

6 January, 2006

To: Fellowship Council

From: Terry White

Re: Report on Brethren Missionary Herald activities during 2005

My first two years with the BMH ministry concluded September 30, 2005. Our primary accomplishments during 2005 focused in four major areas:

- a. The revitalizing of BMH Books
- b. Continuing formation of partnerships, specifically with AGBM during 2005
- c. Further “cleanup” of leftover issues from GBC Media LLC
- d. Participation in Brethren history promulgation through the Brethren Encyclopedia Board and projects

In reverse order:

I was elected to replace Charlie Turner on the Brethren Encyclopedia Board, and it has been a joy to get to know our “cousins” from the other five groups—Tunkers, Old Order German Baptist Brethren, Church of the Brethren, Ashland Brethren, and Conservative Grace Brethren. Publication of Volume 4 of the encyclopedia was delayed because of the untimely death of Donald Durnbaugh, but Dale Ulrich is completing the editing and we expect it to appear during 2006. We’re also working on joint plans for the Sunday, August 3, 2008, celebration and tours to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the Alexander Mack Schwarzenau baptisms in 1708. Ted Rondeau of GBIM is part of that planning team, as well.

GBC Media LLC continues its route to extinction. Two significant accomplishments during 2005 were the official conclusion of the sale of the bookstore and our distribution arrangement with STL, and the sale of the WRSW building in downtown Warsaw. Funds from the sale of the building have been placed in our investment account and we will be using a portion of the earnings for operating funds.

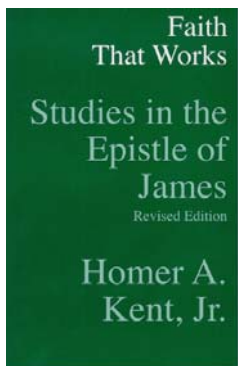
Our partnership with AGBM was formalized during this year, and we are off to a good start, although there is much development yet ahead. We now receive and process AGBM mail through a Winona Lake post office box, we have archived and stored AGBM records in our facility, and we have produced and mailed one issue of the “Sharpening One Another” newsletter with the second soon to appear. We need more refinement of the use of AGBM’s website, and we continue to explore with AGBM officers and leadership ways to work together.

We have continued our regular communication activities for the Fellowship during 2005, which included publishing six issues of *FGBC World*, updating the daily editor’s blog,

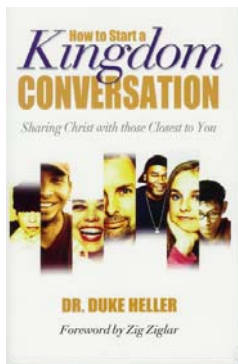
and participating in numerous events and conferences such as DRIVEN, BNYC, Equip05, four Focus Retreats, church-planting summits, NAF pastors' retreat, North of 55 seniors conference, and many other gatherings and presentations in individual Grace Brethren churches.

Our most visible (and time-consuming) activity in 2005 has been the revitalizing of BMH Books as an independent publisher, and the production of 11 new books to add to the backlist of about 50 titles.

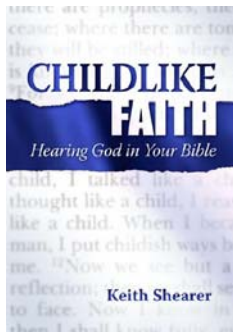
I think we have made major strides in our goal to discover and empower "voices" within the Fellowship who have a message that needs to be shared with a larger audience. Here are some of our 2005 book projects:



The re-issuing of Homer Kent's New Testament commentaries is an ongoing commitment. Each is being re-edited, re-typeset, and some are significantly rewritten. The first three to appear were Mark, John, and James (pictured) and as we turned the New Year, three more are very close to appearing—Ephesians, 2 Corinthians, and Colossians/Philemon.



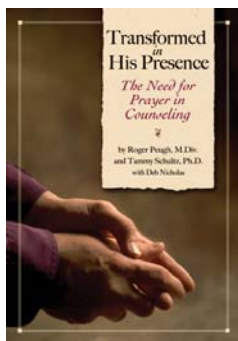
Books on evangelism are notoriously difficult to sell, but we are pleased with the reception of Duke Heller's *How to Start a Kingdom Conversation*. Heller, a dentist and dental educator from our Columbus church, is a tireless evangelist, and the book is gaining slow but steady notice with audiences interested in personal evangelism.



We were very pleased to participate in the production of Keith Shearer's *Childlike Faith: Hearing God in Your Bible*, which is being used as a supplemental text for all five Focus Retreats this year. Keith, who is this year's FGBC Moderator, is blessing us all with his emphasis on a simple obedience to God's Word, and this little book is finding some audience outside the FGBC as well as within.

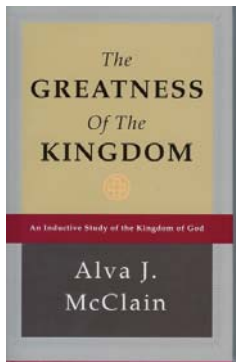


It has been a delight to continue the good work begun by CE National in recognizing the "Heroes Who Live On" from the history of the Grace Brethren church. This volume celebrates Henry Holsinger, L. S. Bauman, Mary Bauman, R. Paul Miller, W. A. and Frances Ogden, Allen Bennett, Orville Jobson, Charles W. Mayes, Jake Kliever, Noel Gaiwaka, Ralph Colburn, and Evelyn Fuqua. We have begun conversations about a third volume, and have about 30 potential candidates for subjects, which must be whittled down to about 13. We anticipate that project to be done sometime in 2007.



Roger Peugh and Tammy Schultz of the Grace College and Seminary faculty have written a very important work titled *Transformed in His Presence: The Need for Prayer in Counseling*. The book is beginning to attract notice in the Christian counseling profession, as well as among those involved in pastoral care. Like all BMH

books, it is edited in such a way as to be timeless and we believe it will have many decades of ministry ahead.



Dr. McClain's classic *Greatness of the Kingdom*, as well as his *Romans: The Gospel of God's Grace* have been re-covered and republished during this past year and continue to sell amazingly well. Several thousand copies of *Greatness* were purchased this past year—not bad for a book first published in 1959!

Several other books by Grace Seminary alumni were also published in 2005, including *Minefields in the Marketplace* by James Pearson and *Walking Like Jesus Did* by Larry McCall. In just a few weeks we will see copies of Sherwood Lingenfelter and Bobby Gupta's book on training national church planters in India.

Sales of BMH Books were nearly triple our projections for 2005. In recognition of his 27+ years of faithful service, we honored BMH Books Division Manager John Leonard at our December Open House with a commemorative plaque and cash gift. We are mounting major marketing efforts in 2006, including obtaining national chain distribution for our books, publishing a comprehensive catalog, and beefing up our Internet and electronic sales appeal.

We expect to publish at least 10 new products in 2006, including books by Homer Kent, John Davis, Donald DeYoung, Tom Julien, Bruce Triplehorn, and more. We are also nearing completion of an agreement to become again the distributor/publisher of Dr. John Whitcomb's books and charts, and we expect the customers he brings to us to open up new and fresh markets for our other BMH books.

How do we anticipate helping the Grow/Go/Lead efforts in 2006?

Essentially, by doing more of the same, and by doing it better and more vigorously. We partner in communication with the national organizations; we "tell the good story" of what Grace Brethren people and churches are doing; and we continue to discover and develop authors and give them a platform for their message.

One of my personal goals for the coming year is to begin digitizing the archives of *Brethren Missionary Herald Magazine*, dating back to 1940, into a searchable database that will be available to historical researchers.

As we continue to further Grace Brethren history and theology through involvement in the Brethren Encyclopedia Project and spearheading 300th anniversary celebrations for 2008; as we continue to partner in the various conferences and ministries around the Fellowship and around the world, we're confident that seed sown will bear fruit. We want to encourage creative evangelism, church planting, intercultural outreach, and leadership development in the FGBC – nurturing Great Commission teamwork as we connect people and churches.

Thank you for the warm “welcome back” BMH has received, and thank you all for your partnership in this ministry.