



"Think about ways to encourage one another to outbursts of love and good deeds." (Heb. 10:24)

The Encourager

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An Inside Look

Disasters have a human component



Pastor Brian

We live in a world of many different kinds of disasters. Whether it's terrorism or war or storms or earthquakes, it's impossible to avoid that our planet not only sustains life, it contains and allows

for the conditions that bring about pain and death.

Of course, the most recent example of this reality is the earthquake that has brought unimaginable suffering and destruction in Haiti. It is a natural disaster of monumental proportions.

But the greatest disaster that often occurs during a natural disaster is not the natural disaster itself. It is the human disaster that precedes it and gives it its power. In fact, we might even say the natural disaster simply reveals the human disaster that was already there.

To explain what I mean, let's consider a different earthquake. El Salvador was struck by a powerful and devastating earthquake Jan. 13, 2001, that killed more than 1,000 people, injured nearly 8,000, brought significant material loss to 1.5 million people, led to the evacuation of close to 70,000 people, destroyed close to 200,000 homes with 150,000 more damaged, severely damaged close to 1,200 public buildings, destroyed 91 schools, damaged or destroyed 405 churches, and brought massive psychological damage to a nation that has experienced multiple natural disasters in the past.

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Fourth-quarter living

Six ideas for finding purpose and joy after retirement

BY LARRY NIKKEL

I recently was asked to lead the adult Wednesday evening Bible Study and, having recently retired, decided to share some thoughts on "fourth quarter" living. As you contemplate these thoughts, feel free to expand the list.

1. Make a commitment to continue to grow.

While many of us continue to be active in retirement, we also experience more time for leisure than we may have had, including more time to read. Much of my spiritual growth has come from reading.

It was a great joy for me to see my dad benefit from reading in his retirement years. Shortly before he died he was reading Chuck Swindoll's book, "The Grace Awakening." He told my niece he wished he had been able to read the book 50 years earlier.

If we are to take our responsibility as mentors to church family members and others seriously, we must commit ourselves to continued personal and spiritual growth.

2. We have to be willing to shift from "doers" to "encouragers."

We are not finished with our work when we can no longer do the things we formerly did. It now becomes our responsibility to encourage those who now have the responsibilities we once had.

The late Dr. H.A. Fast from Mountain Lake, Minn., once told me that when he and other young men came home from serving as conscientious objectors in World War I, they had a vision for how the church

should reach out in response to human need. They received no support from the people in their home communities. He resolved that if he was ever in a position to help advance the vision of young people, he would do so.

His opportunity came years later when the Civilian Public Service men

came home after World War II. They had worked in large, impersonal and ineffectual psychiatric hospital wards where people were essentially warehoused. They petitioned the Mennonite Central Committee to begin a work with the mentally ill.

It was Dr. Fast who made the motion for MCC to become engaged in beginning Mennonite mental health centers all across the country.

3. We have to find our identity in who we are, not in titles we may have had.

A friend recently retired from a prestigious job and moved across the country to be nearer his family. I talked to him soon thereafter asking him how things were going. Among other things he told me that, "I don't know who I am."

Men are especially vulnerable to having their self-worth wrapped up in "what they do." If we are to live successfully in the fourth quarter, we have to find our identity in who we are.

4. We have to move from people who have been in control to being people of influence. Early in our lives being in control was a part of our responsibility. That

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Faces In Our Places

New family finds a familiar home

Caleb Marsh and Jillian Brown began dating following a mission trip to St. Louis, Mo., sponsored by World Impact. At that time, they were both Tabor College students.

They were married June 28, 2008, at HMBC. On Jan. 5, 2010, their son, Newell Simeon, was born in Salina.

After their marriage, they moved to Emporia, where Caleb was self-employed as a flight instructor. Jillian commuted to her job at Smoky Hill Education Services Center in Salina. While living in Emporia, they joined Flint Hills Christian Church.

Recently they moved from Emporia to 206 E. Grand here in Hillsboro. Both have continued with their employment, and when Jillian's maternity leave ends, she will do a major amount of her work at home on her computer.

Moving back to Hillsboro locates them closer to both of their families. Caleb's parents are Dave and Cheri Marsh of



Jillian and Caleb Marsh welcomed Newell into their lives Jan. 5. They began dating as Tabor College students.

rural Hillsboro, and Jillian's parents are Greg and Denise Brown of Hillsboro.

Caleb has two older brothers, Brady and Tyler, and two sisters, Erin and Hannah. Jillian has three younger brothers, Nicholas, Spencer and Jesse.

Caleb and Jillian are both graduates of Tabor College. Caleb's degree is in business management; Jillian's, in communications and marketing. Caleb's flight-instruction classes were taken at Hesston College. Caleb graduated from Hillsboro High School, and Jillian graduated from

Minneapolis (Kan.) High School.

Both of their spiritual journeys began early. Caleb was converted at the age of 5 during AWANA in a church in Lexington, Neb. Jillian asked Jesus to come into her heart at home at the age of 3.

When asked about their future, Jillian referred to the verse in Proverbs 19:21: "Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails."

They are listening and are open to God's leading.

In their home, Jillian has an art room where she creatively works with wire and metal jewelry. Caleb has a music room where he composes and plays his acoustic guitar, an electric guitar, as well as drums. His Web site is myspace.com/followks.

At HMBC they have completed Pastor Brian's business elective and are looking forward to other electives beginning soon.

Caleb, Jillian and Newell, we're glad you're a part of HMBC!

—Carrol L. Ediger

Kids Connection

Love a key theme during February

What has lots of wiggles and giggles and smiles a lot? The answer would have to be the children at Kids Connection.

This month has been filled with all kinds of activities. We began February by talking about love and celebrating Valentine's Day. The preschool classes heard the story of the Good Samaritan and then acted out the story. They also talked about how they could show love to their friends and also their enemies.

Each class had a Valentine party. Ms. Lori's class was treated to a "fancy party," complete with tablecloth and glass tea sets. The toddlers helped celebrate Valentine's by making sugar cookies.

Next, it was President's Day. The children made a cherry tree with finger paint and also a three-cornered hat. They were able to see the different presidents' faces on the coins and take home their own sil-



Gavin Priest receives his drink during the Kids Connection's "fancy party" in celebration of Valentine's Day.

houette, which their teachers drew of them.

Finally it was "Nutrition and Dental Health Week." Each child at Kids Connection is required to brush his or her teeth every day after breakfast or lunch. After a visit from two dental hygienists, the child-

ren learned why brushing is so important.

The younger children practiced brushing teeth by using shaving cream on an up-side down egg carton. Brushing teeth has never been so much fun. We discussed good nutrition as we heard the story of Daniel saying no to the king's food and yes to healthy foods. God wants us to make good food choices, too.

Again we say thank-you to everyone who helps us in

small ways, like fixing our torn dress-up clothes, washing our sleeping-mat sheets each week, cleaning our dishes and other messes, and also for the snacks that have been brought in. We appreciate it. If you would like to get involved, give our director Tracy Hefley a call.

Valentine's Banquet

Elements combine for fun evening

What do you get when you have about 280 folks dressed in their finest, a delicious catered meal, awesome decorations, and a talented young singer, complete with a dead-pan accompanist?

You've got HMBC's 2010 Valentine's Banquet. What a fun evening it was. The meal, always good, was catered by Panhandlers and served by our own MBY. Thanks, kids, you did a great job.

Unlike previous years, our entertainment was a guy, Jake Schmidt; thus, the more "manly" decor, modeled after Jake's CD "The Bridge." Although Jake tends to sing mostly country-style, he surprised us by singing a variety of songs, from bluesy to country to "fun" love songs, to his own original creations.

His sidekick, Larry, showed a variety of styles on the keyboard, not to mention a few crazy under-the-breath comments.

The most striking thing, though, was our congregation's outreach. A quick scan of Fellowship Hall told us there were at least 40 to 50 new faces. That's exciting! A perfect place to reach out and build new friendships.

A photo-op was also provided before the banquet, courtesy of Marion Regier and her daughter-in-law Katie. It was a nice



Jake Schmidt (left) and his sidekick, Larry, perform for gathering of about 280 people.

way to create a remembrance of a fun evening. Thanks, Marion.

Baby-sitting was provided by the MBY and assorted volunteers. There were tons of kids! The team did a great job keeping everyone "corralled" and we hear they slept very well that night.

One more thing. Thanks again, Delora, for your hours of drawing, painting, glu-

ing, glittering, and whatever else you did to make the Fellowship Hall look so great. Also, a big "thanks" to the spouses of the men's team. You worked hard on Friday night and Saturday morning.

And we can't forget to say a special "thanks" to the great team of guys who spent hours planning. It was well worth it.

—Ron Duerksen

FOURTH, cont'd from Page 1

was especially true in our parenting roles. But as we grow older, the areas of our lives over which we have control continue to shrink. But with the loss of control also comes a reduction in responsibility.

By how we use ourselves, we can be people who can have a positive or negative influence. If we can be affirming and encouraging, we become people who energize and empower others. If we can only complain and resist, we become "energy leaks."

5. We have to make the commitment to engage in meaningful activities and develop meaningful relationships. I was once asked to give an award to someone who had given many years of service after his retirement. I arranged a luncheon meeting in order to prepare for the award ceremony. I asked him how he had gotten involved with volunteering. He told me that after he retired he had gone to see his

pastor with the concern that he just wasn't living "the abundant life." His pastor told him to go to the VA Hospital and ask to see the loneliest person in the hospital.

He was so taken with the impact of his visits to this man that he decided to volunteer in other places where he could offer friendship. In this way he engaged in meaningful activity and which led to meaningful relationships.

Many times my resolve has been strengthened and my spirits lifted through the simple act of receiving an affirming note from someone I respected.

6. Perhaps the greatest commitment is the determination to age with grace. Even if one has a positive outlook on life, there is no question that life in the fourth quarter represents certain losses. If we can be gracious with and appreciative of those who care for us, who pay our bills, who feed and clothe us; we can be a blessing to them, we can lighten their burden and we can enjoy fourth quarter living.



WAY 2 GO!

"I CAN DO ALL THINGS THRU HIM"

■ Hillsboro Middle School seventh-grader **Claire Heyen** became the 2010 Marion County Spelling Bee champion Feb. 10 in the Marion High School auditorium. P-s-y-c-h-o-a-n-a-l-y-s-i-s was the word that clinched first-place honors in the ninth round.

■ Hillsboro Middle School students **Erin Wiebe** and **Tanner Sechrist** served as legislative pages for Rep. Bob Brookens at Topeka Jan. 27.

■ **Ben Steketee** was a member of the Hillsboro High School Scholars Bowl team that qualified for state competition.

Way 2 Go! is a new feature that recognizes recent accomplishments within our church family.

Connections

Stoeszes still at work in Winnipeg

After 19 years with World Impact in Los Angeles and nine more in Wichita, we moved to Winnipeg, Man., almost seven years ago. It was important to us that we move closer to Fred's family as his mom and dad are moving on in years.

Now in their 80s, they continue to minister to dozens and dozens of seniors in a variety of ways. We try to spend time with them each week.

Many of you know Fred has gone through an amazing battle with kidney cancer that began soon after we arrived in Canada. The battle has ebbed and flowed with a number of major surgeries as kidney cancer can move throughout the body.

This past year seemed hard on both of us as Fred had another seizure on Christmas Day 2008. He then lost his driver's license for six months, and then doctors found cancer in the left hip. This resulted in a total hip replacement and routine radiation for any cancer cells that may have still remained.

And still, God has done amazing things. Each month Fred takes medication for possible seizures and has regular doctor visits and continues to feel stronger and stronger. His mind, too, is becoming clearer after surgeries on the brain some years ago.

We are so amazed and thankful for what God has done, and we seek to live aware of our dependence on Him and at



EDITOR'S NOTE: Fred Stoesz works in Winnipeg, Man., under the responsibility of the Mennonite Brethren of Canada. He also remains in partnership with World Impact Inc., where he and Jolene have served for some 33 years. Fred works in support of an inner-city church in Winnipeg. Jolene, who was nurtured at HMBC during her youth, continues to minister alongside Fred and works part time as an educational assistant in a Winnipeg inner-city school.

the same time understand His amazing power and presence.

This year God brought another ministry opportunity into Fred's life. He, along with a cluster of Hispanic church leaders, began another leadership training center of Hispanic church leaders based on the model of World Impact's Urban Ministry Institute. He and others started such a school in English after we arrived.

The center is doing well. Fred recently started the same Bible school in Spanish for Hispanic students and pastors. He

never thought he would be engaged again with a Spanish group here in Winnipeg. We presently have 18 amazing students, each with a unique life story.

The two of us remain engaged with Christian Family Center, a small "inner-city" church, not far from our home. This church has partnered with the Mennonite Brethren of Manitoba. It is tremendously diverse with people of different colors and cultures. We have Anglo, African and Hispanic people who attend our church regularly. So many have become our sisters and brothers, and we have opportunities to invest in them in Christ. For immigrants, especially, it's not easy starting over in Winnipeg.

I continue to work in a junior high school every weekday morning. This has not been easy as it's a tough inner-city school where already I can see the brokenness of many children. Many students are immigrants, some from the "native" communities of the far north. This offers a daily opportunity to represent Jesus to both students and teachers. I work with a team dealing specifically with those students who have mental, physical and social handicaps.

Our son, Aaron, and daughter, Lisa, were both married in recent months, so all four of our children now are married and moving on with life. They each have their own story. Our daughter, Laura, and her husband, C.J., live in Wichita and are about to give us our first grandchild in June. We can hardly wait! It should give us another reason to come to Wichita for a visit.

Thanks again for all your prayers and financial support in these many years. Feel free to call us at 204-667-9192 or e-mail me. —Jolene Stoesz

Help for Haiti

Quilt blitz draws kids and adults

Hillsboro MB became a beehive of activity Saturday, Feb. 6, as women and children arrived, eager to answer the call for quilts for Haiti.

It was exciting to see women who had never tied a quilt working alongside seasoned quilters, plus an estimated 20 to 25 boys and girls so serious and intent on creating designs on a small muslin square

using crayons.

The muslin squares went from the "drawing board" to the ironing board (to set the color), then to the sewing machine to make a quilt top.

The following Tuesday, women of the Naomi Circle finished the project by adding batting and a back, then tying it all together to make a child's soft quilt.

It was so special when Jessyca Pierre, a Tabor freshman and Haitian, came to help tie. Jessyca, her mother, and grandmother live in Kansas City, but all of their relatives live in Haiti.

Jessyca's mother is in touch with an uncle who was injured in the quake. There is very little food; they're living on the street. One relative is presumed dead and

two others are missing. When Jessyca read the note about HMBC quilting project on the Tabor bulletin board, she decided to help.

The quilt blitz yielded four regular-sized comforters and two small quilts.

Thanks to all of those who were a part of this project.

HMBC FAMILY LIFE

BIRTHS

Colt William, born Jan. 29 to Sean and Adri Bechtold.

DEATHS

Edward Penner, Feb. 10
Harold Just, Feb. 18

DISASTERS, *cont'd from Page 1*

For a small country like El Salvador these numbers are staggering!

The earthquake in El Salvador registered somewhere between 7.7 and 7.9 on the Richter scale. But it was not the earth's tremors alone that led to the destruction in El Salvador. Prior to the earthquake, a human disaster was taking place. It was the disaster of greed and injustice.

That human disaster occurs when greed fuels an economy, and injustice is an embedded value of the government. (El Salvador's government is not alone in this). Greed and injustice produces a kind of poverty that gives destructive power to a natural disaster. That is the full story of the disaster in El Salvador and often the full story of natural disasters in other parts of the world.

The reality is that the poor and oppressed are always hit harder by natural disasters than are the privileged. They cannot afford homes that will survive the disaster and do not have access to resources to help them rebuild afterward.

If the poor are in that state due to the presence of greed and injustice, then the greatest tragedy was not the natural disaster, it was the human disaster that cooperated with it and gave it power.

To be blunt, by looking at El Salvador we don't see the truth about El Salvador; we see the truth about the world that produces El Salvador. When we look at the poor and the marginalized, we don't see the truth about them; we see the truth about the world and about the people (ourselves included) who produce them.

When we look at Jesus on the cross, we don't just see the truth about the suffering

servant; we see the truth about the world that caused His suffering.

What is the application for us? It's a hard one, but I feel God drawing me toward it more and more. Jesus's heart broke over the oppression of people caused by greed and injustice.

The notion that the rich become richer and the poor become poorer is a worldly value, not a Kingdom value. In fact, I believe God wants my heart to break over the incredible poverty and oppression that exists in our world and to recognize that it may be my own greed and my willingness to benefit from unjust structures that are helping to perpetuate it.

It's the acceptance that the greatest disaster in this world is not a natural disaster but a human disaster in which I participate.

—Pastor Brian

C.E. CLIPS, *cont'd from Page 6*

teach. As we stepped into our new building in June 2007, Delora stepped back into teaching children on Wednesday nights. Currently, she is teaching 4- and 5-year-olds on Sunday mornings. Her other ministry in Christian education includes many years of VBS activity and also leadership on the Christian Nurture Board.

Delora says her biggest highlights have come in what some might consider "small things," such as sitting and talking with the children, watching a child "soak up the Bible story," or hearing that a child has accepted Jesus at home and knowing she has had "just a little part in their decision."

She said one of the biggest blessings she had as a teacher was "when a little boy was kind to another child that was being picked on." This went right along with the story that day. "Oh, to have the faith of a small child!"

If you have observed Delora as she prepares for teaching and works with the children, she doesn't have to tell you that she *loves* working with them. It shows in her smile, her hugs, and in her creativity in marching around the assembly room with the children—stopping every so often to tell an experience the children of Israel had.

Delora, you're one of the best! We're so thankful for you and for your faithfulness to God's call in your life here at HMBC. May God continue to bless you richly as you continue to minister.

■ **As I conclude this report**, I want to leave you with a challenge: If you are not already involved in mentoring someone in



Delora Kaufman with her class of Pre-K and Kindergarten Sunday school. A veteran of 38 years of teaching, she began her teaching "career" when she was in junior high.

your life, I encourage you to try it. Pray about it and let the Holy Spirit direct your thoughts. The communication level may change if mentoring a 3-year-old or a 30-year-old, but the goal is the same: to see them grow in their faith in Jesus.

"Mentoring" may sound a little intimidating, or we may be afraid to become involved because we think we don't have enough time or even that we don't have anything to offer. In reality, mentoring is often simply being an "encourager."

When we become a child of God, we have spiritual gifts. But these spiritual gifts need nurturing, and a mentor can come alongside and encourage the person being mentored. Paul came alongside Timothy and said, "Do not neglect your gift which was given you..." (I Tim. 4:14). In a later letter to Timothy, Paul writes, "For

this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands" (2 Tim. 1:6).

We can encourage others to develop their gifts by reminding them that God will give them the power and the love they need to move forward in their relationship with Him and that He will help them develop their gifts. Our task is to give them opportunities to take the next step, and then cheer them on! Finally, we can let them move on with our blessing and encouragement.

The flip side of being a mentor is being mentored. Both sides are important. Take time to pray where you may be a mentor, and also to understand who may be able to come alongside you and walk with you.

Blessings!

—Bev Vogel, C.E. coordinator

Adults have three new Sunday a.m. class options

**C.E.
CLIPS**

Adults have three new opportunities in March to become involved in our adult education hour, Sunday mornings at 9:30. It's not too late for you to join.

■ "Marriage...For Better, Not Worse," is a study based on the book, "Love and Respect." This study will meet in Fellowship Hall for 13 weeks beginning March 7.

■ "Sharing Your Faith" is a study based on the book "Becoming a Contagious Christian." This study will help you discover your own natural evangelism style and will give you tools to share biblical truths in everyday language. The class will run for five weeks, beginning March 7, in Fellowship Hall.

■ "A Relentless God," based on the book "Crazy Love," will be a 10-week study that will help you to build a more passionate love relationship with God. If your heart is longing to break free from the status quo and you're yearning for an authentic faith, this may be the focus you need to awaken your heart. This study will meet in Fellowship Hall beginning March 7.

If you have questions, contact Bev in the church office, 947-3144.



Jarod and Jennifer Ebenhack, together with their five children, teach the children a song in Haitian as they share about their lives in Haiti.

■ **The Children's Exploration Station** continues to explore new places. On Feb. 14, the children enjoyed interacting with two adults and five children from Haiti. Jared and Jennifer Ebenhack and their five children (three from Haiti awaiting formal adoption) have been staying with Jennifer's mother, Brenda Jordan, since the first part of February, following the devastating earthquake in Haiti.

Their immediate area was not damaged by the quake, although they did feel the tremors. Their reason for coming "home" was that many people were fleeing into their town in attempt to find some "normalcy" of life.

Jennifer shared many informational things with the children, and Jared shared a lesson based on Judges 17:6: "In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit."

Jared helped the children to understand that a lot of the things that are bad in Haiti are bad because many people just do what they want to do. For example, when buildings are constructed, builders do things the easy and less expensive way, so they don't build them to code. Therefore, when an earthquake hits, the buildings collapse. He helped our children understand that we need to do things the way God wants us to—not the way we want to.

Our children's Sunday school offering will be going to Haiti to help reach people there who do not yet know Jesus as their Savior.

The third- and fourth-grade classes are exploring India in the Missions Exploration Station during their Sunday school hour.

■ **Our Wednesday night children** continue to learn through these curricula: "I

Stand in Awe;" "The Way of the Wise;" and "Fight the Good Fight." They are earning a record number of Bible bucks through attendance, completing weekly devotionals and Bible memorization. These Bible bucks helped to deliver more than \$200 worth of groceries to Main Street Ministries in February.

■ **Our spotlight this month** is shining on Delora Kaufman. Delora is a true veteran teacher. With about 38 years of children's ministry to her credit, she has many stories to tell and her heart has been blessed by many children.

Delora began her teaching "career" when she was in junior high. In 1968 she worked in children's church under the mentorship of Alice Suderman. During this first experience she fell in love with ministering to children. Maybe it had something to do with Delora's budding creativity, or maybe it was simply being able to use the flannel graph and the stories with "Winkie Bear;" but Delora has never stepped away from her gift of working with children. She continued to teach through high school.

After she and Kim were married, Delora continued teaching 4- and 5-year-olds. When Kim and Delora started their family, they team taught the 2- and 3-year-olds while their own children were that age. After that, it was back to the 4- and 5-year-olds until the church building burned in 2004.

At that time Delora became a member of the Planning Committee for our new church building, which took so much of her time that she was no longer free to

See **C.E. CLIPS**, cont'd on Page 5



LOVING GOD
LOVING PEOPLE

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