

Facets *of Fellowship*

THE NEWSLETTER OF FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH

APRIL 2006



Pastor's Perspective — The Sweetness of the Father's Pleasure

By Ron D. Lindholm, Senior Pastor

Of all the words I've ever heard from an earthly tongue the sweetest are the words of my father taking delight in me. The phrase that comes to mind comes softly and quietly, but with great warmth and affection as an exclamation, "That's my boy!" sometimes repeated just to be savored—not by me, but by him. It took me years to understand that, but as the father of a son, who I deeply love and admire, I've come to understand that. The words are savored even more by the speaker than the hearer.

This is helpful to me as I listen to the Father express His love and admiration for the Son who came to redeem and rescue from the power and penalty of sin. For if the Father's expressed pleasure in the Son was only half as much as mine for my son [which is impossible—it was infinitely more] and His Son's awareness as my own with my father [again, impossible, for it was untainted by sin], it would have been more than enough to compel Him gladly to the cross.

Not once, but twice we hear the Father speak in words of the strongest possible affection, "This is My Son,

whom I love; with Him I am well pleased," savoring every syllable—first at the outset of the Son's public ministry (Matthew 3:17), then again when He revealed to the disciples of Jesus the transfigured glory of His Son—adding for their benefit the words: "Listen to Him!" (Matthew 17:5).

Whether the disciples were listening or not Jesus was. There was never any doubt in His mind about the Father's love or pleasure for they savored the same things. And thus, when it came to the cross and the grave, the Son was able to say with perfect confidence, savoring every word, hearing and knowing the

Father's pleasure, "The reason My Father loves Me is that I lay down My life only to take it up again" (John 10:17).

O that we would know in our own experience the sweetness of the Father's pleasure as He delights in us delighting in Him. We might know something of it through our earthly dads, but only in our heavenly Father's pleasure are found a fullness of life and richness of joy which are beyond compare. Pray the sweetness of His pleasure might be our passion.

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International Student Ministry

On March 11-16 Fellowship had the privilege of hosting 20 Purdue University students during their spring break. It is always exciting to interact with the students and share God's Word with them through this

annual partnership with our missionary Paul Briggs. Thanks to the 11 church families who provided housing. Please pray for God's ongoing work in the lives of these students.

Please take advantage of the opportunity to bring friends and neighbors to our Easter services. To learn how you can help us invite people from our community please see Pete English.

Games, Games, Games



All of the ladies of the church are invited to a game night at the church on Friday, April 7 at 7:00 PM. Please bring your favorite game and a snack to share.

Our Awana clubbers had a great time participating in the Spark-A-Rama and Awana Games held on March 18. All who came heard the gospel. Special thanks to coaches Kathy Buckley and Doug Mount.



Spring Festival

An outreach festival, including a moon bounce, petting zoo, games, crafts, food and prizes, will be held on the church grounds on Saturday, May 20 from 12:00 to 4:00 PM. Through this fun-filled event we desire to introduce people in the community to our church in order that they might begin attending services and participate



in our outreach ministries. We need your help to make this effort a success! Please pray, please support this project financially, and please volunteer to help. By investing just a few hours of your time you can help us touch lives for all eternity. See Pete English for further information.

Getting to Know Our Church Family

Ramiro and Yelka Esquivel

Ramiro and Yelka were both born and raised in Cochabamba, Bolivia though they met less than three years ago. Ramiro is the second of 7 brothers and sisters. His father worked as a cloth retailer in the jungle while his mother cared for their children. Yelka was raised in a Christian home along with two brothers and a sister. Her dad worked as a bus driver and her mother served the family at home. Yelka accepted Christ when she was 7, the Lord having placed in her heart the desire and the need to become His child.

As a child Ramiro enjoyed hunting and fishing and loved playing soccer. Yelka's family was active in their local church, and she enjoyed children's ministries such as Sunday school and summer Bible school. She also enjoyed family holidays in the jungle.

At the age of only 16 Ramiro came to the United States looking for better opportunities than were available to him in Bolivia. Since 1988 he has lived in the

Newlywed Shower

A shower will be held for Ramiro & Yelka at Fellowship on Friday, April 28 at 7:00 PM. This shower is for the couple and everyone (yes, even men) is encouraged to attend. See Tracy English for further details.

Washington, DC area doing construction work. His current company specializes in dry-wall and drop ceilings.

In 1998 Ramiro began foreign language study at San Simon University in Cochabamba. For five years he "commuted" to school, living in Bolivia when class was in session and returning to the DC area during breaks in order to work. It was at San

Simon that Ramiro met Yelka, as she was in the same language program. During his final year of study in Bolivia Ramiro also came to know Jesus as his Savior, finding in Him a changed life and reason for living.

After completing their studies in June 2004 Ramiro returned to the States while Yelka remained in Cochabamba where she worked as a teacher. It was at this time that Ramiro began attending Fellowship. At the end of 2004 Yelka moved to England for several months in order to improve her English skills.

Last year Ramiro returned to Cochabamba for a short time. Those of us who knew Ramiro thought that he had gone to visit his family and so we were surprised when he returned in November 2005 with his new bride Yelka. The couple were married on October 23.

Ramiro's current interests include shopping, the Internet and running. Yelka enjoys reading and is in the process of learning to live in the United States. They both like playing sports.

Ramiro and Yelka are our newest members at Fellowship, having joined the church in February. God has given Ramiro the ability to build and create things and has gifted Yelka as a teacher. In the days ahead they both desire to serve the Lord through children's ministry. They would like to be Awana leaders and are planning to help with Vacation Bible School. Ramiro also has an interest in helping operate the sound system.

The Esquivels ask for prayer for their families back in Bolivia, especially for Ramiro's parents, two brothers and one sister who have yet to accept Christ. Pray also for Yelka as she recently began work as a real estate agent and is also pursuing a teaching position in one of the local school systems. Yelka is thankful for her new church family and desires to be a true friend and fellow worker in Christ.

Money Matters

The offering received on March 5 for David Lindholm's missions trip to the Amazon totaled \$1,085. Thank you for your generous support of this ministry!

March Giving Per Week (General Fund)	\$5,324
Weekly Need	\$4,706
Year-to-Date Giving (General Fund)	\$59,930
Year-to-Date Need	\$61,178
Year-to-Date 50@1	\$1,668

Calendar

April 7	Women's Ministries Game Night (7:00 PM)
April 11	Nursing Home Ministry (2:00 PM)
April 16	EASTER SERVICES (8:30 & 10:45 AM; 6:00 PM)
April 22	Men's Prayer Breakfast (8:30 AM)
April 26	Quarterly Business Meeting (7:30 PM)
April 28	Esquivel Newlywed Shower (7:00 PM)