

PACIFIC

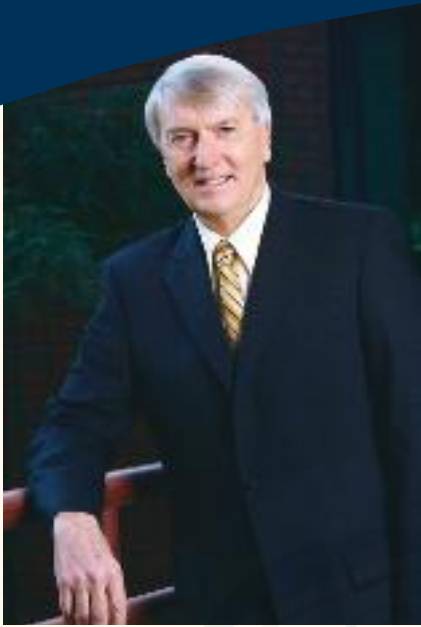
FRESNO PACIFIC UNIVERSITY | VOL. 24, NO. 1

LIVING FOR CHRIST IN THE CITY

Fresno Pacific alumni, staff and
faculty show Christ's love in
Fresno's Lowell neighborhood

- One-for-One comes to FPU
- Ministry Forum looks at leadership
- Sunbird athletes earn national success

president's message



D. MERRILL EWERT, PH.D.

Change begins when people walk together

Fifty years ago, the stirring words of a young president fired the imagination of a whole generation: "Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country." I skipped school that day to watch John F. Kennedy's inauguration; I was mesmerized by his clarion call to make a difference, not only in my own community but in the world around me. A few years later, I served in Africa with the Mennonite Brethren Church and then with Mennonite Central Committee—doing relief, teaching in a school and engaging in community development.

While in graduate school at the University of Wisconsin, I met a number of wounded idealists who too had heard President Kennedy's words and joined the Peace Corps or other voluntary agencies with the goal of saving the world. Some returned disappointed, learning that the world didn't necessarily want saving, at least not by them. Few things are more tragic, I learned, than the death of idealism and the growth of cynicism, which often takes its place. At that point, my major professor introduced me to Paulo Freire's *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*, a book that described a new approach to adult literacy that engaged the world's poor, not as objects of our pity but as the subjects of their own transformation. I learned the meaning of praxis—a word that integrates theory and practice, reflection and action.

Hope and transformative change, I learned, comes about not through the introduction of new ideas by well-meaning outsiders, but rather by engaging with people who address their own problems. It's more than learning by doing or research and application. Engagement with people and the problems facing communities is ultimately a commitment and worldview rather than a technique or method.

In this issue of Pacific, you will read about Fresno Pacific alumni, students and faculty who are learning and working with people to make a difference in this community. They're doing more than meeting needs and carrying out research. As our people walk alongside people facing enormous challenges, they are all learning and growing together. Universities such as Fresno Pacific, it seems to me, must model what it means to be authentically Christian as we engage the culture and bring hope and healing to a desperate world through our study and service. We have a life-giving story that we tell through our words, our actions and our relationships.

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LIVING FOR CHRIST IN THE CITY

Many with connections to FPU—alumni, students, faculty and staff—have a heart for Fresno’s poorest neighborhood. Though the area struggles, it also celebrates. Leave your stereotypes behind.



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SUNBIRD ATHLETICS

Is there any room left in the trophy case? Volleyball made it four national championships, and the men’s swim team made it two—both in a row. (more at fpu.athletics.com)



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A different kind of integration

When I was in fourth grade my society integrated: five black students were bussed to my school to blend seamlessly with 500 white kids.

To make our new classmates comfortable, the whole school gathered outside to welcome them. Our principal made a speech. Shy by nature, I remember thinking that if I were one of those kids I'd get back on the bus.

Of course society had integrated before and would again, from Irish to Southeast Asian and beyond. Newcomers tend to travel the rocky road to acceptance at about the rate they come to resemble those already here—and vice versa. The newly enfranchised act more like the already-integrated as the established order spices itself with influences of the newcomers, until at last the ethnic group's cuisine is picked up by a fast-food chain.

Economics may then replace race and ethnicity as the great divide, as those who can leave the old neighborhood, and those who can't stay behind.

In some places integration gives way to gentrification. A younger generation of the well off, with no ties to local heritage, renovates the houses and replaces the residents.

An alternative is cooking in Fresno. People with a choice have, without fanfare, moved to poor neighborhoods, not to displace, but to embrace in Christ's love. City government, churches and nonprofits are present, not as experts, but as resources.

The results are amazing.

—Wayne Steffen

*Empowering leaders.
Transforming lives.*

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Fresno Pacific University develops students for leadership and service through excellence in Christian higher education.

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*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*





One-for-One

in the Central Valley

Valley families gobble up donation

FPU gave 325 frozen turkeys to its faculty and staff, and donated another 325 to Community Food Bank. The turkeys, from J&D Distributors, went to the food bank December 10 from the Steinert Campus Center parking area. Statistics on Valley hunger are alarming. One in six residents, one in four of the children, do not know where their next meal is coming from. "Looking back at 2010, Fresno Pacific University has been richly blessed," said President D. Merrill Ewert. "We want to share the bounty."

Shoe drops benefit more than 1,300 kids

Volunteers distributed more than 600 pairs of shoes and socks December 8 at Houston Elementary, Visalia, and more than 700 pairs December 13 at Bakman Elementary, Fresno. Partners were Spirit 88.9 Christian radio, Neighborhood Church and The Word Community Church.

The acts were inspired by Blake Mycoskie's presentation at the 2010 Business Forum in October, FPU's annual event for local business leaders. Mycoskie is founder of TOMS Shoes, which gives one pair of shoes to a needy child for each pair sold. "We decided to bring Blake's one-for-one philosophy to Fresno," said Joan Minasian, M.A., director of community development. "This season, 325 Central Valley families will be blessed by this one-for-one effort," said CFB CEO Andy Souza.





Relationships, adaptation crucial to ministry

Making solid relationships and adapting to change can make or break a ministry, the pastor of a church of 8,000 told more than 400 pastors, lay leaders and parachurch staff during the 2011 Central Valley Ministry Forum.

Larry Osborne, senior pastor at North Coast Church, Vista, California, was the speaker at the February 17 event in the Special Events Center on the main campus. His title was “Ministry in a Hyperchange World: Staying Focused When Everything is a Blur.”

In his opening session, Osborne looked at a study of MBA graduates companies “fast-tracked” for major success. The study listed 12 reasons why some didn’t live up to their potential, but Osborne boiled it down to two.

- Poor relationship skills. “In other words, they don’t play well with others in the sandbox,” he said.
- The inability to adapt. “They were poor at what I like to call mid-course corrections,” he said.

Relating and adapting are scriptural skills, according to Osborne, but they are not enough. The most important skill is to do God’s will in love. “A very simple recipe that very few people, and unfortunately very few churches, can get out of the oven,” he said.

North Coast has been named one of the 10 Most Influential Churches in America for pioneering video venues, leading the multi-site movement, sermon-based small groups, missional community service and shared leadership. Osborne, who is also president of the North Coast Training Network, has written books including *Sticky Teams*, *Keeping Your Leadership Team and Staff on the Same Page*—winner of *Christianity Today*’s Golden Canon 2010 Leadership Book Award—*Sticky Church*, *Ten Dumb Things Smart Christians Believe*, *A Contrarian’s Guide to Knowing God*, *Spirituality for the Rest of Us* and *The Unity Factor*.

Other Ministry Forum sponsors were Chick-fil-A, Spirit 88.9 radio, Growing Healthy Churches, Link Care Center, Dumont Printing and Mailing, Christian Business Men’s Connection, The Pacific District Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches, Fresno/Madera Youth for Christ, Uncle Harry’s Bagels, Producers Dairy, Wawona Foods and The Mennonite Brethren Foundation.

FPU celebrates grants, national nursing accreditation

Celebration was the word as representatives from FPU, Tulare City School District and the College of the Sequoias (COS) announced two grant programs and the national accreditation of the RN to BSN degree completion program.

Cake and balloons created a festive atmosphere as dozens of faculty, staff and students gathered October 29 in Shehadey Dining Hall in Steinert Campus Center. Provost Herma Williams acted as master of ceremonies. Other FPU speakers were Karen Cianci, dean of the School of Natural Sciences; Linda Pryce-Sheehan, registrar; Chris Brownell, math faculty; Dave Youngs, mathematics education program director; and Steve Pauls, chemistry faculty.

Guest speakers included Karen Humphrey, executive director, California Post-Secondary Education Commission (and former Fresno mayor) and Robert Urtecho, dean of science, engineering and math, COS.

Title V Grant — FPU will receive \$3.75 million over five years in partnership with COS in Visalia. The grant is to help Hispanic and other at-risk students at COS and FPU succeed in the STEM disciplines (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) and enable COS students to move seamlessly from an A.A. program through their B.S. degrees at FPU.

ITQ Grant — This grant unites Tulare City School District, K-12 Alliance and FPU to improve science and language arts education. The California Post-Secondary Education Commission approved \$282,839 for one year for BLASTT (Bringing Language Arts and Sciences Together in Tulare), a program for 36 Tulare teachers in grades three-six. The grant could be funded up to four years,



bringing the total to \$958,000.

Nursing accreditation — FPU's RN-to-BSN degree completion program has received national accreditation from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. The accreditation is for five years, the maximum awarded. The FPU program began in January 2009 and the first cohort of students completed its studies in August 2010.

Also welcomed at the event were several people involved in the ITQ grant: Steve Price is the grant evaluator from Educational Resource Consultants and Rita Starnes is K-12 Alliance/WestEd regional director, Central Valley. Representing Tulare City School District were Sue Ann Hillman, director of curriculum and instruction; and Terry Sayre and Michelle French, TCSD educators who will co-direct at the district level.

University's growing reputation spurs new Merced Center

Fresno Pacific's growing reputation is leading to a new center in Merced.

The university began bachelor's degree completion classes in Merced in the 1990s. Three years ago FPU began considering another center, to join those in North Fresno, Visalia and Bakersfield, and satellite programs in Hanford and Lemoore.

Research and conversation with area education leaders showed need in the Merced-Modesto-Turlock area. "The president of Merced Community College asked us to consider what we could do for their students," said Stephen Varvis, Ph.D., vice president for enrollment management and interim provost.

In 2010 Headstart invited the university to bring its early childhood development degree completion program to Merced, and the University of California, Merced, inquired about ways to provide teacher-education for its graduates. The first early childhood cohort started in the fall, and progress continues on the U.C. partnership.

A new center is the logical next step, according to Cindy Steele, executive director of regional centers. "We have had a number of students travel over two hours round trip to our

main campus and the North Fresno Center," Steele said. "They will now have the opportunity to complete their bachelor's degree from a Christian university in their own community."

Plans are to open a 4,800 square-foot facility near Merced College and U.C. Merced in June 2011, with an option to expand. The location and evening classes will help students balance work, family and education.

Starting with about 60 students in the fall of 2011, the university hopes the center will grow to 150 students in a year and offer organizational leadership, school psychology, liberal studies and other education programs, as well as early childhood development.

Also in early summer 2011 FPU plans to add to the North Fresno Center, taking possession of the entire third floor of the building. Soon space will need to be added in Visalia, as well, Varvis predicted.

These projects will expand higher education in the Valley, which has a high percentage of adults who have attended college but not completed a degree. "That's our purpose," Varvis said, "to continue to meet the needs of our region."

Fall commencement one of firsts

The December commencement was a time of firsts: first classes of RN-to-BSN and the global MBA, first double fall ceremony and first online MA graduates to cross an ocean to get degrees.

Ceremonies were December 11 in the Special Events Center: graduate and traditional undergraduate at 10:00 a.m. and bachelor's degree completion at 3:00 p.m. Degrees were given to 284 new graduates: 175 degree completion, 47 traditional undergraduate and 62 master's.

Putting the "distance" in "distance learning"

Some people take distance learning very seriously.

Eight members of the online master's in kinesiology attended commencement from out of state—way out of state: three from Guam, two from Seattle and one each from Boston, Denver and Chicago.

The kinesiology degree, one of four online M.A. programs at FPU, prepares professionals in physical education, athletic training and sports administration. Depending on when students start, the program can be completed in 14 or 17 months.

Nurses look to lead their profession

The first graduates of the RN-to-BSN program earned a bachelor of science in nursing with a focus on leadership.

The cohort began in February 2009 at the North Fresno Center. There are currently three cohorts at North Fresno and two in Visalia.

RN's are trained nurses for only entry-level work, mainly in hospitals. A bachelor's degree is needed for supervision, administration, further study and teaching.

First global MBA class graduates

The first cohort of global MBA students began in August 2009 at the North Fresno Center. Three cohorts are now going in Visalia and Bakersfield as well as North Fresno.

One feature that makes the program truly global is that students experience business as a worldwide activity. Not only



do faculty have international experience in Europe and Asia, travel is included in the tuition. The graduating cohort went to China, Washington, D.C., and Los Angeles.

Be like Mary

Mary said "yes"—and so should you, speaker Sharon Stanley urged the graduates. Answer as Mary did in Luke 1:38, she said: "Here am I, servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."

Stanley's own life is an example. Called to a three-month assignment working with refugees in Fresno, 20 years later she's still here. Stanley is founder and executive director of Fresno Interdenominational Refugee Ministries (FIRM), a nonprofit agency serving more than 6,500 Southeast Asian, Slavic and African refugees. She has an M.Div. from San Francisco Theological Seminary and a doctor of ministry degree from Columbia Theological Seminary.

Mary trusted God, no matter the consequences for a young, poor, unwed woman, Stanley said. "Mary believed she could be called for very important purposes—and so can you. May now be your 'yes' time."

Photos and more at news.fresno.edu



PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES GET "BEYOND SUFFERING"

About 80 parents, educators and others interested in people with disabilities attended "Beyond Suffering: Christian Views on Disability" October 1-2 in Ashley Auditorium. The event was co-sponsored by Joni and Friends, a service agency for people with disabilities and their loved ones (joniandfriends.org/central-california). Speakers included Doug Mazza, president, Joni and Friends (pictured).

Tuition plan increases aid to areas important to students, families

A new tuition plan will increase financial aid, add professors and improve technology, facilities and services. “All the changes we are making will help our students succeed,” said President D. Merrill Ewert. “We are improving our access to entering students, our affordability for continuing students and the value of the degree our graduates receive.”

The cost of traditional undergraduate tuition will rise 3.7 percent to \$24,520 for 2011-

was established at \$1,500. The Mennonite Brethren guarantee package will rise \$3,000 to \$11,000, and more funds will be available for student work-study positions.

“By keeping our focus on providing challenging academics that lead to ethical and professional development and supporting faculty who are mentors as well as experts, we make every dollar count,” Varvis said.

Tuition for bachelor’s degree completion programs will also go up 3.7 percent for 2011-2012, except for Christian ministries, which will increase 2.15 percent. For graduate students, teacher education and global MBA rates will stay the same, while other programs will increase 1 percent.

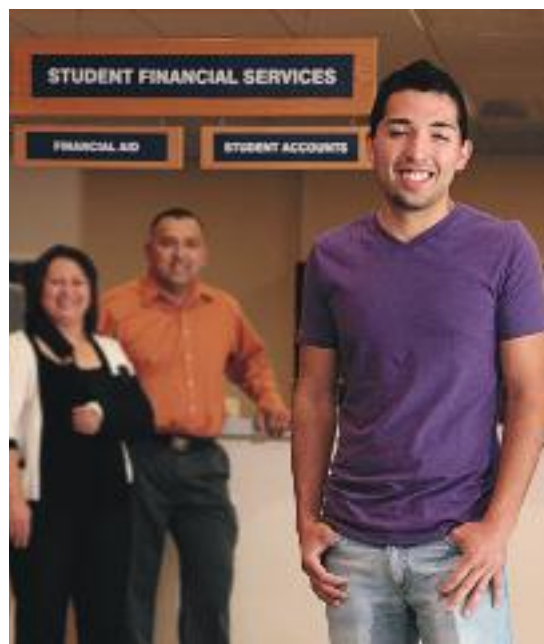
FPU will also increase:

Faculty—Professors will be added in business, both in degree completion and traditional undergraduate programs.

Educational technology—The number of “smart” classrooms, incorporating computers, DVD and other media, will increase, as well as campus wireless connections. The Steven R. Brandt Research Learning Lab in Hiebert Library is also being expanded. The center features computers, wireless connections, podcasting equipment and study areas.

Student services—Academic Support Center hours will be expanded. Campus security will be augmented to include the semi-nary campus.

It’s all about keeping an FPU education an affordable investment. “We have the highest four-year graduation rate in the Valley, and our graduates are sought by businesses, school districts and top graduate schools. Our students represent this region’s wonderful ethnic and cultural diversity and many are the first in their families to attend college,” Varvis said. “Not only do they attend FPU, they graduate and succeed.”



2012. In 2009-2010 FPU was one of six universities nationwide that froze tuition. Other independent colleges have raised tuition an average of 4.5 percent, bringing the average to \$27,293 for 2010-2011, and are expected to do the same for 2011-2012, according to Stephen Varvis, vice president of enrollment management. (Average hikes for public schools were 7.9 percent for 2010-2011 and 6.5 percent in 2009-2010.) “Right now we’re 13.5 percent below the average for private universities,” he said.

At FPU, president’s and dean’s scholarships for new students will go up \$1,000 each to \$11,000 and \$8,500, respectively. Faculty, founders and transfer awards ranging from \$8,500 to \$3,000 will increase \$500 each. A new grant, the Transfer Partnership Award,



FPU takes on



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faculty & staff focus



Mary Jo Burchard (BA '03, MA '09), assistant degree completion director for Kings County, will publish a literature review on sensemaking in organizations in Regent University's *Emerging Leader's Journey Journal*, Volume 3, Issue 1, May/June 2010, regent.edu/acad/global/publications/elj/. Her submission on pride and organizational leadership was published in a virtual conference on moral leadership conducted by Regent University,

St. Augustine College in South Africa, the Methodist Theological University in South Korea and the Høyskolen for Ledelse og Teologi in Norway.



Jon Isaak, Ph.D., biblical and religious studies, published *New Testament Theology: Extending the Table*, Wipf and Stock, 2011. He also gave a presentation on the book at Senior Professionals in November 2010 and the faculty seminar January 2011. See: wipfandstock.com/store/New_Testament_Theology_Extending_the_Table



Gehrett

Matt Gehrett (MA '98), executive director of continuing education, and **Bob Jost** (BA '72), study instructor in the Center for Professional Development, presented at the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) educator conventions in Sacramento and Anaheim in November 2010. Their sessions were on integrating technology into the K-12 classroom. Titles were "Podcasting for Educators," "Virtual Field Trips," "Web Searching" and "All Things Google."



Mark Baker, Ph.D., mission and theology professor, led a two-day retreat in November 2010 in the Dominican Republic for 30 church leaders of La Red del Camino (Network of the Way/Road). Subjects included holistic ministry from Galatians and Baker's book *Religious No More: Building Communities of Grace and Freedom*. He was guest editor of *The Ellul Forum*, Issue 46, Fall 2010, titled "Technique, Ellul and the Food Industry." The

issue included articles by seminary grads Matt Regier and Randy Ataide, and Baker's review on two Michael Pollan books: *The Omnivore's Dilemma* and *In Defense of Food*.



Deborah Sauer-Ferrand, ABD, music faculty, gave two presentations on music of the Great Depression to high school students preparing for the Academic Decathlon. The October 2010 event was sponsored by the Madera Unified School District. In April 2010, members of the Vocal Performance Workshop sang live on KVPR's Young Artist Spotlight. They did selections from Mozart's *The*

Magic Flute, which the group, directed by Sauer-Ferrand, presented in February. The performers were alumni Melinda Ramos (BA '02) and Enrique Vasquez (BA '04) and student Robert L. Martin, accompanied by **Arlene Steffen**, MM, music faculty.

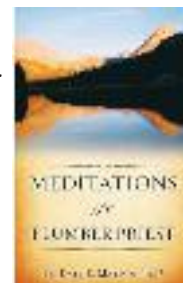


Chris Janzen, MFA, art faculty, served as a juror for the *Cesar Chavez Art Contest* in April 2010 and became a member of the Fig Tree Gallery, Fresno, in May 2010. Exhibitions have included *Blue Woman*, Echo Street Coffee, Fresno, May 2010; *Untitled*, Chris Sorensen Gallery, Fresno, June 2010; *Heavy Man Cushion* and *New Garden*, Fig Tree Gallery, September 2010; and *GRANDma* and *We've Created a Monster*, Chris Sorensen Gallery, September 2010. He published *Grant and Hutterites* in *The Hutterites in North America*, Johns Hopkins University Press, 2010, and *Plastic Smiley*, *Perception Problem* and an artist statement, *Salt Fresno Magazine*, May 2010.



Cory Seibel, Ph.D., pastoral ministries professor, co-published, "Generation X, Intergenerational Justice and the Renewal of the Traditioning Process" in *HTS Theologies Studies/Theological Studies* 66(2). Access the article at: hts.org.za/index.php/HTS/issue/view/38

Father Dale Matson, Ph.D., emeritus psychology faculty, has published *Meditations of a Plumber Priest*. The former director of and teacher in the FPU school psychology program, Matson is an Anglican Priest and a retired licensed plumber and heavy equipment operator. The book is published by Xulon Press and is available at Barnes and Noble and Amazon Books.



ED TECH GOES ONLINE

A new year brings a fourth online master's degree program.

The M.A. in educational technology prepares teachers to integrate technology into their K-12 instruction. Formerly a traditional face-to-face program, it will now be offered entirely online with the first cohort (group of students) enrolling in January 2011 for the spring term.

Students complete two courses per semester in the 33-unit program and complete a thesis. Jo Ellen Misakian is the program director. More information at fresno.edu/education/edtech/



Herma Williams returns to Washington

STEVE VARVIS STEPS IN AS INTERIM PROVOST

There was a tear in more than one eye when FPU bid Herma Williams Godspeed December 9.

Provost and academic vice president since August 1, 2006, Williams returned to Washington, D.C., to be with her family. Stephen Varvis, vice president of enrollment management, will act as interim provost for 18 months, maintaining his current position, while a new fulltime provost is selected. In more than 20 years at FPU, Varvis has served as history faculty, business manager, undergraduate dean and director of business and civic relations.

Speakers praised Williams in different ways—from a poem by History/Political Science Faculty Richard Unruh, Ph.D., to a seven-point creed by Registrar Linda Pryce-Sheehan and “Eight Principles from Dr. Williams’ Class” by Karen Cianci, dean of the School of Natural Sciences. Other speakers were Mark Deffenbacher, M.A., and President D. Merrill Ewert. Williams was praised for her ability to build relationships, her determination to do God’s will and her joyful way of expressing her faith. Among her achievements is the establishment of the Provost Faculty Scholarship Program and the emerging faculty senate and faculty rank and pay restructuring. “The word ‘can’t’ is not in her vocabulary,” Ewert said.

In her remarks, Williams returned the love and emotion others expressed. “I am so blessed. I have loved you and I thank you for loving me,” she said.



Seminary name reflects continued mission in new framework

The Fresno campus of the former MB Biblical Seminary has been renamed the Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary.

“This name brings forward the seminary’s tradition of teaching based on strong biblical principles, continues to support the seminary mission and links the seminary with FPU for the benefits that brings to better preparing church leaders,” said President D. Merrill Ewert.

The university and the seminary joined forces in June 2010, with the seminary operating as a professional school within Fresno Pacific. Lynn Jost, Ph.D., former seminary president, oversees the seminary’s work as part of the FPU administration and seminary faculty joined the university. All correspondence should be addressed to the FPU address: 1717 S. Chestnut Ave., Fresno, CA 93702.


To enlist wide representation and make an informed decision, a naming committee was selected from among seminary and university faculty and administrators. Alumni and other stakeholders were surveyed on seven suggested names. The final choice represented the popular vote, and was subsequently approved by the university President’s Cabinet and Seminary Advisory Council. “The response was positive and greatly appreciated. We move forward with confidence,” Ewert said.

HONORING THE SCHMIDTS

Friends, family and colleagues of Seminary President Emeritus Henry J. Schmidt gathered February 24 to dedicate a tulip tree and two rosebushes planted in honor of him and his wife,

Elvera, when he retired as seminary president. The meditation was given by Juan Martinez, Ph.D., director of the Center for the Study of Hispanic Church and Community at Fuller Theological Seminary and former student of Schmidt’s. Lynn Jost, Ph.D., dean of the seminary, gave words of dedication; Valerie Rempel, Ph.D., associate dean and professor of history and theology, gave the invocation; Sheryl Busby, seminary dean’s assistant, read Scripture; and Mark Isaac, M.Div., director of seminary advancement, gave the closing prayer. Schmidt, Ph.D., (BA ’70), was seminary president from 1993-2003. He died February 8, 2011, in Reedley. (Death notice, page 19) (Above, from left: Linda Bowman, former seminary CFO; Elvera Schmidt; Miles Brady, Schmidt’s grandson; and Lori James, former seminary registrar.)





Relocators Randy (MA '00) and Tina White (staff) at the kick-off for FIFUL leadership center

"We were coming to be neighbors."


—Tina White

by Wayne Steffen

LIVING FOR CHRIST IN THE CITY—HERE AND NOW

Fresnans will tell you Lowell Neighborhood is not the place to be. Wedged between the governmental downtown and the artsy Tower District, this small area has a big reputation for bad things. For many with Fresno Pacific connections, however, it's an answer to TobyMac's question:

*If you gotta start somewhere why not here,
If you gotta start sometime why not now?*



FIFUL staff Beth Eckloff-Paz (BA '05) and Ivan Paz (BA '09) in front of The Pink House

Shoots of hope sprout amidst the statistics

- Two families, the Blodgetts and the Fords, bought adjoining houses, tore down their fence and converted a garage into a community center. "I love seeing our backyard filled with teens every week," Matt Ford says. "Our property has become a safe place where teens get a break from the chaos that dominates their lives and are surrounded with adults who love them and share the hope of the Gospel."
- The gang fight that didn't happen. One of the men who was supposed to fight refused and told the large crowd that had gathered to "go on inside, nothing's going to happen," Rici Skei recalls. "They said 'OK.'"
- The teenager who asked Nate Delahay to teach him to tie a tie for a class on interviewing for jobs. "I brought him into the house and found one of my old ties," Nate says. "The next time he saw me he had a big old smile on his face and says, 'I remembered how to do it!'"

"It's not a sacrifice. It's enriching" —Beth Eckloff-Paz



May Tag Yang, Wise Old Owl director

"All it takes is a step out of your comfort zone."

—May Tag Yang (BA '09)

Coming to Lowell

Tina and Randy White

Randy (MA '00), D. Min., is a professor at Bakke Graduate University (based in Seattle with strong online programs) and founder of the Fresno Institute For Urban Leadership (FIFUL), which is very active in Lowell. FIFUL sponsors the Pink House, a home for students studying urban ministry, and Wise Old Owl tutoring for local children. Tina is an FPU staff member. They moved to Lowell 1993. At the family meeting, Randy was ready but Tina needed to understand why. Ultimately, "I told Randy it was at the times in my life when I took the greatest risks that I felt closest to God," she says. Their children are Joseph (BA '04) and Jameson (BA '07).

Rici and Phil Skei

Phil Skei (seminary '06) is executive director of FIFUL. He and Rici (Bell BA '02, MA '05) were living in North Fresno when the FIFUL position opened up in 2006. Phil applied, but the job required they live in a red zone. "Because I grew up in Southwest Fresno I says, No way!" Rici says. "Now that we're here it's like, why didn't we do this a long time ago?" she says. The couple has two children.

Ivan Paz and Beth Eckloff-Paz

Ivan (BA '09) is Pink House co-director, and Beth (BA '05) is FIFUL associate director. Beth grew up in a Christian family. A Pink House internship during her senior year at FPU introduced her to Lowell and she became house director. Ivan knew Lowell from his days in the Bulldog gang. God came to Ivan in prison and "painted a picture for me that he would send me to college." First he took FPU distance classes through the Incarcerated Youth Program, then attended Fresno City College until an anonymous sponsor offered to send him to FPU. He and Beth married in 2010 and bought a house in Jefferson, Lowell's sister neighborhood to the east. "I see our relationship as a microcosm of how life could be," Ivan says. "We form this really cool team."

Amber and Craig Blodgett/Matt and Bev Ford

Craig (BA '97, seminary student) is assistant youth director at First Presbyterian Church, and Matt (BA '00, seminary student) is pastor of student

The stats

In the 2006 Brookings Institution study "Confronting Concentrated Poverty in Fresno," Fresno led the nation in concentrated poverty: the degree poor people are clustered in high-poverty neighborhoods, known as "red zones," where at least 49.1 percent of residents live below the poverty line of \$15,219 per year for a family of three. Lowell is one of 22 red zones in Fresno.

WHY LOWELL

- Location—north of downtown, between that area and the revitalized Tower District
- Manageable size—around 700 properties
- Historic status—one of the oldest neighborhoods in the city, with 21 houses on the Local Historic Registry of Homes

NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE (U.S. AVERAGE IN PARENTHESES)

- Population 13,844; 70 percent of residents below poverty level (12 percent)
- Language other than English 70 percent (18 percent)
- Owner-occupied housing 17 percent (66 percent)
- Median household income \$14,213

IN LOWELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (CALIFORNIA AVERAGE IN PARENTHESES)

- English language arts proficient 17 percent (46 percent)
- Free/reduced lunch 100 percent (54 percent)

All information from the City of Fresno Downtown & Community Revitalization Department.

FOR MORE:

- fresno.gov/Government/DepartmentDirectory/DCR/NeighborhoodRevitalization/LowellProject2010.htm
- lowellfresno.org/slideshow
- fresno.gov/NR/rdonlyres/2FDD6990-6227-48C3-BD82-479FDDC0733C/16682/MicrosoftPowerPointTheLowellPlan91609Final.pdf

and family ministries at North Fresno MB Church. Amber (BA '98, MA '04) works part time for an online charter school and Bev (BA '99, TC '00, MA '05) is a part-time math consultant. Matt and Craig read Shane Claiborne's *The Irresistible Revolution* and the couples wondered "what would it look like for our two families to...respond to Christ's call to love our neighbors as ourselves and live in community together?" Amber says. They moved in 2006; the Fords have three children and the Blodgetts two.

Esther and Nate Delahay

Esther (BA '08), directs City Life for Fresno/Madera Youth for Christ. She moved in with the Fords while an FPU student, and Nate, a Fresno City College student, came from Tucson. A small-town girl, Esther had not enjoyed Fresno until she saw neighbors talking on their front porches. "That's when I fell in love with Fresno, when I fell in love with Lowell," she says. They bought a house in 2010.

Joanie and Marty Martin

Joanie is adjunct education faculty and Marty is a physician. She first moved to Lowell in 1987 to operate a school she helped start at First Presbyterian Church, where she became director of Southeast Asian Refugee Ministries. When she and Marty married in 1990 the couple moved to his North Fresno home, but returned to Lowell a year later. "It's where our heart was," Joanie says.

Marissa Nunes, Jessica Mast, Lisa Washio, May Tag Yang

Marissa (BA '10) and Jessica (BA '10, seminary student) began 10-month Pink House internships in August 2010. After a Pink House internship while a student at MB Biblical Seminary, Lisa (BA '01, seminary '07) returned as co-director in 2009. May Tag (BA '09), runs Wise Old Owl Tutoring.

The clatter of stereotypes...

The stereotypes about Lowell rattle like rocks hurled against a tin roof: poverty, ugliness, chaos, stupidity, danger, laziness, drugs, gang-bangers, crime, uncaring parents, fear, helplessness.

Some of the White's friends wouldn't visit. One sent a letter saying, "love the poor, serve the poor, but don't move in with them," Randy says.

There's no denying the truth. Ivan Paz remembers when nobody bothered gang members on the streets and mattresses and couches in vacant lots served as children's playgrounds. "It was a war zone," he says, "the 90s were just a bad time in Fresno. The rumors just stayed."

"There's no stronger voice than that of the neighborhood itself." —Phil Skei (seminary '06)



FIFUL Executive Director Phil Skei, wife Rici and daughters Kadence (left) and Kaylin

"We're not just reading the Bible, we're living the Bible." —Rici Skei (BA '02, MA '05)

Stayed and spread to become many people's truth. Lisa Washio recalls a police officer stopping a Pink House intern walking on the street in broad daylight and telling her the area is not safe. "I've never felt that way," she says.

Stereotypes insulate from reality. "The poor have their limitations, which is often why they stay poor," Randy says. "The rich have their limitations, which is why they stay disconnected."

"If people don't look like you...it's always put in a negative light," Tina White says.

Many outsiders carry a dangerous stereotype—hopelessness—like a virus. "People come to help but don't do anything that has to do with people," Phil Skei says. They clean up an alley, but don't talk to anyone. "Underneath it all, they're wondering if there's any hope for these people," he says.

People are more scared than they need to be. "It's what you see on the news," says Marissa Nunes.

Faculty answer the question: are we helping?

When you're trying to help, it's good to know what you're doing is working.

That's the assignment FPU psychology faculty Elizabeth Lake, ABD for a Ph.D., and Sherry Walling, Ph.D., took on with their research project into the Lowell Neighborhood.

Community wellness is often described by statistics like the crime rate, which is not the whole picture. "When you talk to young mothers about violence in the neighborhood, it puts face on it," Lake says.

The two set up three focus groups of Lowell residents with small children. Most of the 25 participants were mothers, with a few fathers. Two groups were conducted in English and one in Spanish.

Getting people to talk wasn't hard. "You ask mothers about their kids and they have a lot to say," Walling says. (She and Lake each have children under 5.)

A half-dozen FPU students helped with the project and were involved in every step, from planning and conducting focus groups to correlating data. At the last minute, for example, a Spanish-speaking student had to lead a focus group. "First she looked at me with tears; she came out beaming," Walling says. "She climbed the research version of Everest," Lake adds.

Walling and Lake focused on children 5 years and younger because, while there are many ways to gauge children's progress once they're in school, what happens before is less understood. Like canaries in a coal mine, small children are sensitive to their surroundings. "Anything that happens in that neighborhood will trickle down," Lake says.

The researchers plan to report their findings in the spring of 2011 to city officials and neighborhood residents. At least one academic paper is also in the works.

...the ring of reality

News comes and goes. Residents live every day. There is vibrancy as well as poverty. Walk the neighborhood and hear people calling to one another from front porches, taste tamales and watermelons from street vendors, enjoy the shade of old trees and try to stay out of the way of playing children. "Because they don't have a lot of stuff, neighbors really depend on each other," Rici Skei says.

People do live life at the top of their lungs; they aren't shy about sharing their music, especially on weekends. But maybe they need to vent. "The people who live here because they have to are going through really hard times and trying to make it," Esther Delahay says.

But noise isn't crime. Increased police patrols have made Lowell one of the safest communities in the city. "We have never feared for our safety, but we use good judgment regarding where we go and what we do – just as we would in any part of town," Amber Blodgett says.

Marissa knows mothers who get up at 4:30 a.m. to get things ready for kids to go to school, then work all day, often at multiple part-time jobs and get home when they can by city bus. PTA meetings are luxuries for families like these. "There's so much going on, (parents) don't have time," Jessica Mast says.

Few recognize the beauty of Lowell—architecturally in historic houses, relationally in neighbors who watch out for each other and spiritually in the way God has transformed a broken down neighborhood into a thriving community. "All it takes is a step out of your comfort zone," says May Tag Yang.

From night to day

Change has come to Lowell Neighborhood. While many improvements seem simple—several people mentioned that the street sweeper comes every week—the work of the city and the residents improves everyone's lives. "The city has poured its heart, soul and resources into the Lowell community," May Tag says.

Mayor Ashley Swearengen gets high praise. "(She) did something amazing and powerful when she created the Downtown & Community Revitalization Department," Amber says. "Part of their goal is to...help empower the residents themselves to work toward a healthier, thriving community."

The mayor and city staff attend regular community meetings, and one official purchased a home in Lowell. "Ashley Swearengen has absolutely focused her department heads," says Randy, an advisor to Swearengen.

Residents focused the mayor. Most properties are rentals and few landlords live in the area. People can pay big money

to live in substandard housing. Tina White knew of 17 people living in one house with no heat. “They’re afraid to speak up because if they do they’ll be evicted,” she says.

A group of neighbors submitted 86 code violations to the city, which then sent inspectors who found more than 400 more. All but a few of those violations have been corrected. “The city’s really helping the neighborhood chip away at the extra stuff to show the beauty,” Nate Delahay says.

Parks are another area where residents and city officials have worked together. Dickey Park on Divisadero is an example. A mural on the public restroom was filled with gang images and the area was a stomping ground for prostitution and drug dealing. Residents approached the city, which ruled the restroom was in poor repair and should be torn down. The restroom has been replaced, and the park is safer. San Pablo Park, under the Highway 180 overpass, was undeveloped and unsafe until a city grant provided playground equipment.

Other projects include improvements to the bus stop, streets and sidewalks. Increased police patrols are lowering the crime rate, and money is available to improve homes. “There’s a lot of new paint and new windows,” Esther Delahay says.

More people are joining the Lowell Neighborhood Association and Union de Familias. A single organization, LNA was pioneered by relocators, while UDF represents the Spanish-speaking residents. Ivan Paz serves as liaison between the two groups. “It provides a very effective partnership,” he says.

The Skeis call the difference between when they came until today as “night and day.” “The best word I can use is ‘stable,’” Phil says. “The kids you see walking up and down the street, you see hope on their faces,” Rici adds.

Poverty, drug abuse and crime still exist. “The difference is none of those things now define the neighborhood,” Randy White says.

NONPROFITS MAKE THEIR PRESENCE FELT

Nonprofit agencies are a crucial part of change in Lowell Neighborhood. Here are a few whose role is pivotal:

FRESNO INSTITUTE FOR URBAN LEADERSHIP

Fresno Institute for Urban Leadership was begun by the Fresno InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, a national campus ministry, to involve college students in urban ministry.

Programs include:

- Fresno Urban Ministry Project (FUMP) one-week mission project
- Wise Old Owl Tutoring Program for neighborhood children
- Fresno Urban Internship program (FUI), summer internship which places students with local organizations
- The Pink House Center for Urban Ministry, a partnership with First Presbyterian Church. Residents pursue leadership development, biblical community and urban ministry.

All information from FIFUL. More at fiful.org

FRESNO/MADERA YOUTH FOR CHRIST

Fresno/Madera Youth For Christ is one of 200 chapters of YFC USA and part of YFC International, which is active in more than 120 countries.

YFC wants every young person to make an informed decision to be a socially active follower of Jesus Christ and to become part of a local church.

Programs include Campus Life, Campus Life M (middle school), Friend2Friend Clubs, City Life, Juvenile Justice Ministries and Teen Parents.

All information from Fresno/Madera YFC. More at yfcfrontlines.org

FRESNO URBAN NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Fresno Urban Neighborhood Development Corporation (FUND Inc.) is a grass-roots, non-profit community development corporation meeting the challenges of urban renewal and neighborhood revitalization with a neighbors helping neighbors philosophy. With its community partners, including businesses and churches, FUND helps low- to moderate-income families provide affordable new homes, restore older homes and coordinate community beautification projects.

Programs include:

- ALL4ONE—volunteer projects
- HOMES4U—homes built by neighbors for neighbors
- Restoration “Plus”—transforms damaged shells into modern homes

All information from FUND. More at fundinc.org



Pink House alumna Lauren Williams and FIFUL Leadership Training Center volunteers

Steele helps draw a revitalization blueprint

While many FPU alumni worked to improve Lowell Neighborhood through personal relationships and nonprofit organizations, Dawn Steele (BA '09) was deeply involved in the city's effort.

When Ashley Swearingen was elected in 2008 she recreated the Economic Development Department as the Downtown & Community Revitalization Department. Steele served as a management analyst in the Neighborhood Revitalization Division from 2008-2010 (before joining the staff of Congressman George Radanovich).

"It opened my eyes to the issue of concentrated poverty in Fresno and how big this problem really is," Steele says of her city duties. "I loved seeing Lowell residents begin working together and taking ownership of their community."

This local ownership is the key to success. "This process has to be community driven, and Lowell has done a great job setting the example," Steele says. "I believe the city has done a fantastic job of really trying to find the right mixture of resources as it continues to get feedback from the residents. This model will be used as a tool as the city goes into other areas of concentrated poverty," Steele says.

For Steele, Lowell was more than an assignment. "Christ calls us to take care of the poor. God gives us all different gifts and passions to fulfill his purposes. God has laid on my heart a passion to change culture and being able to participate in the Lowell project through my work in government has been a part of that," she says.

"The poor have their limitations, which is often why they stay poor. The rich have their limitations, which is why they stay disconnected." —Randy White (MA '00)

Life expressing faith

For those with a choice, moving to Lowell is an act of faith—faith they can serve God and faith God will protect them. Living with the vulnerable, they become vulnerable themselves. "God has special concern for the poor and the marginalized," Lisa Washio says. "Lowell is one of the poorest areas in Fresno and God cares about that."

When brokenness is more visible, "we have to live with brothers and sisters in Christ who look very different than we do," Jessica Mast says.

"It has basically and completely reshaped my faith," says Marissa Nunes, Mast's Pink House roommate. She now asks how to love like Christ those who are not easy to love. "Those are the people we have to love because other people can find love," Marissa says.

Rici accepted Christ when she was 12 in what she describes as a "very vacation Bible school" way. "But it wasn't until December 16, 2006, I started following Jesus," she says. "We're not just reading the Bible, we're living the Bible." And spreading the word: "We show Jesus to them, and they ask questions," she says.

The Martins wanted to raise their two sons class-blind and color-blind. "The idea was to consciously live out our life being neighbors," Joanie says. Being neighbors has meant sheltering abused mothers and children, treating everything from gunshot wounds to soccer injuries and hosting art and sports camps and Halloween carnivals. It has also meant being awarded the Keys to the City in 2010 by Mayor Swearingen.

Faith is rewarded. "It's not a sacrifice," Beth Eckloff-Paz says. "It's enriching."

"God has special concern for the poor and the marginalized."

—Lisa Washio (BA '01, seminary '07)

"Fresno is a place where the kingdom of God is developing."

—Ivan Paz (BA '09)

Pink House co-directors Ivan Paz and Lisa Washio

What did the neighbors think?

Curiosity and some tension greeted the early relocators. "You have to earn trust," Tina White says. "We weren't coming in there to save their neighborhood. We were coming in to be neighbors."

Lowell's 75 percent annual transiency rate—defined as the student turnover in the local school—made a difference. "After one year, we were old-timers," Randy says, smiling.

As liaison for the joint resident's alliance Lowell Neighborhood Association and Union de Familias, Ivan can see how different ethnic groups need each other. "The concerns of the Spanish group were the same as the English group, but from a different perspective," he says.

Work still needs to be done at building relationships across socioeconomic lines. And there have been some problems between individuals when a few moved in thinking they knew everything. "They came in with the wrong mindset," Rici Skei says. "They were sniffed out by the residents...but they're no longer here."

The work is not over

Since Lowell comprises many elements, there will be no single agenda. "It's not a community where we're all going to be on the same page. But there's a large group of people who want to make a difference," Esther Delahay says.

Residents tend to follow their hearts. "We all kind of have our own areas, our passions," Joanie Martin says.

As in any neighborhood, government is responsible for certain things: trash pick-up, police protection, planning and code enforcement. "The residents are responsible for shaping the culture of the neighborhood," Phil Skei says.

"There's no stronger voice than that of the neighborhood itself. It's always the people."

Job training, increasing home ownership, housing enforcement, property improvement and safe and affordable rental housing are continuing needs. Crime and drugs remain an issue, as are resources for Lowell School. No one group can do it alone. "The goal is to continue to see partnerships built," Beth Eckloff-Paz says.

With all the good that is happening, "I am reminded daily...that there are still negative effects of poverty, cycles of bad choices and injustice," Amber Blodgett says.

What can Christians bring?

Christians looking for the kingdom of God need only look around. "Fresno is a place where the kingdom of God is developing," Ivan says.

Come to help and be helped. "Without a doubt we have received much more than we have given," Amber says.

Urban ministry gets beyond charity to partnership with the poor. "If they get involved, their God might grow," Randy says.

"It's real life," Joanie says. "I don't think we're meant to live in isolation or in our own communities, although sometimes that's more comfortable."

Real life can be uncomfortable, but won't improve if the faithful stay in the suburbs. "That's why it's important to have more people willing to serve and work," May Tag says.

Maybe most important, it's a beginning, and FPU is involved. "I could not live there with the mindset I have if I didn't go to Fresno Pacific," Marissa says.

*If we gotta start somewhere I say here,
If we gotta start sometime I say now.*

—TobyMac, City on Our Knees

ALUMNI PROFILE

James Hiebert

BA '70

Hiebert makes a career of teaching teachers

by Katie Pannarale Fries



University of Delaware photo by Kathy Atkinson

We can all remember our teachers and their contributions to our lives—but what of the teachers who taught our teachers, those who study the art of education?

James Hiebert has devoted his career to studying how to prepare and educate teachers: he is, in fact, a teacher of teachers. And he embarked on this career—without knowing it—as an undergrad.

Uncertain of his major when he entered Fresno Pacific, Hiebert enrolled in a mathematics class with Jon Knaupp. “I don’t remember why I signed up for the course, but it changed my academic life,” Hiebert says. “As I watched Dr. Knaupp teach, I watched what it was like to love a subject, to love ideas and to love learning about them.”

Also inspiring was serving as a research assistant to Arthur Wiebe, faculty, president and co-founder of AIMS Education Foundation, producer of resources for math and science educators. “Although I didn’t recognize it at the time, this was the introduction to my career in studying the learning and teaching of mathematics,” Hiebert says.

After Fresno Pacific, Hiebert earned an M.A. from the University of Illinois at Urbana and a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. Today he is a Robert J. Barkley Professor of Mathematics Education at the University of Delaware in Newark. His work has spanned several areas, including children’s mathematics learning, classroom mathematics teaching and the preparation of math teachers.

Still on the path he started at Fresno Pacific, Hiebert now looks for ways to improve how math is taught in the K–8 levels. He has collaborated on studies comparing mathematics teaching in the United States and other countries. Among his publications is the book *The Teaching Gap*, co-authored with James W. Stigler.

“One of the most compelling findings from this work was the approach to improving classroom teaching in several Asian countries, especially Japan,” Hiebert says.

In that country small groups of K-8 teachers improve a few lessons each year, sharing their work with other teachers. “The result is a series of highly effective lessons for every grade and topic that get better and better, and a professional community of teachers who are extremely skilled at studying and improving teaching,” Hiebert says.

Hiebert and his colleagues are applying these principles in the U.S. “Each semester, we organize ourselves into small groups of instructors who are teaching sections of the same course and work on improving a few lessons,” he says.

As lessons are rewritten and revised researchers pass the changes on to the next group of instructors. The new lessons can be further revised, improving not only the quality of courses offered prospective teachers, but also demonstrating a process they can take into their careers. “The research we do models the kind of research that can be carried out by classroom teachers themselves,” Hiebert adds. “We expect this process to continue indefinitely.”

Thus the work of teaching teachers becomes that of helping teachers teach themselves.

In the News

Marta (Rios BA '81, MA '91) Es-carcega was featured in *The Fresno Bee* in October 2010. The article was about 7 Mountain Worship Intercession Network, a ministry Marta founded and directs to change troubled cities through prayer. She leads a group that regularly prays for leaders in government, business, entertainment/arts, education, family, religion and communications/media. She also has compiled a photo journal, “Glory Walk,” chronicling 100 miles of prayer walking throughout the city of Fresno.

Fran Moriarty Fischer (MA '97) was featured in the article “Behind Every Famous Person is a Fabulous Teacher” on teacherscount.org in September. Fran was culinary and television star Guy Fieri’s middle school history teacher. Fieri credits her for teaching him how to harness his energy, the secret ingredient for his success. “She could do it all: inspire, educate and mentor.” Fran currently teaches at Ridge-wood Elementary School in Eureka. The article is available on the web at www.teacherscount.org

Clare Ann Ruth-Heffelbower, D.Min., director of Circles of Support and Accountability at the Center of Peacemaking & Conflict Studies, was featured in the September 2010 *Christianity Today*. The article, “Sex Offenders in the Pew,” is about sex offenders and how churches minister to them. The article is available on the web at www.christianitytoday.com

Dennis Janzen, Ph.D., volleyball coach and athletic director, and player **Michelle Johnson** appeared on Alan Autry’s KYNO-AM radio program on December 9, 2010, to discuss the Sunbirds volleyball’s fourth national championship in a row. The show is available online at www.940kyno.com

Alumnus Marcus Johnson named superintendent of the year

Marcus P. Johnson (MA '84) has been named 2011 National Superintendent of the Year by the American Association of School Administrators. Johnson is superintendent of the Sanger Unified School District in Fresno County.

The decision was announced February 17 at the national AASA conference in Denver. Johnson was one of four finalists among 49 state winners.



Johnson has spent his entire 35-year education career in the Central Valley, beginning at American Union Elementary, a single school K-8 district in western Fresno County, where he taught for 16 years and spent seven years as superintendent/principal.

In 1999, Johnson became assistant superintendent of human resources at Sanger, a rural district of 10,800 students. The highly diverse student population includes 82 percent minority enrollment, 76 percent free- and reduced-lunch recipients and 24 percent English language learners.

Johnson was named superintendent in 2003, and within two years Sanger became one of the first districts in California to exit "program improvement" status under the No Child Left Behind Act. Since then the district has shown some of the highest overall achievement gains in the State: 13 schools have been designated as State Distinguished schools, 12 schools have been designated as Title I Academic Achieving schools, two schools have been named National Blue Ribbon Schools and all 13 elementary schools have been honored for outstanding character development programs.

The annual Superintendent of the Year program is open to all U.S., Canadian and International school superintendents. A \$10,000 college scholarship will be presented in the winner's name to a student in the high school from which the superintendent graduated, or the school now serving the same area.

ABOUT THE SPONSORS — The American Association of School Administrators, founded in 1865, is the professional organization for more than 13,000 educational leaders in the United States and throughout the world. For more, visit www.aasa.org. ARAMARK Education provides support services to more than 500 K-12 school districts in the U.S. For more, visit www.aramarkschools.com. ING is a global financial institution offering services to over 85 million residential, corporate and institutional clients in more than 40 countries. The ING Foundation's mission is to improve the quality of life in communities where ING operates and its employees and customers live. For more, visit www.ing.com/us and www.ing-usafoundation.com.

Student **Jerante Morgan** was featured in "Sunbirds Hoops Player is a Survivor" in *The Fresno Bee* in December 2010. The article was about the obstacles that he has overcome and the joy Fresno Pacific basketball has brought to his life. This article is available on the web at www.fresnobee.com

General Announcements

Michael Haley (BA '68) retired from the University of California, San Francisco, where he was employed in information technologies services. Michael is in several clubs, including the Golden State Bonsai Federation. His wife, Kathleen, is also active in local organizations and enjoys quilting.

Ken Wiens (BA '75) studied for his master of divinity and master of theology at Talbot Theological Seminary, with an emphasis in ancient Near Eastern languages. He is a member of the Samuel Johnson Society of Litchfield, England, and is particularly interested in the writings and life of the 18th century lexicographer and essayist. He is on disability after having been diagnosed with degenerative disc disease and fibromyalgia. With his free time he is taking a writing correspondence course, "Breaking into Print," from the Longridge Writers Group in Connecticut. He and Evelyn will celebrate 36 years of marriage in June 2011. He has two grandsons, James, 7; and Shane, 4.

Rick Bartlett (BA '85, seminary '92) published the *Consuming Youth: Leading Teens Through Consumer Culture* with Zondervan. The book explores moving from the fragmented, iso-



lated and consumer-driven story for youth towards a more compelling story of meaning, purpose and a life lived differently. Rick is senior pastor at Bethany Mennonite Brethren Church, Fresno. He plans to give a copy to the Hiebert Library. The book is also available on the web at www.amazon.com

James Mar (BA '93) is a health instructor and head wrestling coach at Parlier High School.

Peter Smith (BA '94) completed his doctoral dissertation at the University of Wales in conjunction with The International Baptist Theological Seminary in Prague. He and his wife **Cheryl (Dueck BA '93)** and their three boys are serving in Kitwe, Zambia, with the Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation and Mennonite Central Committee, where he is teaching and working on peacemaking and transformation efforts. The title of his dissertation is "The Enthrallment of Violence in Mennonite Church Discipline: An Analysis in Terms of Peace and Ecclesial Practice." It is now in the Center for Mennonite Brethren Studies.

Juan Ayala, Jr. (BA '98) was ordained to the priesthood in the Roman Catholic Church on May 26, 2007. For the past three years he has been associate pastor at Santa Rosa de Lima Church in San Fernando, near Los Angeles.

Tomas Tafolla (BA '98) was awarded a master's degree in English literature from National University.

Muhawu Lumeya (BA '04) has been on staff with the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs in Washington, D.C., since October 2010. As a program assistant, she works with youth teams in the field on issues of governance and democracy. She is setting up a Political Parties' Youth Academy in the Democratic



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Republic of Congo where the team will support the 2011 electoral cycle.

Kate Turpin (BA '05) graduated summa cum laude from Kaplan University with a master of science degree in higher education with an emphasis in student affairs. She is currently corporate director of placement services for InterCoast Colleges and the assistant campus director for its South Portland, Maine, campus.

Joan Hensleit-Minasian (MA '10) was named the Volunteer of the Year by the California Valley Region of the American Cancer Society. She received the award for her leadership of the new local Making Strides Against Breast Cancer event, which raised over

\$150,000. Joan also serves as the Volunteer Team Leader for ACS's Making Strides statewide team.

Engagement

Brad Harness (BA '09) and Megan Shore announce their engagement. Brad is employed by Success In Recovery. Megan is a 2008 graduate of Biola University and is employed as a first grade teacher with Earlimart School District. They will live in Visalia.

Marriages

1 Theresa Dinning (BA '05) married Michael Carlile on December 4, 2010, in Fresno. Theresa is the UPS Freight account manager for Fresno and the northern Cen-

tral Valley. Michael is the vice president at Professional Print and Mail. The couple resides in Fresno.

2 Becky Kruse (BA '06) married Jerrod Bradley on June 18, 2010, in Fresno. Becky is communications manager at FPU and is a former residence director. Jerrod teaches math at Sanger High School and is pursuing his master's in mathematics education at FPU. The couple resides in Sanger.

3 Vanessa Ronk (BA '08) and **Richard Kunz (BA '09)** were married on June 19, 2010, in the Woodlake Presbyterian Church with Charles Castles and **Greg Camp (BA '82)**, Ph.D., biblical and religious studies faculty, officiating. The parents of

the groom are Ellen and **Michael Kunz, Ph.D.**, biology faculty. Vanessa and Richard teach at Hume Lake Charter School and live in Hume.

4 Kimberly (Kennedy BA '09) and **Jason Kinzel (BA '08)** celebrated their one-year wedding anniversary on September 19, 2010. Jason graduated with a double major in contemporary Christian ministries and biblical studies. Kim graduated magna cum laude with a degree in psychology. The couple resides in Clovis.

NETA NOMINATIONS OPEN

Nominations are open for the 2011 Nickel Excellence in Teaching Award (NETA). The award is presented during May commencement to a faculty who embodies the FPU standards of scholarship and mentoring. Recipients should be faculty in the traditional undergraduate program who have demonstrated a long-term commitment to the university. Tell us which faculty:

- ▶ Had the greatest impact on you, helping you learn and become a true professional?
- ▶ Inspired you to learn and excel?
- ▶ Exemplified both dedication to scholarship/education and living and thinking as a Christian?

Send nominations to alumni@fresno.edu

Death

Henry J. Schmidt, Ph.D., (BA '70, seminary '72), president emeritus of MB Biblical Seminary, died February 8, 2011, in Reedley. He had suffered from lung cancer. Joining the seminary full-time in 1978, he held the J.B. Toews Chair of Mission and Evangelism and directed the Center for Training in Mission and Evangelism before serving as president from 1993-2003.

Born July 2, 1940, in Grand Prairie, Alberta, Canada, Henry married Elvera Langeman on August 27, 1960, in Coaldale, Alberta. She survives, along with daughters and sons-in-law Debra



and Martin Brady and Laura (Ph.D., FPU biblical and religious studies faculty) and Mark Roberts; James and Gaylene Lee; sister Mary Thiesen and husband, Jake; brother David and wife, Evelyn; and five grandchildren.

Henry graduated from Mennonite Brethren Bible College, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, and MBBS, Fresno, earning his doctorate from the University of Southern California. He was pastor of Emmanuel MB Church, Onida, S.D., as well as Rosedale Bible Church, Bakersfield; Neighborhood Church, Visalia; and Fig Garden Bible Church, Fresno. Among his posts with the U.S. Mennonite Brethren Conference were evangelist and moderator.

A memorial service took place February 16 at Reedley Mennonite Brethren Church.

Births

1 Katy (Seagle BA '96) Phoenix and husband Christopher announce the birth of daughter Hannah Louise on September 29, 2010. She weighed 8 pounds, 13 ounces and measured 20 ¼ inches long.

Holly (Mattos BA '96, MA '06) McFarlin and husband Cliff announce

the birth of son Nathanael Judah on September 26, 2010. He weighed 7 pounds, 15 ounces and measured 20 ½ inches long.

Patty (Brown BA '97, MA '00) Morrison and husband Norman announce the birth of daughter Erica Marie on March 15, 2010. She weighed 4 pounds, 11 ounces.

2 Allison (Steinert BA '98) McNeely and husband Kevin announce the arrival of son Xander Ross. He was born in Fujian, China, on November 3, 2008, and adopted June 28, 2010. He joins sister Macey, 2.

3 Suzana (Dobric BA '99, MA '02, trustee) and Victor Veiss (MA '04) announce the birth of daughter Nali Elizabet on November 2, 2010. She weighed 7 pounds, 15 ounces and measured 20 inches long.

4 Chelsea (Garrett BA '04) Eklund and husband Jeff announce the birth of son Caedmon Nathanael on July 14, 2010. He joins sisters Miriam, 5; and Abigail, 2.

5 Terri (Weyrauch BA '04) Rasmussen and husband Aaron announce the birth of daughter Audrey Kelly on June 24, 2010.

6 Emilee (Larson BA '04) and Jon Slater (BA '04) announce the birth of daughter Julie Paige on December 14, 2010. She weighed 6

pounds, 11 ounces and measured 19 inches long.

7 Michelle (Wilkinson BA '04) Carr and husband Nathan announce the birth of daughter Darby Kay on January 29, 2010. She weighed 9 pounds, 2 ounces and measured 21 inches long.

8 Crystal (Hopes BA '05) Dearman and husband Joshua announce the birth of son Joshua Brayden on July 14, 2010. He was born in Shreveport, Louisiana, weighed 7 pounds, 9 ounces and measured 20 inches long. He joins sister Leilah.

Rebecca (Facciani BA '08) and Philip Mackey (BA '06) announce the birth of son Carter Benjamin on September 18, 2010. He weighed 6 pounds, 14 ounces and measured 19 inches long.

9 Alyson Gaskin (MA '08) announces the birth of son Ignatius Dean on September 17, 2010. He weighed 8 pounds, 15 ounces. He joins brothers Miles and Max and sister Audrey.

10 Jessica Padilla (BA '10) and Noe Hernandez (BA '09, seminary student, FPU staff) announce the birth of son Noah Benjamin Hernandez on December 5, 2010. He weighed 9 pounds, 3 ounces.



1



2



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10



Have a cup on us! Nothing goes with The West Coast Mennonite Sale & Auction like a good cup of coffee. This year's event will be April 1-2 on the FPU main campus and the Alumni Coffee Booth will be staffed and ready. Stop by for a sip and stay for a chat.

Want to be a volunteer barista for an hour or two?
Contact Joan Hensleit-Minasian at 559-453-2028 or joanminasian@fresno.edu.
More about the sale at westcoastmccsale.org

What's going on? It's so easy to let your classmates and friends know what's happening in your life. Send your news—job, marriage, children, new address, awards—to alumni updates.

Please include your graduation year(s) with your update. Photos must be 1 megabyte for digital files and at least 3x4 inches for prints.

Email: alumni@fresno.edu
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Fresno Pacific University
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Fax: 559-453-2033
(attention: alumni updates)

Janzen leaves coaching to focus on A.D. duties

Dennis Janzen stepped down March 2 as volleyball coach to focus on his duties as athletic director.

Under Janzen's guidance the Sunbirds joined the nation's most successful volleyball programs, with four consecutive national titles and a 373-18 win-loss record over the past 10 years. More important, the program's graduation rate has topped 95 percent during Janzen's 26 seasons at FPU.

Since becoming athletic director in 2004, FPU has added seven sports and become a premier small-college athletic program, with top-five finishes in the NACDA (National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics) Director's Cup in each of the last three years. FPU will apply to the NCAA Division II this June.

Janzen is proud of FPU's balanced approach. "FPU athletics has been on a steady trajectory of excellence, both competitively and educationally," he said.

A national search for the head volleyball coach is underway. See full details at fpuathletics.com



NEWCOMERS FILL OUT STRONG BASEBALL SQUAD

The FPU baseball team has great expectations for 2011 as the team returns a potent lineup and adds high-impact newcomers. Pitcher Jesse Darrah joins the Sunbirds from Sacramento State, where he was an NCAA Freshman All-American. Darrah is a major league draft prospect whose fastball can reach the mid 90s.

All-GSAC centerfielder Tyler Pryor batted .438 last season and was among the league leaders in every offensive statistic. Combine that with what coach Oscar Hirschhorn calls "one of the best infields in the nation"—first-year players Scott Laird (COS) and Wes Dorrell (Cal Poly SLO) start at the corners, joining returning double play tandem of Alec Mehrten and Andrew Douglas—and the team should be able to improve on its number 15 start in the NAIA poll. The Sunbirds have finished second in the GSAC in each of the last three years and Hirschhorn hopes this group has what it takes.

"I really like our team this year," Hirschhorn said. "We're as talented as we've ever been, maybe more. We have the potential."



FOURTH NATIONAL TITLE NEVER A SURE THING

At times it seemed it couldn't happen. On a Saturday afternoon in November the Sunbird volleyball squad sat in the locker room stunned after the program's first home-court loss since 2002.

That painful day was the turning point. "We had a feeling we weren't quite playing to the level we could play," coach Dennis Janzen said. "We would mentally let up. We knew we had the ability to be a great team."

Instead of sulking and pointing fingers, team members began to meet the standard they had set. "The last three weeks, practice in the gym was unbelievable," Janzen said. "The team committed to each other and to what together they knew they could accomplish."

The team would go into the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics national tournament (November 30-December 4) as number three seed, but the players walked into the gym in Sioux City, Iowa, with the confidence of champions. The Sunbirds won every set of every match, an FPU first, and swept Columbia, which had won 32 straight matches, in the final.

FPU joins Hawaii-Hilo and BYU-Hawaii as programs that have won four consecutive titles. No NCAA Division 1, Division 2 or NAIA team has ever won five.

Many were deserving: seniors Lisa Shilling and Mariah Mandelbaum were on all four championship teams, Martina Gregusova was tournament MVP and Shilling, Keke Wang and Erica Adachi each made the all-tournament team. "These kids never lost sight of the fact that they could be the national champions," Janzen said.

SUNBIRDS ON THE WEB

fpuathletics.com

SWIMMERS SCORE 1-2 PUNCH

The FPU men's team won its second consecutive national championship. The women finished second, a best for the program.

SUNBIRDS TO HOST GSAC TRACK CHAMPIONSHIPS • APRIL 29-30, 2011

Scholarship funds help students achieve their dreams PART 2

Each of the more than 120 endowed scholarships offered by Fresno Pacific University and the Fresno Pacific University Foundation is a chance to help students graduate from FPU. In this issue we conclude our look at just a few examples. To contribute to a fund, or establish one, contact Nicole Linder at nicole.linder@fresno.edu or 559-453-2058.

- **Dr. Daniel and Paulena Isaak Endowed Scholarship** was established by Paulena Isaak in memory of her husband, Daniel Isaak, who died in March 2010. He taught science at Fresno Pacific College for more than 20 years, helped the school achieve four-year accreditation and encouraged many students to attend graduate school.
- **Ken Isaak Memorial Endowed Scholarship** was established by Elizabeth (Betty) Klassen to honor her son-in-law, Ken Isaak, who died in April 2010. He earned a BA from Fresno Pacific College in 1976, and served as sports information director and director of financial aid. He cared deeply about students, education and FPU.
- **King Richter Annual Scholarship** was established in 1992 by Beverly Hills businessman King Richter. He grew up in a Fresno home that held Christian values high and understands the importance of responsibility and a disciplined work ethic. This scholarship helps high-achieving students receive the life-changing education available at FPU.
- **Sunbird Annual Scholarship** was established in 2010 to assist students with educational expenses such as tuition, books, housing, meals, etc. Funding is through private donations of life insurance policies. Funds will be made available from this scholarship beginning in the 2012-2013 academic year.



FRANSEN



THIESEN

Board thanks Fransen, welcomes Thiesen as chair

The FPU Board of Trustees honored an outgoing chair and welcomed a new one during regular meetings October 22-23.

Ken Fransen stepped down after one year as interim chair, during which he applied his skills as an attorney to the merger of the university with MB Biblical Seminary. He is a partner in Bolen Fransen, Fresno. Ken and his wife, Carol (BA '89), are members of the Mennonite Community Church in Fresno. The oldest of their three children is also a graduate: Jennifer Gould (BA '99). He has been a trustee since 2000 and has one year left on his current term.

John Thiesen (BA '71) was confirmed as the new chair. A board member for about 10 years, Thiesen owns Rio Vista Fruit Farm and J&A Farms and is division manager for Cinmarra Companies, a stone fruit company in Reedley. John and his wife, Anna Marie, are members of the Reedley M.B. Church. Among the alumni in the family are their children JT (BA '95), an associate head track and field coach, and his wife, Shannae (BA '97), who helped coach women's basketball; Krista Ramirez (BA '97) and Tim, (attended '97-'01). John's brothers are also graduates: Kenneth (BA '74), Edward (FS '77) and Ron (BA '82). John also coached the Immanuel High School basketball team for 30 years before becoming a volunteer assistant at FPU for four years.

Peters scholarship honorees named

A new scholarship encourages academic achievement and public service.

The Leon S. Peters Foundation Honors Scholarships for Undergraduate and Graduate Students assist Central Valley students attending FPU who have a record of academic excellence and a desire to help their community.

The first graduate scholarship recipients are Ser Cha, Fresno, M.A. in education/school coun-

seling and school psychology; Lee Herr, Fresno, global MBA; Amanda Hickingbottom, Fresno, M.A. in education/special education; Susan Ruiz, Fresno, M.A. in education/administrative services; and Maria Lourdes Sanchez, Fresno, M.A. in education/multiple subject teacher education.

Undergraduate recipients are Emily Akina, Fresno, English secondary education major; Samantha Domingo, Fresno, psychology

major; Max McDougal, Fresno, liberal studies major; Landin Mello, Laton, history major; and Michaelynn Whitsitt, Fresno, history/classics major.

Leon S. Peters was valedictorian of his Fowler High School graduating class. The eldest of five children, he worked on his father's ranch and helped raise his siblings after his mother's death when he was 17. Peters took a job at Valley Foundry and

Machine Works and eventually purchased the company. Peters and his wife, Alice, were active in the community, and he headed at least 12 of Fresno's major organizations.

Each of the 10 annual scholarships—five graduate and five undergraduate—is \$5,000. Awards are administered by the FPU Office of Student Financial Services and funds are managed by the university.

THANKING ALL WHO SUPPORT FPU

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About this report

THIS IS A SPECIAL REPORT to the supporters of Fresno Pacific University and Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary. We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this report. Please call to our attention any omissions or errors by contacting the Advancement Office at 559-453-2080.

Information in this report covers calendar year 2010 for the university and seminary. Seminary donor recognition is based on gifts to MBBS January-May and Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary for June-December.

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These special people:

- promote FPU whenever possible
- pray for its people and needs
- encourage students to attend
- give at least \$1,000 annually
- offer advice, counsel and encouragement

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Fort Garry MB Church, Winnipeg, MB
 Fourth Avenue Bible, Niverville, MB
 Garden Park MB Church, Denver, CO
Garden Valley Church, Garden City, KS
 Glenbush MB Church, Medstead, SK
Good News Fellowship, Ferndale, WA
 Gospel Chapel, Grand Forks, BC
Gospel Fellowship MB Church, Wolf Point, MT
Grace Bible Church, Gettysburg, SD
 Grace MB Church, Penticton, BC
 Grace MB Church, Waterloo, MB
Gracepoint Community Church, Surrey, BC
 Grantham MB Church, St. Catharines, ON
Greendale MB Church, Chilliwack, BC
Harvey MB Church, ND
Henderson MB Church, NE
Hepburn MB Church, SK
Heritage Bible Church, Bakersfield
Hesston MB Church, KS
 Highland Community Church, Abbotsford, BC
 Highland MB Church, Calgary, AB
Hillsboro MB Church, KS

Hillside Christian Fellowship, Beechy, SK
 Hyde Creek Community, Port Coquitlam, BC
 Jubilee Mennonite, Winnipeg, MB
 Killarney Park MB, Vancouver, BC
King Road MB Church, Abbotsford, BC
Kitchener MB Church, Kitchener, ON
Koerner Heights Church, Newton, KS
 La Glace Bible Fellowship Church, AB
 Lakeview Community Church, Killarney, MB
 LaSalle Community Fellowship, MB
Laurelglen Bible Church, Bakersfield
Lendrum MB Church, Edmonton, AB
 The Life Center, Lenoir, NC
Lincoln Glen Church, San Jose
Linden MB Church, AB
 Lustre MB Church, Frazer, MT
Madera Avenue Bible Church
MB Missions, Abbotsford, BC
MB Missions, Fresno
Mclvor Avenue MB Church, Winnipeg, MB
 The Meeting Place, Winnipeg, MB
Memorial Road MB Church, Edmond, OK
 Mountain Park Community, Abbotsford, BC
 Nechako Community MB Church, Vanderhoof, BC
Neighborhood Church, Visalia
 Neighbourhood MB Church, Nanaimo, BC
New Hope Bible Church, Grants Pass, OR
 New Hope Christian Church, Delta, BC
New Hopedale Mennonite Church, Meno, OK
North Fresno Church
North Oak Community, Hays, KS
North Peace MB Church, Fort St. John, BC
 Northgate MB Church, Dawson Creek, BC
 Northside Community Church, Mission, BC
Northview Community MB Church, Abbotsford, BC
Northwest Church, Fresno
Parkview MB Church, Hillsboro, KS
Parliament Community Church, Regina, SK
 Pemberton Christian Fellowship, Pemberton, BC
 People's Church, Fresno
 Philadelphia MB Church, Watrous, SK
Pine Acres MB Church, Weatherford, OK
Port Rowan Church, ON
Portage Avenue MB Church, Winnipeg, MB
Promontory Community MB Church, Chilliwack, BC
Reedley MB Church
Richmond Park MB Church, Brandon, MB
River East MB Church, Winnipeg, MB
 River of Life Community, Sorrento, BC
Salem MB Church, Freeman, SD
Sardis Community MB Church, Chilliwack, BC
Scott Street MB Church, St. Catharines, ON
 Selkirk Community MB Church, MB
Shafter MB Church
 Snow Lake Christian Centre Fellowship, MB
South Abbotsford MB Church, BC
South Langley MB Church, BC
 South Park MB Church, Altona, MB
 St. Andrews Church, Boissevain, MB
 Summerside Community Church, Edmonton, AB
Sunwest Christian Fellowship, Calgary, AB
Tulare Community Church
Ulysses MB Church, KS
US Conference of MB Churches, Wichita, KS
Valley Christian Center, Fresno
Valleyview Bible Church, Cimarron, KS
 Vancouver Chinese MB Church, BC
Vauxhall MB Church, AB
 Vineland Church, ON
Vinewood Community Church, Lodi
 Waldheim MB Church, SK
Waterloo MB Church, ON
West Portal Church, Saskatoon, SK
Westside Community MB Church, Morden, MB
Westwood Community, Winnipeg, MB
 Westwood MB Church, Prince George, BC
 Whistler Community, BC
Willow Park MB Church, Kelowna, BC
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SHARING THEIR VISION

Herb Penner's faith has been nurtured by his upbringing in Hillsboro, Kansas, sharpened by a military alternative service assignment to a mental hospital and practiced throughout his life as a husband, father and chiropractor in Kansas and California. He and Jessie hope to share their beliefs through Anabaptism in the Third Millennium, a student-seminar series funded by a charitable remainder trust.



"We can think of no greater purpose than to inspire the coming generation of leaders to know and follow Jesus as the Prince of Peace."

Herb and Jessie Penner,
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