A Trip of Purpose

The Dominican Republic, long an outreach of prayer for Haitian Coordinator William Bertrand, neighbors Haiti and shares the island of Hispaniola in the West Indies.

During March 2002, the Mission Board sent Area Superintendent Wayne Evans and William Bertrand to the Dominican Republic to explore an extension of ministry to Haitians living there. They arrived in DR with lots of prayer and no leads, but God opened doors in the most remarkable way. William’s eye glasses broke and, through the process of fixing them, God brought about His purposes and they were led to Pastor Daniel Jeanvier’s home in La Romana, D.R. “The succession of events and contacts truly mirrored that of Peter’s visit to Cornelius’ home in Acts 10,” explained Wayne Evans.

Pastor Jeanvier had already begun a home church and had been praying for support and guidance. All agreed that the Lord was leading EFC-ER to pursue this new venture. The Mission Board responded with a small amount of support, and correspondence has been maintained through Bertrand.

Bertrand and Evans (along with Jarrod Evans) returned to La Romana in August, 2003, to find that there are now four churches around La Romana with a collective average attendance of 193! At the joint service, over 140 attended with many of them standing in the dark outside the tin-roofed shed church. Since most of the attenders only speak Spanish, Evans’ sermon was first given in English, translated by Bertrand into Creole, and translated again into Spanish by one local church leader. Music came from improvised instruments and vibrant singers. What began as a home church, has been moved twice in the past two years to its current location, a tin-roofed shed. Pastor Jeanvier has had to enlarge the shed and knows that he will need to move again soon. Attendance in this one church has reached 82 and is still growing.

During the visit, a local Sunday School teacher spoke of the need for their church to support missions worldwide. Funds are tight for these poverty-stricken Haitians living in Dominican Republic and all four pastors support themselves with secular jobs. But over the past year, they have already sent two mission offerings to the Nutrition Center in Haiti as a sign of their commitment to the Great Commission.

May the Lord grant these young churches open doors to match their open hearts for the sake of the Gospel.

Evangelical Friends are reaching out in the areas where Christ calls them to respond. This fall, Eastern Region sent two families into opposite corners and cultures of the world.

Right: Dr. Dan and Rhonda Mitchell recently moved to Rwanda, Africa. Dan will be directing the surgical services and teaching nurses, medical students and physicians at the Free Methodist Hospital in Kibogoga, Rwanda. Rhonda, a registered nurse, will be focusing on homeschooling their three children; Danny, Madeline, and Joseph, and hosting visitors to their area of Africa.

Left: Glenn and Debbie Mack along with their five children; Marshall, Elle, Mitchell, Gabby, and Mason, have recently moved to Bath, England. The Mack Family have a heart for home-church development and evangelism in England. They are reaching out to the community around them.

Please pray for both families as they adjust to new cultures and many ministry opportunities.

Back Row: Elias Joseph (Pica Piedra), Ramon Dominique (Juan Pablo), William Bertrand, Front Row: Wayne Evans, Juan Gabriel (Higuay), Daniel Jeanvier (La Romana).

A Look Inside:
EFC-ER churches and individuals are choosing to be “People of Purpose in a Broken World” as Christ leads them. Inside, you’ll find churches reaching out and celebrating faithfulness, individuals choosing a healthy attitude during crisis, and much more!

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Please Note: The Facing Bench will be publishing two, 12 page editions of the Facing Bench per year.
**In the Spotlight**

**Willoughby Hills Offers Worship**

On Saturday, October 4, Willoughby Hills Friends (Ohio) brought in four clinicians from around the country for a *Maranatha! Music* workshop entitled "Playing Together as a Worship Band." People from 29 churches – Friends and other denominations – signed up to come as worship leaders, vocalists, instrumentalists, or sound technicians. Some of the topics included, "Laying a Foundation for Worship," "Vocal Technique & Stylizing," "The 100% Rule & Other Tools for the Worship Band" and "How to Run an Effective Rehearsal and Efficient Sound Check." Since *Maranatha* had come to Willoughby Hills Friends once before, and since this workshop was more than a year in the making, there was much anticipation and enthusiasm! Everyone who came was encouraged and better equipped from the day together.

Submitted by Randy Thornburg, Worship & Music Director for Willoughby Hills Friends Church

**450 Attend Men’s Steak Fry**

East Richland Evangelical Friends Church, St. Clairsville, Ohio, hosted their 17th Annual Men’s Steak Fry on Thursday evening, September 18th. The menu included a Grade A beef fillet steak cooked to perfection over hot coals, baked potato, salad, rolls, and dessert. Three high school teams attended.

Dan Daubenmier, former coach of the London, OH, football team, kept the 450+ group spellbound as he spoke with enthusiasm about Christ. The altar was lined several deep with youth, men, dads, grandfathers, and children at the close of Dan’s message. The event is provided free of charge each September as an outreach ministry to men, boys, and high school football teams in the area. The Steak Fry is the vision of one layman, Kellie Conway, to bring outstanding speakers once a year to reach out to the men and youth of our community. The congregation gets involved with preparation and clean-up.

Submitted by East Richland Friends Church
St. Clairsville, Ohio

**6th Annual Raisin Valley Winter Retreat**

Raisin Valley Friends & Family Retreat was held February 21–23, 2003, at Somerset Campground in Somerset, Michigan. Special Speaker this year was Youth Pastor Marty Ertel from East Richland Friends (Ohio). Over 40 people enjoyed a weekend of indoor games, outdoor fun (there was lots of fresh snow this year for sledding), relaxation, and inspiration.

“This retreat was begun in 1998 in an effort to build unity within the body at Raisin Valley,” explained Retreat Coordinator, Sue Jeffers. “It seemed we were spending less and less time together, partly because we were trying to find time to spend with our individual families in their many activities. We decided to combine the two activities and get together with our families all in one location. We plan and cook our own meals, games, etc. It has come to be a highlight of our year and we encourage other churches to try something similar.

Submitted by Sue Jeffers
Raisin Valley Friends Church, Adrian, Michigan

**Recognition Given for FDS Service**

Dean and Freeda Johnson, Friends Disaster Service Coordinators, were honored during services at Trinity Friends Church in Van Wert, Ohio on Sunday morning, September 28. The Johnson’s have headed the Friends Disaster Service since 1974 and have been actively providing relief in the aftermath of disasters, not only in the United States, but in other countries as well. The organization is funded solely by donations and by an annual banquet, with all money received going directly toward relief efforts in disaster stricken areas. The Johnsons have put out an earnest plea for volunteers to continue the vital work of the ministry of FDS.

Having recently suffered a disaster themselves, as summer flooding destroyed much of their home and personal property, Trinity Friends quietly took up a collection to come to the aid of the Johnsons. Senior Pastor John Perkins surprised them with $4,055.31.

Submitted by Nancy Brown, Ministry Assistant Trinity Friends Church, Van Wert, Ohio
Valleyview finds a Voice in Local Paper

A letter to the editor of the local paper in Delaware, Ohio has generated more of a response than Pastor Wallace White could have imagined. The letter was in response to an article in the Religion section of the local paper featuring an alliance of six churches seeking to promote homosexuals in church leadership. Pastor and author, Wallace White expressed his concerns re: homosexuals in church leadership, clearly expressing Valleyview’s support of the Old and New Testaments’ teaching that the acting out of homosexual desires is sin. Wallace’s letter concludes, “To promote those actively involved in open homosexual acts to positions of authority in the church (either lay or clergy) is unconscionable, unholy, and a potentially serious blow to the very foundation of the Christian Church. It is not a movement to celebrate, but one to mourn.”

Within two weeks of the publishing of the letter, Valleyview had received ten phone calls, four e-mails, and five letters, all but two of which were supportive of their position. There had also been five letters to the editor in response: two favorable to the Friends Church position, two in opposition, and one on the fence.

Anyone interested in a copy of the full text of the letter may e-mail Pastor White at wallaceww@juno.com.

Submitted by Pastor Wallace White

Youth Mid-Winter Retreat A Success

Youth from all over the EFC-ER converged on Trinity Friends in Van Wert, Ohio, last winter to participate in the annual winter youth conference, “Mid-Winter 2003.” The featured guest speaker for the weekend was Sean McDowell, nationally know inspirational and motivational speaker. “An Experience for Life” was the theme of this year’s special weekend of growth and outreach, ministering to more than two hundred Jr. and Sr. High teens from around the region.

In addition to the motivational messages shared by Sean, teens enjoyed the music and ministry of Christian rock group “Rhythm,” who joined the weekend to lead the youth in times of worship and praise. A special feature of the weekend came on Saturday evening as “Rhythm” and “Everyday Sunday” presented a full concert of worship and praise.

Also sharing throughout the weekend were Renee Rodriguez, Lyda Jackson, Joetta Keifer, Peggy Rucker, Sampson Green, and Gary Wright, who spoke to teens about God’s call to servanthood. Each of the guest speakers shared from their wealth of knowledge concerning inner city mission work, representing areas of Chicago, Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Nashville, and cities around the world.

On Saturday afternoon, conference attendees volunteered at several outreach organizations in the area in an attempt to live out the message of servanthood being shared during the weekend.

Plans for next year’s Mid-Winter Conference are already in progress.

Submitted by Nancy Brown, Ministry Assistant Trinity Friends Church, Van Wert, Ohio

Providence 50th Anniversary

On Sunday, September 7, 2003, Providence Friends celebrated their 50th Anniversary as a local congregation. Providence Friends Church was a church plant of the Portsmouth, Va., First Friends Church. It was started in September of 1953 as Colonial Place Friends Church in Norfolk, Va. In the 1960’s the church moved to Providence Road in Virginia Beach and changed its name to Providence Evangelical Friends Church.

The celebration included letters from previous members who have moved to other areas along with letters, powerpoint presentations, and a video from previous pastors and staff members. These were all read during the morning service or during the celebration outside after the service.

Previous pastor and current Area Superintendent, Duane Rice, delivered the morning message. The morning service was a blessed time of worship, remembering, and prayer. After the morning service the church provided dinner for everyone outside in the picnic area. A special singing group, “His Elect”, was asked to provide background music during the time outside. Pony rides and a petting zoo were brought in for the children. They were busy riding the ponies up to the time they left.

We had a great attendance of about 162 people. All in attendance called the day “perfect.” The atmosphere, attitude, and the weather were all made to order. The feeling was that God is smiling on us. Our motto for the celebration was, “Looking back with Thanksgiving—Looking forward with Expectation.”

Submitted by Pastor Dave Householder
Facing The Fear Factor
Rachel Grimm – Grade 12 – Damascus, Ohio

God has helped me tremendously through many tough times. He has given me strength to overcome difficult situations.

A year ago at age sixteen, I started my first job working at a card shop, I went to work on what I thought would be just another normal night. I was working by myself while my co-worker went next door. I was standing by the registers never thinking my life would soon be in danger. A masked man came into the store. As soon as I saw him I felt myself being overcome with fear. Not knowing what was going to happen, I knew I had to be calm and trust God completely. As I stood fearful behind the register he came around the desk, facing close to me with a knife pointed at my face. As the man instructed me to open the drawers of the register he forced me to the ground. I began to pray to myself over and over, “Protect me God.”

God poured his love and protection over me at that moment, helping me to be calm. After the robber retrieved the money from the drawers he left quickly. When he had gone I sat on the floor feeling paralyzed by my emotions. I am still in awe of how God helped me to hold back the tears and terror of that moment. In the hour to follow God provided me with assurances of His love and protection through people He sent to help me: a woman who entered the store and called the police, a friend who “dropped by” to see me at work, and my family who were just down the road and able to come quickly.

Because of this situation I have been able to be a witness to my co-workers, sharing how God was my protection and strength. I still have times when I am fearful because of this situation. God has helped to me know that He is in control. Isaiah 26:3-4 has been an amazing and helpful verse to me this past year: “You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you. Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord is the Rock eternal.” This verse had helped me to know that all I have to do is trust in God and He will give me the peace to overcome any obstacle.

Facing the Fear Factor
Leah Webb – Grade 9 – St. Clairsville, Ohio

Fear. Everyone experiences it at one time or another. Why do even Christians have a fear of standing up for what we believe in and showing where our faith stands with God?

I remember when I was in 8th grade. It was the end of the day of school and I was so happy. I was going to spend the night at my best friend’s house. I couldn’t wait. But after school, I had to ride a public school bus to my house. And believe me, it was not fun. Every day when I rode the bus, I saw the same exact thing: people were cussing, hitting each other, boys and girls were flirting, and they were acting like they had things on the bus that I highly despise…drugs.

I was sitting on the bus that day, waiting impatiently for the bus to stop at my house, when a really cute guy looked over. I had talked to him before, but I really didn’t know him that well. He started talking to me. He asked for my phone number, but right when I was going to write it, he asked if I ever did drugs. I was really surprised because I was starting to like him. But I thought in my head, “What Would Jesus Do?” So I told him, “No, I don’t.” He looked at me like I was a freak. But I told him that I knew what was right and wrong, and I told him that taking drugs is very wrong, and harms the body. I told him I knew where I stood in my faith. He just said, “That’s cool.” And to my surprise, he continued talking. He is now in rehab and trying to get off drugs and do something with his life.

So fear was not a factor for me. I stood up for what I believed in. I helped a new friend and I witnessed to him. I made a small difference in his life and I helped put God in his life. I was scared at first to do the right thing, but with God’s wisdom, He helped me face my fear. Without God in control of my life, fear would definitely be a factor for me. I am thankful that God gave me a chance to make my friend’s life a little bit better.
Big Tent Event A Success

Renting a big tent can make all the difference when inviting people from outside the church family to an event, as Jackson Friends learned this fall.

Jackson Friends Church in Canton, Ohio, was determined to get as much use as possible from their rented tent.

A "Concert Blast" kicked off the "Friends Welcome Week" on Thursday, September 18th. Three local bands played under the big top. The admission fee was $5 and a can of food for the grocery ministry. Youth from across the area came to celebrate. Even the rainshowers offered a special effect with a beautiful, double rainbow.

Saturday began with a Classic Car/Motorcycle Show in the parking lot, during which the motorcycle crew made a "Teddy Bear" run, taking teddy bears to a local children's hospital. The youth offered a chicken BBQ as a fundraiser and later in the evening "Elvis" and a biker band played.

Sunday the congregation gathered together under the tent for a combined service. Following the service, a picnic lunch was served. Members were encouraged to invite friends and neighbors who may never come to church, but would come to a special concert or event "outside" the church.

The tent sat in front of the church for a week as an effective advertisement. The gospel was shared and people responded.

Submitted by Lori Miller, Jackson Friends Church

Summer Samaritan Outreach

Youth from Trinity Friends in Van Wert, Ohio, spent much of their summer vacation seeking to live out the teaching of the Good Samaritan found in Luke 10:25-37.

Teens were given a number of opportunities to serve others, with outreach projects performed at the following locations: YFC Ridge Church renovation project; House of Transitions carpet project; garage roofing and a small electrical project for an elderly lady; outreach porch project; garage siding project; assistance to the Friends Disaster Service; Oak Hill Camp work project; Stillwater Camp work project; and assistance to World Missionary Press.

In reaching out to others by giving of their time and efforts, youth have been able to experience the reward of reaching out to others in need, just as the Good Samaritan did in the Luke 10 account.
2003 Yearly Meeting Sessions • July 19-22, 2003 • Canton, Ohio

“People of Purpose in a Broken World”

A Look Back at our time together...

Missionary Banquets

Yearly Meeting officially began with two identical missionary banquets to accommodate what would otherwise be an overflow crowd. Approximately 500 people each banquet greeted over 25 active and retired missionaries gathered at Malone College, representing mission fields in Guatemala, Haiti, Hispanics in the U.S., Jamaica, Mexico, Nepal, India, Taiwan, Ireland, England, Hong Kong, Philippines, Romania, Hungary, Russia and the Ukraine, and China. Hillary Harrison, a registered nurse recently returned from India and Nepal, reported on her medical, social, and spiritual outreach to people of remote villages of both countries. Jacelyn Jones, returning from her first full year of ministry in Hong Kong, updated us on the Filipino Church there which serves women from the Philippines who are domestic servants in Hong Kong. Evangelical Friends Missions Executive Director Chuck Mylander challenged the gathering to assist Friends missionaries around the world to help bring people to “The Lamb who is on the throne.” Attendees were serenaded by a strolling chorus of over 100 Spanish-speaking members of Hispanic Friends churches from Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, New York, and Toronto.

Times of Fellowship & Fun

Upper left: Malinda & Galen Oakes of Jackson Friends Church brought entertaining music and drama to our Tuesday evening Recording Service. Lower left: Dr. John P. Williams with inspirational storyteller, Steven James. Steven shared inspirational and funny stories during our Monday evening service. Pictures on the right were taken during the “After Service” fellowship times offered at Malone. Monday night offered sundaes and Tuesday brought a strawberry social.
Times of Business & Worship

Monday morning’s two-hour “concert of worship, praise and prayer” anchored the approach of business in an attitude of worship and thanksgiving.

Dr. Williams provided his annual report to the delegates with special thanksgiving for the signs of growth in the Yearly Meeting during the past decade.

• 33% increase in Sunday morning worshipers;
• 4 new church plants serving nearly 1,000 attendees;
• 9 new Hispanic and 5 Haitian congregations to the Yearly Meeting;
• Welcoming of a Taiwanese congregation from Boston Heights, Ohio just this year;
• Over 80 new churches formed under the leadership of Eastern Region missionaries around the world.

NOTE: All highlights noted on these pages were taken from the 2003 EFC-ER Outgoing Epistle. A complete copy of the Epistle has been posted on the website (www.efcer.org) or may be obtained by contacting the EFC-ER office (800) 334-8863.

Everyone enjoyed the extra Resources...

A little-publicized yet busy area of each Yearly Session is the Lion & Lamb Bookstore. Readers of all ages enjoy bargain shopping at the on-site store. Special thanks to Norbert and Tamara Hattinga for their efforts each year.

This year, the Communications introduced the “Technology Fair,” a special room with displays of hands-on-demonstrations of the most recent technology tools available to church ministry. These included examples of flexible lighting, sound equipment for all size churches, special effects for drama, computer networking options, computer software and Power Point options.

Special thanks to technology experts Watson Cosand and Josh Harris. Watson travelled from Nashville, TN, to provide a wide variety of samples and information. Josh’s company “In The Round” also offers website services and technological support to many of our churches.

Upper Right: All ages enjoy shopping for special deals at the Lion & Lamb Bookstore.
Upper Left: Josh & Kate Harris at their booth for In The Round Productions featuring new church websites.
Lower Left: The internet stations in the Technology Fair were greatly appreciated and utilized by many.

Congratulations to our newest recorded Pastors:
James W. Belt and wife Sharon from Willoughby Hills Friends, Willoughby Hills, Ohio.

Jason C. Bruce and wife, Jennifer from East Richland Friends, St. Clairsville, Ohio.

Manuel Chavarria and wife Brenda, serving as Field Director for Friends missions work in Mexico.

Lynn Faw and husband Arnold, from Springdale Friends, Adena, Ohio.

Mike Gillett and wife Karen, from Byhalia Friends, West Mansfield, Ohio.

Lee Jackson and wife Jodi, from Westgate Friends, Columbus, Ohio.

Walt Scheiman and wife Linda, from Willoughby Hills Friends, Willoughby Hills, Ohio.

NOT PICTURED: Vance Weeks and wife Amanda, Raisin Valley Friends, Adrian, Michigan.
A Summer of Fun at Camp Gideon!

This summer Camp Gideon set a record for the number of campers enrolled in the summer camp ministry. Five hundred twenty one (521) campers from more than 35 Friends churches were enrolled in one of the thirteen camping experiences provided this summer. At least thirty-three campers made a first time commitment to Christ with numerous others registering a greater commitment to Christ and His Kingdom.

Joel Harris, Doug Smith and Kierston Rex provided excellent leadership for this year.

“We had an absolutely fantastic summer. The Lord moved mightily in the lives of our young people as God continues to raise up a mighty army of committed Christians to face the challenges of this generation,” reported Camp Director John Ryser.

“As I travel to our churches, I am constantly reminded of the tremendous influence for Christ the camp is having.”

In addition, the Camp continues to have steady use through the Fall.

If your church is looking to have a retreat in the near future please keep Camp Gideon in mind.

Submitted by John Ryser

Camp Gideon is located in Mechanicstown, Ohio.

Drama Team Touches Lives

In two weeks of whirlwind performances, selected students from across Eastern Region used drama as their ministry tool to touch lives for Christ.

This past summer a group of eight students and three adults from churches across the Eastern Region embarked on a great journey that would take them over 3000 miles in a 12-passenger van in just 20 days.

“It was good for us to get students from the northern and southern regions working together,” explained Pastor Greg Rice, the Drama Team Leader. “We quickly found out that there are many similarities and many wonderful people in our churches all over the Eastern Region.”

The EFC-ER Summer Ministries Drama Team (Sponsored by the EFC-ER Youth Board) performed in churches across Ohio, Michigan, North Carolina, and Virginia. There were eight performances in two weeks of travel time along with four and a half days for the students to learn all of their lines.

Reflections from the team included: “I was really scared at first, but it was great to be able to serve the Lord” and “My life was changed and it is definitely something that I want to do again.”

Submitted by Pastor Greg Rice

Youth Pastor for Ypsilanti Friends Church – Ypsilanti, Michigan
Marketplace 29 A.D. arrives for VBS

The question, “What was it really like during the time of Jesus?” was answered for children this summer.

From the opening sound of the shofar at 6:30 p.m. to the closing of the Market place at 8:30 p.m., 290 costumed children and adults experienced life in a small Jewish settlement known as Marketplace 29 A.D. located in Alliance, Ohio. As the abbas (fathers) went off to their shops, each emma (mother) took her little family of eight children from their tribal tent to the synagogue for a lesson by the rabbi, or to the well for some cool water and a story of the old days from the story teller.

Later, each family had time to visit the shops in the marketplace where they could make panpipes, an oil lamp, or herb vinegar and drink a glass of mint tea. Carpenters, weavers, stonemasons, jewelers, weights and measurers all shared their skills under the 40 X 100 foot tent that housed all the shops. Some evenings under the watchful eyes of the abba shopkeeper, the children made sandals. As they wore them around the grounds, the need for washing of feet became real. Every evening musicians and the folk dancer led the families in praise singing and dancing. One evening the sounds of a visiting psalter player joined in the praise.

The bakers rewarded a trip to the bakery with the most wonderful treats of honey candy, sweet cookies and warm loaves of bread. A horse, some goats and a lamb added to the noisy excitement of the town, along with the races and competition of the games.

Children quickly learned to be on the lookout for the tax collector and his guard, the Roman soldier, who did not hesitate to take the golden coins each child carried in their money bag.

Even the town magician learned that the emmas were teaching their children to be on the lookout for him and his evil magic.

Every evening the young man called Jesus of Nazareth came to the marketplace with some of his followers. As he visited the synagogue, healed the sick and raised the dead, some of the children asked him to pray for their relatives and to “heal their sins.” The last evening the children cheered as the tax collector and Roman soldier knelt at the feet of Jesus and asked forgiveness for their sins.

About 200 adults helped make costumes of handmade tunics and moneybags for every child, erect 14 tribal tents, put up two huge tents for both preschoolers and elementary children, bake hundreds of cookies and candies, and make more than 100 loaves of bread. On the closing night Pastor Rick Sams shared the gospel with parents and children by passing out pieces of matzah and explaining the stripes and the piercing of the bread.

The goal of this special program is to allow children to experience life in the time of Jesus. And they loved it!

Submitted by Alliance Friends C.E. Director, Lisbeth Stanford

Vacation Bible School
Marketplace 29 A.D. is produced by B. J. Goetz Publishing Co.
Reflections on the Hurricane:

Kay Jones of Hanover Friends in Mechanicsville, Virginia, e-mailed her friends with the following reflections on Hurricane Isabel:

While people were complaining about the lack of electricity, water and/or telephone service, I thought that there must me a blessing or two in all this. So I began jotting blessing thoughts. Such as:

- There are numerous kind, helpful, generous people.
- We have many opportunities to become ingenious and innovative.
- The Tuesday food ministry on September 16 was low on meat. I had felt bad that we could only give one or two cut meat items. As it turned out anything more would probably have been wasted.
- We can learn to be more appreciative for God's gifts that we take for granted.
- I appreciate the life-style God has allowed us.
- Families are spending quality time together.
- Doctors and hospitals can prepare for little blessings in June 2004.
- Water is precious.
- An opportunity to perfect the art of flushing the toilet with a bucket of water.
- We filled containers with drinking water in preparation for the storm.
- When stored water ran out, God provided rain to collect.
- We were all safe. Very few injuries and deaths due to the hurricane.
- We are reminded that we are adaptable.
- I felt like we were like the pioneers. Pioneers did well. They lived to be, ah, forty.
- We were in the midst of our own rendition of "Survivor".
- I didn't have to "can" tomatoes.
- A reminder to me that one can cook, fry, boil, bake, and roast most anything on a grill.
- Stars are more easily seen without lights.
- God gave us pleasant, comfortable weather/temperatures. (We didn't have to be concerned about heating.)
- We enjoyed fresh air in the house with open windows.
- We still enjoy reasonable hours of daylight.
- Could we expect a lower electric bill?
- The tent camping experiences from my childhood came in handy.
- I did laundry the night before Isabel came to visit. So we had clean clothes.
- Our refrigerator and freezer got really cleaned out and cleaned.
- Granddaughters learned how to wash dishes by hand.
- Jesus provided teachable moments with granddaughters. We sang "This Little Light Of Mine" and "Thy Word Is A Lamp Unto My Feet And A Light Unto My Path".
- I'm looking forward to discussing the fallen beach houses with them. Build your house upon the rock rather than on sand. We can sing "The Wise Man Built His House Upon The Rock".
- Pastor David (Crisp) gave us some lessons concerning the trees. Flexible trees survive. As do trees that are well grounded. Trees in a group survive better than those that stand alone. Also a big head makes one vulnerable to a fall. Some trees were just in the wrong place. Some trees were just old. Their time had come.
- There was a new kind of greeting, "Got power?"
- Power companies from around the U.S. and Canada came to our rescue. I had a certain indescribable happiness and pride whenever I saw an electric company crew from another state. I wanted to cheer.

Virginia District Churches Hit by Hurricane Isabel

When Isabel came calling to the churches and homes of the Virginia District, she didn't have any good intentions for the people or buildings. Everyone from the coast of North Carolina to Maryland lost electrical power (some for as long as two weeks) with many homes destroyed or flooded. Trees were toppled like a war zone falling in every direction.

Peniel Friends (Rev. Thomas Steele) parsonage was flooded leaving extensive damage as were many homes of lay people.

Colony Road Friends (Rev. Bill Lockwood) lost all their pecan trees, some which were over 100 years of age. Downtown Portsmouth, VA, was flooded with over two feet of water and one of the tunnels (Midtown) from Norfolk to Portsmouth was flooded full with water which remained two weeks after the storm. Dismal Swamp water filled the Chesapeake City water reservoirs, which leaves the water with a sickening taste.

Camp Wakefield, VA District camp, received severe damage with many trees toppling onto buildings, destroying some. One of the dorms was blown off its foundation. Thankfully, the camp was not occupied when Isabel arrived. Even with all the flooding and damage, there are no known Friends people that lost life or were injured.

EFC-ER is already involved in helping our churches that were in the paths of Hurricane's aftermath. If you would like to make a contribution towards that relief, Just, send a check to the W.O.C. marked "Hurricane Relief."
Missionary Reading Corner

Reading List 2003

1. God is User Friendly  
   by Alvin Anderson
2. Imprisoned by Iran  
   by Dan Baumann
3. He's Been Faithful  
   by Carol Cymbal
4. Totally Surrounded  
   by Christina DiStaffano
5. Though None Go With Me  
   by Jerry B. Jacobs
6. Heaven: My Father's House  
   by Anne Graham Lotz
7. Out of the Black Shadows  
   by Stephen Lungu with Anne Coomes
8. Unashamed by Francis Rivers
9. Unveiled by Francis Rivers
10. Missionary Reflections On the Twenty Third Psalm  
   (Devotional Book)

Note: These books are available at Lion and Lamb Bookstore. Most church libraries or local Women’s Missionary Fellowships also have access to them. Be sure to report any completed books to your local group so that they can receive credit toward the annual reading contest sponsored by EFC-ER’s WMF.

Women’s Missionary Fellowship Retreat

For women of Eastern Region, September brings their WMF Retreat

Nearly 600 women came during the two weekend retreats in scenic Ripley, West Virginia. Guest speaker Kathy Slamp shared on “Vessels of Honor” during both weekends as women laughed and grew in their love of God.

The Silent Auction was a huge success with dozens of beautiful selections to choose from each weekend. Each weekend was coordinated by an able chairwoman and her committee. Eileen Lucier chaired the first weekend with Kim Knowles coordinating the worship music, and Rhonda Dragomir chaired the second weekend with Lynn Reichenbach coordinating the worship music.

Eastern Region leaders recognized by Malone College during Homecoming

Malone College’s Fall Homecoming events included the annual awards ceremony. Alumnus of the Year Award was given to Dr. John P. Williams, Jr., General Superintendent of Eastern Region.

Rev. Bruce Burch was named an honorary alumnus for his faithful support of Malone College as he has encouraged youth to attend the College and promoted Malone at the local church level. Three of his children are Malone graduates.

Long time member of Canton Friends Church and employee of Malone, Sandy Johnson received the Distinguished Service Award for her twenty-nine years of dedicated service and commitment to the College.

Eastern Region responds quickly to an unusual need in Taiwan

Early in May, the World Outreach Center in Canton, Ohio, received a special request from our sister churches in Taiwan. According to Russell Zinn, “The officials in the Health Department have asked that any crowds or meetings require everyone to wear a mask. For the church to comply, it will take quite a few but you cannot buy them here.”

Eastern Region quickly acquired 5,000 masks and sent them to our sister churches in Taiwan. The masks helped to meet an immediate need.

Although the SARS epidemic has come to an end, the churches in Taiwan were grateful for the quick response of Eastern Region’s leadership.
IN MEMORIAM

BRANTINGHAM - Dorothy.
Dorothy passed away on March 21, 2003. She was 87 years old and is survived by four sons, 16 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

TEBBS – Jewell. Wife of retired pastor Jack Tebbs and mother of Jackson Friends Pastor, David Tebbs, passed away on August 23, 2003 after a brave battle with cancer. She was 70. Jack and Jewell were able to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary shortly before her death.

FREER – Norma, retired EFC-ER missionary to India, passed away on August 1, 2003. She was 88 years old.


We celebrate a dedicated life.

The following note was sent by Dr. John P. Williams, Jr. to our church leaders:

“Norma Freer was a beloved sister in Christ and partner in ministry to many across Eastern Region. She served faithfully and fruitfully for 45 years as an EFC-ER missionary to India, retiring from active ministry in the early 1990’s. Her heart of compassion, willingness to follow-through in ministry with people and her great sense of humor were a blessing to her friends and coworkers. Anna Cobbs, a dear friend and helper to Norma for many years, was kind enough to write a brief summary of Norma’s life, as follows:

Norma A. Freer was born November 4, 1919, in Bowling Green, Ohio. A representative from Cleveland Bible College (now Malone College) came to their church when Norma was young, and she felt God’s call to prepare for Christian work.

Upon graduation from Cleveland Bible College she applied to the Ohio Yearly Meeting Mission Board for service in India. There she served for 45 years in various positions: secretary, mission treasurer and hospital pharmacy supply clerk.

In 1976, the Board opened an English Medium School (now Christian English School) with Norma, along with a group of Indian nationals in charge. It began with a kindergarten. By adding a class each year, it developed through grade 12 by the time she retired in 1990. She has represented the India Mission in many of our churches when she was on homeland assignment.

In late 1991, she took up residence in Penney Retirement Community in Penney Farms, FL; where several missionary friends from India had located. She went to her heavenly home on August 1, 2003. No doubt she is rejoicing with many friends from India there.

Anyone wishing to make a donation in honor of Norma Freer, may send their gift to the World Outreach Center. All gifts designated “Norma Freer Memorial” will be used for missions.”