

## **Report to the Fellowship Council from the Social Concerns Committee**

### **January, 2005**

#### Background:

The Social Concerns Committee was created by and is funded by the National Conference of the FGBC. It was originally authorized by National Conference in 1980 as the “Sanctity of Life Committee.” In 1985 the committee assignment was expanded and the committee was renamed so that the committee could address additional issues where biblical and church teaching intersect with societal and governmental issues.

#### Current status and work:

The committee has eight members with deep interest in proper Christian engagement with social issues.

The major work of this committee in the past year has been:

1. Sending periodic “Social Concerns Communicators” to our churches by electronic mail through the main FGBC office.
2. Operating a table at National Conference.
3. Being available as resource persons to churches and individuals throughout the year.
4. Being available during the time of National Conference.
5. Developing resolutions for consideration at National Conference.
6. Distributing these resolutions to the FGBC family through electronic mail.

In addition to these and very importantly, the Chairman has authored an article in *Grace Magazine* (Fall, 2004) titled, “The Bible and Christian Social Action.” This article should have long-term value to the FGBC.

In 2004 and to a lesser degree this year, the Chairman is engaged in sabbatical work and is not as active in some of the features of social concerns as heretofore.

Currently (January-February, 2005) the Chairman is actively involved in a movement in Los Angeles County to support a petition drive to retain the Cross on the County Seal, and is encouraging FGBC churches in the county to support the same.

#### Continuing needs for more effective ministry:

For social concerns activity in general and for the work of the Social Concerns Committee in particular to have greater impact in the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches, the following action items should be considered:

1. Show commitment to Social Concerns ministry and provide guidance to this committee at the highest levels of leadership in our Fellowship.
2. Create Social Concerns goals the same way other strategic goals are developed.
3. Be sure that a Social Concerns ministry is clearly set forth in our purpose statement and objectives.
4. Increase the visibility of Social Concerns at National Conference and “Focus” retreats and in communications.

5. Specify the role, nature and process of “Resolutions” in the Manual of Procedure.
6. Encourage the development of Social Concerns ministries in the Fellowship and in our local churches. This includes relevant teaching on Christian social ethics.
7. Make “police chaplaincy” a strong and active aspect of our “chaplaincy” ministry and give it some prominence at the times of the annual Conference.

Personally speaking, the Chairman delights in serving on this committee and taking the chairmanship role. Should the Fellowship Council feel, for short term or long term, that some fresh ideas and perspectives might come from a different chairmanship, the current chairman is open to serving under such leadership.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald P. Shoemaker  
Chairman, Social Concerns Committee  
Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches

**Association of Grace Brethren Ministers**  
**Report to Fellowship Council**  
**January 17, 2005**

The AGBM is continuing its efforts to research and develop the Pastoral Ministries Office for the members of the Association. Currently, Dr. Jerry Young is receiving follow-up data from various Pastors and District Ministeriums to his presentation of last summer at our National FGBC Celebration in Kingsport, Tennessee.

Jerry will be making several recommendations to our officers in early February at our semi-annual meeting in Pennsylvania based on his observations and feedback he has received while traveling. When the officers receive this information they will have a better handle on what the next steps will be in the creation and development of this office.

Some formal steps are being taken while we wait for Jerry's report. This includes conversations with Terry White and BMH Company about BMH being contracted to provide print and web oversight for the publications of our Association. The new AGBM website is ready to launch once we have decided how to handle the print versions of the Sharpening One Another Newsletter and how best to tie it into the same format as the WebSite.

We are encouraged by the response of Pastors across the FGBC who in informal conversations with our officers are excited about the idea of the Equipping Conference this year in Winona Lake. The AGBM is exploring ways to provide Continuing Education Units for men who maintain an attitude of lifelong learning by attending various conferences and educational experiences.

Lee Dice continues to handle the Finances and Reports of our organization. We are hoping to be able to alleviate some of the communication responsibilities from his desk with any BMH partnership.

One of the other issues we are addressing is the Renewal Process of our corporation with the state of Ohio where our organizing documents are located. We are receiving help from attorneys in Columbus to care for this administrative matter. We do not anticipate any problems in getting our renewal.

As always we would welcome nominations for the three awards we give annually. These are; Pastor of the Year, Excellence in Ministry, and Lifetime Achievement. Our goal will be to select award recipients at our February meeting and present the winners during the Equip Conference this year.

We welcome any input the Fellowship Council might give regarding the development of the Pastoral Ministries Office. Your prayers for this process are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Tim Boal  
President

# Fellowship Council Update

## Brethren Missionary Herald Co.

Terry White, Executive Director – January, 2005

**The Mission:** *BMH exists to nurture Great Commission teamwork between the people and churches of the FGBC by building bridges of communication.*

Brethren Missionary Herald Company is now four months into its second year of operation since its re-birth. Board members include Dan Thornton (chair), Bob Arenobine (secretary), Bruce Barlow (treasurer), Nathan Bryant, Norbert Enslen, Rick Fairman, Pat Phillips (at-large, exec. committee), Todd Scoles (vice chair), and Barb Wooler. Employees include Terry White (executive director), Jesse Deloe (director of operations), Ann Myers (operations manager, part-time) and a Grace College intern from the journalism, art, or business department each semester.

Here is a quick summary of BMH activity since the Fellowship Council met last year:

1. **FGBC World** – This bi-monthly, 8-page full-color tabloid publication has now published seven issues with the eighth about to go to press. Currently 1,272 individuals receive it by mail, as do 278 churches. Total print run is stable at about 17,000, which is approximately one copy for every three people attending a Grace Brethren church. We would love to see better distribution and promotion of the paper within churches, but we are gratified and blessed by the many positive responses it is getting.
2. **[www.fgbcworld.com](http://www.fgbcworld.com)** - The companion website to the paper version has the new content posted each issue, with many of the articles in longer form, having more live links, and additional photos. Since May, 2004 we have also posted a daily “Editor’s Blog,” which includes a wide variety of news and feature items about Grace Brethren churches, people, institutions, and related issues. The Blog appears to be gaining in popularity and usefulness and may be approaching the appeal of BMH’s old “800 newsline” at its height. Hits on [www.fgbcworld.com](http://www.fgbcworld.com) reached an all-time high of more than 13,000 in December, 2004.
3. **BMH Books** – Our thinking about BMH Books has had a 180-degree turnaround in the last few months. Previously we had been planning on linking with a larger publishing partner, with our doing the editorial but giving over to them the production and marketing functions. For a number of reasons (control and finances among them) the partnership was not working. So we have committed to re-establishing BMH Books as an independent brand name, and our board is encouraging the segmentation of some investment capital into a publishing fund used to “intrapreneur” BMH Books as a company re-start within the corporate shell of the larger BMH framework. With the discovery and development of good Grace Brethren (and a few other) authors, and with an emphasis on internet marketing, we believe we can compete favorably with larger publishing houses.

Commerce on [www.bmhbooks.com](http://www.bmhbooks.com) is slow, but building. BMH's 65-year reputation for "Theology You Can Trust" is a strong base upon which to re-build the publishing business. We expect to have 5-8 new products available by Equip05 this July and are also moving toward electronic versions of our content.

4. **Renovated Offices** – The northernmost suite of offices in the Herald building at 1104A Kings Highway in Winona Lake has been renovated and the entire building upgraded. Some 125 friends and national organization employees attended a December 18 Holiday Open House. We have sublet several offices to Tom Avey and the FGBC office staff. This is a good arrangement which has improved communication and is bringing us to new levels of cooperation and coordination of communication activity.
5. **Contract Publishing** – BMH is positioned to offer communication and publishing services to related organizations needing them. We assisted CENational with some publishing for BNYC last year, FGBC offices with Equip05 promotional literature, and we publish a regular newsletter for Winona Restoration and The Village at Winona. We are in discussion with AGBM, Women of Grace, MasterWorks Festival and others about using our core communication competencies to help with their communications needs.
6. **GBC Media Closedown** – About half our activity the first year has been in collapsing GBC Media and simplifying structure and activities for BMH. All radio stations are sold, GBC Media has ceased operation, a thorough audit has been conducted, and only a few items remain to be completed until BMH can give full attention to its mission with FGBC churches and people.
7. **Brethren History and Heritage** – BMH's role with the Brethren Encyclopedia Project continues, and we are sponsoring a northern Indiana "Brethren Heritage Tour" on Thursday evening of Equip05 this August. Several historical Grace Brethren publications are in preparation, and we anticipate continuing to connect our people with their past and heritage.

I am quite optimistic about the future of the FGBC. I am excited about the evangelism and church-planting efforts taking place, and the increasing world-consciousness of our people. I love helping develop "new voices" within the Fellowship and giving them a platform to expose their ideas, strategies and convictions to the larger world. We are working hard at continuing to build relationships with churches and pastors, both through media and on-site visits and contacts.

Thank you for your good cooperation and feedback. It is a great pleasure to partner with you and to serve you as we Grow-Go-Lead together in this Fellowship.

January 2005

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 is the Christian Education arm of the FGBC. Naturally we work closely with the FGBC coordinators to assist local churches to be healthy. See our purpose statement, our vision goals and our core values at [www.cenational.org](http://www.cenational.org).

The following is a list of some of the things that coincide with the FGBC goals.

I. Grow by Conversion

- A. All of the Operation Barnabas teams are trained in evangelism and are equipped to build relationships in order to share their faith with other people. This year was no exception. Plans are for three domestic teams on the East coast doing training at Lititz, Pennsylvania and an Operation Barnabas International team that will be going to the Central African Republic.
- B. Tag-You're It! is a special mailing that went to each church. This is especially designed to equip churches not only to minister to children but through children. This material, which is put together by the children's cabinet and others, is a great opportunity to revolutionize the children's ministries of our churches. Please pray for its effective.
- C. BNYC always has an emphasis on helping young people be equipped to share their faith with non-believers. The BNYC Blitz is always a highlight. This year BNYC will be held in Cedarville, Ohio, and a strong emphasis will be challenging youth to go to Dayton, Ohio areas or inner-city training in evangelism.
- D. Urban Hope Training Center in Philadelphia is not only a place where there is an emphasis on children and youth and growing up leaders for a potential church plant, but also there are hundreds of people being trained in evangelism. Six times during the year there are weekend training opportunities available. There are also other times throughout the year when individual churches and groups use the sleeping accommodations for over 50 people and each of these people has the opportunity to learn how to build friendships and how to reach out to the lost.
- E. All of our ministries have some component of ministry and evangelism; that is a Core Value of ours.

II. Go on Mission

- A. There are various volunteer cabinets that meet together two to three times a year in order to be a catalyst for equipping people to

move out of their comfort zones in order to help them be involved in God's mission.

- i. The Children's Cabinet is very active (see the above).
- ii. YouthNet plans The BIG Retreat each year in order to encourage youth workers to reach the lost for Christ. YouthNet also is involved in training youth workers.
- iii. Mature Adults are a group of people who are equipping those in retirement years to be "on the move" in ministry. If they are to be effective they must leave a legacy and be mentoring younger people. There are 7 one-day events planned in 2005 that are called Day Away—North of 55. Each of these "Days Away" is designed to be a catalyst to encourage retired people to be involved in ministry.
- iv. Halftime Cabinet is a group of people who especially focuses in on those in their 40's and 50's, realizing that if we do not teach ministry at this age they will buy into materialistic and hedonistic philosophies of life. There are training sessions as well as annual experience/training available on weekend for middle adults.
- v. Program Planning Committee is a cabinet that especially focuses in on details of Brethren National Youth Conference to make it most effective in seeing that our mission is accomplished.
- vi. A new developing initiative is for young adults. In addition to the Post-High Division that we have at Youth Conference, this is now called Fusion, a new group is emerging that is helping to plan a young adult conference called "Driven".
- vii. NAC and Bible Quizzing are being established to strengthen the roles of ministry skills and Bible memorization to see that students themselves are involved in serving the Lord.

### III. Lead

- A. One of our strong initiatives, being endorsed by various organizations, is the one-year program based on 1 Timothy called "The 4:12 Commission." This is for high school graduates. The program is designed to help those graduating from high school to have an understanding of the scriptures, servanthood and character development. This is so needed since many students are not prepared for college or the experiences of life.
- B. The National Institute is the Youth Ministry program at Grace College, which helps to develop leadership. Each of the students who major in the program will do an internship.
- C. "Purpose Driven Church"-- initiatives to help churches strengthen their congregation through small groups and intentional strategies for growth.

- D. Church Vision Weekends is a new initiative to offer assistance to churches that want to get "unstuck" and develop greater vision for church growth.
- E. Young adults are trained by serving as Operation Barnabas leaders. There are over 20 young adults that are trained each summer through serving as leaders on Operation Barnabas teams.
- F. The CE National Lending Library is especially designed to help churches to have resources and materials that can help them in their growth and leadership development.
- G. The Philemon Center is also designed to be a place of spiritual renewal for pastors and church elders and church leaders.
- H. We will appreciate your continued prayer for:
  - i. The effectiveness of our existing programs
  - ii. Vision for the new 4:12 Commission
  - iii. The continued development of the Training Center, which will be used as a catalyst for offering training and resources for the FGBC.

While I am not going to be able to attend this year's Fellowship Council meeting, Timothy Kurtaneck is going to be able to represent CE National. If there are any questions please feel free to contact him or email me at [edlewis@cenational.org](mailto:edlewis@cenational.org).

In His Work,

Ed Lewis  
Executive Director



## MEMORANDUM

To: Tom Avey and Fellowship Council  
From: Larry N. Chamberlain  
Re: Report on Chaplaincy Ministry  
Date: January 12, 2005

Greetings, Colleagues . . .

In the past, I had included comments on our Chaplaincy Ministry as part of my report to Fellowship Council as Executive Director of Grace Brethren North American Missions. As a result of the restructuring of GBNAM and GBIF, I will continue to provide you with an update, but under a different letterhead.

As you are aware, the GBIF board and Fellowship Council have mutually approved the transfer of "parent organization" for the Chaplaincy ministry, in behalf of the FGBC, from GBNAM to GBIF. In Tom's notes from Fellowship Council (FC), he reminded me of two issues that were raised in the decision:

- 1) Do we need to take some regular action about the endorsing agency? If the note is referring to the endorsing agent's tenure, the answer is no. The Policy and Procedure (attached) approved by the FC in April, 1988 clearly states that the endorsing agent's term is "indefinite." If the note is referring to the receiving of a report from the endorsing agent, the answer is yes, indeed, it would be appropriate for FC to receive in the minutes our annual report covering the endorsing agent's activities, including updates and current rosters of the chaplains. FC is the body ultimately responsible for the office of the endorsing agent and it's simply a courtesy, as well as an action of due diligence, to receive the report.
- 2) Is the GBIF adequately insulated from potential liability arising out of alleged chaplain misconduct? Serving simply as a parenting agency for the Fellowship Council, I do not personally view this possibility as a threat to GBIF. However, it would be appropriate for us to have the Policy and Procedure reviewed by legal counsel in order to respond to this concern, which we will pursue. It could be that a disclaimer can be written into the agreement that provides further insulation. I should be able to respond to this by your July meeting.

The attached Policy and Procedure is what we are currently operating under, with the "amendment" approved in Kingsport regarding the transfer of parent organizations. I am in the process of drafting further revisions to this document in time for your meeting in July, following consultation with Tom and with members of the GBIF board's chaplaincy committee, which includes Endorsing Agent John Schumacher and Jerry Young, who chaired the drafting of the original document.

For a report on the activities of the Endorsing Agent, I am providing for you a hard copy of his report to the board for the July 2004 meetings, and a current roster of our active duty chaplains in the Armed Forces.

Thank you for allowing us to support this noble cause in behalf of our Grace Brethren Chaplains and their families. This will be my 17<sup>th</sup> year that I've had the privilege of writing monthly letters to members of the Eagle Commission and I am very, very grateful for the opportunity to continue.

**POLICY AND PROCEDURE  
of the  
CHAPLAINCY MINISTRY  
FELLOWSHIP OF GRACE BRETHREN CHURCHES**

**Statement of Purpose:**

We understand the purpose of chaplain ministry to be the sending of qualified representatives from local churches to minister the Word of God in specialized settings.

**Authority:**

The Fellowship Council is authorized to name endorsing agents to function on behalf of all our churches. Specialized settings for which endorsing agents will serve include the military chaplaincy, the Veteran's Administration chaplaincy, and the Civil Air Patrol chaplaincy. Upon request, endorsing agents will also serve other settings such as fire, police, hospital, prison, and industrial chaplaincies.

**Responsibility:**

Endorsing agents are named to serve indefinite terms under the auspices of the Grace Brethren North American Missions, Inc., hereafter called the parent organization.

- A. Endorsing Agents will not assume their responsibilities until they have been approved by the parent organization.
- B. The parent organization will supervise endorsing agents, and may employ its staff in support of chaplain ministry.
- C. The parent organization is responsible for the development of chaplain ministry, as it is responsible for the development of new churches. This responsibility includes, but is not limited to, the enlistment of chaplains, the raising and management of funds, and the prayerful support of Grace Brethren people.
- D. A "Chaplain Committee" will be formed by the parent organization to oversee chaplain ministry. The Committee will report to the Board of Directors of the parent organization, and the Board of Directors will report to the Fellowship Council on matters pertaining to chaplain ministry. The Committee will be composed of Board members from the parent organization and one military chaplain representative (active or reserve). Endorsing agents will serve as ex officio members of the Chaplain Committee.

**Initial Endorsement:**

The Endorsing Agent is authorized to grant initial endorsement for ministry in specialized settings according to procedures established by the Chaplain Committee and approved by the parent organization.

**Continuing Endorsement:**

The Endorsing Agent is authorized to grant continuing endorsements as he deems appropriate, and as additional endorsements are needed or required.

**Withdrawal of Endorsement:**

The Endorsement Agent is authorized to withdraw our endorsement for ministry in a specialized setting upon one or more of the following conditions:

- A. The transfer of a chaplain's credentials to another faith group.
- B. Persistent failure of the chaplain to faithfully represent our view of Christian faith and practice as expressed in our Statement of Faith, on condition that:
  1. Allegations of such failure are received from the chaplain himself, the chaplain's commander/supervisor, or at least two ministers familiar with the chaplain's life and work.
  2. The chaplain is personally notified of allegations of such failure by the Endorsing Agent or his representative.
  3. The allegations of such a failure are communicated to the Chaplain Committee to consider the withdrawal of our endorsement.
  4. When the Chaplain Committee meets to consider the withdrawal of endorsement, the chaplain under consideration has the right to be present to respond to the allegations. If the chaplain cannot be present, he will be encouraged to submit his response to the allegations in writing.
  5. If the Chaplain Committee agrees that the endorsement should be withdrawn, the Endorsing Agent will notify in writing the chaplain and the agency for which he works.

**Statement of Support:**

We call upon Grace Brethren Churches in America to fully support all men called and commissioned to fulfill ministry in our national military services, and we encourage qualified pastors to prayerfully follow God's leading into effective ministry for Christ within the Active and Reserve components of our military services.

Jerry Young

25 April 1988

Amended July 2004: Parent organization transferred to Grace Brethren Investment Foundation, Inc.

**CHAPLAIN ROSTER**  
**NATIONAL FELLOWSHIP OF GRACE BRETHREN CHURCHES**  
**Active Duty, Reserve, Veterans Affairs**  
**December 2004**

**Submitted by:**

**John W. Schumacher  
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Endorsing Agent, NFGBC**

**ARMY**

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# CIVIL AIR PATROL

## **Chaplain, Lt. Colonel Bill Cochran**

Wing Chaplain, Minnesota Civil Air Patrol

**Grace Brethren Boys/God Builds Boys  
FGBC Fellowship Council  
Report  
January 14, 2005**

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 [Boy Scouts, Christian Service Brigade, Awana, Indian Guides, etc.] programs into a ministry that would honor Christ, disciple men and boys in the "Word", and provide future leaders for the church.

The Lord has enabled GBB to serve churches by equipping men for leadership, providing ministry for boys in the church as well as for many un-churched and promoting ministry and mission mindedness. Last year there were 17 active units with 90 men and 280 boys, primarily in Indiana, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

The Lord has also enabled GBB to give financially to support other ministry and mission efforts. This past year GBB again supported the short-term mission efforts of men who came up through the ranks of Grace Brethren Boys. We also advised Bob Steiger of our intention to support him on a monthly basis once he begins language school in preparation for ministry in Africa with GBIM.

One of the difficulties we currently face is that everyone connected with GBB is a volunteer. That is wonderful in many ways and shows the level of commitment, however it is restrictive also. Everyone in leadership is also very active in other local church ministries. We cannot move as quickly as we would like. However, this year we will be looking into ideas that will enable GBB assist the greater Fellowship with the **Vision 2010** Growing-Going-Leading. We welcome all input.



Dear Friends:

I Thessalonians 5:16-18 tells us, "Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." Indeed,

these words have special meaning for the Grace Brethren Investment Foundation as together we reflect on our 2004 fiscal year completed May 31, 2004. With joy we thank our God for growth to a new total asset record of nearly \$87 million to help with future ministry outreach, a zero delinquency rate on total loans outstanding, and significant breakthroughs in prayer which have allowed new and existing fellowship ministries expand for Christ.

And through a continuing period of low savings rates, we have been pleased to reward GBIF investors with a safe and fair rate of return on investment accounts. The current rate of interest paid has remained above the U.S. national average for most money market funds and bank certificates of deposit.

What a blessing to hear from pastors across North America about the many breakthroughs in people's lives for Christ with the help of expanded facilities! Those ministries with GBIF assisted

funding in fiscal 2004 include: Ashland, OH; Bolling Conference Grounds, Roanoke, VA; Chico, CA; Columbia City, IN; GBNAM; Norton, OH; Raleigh, NC; Soldotna, AK; Souderton, PA; Virginia Beach, VA; Waldorf, MD; and Worthington, OH.

As we look forward together to God's plans for the GBIF, we must emphasize our need to prayerfully trust Him for the future of this ministry. Please join in prayer daily as we seek to be more than fair with interest paid on investment accounts as well as interest charged to fellowship ministries, but more importantly, wisdom in using GBIF funds to further advance the work of God's kingdom on earth.

On behalf of the GBIF staff and our Board of Directors, we send our sincere appreciation.



Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth A. Seyfert,  
Director

## GBIF

### FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDED MAY 31, 2004

#### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

##### ASSETS

Cash and Cash Equivalent	\$20,436,506
Investments	35,010,550
Accrued Interest	283,627
Loans Receivable	31,175,116
Equipment (Net)	30,194
Other Assets	14,435
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$86,950,428</u>

##### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Investment Accounts	\$80,651,581
Accrued Interest Payable	—
Contributions Payable - Affiliates	491,967
Other Liabilities	120,866
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>\$81,264,414</u>
Net Assets - Unrestricted	5,309,270
Equity in Property and Equipment	30,194
Investment Reserve	346,550
TOTAL NET ASSETS	<u>5,686,014</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	<u>\$86,950,428</u>

#### STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY & CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

##### REVENUE

Interest on Loans	\$2,482,963
Investment Revenue	1,907,372
TOTAL REVENUE	<u>\$4,390,335</u>

##### EXPENSES

Interest on Investment Accounts	\$2,777,577
Salaries and Services	247,836
Contributions	612,167
Reserve for Loans Receivable	—
Other Operating Expense	369,153
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$4,006,733</u>
INCREASE IN NET ASSETS	<u>\$383,602</u>

\*The following statement has been prepared using a modified cash basis of accounting in order to present a clear representation of the cash activity for the fiscal year ended May 31, 2004. This presentation is different from the audited financial statements, which are prepared using the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. A copy of the audited financial statements, including the auditor's opinion letter, is available for review at 1401 Kings Highway, Winona Lake, Indiana 46590-0587.

## **Report to the Fellowship Council**

Dave Guiles, Executive Director  
Grace Brethren International Missions  
January, 2005

Once again I am pleased to have an opportunity to share how Grace Brethren International Missions is seeking to assist the FGBC in reaching its three great goals of *growth by conversion*, *every church on mission*, and *more than enough leaders*... We consider it a privilege to serve a fellowship of churches which deeply shares these commitments with us.

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

A primary emphasis of GBIM is the evangelization of the nations. When understood in their biblical context, the nations refer to groups who share the same ethnic identity (defined by language, religion, caste, location or culture). Presently there are 15,962 identified "nations," or "people groups" in the world. Close to 7,000 are considered "unreached," which means that no indigenous community of believing Christians with adequate numbers and resources to evangelize this people group. (see [www.joshuaproject.org](http://www.joshuaproject.org) for more information.)

Although it is nearly impossible for us to know with certainty, our best information leads us to conclude that the FGBC is currently carrying on evangelist work among 110 people groups, located in 30 countries. GBIM seeks to fulfill the role of keeping the nations before the FGBC, creating awareness and facilitating evangelistic and church-planting ministries outside of our own people group. Praise God with us that the GBC continues to grow by conversions in many of these "nations."

Most recently, we have also begun to draw attention to the "nations among us." We doubt that a single member of a GBC in the US is totally isolated from the diverse people groups that God has providentially brought to our country. As immigrants, many of these men and women are open to friendship. They are seeking to understand and integrate themselves into their new country. Could it be that the greatest potential for U.S.-based conversion growth lies among these peoples? During the next few years we will be challenging US-based GBC to rediscover and aggressively evangelize the nations among us.

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

One of the most encouraging signs of spiritual vitality among our international family of churches is the emerging missions movement. At this time there are dozens of national workers who are being sent out as church-planters and

missionaries by their own churches and national organizations. GBIM is seeking to encourage this in three ways:

Through Charis Regional and International Encounters, which bring together visionary and effective leaders from each country where GBC's have been planted. Together they are wrestling with how to partner together in reaching the world for Christ.

Through Charis Associate Missionaries. These men and women are sent and supported by the GBC mission agencies of other countries. GBIM serves as a link that allows them to raise additional financial support through US-based churches. Often, we supply logistical and administrate support. Many of these national missionaries work closely with GBIM teams.

Through encouraging the development of Charis Missions Agencies. As mentioned above, the GBC's of other countries are now acting as intentional sending communities through deploying their own missionaries. GBIM provides counsel and training in this process. It is our goal that one day every Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches worldwide create and maintain its own indigenous missions sending agency.

**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 are working aggressively to partner with churches and leaders worldwide to provide leadership training for every church outside of North America by 2010. Through S.A.L.T. (the Strategic Alliance for Leadership Training), leadership training teams and systems are being developed to provide contextualized leadership training to anyone who seeks it. This is becoming a reality in Argentina, Brazil, the Philippines, and several other regions.

This past summer, a number of key leaders for S.A.L.T. gathered at the International Missions Center in Winona Lake, Indiana, to assess progress toward this goal. We were all pleasantly surprised to see how far all had progressed since the 2002 meetings. While much remains to be done, we rejoice in the passion and commitment of a growing number of FGBC trainers who are investing their time and talents into this task.

### **Closing thoughts**

On behalf of the 140 missionaries and staff of GBIM, we want to express our deep appreciation to our USA-based churches for their strong support of our ministries. In spite of great global uncertainties and the weakening dollar, your international missions agency continues to expand its global impact while enjoying strong financial support!



January 14, 2005

Dear FGBC Colleagues,

It is my privilege to present this first report to you as the new Executive Director of Grace Brethren North American Missions. As you are by now aware the family of ministries under the direction of the GBNAM Board of Directors has been restructured for greater effectiveness. Although we will remain closely linked to our sister ministry, the Grace Brethren Investment Foundation, both organizations will now be served by separate but overlapping Boards and by separate staffs, including Executive Directors.

I count it a great joy to have been entrusted with this responsibility and am looking forward to working closely with Kurt Miller our National Director of Church Planting in furthering the work of starting and establishing new local churches in the FGBC family.

As you might have guessed it is too early in my involvement as Executive Director to make any substantive report on our ministry. I would, however, like to share some of the key vision concepts that will guide our agency.

#### Current and Updated Strategy Issues

##### **Prayer**

First, we wish to make prayer the number one core value of our ministry. There is no substitute for reliance upon God for ministry fruitfulness. I fully expect to engage a prayer coordinator on staff who will oversee an ambitious prayer agenda for the ministry. I envision this ministry will include regular intercession on behalf of already established churches and pastors and a plea to our Father for resources, both human and financial, for the greater harvest.

##### **Church Planting**

Second, we are primarily a church planting agency and the object of all our endeavors, regardless of methodology, will be the salvation of lost souls in North America and their ongoing discipleship through the creation and establishing of new local churches. I expect that we will be very creative in the forms and methods used to achieve this end. With the Lord's help we will not be driven off course from striving toward this objective.

## **Key Church Resource Centers**

Third, the current strategy will continue in its essence but will be streamlined for greater effectiveness. My intent is to return to the strategy an aspect that was originally introduced to our board over a decade ago, but which for various reasons, we have been unable to implement. GBNAM will be endeavoring to establish across North America, Church-Based Leadership Resource Centers, for the purpose of preparing and equipping church planters for the harvest. These centers will be led by the Pastors of local churches and will involve our career, ethnic and world class city missionaries. The Centers will be connected by the highest technology and curriculum providing an additional system for the raising of leaders for the harvest. I have heard concern from both past and present Leadership Teams about from where and when the next generation of leaders will emerge. I hope to position our agency in such a way that we can, along with our fellow FGBC National Organizations, address this cause. My desire will be to partner with every single one of our fellow organizations for this purpose. I hope cooperation and encouragement will be the hallmark of our ministry.

I believe that when we add to the Resource Centers a Dynamic Pastoral Leadership, Career Missionary Involvement, Key World Class Cities Initiatives, and Cooperative Efforts among our already flourishing churches this will create a synergy for a clustering and multiplying of new local Grace Brethren Churches. We must strengthen and enlarge our base here in North America for our International Outreach to remain strong and viable. It will be to that end that we will work.

## **Organizational Issues**

The organizing documents of GBNAM include some interesting purposes for our ministry as part of the church planting agenda. These include the ministry of publication and the recruiting of young men to the ministry. In both the near and distant future we will endeavor to have both publishing and recruiting partnerships in place to achieve these objectives. As we publish and recruit, our desire is to place interns among our Key Resource Centers, utilize the Pastors as a dynamic Church-Based teaching faculty across North America and move forward with a collaborative effort among other Evangelicals pursuing similar ideas.

Some have wondered why the GBNAM Board has decided to engage a working pastor to head the agency. This choice was made in part to demonstrate a working model of a Church Planter Training Center to the FGBC. GBNAM is interested in providing real modeling of church planting - not merely provide a consulting value. Please know that our goal is to help make the Pastor and Local Church successful in its North American Mission of reproducing churches. I hope that GBNAM will provide for each of them real help in thinking through and achieving this end.

At this time it is too early to understand how our restructuring and multiplying of Resource Centers will impact our infrastructure. While I fully expect that GBNAM will have a presence in Winona Lake, it is very probable that we will operate out of each Resource Center as well. Consultants I have engaged will help us to determine in the near future where both the center and outlying infrastructure of our organization will be located. I will of course keep the Fellowship Council and the GBNAM constituency apprised of any changes in this area.

I am quite certain that we have both an excellent initiative in our strategies and deeply committed and qualified people fleshing these initiatives out across the North American Landscape. I would ask you to pray with and for us as we endeavor to serve our FGBC church planting efforts.

Sincerely in Jesus and for the love of His Church!

Dr. Timothy E. Boal  
Executive Director  
Grace Brethren North American Missions

**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  
14 January 2005**

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.”

**“Grow”**

At Grace ‘growth’ through evangelism happens by both direct and indirect means. Direct evangelism activity includes multiple ministry teams, service on church staffs, specially designed campus events, summer camps, and family-focused activities. Ministry teams work in a number of different settings. One example is the Jail Ministry Team that specifically targets evangelism and discipleship encounters within regional jails. Staff and students serve in various ministries within local churches that provide evangelism opportunities. Specially designed evangelism encounters with community people take place at annual campus events such as Funfest (1,000 plus attend this Halloween alternative for children) and Heart of the Holidays (approximately 800 attend), a food and clothing distribution to needy families with whom the gospel is shared. Hundreds of fourth- through twelfth-grade students attend Grace summer camps. One purpose for each camp is to clearly share the gospel with those attending. A more focused ministry is carried on with two unsaved, needy families in the community. The intent is to help meet physical needs, and the good news is specifically shared with the family members.

Evangelism opportunities happen through indirect means. These include interactions with numerous unsaved community people in organizations, businesses, clubs, and service organizations. Many staff members serve through community and regional boards, special community projects, professional organizations, and outreach initiatives at their local church.

For students these indirect evangelism opportunities occur through employment, internships within companies and service organizations, community projects such as the SALT initiative, local church opportunities, college sports ministry trips within the U.S. and beyond, and tutoring experiences. A number of ministry team experiences help sensitize students to sharing the gospel. However, the activities within the various organizations the students serve typically do not use students for direct evangelistic purposes.

Individual employees carry the light in their various campus duties carried out in the community. During campus prayer meetings unsaved people are prayed for routinely. Certain campus buildings are designated community zones, areas on the campus that are specifically open to community organizations and groups for meetings, seminars, dinners, etc. One benefit of this type of use is that campus personnel have opportunity to interact with unsaved people.

Through these direct and indirect means a number of conversions were reported during the 2004 year.

### **“Go”**

‘Going’ within the educational work of Grace College and Seminary has a number of dimensions. Certain courses and programs are designed to broaden the global vision of students. These include “Global Perspectives,” a course designed to help students develop an appreciation for other cultures and to encourage engagement (ministry and service) with people of other cultures. A requirement of the course is that college students must spend at least ten days within another culture; through this means students have opportunity to move outside their comfort zone. Additionally a number of courses in intercultural ministry are taught. Typically these courses are populated with students considering ministry service in the U. S. or elsewhere.

Short-term ministry trips and intercultural trips by campus groups (examples are sports, music, and selected academic programs such as business and modern languages) continue providing an opportunity for students to exercise their ministry muscle by encountering other cultures and learning to live out the Christian faith in these various settings.

The Latino initiative within our region continues developing. Currently several students from the local Latino community are attending the college. Some of them are beginning to see converts within their families. This initiative has now led to a Grace student (also a part-time employee) having multiple opportunities to interact with many Latino students in the public schools. This is an exciting venture.

During the fall 2004 semester a GBIM missionary (Grace graduate, Nate Dunlevy) served as Missionary-in-Residence on the campus. This type of service is also helpful in keeping staff and students focused on mission more fully.

There is another means whereby ‘go’ is being emphasized on campus. During 2004 Grace had forty-one people groups represented on campus (55 missionary children, 23 international students, 4 military children, and 7 domestic cultures). This representation from around the globe is serving as a continuing reminder about the spiritual and physical needs in other cultures.

During the coming year an increased focus will be put on student ministries with the goal of increasing student participation in meaningful and helpful ministry experiences that contribute to the health of the church and the encouragement of students.

## **“Lead”**

Grace actively engages in developing ‘ministry leaders’ for service in the United States and beyond. Each year the seminary graduates several dozen ministry leaders who will be involved in existing churches, church planting, mission service, and other ministry organizations. The college also graduates several dozen students each year who go on to assume staff positions in local churches, camps, and other ministries. These graduating ‘millennials’ (‘eco-boomers’) are often very thirsty for ministry service but are less and less drawn to what is viewed by them as traditional, low-risk, or ‘out-of-touch-with-life’ ministry opportunities. This is a pattern that is not going away. Because of this we are working hard as a campus to understand and engage these students. This is a critically important issue, and we encourage a similar effort of engagement across the spectrum of the FGBC. This is partly behind the issues of more traditional churches unable to connect with ‘millennials’ as ministry leaders. A good deal of material has been written about the subject. Both the college and the seminary are progressing in understanding these ‘eco-boomers’ and what their profile means for ministry.

The seminary is directly involved in helping with the Equip 2005 and 2007 conferences. These initiatives along with the seminary’s doctor of ministry program help provide continuing education opportunities for ministry leaders.

A formal mentoring program has been started in the seminary. This program is structured to place ministry students in an extended mentoring setting with successful ministry leaders. The program is characterized by a strong focus on accountability. Other campus initiatives aimed at leadership development include the *Center for Character and Leadership Development* that services 150 students each year. The *Orthopaedic Scholars Institute* is helping students live out the Christian faith in the workplace. The *Latino Initiative* mentioned above helps individual Latino students gain leadership experience through directed learning opportunities. The *Prison Education Program* is helping inmates live out their witness inside the prison communities, becoming missionaries within the prison system.

Distance education initiatives are being pursued in order to address leadership education beyond the campus. The seminary is supporting an employee in doctoral work in distance education in order to evaluate and build a place for online learning within the FGBC.

## **Institutional Background Information**

The total institutional enrollment for fall 2004 was 1325 students. Grace as an institution carries on five major educational endeavors: The arts and sciences undergraduate on-campus college (921), the prison education program (228), the masters program in counseling (33), the seminary [143 (72 masters, 38 distance education, and 33 doctors)],

and numerous educational ministries and services (examples: ministry teams to urban areas, local churches, and prisons; tutoring of P-12 students; Latino initiatives; a public museum; an art gallery; the American Lyceum Lecture series; the MasterWorks Festival; conferences; seminars; workshops; camps; Orthopaedic Scholars Institute).

The 165-acre campus has more than twenty buildings totaling nearly 500,000 sq. ft. of space. A new building planned for the near future is the Orthopaedic Capital Center, a 56,000 sq. ft. multi-use facility (capacity for speaking and concert events is 2,700; will house college chapel; has meeting rooms with capacity ranging from 75 to 150; can host small trade shows; will provide for intercollegiate sports, etc.). Approximately \$5.5 million has been raised toward the \$7.6 million building. Once 90% of the funding is in hand, the process of final approval for construction will begin. In addition there is an outdoor athletic field (Miller Field) that provides intercollegiate baseball, softball, tennis, and soccer facilities. Morgan Library houses 140,000 volumes plus a microfiche collection, archives, an online data retrieval system, and special collections including the papers of American evangelist, Billy Sunday. The library is also part of a nation-wide interlibrary loan system and is networked to data bases providing more than 19,000 full-test 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 (Chicago).

Grace Theological Seminary has been approved for associate membership in the Association of Theological Schools and is completing paperwork for receiving approval from the Ohio Board of Regents to offer academic programming in Columbus, Ohio. In addition a number of programs have specialized accreditation.

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| • Business          | International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education                 |
| • Music             | National Association of Schools of Music                                 |
| • Social Work       | Council of Social Work Education   |
| • Teacher Education | National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education                  |
| • MA in Counseling  | Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs |

Grace is a member of the Alpha Chi National Honor Society, the smaller college equivalent of Phi Beta Kappa. Furthermore, Grace also 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.

Currently Grace has approximately 225 employees who help the organization carry out its support of the *GrowGoLead* vision of the FGBC.

Dear Fellowship Council:

During 2004, the staff of Grace Village Retirement Community with Board support and approval:

- Held first banquet for and saw the Caring Friends Endowment grow to \$211,000.
- Completed final payout to all investors in May.
- Completed a tri-plex and a quad-plex Robin Hood project with four new leases.
- Continued to fill up the new Assisted Living addition. Currently 25 units out of 26 are full with 28 residents.
- Held annual staff retreat to better prepare our team for the future.
- Completed a mock survey to prepare for our annual state inspection survey.
- Competed the year with a bottom line of \$187,519.
- Total investment income was \$62,338.
- Held two CNA training sessions to address staffing needs.
- Designated four more beds as skilled, with resulting increased revenue.
- Updated strategic plan with Board and staff input.
- Grace Village overall population has grown to around 300 with an occupancy rate of around 95%.
- Grace Village continues to be a bright spot, locally, for the Grace Brethren Church.
- CEO, Jeff Carroll, was re-elected to a second, four-year term on the Winona Lake Town Council.
- Continued to develop a strategy to address the retirement needs of the Brethren in Columbus, Ohio.

Of interest to the Church at large is the raising of funds to defray the costs of the lawsuit for former Board members. The following is a highlight summary of the funds raised and the source of the funds:

\$31,845.00 from Church gifts  
\$40,000 total from Grace Brethren Investment Foundation  
\$15,000 from the Brethren Missionary Herald  
\$42,429 from Grace Village special funds and gifts  
In total, \$119,130 has been paid to defendants to date on the settlement and \$86,590 for the legal fees.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Carroll, CEO  
Grace Village

Internationals USA, Inc.  
Report to the Fellowship Council  
January 17, 2005

In January of 2004 the board of Internationals USA, Inc., at a meeting in Simi Valley, CA, approved the relocation of its ministries to the Bellflower/Lakewood area. The board felt led to approve a partnership with the Bellflower Brethren Church (BBC) in the pursuit of outreach to internationals that is relevant, local-church initiated and sustained, demographically strategic, and capable of reproducing itself in other similar locations.

The elders at BBC approved a plan to provide IUSA with facilities on their campus on Flower Street in Bellflower. We immediately began renovation of a room that had been previously used as a classroom and after a couple of months, with the generous contributions of people throughout the country, we were able to complete the renovation of this space, making it more than adequate for our needs.

We moved into the facilities around mid-fall and have been enjoying it ever since. The 90706 Zip Code, where the church is located, has been recently featured in the Los Angeles Times as the most diverse in the country, in terms of language representations, boasting a total of 40. The area is surrounded by the nations, a very strategic place to mobilize the people of God to reach the nations among us.

We are at the early stage of implementing a plan to mobilize people from our local churches to reach internationals living and studying in their midst. Our prayer is that people will utilize their home as a center for outreach that is at once domestic and world class. We want to see many small groups of believers reaching internationals from the comfort of their homes started in the next three years.

Please, pray that God will lead us in this effort. The transition for the Trindade family has not been what they expected a year ago. Their house in Simi Valley has taken a long time to sell and they are now living at a small apartment in Norwalk, where their youngest son, Joshua, goes to school. At the writing of this report an offer has been made for their home in Simi Valley and it should open escrow on Tuesday, January 18. Pray that things will go through without any impediment. They have also put an offer on a house in Norwalk. Pray for things to go smooth there as well. God is in control and we must rest in this knowledge!

We are very thankful to be part of a fellowship that loves the way we do. We have felt the love and prayers of so many across the country and want to express our deepest appreciation. Please, pray for the new work in Bellflower, that God will send us the workers and that the harvest will be plentiful.

Lord willing, in a couple of years, we will be helping our fellowship in a tangible way to address our most pressing need, which is to reach the lost, across the yard and across the oceans. We look at the cities and see that we must reach people there. IUSA wants to provide an opportunity and a model for reaching the people of the world on our doorstep. Please, pray for us in this effort.

With God, for the nations,

Pastor Ivanildo Trindade  
Executive Director, Internationals USA, Inc.

[www.intlusa.org](http://www.intlusa.org)

[www.intlusa.org/blog](http://www.intlusa.org/blog)

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Report to Tom Avey and Fellowship Council  
Submitted by Janet Minnix, President  
January 2005

#### PICTURES IN AN ALBUM

- ◆ Eleven Grace Brethren women hurrying to catch a train in Mexico City, on their way to a ladies' brunch
- ◆ Ten women from an Ohio church, on the streets of Philadelphia, reading Bible stories to children or praying with people who live in the row houses around Urban Hope.
- ◆ The faces of military wives on an Army base in Hawaii as they receive gift bags prepared for them by Grace Brethren women and men.
- ◆ A grandmother helping a third grade girl to memorize scripture during an after-school SMM club in an elementary school.
- ◆ Hundreds of women across the U.S., in groups large and small, meeting to study God's word and bringing their unchurched friends with them.
- ◆ Women packing shoeboxes with school and personal items for needy children in Russia and other European countries.
- ◆ A woman learning Spanish in preparation for a mission trip, and telling her Hispanic language partner about Jesus.
- ◆ District Women of Grace groups donating a combined total of over \$4,000.00 toward supplies and upkeep of the Missionary Residence in Winona Lake, Indiana.
- ◆ A group of young women bowed in prayer for a missionary from their church who is experiencing discouragement.

These are just a few glimpses of what's being done by Grace Brethren women across the U.S. as they respond to opportunities for spiritual growth and involvement – scenes that represent what Women of Grace USA is all about: *challenging Grace Brethren women to be radically in love with Christ and actively engaged in God's mission to reconcile a lost world to Himself.*

Women of Grace USA 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 by encouraging women to be personally involved in God's mission, to see themselves as "sent ones" wherever they are, and to support other people and ministries whose primary mission is evangelism and disciple making. 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**.

The core values of Women of Grace USA are God's Word, Prayer, Mission, Mentoring, Community and Leadership. Highlighted here are three of values, and a current focus in each of those areas.

## **MISSION**

As I write this report, a Women of Grace GO Team is serving for 10 days in Buenos Aires, Argentina and Montevideo, Uruguay. Working with missionaries and Argentine women, these 12 ladies are hearing the testimonies of their Argentine sisters, telling them of God's work in other parts of the globe, visiting a nursing home, doing a "bring-your-old-clothes" work project, helping with a children's ministry, and generally encouraging and helping with the church-planting work of the missionary team.

One way to encourage women in their involvement in God's mission is by providing opportunities to **GO**. In addition to the Mexico City team, the 2004 Women's Ministry Teams included Urban Hope and a fall team to visit the Hispanic churches in the Tampa area. Teams for 2005 are the Argentina team, Urban Hope in May, and Trinidad in October. It is a privilege to work with Grace Brethren International Missions, CE National, and Grace Brethren North American Missions to promote and sponsor these ministry opportunities.

Encouraging missions involvement among college women can play an important part in influencing young women to consider a missions-focused career. This spring Women of Grace USA will award its first scholarships to Grace College women who have a Missions major/minor or have a Missions focus in their future, to help them participate on short-term teams sponsored by GBIM, GBNAM or CE National. All gifts given to WGUSA in memory of or in honor of an individual are placed in the *Honor Her Scholarship Fund* for this purpose.

## **MENTORING**

Believing that women have a biblical directive to invest themselves in nurturing girls and women toward Christ likeness, one of the six core values of Women of Grace is mentoring. It is our privilege and joy to accept from CE National the ownership and responsibility for the SMM program for girls. CE has graciously and generously given excellent oversight and direction to the ministries of SMM for 30 years, and we deeply appreciate their contribution and sound leadership. By the grace of God, and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we will continue to build on the foundation laid by SMM's founders and strengthened by CE National, developing resources and methods that are relevant for mentoring and training girls in today's world. Under the direction of Viki Rife, Director of SMM, a Cabinet has been appointed and has begun reviewing the SMM MasterPlan and its goals, and evaluating current materials.

In her November 2004 report to the WGUSA Leadership Team, Viki said, *"Research shows that we cannot wait until a girl is even 9 years old to start—by then her moral foundations are already in place... Titus 2:3-5 is much harder to fulfill if we allow our girls to learn their values from their peers and the media when they are young, then try to 'teach the younger women'...after they have developed an unteachable spirit. My dream is that every girl in a Grace Brethren church will have a woman involved in her life who is committed to shepherding her."* Our prayer is two-fold: for wisdom in making the SMM program relevant for girls today, and that women will respond to the need to be personally involved in girls' lives.

## **LEADERSHIP**

Probably the most significant event of 2004 was the Leadership Summit held in November. WGUSA national and district leaders were joined by women representing all parts of the country and a variety of ministries, and who shared a common vision and passion that Grace Brethren women be fully formed followers of Christ who are living their faith and fulfilling their part in God's mission. The 30 women brainstormed ways to incorporate the values of Women of Grace into the women's ministry of a local church, and were challenged by husband-and-wife team, Dave and Julie Lawson, to focus on the essentials while seeing the value of change and growth to meet the needs of today's women. The Second

Annual Leadership Summit is scheduled for the first weekend in November 2005, in Berlin, Ohio. Lord willing, the 2006 Leadership Summit will be held in the Midwest or West.

In other areas, the Leadership Team is currently evaluating every aspect of Women of Grace through the grid of our core values, including the large number of projects we support each year and the way we vote and do business. A new leadership structure being developed to replace the current Leadership Team will be based on representation from each of the core value areas. Future resource materials will include helps and ideas for integrating the values into a local women's ministry.

### **RESOURCES AND GIVING**

WGUSA's theme this year is "Pathways—Promised Land or Wilderness". Resource materials emphasize the different pathways we may travel through life and the choices we make on our journey. Missionaries and ministry wives have shared testimonies of God's sufficiency as they have sometimes walked in the joy of the promised land and sometimes in the wilderness. Women pray faithfully for pastors, church planters, missionaries and ministries around the world. And in the fiscal year 2003-2004 women gave more than \$53,000.00 to ministries such as

- House of Refuge GBC in Salt Lake City;
- Security system for the mission property, Bangui, Central African Republic;
- Chimes in the McClain Hall tower, Grace Schools;
- Sponsoring SMM;

and projects that help other ministries, districts and local churches.

How do the values, programs and activities of Women of Grace USA fit with the FGBC's focus on Grow, Go and Lead?

**GROW:** Conversion growth will be the result when women are growing in love with Christ through studying ***God's Word, Prayer***, and personal involvement in fulfilling the Great Co***Mission***.

**GO:** God's ***Mission*** for each of us is to go to our neighbors, community and world and make disciples.

In addition to personal evangelism, we can fulfill our ***Mission*** through ***Mentoring*** or ***Community*** – relationships of support, one-on-one or group accountability, intentional cultivating/planting/reaping events, or by studying ***God's Word*** with unbelievers

**LEAD:** ***Leadership*** development can mean intentionally reproducing and training leaders, or it may take place in settings of ***Mission, Mentoring, or Community***.

As we implement our core values, we support and help the local church, and the FGBC, to fulfill its mission.

On behalf of Women of Grace USA, I want to thank each member of Fellowship Council for your leadership in our Fellowship and your commitment to growing and leading healthy churches that are reproducing themselves and fulfilling the Great Commission. Thank you, Moderators, for seeking God's heart and leading us to catch His vision for the FGBC. I would like to say thanks to each of the other cooperating organizations for your support and encouragement, and the privilege of partnering with you in the work God has given us to do. A special word of thanks goes to the Grace Brethren Investment Foundation, whose generous gifts to Women of Grace have enabled us to make progress in ways that would not have been possible otherwise. And finally, thank you, Tom Avey, for your tireless work to keep the FGBC growing, going, leading together, and celebrating what God is doing through the FGBC, to His glory.