



# FAITH BUILDERS

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, INC.

*"Discipling the head, heart, and hands"*

Issue 95

Spring 2010

*The following article is another excerpt from Journey Into God, an unpublished manuscript by John Coblentz.*

When we are first introduced to God in the Bible, He is thinking and speaking and acting like God. He thinks and speaks the world with all its life and laws into existence. He forms mankind and gives us our new home

the bone, and the organs from the meat. And that portion which remains is choice, desired, cut-apart. It is "holy."

The Hebrews used this designation to describe anything set apart for God because they understood God to be holy, to be set apart from everything and anything else. He is the absolutely "other," unlike anyone or anything

else. Because He is like no other and has no equal, nothing was to be used to try to represent Him. He is holy holy. Most holy.

In the story of the Fall, we understand that God is holy not simply because He is other, unlike anyone

or anything else, but because He is other than the fallenness of humans, other than the sinfulness in this present world order, other than the deception and murderous intent of the enemy of all righteousness. God is moral perfection in Himself. He is the means by which we know that all that is other than He is morally deficient.

And so, between God and fallen man is a moral chasm. He is morally right, we are morally corrupted. And because He is moral perfection in Himself, all that He says is morally perfect and all that He does is morally perfect—all that He thinks, decides, plans, and wills is holy, holy, holy because God is holy.

If this were the whole understanding of

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## INTO HIS HOLINESS

*by John Coblentz*

with a few directions for what to do and how to care for it. He is God—good, benevolent, thoughtful, wise, fully in charge, loading our existence with blessings rich and varied.

The coming of sin is a chapter that mars and separates and wrecks the good and beautiful world. This is an ugly part of the story, but it is in the context of this chapter of man's history that we best understand the holiness of God. The word "holiness" is not referred to in the biblical record of the story; the concept is unmistakably imbedded.

The Hebrew word translated *holy* is borrowed from the butcher shop—the work of the knife. It means literally "cut apart." As the butcher uses his knife to cut, he removes the objectionable from the desired—the fat,

## Faith Builders Training Institute

Join us  
for two  
years of  
study  
and  
discipleship.

Apply today!



### We have openings for more students for fall 2010!

- Are you interested in developing teaching skills?
- Do you have a passion for serving your local church?
- Are you looking for in-depth study opportunities?

Faith Builders Training Institute offers two-year programs in Teacher Apprenticing and Ministry Apprenticing. We are currently accepting applications for the 2010-2011 year, with openings in both programs. Some tuition scholarships from Faith Builders are still available for 2010-2011.



### SUMMER TERM | JUNE 28-JULY 30, 2010

Good teachers are always looking for ways to grow and develop. Attending Summer Term is one way that teachers can invest time and energy to increase their effectiveness as teachers. Many schools are encouraging that investment by offering financial support to teachers attending Summer Term at Faith Builders.

A brochure and application is available on our website. Students of 2008 and 2009 summer terms will receive a copy of the brochure, and copies are available on request. Check our blog for updated information at [www.fbep.org/blog](http://www.fbep.org/blog).

#### OUR CLASSES

##### Pedagogy

- Principles of Teaching (3) .....Melvin Lehman
- Principles of Teaching II (3) .....Patrick Heatwole
- Foundations of Education (3).....Steven Brubaker
- Teaching Language Arts (3) .....Sharon Yoder
- Teaching Social Studies (3) .....Patrick Heatwole

##### History

- Anabaptist History (3)..... Stephen Russell
- Modern Church History (3)..... Stephen Russell
- World Geography (3) ..... Stephen Russell

##### Mathematics/Science

- Algebra (3) .....Earl Koch
- The Joy of Mathematics (1) .....Earl Koch
- Introduction to Trigonometry (1).....Earl Koch
- Introduction to Geometry (1) .....Earl Koch
- Biology (4) ..... John Mark Kuhns

##### Music

- Class Voice (1)..... Brandon Mullet
- Music Fundamentals (3)..... Brandon Mullet
- Choral Conducting (1)..... Brandon Mullet

##### Personal Development

- Singleness & Women (1) .....Sharon Yoder

#### TERM INSTRUCTORS

**Steven Brubaker** is the administrator at Faith Builders Educational Programs. In addition, he teaches courses in education, worldviews, and science and gives direction to the FB Resource Group.

**Patrick Heatwole** serves as high school teacher and assistant principal for curriculum and instruction at Barnwell Christian School in Blackville, South Carolina. With an educational background in Bible, history, and education, Patrick is excited about the effect of Christ-centered education in God's kingdom and loves to explore purposes and methods of instruction.

**Earl Koch** brings his 35 years of teaching experience to his summer classes at FBEP. He has taught mathematics in secondary schools in Waterloo County, Ontario. He also tutored privately, taught adult education classes and has been an instructor at Faith Builders Summer Term for nine years. Earl pastors at Grace Mennonite Church near New Hamburg.

**John Mark Kuhns** teaches high school at Faith Builders Christian School. His educational pursuits lie mainly in science and mathematics, but his interests vary widely.

**Melvin Lehman** made the decision to leave the mechanic trade over thirty years ago to teach school in the Chambersburg area where he grew up. Today he serves as an instructor in the Institute and FBCS. He is also a member of the Leadership Team of FBEP.

**Brandon Mullet** taught his first summer term at Faith Builders in 1989. He moved with his family to Faith Builders in 1997 where he conducts choirs and teaches courses in music, literature, and writing.

**Stephen Russell** joined FBEP as an instructor in 2000 following studies at George Mason University. His fondest loves lie in history and theology and mixtures of the two. In 2006 he spent seven months in Israel writing a book on nonresistance that was published as *Overcoming Evil God's Way* in 2008.

**Sharon Yoder** is in her twenty-sixth year of teaching in grade levels 1-8. Her educational goals include co-laboring with other instructors who envision equipping a generation of teachers that will impact a postmodern culture with truth and light. She currently teaches grade 5-6 at Faith Builders Christian School.



Join us for five weeks to increase your effectiveness in your classroom.

### COLLEGE STUDENT SEMINAR & RETREAT

Faith Builders invites you to attend the College Student Seminar & Retreat, scheduled for July 1-4, 2010. This event offers encouragement to college students through workshops on current challenges to the Christian worldview, opportunities for small group discussion and prayer, and informal interaction with others who have walked or are walking a similar path.



The Seminar (Friday) is a one-day conference on "Developing a Christian Mind," with a focus this year on a Christian approach for impacting the various religious beliefs encountered among friends and professors in college, including Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, atheism, and others. Seminar speakers include Steven Brubaker, Stephen Russell and Chris Stoltzfus.

The Retreat (Friday evening-Sunday afternoon) 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. Frank Reed from Manheim, Pennsylvania, will be the guest speaker for the retreat.

More information and applications are available on our website or from our office.

Good men and women cringe before the holiness of God; sinful men and women die.

ing themselves. He is not calling men and women to sober faces and dull living for the rest of eternity.

This holy God engages in the real world with His sleeves rolled up. He reaches across the divide. He, in all His holiness, puts His arms around people and draws them to Himself. He speaks not in tones of cold command, but in words of hope and invitation. He beckons people toward Himself. He takes people like Noah, Abraham, Jacob, and Samson into His plans. He bridges the divide. He speaks and acts toward redemption.

When He speaks of moral issues, He tells us what is right and what is wrong, and He doesn't fudge—thou shalt, and thou shalt not. His commands are for our restoration and salvation. And He speaks these commands out of the essence of His being.

The holiness of God is not always pleasing to us. Indeed, to our sinful hearts sometimes it flashes like lightning, beats upon us like a sledgehammer, or searches us out to the point of great embarrassment. Good men and women cringe before the holiness of God; sinful men and women die. We are sometimes terrified by the flashes of God's unveiled holiness.

And in those cowering moments, we might like to make God different. More like us. We'd like to change Him so He could say, "Thou shalt not commit adultery, except under great

stress." Or, "Thou shalt not steal, except from corrupt governments or from big, greedy corporations." We would like to change the reality of sin. We would like at least sometimes to call evil good and good evil. And we would especially like to change the consequences of sin. It doesn't really lead to death. It doesn't always bring sorrow and pain. But we could never make such changes without changing who God is. And if we could change who God is, He would no longer be good and holy and true.

To understand holiness rightly, we must understand that God defines holiness rather than the other way around. And that means holiness is good.

The old writers—even under the glare of a less gracious covenant—understood that the holiness of God at the core was all that we could desire or hope for. They spoke of the "beauty of holiness." It was not frigid or stark or barren against a black-and-white landscape, but alive with radiance and glory.

God gave them pictures and ceremonies and illustrations to help them toward the truth. He asked them, for example, to build a place—a holy, holy, holy place. It was made to appeal to each of the senses. In the scintillating light of the lamps, they saw glittering gold, decorative carvings, and multicolored weavings. They smelled the aromatic incense and the burnt offerings. They tasted the specially

made wafers and choice portions of sacrifice. They heard the bells and the ram's horns and the psalms sung and played on a variety of stringed instruments. They felt the wetness of water and blood and rich anointing oil as well as the warm priestly hands of blessing. At times they saw special flashes/revelations of glory—a fiery cloud covering the tent of meeting, Mount Sinai billowing like a furnace gone berserk.

All this visual and tactile and aural display trumpeted something loud and clear. God is beauty beyond description. He is set apart in glory. There is no one like Him—ever was or ever will be. He is light and loveliness and grandeur beyond our wildest imagination. He stoops to using the best we know and understand to show us that the real glory, our present senses simply could not take in.

The holiness of God is the reason, the cause, the foundation for all that is holy in this world. Because God is holy, the places He has chosen to reveal Himself are holy. Such common substances as stones, bowls, utensils, fire, oil, and furniture become holy. And the people who follow God are likewise holy. In both covenants, this God says to His people, "Be holy, because I am holy" (Leviticus 11.44; 1 Peter 1.16).

He calls us to dedicate our lives to Him, even our bodies and the "members" of our

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### ADMINISTRATORS CONFERENCE AND RETREAT

MARCH 26-28, 2010  
– Effective Educational Leadership –

#### Event Schedule

##### Friday Evening - March 26

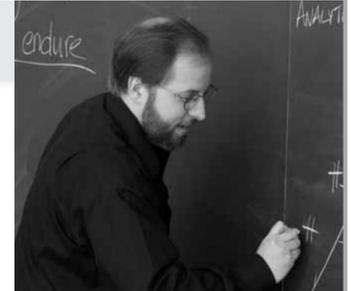
- 6:00-6:45 Arrival and Registration
- 7:00 Loving Our Work – Living our Mission, Vision, and Values (Steven Brubaker)
- 8:00 Discussion Time, Refreshments, and Fellowship

##### Saturday - March 27

- 8:00 Breakfast
- 9:15 Double Session
  - Loving Those We Serve – Integrating parents, students, staff, and board
  - Loving Our Staff – Leading the team (Steven Brubaker)
- Session for Administrators' Wives: Partners in Ministry (Cynthia Brubaker)
- 10:15 Coffee/Tea Break
- 10:50 Discussion Groups
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:00 Loving Holiness – Becoming What We Seem (Steven Brubaker)
- 2:00 Recreation and Relaxation
- 5:00 Dinner
- 6:30 Worship
- 7:00 The Essential Role of Anabaptist Schools (Glendon Strickler)
- 8:00 Discussion Time, Refreshments, and Fellowship

##### Sunday - March 28

- 8:00 Continental Breakfast
- 9:30 Worship
- 10:00 Shepherding Your School (Gerald Miller)
- 10:45 Wrap Up
- 12:00 Lunch



*a weekend of seminars, discussions, and rejuvenation*

*to be held at Laurelville Mennonite Center Mt. Pleasant, Pennsylvania*

*Keynote Speaker: Steven Brubaker*

Mennonite School Services invites you to join other school administrators for a weekend of equipping through challenging teaching sessions, individual and group conversations, and relaxation. The conference will also include time for administrators' wives to interact through discussions and a seminar session. Staff will include Steven Brubaker, Gerald Miller, and other current school administrators. All principals, assistant principals, and their spouses are invited to attend.

Call the main office or email [fbep@fbep.org](mailto:fbep@fbep.org) for more information or a registration form. More information and registration are available on our website. The cost of the conference is \$160.00 and includes all conference fees, lodging for two nights, and meals. Administrators and their wives are welcomed with a combined, discounted rate of \$299.





bodies; and in that dedication to then view ourselves as holy—as belonging to Him. This does not call us out of this world, but actually sets us straight to be in the world in the right way. Holy people eat. They work, they type, they garden, they change diapers, they make mistakes, they paint, they think, they dream, they sing—on and off key—in short, they enter into life in all its dimensions. But they are His. And because they are His,

they are marked. In His eyesight, they stand out—choice, desired, set apart, holy.



— John Coblenz  
FB campus pastor  
and instructor

### FAITH BUILDERS BOARD AND ADVISORS

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### News from Faith Builders

#### Welcome to...

- » Mark Yoder, Leon, IA, coming in February for a year of voluntary service in maintenance.

#### Farewell to...

- » Our Winter Term students
- » Johann Butikofer, Richland Center, WI, maintenance volunteer.

#### Thanks to...

- » Stephen Byler, VA, guest instructor.
- » John D. Martin, PA, guest instructor.
- » The work crew from Leon, Iowa, that spent several days refinishing some donated tables.

#### Births

- » Kendall & Janelle (Kauffman) Myers, Alecia Joy, 1<sup>st</sup> daughter & child, Jan. 23.

#### Deaths

- » Nathan Wagler (Cross Hill, SC) passed away after a skating accident in February 2010. He and his wife Connie attended FB during Summer Term II of 2003 with several of their children.

#### Weddings

- » Esther Weaver and J. Mark Nisly, Jan 2.

#### Opportunities to partner with us

- » We need two volunteers in domestics for July or August 2010.
- » We are looking for a high-school teacher for the 2010-2011 school year.
- » House Parents – Faith Builders Training Institute is seeking a retired or semi-retired married couple, preferably with experience in leadership or administrative capacities, who enjoy and understand young people. Spiritual maturity and a record of positive working relationships with people is essential since this position offers many opportunities for friendship and informal discipleship.
- » Dean of Men – Faith Builders Training Institute is seeking a single man who demonstrates spiritual maturity, has leadership and organizational skills, and can develop positive relationships with other men, encouraging the spiritual, personal, and physical well-being of male students and volunteers.
- » The installation of a new fire alarm system is in progress and will likely be nearing completion by the middle of March. We would like to thank all who've donated specifically for this project. We have about ¾ of the

project estimate in hand and need \$10,000.00 more to reach our goal.

- » We would like to build a retaining wall along the front parking area and pour concrete sidewalks to the entrances of the Student Center and the West Wing. We are looking for someone experienced in concrete work to come for a few days to manage this project. If you are interested in doing some concrete work at Faith Builders sometime this spring, please contact us. We also need about \$9,500 to cover materials and other project expenses.
- » We would like to replace the older of our two full-size passenger vans. These vans are used for student field trips and school events. Our oldest van is more than twenty years old, has very high mileage, and has been requiring some expensive repairs. We would welcome a donation of a twelve-passenger van in good condition, or funds donated to help us purchase one. Perhaps your church or youth group would like to work together to raise the funds for this need.

**We welcome alumni news** to print in our newsletter. Please email your news to fbep@fbep.org. We'll be glad to include it in the next newsletter.

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

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



#### Administrators Conference & Retreat March 26-28, 2010

- » Review the program for this event on page 582.
- » We are accepting registrations online for this event.

#### Summer Term June 28-July 30, 2010

- » More information is available on page 580. We are accepting online applications now for this five-week term!

#### College Student Seminar & Retreat July 1-4, 2010

- » See event information on page 581. Apply now to attend this popular weekend for college students.

#### Teachers Week Aug 3-6, 2010

- » Plan now to attend these four days of renewal for teachers. More information will be posted to our website and included in the next newsletter.

#### Teachers Conference Oct 8-10, 2010

- » More information will be posted to our website and included in the next newsletter.

#### Contact us...

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