

# FB FAITH BUILDERS

## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, INC.

Discipling the head, heart, and hands

Issue 143

Spring 2022

### YOU ARE NEEDED IN GOD'S ECONOMY, THE GIFTS OF EACH CONTRIBUTE TO ALL

Most ministry presentations ask for one of three responses: pray, give, or go. Dennis Yoder offers another option: use existing business in the private sector to support and enhance the reach of ministries. Dennis, a graduate of FB's Ministry Apprentice Program in 2009, manages Yoder Financial, and serves his community and many non-profits with this professional service.

As the ministry presentation rounded the final corner and prepared for a timely landing, the seasoned missionary challenged the audience to partner with the ministry to build the Kingdom of God. The needs were critical. The call was compelling. Kingdom citizens are needed for active involvement in the Kingdom! And the options for involvement were clear: pray for the ministry, support the ministry financially, or volunteer time as a worker in the ministry. As I listened, however, I found myself wondering whether these really were the only three categories for active service in the Kingdom of God.

We've all heard the calls to action: pray, give, or go. These three aspects are necessary components of every ministry, and the Kingdom needs many more people involved in these ways. But as we face the enormous task of taking the Gospel to every nation, and as we encounter never-ending opportunities and challenges in ministry, do these three words adequately encompass all that is needed?

The global operations of the US military offer a small parallel to the task faced by today's mission organizations. While we do not agree with the work being done by this conglomerate, Paul also used the military to draw parallels with the Christian life (see 1 Timothy 2:3-4). Two

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lessons stand out as we look at the infrastructure of the US military: the need for support personnel and the value of partnerships between the military and private enterprise.

About 10% of military members see active combat. While this number varies based on the number of combat zones at any given time, on average 90% of those enlisted in the military serve in support roles rather than on the front lines. In fact, mechanics comprise the largest group of personnel in the military. While this may seem surprising, it makes efficient and skilled operations possible. After all, it would be foolish for a skilled pilot in the air force to be required to fuel the plane, replace the tires, or service the engines. It would likewise be foolish for a skilled mechanic with years of experience diagnosing and repairing airplanes to be placed in the danger of front-line combat.

In contrast, ministry organizations sometimes downplay the need for support personnel. Mission workers on the front lines also serve as bookkeepers, graphic designers, and kitchen workers. Those skilled in culinary arts or communication are asked to minister on the front lines in ways that may not align with their giftings and training. Sometimes this is caused by a

misguided view of what "efficiency" looks like in a ministry. After all, hiring too many support personnel will result in a ministry's overhead consuming a larger portion of their budget than may be deemed acceptable. Unfortunately, in the process of promoting low overhead we may inadvertently deny our front-line ministry personnel the support they need to truly thrive and pursue their God-given calling.

Another lesson we can learn from the US military is the way they partner with private businesses. For example, where would the air force be without Boeing or Lockheed Martin? The only two shipyards in the USA that manufacture nuclear-powered submarines are owned by private companies. Private companies can innovate and operate more quickly and efficiently than government agencies. Private enterprise can also use its knowledge and infrastructure gained by working for its commercial customers to benefit its work for the military.

For example, Boeing recently reported that less than 30% of its revenue is from producing equipment for the US military. Over 70% of its income was from commercial airlines and the support services it provides to its customers. While the \$23 billion received from the US military is an enormous number, it is reasonable to believe that without the other \$53 billion received from other sources Boeing would have difficulty maintaining the same level of research and development and global support infrastructure that makes it

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so valuable in its partnership with the military.

In a similar way, ministries depend heavily on for-profit businesses to further their callings. While financial support is an obvious way independent businesses partner with ministries, businesses have found many other ways to be actively involved in Kingdom work. For example:

- Artists, graphic designers, and printers serve ministries by designing eye-catching newsletters and websites and by printing and mailing information to ministry partners.
- Construction workers provide critical support for ministries by building their facilities and helping maintain and upgrade existing structures.
- Attorneys help ministries avoid difficult legal situations and work through details when conflicts arise.
- Doctors bring their expertise to Kingdom work by helping workers meet immunization requirements and by providing advice and care to those who contract diseases that may be uncommon in the USA.
- Computer programmers inject efficiency and accuracy into a ministry's operations by providing software customized to the needs of the organization.
- Accountants enable ministries to maintain donors' trust and avoid governmental interference by accurately tracking and reporting on the ministry's financial aspects.

If we did not have individuals and for-profit businesses in our list of clients, it would be difficult for our accounting firm to maintain the level of education and infrastructure needed to serve ministries well. Our ability to charge going rates for the services we provide to non-ministry clients enables us to partner with ministries by providing professional services at a very reasonable price.

The global work of the Kingdom of God is much greater than our front-line workers can accomplish alone. Ministries must utilize support personnel and partnerships with for-profit enterprise to increase their effectiveness around the world.

As citizens of the Kingdom of God, it is also important that we individually realize our opportunities for active involvement. The work of spreading the Gospel is not limited to praying, giving, and going. As Kingdom citizens, we must individually embrace involvement that can go beyond these three ways. Sometimes our calling is to serve those on the front lines by honing our God-given abilities and finding ways to enable ministry work while working in for-profit businesses.

A story from the early church highlights the need for Kingdom workers beyond those on the front lines. In Acts 6 we read that an incident arose in the church concerning the distribution of food to needy widows. The wise response of the apostles to this issue is instructive for our ministries today: "It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables" (Acts 6:2, KJV). Instead, support personnel were called to fill this need, while the apostles continued to "give [themselves] continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word" (Acts 6:4, KJV). These support personnel were not seen as second-class citizens of the Kingdom. Their job description included the high requirement to be "men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom" (Acts 6:3, KJV).

In a vote of confidence to those involved in supporting front-line workers, God chose Stephen, one of these support personnel, to bear the honored title of being the first martyr among the followers of Jesus. In the Kingdom of God, those on the front lines and those in support roles have equal importance. Both have the privilege of being part of the glorious advance of the Kingdom of God that even the gates of hell cannot prevail against (Matthew 16:18).

#### References

1. <https://www.thesoldiersproject.org/what-percentage-of-the-military-sees-combat/>
2. These companies are General Dynamics and Huntington Ingalls; see <https://www.forbes.com/sites/charlestiefer/2021/09/17/how-huge-military-contractors-will-get-even-richer-off-the-australian-submarine-deal/?sh=59f908c06d4b>
3. Boeing Corporation, 2019 Form 10-K <https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/000012927/000001292720000014/a201912dec3110k.htm>



Dennis Yoder

## PERSONNEL NEEDS

We are seeking applications for the following current staff needs:

- » Dean of men
- » Scholarship services coordinator
- » Receptionist
- » Communications/graphic designer

For information about these job descriptions or to request an application, contact Steven Brubaker:  
[srb@fbep.org](mailto:srb@fbep.org)  
 (814) 789-4518, ext. 239

## RESOURCE GROUP BUILDING

We are getting closer to breaking ground on the new Resource Group building! The site plan for the project has been approved, and the prints for the building are being finalized. This new building will include a larger space for Christian Learning Resource, a warehouse for storing materials, and expanded work area for staff who are developing curriculum and other school resources. We look forward to having more adequate space for these efforts.

If you are interested in contributing to this project financially or being involved in some other way, please contact Kendall Myers:  
[kendallm@fbep.org](mailto:kendallm@fbep.org)  
 (814) 789-4518, ext. 403

## UPCOMING EVENTS & TERMS

**REACH 2022 | MARCH 24-25, 2022**  
 Register now at [fbep.org/reach-2022](https://fbep.org/reach-2022).

**SUMMER TERM | JUNE 27 - JULY 29**  
 Applications available after March 15 at [fbep.org/st](https://fbep.org/st).

**COLLEGE STUDENT WEEKEND | JULY 8-10**  
 Register now at [fbep.org/csw](https://fbep.org/csw).

**TEACHERS WEEK | AUGUST 2-5**  
 Register at [fbep.org/tw](https://fbep.org/tw) after April 15.

**TEACHERS WEEK - ONTARIO | AUGUST 9-12**  
 Register at [fbep.org/teachers-week-ontario](https://fbep.org/teachers-week-ontario) after May 1.

**TWO-YEAR STUDIES BEGIN | AUGUST 22**  
 We have space for more students in all three study tracks! Download an application at [fbep.org/academics/semester](https://fbep.org/academics/semester).

**TEACHERS CONFERENCE | OCTOBER 14-16**  
 Registration opens mid-August.

**WINTER TERM | JAN. 2-FEB. 3, 2023**  
 Registration opens early August.

## COLLEGE STUDENT WEEKEND

JULY 8-10

We hold this annual two-day event to reflect on what it means to be an Anabaptist student at college. We talk about the issues raised at many campuses, hear from each other, and enjoy God's presence.

Speakers and their topics this year include:

- Mennonite Nurse: Spanning Two Worlds *Ryan Hoover*
- Coming Boldly to the Feast: Approaching Literature with Curiosity and with Doubt *Lori Eby*
- Science vs. Christianity: An Invented War? *John Mark Kuhns*
- Locating Your Vocation in God's Grand Story *Byran Smucker*
- Cross-Culture Communication: Context, Power Distance, Values, and Taboos *Rosanne Bauman*
- Beyond Enlightenment: Anabaptism in a Post-Secular Age *Kyle Stoltzfus*
- A Positive Vision for the Kingdom of God *Byran Smucker*
- Living in a Cross-Pressured World *Josh Nisley*
- Confidence in the Reality and Beauty of Christianity in a Dismissive Age *Stephen Russell*
- The Ironic Influencers: How did Renunciation Empower the Eastern Ascetics? *Lucas Hilty*



For more details and registration: Visit [fbep.org/csw](https://fbep.org/csw)  
 Email [fbep@fbep.org](mailto:fbep@fbep.org)  
 Call (814) 789-4518, ext. 220

## VOLUNTEER POSITIONS OPEN

Volunteers at FB serve a one-year term beginning this summer. They participate in the mentoring program and audit classes.

### MAINTENANCE

Building upkeep, janitorial, grounds, and handyman work

### KITCHEN

Food preparation and service for students, staff, and events

### HOUSEKEEPING

Cleaning, decorating, and hospitality

### BOOKSTORE

Customer care, shelf-stocking, and shipping

### APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Applicants must be at least 18 and be supported by their church.

If you are interested, or can recommend someone to us, please contact our office at [fbep@fbep.org](mailto:fbep@fbep.org).



## SUMMER TERM 2022

JUNE 27-JULY 29 2022

Summer Term offers courses designed to equip teachers in K-12 schools. Academic coursework and relational connections provide a rich, growing experience for men and women who teach the rising generation.

Teachers are life-long learners. Learn with us this summer!



## COURSES OFFERED IN 2022

Foundations of Education.....	Steven Brubaker
Principles of Teaching.....	Christopher Brode
Teaching Diverse Learners.....	Becky Bollinger
Teaching Secondary Mathematics.....	John Mark Kuhns
Beginning Choral Conducting.....	Brandon Mullet
Beginning Class Voice.....	Brandon Mullet
Music Fundamentals.....	Brandon Mullet
Teaching Secondary English Lang. Arts.....	Josh Nisley
Art for Teachers.....	Hannah Nolt
Drawing.....	Hannah Nolt
Watercolor.....	Hannah Nolt
Anabaptist History.....	Stephen Russell
The Life of the Teacher.....	Jonas Sauder
Child Development.....	Jonas Sauder
Cross-Cultural Understanding.....	Jonas Sauder
Choir.....	Lyle Stutzman
Music Theory I.....	Lyle Stutzman
Teaching Secondary Music.....	Lyle Stutzman

For a full list of course descriptions and schedule:

Visit [fbep.org/st](https://fbep.org/st)  
 Email [fbep@fbep.org](mailto:fbep@fbep.org)  
 Call (814) 789-4518, ext. 220

*Address Service Requested*

**FAITH BUILDERS NEWSLETTER** The Faith Builders newsletter is published quarterly and serves to inform, inspire, and equip its readers. Subscription is free upon request.

# Join our learning community!

We are grateful for a strong start to student applications for August 2022. We still have openings in each track of study:

- » Teacher Apprenticing
- » Christian Ministries
- » General Studies

Apply now if you are interested in preparing for a lifetime of service. We would love to talk with you! Contact us: [fbep@fbep.org](mailto:fbep@fbep.org) | (814)789-4518

- 1) Complete the student application.  
 The application is available at [fbep.org/academics/semester](https://fbep.org/academics/semester).
- 2) Apply for scholarships.  
 Browse options at [fbep.org/admissions/scholarships](https://fbep.org/admissions/scholarships).
- 3) Wait for application review.  
 We review applications in May.
- 4) Arrive on August 21.  
 Studies begin with an orientation to Faith Builders and an introduction to apprenticing.



## FAITH BUILDERS TRAINING INSTITUTE

**TEACHER APPRENTICING**  
 space for five more



**CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES & GENERAL STUDIES** space for four more

