



# Editor's Notes

Welcome to the first edition of the all new FBC COMMUNITY NEWS-LETTER. We plan to publish this the first Sunday of each month. Our purpose for this publication is to be a tool we all can use to help fulfill our mutual goal of becoming a better connected "Community".

To that end, our intention is to have some regular features that we anticipate will help us along toward that shared goal, be interesting, and even be entertaining at the same time. I'm thankful to writers in our church who have agreed to be regular feature contributors and we are looking for more to join the team.

Here's a description of the regular features we are planning. If you like to

write and one of these features, for which the writer is "Unknown Person", catches your fancy, please let me know at [e.pomeroy@att.net](mailto:e.pomeroy@att.net). We'd love to have you aboard.

Feature - GIFTED GLEENINGS  
There will always be a place reserved in the paper for poems, short stories, jokes, photos, art pieces, testimonies of God's grace, and whatever else will honor Christ and use the gift he has given you. Submissions in this space are open to everyone, young or old or in between. We hope to be inundated with entries. Not every submission will be published immediately. They will be used on a space available basis. If you write, or draw,

or compose music, or do crafts, or build furniture, or hunt grizzly bears, or took a cruise to Alaska (yes we'll take pictures and stories about cool things you have done or made), this is your place to shine. Contributors are YOU.

Feature - COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS  
This monthly feature will focus on how people are creating community at FBC. This will not be notices of things to come. It will be news of what has been happening. Here is the kind of scoop we will have. Stories about community things ABFs have done; church wide community events that have happened; small groups that have formed; women's groups (Continued on Page 2 )

## TOP TEAMS

CREATING A LEGACY. That's the title line of the prayer card of Dr. & Mrs. John Dannenberg. This outstanding missionary couple are supported by our church. They were our guests at FBC on Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>. They shared

their story and vision for the future in both the morning worship and the evening service. Veteran three term missionaries to the Central African Republic (CAR) with a very effective ministry of training national workers, they

were, more than once, evacuated because of political unrest and civil war. After their third term in CAR, they served a term in Canada administering and teaching in a seminary and

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### Things to Remember:

- This is the premiere edition of our revived FBC Newsletter
- Are you a writer, poet, crafter? Do you have a testimony of God's grace in your life? Let us hear from you.
- We are looking for writers for our monthly columns. (See Editor's Notes.) E-mail [e.pomeroy@att.net](mailto:e.pomeroy@att.net) to sign on.

# Editor's Notes (continued)

that did something together, game/fun nights that happened. The message will be that cool things are happening at FBC and people are having a **great life T O G E T H E R**. This column will be written by "Unknown Person". Could that be you?

Feature - MINISTRY MAGNIFIER  
This feature will, each month, shine the spot light on one specific ministry at FBC. It's about what's happening now, recent victories, challenges, and the ministry **vision for the future**. We'll be featuring the Youth Ministry, Angel Food, One In Heart Ministry, Music Ministry, Mercy Ministry, Café Connection, TACCO, AWANA, EXCITE. We intend to ignite the vision of our congregation with the message that great things are happening here, that **WE** have a **BIG VISION** for the future, and that realization of our **common ministry vision** will necessitate additional facilities. This column will be written by Bill Green. Thanks, Bill!

Feature - FAMILY FUN  
This monthly human interest feature will tell the story of some well known family in our church. This will take our readers in many surprising and interesting directions. This column's purpose will be to connect newer people in the congregation with the old-timers and illuminate something interesting or humorous that even the other old-timers don't know. The mission is to **CONNECT** us all to our larger church family. Victoria Fleenor will be writing this col-

umn. Thanks Victoria!

Feature - FRESH FOLKS  
This monthly human interest feature will introduce us all to newer people. Take "newer" to have a broad meaning. It could be anyone who has shown up here within the last ten years. We'll learn who they are, where they came from, where they live, what they do to make a living, their family history, their hopes for the future, why they decided to become part of FBC, what ministries they have become involved in at FBC, community involvements, challenges they face, anything interesting or humorous that they are willing to let us know. The mission is to **CONNECT** us all to our larger church family.

This will be written by "Unknown Person". Could that be you?

Feature - TOP TEAMS  
This monthly feature will spotlight an Agency or Missionary we support at FBC. It will illuminate why we support them, what they do, where they operate, family connections, their victories, needs, and challenges. When a missionary has been here to speak, the next paper will carry their story, tell when they were here, how their presentation touched people, report on how we **CONNECTED** with them, and delay the out-of-sight out-of-mind syndrome.

This column will be written by "Unknown Person". Could that be you?

Feature - STRATEGIC SIGHTINGS  
This monthly feature will focus on the ministry of one of the Ministry Teams:

Mercy Team, Membership Team, MORE Team, Magnification Team, Missions Team, Maturity Team, Technology Team, Facilities Team. This column will clue the congregation in on what these teams roles are in the big scheme of things, who they are, how they work, what their strategic assignments are from the Deacons, their successes and challenges in making progress toward their Strategic assignments. The mission is to **CONNECT** the teams to the whole congregation by giving them visibility, affirmation, and a voice.

This column will be written by "Unknown Person". Could that be you?

## Food for Thought

**What would it look like if I truly loved God with my whole heart, mind, soul, and strength?**

1. I would .....
2. I would .....
3. I would .....
4. I would .....
5. I would .....

Fill in the blanks for yourself, personally. Write this out in large letters to fill a whole sheet of paper. Frame it and put it on top of your TV.

## TOP TEAMS (Continued)

enjoying stable relationships in a local church. While there, John finished his Doctorate and rejoiced in seeing one of his friends from CAR also complete his Doctoral studies.

Now God is directing them back to their beloved CAR to participate in the formation of the first Baptist Seminary in the CAR. Having, now, two men with Doctorates, and three African colleagues with Masters Degrees working on the formation of the school, they can meet the government's requirements for the school's

formation. God's providence in their exit from CAR, and casting their net on the other side of the boat in Canada for a time, is now beautifully evident in this great new opportunity.

As they return, their focus will be to:

Start an International Seminary in French

Strengthen the African Bible Institutes

Serve the local churches

Seek the lost.

Their presentations and John's sermon on Sunday morning connected with us clearly and effectively. They met with the Missions Team over lunch after ABF. We look forward to continuing our relationship with them as a church, through financial support and prayer. We know that God has great things in store for them.

Their prayer card is available in the foyer. You can write to them at the e-mail address on the card and request a subscription to their prayer letter.

# FBC News from February

## Valentine Banquet

February 14<sup>th</sup> was a special evening around FBC. That was the evening of the Valentine Banquet. The event was very well attended and we had great meal catered by “Bif”, from the Backwater Cafe. We were graciously served by the teens, gathering points toward their mission trip to New York this summer. And they did a great job of cleaning up, too. After the meal we watched the DVD of the movie, “Fire Proof”. It was a great evening.

Conversation overheard at the table. One young man was impressed by the terms of endearment sprinkled profusely throughout the conversation of an elderly couple at table. The old man’s sentences were preceded with terms like: Honey, My Love, Darling, Sweetheart, Pumpkin, etc. The couple had been married for 70 years and, clearly, they were still very much in love.

While the wife was away from the table, the young man leaned over to the elderly gentleman and said, “I think it’s wonderful that after all these years, you still call

your wife those loving pet names”.

The old man hung his head. “I have to tell you the truth.” He said. “Her name slipped my mind about 10 years ago and I’m scared to death to ask her what it is.”

*Life is best if you can remember you wife’s name.*

## Angel Food 1 Year Celebration

Last Sunday, February, 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Angel Food Ministries volunteers celebrated one year of service with a luncheon in the downstairs fellowship room, after ABFs. It was a time of rejoicing in what God has done, recognizing the volunteers and their team leaders, setting their vision for the future, and introducing and training new volunteers joining for the February distribution. Especially noteworthy is that several teens are joining the volunteer teams this month.

## Missionary Luncheon

At the same time, the Missionary Team was meeting with Dr. and Mrs. Dannenberg in the upstairs meeting room. (See the Top Teams column.)

## Evening Service Highlights

During the evening service last Sunday the teens led the worship and they integrated the Dannenberg’s missionary slides into the music slides. That was a very clever and thoughtful touch. We were also blessed with a SKYP conversation with Matt Rosenberger from British Columbia where he is serving in a short term missionary endeavor.

## Welcome Packets

Jim and Kathy Moore are doing a fantastic job of keeping us supplied with welcome packets for people who have recently moved into a house in Lowell. It’s a service to the merchants in Lowell and a great way to introduce people to FBC. There’s a great team of people involved in delivering them. Check with Jim about becoming involved. You just might meet a neighbor of yours.

**Mercy Team** launches with good interest and Donna Tyler’s coordination. March 1 will kick off the ministry with a brief gathering after ABFs.

## Heart Health and ESL

For those of you who watch what you eat, here’s the final word on nutrition and heart health. It’s a relief to know the truth after all those confusing and contradictory medical studies.

1. The Japanese eat very little fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.

2. The Mexicans eat a lot of fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans

3. The Chinese drink very little red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.

4. The Italians drink excessive amounts of red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks

than Americans.

5. The Germans drink a lot of beer and eat lots of sausages and fats and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.

CONCLUSION:

Eat and drink what you like. Speaking English is apparently what kills you.

## Justice Close to God’s Heart

Some scattered quotes from the March/April edition of Discipleship Journal. Do any of touch a place in your heart?

Jesus’ care for those who had been overlooked and cast aside brought to vivid life a truth found throughout Scripture: God is concerned about people with needs. He notices children without fathers, day laborers who need their pay to buy dinner, prisoners, and people denied justice. . . to name just a few. When we open our

hearts to those God cares for, we encounter His presence. We are changed and others are blessed.

We tend to be attracted to big things, powerful things. But God delights in little things, vulnerable things.

God desires to bring justice to the oppressed, and you’re invited to join Him.

I have discovered something: Many kind, earnest, loving, and devout Christians are

experiencing a subtle but deep discontent with their Christian lives.

What brings me to this conclusion?

Over the past 10 years, I have had the great privilege of talking about the work of International Justice Mission with name churches around the country. IJM’s Christian lawyers, social workers, and investigators work to bring rescue and (Continued on back page)

*We endeavor to...*

## ***Magnify***

*The Lord by bringing people to Jesus Christ and*

## ***Membership***

*In His Family seeking to develop them to Christ-like*

## ***Maturity***

*Equipping them for their*

## ***Ministry***

*In the Church.... And their life*

## ***Mission***

*In the world.*

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## **Justice Close to God's Heart (continued)**

protection to victims of oppressive violence such as slavery and sex trafficking.

As I've told how God is moving through His church to bring justice to the poorest around the world, I've encountered what I believe is a divine restlessness: We feel it when we realize that everything we've been seeing God do in our lives, our families, our communities, and our churches is not all there is. Rather, God has been preparing us for lives of courage and meaning – lives that make a difference to suffering people.

The biblical teaching on justice is rich and complex, but it also provides more than enough practical understanding to get us moving forward. Injustice is defined in the Bible as abuse of power.

How does a God of justice react to injustice? God is moved with compassion. God is intensely, personally present with the victims of injustice, and He feels their suffering.

He is not only a God of compassion.

He is also a God of wrath. He responds with vigor, with wrath, and with judgment.

God is also a God of rescue. Psalm 35:10 puts it this way:

“Oh LORD, who is like you? You deliver the weak from those too strong for them, the weak and needy from those who despoil them.”

But what is his actual plan for doing it? It turns out the WE are the plan. Speaking through the prophet Isaiah, God calls His people to “seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphans, plead for the widow.” (Is. 1:17)

Quoted from an article by Gary A. Haugen

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