

January 2006

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 West coast doing training at Norwalk, California, and an Operation Barnabas International team that will be going to Brazil.
  - 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 BIOLA in La Mirada, California, and a strong emphasis will be challenging youth reach out through training in The Way of the Master. 2600 attended daily at last year's BNYC in Cedarville, Ohio and there were 800 decisions.
  - 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. Jason Holt is coordinator and a team of 10 people lead house churches.
  - 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. This year all cabinet training will combine to offer a special weekend in March called ReMix.
  - 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 were 6 one-day events planned in 2005 that were 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. Over 600 attended the events.
  - 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. June will offer a special seminar weekend for associate pastors.
  - 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 (Fusion), a new young adult cabinet will begin. We also endorse the 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 them selves 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. 23 students participated in the year-long program. Locations are Akron, Ohio, and Sebring, Florida.

- 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. Effectiveness of the new 4:12 Commission
  - iii. The construction of the Training Center, which will be used as a catalyst for offering training and resources for the FGBC. Construction begins this spring.

If there are any questions please feel free to contact me at [edlewis@cenational.org](mailto:edlewis@cenational.org).

In His Work,

Ed Lewis  
Executive Director