

Facets *of Fellowship*

APRIL 2008

THE NEWSLETTER OF FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH



Pastor's Perspective — Becoming an International Church

By Ron D. Lindholm, Senior Pastor

The church that Neita and I grew up in had a deaf ministry and a Spanish ministry. They met separately from the larger body of the church, the extent of the separation being indicated by the titles we attached to them. One was the deaf church; the other, the Spanish church. What's more, we never attached names to the people who were part of those ministries. There were no Mr. Smiths or Mrs. Millers, nor were there any Miguels or Sallies. To us, those who went to the deaf church were the deaf, and the others were the people who went to the Spanish-speaking church. Today those ministries no longer exist—and the people who comprised those ministries never became part of the larger body of the church because that was not the vision of the church.

Remembering that, my mind goes immediately to our ESL ministry. Here at Fellowship, our ESL ministry is thriving in its fifth year. In addition to our Thursday night classes which meet September through May, attracting some thirty to fifty students each week, another class of six to ten meets in the Brick Room to

study the Bible every Sunday morning all year long. Some of those students and others are now participating in our worship services. But I wonder whether we have come to the point of seeing them as the people they are—with first and last names, children and families, places of work and homes, dreams and struggles, loves and hurts. Or are they to us just like those in my home church who were reduced to mere categories?

My longing is to see the diversity of believers in our church mirror the diversity of our community, which is so international in its composition that it's drawn from nearly *every tribe, language, people and nation*. Close your eyes and try to picture a church like that...

If the people Jesus *purchased with His own blood for God* are so diverse, then I submit to you that it is insufficient for us to be in this world community and merely have a ministry to internationals. We must be an international church—a church where the nations are being won to Christ and fully integrated into the life of the church. As we give ourselves faithfully to the mission the Lord has given us to do, He will give us the people, know-how and resources to accomplish His work.

Privileged to Partner

On March 8-13 Fellowship had the privilege of hosting 21 international students from Purdue University. We are grateful for this annual partnership with our missionaries, Paul and Geri Briggs, through which new students are introduced to Salt & Light Christian Fellowship International and others are encouraged toward greater participation in this campus ministry.

Though bad weather affected this year's schedule, our nine host families graciously accommodated the students. The Bible studies were well received and good discussions followed. At least one of the students has begun a one-on-one Bible study at Purdue, and others are involved in a group study. Please pray for God's ongoing work in the lives of these students.



Telling the Truth

We are eagerly looking forward to Paul Briggs coming to Fellowship on April 18-19 to lead an Evangelism Seminar. So far 30 people have signed up to participate, but **there is still room for more**. Don't miss out on this opportunity to become a better ambassador for our Savior. Our prayer is that we will all come away from this seminar with a contagious passion to share the good news of Jesus Christ—that we will expect to share the gospel with others, that we will talk about doing it, pray about it, and routinely work together to help each other proclaim the wonderful news our Savior has entrusted to us.

Evangelism Seminar

Friday, April 18
(7:30 to 8:45 PM)

Saturday, April 19
(9:15 AM to 1:45 PM)

Renewing Our Concern

A love offering for Paul and Geri Briggs and family will be received at Fellowship on Sunday, April 20, following the Evangelism Seminar that Paul is leading on April 18-19. The primary purpose of the offering is to provide financial assistance to the Briggs, who currently have a significant monthly shortfall.

I rejoice greatly in the Lord that at last you have renewed your concern for me...I am amply supplied, now that I have received...the gifts you sent.
Philippians 4:10, 14

The offering is also intended to cover the seminar honorarium and Paul's travel reimbursement. We have set a goal of \$1,600.00, which will enable Fellowship to make up the Briggs monthly shortfall for a period of two months. Please plan to give generously to our partners in the Lord's work.

POTLUCK

A Church-wide International Potluck Dinner will be held on Saturday, April 12 at 5:30 PM. All are urged to attend as we come together to encourage one another as brothers and sisters in Christ. We will also have the opportunity to strengthen our relationships with the families who are a part of Fel-



lowship's ESL ministry, as we continue to hold out the word of life to these precious souls the Lord has brought into our community. A sign-up sheet is in the church foyer. Please plan to come, bring a dish to share, and pray the Lord will use you to encourage others in the faith.

Reaching Out to Our Community

Fellowship's 3rd annual Spring Festival will be held on the church grounds on Saturday, May 17 from 12:00 to 4:00 PM. Through this event we seek to introduce people in the community to our church that we might have the privilege of impacting their lives for Christ. **We need your help** to make this effort a success! By investing just a few hours of your time you can help us

touch lives for all eternity. A planning meeting will be held at the church on Monday, April 7 at 7:00 PM. All are invited to come and offer your suggestions as we plan this year's festival. Please pray for the Lord to work through this outreach effort.



Generous Provision

Thank you for your generous giving toward the love offering for Rose Wasserstein's summer missions trip to Peru! A total of \$2,709.00 was received, providing fully for the missions ministry itself, while also helping with Rose's airfare to Miami. We are thankful for this opportunity for Rose to serve the Lord while learning about the great spiritual needs that exist in our world. Please pray for her as she prepares for this ministry.

Money Matters

As He has promised, the Lord is meeting all our needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19). For the first quarter of 2008, General Fund giving exceeded our budgeted need by \$350 per week, and for the month of March the weekly difference was \$550.

50@1 giving toward our mortgage paydown has also been a generous \$5,683 for the first quarter. (The total for all of 2007 was \$10,027.) Please pray for continued great progress in reducing our mortgage.

Thank you for your faithful support of the Lord's work!

March Giving Per Week (General Fund)	\$6,116
Weekly Need	\$5,568
Year-to-Date Giving (General Fund)	\$76,947
Year-to-Date Budgeted Need	\$72,384
Year-to-Date 50@1 Giving	\$5,683



Vacation Bible School

Teachers and helpers are needed for Vacation Bible School, which will be held on July 21-25 (9:00-11:30 AM). The curriculum is from *Answers in Genesis*. Please see Pastor Odom to volunteer for this vital outreach.



Calendar

Apr. 7	Spring Festival Planning Meeting (7:00 PM)
Apr. 8	Nursing Home Ministry (2:00 PM)
Apr. 12	Church-wide International Dinner (5:30 PM)
Apr. 18-19	Evangelism Seminar
Apr. 20	Love Offering for Paul & Geri Briggs
Apr. 25-26	Fellowship in Homes
Apr. 30	Quarterly Business Meeting (7:30 PM)
May 1	National Day of Prayer