

The Northwest Baptist

April 2006

ABC Northwest
"Growing disciples through healthy churches"

Inside this issue:

ABC/NW Biennial Convention, "Launching the Lifeboats," May 18-21, Everett, WA	1
ABC/NW 2006 Biennial Abbreviated Schedule	2
Biennial Lodging Information	2
Envisioning a Half-Full Glass, and Beyond	2
Envisioning a Half-Full Glass, and Beyond...continued	3
Big Sky Pastors Annual Winter Retreat Report	3
Billings FBC Involved in Numerous Outreach Projects	3
Mission Field Miracles	4
Palouse Federated Church Reports Growth	4
Insert: ABC/NW 2006 Biennial Updated Registration Form	
Leadership Learning Communities Provide Peer-to-Peer Learning and Support for ABC/NW Region	5
Leading Edge	6
ABC/NW Will Consider "Affiliate Church" By-Law Change at Everett Biennial Business Meeting	6
Celebrations and Transitions	7
FBC Boise Reaches Out Through Community Meal Project	8

ABC/NW Biennial Convention, "Launching the Lifeboats," May 18-21, Everett, WA

All are invited to attend the Biennial Convention in Everett, WA, May 18-21. Our exciting theme is "Launching the Lifeboats" based on Jesus' instruction to Peter in Luke 5:4, "Launch out into the deep waters and let down your nets for a catch." Our Lord calls each of us as churches and individuals to move out into the world with the Good News of Jesus Christ. The needs are great; and the Church has the solution. This year's convention will inspire us through great preaching and equip us through practical workshops. Please refer to the registration form, workshop sign ups, and abbreviated schedule later in this newsletter issue for more information.



Rev. Phil Busbee

Senior Pastor of historic First Baptist Church San Francisco (est. in 1849) since 1999. Pastor Phil has led the congregation to reach it surrounding community through numerous ministries resulting in dynamic growth. FBC is one of the most ethnically diverse congregations in America. A passion for world evangelism and a strong commitment to prayer characterize Phil's ministry.



Rev. Clint Webb

Through his tenure (twice now) at First Baptist Church Oak Harbor, WA Pastor Clint has led the congregation to growth and large numbers of baptisms. Clint is a Mentor Pastor working with the Spokane LLC.



Dr. Charles Revis

Executive Minister since 2003 Charles is leading the ABC of the Northwest to focus on growing disciples through healthy, mission-focused churches. He has launched new projects that will help the churches of the Region achieve the primary landmarks of Discipleship, Leadership, Communication and New Church Planting.



Rev. Walt White

Walt, an expert in Islamic cultures, is an International Ministries Global Consultant with a wide range of responsibilities. He coaches missionary teams and individuals in several countries and teaches seminars in cross-cultural evangelism for partner churches, organizations, and sister denominations seeking to reach believers of the major historical religions.

Additional Biennial and lodging information is available on the Region's website www.abcnw.org.

Continued on page 2

ABC/NW 2006 Biennial Abbreviated Schedule

Thursday, May 18

1:00 pm Registration-FBC Everett
5:00 pm Dinner
7:00 pm Evening Worship

Friday, May 19

9:00 am Morning Worship
9:45 am Teaching/Preaching
12:15 pm Pastor /Spouse Lunch or
Mission Lunch
2:00 pm Workshops
5:00 pm Region Family Banquet
at the Holiday Inn
7:00 pm Worship

Saturday, May 20

8:00 am WBC Annual Meeting
Breakfast Buffet
9:00 am Morning Worship
9:45 am Workshops
12:15 pm Women's Lunch or
Men's Lunch
2:00 pm Business Meeting and
Worship
5:00 pm Mission Dinner
7:00 pm Worship

Sunday, May 21

8:00 am Drop-In Continental
Breakfast
9:00 am Morning Worship

Biennial Lodging Information

Holiday Inn

3105 Pine Street, Everett (425) 609-4000

Room availability is guaranteed until April 15th

\$79/night (blend of King & Ddl/Q)
Underground garage parking or lot parking
Newly remodeled, beautiful rooms
Full breakfast included with room

Best Western Cascadia

2800 Pacific Ave, Everett (425) 258-4141
\$69/night

Hot Continental breakfast bar included

See Region Website for more lodging information
www.abcnw.org

Envisioning a Half-Full Glass, and Beyond

By Dr. Charles Revis

How do you see life? Half-empty, or half-full? More recent discoveries in neuroscience indicate that people are hard wired during their childhood years to be pessimists or optimists. These hard wired reactions to life's situations allow us to modulate our emotional reactions well or poorly. Faced with obstacles a pessimist may become overwhelmed by negative emotions and throw in the towel. By contrast, optimists have the capacity to find more options and succeed more often in spite of life's obstacles and the possible negative emotions that accompany them. Neurological research also suggests that a pessimist has the capacity to chip away at their natural orientation and "learn" to become more optimistic.

I've wondered how this might relate to the condition of the Church in America. If we look through the prosaic lens of hard facts it would be tempting to view the "church glass" as half full, much like some sanctuaries on Sunday morning. However, present reality doesn't constitute the full reality, especially when we're dealing with a supernatural God. There is another view that God calls us to see, although it is invisible to the physical eye. This perspective can only be ascertained through the eyes of faith.

Paul wrote, "By his mighty power at work within us, [God] is able to accomplish infinitely more than we would ever dare to ask or hope." (Eph. 3:20b NLT) Honestly, there are times I struggle to believe what Paul declares in this benediction. In those moments I sink below the level of a mere pessimist. I think as a man without faith. What causes me to see reality's glass half-empty? Just a few daunting realities: A culture enraptured by technology and materialism rather than a love for God. Numerous churches, declining, dying and disappearing. A younger generation dismissing the church for its irrelevance and severe narcissism. Older generations of church attenders who seem to care less that young people don't know Jesus Christ. Fewer churches as a proportion of the population than

thirty years ago. These factors, and many more, tempt my emotions to overwhelm me with pessimism and despair.

Yet, according to God's Word, there is a far more positive way to look at present reality. We're invited to consider the world through the eyes of faith. We can choose to imagine the possibilities that God envisions. Paul declares that God is able to accomplish infinitely more than we could ever dare to ask or hope. With God there is no accomplishment shortage. His power can outpace and overreach our wildest dreams and preposterous prayer requests. This promise anchors our Spirit-inspired dreams to an infinite bedrock of God-created possibilities.

Paul's declaration that God can accomplish infinitely more than I can possibly ask or hope lifts my spirit to a higher level of faith than I can pull off in my flesh. This truth re-energizes my efforts for God's Kingdom.

I believe strongly in the Vision that God has given our Region: "growing disciples through healthy, mission-focused churches." It is a dream of healthy churches deeply in love with Jesus Christ reaching the lost on their front door steps. These churches move outward to reach their immediate mission field. They introduce people to Jesus Christ, and develop them into fully devoted followers of the Master. This vision includes the hope that as churches grow tired of their inward focus and dysfunctional habits they will begin to call on God to renew their efforts to accomplish more than they could ever dare to ask or hope. In turn God will empower such churches by His mighty hand. All of this is done solely for God's glory. What blocks us from attaining this vision *Continued on Page 3*

together? Only our lack of faith, prayer and willingness to be used by God. That's all! I know. I know. They are significant hurdles, but they're not insurmountable. They are mere ant-hills to God!

In this edition of The Northwest Baptist there are stories of God at work in places where God's people are dreaming big, praying boldly and working hard. As a result God is accomplishing some really cool things through His church. Some of these are beyond what I would have asked or hoped. Indeed, the glass is fuller than we might think.

One dream I shared with many of you when I first came to the Region was that of a Region-wide Mission Trip. (I have to confess, my dream included a side excursion to a windsurfing spot in an exotic location.) God is delivering on that dream in a way far beyond what I imagined. Under the courageous leadership of Curtis Privette (pastor of FBC Missoula, MT)

thirty-three people from all across the Region will head to Pass Christian, MS on a ten- day mission trip to this devastated area. Assistance has come from all across the Region. The group will be partnering with our sister Region ABC IN/KY who has an onsite coordinator facilitating mission groups coming to the area. I was discussing this project with Pastor Curtis over dinner several evenings ago. He made it clear that he's not going to stop with this one. He sees this as just a beginning for the Region. He intends to lead additional mission trips in the future inviting churches from all across the Region to join with him. Praise God!

One last word (if there is ever such a thing with a preacher). I urge you to make every effort to come to Everett, WA for the Biennial Convention, May 18-21. We have lined up an awesome keynote speaker, Pastor Phil Busbee from FBC San Francisco. Please pray for this event, and let's come together to celebrate all the good things that God is doing in our midst.

Big Sky Pastors Annual Winter Retreat Report

Feb 20th—22nd, the Montana Big Sky area pastors and spouses held their annual mid-winter retreat. In addition to the training offered through the LLC's, this retreat provides a time of renewal, relaxation, and refreshment from speakers, usually brought in from the outside. This year's guest speaker was Pastor Stan Simmons from Billings Faith Chapel, a Foursquare church that runs a weekend attendance of 4000. Stan speaks at many conferences, is well known in many circles, and is known for bringing insight about leadership principles. He was a tremendous inspiration. He spoke on ministry mindsets. He

talked about his own journey and struggles, and how pastors and spouses need to be diligent in their own emotional, spiritual, and physical health. Big Sky pastors were very privileged and gained much from these few days of leadership wisdom and fellowship.

The region is also to be thanked for their generous contribution to this retreat, especially for finances that helped provide childcare workers. Thank you very much. It was really appreciated.

Billings First Baptist Church Involved in Numerous Outreach Projects

Under the leading of the Holy Spirit and the planning of some fine leaders, Billings First Baptist church has engaged in many effective outreach venues.

Once a month on a weeknight a group plans and cooks a meal at the local women's and family shelter. Following each meal, people from the church provide a worship service with testimonies, a message and prayer times.

Another regular outreach activity has been youth and several adults taking sack lunches twice a month after the second morning service to street people in Billings. This activity usually lasts about an hour. These servants try to share their faith as they hand out lunches to those in need.

Many men and women from FBC are involved in TEAM mentoring which is a Billings Christian based ministry designed to help prisoners and their families adjust to society. One aspect of TEAM mentoring focuses on mentoring children whose parent or parents are still in prison. Those involved from FBC have found a fruitful work among the unchurched, mentoring

children and developing relationships with unchurched parents. Several ex-prisoners have found a home at FBC through the effective outreach of Christ's love through dedicated people who are involved in this ministry.

On Friday evening, Feb. 24, FBC hosted an evangelistic event, featuring Monty Christensen, author of 70x7 and Beyond. A former prisoner, Monty is a featured speaker throughout many US prisons and is well known in Montana. The event at FBC was packed out with nearly 200 in attendance, many of whom were unchurched. All who came were warmed and humored by his testimony and challenged by his message to surrender our lives in greater submission to Christ.

We praise God for what He is doing through us!!! We will continue doing more servant evangelism projects such as cleaning apartments for the unchurched and having free car washes when the weather gets warmer this spring.

~ submitted by Pastor Ross Lieuallen

Mission Field Miracles—A Mission Trip Report from FBC Everett, WA

On a recent mission trip to Merida, Mexico on the Yucatan Peninsula, our team of 10 adults had the privilege of providing a Kids' Club Experience to a small Mayan village about 90 minutes outside of Merida. It turned out to be one of the highlights of our 12-day trip January 11-22, 2006.

We were especially excited about this Kids' Club because it was our first in a Mayan Village and because we were bringing Bible Story Coloring Books that we had had translated into Maya for the first time. We learned in December that they did not have access to the Old Testament in Maya, so the translation of that portion of the book was being done by elders in different villages who had passed God's Word down from generation to generation without the benefit of the written word in their own language. They were humbled and frightened by this awesome responsibility. We were thrilled and awed to be allowed to carry this completed project to them.

Because we had experienced much spiritual warfare during the preparations for this trip, we knew that God had something incredible in store for us. And we knew that part of it had to do with this village and the coloring books we were bringing.

We were told to expect 100 children, so we prepared for 200. We started with singing and games and followed with a fun drama about the "Little Lost Sheep." As we started our "Lamb of God" necklace craft, we knew that we now had far more than 200 children. And they were still coming! Thankfully we had taken 100 crosses in case some of the older children preferred them, so every child ended up with a necklace (I had less than 10 crosses left when we finished.)

In addition to the 280 plus children, their older siblings and parents surrounded us. And we only had food for 200! We

quickly began cutting sandwiches in half with our one pocket-knife and decided that each person would get chips or cookies, rather than both. We were soon handing out sandwiches, chips, cookies and juice just as fast as we could. And then we noticed that the pile of sandwiches was not getting any smaller. When everyone had been served, we still had a huge stack of food left on the table! So we told the children that they could have seconds if they wanted more. When everyone who wanted them had been served seconds, we still had many bags of food left! It was like the feeding of the 5000 and we were just as awed as those disciples must have been.

As we finished cleaning up, one of the policemen told us that in all of his life of 40 some years, no one had ever come to this village to do anything like this for them. We were stunned and overwhelmingly blessed to have gone there.

After we finished our activities with piñatas, we were invited to the church for a traditional Mayan meal, prepared by the women of the church. It was an incredible gift from them. We know that it cost them nearly everything they had.

We were delighted to be able to give each woman who cooked for us a bag of the leftover food. And there were still more bags to give to the village nurse to distribute at the hospital! What an awesome God we serve! And what a privilege it was to serve Him alongside our brothers and sisters in Christ in the Yucatan.

There are hundreds of these small villages throughout the Yucatan that are all in need of God's healing touch and saving grace. And there are almost no teams going outside of the city to reach out to them. We can hardly wait to return! Won't you consider going too? ~ submitted by Sandi Porter

Palouse Federated Church Reports Growth

Corey Laughery was called to be the new pastor for Palouse Federated Church September 2004. God has been at work in the church, and we are delighted to report the good changes taking place. Pastor Corey recently forwarded the following report to the Region:

"Our local church has been growing lately, I don't really understand exactly how it all happened. In October 2005 we were averaging 50 in worship, in January and February 2006 we have been averaging over 80. We have accepted eight people into membership on Christian experience in 2006, we had only two new members (by baptism) in all of 2005. We have six baptisms lined up for Palm Sunday.

It is so exciting to see people coming to relationship with Christ, or coming back to church/discipleship after years away, or diving into the scriptures for the first time. I wish I could bottle the feeling of God at work through us, but that's not the way it works.

What I do know is that I am thankful for my Leadership Learning Community and its fearless leader Clint Webb—my fellow pastors—who are praying for me and teaching me because I need all the help I can get. I know that without the All Region Minister's Conferences I would have several less pastor-friends and fewer leadership "tools" in my belt. Without many pastor-mentors I know I would be a less healthy, less patient, less thoughtful and less of a missional pastor. I know that Leading Edge pushed me to think differently, to focus big time on my own spiritual health and gave me perspective to look at the history and systems at play in our congregation. Thank you Region leadership for being a healthy, resource-giving, pastor-supporting arm of the Body of Christ. Thank you pastor friends for listening to me, teaching me and praying with me. I am glad that I can be confident that as we "struggle" with the issues of being a growing church that there is a much bigger family out there to help us."

Leadership Learning Communities Provide Peer-to-Peer Learning and Support for ABC/NW Region

We continue to pour major energy into the development of peer-to-peer learning communities all across the Region. Each LLC is led by at least one Mentor Pastor. The Mentor Pastors receive training through the Region for their work with pastors and local ABC/NW churches. Acting on behalf of the Region's churches as adjunct staff these Mentor Pastors serve an important leadership role within the Region. Not only do the Mentor Pastors invest their personal time in this effort, their churches are contributing to the Region's health by releasing their pastor to serve beyond their local ministry.

Launched just a year ago the results from the LLCs have been very encouraging. Almost 89 pastors have attended a LLC meeting and are involved at some level. As a fundamental Region strategy LLCs are foundational to the four landmarks the Northwest churches embraced at the 2002 Biennial in Tacoma, WA (Leadership, Communication, Discipleship and Church Planting). LLCs serve as the first step in increasing our connection together (communication). They are the first delivery system for continuous leadership development (leadership). They provide rich environments for developing church strategies for evangelism and discipleship (discipleship). Additionally, they will be the nerve center for discernment and strategic development for planting new churches (church planting).

All LLCs are following the same agenda. This helps leaders across the Region adopt a common language, which in turn facilitates sharing leadership insights. The monthly agenda follows four movements: Learning, Encouragement, Accountability, and Dreaming. By design LLCs focus on leadership development, primarily through reflection on readings and application discussions.

Additionally, the groups pray together, set personal and church goals, and support one another in ministry challenges. Although fellowship is experienced, it is not the driving purpose of the meeting. Recent and forthcoming readings include the following books:
 March Shaped by God's Heart by Milfred Minatrea
 April Breakout Churches by Thom Rainer
 May Present-Future by Reggie McNeal
 June Kicking Habits: Help for Addicted Churches by Tom Bandy

We have established LLCs in every part of the Region, and some pastors drive over four hours to attend their Leadership Learning Community. (And, in the winter that may mean through snow, rain and hail!) These are the LLCs and their mentor pastors:

- Far West Area LLC** Ron Anderson and Skip Grover
- North N. Puget Sound LLC** Jay Smith
- Everett Area N. Puget Sound LLC** Brian Harpell,
- Seattle Area N. Puget Sound LLC** Paul Burnham
- Central Washington LLC** Jim Amend and Worth Wilson
- Eastern Washington/N. Idaho LLC** Clint Webb
- Eastern Montana LLC** Ross Lieuallen and Rusty Strickler
- Western Montana LLC** Jim Sandholdt
- Western S. Idaho LLC** Bruce Young and Jim Steiner,
- Southern South Idaho & Nevada LLC** Gary Gilman
- Eastern S. Idaho & Utah LLC** Bill McCready

Left to right
 Front row:
 Dr. Brian Harpell, Rev. Gary Gilman, Rev. Bruce Young and Dr. Charles Revis.
 Middle row:
 Dr. Worth Wilson, Dr. Jay Smith and Rev. Ron Anderson
 Back Row: Rev. Jim Amend, Rev. Paul Burnham, Rev. Bill McCready, Rev. Jim Sandholdt, Rev. Skip Grover and Rev. Ross Lieuallen



Mark your calendars
for the next session of



Oct 30 – Nov 3, 2006
at Ross Point Camp

Who is *Leading Edge* for? Is it open to laypeople?

Leading Edge is intended for **anyone** in the church interested in useable knowledge and practical leadership skills to help one transform oneself and one's congregation from being primarily inward focused to outward, mission-focused. *Leading Edge* will give pastors and laypeople a "jump start" on developing the mindset and some of the key, practical tools to move them as individuals and congregations toward a spiritually vital relationship with Christ, with themselves and with each other. This spiritually vital core refocuses our hearts and energy on being vital, relevant congregations where people's lives are becoming whole and new in Christ. As that renewed life takes hold, neighborhoods and communities will be come places of hope -- because of the followers of Jesus who live in them.

What do we do during the week's training?

Week One:

- The Missional Church
- Spiritual and Relational Vitality as Keys for Effective Leadership
- Making Transitions
- Leading Change and Caring for People
- Emotional Intelligence
- Conflict Issues and Management

Week Two:

- The Process of Change; Vision and Urgency
- Organized for Mission – structures and meeting
- Making Transitions in Living Systems
- "Proactive Conflict"
- Character of a Leader
- The Call to Ministry
- Personal Plans for Transformation

Cost: \$300 for room, board and all books and materials. Scholarships are available.

For more information: Contact Patti Duckworth (pduckworth@earthlink.net) or the region office (abcnw@adelphia.net)

*The program part of *Leading Edge* has given me the tools I need to bring Elko First Baptist into a 21st Century, outwardly focused church. The fellowship part has given me both the opportunity to know I am not alone in the process and the relationships to share my experiences and (hopefully) help others do the same. I found it especially useful as the new pastor at an old church.*

Rev. Bill Killion, First Baptist Church, Elko, NV

ABC/NW Will Consider “Affiliate Church” By-Law Change at Everett Biennial Business Meeting

The ABC/NW Region Board is proposing a By-Law change that adds a new category for churches as they connect with ABC/NW. The change adds an optional status of “Affiliate Church” in addition to the existing status of “Cooperating Church”. The change provides an option for churches to belong to the ABC/NW Region without belonging to ABC-USA nationally. An Affiliate Church and/or their delegates are restricted from voting on matters related to the Region’s relationship to ABC-USA (Covenant of Relationships). Neither may they be represented to the General Board.

The Region Board believes this option will provide a “relief valve” in the event that an action or decision at the national level would cause a church, or several churches, to consider withdrawing from ABC-USA, and by necessity ABC-NW. This would give a Northwest church an option to remain in

association with the Region without having to belong to the national body. It is hoped that this option would prevent losing a church completely to the family. For a church choosing this option there would always be the possibility for returning to Cooperating Church status. Several other American Baptist Regions have added this option to their By-Laws. Although few churches have chosen the Affiliate Status in these Regions, it is reported that the optional measure has forestalled several churches from completely withdrawing from the denomination.

A copy of the proposed By-Law change was mailed out in a packet to all ABC/NW churches. The proposed change may also be found on the Region’s web site www.abcnw.org or by email or snail mail by request through the Region office. The proposed change will be considered for adoption at the Everett Biennial business meeting.

Celebrations and Transitions

United Methodist—American Baptist Federated Church in Hamilton, MT celebrated seventy-five years of ministry on February 12, 2006 as a church that continues its affiliation with both denominations. The two congregations joined together on February 15, 1931. The celebration included a pancake breakfast, a display of memorabilia and pictures of major events including the establishment of the Commodity Center, a ministry started by the church meeting the needs of lower income folks in the Bitterroot Valley. A special worship service followed by a potluck fellowship with eight people present continued the celebration. Pastor Steve Millar is currently the pastor. During the event Pastor Steve introduced several of the previous pastors of the congregation, Larry Nelson, Roland Reed, and Dave Donkle, who in turn shared memories of their leadership at the Hamilton church.

FBC Kelso, WA will celebrate 100 years of ministry over the weekend of April 22-23, 2006. Joe Lancaster is the pastor.

FBC Ogden will celebrate 125 years of ministry on Sunday, May 5, 2006.

FBC Eureka celebrates its 100 year anniversary over the weekend of June 24-25, 2006. Pat Lovitt is pastor.

FBC Everett, WA broke ground on Sunday, March 5th for a new Community Outreach Center. For nearly 25 years First Baptist has had a dream of constructing a multi-purpose facility. This dream is now becoming a reality. The ground-breaking ceremony included communion, introduction of the builder, dedication prayer and the congregation breaking ground together.

FBC Chehalis, WA adopted a new constitution in January which institutes a one board system and frees up significant numbers of people to serve on ministry teams. They report that average Sunday attendance is running 235-245, an increase by 10% over last year. They have averaged 15% growth each year for the last five years. So far they have baptized 8 people this year. Rev. Mark Wilks is pastor.

FBC Anacortes celebrates the retirement of senior pastor Duane Eastman on Sunday, June 4th. FBC continues to make progress on the construction of a new multi-purpose Community Center.

FBC Bozeman anticipates completion of the ROCK, a new youth outreach facility located directly across from Bozeman Senior High School. The facility will be used to reach the large teen population for Jesus Christ

Pastor Mark Tscheulin resigned FBC Renton in February, 2006. Mark and Joan have moved to Biloxi, MI in order to help with reconstruction efforts in the aftermath of Katrina's destruction.

Pastor Sam Detwiler has started a church for the "unchurched and those who do not fit in traditional churches" in Wenatchee, WA. The new church is called Shalom Church. The Inland NW Area has contributed \$1,000 from new church funds to assist with start up costs.

Michael Harris has resigned as director of Cascade Meadows to become the new pastor of Baptist Community Church in Arco, ID.

Dwayne Doyle has resigned as pastor of FBC Snohomish, WA.

Jay Zaremba has resigned 6th Ave Baptist Church, Tacoma, WA to take a pastorate in New York.

Pastor Al Currier continues to recover (miraculously!) after suffering a major heart attack back in December, 2005. Surrounding ABC/NW churches (FBC Bellingham, Laurel Community Church, FBC Anacortes, FBC Darrington, Memorial Community in Everett) along with the N Puget Sound Area, the Region and various individuals have contributed to the Al Currier Donation Fund to provide financial assistance during this difficult time. Pastor Al serves the Blaine Community Church in WA.

First Baptist Church of Idaho Falls, ID has called **Rev. Melinda Oberhelman** to become their permanent pastor.

Please pray for these ABC/NW churches who are actively engaged in the search process for their next pastor:

FBC Blackfoot, ID
 FBC Twin Falls, ID
 FBC Nampa, ID
 FBC Lewiston, ID
 FBC Port Angeles, WA
 Belfair Community Baptist Church, WA
 Wenatchee-Brethren Baptist Church, WA
 FBC Lyman, WA
 FBC Renton, WA
 Delta Community Baptist Church, Everett, WA
 FBC Snohomish, WA

Please pray for these churches actively engaged in fundraising campaigns for expansion of ministry facilities and/or land:

FBC Filer, ID
 FBC Pocatello, ID





601 South Ross Point Road
Post Falls ID 83854
Phone: 208-777-2733

Email: abcnw@adelphia.net

Website: www.abcnw.org



FBC Boise Reaches Out Through Community Meal Project

At Thanksgiving we sent out 20,000 letters to everyone within 2 miles of our church. We asked for their help in identifying anyone they knew who might need a free Thanksgiving meal for four. We promised to assemble and deliver these meals to whoever they would list for us on a postcard returned by mail or phone to us. As a church we geared up for giving out 500 meals. It was a total guess how many postcards we would get back. (We ended up delivering 550 meals including 40 names given to us by a local public elementary school). Our people gave about \$8,500 toward this project. People came out of the woodwork to deliver and the project was a smashing success. People we did not know dropped by the church and gave us \$20/\$50 bills, cards of encouragement, phone calls etc. One business where one of our members worked donated money for 15 meals. Wal-Mart donated all their labor and delivery expenses. When is the last time you heard of unchurched people dropping money off at a church office where they do not know a soul?

decided to give \$250 Wal-Mart gift cards for 10 of the 17 families that they delivered to. In addition to all this our Deacons Fund received \$25,000 over the past year leaving us with a surplus at the end of 2005. Every Christmas we take a special Christmas Eve offering and split up the money for specific needy families we've identified. This year we wrote checks in the amount of \$250 to 12 families a couple of weeks before Christmas from our Deacon's Fund. As a result, we did not know what to do with the Christmas Eve offering. After seeing the car give-a-way that Clovis FBC did (from Tim Brown's time with us at the Ministers Conference and IMA Conference). I said, why don't we give a car away? Turns out that one of the recipients of our Thanksgiving meal giveaways was a single mom needing a car. So we gave her a 1994 Mercury Van on Christmas Eve day... Video taped it... and showed the clip in all three Christmas Eve services before taking the offering. The upshot is that so much came in that we now have enough to buy another car if that's what we want to do with the excess.

But that's not the end of it. One of the families that helped deliver meals was so touched by the need around us that they

~ submitted by Pastor Bruce Young