



renew

published for BFM Foundation Canada by

The **BibleLeague** of Canada

APRIL 2009 • VOLUME 12 • ISSUE #3

Two New Friends ROSE DEVRIES BFM BOWMANVILLE, ON

Have you ever wondered, “What am I to do with my life? What does God want of me?”

I have, and the first answer came through the door one afternoon while I was having a break at the Oshawa Bibles for Missions Thrift Store. A gentleman with a big smile and sparkling eyes walked into the lunch room.

“Hello, I’m Frank Ritskes.” He extended his hand, and gave mine a firm shake, while with his other hand, he gave me his card. “So, how do you like working here?” There was hardly time to respond before Frank asked where I was from. “Bowmanville? We don’t have a store there yet... Do you think a BFM store would do well there?”

What could I say?

Frank suggested we meet again. A month later we were discussing location, size, and how to move the project



The story is about the property they just bought and the coincidence that today the property is being used for the work of the Lord again. The street was named after the Church in the picture and the church was used for outreach in the community of Bowmanville

forward. *Meanwhile, I had made a new friend.*

Summer came and there was still no store.

The Sea to Sea bike tour was working its way across America and my sister-in-law, Joan Doorenspleet, was answering her call from God, pedaling from coast to coast. I became a cyber cyclist, reading daily blogs of the cyclists on my computer.

The second answer came up on my computer screen. A rider wrote in his blog how he had “talked shop”--BFM shop--with a fellow rider for the better part of a day. His enthusiasm for the cause spoke to me and a few weeks later I was introduced to Fred Meyerink as the bike tour passed through Ontario.

Fred and I met again too, months later in Bowmanville at one of our Steering Committee meetings. We were able to show him the building that would become the home for BFM Bowmanville.

Another new friend.

Here were two men, Frank and Fred, two new friends that God sent my way to help show me the answer to my questions.

INCLUDED



SPRING BRINGS PROMISE

MAY CONFERENCE SHOWS ALL THE SIGNS OF BEING THE BEST EVER?

When the crocuses and tulips begin to stick their heads out of the soil, it can only mean one thing: spring is around the corner. Let me rephrase that—it means two things: spring and the BFM Annual Conference. The Conference planning team, which is made up of representatives from Guelph, Kitchener, and Dundas, has been busy working behind the scenes to deliver a great conference for our attendees and members.

This year the conference takes place at the Kitchener Waterloo University in Kitchener, Ontario, from May 28th to 30th. Registration packages have been mailed out so you should be appointing your two delegates soon. I encourage store boards to also invite their volunteers to attend the meetings, but please let the organizing committee know if they intend to be there.

This year promises to be special because we will be celebrating 20 years of God's goodness. It's hard to believe that 20 years after our first store opening, we will be celebrating in Kitchener together. We pray for God's blessing on our time together this year, as we focus on His faithfulness over the past 20 years.

Registration begins Friday morning between 7:30 am and 8:30 am. Opening comments, devotions, and workshops will commence at 8:30 am and end at 5:00 pm. This year's workshops promise to deliver a plethora of information for you to take home. There are six concurrent workshops 75 minutes in length, with a break in-between for refreshment and networking. You will notice that the workshops deal with "Grass Roots" topics and that the presenters are all part of the BFM family. We ask that one delegate from each store attend three workshops.

THE WORKSHOPS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. Volunteer Recruitment, volunteer retention, succession and advertising. Presenting is Sharon Brandsma, manager of BFM Lethbridge.
2. Board Meetings, membership, annual general meetings, volunteer appreciation, and other matters. Presenting is Casey Langbroek, Executive Director of BFM Foundation Canada.
3. Store Management, and efficient operation of stores. Presenting is Fred Meyerink, Director of Store Development.
4. Dealing with difficult customers and volunteers. Presenting is Harold (Mike) Pankrac of BFM Chatham.
5. Increase Sales, enjoy service and expect smiles. Presenting is Joanne Bakelaar manager of BFM Guelph.
6. Small groups breakout session to brainstorm successes, challenges and opportunities. Facilitators: Jerry Bulthuis, Vice Chair BFM Foundation Canada; Joanne Vreind, Director BFM Foundation Canada; Joe Hall, Director BFM Foundation Canada; Henk Neinhuis, Director BFM Foundation Canada; and Teresa Tenbrinke, Treasurer BFM Foundation Canada.

All workshops will end by 5:00pm so that you can prepare for an evening of dinner, fellowship and entertainment. Dinner will be from 6:30pm to 9:30pm.

On Saturday morning the business portion of the conference will take place. This is the platform for your voice to be heard as we plan for a new year. The Annual General Meeting begins at 8:30

JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS ON MAY 29-30 2009

am sharp, with coffee being served from 8:00 am to 8:30 am. We will stop for lunch at 12:00 pm and reconvene at 1:00 pm. As I mentioned earlier, this year's Conference is special. Let's come together to praise God for the great ministry that has taken place over the past 20 years.

BIBLE LEAGUE BANQUET & MINISTRY DAY

May is already becoming a busy month for most of us. On May 7th and 8th TBLC is hosting its annual Ministry Day and banquet at the Lethbridge Lodge in Lethbridge, Alberta. I would personally like to invite all of you to consider attending this year's Ministry Day. If you really want to see the end result of your daily work and how lives are being changed, this is a must. I was fortunate enough to attend last year's banquet and Ministry Day, which really cemented the knowledge for me that lives are being changed through our ministry. The stories were wonderful and emotional as TBLC ministry partners shared the grace and goodness of God's providence. The work that they do is amazing and real. Your heart will never be the same. Please look for more information in the Renew magazine.

BRANDING BEGINS TO TAKE HOLD

We are finally starting to see the positive effects of our branding initiatives. The new BFM website has been up and running since November 1st, 2008. We have received 2605 visits, with an average of 3.63 pages viewed per visit. A total of 9465 pages have been viewed and the average time spent on the site is 2 minutes and 24 seconds. The most viewed pages on the web are: store locations (1761 times) and board of directors (496 times). Most exciting is that 443 people have logged into the site to pull off information through our back gateway. Most referrals to the site are coming in from Google, but it's interesting to see that 94 visits have come directly from

Charityvillage.com, which we are linked with. Charityvillage.com is a volunteer site that directs volunteers to organizations. On the new store front I have received 7 new inquiries directly from the website.

Another avenue of branding comes by way of new signage on our stores. This year we are working towards having 12 new stores completed. The signs look great and add a positive message day and night in their communities.

NEW STORES

Another exciting announcement is that Kingston, Bowmanville, and Ottawa now have new homes in which to open their stores. Kingston is undergoing renovations but will be doing business out of a temporary location starting April 1st. Bowmanville will take possession of its new building on April 30th and be operational sometime in May. Finally, Ottawa has secured a 10,000 square foot building that will be available in early spring, so look for them to be up and running sometime in May. There are other store groups that I continue to work with in Fredericton, Etobikoe, and now Georgetown. Look for more information as it becomes available.

So as you can see spring and, more importantly May, bringing new life to creation and to the BFM Foundation family, especially after a long winter. I look forward to seeing all of you at either TBLC's Ministry Day or the BFM Foundation Annual Conference. May God continue to bless all of you through your great work.





Bibles for Missions
THRIFT STORES
BFM FOUNDATION CANADA

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS ON MAY 29-30, 2009

UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

(200 University Avenue West, Waterloo, ON N2L 3G1)

CONFERENCE AGENDA

WORKSHOP SESSIONS will be held on
Friday from 8:30 am to 5 pm

A BANQUET will be held on Friday
from 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm with
entertainment provided

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will
be held on Saturday from 8:30 am to
3:30 pm

For more information or to register for
any of the events please contact:

Martin Oldengarm, Registrar
Martin.oldengarm.cffo@sympatico.ca
519-501-9100



Ina VanHouten Board Chairperson, Mr. Len Joosee BFM Foundation Representative, Mr. Rodney Jackson Councillor Ward 3, City of Barrie, Mr. Dick Kranendonk The Bible League of Canada, Rev. Greg Martin Pastor, Covenant CRC, Mr. Rob Nicholson Aerarium Group, Mr. Al Suk Board Treasurer

BARRIE BIBLES FOR MISSIONS STORE GRAND OPENING HELD SATURDAY APRIL 26, 2008.

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 donation towards The Bible League of Canada. *Very rewarding!!*

LETHBRIDGE BFM STORE REACHES NEW LEVEL

**AT THE LETHBRIDGE STORE WE HAVE SURPASSED THE
110 MEMBER MARK OF ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS AT OUR STORE.**

Our very latest addition is a mother and her young son who come in once a month on a Saturday. Along with the help of our other Saturday volunteers she is able to spend some time in our store and socialize and enjoy communion of the saints with us and her little boy.



This is a picture of Bill Poelstra, our oldest active volunteer, and Logan Drake our youngest. I cannot express enough how heartwarming this picture is to all of our store volunteers.