



Faith Builders

Discipling the head, heart, and hands

ISSUE 155 ∞ WINTER 2024



Faith Builders students, volunteers, staff, and families, August 2024

from the

ADMINISTRATOR

Writer Wallace Stegner identified two types of people: boomers and stickers. The boomers are in constant motion, extracting the goods from a community and then moving on. They pick the low hanging fruit and then look for the next tree. Stickers stay put. They develop roots. They invest deeply in a community. They are there through the good times and the bad. They help the community grow and thrive.

As followers of Christ, we open our hands to his leading as to where we should stick. He may want to move us from our homeland to a far country. But when we arrive, we seek the welfare of the city where he has sent us (Jeremiah 29:7). We live the mentality of stickers. We answer the call to be fully engaged, faithfully present until God calls us elsewhere.

The place for Faith Builders in 2024 is Guys Mills, PA. Over the years, these newsletters have focused on the mission of Faith Builders to serve conservative Anabaptist communities in other places. But we live and work in a particular geographic community, and as members of that community we are called to seek the welfare of Guys Mills. While we have not always adequately kept that in view, I have seen our people honoring and contributing to the local community in many ways including:

1. Volunteering time to invest in the Guys Mills infrastructure while avoiding polarizing, political activity. Some serve on the local water board. Some publish a newsletter for the township. Several own and operate a store that has been a Guys Mills fixture for many decades before Faith Builders arrived.
2. Learning and preserving the local history. Some of our staff are collecting local memorabilia for display in a Guys Mills Museum here on FB's campus. The locals are grateful for this honoring of the people and history that formed this place.
3. Supporting the fund drives for the fire department, the local ambulance service, the wildlife refuge, and other vital community services.
4. Being present and visible to the locals. Taking regular walks. Taking supper at the fire hall on wings night. Visiting and blessing the neighbors.

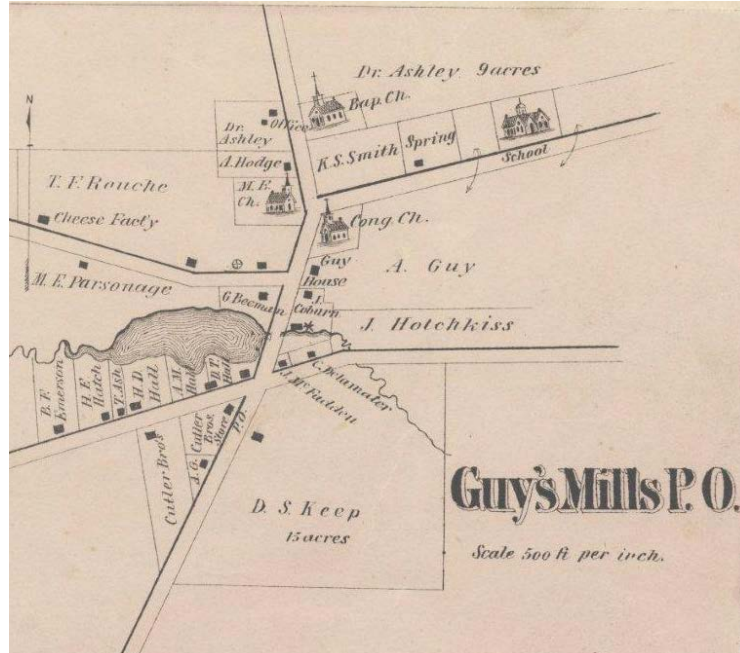
Stickers take the long view. How can we live so that this community will be a better place in ten years? How can we offer a consistent testimony to the reality of Jesus? How can we faithfully represent Jesus in every aspect of community life?



Steven Brubaker
srb@fbep.org

Gifts in unlikely places

We reflect on and celebrate God's providence in this place with its unique history and geography.



A QUIET COMMUNITY

Guys Mills was settled in 1815 by Jacob Guy. A grist mill and sawmill followed, hence Guys Mills rather than Guys Mill. In 1859, Edwin Drake successfully drilled for oil in nearby Titusville inspiring an influx of people and commerce into the area. At its height, Guys Mills had three doctors, several cheese makers, a funeral home, the largest department store in Crawford County, and three times the population of today. The bustling heyday of the late 1800s and early 1900s has settled into a quiet, poky, and delightful community to live and work.

Jacob Guy's legacy included designating a sizeable parcel of his land for education. The local public school was built on this property. Faith Builders purchased this property in 1992. *Steven Brubaker (photos circa 1900)*



WILDERNESS AND VISION

It was the summer of 1992 when Shelia and I traveled to northwestern, PA with David and Orpah Weaver. I had recently agreed to join the FBEP Board. Our trip with the Weavers was to be present in Saegertown for the opening of sealed bids in respect to an abandoned public school property in the little town of Guys Mills, PA. This little town in the howling wilderness of the Pennsylvania uplands couldn't be found on most maps of the day. There was no Google Earth or Google Maps.

The short story is that the only bid to be opened was our bid of \$50,001. After discovering that ours was the winning bid, we went to see the property for the very first time. We were filled with great wonder as we observed 3-5 foot weeds surrounding the building, roofs that leaked profusely creating havoc to an interior that was filled with the antique remnants of 1960s to 1980s school equipment, and even a dentist's chair. Our wonder turned to despair. But being young at heart and ready for challenge and adventure, some of us rolled up our sleeves and began acting on the vision for a school to train teachers.

One of the pleasures of this adventure was the positive reaction from the residents of Guys Mills. We saw their curiosity turn to respect, and then to deep gratefulness for Faith Builders. We in turn were blessed by their open-handedness in helping us where they could. Of mutual interest to both was the water and sewage problem that plagued the community and school. Some of us have rich memories of working with Wilford Miller, Russ Boyd, and Brian Kirberger in solving at least some of these problems. Today, several FB employees have administrative responsibilities in the Guys Mills Water Association. I am deeply grateful for the love and acceptance the Guys Mills community offered us. I pray that we will continue to give back to the community as we have opportunity.

Melvin Lehman (photos circa 1992)



SEASONS AND SWAMPS

Guys Mills is situated in Crawford County, in the northwest corner of Pennsylvania. The Lake Erie shoreline is only 35 miles to the northwest. This single fact contributes significantly to our weather, sending us cooler summers, cloudier winters, and more precipitation than most other areas of our state. Average annual snowfall is around 75 inches, and occasionally we receive more than 100 inches of snow in a single winter! Lawns and gardens in our region typically stay lush and green all summer, and irrigation is rarely needed.

Our local landscape includes rolling hills, an equal mix of fields and forests, and plentiful wetlands. Some of the unique features of our geology are glacially formed—like the 6000-acre natural wetland we call the Geneva Swamp, or the 80 foot deep naturally formed Conneaut Lake. We are particularly blessed to have an 8000-acre wildlife refuge next door to our school. The local population, including some of our staff and students, enjoys hiking, birdwatching, hunting, foraging, and many other outdoor recreational opportunities that our region has to offer.

Sheldon Kauffman (photos circa 1993)



2024 TERMS AND EVENTS

Winter Term

JANUARY 1-FEBRUARY 2, 2024

Winter Term continued to serve a wide range of students, since the courses appeal to both men and women across the age spectrum. In 2024, thirty-six full-time students attended all five weeks of the term. An additional sixty-three students took at least one course during the term. Students came from thirteen states and provinces plus El Salvador, Ireland, Jordan, Mexico, Paraguay, and Romania. The breadth of life experience present at Winter Term—pastors, ministry workers, business owners, young married couples—encouraged enriching discussions both in and out of the classroom. Guest instructors Edsel Burdge, Paul Lamicela, Nolan Martin, and Reagan Schrock expanded our course offerings to provide valuable perspectives for students.

courses included

Creating Life-giving Spaces	Life & Leadership for Men	Church History: Early & Medieval
Themes in Leadership	Issues in Church Leadership	Engaging Middle Eastern Culture, History, and Religion
An Anabaptist View of Peace, Violence, & Politics	Music Fundamentals	Reading the Bible
Understanding the Biblical Storyline	Choral Conducting	Anabaptism as Worldview
	Marriage & Mothering	



Summer Term

JUNE 24-JULY 26, 2024

Summer Term students were refreshed by the opportunity to talk shop with other teachers, sharing insights and ideas for effective, sustainable teaching. Forty-seven full-time students attended the term, and an additional seventeen students took at least one class during the term. Students came from seventeen states and provinces plus Mexico, representing a broad range of church groups and school sizes. Guest instructors Crista Bontrager, Christopher Brode, Peter Goertzen, and Jonas Sauder joined local instructors to offer courses that provided development in numerous content areas. We hope that the investment of Summer Term will help to equip teachers for effective, faithful service in the vital work of training the next generation.

courses included

Teaching Reading and Writing	American History	Teaching Gifted Learners
Principles of Teaching	Beginning Choral Conducting	Teaching Secondary History/Social Studies
Foundations of Education	Beginning Class Voice	Reading & Responding to Literature
Course Development Practicum	Church History: Modern	Nonresistance
	Child Development	



Administrators Conference

JANUARY 18-20, 2024

Held each January in Ligonier, PA, this conference is designed to encourage and support school administrators and their spouses. The event presents opportunities for networking with and receiving encouragement from other administrators.

In this year's conference, Dan Rutt presented practical ways for school leaders to increase their effectiveness in the areas of responsibility and opportunity that they have been given. In the divided work session, school administrators focused on how to work effectively with their school boards.



College Student Weekend

JULY 5-7, 2024

The 23 college students at this year's College Student Weekend enjoyed the time of interaction between attendees, speakers, and staff. Abigail Wingard shared highlights from her college experience, and Nathan Zook spoke about finding harmony in one's life when various parts of their world seem to collide. Breakouts included topics on literature, Christian witness, effects of digital technology, and the relationship of faith and science. In addition to the presentations that were offered, attendees gathered in small groups to discuss their questions about college, their home communities, and vocation.



Servant Institute

OCTOBER 14-17, 2024

The fourth iteration of Servant Institute began in October. There are 24 participants: 12 church leaders, 6 school leaders, and 6 organizational leaders.

Church groups represented include Keystone, Beachy, South-Atlantic Mennonite Conference, and Midwest Mennonite Fellowship. Organizations and schools represented include Christian Light, IGO, Ohio Wilderness Boys Camp, Arthur Christian School, and Pequea Christian School.

The next cohort of Servant Institute is scheduled to begin in 2026.



Teachers Week

JULY 30-AUGUST 2, 2024

Teachers Week provides workshops and breakout sessions for new and experienced teachers.

In the 2024 event, 331 teachers from a wide range of contexts attended the four days of teaching and training. We are grateful for the 34 presenters who joined us to speak from their experience in and vision for Christian education.



Apprenticing Term

OCTOBER 14-30, 2024

In Apprenticing Term—sandwiched between academic sessions—we devote our energy to hands-on practice in teaching or ministry, depending on the student's track of study. We believe that one of the primary ways we learn and change is through observation, practice, and interaction with skilled, experienced workers. This work requires a deep investment by staff to provide hands-on opportunities. We also benefit greatly from the assistance of other ministries in providing ministry experiences for our students in urban areas. We are grateful for the learning that occurs in this format of study.



Heart & Voice Men's Choir

NOVEMBER 8-10, 2024

This choir weekend inspires men to lead their families and churches in worshiping God with beautiful music. The event grew out of a love of men's music and a desire to give men an opportunity to sing challenging music with capable singers.

Fifty-seven men from various states, Romania, and Canada presented two programs in Virginia.



personnel



Carlin & Kayleen Atkinson (Eva, Eleanor)
IT coordinator



Kevin Beachy
bookstore volunteer



Tina Beachy
dean of women



Julene Bender
FBSC secretary



Myron Brubacher
dean of men



Steven & Cynthia Brubaker
administrator, instructor



Piper Burdge
FBSC teacher



John & Barb Coblentz
campus pastor, instructor



Danny Eshleman
scholarships assistant



Kaylynn Haines
housekeeping volunteer



Lucas & Anne Hilty (Judson, Elliot, George, Robert, Evan)
Resource Group project manager



Emma Hostetler
housekeeping volunteer



Justin & Renita Kauffman (Jack, Robin)
scholarships coordinator



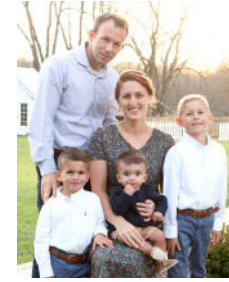
Kelly Kauffman
receptionist



Sheldon & Joann Kauffman (Annie, Sara, Christian, Katy)
operations administrator



Tim & Lucinda Kauffman (Adelynn)
bookstore manager



Kyle & Joy Lehman (Collin, Ryder, Kipp)
FBSC teacher



Melvin & Shelia Lehman
instructor



Marilyn Martin
FBSC teacher



Matthew & Larisa Mast (Karlin, Adrian, Annaliese, Caleb)
FBTI administrator



Gabriel Hollinger
maintenance/IT volunteer



Ashley Miller
kitchen volunteer



Chris & Julia Miller (Adrielle, Zoey, Hosea, Jesse, Judah)
Resource Group administrative assistant



Gerald & Cathy Miller (Kara, Tyler, André, Alex)
FBSC administrator



Jaran & Sara Miller (Theodore)
Resource Group assistant



Joseph Miller
FBSC teacher



Kara Miller
FBSC teacher



Meleta Metzler
bookkeeper



Brandon & Marie Mullet
instructor, dean of students



Kendall & Janelle Myers (Alecia, Gideon, Karina, Justus, Raquel, Gianna)
Resource Group administrator



Josh & Jean Nisley (Harper, Alastair, Caedmon, Sidney)
instructor



Louise Nisly
kitchen supervisor



Dallas & Maria Penner
communications assistant



Stephen Russell
instructor



Trevor Shelly
maintenance volunteer



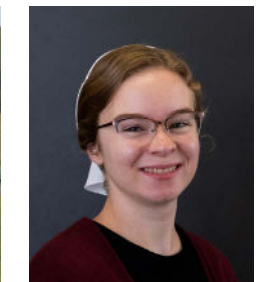
Kyle & Marlene Stoltzfus (Elia, Devin, Charlotte, Charis)
academic dean, instructor



Esther Strickler
assistant dean of women, housekeeping supervisor



Glendon and Starla Strickler (Sierra, Janae, Brooke, Erika, Brendon)
FBSC assistant principal, teacher



Sierra Strickler
FBSC teacher



Miriam Weaver
kitchen volunteer



Shelby Wengerd
FBSC teacher



Abby Wingard
librarian



Anita Yoder
communications assistant



Karen Yoder
FBSC teacher



Lila Yutzky
housekeeping volunteer



Anna Zehr
FBSC teacher

“

There are no sacred and unsacred places; there are only sacred and desecrated places. ...the world and our life in it are conditional gifts.

Wendell Berry

129

STUDENTS, GRADES 1-12

56

FAMILIES

Faith Builders Christian School serves local churches by teaching students to love and serve God and people. FBSC partners with the Training Institute to provide a grade school for intensive teacher apprenticeship. The school seeks to nurture solid families, vibrant churches, and life-time learners.

This year's school theme is "Pursuing Virtue," taken from Ephesians 2:10. Living with prudence, temperance, justice, and fortitude seems more important now than ever. These old time virtues never go out of vogue, and we desire that our students grow in them.



The long-term financial sustainability of FBSC has been a significant topic of consideration over the past number of years. By the grace of God and the help of many people, Generations Thrift, LLC, celebrated its grand opening on November 15 and 16. (WWW.GENERATIONSTHRIFT.ORG) The profits from the thrift store will primarily help fund the school while also providing funds for other local Anabaptist ministries. The support of the community in this new venture has exceeded our expectations and seems to be quickly gaining traction.



volunteers & students

VOLUNTEERS

- Bookstore*
 - » Kevin Beachy
- Housekeeping*
 - » Kaylynn Haines
 - » Emma Hostetler
- Kitchen*
 - » Ashley Miller
 - » Miriam Weaver
 - » Lila Yutzzy
- Maintenance*
 - » Trevor Shelly
- Maintenance + IT*
 - » Gabriel Hollinger

1ST-YEAR STUDENTS

- Christian Ministries*
 - » Josiah Bongioanni
 - » Chelsea Burden
 - » Krista Eshleman
 - » Derek Martin
 - » Kyle Miller
 - » Rebekah Oberholtzer
 - » Jared Reiff
- General Studies*
 - » Isaac Eicher
 - » Rosalie Martin
 - » Chadwin Miller
 - » Vaschel Miller
 - » Leon Reimer

- Teacher Apprenticing*
 - » Theda Breneman
 - » Corinna Burkholder
 - » Melody Ebersole
 - » Kayla Eby
 - » Jamin Graybill
 - » Victoria Gregory-Smith
 - » Vincent Miller
 - » Jadon Puffer
 - » Kayla Stauffer
 - » Johnny Taylor
 - » Heather Weaver

- 1-year student*
 - » Jason Yoder

2ND-YEAR STUDENTS

- Christian Ministries*
 - » Max Fisher
 - » Niccolas Miller
 - » Travis Nolt
 - » Lucia Zimmerman
- General Studies*
 - » Faith High
 - » Keribeth Smucker
 - » Korina Yoder
 - » Ryan Stoltzfus

- Teacher Apprenticing*
 - » Marilyn Beachy
 - » Joseph Byler
 - » Rachel Fisher
 - » Marcos Froese
 - » Miriam Laskowski
 - » Collin Miller
 - » Mikhail Miller
 - » Kara Troyer
 - » Mary Yoder
 - » Wendall Yoder

EVENTS IN 2025

Winter Term 2025

JANUARY 6–FEBRUARY 7

We are grateful for strong enrollment for Winter Term 2025! Review the course offerings and apply at FBEP.ORG/WT.

Administrators Conference & Retreat

JANUARY 30–FEBRUARY 1

Limited spaces remain. Register at FBEP.ORG/ACR.

REACH

MARCH 13–14, 2025

Mark your calendars for 2025! Register to attend at WWW.FBEP.ORG/REACH-2025.

Open House

APRIL 10–11

Be a student for a day! Find details and registration at FBEP.ORG/OPEN-HOUSE.

FB Chorale Program & Tour

MAY 23

All are welcome to attend this choir program in the FBSC gym at 7:00 PM. Follow the choir's tour itinerary May 19–26 at FBEP.ORG/CHOIR-PROGRAM.

FBTI Commencement

MAY 24

At commencement, 18 students plan to complete their tracks of study and continue God's work in the world!

Summer Term

JUNE 30–AUGUST 1

Information and application should be available in February at FBEP.ORG/ST.

College Student Weekend

JULY 4–6

This weekend supports conservative Anabaptist college students. Registration opens in the spring at FBEP.ORG/CSW.

Teachers Week

AUGUST 5–8

This week provides practical tools for new and experienced teachers. Registration opens in early April at FBEP.ORG/TW.

Two-Year Studies Begin

AUGUST 23

Invest two years to prepare for a lifetime of service! Begin the application at FBEP.ORG/ACADEMICS/SEMESTER.

building and grounds

PROJECTS COMPLETED IN 2024

- Installed acoustical panels on the wall in the gymnasium
- Installed a playground to the west of the day school and constructed a footbridge across the ditch.
- Improved the storm drainage around the west wing

CURRENT PROJECTS

- Institute Expansion: renovating the little gym into a student commons

FUTURE PROJECTS

- Institute Expansion Phase 3: construct an elevator tower between center section and east wing
- Install a building access control system in the west wing
- Improve and smooth out the athletic field
- Replace flooring in some of the dorms and classrooms
- Install an acoustical ceiling on the gym stage and replace the stage lighting and sound system



announcements

FBTI EXPANSION

Phase 2, renovation of the east wing gym, should be completed by the end of 2024. Phase 3, the construction of an elevator and stair tower to connect the center section and east wing, will begin after that as soon as weather permits.

PERSONNEL NEEDS

We need a campus pastor, mentoring coordinator, ministry apprenticeship instructor, and science/math instructor.

To make a recommendation or ask for an application, contact Steven Brubaker at SRB@FBEP.ORG.

CONGREGATIONAL SINGING & WORSHIP SEMINAR

This mobile seminar, led by Brandon Mullet, seeks to reinforce and renew our practice of congregational singing by teaching a biblical perspective of worship, giving historical context for our worship practices, and helping song leaders develop skills for leading congregational singing and worship.

To host this seminar, contact Chris Miller at CHRISM@FBEP.ORG.

financial details

income and expenses

JULY 2023–JUNE 2024

Income

Operations Donations	556,989.19
Capital Project Donations	813,971.09
Scholarship Donations	13,790,222.46
Special Event & Project Income	255,797.32
Tuition	1,116,142.84
Fees	1,001,360.43
Lodging	152,166.00
Meals	170,336.95
Resource Group Sales	319,085.17
FBCS Fundraisers	51,944.84
Interest	509,499.41
Other Income	58,775.87

Total Income 18,796,291.57

Cost of Goods Sold

Resource Group	216,474.51
Scholarships	13,795,991.50
Student Discounts	2,528.70

Total Cost of Goods Sold 14,014,994.71

Gross Profit 4,781,296.86

Expense

Labor	2,271,019.70
Administrative	95,421.50
Community Contributions	12,483.31
Equipment	74,159.70
FBCS Fundraising	24,632.32
Food	130,286.98
Furnishings	30,264.57
Insurance	34,317.36
Maintenance	73,599.75
Postage & Delivery	20,281.78
Printing	36,193.42
Resources	61,349.62
Services	66,973.10
Gifts & Recognition	6,767.19
Student Activities	21,329.92
Supplies	41,631.82
Travel & Events	134,695.45
Utilities	97,802.58
Project Development	71,341.33
Special Funded Projects	74,006.52
Depreciation	188,387.53
Total Expense	3,566,945.45

Net Income 1,214,351.41

Annual audit conducted by Mattern CPA, LLC, an independent firm in Emlenton, PA. Copies of the audit report are available upon request.

balance sheet

AS OF JUNE 30, 2024

Assets

Current Assets

Cash & Equivalents	2,956,788.91
Scholarship Cash	7,782,046.00
Accounts Receivable	31,248.22
Student Loans Receivable	17,826.73
Inventory	341,460.41
Other Current Assets	937,252.67

Total Current Assets 12,066,622.94

Other Assets

Equipment, Furniture & Fixtures	64,768.15
Building & Building Improvements	3,954,857.3
Land & Land Improvements	247,883.13
Miscellaneous Assets	55,074.36

Total Other Assets 4,322,582.94

Total Assets 16,389,205.88

Liabilities and Equity

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	73,307.88
Deferred Revenue	419,772.44
Scholarship Deferred Revenue	7,773,289.00
Payroll Liabilities	28,743.16
Other Current Liabilities	331,008.31
Loans Payable	588,359.84

Total Liabilities 9,214,480.63

Total Equity 7,174,725.25

Total Liabilities and Equity 16,389,205.88

planned giving

Establishing a charitable bequest plan is an easy way to support Faith Builders in the future without affecting your cash flow during your lifetime. In addition, it is a way to pass on your stewardship values to your children while helping to build God's kingdom and potentially reducing the taxes owed by your estate. A charitable bequest is a distribution of any type of property, including cash, shares of stock, mutual funds, or real estate.

Contact Kelly Kauffman (KELLYK@FBEP.ORG or 814-789-4518 ext. 220) to request your free charitable bequest plan brochure.

This summary is intended for informational purposes and should be used only for preliminary guidance. You should consult your accountant or tax advisor to determine the best fit for your situation. The services of an attorney are required to draft and execute any necessary legal documents. Anabaptist Foundation provides planned giving services for Faith Builders.

study here!

Teacher Apprenticing

For those developing as teachers, Faith Builders offers the two-year Teacher Apprenticing Program (TAP). This track is designed to accommodate the introductory level needs of students planning to teach in Anabaptist, mission, or other church schools.

Christian Ministries

This track is designed to prepare students to serve with zeal and vision at home or across the world. Students in this track gain capacity in reading and teaching the Bible, communicating cross-culturally, and identifying and responding to needs. In their second year, students intern with an existing ministry to gain practical experience in a focused area of ministry.

General Studies

This track is designed for students who want to prepare for further education at college. We aim to help students navigate the educational and relational challenges of college with proficiency and Christian faith. Numerous colleges accept work done at Faith Builders as credits in their programs.

Apply or ask us your questions here!

[FBEP.ORG/APPLY](https://fbep.org/apply)
(814) 789-4518
fbep@fbep.org



New study available!

What is *If Anyone Would Follow Me?*

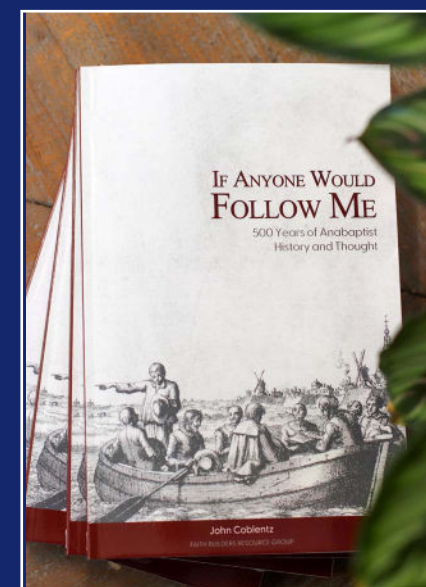
It is a 13-lesson study guide that can be used in Sunday school classes or other small group settings to study the story of the Anabaptist movement from 1525 to the present.

Who is this for?

Anyone from youth age and up who wants to learn about who the Anabaptists have been and what they have believed.

Is there a teacher's guide?

Yes! There is a separate volume with additional notes and resources for the teacher.



Order from Christian Learning Resource bookstore: CHRISTIANLEARNING.ORG (814) 789-4769



Faith Builders

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Guys Mills, PA 16327
(814) 789-4518 | fbep.org
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Erie, PA
Permit #227



Faith Builders exists to prepare students for joyful, humble, Christlike service in God's Kingdom.

REACH 2025

REACH brings together Christian workers from all walks of life. Farmers, businessmen, and young men and women share the vision and link arms with missionaries in Belize, food distributors in Ukraine, school teachers in city missions, teachers and students in Bible institutions, chiefs in boys' camps, and producers and distributors of Christian literature. We pray that this gathering of people and the resulting outflow of ministry will bring glory to God and further His purposes for our time.

REACH includes main sessions, over 100 breakout sessions, a ministry display hall, and opportunities to spend time connecting with new and old friends.

REACH 2025 will be held on March 13-14, 2025 at the David Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh, PA. We'd love to meet you there!

Breakouts include:

Communicating the Gospel through Story
Agriculture in Kingdom Work
Communicating Effectively in the Classroom
Developing Your Personal Prayer Life
Enabling Next-Generation Discipleship
Creating & Using Your Organization's Budget
Exploring International Business

Effectively Serving from a Board Seat
Anabaptists and the Bible
The Gospel and the LGBTQ Community
Life Changing Prayer for People in Trauma
Extend Your Table: un(Common) Hospitality
Anabaptism and Missions
Loving with our Language
And many more!



Scan this QR code or visit
[FBEP.ORG/ATTEND/EVENTS/REACH/](https://fbep.org/attend/events/reach/)
for more details and registration.