.	\$556,820.95	\$590,235.90
Academic Exp.	\$102,644.31	\$60,150.00
ResrcGrp Expense	\$45,210.33	\$16,025.00
Other Operational	\$365,785.80	\$325,300.13
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$1,070,461.39</b>	<b>\$991,711.03</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-\$18,515.12</b>	<b>-\$33,836.03</b>



### News from Faith Builders

#### Service opportunities

We have several opportunities for voluntary service at Faith Builders.

- » Receptionist: immediate.
- » Maintenance: Jan 2009.

#### Thanks to...

- » Brenda Kuhns, Arcola, IL, short-term kitchen volunteer.
- » Jolene Reiff, Manheim, PA, short-term kitchen volunteer.
- » Rebekah Miller, Dalton, OH, short-term domestics volunteer.
- » Julie Stoltzfus, Lewisburg, PA, part-time kitchen help.

#### Farewell to...

- » Angela Yoder, Partridge, KS, kitchen volunteer.
- » Juanita Burkholder, Danville, PA, kitchen volunteer.

#### Welcome to...

- » Kyle Brubaker (Guys Mills, PA) has

begun working full-time in desktop publishing for Resource Group.

#### Weddings

- » Richard Bean & Corleen McCurdy, May 10, 2008.
- » Jason Beachy & Barb Kinsinger, June 28, 2008.

#### Births

- » Geryll & Carla (Martin) Zehr, 1<sup>st</sup> child & son, Tristan James, June 15, 2008.
- » Mike & Michelle (Funk) Fisher, 5<sup>th</sup> child, 2<sup>nd</sup> daughter, Andrea Beth, June 20, 2008.

#### Other news...

- » Over the last twenty years, Faith Builders has hosted an annual colloquy focusing on current church issues. We are not planning to host a colloquy in 2009. This decision was made in order to reflect on the vision

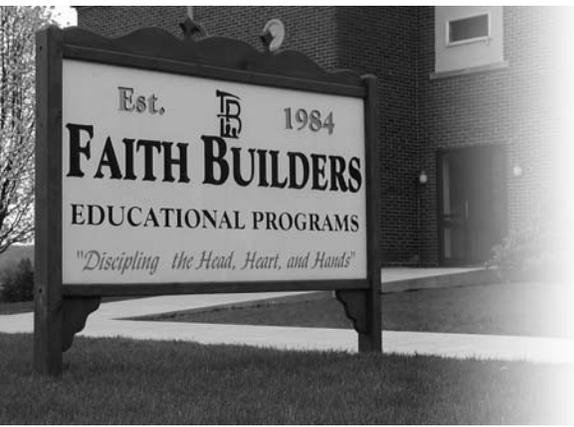
for colloquy, to focus on meeting the needs of our student body, and to scale back our obligations during the year of our director's sabbatical. We intend to resume colloquies in 2010.

- » We continue working on Student Center. Work remaining includes flooring, trim and doors, and lavatory fixtures. Our funds in hand for the project total \$19,500, but we will need \$10,000 in additional funds to complete the project. This will complete Phase 1 of the Student Center Project. The Student Center will open this fall, Lord willing.
- » Testing on our new phone system is nearly complete. We are preparing to upgrade our computer network to support the phones. If you would like to contribute to this project, please contact us.



## FAITH BUILDERS EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

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### Contact us...

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

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