

Facets *of Fellowship*

APRIL 2009



THE NEWSLETTER OF FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor's Perspective — One Debt Paid in Full

By Ron D. Lindholm, Senior Pastor

Until recently, the national debt has always been difficult for me to wrap my mind around. But the response of the White House and the Congress to the current financial crisis has made it impossible. Has anyone ever seen 11 trillion dollars? Do you think we'll ever pay it off? If not us, given our tendency to accumulate debt, what about our children or grandchildren?

The only upside I see in raising those questions is to help us to realize how incredibly impossible it would have been for us to pay down in even the slightest way the debt of our sin to God. When Adam sinned against God in the Garden, an infinite debt was incurred because God is infinitely holy. That debt was passed to us, his offspring, and we have only added to it through individual acts of rebellion against God. This makes what God did for us in Jesus Christ all the more remarkable—all the more wonderful.

The Bible tells us that in the person of Jesus Christ, who as God became man without diminishing His deity an iota, the infinitely holy God provided an infinitely

holy sacrifice for our sin. As man, He could pay for the sins of man; as God, His death had infinite value. No wonder the writer of Hebrews says:

Such a high priest meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted to the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, He does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for His own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when He offered Himself (Hebrews 7: 26-27).

I don't know when or whether our national debt will ever be paid off, but on the authority of God's Written Word, I can tell you that by His death for our sins, Jesus Christ paid in full the infinite debt of our sin, and that the benefits of that forgiveness are applied to the life of the sinner the moment they believe. This is great news! Don't keep it to yourself! Look for ways to interject it into your conversations—especially with those who have yet to believe.

International Student Ministry

On March 14-19 Fellowship had the privilege of hosting 20 Purdue University students during their spring break. Through this partnership with Paul and Geri Briggs it is always exciting to interact with the international students and share God's Word with them.

A student who does not yet know the Lord returned to Purdue with a desire to learn more of God's Word. He said, *"After the Bible studying in Washington D.C., I become more interested in it, and wanna go to the church on Sunday morning also."*

A Christian student wrote concerning this experience, "All through the trip, we enjoyed the warm hospitality of our host family and the church family..."



Their loving kindness and consideration towards the international students impressed me...The nice sharing with [my host family] has become one of the most memorable parts of the trip. The discussion time during the dinner was another highlight...It is amazing to me to see how God works through His people to communicate the gospel to the students and scholars...the discussions provided unique opportunities for students to raise more questions and know more about the Bible."

A special thanks to the church families who provided housing and meals for this ministry. Please pray for God's ongoing work in the lives of these students.

Missionary Love Offering: A love offering for Paul and Geri Briggs and family was received at Fellowship on Sunday, March 22, following the annual International Student Ministry. In addition to providing encouragement to this missionary family as they serve the Lord in our behalf, our goal was to make up the Briggs' \$818 monthly shortfall for several months. We praise the Lord for the generosity of His people, as a total of \$2,253 was received.



Reaching Children in Ecuador

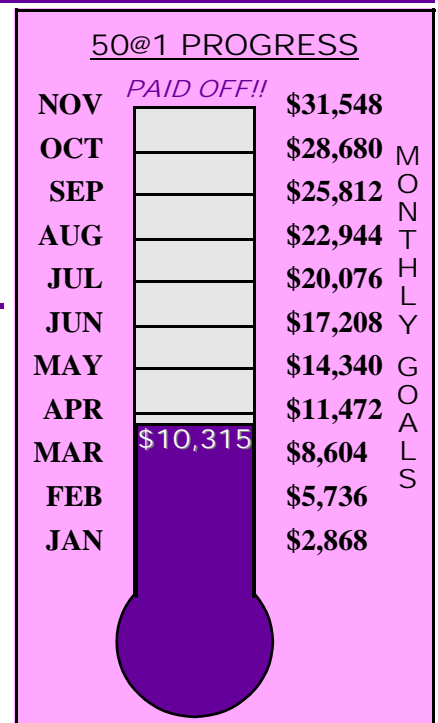


Each year Fellowship participates in the Awana **Adopt-A-Club** program through which Awana clubs in the United States provide funding for clubs overseas. This ministry makes it pos-

sible for thousands of clubs to operate in needy countries, reaching many precious children and their families with the gospel. This year Fellowship raised \$271 that will be used to assist the Awana clubs in Ecuador.

Eliminating Our Mortgage – Expanding Our Ministry

Fellowship's goal for 2009 is to raise \$31,548 in special giving in order to eliminate the mortgage by Thanksgiving. Good progress is being made so far, as \$10,315 has come in during the first three months of the year. Please continue to pray for the Lord's provision, that we might be free from the mortgage and able to expand the reach of our ministries at home and abroad.



Money Matters

Average weekly General Fund giving has increased each month during the first quarter, starting at \$5,122 in January, then \$5,502 in February, and finally

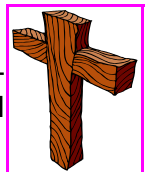
March Giving Per Week (General Fund)	\$5,581
Weekly Need	\$5,689
Year-to-Date General Fund Giving	\$70,403
Year-to-Date General Fund Need	\$73,961
Year-to-Date Building Fund Giving	\$321

\$5,581 in March. This encouraging trend is reason for praise given the current economic conditions. Please pray the Lord will enable us to eliminate our year-to-date shortfall of \$3,558.

Reaching Out to Our Community

As Easter approaches, many people become more open to discussing the spiritual life that is only available through a living relationship with our Savior. Outreach resources are available in the church foyer for use in telling others the good news about Jesus' death, burial and resurrection. Please take several copies of these books and DVDs and share them with those who need Christ.

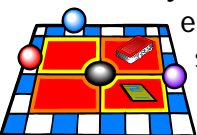
Please take advantage of the opportunity to invite friends and neighbors to our Easter services. In addition to our normal schedule of Sunday services, there will be a continental breakfast in Fellowship Hall at 9:00 AM. Please join us for this fellowship time and bring a food item to share.



Fellowship's 4th annual Spring Festival will be held on the church grounds on Saturday, May 16 from 12:00 to 4:00 PM. Through this fun-filled 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 13 at 7:00 PM. All are invited to come and share your suggestions for improving this annual outreach to our community. Please pray for the Lord to work through this event.

Celebrating Our Seniors

The second of a series of events to celebrate our seniors will be held on Saturday, April 18 at 2:00 PM. The entire church family is encouraged to gather at the church to enjoy games, food and fellowship. Our seniors are asked to please share your favorite games with Ron or Sherry Wasserstein in advance of this event.



Calendar



Apr. 12	Continental Breakfast (9:00 AM) Easter Services (9:45 AM & 6:00 PM)
Apr. 13	Spring Festival Planning Meeting (7:00 PM)
Apr. 14	Nursing Home Ministry (2:00 PM)
Apr. 18	Seniors Game "Night" (2:00 PM) All of the church family is encouraged to attend.
Apr. 29	Quarterly Business Meeting (7:30 PM)