

**Report to the Fellowship Council
From the Association of Grace Brethren Ministers**

**Submitted by Kenneth E. Bickel, President
January 14, 2004**

This report is prepared at the request of the Fellowship Council and presents information designed to explain how the Association of Grace Brethren Ministers intends to pursue the FGBC vision statement--GrowGoLead. As a cooperating organization of the FGBC, the Association of Grace Brethren Ministers is dedicated to supporting the Fellowship's vision to the fullest extent within the boundaries intended for the AGBM.

The constitution of the Association of Grace Brethren Ministers states that our purpose for existence is "to encourage, support and strengthen one another in the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ by 1) dealing with issues, 2) serving as a conduit for communication, 3) promoting fellowship, 4) providing help, and 5) recruiting new pastors. Several of these constitutional responsibilities connect with the key elements of the FGBC vision statement. These connections will be explained more fully under headings that represent the key elements of the FGBC vision.

Grow – (Growth by Conversion)

The AGBM is not an organization directly devoted to evangelism, discipleship, or church growth. However, it is devoted to the encouragement, support, and strengthening of local church professionals in the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ (objectives taken from the purpose statement found in the organization's constitution). Given the prominence of responsibility invested into the Great Commission by true Christians throughout the history of the church, the AGBM cannot ignore any opportunities to encourage pastors and missionaries to work through local churches to be about the business of winning and discipling lost people. If we use our communicative opportunities, our annual meetings, and our Pastoral Ministries Office to nurture, support and strengthen member pastors and missionaries in their responsibilities, then we cannot ignore the need to nurture them and strengthen them in the realm of evangelism.

The AGBM wants to nurture, support and strengthen its members in the pursuit of culturally sensitive and relevant ministry as well. Again, forums, challenges and the ministry of the yet-to-be-established Pastoral Ministries Office will be shaped by the general desire to see this pursuit prevail among the FGBC's churches. As that relevancy becomes more real, it will not be surprising to see Christians leave other churches in order to align with our churches. This is commonly called transfer growth. It will be the AGBM's desire—without denigrating those churches that accept Christians from other churches and without demeaning those Christians who choose to leave other congregations to align with FGBC congregations—to encourage church leaders to not be content with transfer growth but to zealously work for conversion growth. The various kinds of

influence that the AGBM can generate in order to have an effect on member pastors and missionaries will include a dedication to motivating church growth by conversion.

“Go – (Every Church on Mission)

The AGBM is committed to encouraging pastors and missionaries to bear responsibility for the kind of leadership that fosters a missional mindset within local churches. Churches dare not feel content to be comfortable and safe since they exist in a world where there is so much need—need that bears eternal consequences.

The AGBM intends to sponsor forums and encouragements (through its various opportunities for communication, e.g., *Sharpening One Another* and verbal challenges at our national meetings) that will deal with missional mindsets. We want to foster a “bottom-up” perspective where local churches articulate and affirm their mission under Christ, then look to cooperating organizations for assistance in helping the churches fulfill their missional responsibilities. That “bottom-up” perspective should prevail, we believe, in contrast to a situation where local churches are largely passive in their missional responsibilities and respond to one degree or another as national organizations come to them with their missional strategies and ask the churches for help. Without denying the appropriateness of national organizations having their own mission statements and strategies, along with the corresponding need they have to approach local churches for help, the AGBM wishes to encourage local churches to be intentional as well. We believe that there can be a balanced blending of local church missional strategies and cooperating organization missional strategies and that, as both sides support each other with interest and care for one another’s pursuits, an appropriate synergy can, by God’s enablement, be realized. We wish to promote that synergy.

The AGBM is in the process of responding to the authorization it received from its members at the July, 2002 national meeting—an authorization to take steps to establish a Pastoral Ministries Office and hire a Pastoral Ministries Director. Our organization has already hired a very capable pastor—Dr. Jerry Young—to assume the role of Director of Research and Development for the ultimate establishment of a Pastoral Ministries Director. As Pastor Young continues to receive requested input from the pastors and missionaries of the FGBC, the dominant initial responsibilities of the Pastoral Ministries Director will be more clearly articulated. Although those responsibilities are not yet clearly established, there are indeed certain objectives that we in the AGBM leadership wish to see the Director pursue. These would include the use of all appropriate means to mentor, encourage, and motivate pastors and missionaries in their calling. Their calling, we are convinced, includes the responsibility to influence local congregations in the intentional pursuit of local church responsibilities.

Lead – (More Than Enough Leaders)

The leadership of the AGBM readily acknowledges the need for multiplying leaders within the local church. It’s fear is that too many pastors allow themselves to become engrossed in lesser responsibilities—many of which are good things—but, engagement in these good things can prevent the accomplishment of essential things.

Leadership training is essential within the local church. We believe that, and will devote our various opportunities for influence to champion that cause.

The AGBM will promote and support on-going leadership training opportunities for its membership. Plans are being considered at this very time that will be designed to develop an atmosphere within the ministerial association where it will become more and more expected that ministerial members will be involved in lifelong learning. That will include formal training which will be offered through the nonresidential educational opportunities sponsored by Grace Seminary (and other institutions), as well as the training available in the seminars that will be offered at the every-other-year training conferences (and possibly at other times also). The Pastoral Ministries Office might well play an integral role in sponsoring, advertising, and coordinating these training opportunities. If the responsibility for scheduling, advertising, and running these training opportunities is not assumed by others (e.g., the Conference coordinators in conjunction with Grace Seminary), then the AGBM will certainly feel compelled to take on the initiatory responsibilities. If others initiate these opportunities, the AGBM will stand ready to support the efforts in as many ways as seem wise.

In short, the AGBM will do all that is right and reasonable to encourage pastors and missionaries to be about the business of providing leadership training for individuals within their local churches. Further the AGBM will do all that is right and reasonable to encourage (and perhaps even expect) pastors and missionaries to be active in receiving leadership training themselves.

The Association of Grace Brethren Ministers firmly applauds a vision—GrowGoLead—that includes the necessities of 1) a dedication to church growth by conversion, of 2) every church being on mission and 3) a devotion to leadership training that yields more than enough leaders for the challenges that await the FGBC in the future. The Association stands willing and ready to support (and in some cases, to bear primary responsibility for) the pursuit of those objectives. We wish to see the FGBC as a movement that chases after these things and determine to be a vital part of that movement.

Fellowship Council Update – Brethren Missionary Herald Co.

1/15/04

This is a year of “new beginnings” for the Brethren Missionary Herald Co.

Chairman Dan Thornton and a newly-reconstituted board began in 2003 a number of activities to achieve its mission “To nurture Great Commission teamwork between the people and churches of the FGBC by building bridges of communication.” Board members include Bob Arenobine, Bruce Barlow, Nathan Bryant, Neil Cole, Ed DeZago, Norbert Enslin, Rick Fairman, Pat Phillips, Todd Scoles, Dan Thornton and Barb Wooler.

Jesse Deloe was engaged first as a part-time consultant, and later in May, 2003, as full-time Director of Operations. Terry White began as Executive Director on October 1, 2003. Since then two additional part-time staff have been engaged, one as a project manager and the other as a college intern.

- 1. Temporary Offices.** Through the generosity of Grace College and Seminary, BMH has located its temporary offices in some unused space at the west end of the Gordon Student Recreation Center in Winona Lake. The new mailing address is PO Box 576, Winona Lake, Indiana 46590 and the new phone is (574) 268-1122. E-mail address is bmhc@earthlink.net. Cellphone numbers are (574) 527-9573 for Terry White and (574) 527-9581 for Jesse Deloe. These offices should serve until other tenants are ready to move in at the end of the current school year.
- 2. Herald Bookstore.** The sale of the third and final of BMH’s bookstores—the Herald Bookstore in Winona Lake – was completed at the end of 2003. Herald Bookstore is now owned and operated by OMLit/Send the Light, which is occupying the BMH-owned building at 1104 Kings Highway on a five-year lease. Lease provisions include reserving approximately 1/3 of the building (north offices upstairs and warehouse space in the basement) for BMH offices and storage of BMH books. The upstairs offices are currently being refurbished for BMH occupancy later this spring.
- 3. Sale of Radio Stations.** The several radio stations owned by GBC Media, a subsidiary corporation of BMH, are sold effective early 2004. It appears the WRSW building in downtown Warsaw also has a buyer, but if that sale does not eventuate, BMH has a six-year lease on the building with the new owner of the radio stations. When all sale transactions are complete, GBC Media will disband as a corporation and ownership of all assets and leases will revert to BMH. Two current BMH board members—Bruce Barlow and Pat Phillips—have been serving along with Charlie Turner as directors of GBC Media. Jim Bustraan has

served under the directors to find the buyer and conclude the sale. After sale proceeds are transferred to BMH, the company's total assets should be a little over \$2.5 million in cash. Invested conservatively, but for growth, this should produce about a 6% earnings to provide the bulk of BMH's operating budget.

4. ***FGBC World***. To fulfill its first objective of connecting churches of the Fellowship, BMH has founded a new publication, *FGBC World*, which is distributed without charge to any FGBC churches and individuals requesting it. It is an eight-page, full-color tabloid newspaper, produced bimonthly (six issues a year). The first issue appeared in mid-January, and the second will be available about March 1. Print run of the premiere issue was 16,700 copies. A website, www.fgbcworld.com, will be developed in mid-2004 to extend the reach of the publication. The objective of *FGBC World* is "Connecting People and Churches of the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches."
5. **BMH Books**. BMH books has about 40 titles in its active book list with net sales of about \$40,000 per year. BMH Books Division Manager, John Leonard, has been with the company 25 years and currently is a full-time employee of OMLit/Send the Light. BMH essentially contracts with OMLit/STL for ordering and shipping services of BMH books. The website www.bmhbooks.com is currently under revision and update (a shopping cart is being added) to extend the market for BMH books. We are also actively seeking strategic partners to multiply marketing channels for BMH products.

The first product of the new BMH Books was "*Finding Our Focus*," the Plaster rewrite and update of the Kent, Sr. history of the Grace Brethren Church, which first appeared at National Conference in Tampa in July, 2003. The second product, a book of short sayings collected and edited by Pastor Ken Brown of the Pickerington, Ohio Grace Brethren Church, is currently at the press. BMH now has about 20 other manuscripts in hand or at the "talking stage." The book publishing will be focused largely on finding and developing Brethren authors, such as the current project, a book on witnessing by a dentist from the Columbus, OH church. Emphasis will be on materials with a long life, including commentaries and book studies which find use as texts in Bible colleges, Bible institutes, and seminaries.

BMH seeks to help move the FGBC toward its GrowGoLead vision by sharing transferable concepts that are working in Grace Brethren Churches. We try to highlight personalities, news, and ideas that will solidify the Grace Brethren movement, connect churches and individuals around the world, and make the FGBC family better-informed and more effective in its work of evangelism, discipleship, church-planting, and leadership development. We are grateful for the helpful cooperation and generous spirit of GBIM, GBNAM, CENational, Grace Schools, Tom Avey's Fellowship Coordinator's office, and all the pastors, churches and Brethren organizations with whom we have been interacting.

January 10, 2004

Dear Fellowship Council:

Thank you for the opportunity to allow our organizations to share how we cooperatively desire to advance the objectives of the FGBC. CE National, as the Christian Education arm of the FGBC, naturally works closely with the FGBC coordinators to assist local churches to be healthy. See our purpose statement and vision goals for more details.

1. Among our many values, CE National believes in the infallible, unchanging Word of God. Because of that, our training and resources assist in educating the FGBC on the heritage, distinctives and opportunities of our Bible-based movement.
2. Another value relates to the fact that methods always change. While the Truth must never be compromised, communication must be consistent and effective in a changing culture.

Our CE National board has approved the adoption of Vision Goals for how CE National can be a catalyst to assist the positive impact of the FGBC. These goals, while relating to the FGBC, are areas where CE National has special concerns because they closely relate to our purpose and passion.

The following list has comments on how we are implementing our Ten-year Prayer Goals. These are highlights from 2002 to the present:

1. We have several new ad hoc committees who are working to develop awareness, ownership and prayer for these goals. A portion of each cabinet meeting (youth, middle adults, seniors, children, BNYC) also focuses on this vision. A staff member at CE National is assigned to assist us in reaching these goals.
2. BNYC is used as a catalyst for this vision. Each year there is training, an outreach blitz, tri-level training and follow-up. This year we are praying that a church can be planted in LaCrosse, WI.
3. There are now almost 300 young adults who have prayerfully committed to considering a Christian career. These names are immediately communicated to his/her local church with suggestions for follow-up.
4. The Half-Time (Middle Adult) had a training event in Johnson City, TN. Josiah Weekend is scheduled for children's workers. The BIG Retreat is scheduled for youth workers.
5. The Senior Adult Cabinet is launching a 2-year program this spring "Senior Stretch" to help seniors reach goals to increase mentoring, ministry, prayer and heritage. They have also begun the DAY AWAY, North of 55.
6. We have partnered with GBNAM and the FGBC coordinator's office in helping promote and equip churches to develop strategies to enhance Sonlife's Great Commission/Great Commandment seminars. Ron Boehm is coordinating this effort.

7. All Operation Barnabas youth—three domestic teams, one OBI team in Mexico City and OB Alumni (Urban Hope Training Center)—now do follow-up by using Biblical Beliefs. That means over 100 youth are using the fill-in-the-blank Bible study in addition to local churches. In addition the youth do “Purpose Driven Life” studies.
8. Relating to the FGBC resources, two new materials were written:
 - a. Candidating Survival Kit and
 - b. Ten Big IdeasIn addition we have sent out dozens of our videos and materials to churches.
9. We offer Great Commission/Great Commandment training at Brethren National Youth Conference (adults), The National Institute (youth) and at the Urban Hope Training Center. We offer Power-Trax for training youth in Scripture and theology.
10. We have begun research on a 9-month non-accredited Bible Institute program for high school graduates in order to produce students of godly character who are biblically grounded and effective in practical ministry.
11. We prayerfully desire to assist in developing a network of various organizations that can help local churches take ownership for the concept of going, growing and leading.
12. We are doing fund-raising for a training center in order to enhance training and using special guests who will share practical insights in areas of church health. These sessions will be available to churches by tape.

I believe as God’s people “catch” the vision for reaching their world for Christ we will be able to see the following (prayer goals):

- A. Every member of the local church being able to identify someone they are attempting to win for Christ
- B. Every church have a plan where there is a process to move church members into ministry, spiritual maturity, and mission
- C. Every church regularly identify present and future leaders and equip them to be nurtured into ministry

I will look forward to answering any questions for you when I join you on Friday, January 30th.

In His Work,

Ed Lewis
Executive Director

Grace Brethren Boys/God Builds Boys
FGBC Fellowship Council
Report
January 15, 2004

Grace Brethren Boys began with a heart for building men. Ed Jackson frequently said that a GBB unit in a church was one of the best ways to build men. Through years of ministry uncertainty as well as prosperity, Paul's words have been GBB's guiding principle: "And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also." There is a double building accomplished as men learn to lead and then as boys observe male leadership and in turn are trained to lead. It was designed to implement the best parts of several programs into a ministry that would honor Christ, disciple men and boys in the "Word", and provide future leaders for the church. [Boy Scouts, Christian Service Brigade, Awana, Indian Guides, etc.]

GBB and
Vision 2010
Growing-Going-Leading

Course Corrections

About nine years ago GBB underwent a major course correction when it was incorporated as an entity of its own, and opened the ministry to non Grace Brethren Churches with compatible theological beliefs under the title of God Builds Boys. In the years since there has been much progress and strengthening. Last year there were 17 active units with 90 men and 280 boys. The strengthening of the ministry has also enabled it to give financially to support other ministry and mission efforts. This past year GBB has supported the following:

\$2,000 to New Tribes Missions - Dan Bertram family support –
Dan came up through the ranks of GBB and was serving in Papua New Guinea. They are now home in the states.

\$1,000 to GBIM - support for Bob & Jean Smoker - mission trip to Tra Vinh, Vietnam

\$1,000 to Victory Mountain Grace Brethren Chapel for fire escape/deck addition to the Baer residence - GBB held their week long High Adventure there this summer and built this new deck and did many other maintenance projects at the church and in the community.

\$500 to S.C.E.I. mission support for summer mission trip for Brian Smith - young man in a Pennsylvania GBB unit

Individual Units along with the annual weeklong camping event have resulted in many decisions for the Lord - by men and boys alike. These things are indicative of the positive **growing** effect of that course correction.

Another Course Correction is currently being studied that addresses issues related to:

- GBB Leadership
- How to partner more with the FGBC and its cooperating ministries (something that GBB has been derelict in for a long time)
- How to upgrade and revitalize the materials and put a new face on the ministry

These are major issues and it is anticipated that these course corrections will advance the ministry even more than the previous course corrections did. Although not officially approved yet, the proposed mission statement is:

GBB exists to strengthen the local church by providing Biblical leadership training and opportunities for men and boys. (2 Tim. 2:2)

Guiding Principle

It is recognized that learning how to tie knots, read a map and compass, set up camp and other outdoors skills may not directly cross over to the day-to-day world. However, positive traits such as self-confidence, cooperation, and strength of character gained by a 13-year-old boy when he rappels a 140 ft. cliff do.

The “great outdoors” is a very effective classroom for learning about God and getting to know Him better. The weeklong camping events, especially the High Adventure held in more remote or wilderness settings, expose each participant to elements beyond their control. This in itself is a tremendous learning tool. In these settings men and boys deal with God in ways they often cannot at home.

The outdoor activities are perfect for explaining and showing God’s special creation. Basic fundamental skills are taught so that confidence and self esteem increase as they face new challenges. The ministry is designed to work in any church anywhere in the world with trained or un-trained leaders! The concept of "More is caught than taught" will prevail as Godly men share themselves and teach the word of God to other men and boys. As a boy advances in rank the spiritual challenges increase. He is required to spend time doing projects with the church leaders in the areas of preaching, teaching Sunday School, Bible studies, evangelism, missions service, youth groups, etc. When a young man completes the final rank of "Challenger", he is a walking, talking "church" looking for a place to plant himself! This is what GBB was intended to do from its inception.

Growing-Going-Leading

GBB has always had as its purpose *Growing* and *Leading*. Since the first Course Correction nearly 10 years ago GBB has been increasingly involved in *Going*. We look to the future with eager anticipation for what the Lord will accomplish.

Report to the Fellowship Council

Dave Guiles, Executive Director

Grace Brethren International Missions

January, 2004

On behalf of the missionary staff and churches around the globe represented through the ministries of GBIM, I want to express appreciation for this opportunity to report to the Fellowship Council. I also would like to commend the excellent work of Tom Avey and his staff as they diligently labor to provide the “lubrication” that enables the FGBC to function in a productive and focused manner.

My assignment is to describe how GBIM is working to facilitate the realization of three great FGBC goals: *growth by conversion, every church on mission, and more than enough leaders...*

By 2010, the FCBG will be experiencing significant growth by conversion.

Growth by conversion continues to be the major driving passion of GBIM in the twenty-eight countries where we currently ministry. Each missionary, regardless of primary ministry assignment, is strongly encouraged to maintain a “contact Book,” which serves to focus prayer as well as track evangelistic encounters. One of the most encouraging trends, however, is the manner in which national believers have captured a deep commitment to evangelism. Among the many examples we could cite include, 1) continued aggressive outreach in Latin America resulting in many souls saved and new Points of Light established, 2) breakthroughs in evangelizing Muslims and in entering new people-groups in Africa, 3) the impact of a growing “corporate testimony” as established churches in Europe reach out into their communities, and 4) wide open doors for sharing the Gospel through family contacts in Asia.

GBIM seeks to encourage US churches in their evangelistic outreach by providing ministry training in the ACT Strategy to all who are interested, teaching and modeling evangelism on all short-term ministry teams, and by providing overseas and domestic internship opportunities where evangelism is a major priority.

By 2010, every Grace Brethren Church will intentionally act as a community that is sent by God.

This goal is also in sync with the heartbeat of GBIM. During Home Ministries visits, our deployed staff works hard to open the eyes of the FGBC to

opportunities for ministry at home and abroad. Our International Missions Center team spends a high percentage of their weekends in US churches, casting vision and assisting Mission Commissions in the process of becoming mobilization teams. At this time, we are developing new strategies and opportunities for churches of all sizes to provide mentoring and resources as they embark on their “journey” of discovering how to move from being simply “missions-minded” to being missional churches. Short-term and career opportunities continue to grow as more churches are releasing their members for the world harvest.

By 2010, Grace Brethren Churches will train, equip and deploy more than enough leaders to significantly increase the size and influence of the FGBC.

We continue to aggressively pursue innovative and decentralized approaches to leadership training through the Strategic Alliance for Leadership Training (S.A.L.T.). Much progress is being made in developing the philosophy and materials of this aspect of ministry. In addition to training facilitators around the world, GBIM has begun to offer training for leaders of US-based churches that share the philosophy and commitments of SALT. Through visits to ministeriums and opportunities at National Conference, many are being exposed to SALT concepts. While our primary focus will continue to be the “majority-GBC” (the 90%+ located outside of North America), we are pleased to be able to offer assistance and partner with US churches in this initiative.

I would like to conclude by thanking the Fellowship Council for this opportunity to share these aspects of the ministries of GBIM. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of any assistance to you or if you would like to know more about our ministries.



MEMORANDUM

To: Tom Avey and Fellowship Council
From: Larry N. Chamberlain
Re: Report from Grace Brethren North American Missions, Inc., Grace American Indian Ministries, Inc., and Grace Brethren Investment Foundation, Inc.
Date: January 9, 2004

Dear Colleagues . . .

I am very pleased to provide you with a report on our several ministries as a part of our accountability to the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches and its leadership. Please know that the ministry of Tom Avey and his staff, along with the commitment of the moderators and the Council, is admired and appreciated.

Grace Brethren North American Missions, Inc.

The church-planting strategy of GBNAM remains highly effective in its three-fold focus: world-class cities, regional church-planting, and ethnic-American initiatives.

The newest development in world-class cities is the recruitment and placement of Kevin and Siew Choo Ong in San Francisco. The Ongs are making many friends among Grace Brethren people in California, as well as expanding their contacts in the Bay area. This initiative is the result of four years of Kurt's focus and planning and we are very grateful. We are also very pleased with the world-class cities initiative developing in New York City and the continuing works in Philadelphia, Chicago, and Toronto.

Our strategy for regional church-planting is capably supported by several career missionaries – Jim Snavelly (northeast), Ron Boehm (midwest), and Chuck Davis (southeast). Kurt Miller, national director of church-planting, provides direction for these career missionaries, as well as some regional assistance in the southwest and northwest. Kurt recently reports, "I remain extremely encouraged by the quantum growth in church planting regionally. Church planters are being trained and churches planted at record levels. I predict that this will continue into the future for many years to come. The reasons for this include: 1) we have excellent representation at the regional level through Regional Career Missionaries; 2) church-planting is on the front burner of most districts' planning processes, and 3) the pool of church planters is growing rapidly."

We remain encouraged by the good progress being made in our ethnic-American initiatives, especially among the Hispanics, under the capable leadership of Jesus Munoz, and the Haitians, receiving good help from Chuck Davis. Other ethnic-American initiatives are being developed in San Francisco, Trinidad, and New York City. We envision that our Fellowship will enjoy much diversity in the future and we are very pleased to help bring this about.

Grace American Indian Ministries, Inc.

Native New Life Church in Albuquerque continues to grow under the capable leadership of Arnold Betoney and Andy Moyer. I met with Arnold and Andy recently and both are very encouraged by the spiritual response of the urbanized Native American to the gospel. According to GAIM director, Steve Galegor, our focus in Albuquerque is not only the establishment of a solid church, but the development of indigenous leaders who will plant churches among the many different Native American tribes in Albuquerque and in the southwest.

As many of you are aware, in the spring of 2003 we were notified of allegations of sexual misconduct on the part of one of the former employees of the Navajo Mission and Boarding School at Counselor, NM. At the very outset, we determined to respond to these allegations in good faith. Following months of internal investigation and ensuing negotiations with the attorney representing the two claimants, we are pleased to inform you that we have reached an amicable and mutually satisfactory settlement. Although the terms of the settlement are confidential, per the agreement, I can report that our objective of reaching a settlement that was honorable, just, and redemptive has been achieved. The support and confidence of the Fellowship and its leadership has been a great blessing throughout this ordeal.

Chaplaincy Ministries

Under the capable leadership of Col. John Schumacher, endorsing agent, our ministry in behalf of Grace Brethren Chaplains is doing very well. As you know, GBNAM assumed responsibility for providing support for this ministry in behalf of the Fellowship, including fund-raising for all appropriate expenses.

We presently have nine active duty chaplains and one reserve chaplain, with representation in each branch of the US Armed Forces. Through the funding of a support group, The Eagle Commission, we are able to provide for the expenses of the endorsing agent, including his visits with our chaplains and their families. We also provide for travel expenses of our chaplains to attend national conference and usually have a chaplain present for youth conference. One of our newest chaplains, Billy Graham, with the 101st Airborne Division, will complete a year's tour of duty in Iraq this spring. Another of our chaplains, Dayne Nix, has been notified of his soon deployment to Central Command at Qatar.

Grace Brethren Investment Foundation, Inc.

Ken Seyfert, director, brings 20+ years of experience in the banking and securities industries to this ministry. He has been with us now approximately seven years and I am grateful for his leadership.

The GBIF continues to provide respectable rates of return for its account holders and maintains affordable rates for its borrowing churches. In spite of the economic uncertainties of financial markets throughout the prior recession, the GBIF has grown to a record level of deposits at approximately \$76.5 million as of the end of 2003. Considerable reserves (all invested in very liquid and highly conservative and diversified securities) are on hand to provide significant levels of security for our account holders and to provide adequate funds for the growing needs of our Fellowship.

Ken, along with considerable assistance from one of our GBNAM staff members (Linda Leonard), continues to provide support for the Fellowship's Pension Investment Plan, managed by American United Life in Indianapolis. This fund continues to grow and at the end of the year amounted to approximately \$4.5 million, representing 263 account holders throughout the Fellowship's churches and organizations.

In summary, let me say that it is our great privilege to serve as a cooperating organization of The Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches. We remain supportive of the Fellowship's leadership team and the current vision for this decade of opportunity: GROW-GO-LEAD. This vision is entirely consistent with our organizational objectives for reaching North America for Christ.

God bless you . . .

Respectfully, with admiration and appreciation,

**REPORT TO THE FELLOWSHIP COUNCIL OF
THE FELLOWSHIP OF GRACE BRETHREN CHURCHES
FROM GRACE COLLEGE AND GRACE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

**Prepared by Ronald E. Manahan, president
15 January 2004**

This report is submitted at the request of the Fellowship Council and provides information regarding how Grace Schools, Inc. (Grace College and Grace Theological Seminary) is supporting and pursuing the GrowGoLead vision of the FGBC. As a cooperating organization, the institution is committed to this vision within the sphere of its incorporated activity as a Christian higher education institution and its stated mission: "Grace is an evangelical Christian community of higher education which applies biblical values in strengthening character, sharpening competence, and preparing for service."

Institutional Background Information

The total institutional enrollment for fall 2003 was 1269 students. Grace as an institution carries on five major educational endeavors: The liberal arts undergraduate on-campus college program (907), the college graduate program in counseling (26), the seminary program [156 (75 masters, 47 distance education, 34 doctors)], the prison education program (180), and educational services. The latter comprises several initiatives including community service, a public museum, the American Lyceum Lecture Series, the MasterWorks Festival, conferences, seminars, workshops, and camps.

The 165-acre campus has more than twenty buildings totaling nearly 500,000 sq. ft. of space. The newest building, the Robert and Frances Gordon Student Recreation Center, opened during the fall of 2003. In addition there is an outdoor athletic field that includes intercollegiate baseball, softball, tennis, and soccer fields, and a concessions building. Morgan Library houses 150,000 volumes plus a microfiche collection, archives, an on-line data retrieval system, and special collections including the papers of American evangelist Billy Sunday. In addition the library is part of a nation-wide interlibrary loan system and is networked to data bases providing more than 19,000 full-text periodical titles.

The college and seminary are regionally accredited by The Higher Learning Commission, a commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. Grace Theological Seminary is pursuing accreditation with the Association of Theological Schools and approval from the Ohio Board of Regents to offer a program in Columbus, Ohio. In addition, several programs have specialized accreditation. The music program is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music. The business program is accredited by the International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education. The social work program is accredited by the Council of Social Work Education. The teacher education program is accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education. Grace is a member of the Alpha Chi National Honor Society, the smaller college equivalent of Phi Beta Kappa. Furthermore, Grace belongs to a number of

education associations: Council of Christian Colleges and Universities, Independent Colleges of Indiana, Independent Colleges of Indiana Foundation, National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, and Council of Independent Colleges. Regarding intercollegiate athletics Grace belongs to the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, the Mid Central Conference, and the National Christian College Athletic Association.

“Grow”

Grace fosters growth through intentional evangelism by both direct and indirect means. Specific outreach initiatives bring contact with unsaved community members. These initiatives include FunFest, a Halloween alternative for children in the community, and Heart of the Holidays, a food and clothing distribution for needy families with whom the gospel is shared. Additionally the campus as a whole and several specific departments in particular established contact with needy families during Christmas 2003. These initiatives include giving presents and other help but also establishing relationships with these families throughout the year hoping to see them come to know Christ.

During the fall 2003 semester Grace launched an intentional monthly student leadership development strategy that encourages participants to develop a specific evangelism goal in his or her personal vision statement for the first five years following graduation. The intent is eventually to make this emphasis a part of every student's preparation for graduation. The seminary's purpose statement highlights the importance of evangelism: “To educate and mentor students to become pastors and missionaries who are effective in leadership, biblical preaching, and evangelism.” Especially through co-curricular experiences the importance of evangelism is emphasized.

Toward the end of 2003 Grace received funding that will increase the opportunity for Grace students and graduates to be salt and light within businesses in the region where the campus is located. Lilly Endowment, Inc. has given Grace funding to begin a special educational program within the orthopaedic industry. Students participating in this Orthopaedic Scholars Initiative program will have an opportunity to work within the orthopaedic industry and have an increased likelihood of securing employment within the industry after graduation. This initiative holds a lot of promise, and we are praying God will use it mightily. Because these businesses are global in nature, the outreach potential is significantly increased.

Campus prayer meetings continue being sprinkled with evidence that employees and students alike care about, pray for, and seek to reach the lost. Individuals carry the light in the various interactions campus personnel have through various accrediting, educational, and business associations. More and more students are participating in short-term ministry opportunities and intercultural experiences that help sensitize them to the need to share the gospel.

“Go”

The staples of “going” for the campus continue being conference, special programs, short-term trips, and special projects. During the 2003-04 Grace Mission Conference speaker Bob Sjogren effectively emphasized the correlation between the biblical view of God and global mission. Personnel from GBIM, under the leadership of Wayne Hannah, shape and implement the focus of the conference. Grace continues believing that one significant way to encourage churches to be on mission is to emphasize the importance of students and employees being on mission. To be sure, Grace College and Grace Theological Seminary are not churches; they are higher education institutions of arts and sciences programs and graduate ministry programs. However, direct attempts are made to encourage being on mission as individuals.

During the fall 2003 semester Gary McCaman from GBIM served as Missionary-in-Residence on the campus. His presence, experience, and work were very positive. He taught in the classroom and routinely interacted with students outside the classroom. The “Global Perspective” course, required of every student, will be offered during the spring 2004 semester. A number of individuals are interacting with the course which is under the leadership of Jacqueline Schram and Tom Julien. The emphasis of the course is to see the world as God sees the world. Tom Stallter continues providing intercultural training in order to help others stay on mission. A course offered for the first time last year, “Perspectives on the World Christian Movement,” will be offered again. Many participants are expected. The entirety of the course is spent on going with the gospel.

During 2003-04 both students and staff have been or will be involved in numerous short-term ministry trips, experiences that broaden awareness of and responsibility for global outreach. Additionally every Grace College student is now required to have a cross-cultural experience before they graduate. This requirement helps students stretch across cultural barriers. The Youth Ministries program in the college, in cooperation with CE National and through its leadership, continues encouraging being on mission and arranges directly for evangelism experiences for students.

In the fall 2003 semester an initiative was begun within the Hispanic community in Kosciusko County, the county where Grace is located. We asked the question, “With what people is God giving us an opportunity? Who is near us?” The Hispanic community is the fastest growing county population. The initiative includes developing ways to help meet the educational needs of this group and to spread the gospel in the process. Though we are at the very initial stages, we are encouraged with the contacts and openings that God is giving us.

“Lead”

Grace is deeply involved in developing ministry leaders, both for the United States and beyond. Each year the seminary graduates several dozen ministry leaders who become involved as leaders in existing churches, church planters, missionaries, or leaders in ministry organizations. Each summer the seminary hosts the ministry studies program

for Korean students. Typically these students are ministry leaders serving in churches with 400 to 5,000 members in South Korea. Each year between 25 and 30 Korean students participate in this program. The college graduates a number of students each year who will serve in staff positions within churches and Christian organizations. Within the FGBC Grace will play a key educational role in the alternating purpose conference (2005, 2007, etc.). As you know, this will provide continuing education opportunities for the FGBC ministry leadership.

Furthermore, the seminary is taking deliberate steps to expand its off-campus offerings into the state of Ohio. The Master of Ministry program is the initial program to be offered. The Ohio Board of Regents has already conducted its site visit on the campus, and, based upon the exit analysis by the site visit team members, we are anticipating hearing of our approval during the spring 2004 semester. The intent of the initiative is to broaden the seminary's reach.

Much of what Grace does centers on leadership in the broader sense. The college each year graduates young Christian leaders who assume leadership positions in many careers. Our effort is to help them become effective leaders for Christ in their church and community. To that end the Center for Leadership Development has been established within the college. Its purpose is to help our college graduates become effective leaders for God, whatever their career.

Multiple other specialized programs promote leadership development as well. Among these are the Orthopaedic Scholars Initiative (mentioned above under "Grow"), the Hispanic community initiative (mentioned above under "Go"), and the MasterWorks Festival. This latter partnership is for the purpose of developing outstanding young Christian musicians who will be salt and light in the performing arts world. Since the mid-1980s Grace has been offering a Prison Education Program that encourages spiritual growth in believers who will live part of their life in the dark life of a prison. Once paroled, they assume a number of leadership positions.

Summer programs also provide Grace with an opportunity to participate along with other organizations in leadership development. These groups include Asian, Arab, and Jewish Christians.

Other occasional leadership development initiatives include guest lectureships (the Staley Lecture Series and the American Lyceum Lecture Series), research at the museum (the Reneker Museum of Winona History), gallery exhibits (the Grace Art Museum), and restoration district experiences (The Village at Winona). These are intended to broaden the understanding of cultural, economic, ethical, and religious issues among both campus and community individuals.

I am grateful for the opportunity that the college and seminary have to support the GrowGoLead vision of the FGBC.

Dear Fellowship Council,

2003 has been a year of great accomplishment as well as great challenge. The uncertainty of rising Health Care and labor costs have cut into our usual healthy margins. Nevertheless, we still managed to earn a respectable bottom line as we completed the new 26 unit licensed Residential Care wing. The entire project came in on time and under budget. We are once again grateful to the staff and board for their hard work and support of our mission. We continue to get better prepared to meet the retirement needs of our FGBC pastors and missionaries as well as our immediate community.

During 2003, the staff with Board support and approval:

- **Saw the Caring Friends Endowment grow to nearly \$172,000.**
- **Paid former directors \$42,000 for legal expenses.**
- **Completed and leased new Robin Hood quad-plex which added \$600,000 to the balance sheet.**
- **Completed construction for our new 26-unit Residential Care (\$3 million) on time and under budget.**
- **7 new residents have moved into our new licensed Residential Care building.**
- **Held annual staff retreat to better prepare our team for the future.**
- **Completed annual State survey with zero deficiencies – best ever survey.**
- **Raised \$86,000 of \$95,000 for our electric door project.**
- **With a greater Medicaid population and staffing challenges in the nursing industry, still managed to see a bottom line of \$245,709.**
- **Another good census year with an average of over 97.22%.**
- **Investments turned up very well with a net gain of \$103,075 in value.**
- **Completed Robin Hood well permits and received new well approval from IDEM for future units.**
- **Continuing to address Certified Nursing Assistant staffing needs.**
- **Grace Village has become the Ivy Tech Certified Nursing Assistant training site for our area.**
- **Successfully transitioned Grace Village to restaurant style dining.**
- **Completing plans and architectural drawings for new Health Care addition.**
- **Hosted annual Open House with an emphasis on the new building with over 700 visitors with great community P/R.**
- **Analyzed and initiated transfer of several residents to solve Medicare/Medicaid issue that could have been disastrous if action had not been taken.**

Overall it was a mediocre year. We accomplished much in a turbulent Health Care and economic environment. We are positioned to see improved financial results in 2004.

Thanks again to the Board members for all their support and encouragement. A special thanks goes to Jeff Secaur who has completed three 3-year terms. He has contributed so much over the past 9 years.

Sincerely,

**Jeff Carroll
CEO
Grace Village Retirement Community**

Internationals USA, Inc.
Report to the Fellowship Council
January 2004

This past year marked the 10th Anniversary of Internationals USA. During this time we have seen three major goals achieved through our ministry: 1. We have introduced the “parlance” of reaching internationals for Christ into the “boardrooms” of the decision-makers of the FGBC. 2. We have enhanced the national conferences by offering alternative seminars focusing on cross-cultural ministries within the borders of the United States. 3. We have seen a handful of churches fully implement ministries to international students and a larger number engage in some aspect of reaching out to internationals, whether students or residents.

In 2004 we will continue to highlight these accomplishments, as well as lay out the challenge of what still lies ahead, through a series of Anniversary events we will hold throughout the country.

2004 will also mark the year IUSA will embark into the exciting area of multicultural church plants in the city. While the Fellowship Council meets in Simi Valley, the board of IUSA will be meeting on the same beautiful campus of the Simi Valley GBC, to delineate the specifics of such undertaking. We are convinced that we must reach our cities, that our ministry in the city must be multicultural, and that the best way to accomplish this is through an *intentionally* multicultural church plant. This will necessitate a move to a major metropolitan area, and viable partnerships with local churches and GBNAM. We are vigorously pursuing both, and would ask all of you to pray that the Lord will guide and direct us through this process. We are considering three main areas at this point.

In the meantime, our mission to educate people and churches in the area of outreach to internationals continues at full speed. We continue to work on a video project for outreach to Muslims in the US, having been forced to slow down only due to insufficient funds, and keep offering our different training options to churches across the country. The typical training focus on “Sharing Your Faith With Internationals,” as well as “Cross-cultural Tools to Befriend Internationals in Our Cities.” We also have a compact course on “Hospitality to Internationals,” that has been very helpful, especially to churches located close to college campuses.

The Sunday before Christmas, while preaching at one of our supporting churches, I made the statement, “I am of the opinion that every illegal immigrant should have the right to hear about Christ *legally* at least once.” That statement struck a chord with one of the elders of that congregation, who came up to me afterwards, and said, “For many years I have only focused on the negative things about illegal immigration. I never thought about this as an opportunity for the Gospel. I have always seen it from a political point of view: they are here illegally, they are taking American jobs, they are changing our culture, etc. I work with many of these people and I never gave much thought to what I could do to bring them to Christ. I want to confess to you today that I have been wrong. I am no

longer going to fight this, and instead, I will focus on how I can cooperate with God in bringing these people to the knowledge of the Savior.” That was quite a moment for this lonely missionary who, at times, feels very much like “a voice crying on the wilderness.”

At another church, I was asked to preach on “racism” for their mission Sunday. After the message, a lady came up to me and said: “I have been a Christian for close to 40 years, and I had never heard a sermon on racism. Your talk today made me realize that I have some issues I need to work out with the Lord. Thanks for confronting this issue in light of God’s Word.” I wish every one of our churches *was* addressing this issue from a Biblical perspective.

For the last five years, we have made Simi Valley our home. The church has been very generous to me, granting me the use of some nice and spacious offices, free of charge, and we have made some good friends here. Pastor John McIntosh has been a good friend of IUSA for many years now, and I am thankful for that. It’s a bit strange for me to think that next year, by this time, I might be *traveling* to Simi Valley for Fellowship Council meetings. However, depending on where we might end up, at this time of the year, I might actually be looking forward to Simi Valley weather, as I am sure some of you were before you came here this year. Change is good and I look forward to it.

With God, for the nations,

Pastor Ivanildo Trindade
Executive Director, Internationals USA, Inc.

Report to Fellowship Council
WOMEN OF GRACE USA
Submitted by Janet Minnix, President
January 2004

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to represent Women of Grace USA at the Fellowship Council meeting on January 30. Women of Grace is privileged to be a part of the FGBC and co-workers with you. We fully support the GROW-GO-LEAD vision of the FGBC and are committed to doing all we can to influence and challenge Grace Brethren women to work toward these objectives.

The purpose of Women of Grace USA is *to provide a means through which women can deepen their spiritual lives and understand and participate in Grace Brethren world-wide missions.* While we are not an evangelistic organization, we continually encourage women to be personally involved in making disciples, to see themselves as “sent ones” wherever they are, and to support other people and ministries whose primary mission is evangelism and discipling. Our ongoing challenge is to be *on mission to share God’s love next door and around the world.* In relation to the FGBC vision, our primary focus is on **Going** and sending (which will result in **Growth**), along with **Leadership**.

WGUSA’s theme this year is “Bridges to Eternity”. Resource materials emphasize the believer’s responsibility to build bridges that will bring lost people to Christ as women learn about missions. Cultural information and testimonies about “bridge builders” among people groups from the Fulani in Africa, Muslims in Chicago, Vietnamese and Mexicans, to troubled children and teens, the physically challenged and those in prison, are paired with devotionals about Biblical people who were “bridge builders” in their culture and time. Women pray faithfully for pastors, church planters, missionaries and ministries around the world. And in the fiscal year 2002-2003 women gave more than \$57,000 to ministries such as

- the Osh Community Center in Kyrgyzstan;
- camping experiences for families and young adults from Urban Encounter in Chicago;
- equipment and technology for the Communication and Publication Department of Grace Schools;
- Women of Charis International;
- mattresses for the Missionary Residence;
- helping to sponsor SMM;

and other projects that help other ministries, districts and local churches to build “bridges to eternity”.

Women also give themselves and their time to build bridges that will result in new lives in Christ. For example, last year they built bridges **next door** by

- taking homemade Christmas cookies to businesses around a local church;
- providing sewing supplies and baby clothes to Muslim families;
- working with international students and families in the community;
- learning how to share their faith, then sharing Christ with business contacts, neighbors, people in a mall;
- at a community yard sale, giving away bottled water labeled “Jesus can quench our spiritual thirst”;
- starting a ministry for young girls (8-12 years) in the community and inner city that provides biblical instruction on puberty, beauty, relationships and etiquette.

They shared God's love **around the world** through efforts such as

- sending care packages to needy children through Samaritan's Purse and Josh McDowell Ministries;
- providing financial support for women going on short-term mission trips or young people on Operation Barnabas;
- encouraging chaplains' wives, Navajo pastors' wives, military personnel, and missionaries at home and overseas through correspondence, personal contacts and gifts;
- working with a Bible club in a neighboring city and counseling those who made decisions for Christ;
- going on short-term mission trips. Women are joining teams sponsored by their local churches to minister at Urban Encounter in Chicago, in Mississauga, Vietnam, Trinidad, Europe and more. Under the direction of CE National, the fifth PrimeTIME women's team will go to Urban Hope this year. Last October a women's team co-sponsored by GBNAM and WGUSA visited the Hispanic ministry in Tampa. And during the last week of February 2004, in cooperation with GBIM, a 16-member Women of Grace GO team will minister in Mexico City. We deeply appreciate the organizations and receiving missionaries who have graciously worked with us to facilitate these teams; we are already making plans for future teams.

Women of Grace has traditionally targeted women who are post-college age and older. However, we are seeing the need to expand our target group, to broaden our scope of influence to include younger women. As a first step, and to encourage missions involvement among college-age women, the *Honor Her Scholarship Fund* has been established. It will provide scholarships for Grace College women who are missions majors or interested in missions, helping them to participate on short-term teams sponsored by GBIM, GBNAM and CE National. All "Honor Her" and memorial gifts are placed in this fund along with gifts designated for scholarships.

However, waiting until a girl reaches college age may be too late to influence her relationship with Christ and her involvement in ministry. A strong godly influence must begin when she is a child, and who better to provide that influence than a godly woman who is fulfilling her Titus 2 responsibility. We are looking forward to a closer relationship with the SMM program for girls, and to challenging Grace Brethren women to be actively involved in mentoring and discipling young girls "to live godly lives in this ungodly world so that they will become women who live godly lives" (from the SMM purpose statement).

Leadership training and support is an area that WGUSA is working to expand. Some training is offered in meetings with district leaders and in the women's seminars that we offer at National Conference. Our first-ever weekend leadership retreat will be held in November 2004. And the women's track at Equipping 2005 will provide excellent training opportunities led by highly qualified instructors.

During the past year the Vision Committee has focused its attention primarily in two areas: developing a Vision Document, and researching and proposing a new national leadership structure. The following steps have been taken:

1. An updated wording of the purpose statement has been proposed, to be approved this July. The new statement will read: *Women of Grace USA exists to challenge Grace Brethren women to be radically in love with Christ and actively engaged in God's mission to reconcile a lost world to Himself.* (Mark 12:29-31; 2 Corinthians 5:19-20) We believe that the key to having a heart to reach the lost is having a heart for God.
2. Six core values were adopted that reflect the foundation for all that we do and articulate our vision for Grace Brethren women:
 - **GOD'S WORD** – Women will grow in their love relationship with Christ, resulting in transformed lives as they study God's Word. This is the foundation on which everything else is built, the core value from which the others flow.

- PRAYER – Women will experience God’s transforming power in their lives, in the church, and in the world through the ministry of intercession and communion with God.
- MISSION – Women will be personally and cooperatively involved in fulfilling the Great Commission.
- MENTORING – Women will invest themselves in nurturing girls and women toward Christlikeness.
- COMMUNITY – Women will experience community through relationship, support, and the sharing of ideas and resources.
- LEADERSHIP – Women will cultivate an environment that will train and reproduce leaders by identifying, developing, and utilizing their gifts.

Under each value, we will evaluate what we currently do or should be doing to reach these objectives.

Still in the developmental stage is a revised leadership structure in which women will be elected or appointed to a leadership board rather than being elected to hold an office or perform a specific task.

As reported to Fellowship Council a year ago, a critical need for Women of Grace USA is in the area of communications – a woman with writing and desktop publishing skills who would oversee our publications and publicity, and make it possible for us to communicate more frequently and in a professional manner. This has been a prayer concern for several years, and God has provided a highly qualified lady who will be working for us on a part-time basis. We praise Him for His gracious provision.

On behalf of Women of Grace USA, I want to thank each of you for your leadership in our Fellowship. Our appreciation also goes to each of our Moderators, past, present and future, for seeking God’s heart and His vision for this particular part of the Body of Christ. And we extend special thanks to Tom Avey for his tireless work to keep us connected, growing, going and leading together. Tom and his staff are deeply appreciated.