



renew

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Nineteen Years and Growing Stronger

LEONARD JOOSSE, CHAIRMAN, BFM FOUNDATION (CANADA)

This was the theme for our National Conference and AGM, held at the University of Waterloo this past May 30 and 31. Together with about 104 delegates and guests we were able to celebrate God's unfailing love and faithfulness to the Bibles for Missions movement.

Opening devotions for the day were led by Mike Pankrac. Mike is a motivational speaker and volunteers in the Chatham Bibles for Missions Thrift Store. (You can read Mike's devotion inside this issue.) Afterward Mike led us into the theme for the weekend with a workshop about having "FUN".

He spoke to us about how we can make things "fun", how it starts with us, and how it does affect our lives and the lives of those we meet. He went on to say that it also affects how our stores are operating, that our customers soon notice that we are a different group of people and we have a mission.

The balance of the day was taken up with various workshops. In the afternoon Casey Langbroek showed us a

DVD and spoke to us about his recent ministry trip to India with The Bible League of Canada. He impressed upon us the tremendous need and hunger for God's Word and the millions of people who have still never heard of the saving power of Jesus Christ. Casey shared with us that a large part of the work in India is geared to literacy programs, since a large portion of the population is still totally illiterate.

In the evening, we had a delicious banquet hosted by the Kitchener/Guelph stores with local talent providing the entertainment.

Saturday was taken up with administrative issues; several resolutions were dealt with and resolved.

The guest speaker for the day was Michael Alemu, one of TBLC's ministry partners from Ethiopia. Michael told us that his own life had been changed through the reading and study of the Bible. Michael was a lieutenant in the Ethiopian army and

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went to Russia to be trained by the communists. After the overthrow of the government in Ethiopia he had to flee to Nigeria. While he lived on the streets in that country he met a priest who introduced him to the Bible and since then his life has never been the same.

He now works with children at risk (orphans, HIV positive, etcetera). These children are taught Bible-based literacy skills through a community development program. The country of Ethiopia is totally devastated by the HIV/Aids epidemic, with thousands of orphans needing care.

Listening to these presentations and watching the images, you get to appreciate the great need that is still out there. Knowing that in our own small way we are making a difference is very satisfying.

Our final task of the day was to welcome a new store group in Ponoka, Alberta. Welcome folks! It is good to have you aboard. May God bless your efforts as you search for a store and make plans to open.

What a growth it has been, from one store generating \$100,000.00 annually, to 31 stores generating in excess of \$3.5 million for Scriptures and training.

God has indeed blessed us greatly. To God be the Glory!



PICTURED FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Ina VanHouten - Board Chairperson, Mr. Len Joose - BFM Representative, Mr. Rodney Jackson - Councillor Ward 3 - City of Barrie, Mr. Dick Kranendonk - The Bible League of Canada, Rev. Greg Martin - Pastor, Covenant CRC - Representing Ministerial of Barrie, Mr. Rob Nicholson - Aerarium Group (Our Landlord), Mr. Al Suk - Board Treasurer

BFM BARRIE GRAND OPENING

This past April the Barrie store celebrated our Grand Opening. The store is going well. We're very excited about the wonderful comments we receive from customers and also the enthusiastic response when we share with them what we are all about and how the proceeds are being used. We feel that we are a ministry in the Barrie area and serve a real purpose in furthering the Kingdom of God. We are fortunate in that we have a Christian radio station in Barrie (100.3FM). We had them do a live broadcast from the store during our Grand Opening - for 4 hours. During that time we had 4 people come in and give a cash donation. Very rewarding!! - and also great PR.



Chairman Richard Crosby (left) and Vice Chairman Vic Wareham (right) prepare to serve customers and fellow volunteers cake.

WINDSOR'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY

With God's blessing the Windsor BFM board, volunteers and customers celebrated 10 years in business. Cake, coffee and tea were served. Customers enjoyed a week long 50% off storewide sale and were given a Bible League pen in appreciation of their support.

Open Doors!

HAROLD (MIKE) PANKRAC

In II Kings 4:8-10 we read – “One day Elisha went to Shunem. And a well-to-do woman was there, who urged him to stay for a meal. So whenever he came by, he stopped there to eat. She said to her husband, “I know that this man who often comes our way is a holy man of God. Let’s make a small room on the roof and put in it a bed and a table, a chair and a lamp for him. Then he can stay there whenever he comes to us.”

What are we to learn from the woman of Shunem? Really it is quite a simple story! The prophet Elisha was passing by. The woman of Shunem did not let the opportunity – the open door – pass her by. Her faith starts with small steps as she invites the prophet for a meal at their house. Next it’s regular meals whenever Elisha passes by. Then her ever expanding faith enters a new phase as she builds a small room where the prophet can stay whenever he passes by.

All this sounds very commonplace but it is not! In these ordinary actions, her life intersects with God’s purposes.

In Genesis 18:3-5 Abraham urges three strangers to stay for a meal at his house – not realizing that he is entertaining angels unawares. In effect Abraham is saying, “I will not let this occasion pass by!” A year later Abraham and Sarah welcomed the son of promise, the baby Isaac, into their home.

In Genesis 40:7-8 Joseph notices the sadness of the cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt. While Joseph would have had his very own reasons for being sad, he noticed the dejected look of the others in prison with him. In effect he says, “I will not let this chance pass by!” It was this everyday occurrence that opened the door to Joseph’s freedom and subsequent promotion to being second only to the king!

In Luke 18:35-42 a blind beggar realizes Jesus is passing by. In Luke 19:1-10 Zacchaeus sees Jesus passing by. Each one says, “I will not let this pass by!” In the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) the first two people passed by on the other side. As the Samaritan comes on the scene, he determines, “I will not let this pass by!” It was the Samaritan – the one who did not pass by – who fulfilled the Great Commandment to love.

The founding of the Bibles for Missions Thrift Stores is a similar story. (You can hear the story in detail as you watch the BFM DVD.) It is the story of some people who did not let an opportunity pass them by when the people of India appealed for Bibles. Today, almost twenty years later, God’s Word is transforming lives because they said, “I will not let this pass by.”

We often imagine “open doors” to be some great earthshaking event. The Bible shows repeatedly that open doors occur in the ordinary events of our lives. When we walk through God’s open doors, ordinary events take on extraordinary significance.

In addition to what you see on the earth, I want you to picture the scene in heaven. God is looking on as we, through our partnership with The Bible League of Canada, provide

BFM Stores Across Canada

Abbotsford, BC	604-854-6682
Barrie, ON	705-797-1587
Beamsville, ON	905-563-6905
Brampton, ON	905-450-3522
Brantford, ON	519-750-5741
Burlington, ON	905-631-1199
Calgary, AB	403-246-7298
Chatham, ON	519-351-3817
Chilliwack, BC (1)	604-858-9444
Chilliwack, BC (2)	604-793-1996
Clarkson/Mississauga, ON	905-822-3390
Duncan, BC	250-746-7462
Dundas, ON	905-627-2412
Edmonton, AB	780-489-6958
Guelph, ON	519-821-2498
Hamilton, ON	905-383-0004
Kelowna, BC	250-860-4791
Kitchener, ON	519-578-3860
Langley, BC	604-533-3995
Lethbridge, AB	403-327-3199
Maple Ridge, BC	604-463-1595
Oshawa, ON	905-720-2430
Prince George, BC	250-564-3345
Red Deer, AB	403-340-2522
Sarnia, ON	519-337-1614
St. Catharines, ON	905-704-0422
St. Thomas, ON	519-633-7300
Trenton, ON	613-394-2464
Victoria, BC	250-361-9398
Windsor, ON	519-250-9628
Winnipeg, MB	204-667-5329
Woodstock, ON	519-539-2118

...”Open Doors” continued

Scriptures and training to His children around the world. I believe He is saying, “Now that’s my family working together and caring for each other”.

All this sounds very commonplace but it is not! In these ordinary actions, her life intersects with God’s purposes.

Indeed the One who notices the “cup of cold water” takes note of the refreshment you are bringing others through the living, abiding word of God that endures forever!

**Do you have
a story or
pictures for
Renew? We
would love to
hear from you!**

Please send stories and pictures
to Joyce Riewald at

The Bible League of Canada

Tel: 905-319-9500

1-800-363-9673

Fax: 905-319-0484

Email: jriewald@bibleleague.ca

Volunteer Appreciation Prayer

Dear God, heavenly Father, you have served us through your Son Jesus Christ and won for us the gift of our salvation. Now you give us opportunities to serve you, and your faithful people are quick to respond. Thank you, Lord, for your

service and for the gift of those whom you have moved to serve. Continue to use such people in service to the glory of your name and the benefit of your children. In all things we glorify you in the name of Christ. Amen