



# THE LATEST REPORT

Project E.A.R.T.H. International Newsletter

Winter 2006 Edition



## Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!

Until now the snow shovels leaned against the front of the house since the snowstorm we had back in November. Their first winter in the USA, Fika and Bo have experienced very little snow. That all changed February 12 when a "North Eastern" came through central PA dropping nearly a foot of snow on us during the night. The storm threatened to cancel a Spaghetti Dinner/Auction that would benefit the tuition fund. (See "Spaghetti Success" page 2) The storm messed up plans for a surprise birthday celebration for the guys but we went ahead with our plans and enjoyed some quality time with a few friends who were able to make it in spite of the storm. Fika and Bo spent all morning shoveling snow. They laughed and sang while worked to clear snow from the sidewalks and driveway.

## *A special evening with . . .*

LANCASTER, PA~ We Praise GOD for some very special friends who believe in what we are doing enough to speak to people on our behalf and doors of opportunity for more ministry swing open. Jen Kipp is a dear friend from Lancaster Fellowship in East Pete., PA. Jen and her sister Marla are among a large group of P.E.I. supporters that are always praying for us and also spreading the word about what we do. When we were on the "Get Up and Go Show" on WJTL back in October, the opportunity came as a result of these dear friends who told them about us.

The first time I heard ApologetiX was at Creation. They were amazing! I've been a fan ever since. Jen Kipp told us that she was friends with the band and would get us passes for the concert in Lancaster if we wanted to go. Within a few days I got an email asking me if we would be interested in opening for the band. Thanks to Karl Messner (one of the founding members of the band) had this great opportunity.

ApologetiX offered us a considerable amount of time to open the concert. It was really great that the concert was being held at Lancaster Mennonite High School - Fine Arts Center because we have sung on that stage a few times for chapel and the guys are in that facility almost everyday.

Lighting was done by the LMH Tech Crew and they did an excellent job. The whole evening was a very special one for us and many of our friends who came to share in it. Thanks ApologetiX and Jen for giving us this awesome opportunity for ministry.

## ApologetiX

THAT CHRISTIAN PARODY BAND





Philisiwe Mamba (Fika's Mom)



Girlie Bhembe(Bo's Mom)

## Warmth in the cold of Winter

EPHRATA, PA ~ On Sunday evening January 8th, we had the joy of giving our Winter Concert at our home church. The evening began with a covered dish dinner in the fellowship hall. For weeks we had been preparing for this very special time with our church family at Ephrata Mennonite. The guys had worked hard putting up posters in store windows and inviting classmates and friends to the event.

The evening was a great success. What a blessing to have the opportunity to share the songs GOD has given us and some testimonies with our family, friends and the community.

We not only wanted to bring honor and glory to the Lord but, we also wanted to honor the Godly mothers who raised Fika and Bo. Philisiwe and Girlie are amazing ladies who love GOD so much that they were willing to let go of their sons to be missionaries here in the USA. It wasn't easy for them to do that. They desire to see their sons serve God and see those

who have not yet met JESUS have the opportunity to hear about Him.

Fika shares: "My mom was taking me to church even before I was born. She was praying for me as she sang praises to God and once I was born she continued to take me to church and teach me about Jesus."

Bo shares: "My mom and grandma have always prayed for me, brought me to church and taught me about Jesus. My mom always had time to talk to me and share with me about God."

The Winter Concert is the first of many concert experiences we will be doing in 2006. The concerts are "Family Friendly" and we hope from the youngest to the oldest - all will be blessed by the music and message we bring. Through our concerts we challenge and encourage young people to have close relationships with their family and open communication. Today the "family" is under attack we firmly believe that GOD wants us to stand up for the family.

## Ministering at Lancaster Mennonite

LANCASTER, PA ~ It's been a blessing getting to know the campus pastor at LMH and begin ministering to the students at Lancaster Mennonite School. We've been blessed to do chapel program for both the high school and middle school with a great response from the students and faculty. P.E.I. has been presenting inspiring chapels for Christian schools for many years. Some of the students at LMS reminded Chris that they remembered chapel services that he did at New Danville Mennonite School when they were much younger. (New Danville is affiliated with LMS). Today some of those students are ready to graduate.

As Ambassadors to Youth (missionaries to their campus) Fika and Bo are working to build relationships with fellow students and minister to them. They desire to be good role models for their peers and their goal is to share Christ with those who do not yet know Him. They also have a desire to challenge and encourage their Christian classmates to live bold lives for Jesus on their campus and in their world. LMS believes that their students have the potential to "change their world." We believe that too. We are proud to partner with them ministering at LMS. Pray for us.

It's exciting to know that LMS has such a dedicated group of teachers committed to giving the students a quality education. More importantly - is their commitment to Jesus Christ and their relationship with him. Fika & Bo are so inspired by their teachers. They are inspired by their love for God and how they express it in thought, word and deed. I'm blessed when I hear about the personal interest the teachers take in the students and their progress. The creativity they show in the projects they assign is a testimony to me of their love for teaching. You only need to hear the guys talk for a couple minutes about Mr. Sauder and the way he teaches his "Jesus Story" class or Mr. Groff and the enthusiasm he puts into everything he teaches, to become excited about this school. Then there is Mrs. Diffenbach. I lovely call her "the home wrecker". But, don't take that disrespectfully. She gives geometry homework 99.9% of the time. When I ask the guys what they have for homework I always say - "besides Mrs. Diffenbach". They absolutely love her and I know why. She IS among the best teachers they will probably ever have. And believe it or not - they enjoy doing their geometry homework. (Go Mrs. Diffenbach!) If I go on to tell you all the great things about every teacher like: Mr. Horst, Mr. Miller . . . . . I will never finish this newsletter.



FINE ARTS CENTER - Lancaster Mennonite High School - (Spring 2005)

## A Note to Parents

If your son or daughter has lost interest in school and you have been trying to figure out what you are going to do about it - consider LMS! Check them out at: [www.LancasterMennonite.org](http://www.LancasterMennonite.org)



## Spaghetti Success

The JV Youth at Ephrata Bible Fellowship Church, under the direction of Geneva Bare held a very successful Spaghetti Dinner/Auction on Saturday evening, Feb. 11th. More than 100 people filled the beautifully decorated hall and were treated to two chocolate fountains with a variety of goodies to coat with a choice of dark or creamy milk chocolate. A variety of drinks accompanied tossed salad, spaghetti. They also served cake for those who had room for dessert. It was an amazing evening and the JV students and leaders did an excellent job.

The funds from this event will be shared with three ministries. They planto purchase acomputer & software for a nursery school at EBFC, and split the remainder of the funds with a mission project to India and Fika & Bo's tuition fund at LMH. We want to thank Geneva, JV Youth and all those who supported this event. We were blessed to share a few of our songs with the folks as a part of the evening's entertainment. What a great time of fun and fellowship it was. We invite you to pray for the ministry of EBFC as they continue to serve the Lord.



Fika, Lucas Good, Bo and Tyler Landis pose at the end of a fun get together.

## Connecting with friends

Ephrata ~ During a break from school in January, Fika & Bo had an opportunity to connect with two of their classmates from Lancaster Mennonite High School. It was the first time the boys hosted an overnight since arriving in the USA and they were so excited about it. Tyler is one of their friends from voice class and Lucas is a friend from their geometry class.

The evening consisted of a game of UNO Attack, a make your own hoagie dinner, a flavor guessing game, an exciting game called skittles, a devotional led by Fika on friendship and some worship. We also watched a nice family movie. In the morning Fika & Bo lead a time of prayer and devotion and shared a video about our ministry. After a nice brunch we played another game of UNO Attack and skittles before parting company. We look forward to many more opportunities for connecting with friends for fun and fellowship.



## CAMP JOY CHOIR TOUR '06

Lancaster, PA ~ Recently Children's Bible Fellowship of New York took some of the kids from CAMP JOY and put together a wonderful choir that toured parts of PA, Wash. D.C. and VA. During a stop in Lancaster, Fika and Bo had the opportunity to partner with them in an evening of ministry at Water Street Rescue Mission. The Camp Joy Choir sang and then CBF Exec. Director - Jim Wickliffe invited us to sing and I gave a personal testimony and invitation for those who had not yet given their lives to Christ to come. It was an awesome night of ministry. "Aunt Laura" has done an amazing job with the choir. The kids were so cooperative and showed such enthusiasm as they praised GOD. The songs that Laura selected were amazing. We were so touched by every word.

Fika and Bo enjoyed getting to know the choir and experience the power of GOD through their singing. We also praise GOD for the other staff traveling with the choir. Heather, Andrew and Tony - you are awesome! We love you all.

Camp Joy is located about an hour north of NYC in Carmel, NY. It is one of the camps we will be doing ministry at this summer. (14 days in August) During our time there we will also do ministry at Camp Hope (a camp for physically challenged youth) also run by CBF of NY.

For more info. about CBF . . .

[www.CBFNY.org](http://www.CBFNY.org)



## Praising the Lord at Shiloh

Quarryville, PA ~ In mid-February we had the blessing of sharing at Shiloh Tabernacle in Quarryville. Thanks to Phil Nelson (worship director) we were invited to do the a.m service sharing our music and testimonies. Bo's mom joined us via telephone from Swaziland and gave a beautiful testimony about what it's like for her to give up her son to serve the LORD as a missionary here. Fika's 7 year old brother also joined via telephone and sang one of the songs Fika wrote. It was a very powerful morning of ministry.



Brett Rush is the Pastor at Shiloh. Pastor Brett had just returned from Nashville where he was recording another CD. The boys were blessed to receive Brett's CD- INVITATION which is ministering to all of us. I encourage you to check it out online at [www.BrettRushMusic.com](http://www.BrettRushMusic.com). There are some FREE downloads there and more information about his ministry. It's always fun getting to know new people as we travel to do ministry at local churches. The folks at Shiloh Tabernacle made us feel so welcome. We look forward to being with them again in the near future.

I met Phil Nelson a few years ago when I was a part of the cast of Miracle of Christmas and Daniel at Sight & Sound. Phil is an amazing man of GOD who has a passion for worship. Phil and his wife Lauren are such a blessing and encouragement to us.



Sunday a.m. at Shiloh Tabernacle - a time of worship

Please pray for the ministry of Shiloh as they reach out. They have a heart for the lost and also for the people of AFRICA. Recently they sent a team to Kenya and GOD did amazing things while they are there. If you would like more to know more about Shiloh or Brett Rush be sure to visit the website we mentioned. You will be glad you did. We want to thank Shiloh for all your love and prayers!

*You asked us again . . .*

## Where have you been? Where are you going?

**Since December . . .**

Washington Ave. Bible Youth - Ephrata  
Lancaster Fellowship - E. Pete.  
Jr. High Chapel - LMS - Lancaster  
Akron Ch. of Breth. - Christmas Program  
EBFC - Youth Christmas Party  
Officially Joined Eph. Menn. Church  
Lancaster Fellowship - Christmas Party  
CURE International - Lemoyne, PA  
Manship Chapel - Felton, DE  
Rhiel Family Mission Night - Gap, PA  
Thomas Christmas Party - Lancaster  
Eph Menn. - Our Winter Concert  
Beacon Bible Church - Bronx, NY  
Preached and sang at Lanc. Fellowship  
Sr. High Chapel - LMS - Lancaster  
Concert with Apologetix - Lancaster  
Youth Superbowl Party - Ephrata  
Jodan Small Group - Lancaster  
Shiloh Tabernacle - Quarryville, PA  
Water Street Rescue Mission  
Hospice visit @ VA Hospital - Lebanon  
Manship Chapel - Felton DE  
Lancaster Fellowship - East Petersburg  
. . . . thanks for your prayers!

**Coming events:**

**MARCH**

Bible Fellowship Church of Ephrata  
(Devotions for Pinewood Derby Night)  
Lancaster Fellowship Home Fellowship

**APRIL**

Manship Chapel - Felton, DE  
Lancaster Fellowship - E. Pete  
Shiloh Tabernacle (Tentative)  
First Church - Ephrata - Youth Group

**MAY**

Spring Outreach - Ark Tech University  
Russellville AR - May 2 - 14  
EBFC - Leadership Training Retreat  
TNT - Extreme Event - Ephrata  
Manship Chapel - Felton, DE

**JUNE**

Dutch Wonderland - WJTL  
Father/Son Campout - Woodcrest  
Bowmansville Menn. Jr/Sr. Youth VBS  
Woodcrest Retreat - Day camp  
Woodcrest Retreat - Overnight camp

**JULY**

Tentative schedule

**AUGUST**

Camp Joy/Camp Hope



# THE LATEST REPORT 4

## A Message from the Director

Exciting things have been happening since the day Fika and Bo arrived in August. My role in the ministry before they came was very "up front". Though I was also handling all the "behind the scenes" things in the past, I was also doing the majority of the ministry so I was very visible. For those of you who are parents you know just how much time it takes planning and juggling schedules to make everything work out. Since we minister as a team - it gets extra complicated and takes more time than I ever imagined to coordinate everything and still give the guys the personal attention they need. Playing the roles of dad, mom, ministry director, ministry coordinator, trainer, mentor . . . I get spread a little thin at times. I thank GOD for a large group of Aunts & Uncles that stand ready to help when help is needed. Along with all these things are so many other things that I must tend to. The web-site, communication via email (over 200 each week), communication via telephone (over 100 calls each week), a ministry of encouragement I have to more than two dozen Christian leaders that I meet with on a regular basis to challenge and encourage them in their ministries, hours and hours of study to prepare for upcoming events and summer camps, designing our ministry materials, flyers, and information that we give out concerning our ministry. All these things keep me busy late into the night most nights. I seem to work on technical things when everyone is asleep. It's not unusual for me to be sitting in front of my computer at 2 or 3 a.m. answering email or writing the messages I will be sharing two months from now

at camp. In September and October I can honestly say I was overwhelmed with the added responsibility and realizing that it was one thing to live by "faith" and trust GOD to take care of my \$15,000 - \$18,000 annual ministry budget and quite another to add two people and an additional \$30,000 to that leap of faith. It has been quite an amazing thing to watch GOD work it all out before our very eyes. It has kept all of us on our knees. I am ashamed to admit a few times near the end of 2005 doubts brought me to tears as I questioned whether it was really GOD who lead me to bring these Ambassadors to Youth here.

Maybe at times you struggle with your faith too - when it comes to leaps of faith that you've taken. For others . . . maybe the notion of "taking a leap of faith" goes beyond anything you would dare to do. I know there are many skeptics when it comes to the way I have felt lead to do ministry and lead my life. For some there are more questions than I would have time to answer but, I'm told by those who are closest to me that they are somehow inspired by the testimony it has been to them. If I can be a part of inspiring people to step outside their comfort zone to TRUST GOD and claim the promises HE has made them, I will gladly go through the storms of struggle, and dare to get out of the boat believing that JESUS will help us to walk on the water. If you read the journals of Fika and Bo and all the things they've written about GOD and what He's done for them since August you would probably think they made some of it up. Over the years many have felt that I am a better story teller than I am a person who lives by faith. But, when GOD is in control of your life and you TRUST HIM to do what HE has promised, the true stories of what HE does will be better than any story we can make up.

I've shared this with you because I know there is no way you can effectively pray for me unless you understand why I am asking you to pray and why we need you to pray. We have trusted GOD for food, clothing, shelter, transportation, tuition and a host of other things. Some laughed when I told them that I was believing that GOD would take care of the tuition to LMS for the boys. Half way through the year we had not been able to pay the school a penny. Even though we were over \$4,000 behind they had not called or written to ask where their money was. We continued to pray. Through a few awesome circumstances we were able to pay \$2,000 to the school and also pay several other things that we were behind on! We rejoiced and kept praying. Recently someone offered to pay off the tuition for this year! GOD is so good. So many people are asking these days - "how can we help?" Once they experience our ministry and get to know us - it is the Holy Spirit that bears witness on our behalf. The Project E.A.R.T.H. family is growing and we praise the LORD because we are all a part of the body of Christ working together with the local church to reach the lost at home and around the world. Thanks so much for loving us, praying for us and partnering with us in this ministry.

This summer we will be ministering to hundreds of youth through a variety of ministries and we believe that many will come to know Christ but, even more will be challenged and encouraged to live bold lives for Christ that will result in some going into full-time ministry, on mission trips or serving with ministries in their local church. It is also our prayer that we will be able to encourage many to re-establish open communication with their families and stronger relationships with their LORD. We will keep you posted about how that is going. PRAY!

Finally - the boys and I continue to write more songs and we are currently in the process of preparing for the recording of our first CD. With the help of some special friends we believe this will take place in the next few months. Thanks for your patience as many of you continue to ask us for a CD.

*Because Jesus lives, Chris Cote*

## Ways You can Help

*There is a never ending need for a variety of office supply items that can be quite expensive. We get most of our supplies from Office Max or Staples as we need them. If you feel lead to help in supplying things like: Ink Jet Printer Cartridges, Laser Printer Toner Cartridges, miniDV video tapes, LightScribe Recordable DVDs, Recordable Cds, please email me or call me so I can give you specific details of what we are currently in need of.*

*Often people ask me about things they could do for Fika and Bo. My suggestion always is: WalMart Gift Cards. They are so happy when there is something they need to be able to take their gift card and go to WalMart and get it. Thanks to those of you have have done so much!*



## Two NEW ways we are saying THANK YOU!

### **KHULEKANI "Eternal Light" PRAYER BRACELETS**

These glow-in-the-dark silicone bracelets will remind you to KHULEKANI (PRAY) day and night. The more time you this bracelet is in the light - the brighter in will shine in the dark. The more time you spend with JESUS the brighter you shine for HIM in this dark world. So come on and KHULEKANI - day and night! This bracelet is a gift to our supporters when they give \$3.00 or more to support our ministry. Bracelets will be available by the end of March.

### **I WONDER WHY? PRAYER REMEMBRANCE PIN**

This NEW pin is made of polished brass and has a photo of Chris, Fika and Bo standing in front of the globe which is "falling apart". Around the photo is a line from the song: "Falling Apart" - "I wonder why? I wonder why? I wonder why this world of ours is falling apart?" A sturdy clear epoxy dome covers the photo. The pin has a clutch back to hold it securely in place. This pin replaces our PEI logo pin. The new pin is 1 1/2" (slightly larger than the logo pin). This is pin a GIFT to donors who give \$25.00 or more to support our ministry. We should have the pins by the end of March.