

# TREASURES and GIFTS

*Continued from page 2*

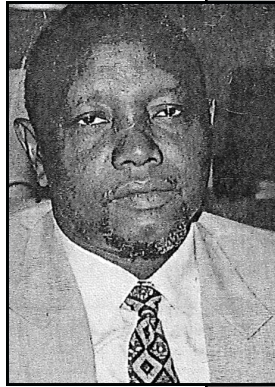
**Baboucarr Mbye (FJC'78)** attended Freeman Junior College thirty years ago and never forgot the “best college foundation” he received. His son, **Pa Mass Mbye**, arrived from The Gambia, Africa in August 2007 and will graduate in May, a member of the Freeman Academy class of 2009!

Baboucarr believed that Freeman Academy and the Freeman community would provide the best opportunity for Pa Mass to acquire not only vocational skills, but intellectual challenges that would stimulate constructive, creative and positive thinking skills. Baboucarr felt accepted and valued during his time at FJC and this encouraged him to be a considerate person, able to cope with people of all types.

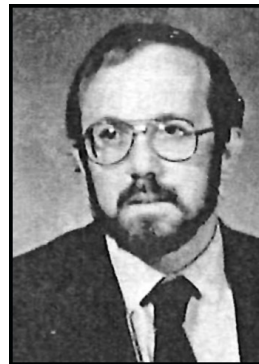
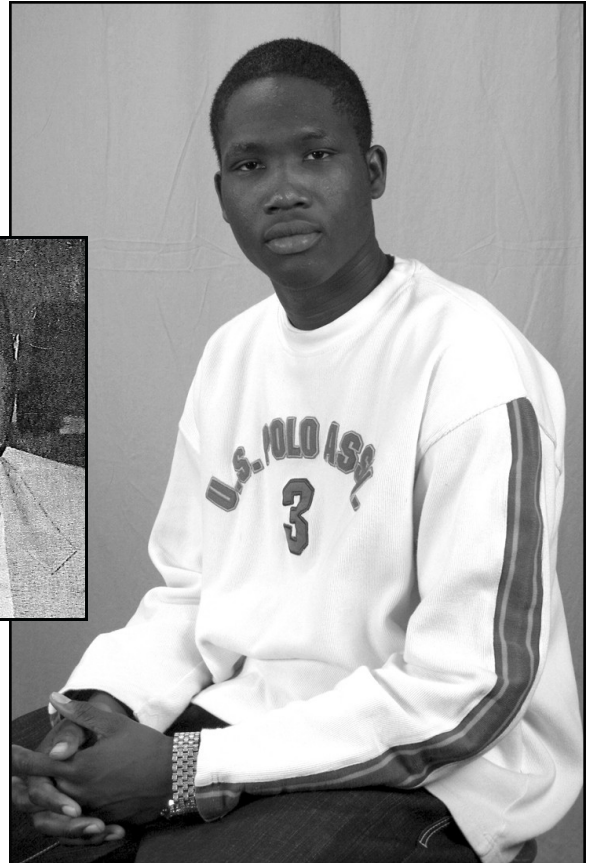
Pa Mass lived with Tim and Anita Eisenbeis during the 2007-08 school year and this year lives in the dorm, staying with Dennis and Kelly Basselman on some weekends. He plans to attend college in the United States.

**Jeff Janzen (AC'03), son of Rod and Deb Janzen (employed'81-'86)** of Fresno, CA, was interested in knowing more about Freeman, SD, where he was born in 1984. Jeff planned to attend Freeman Academy for his junior year and then return to California. Instead, the school, community, students and activities captured his heart and he remained in South Dakota for his senior year as well!

Rod and Deb were agreeable to this “adventure” because they felt Freeman Academy offered strong academics, music, and a Mennonite perspective/philosophy about living. Rick and Barb Schrag, friends of the Janzens, provided a home for Jeff during his two years at Freeman Academy. Rod, Deb, and Jeff had a very positive experience and would recommend the experience for other families.



**Baboucarr & Pa Mass Mbye**



**Jeff Janzen –  
2003 yearbook  
Rod Janzen –  
1986 yearbook**

## Enroll

Freeman Academy provides a wonderful opportunity for students with FA or FJC alumni parents to experience rural America and the nurturing, family atmosphere present in our students and staff. Our curriculum and activities focus on studying, working, and playing in a Christ-centered world. We invite you to contact Bonnie Young, enrollment director, at [byoung@freemanacademy.org](mailto:byoung@freemanacademy.org) or 605-925-4237, ext. 225 to discuss the possibilities!

# The Treasure

## we want to share with you

Recently, our administrative team attended a leadership conference for Mennonite schools and church conferences. Keynote speaker, Greg Boyd, a non-Mennonite pastor from the Minneapolis area, shared his thoughts on the treasure we hold as Mennonites and that we need to share it with others. Boyd referred to Mennonites as “fish swimming in some pretty great water.” Non-Mennonites are recognizing that our water is spectacular, but our own fish don’t recognize its special qualities. Our “water” at Freeman Academy is truly a treasure but often goes unrecognized or taken for granted by many of us “in the depths.”

Boyd is referring to the Mennonite philosophy of living a Christ-like life, reflecting His teachings on faith, peace, and relationships. Why teach our children Christ-like values and behaviors? Specifically, what values and behaviors does FA have to offer? Spiritually, we offer Bible classes and chapels. We point to these as concrete evidence of time spent in studying God.

The values learned in Bible class are not merely an academic exercise. These values are woven into our lives and are demonstrated by our teachers, coaches, staff, volunteers and students on a daily basis. One can see evidence of this not only in class, but on field trips, between classes, and during lunch. It is our social experiences that build community and enhance our relationships with each other and God. When conflicts arise, we deal with them in a Christ-like manner, not merely doling out discipline.

A concrete example of this process occurred recently in one of our classrooms. After several weeks of class, it was evident to the teacher that a power struggle was taking place between the instructor and some students. After listening to both students and teacher, we all sat together in the classroom to discuss the situation together. Each person in the classroom was asked to share his/her thoughts about the situation without personally attacking any individual.

The water was tested that day. The teaching of Christ-like values rose to the surface. Many students recognized that they had been disrespectful and articulated, “I have been taught to be respectful of my teachers.” Clearly, our waters might be murky from a foul substance at times, but we learn to communicate, adjust and “clean up the water.” The words shared around the classroom that day did not solve all the issues but did help to create understanding. Our mission is not perfection at Freeman Academy, but we attempt to address issues in a way that helps heal, adjust and grow.

As we reprioritize our values in light of the current economic downturn, we will stop to consider what is most important in our lives. It is a treasure to witness the fish that grow in the “water” at Freeman Academy. We trust that they will take lessons learned with them as they leave our fish bowl for other places. Can we share this water with your children?

***Pam Tieszen, President***

# Giving

## Specific Giving Opportunities

Many constituents are interested in donating to special projects on campus. Here are a few items that could use assistance! Contact Pam Tieszen at 605-925-4237, ext. 228 or [ptieszen@freemanacademy.org](mailto:ptieszen@freemanacademy.org) for more information.

- Air conditioner for west wing, Frontier Hall - \$3000
- Spanish Level 3 (2 licenses) and Level 4 (1 license) - \$ 1200
- Replace Music Hall windows - \$15,000 (\$7860 donated)
- Administration Building roof repair (8/1/08 estimate) - \$ 49,000.00
- Tuck pointing for the Administration Building (2007 estimate) - \$36,500.00
- New carpet for 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade room - \$3000
- Landscaping between Pioneer Hall, Administration and Sterling Hall – plan in the making!