Facets of Fellowship

AUGUST 2009

THE NEWSLETTER OF FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor's Perspective — On Following and Being Followed

By Ron D. Lindholm, Senior Pastor

As a rule, runners don't like to be followed. But they really don't have a choice. If they are out running and someone takes off after them, to see if they can keep up, they really don't have a choice, short of stopping and asking the person not to.

The other day when I was out running, someone took off after me. It was the strangest thing. In thirty-four years of running, I've never seen anything like it. I was on the incline of a narrow road. A mid-thirties, heavy-footed male wearing sandals, kaki shorts, a colorful buttoned short-sleeved shirt and a brimmed hat was walking on the right, arms swinging back and forth, so I moved left—he on one side of the street, and I on the other. But then, just as I was about to pass him, he caught me out of the corner of his eye and immediately started to run and try to keep pace with me up that hill, heavy-footed, sandaled feet and all.

It was all rather bizarre and really pretty irritating. My initial response was to increase my pace and leave him in the dust—and that's exactly what I did. I picked up the pace and kept it up until the sound of his feet was gone.

But you know, if I had to do it all over again, I'm pretty sure that I would respond differently. For one of the things the Lord impressed on me as I continued that run is that *following is at the heart of Christian discipleship*. We follow Christ. We invite others to follow Him. Sometimes our lives are the example they look to determine of what that following consists—its disciplines, its priorities, its hopes and expectations. Sometimes we're not aware of those who catch us out of the corner of their eye and strike-out after us—we haven't asked them to follow, but they're following anyway.

The Pharisees loved to be followed, but they were blind guides—they honored the Lord with their lips, but their hearts were far from Him. Whoever followed them would end up in the ditch alongside of them.

As Christians, we are reliable guides to the extent that we follow the Lord Jesus Christ in the out-living of our lives. The goal of the Christian life is His likeness in us. As others follow us, this is what they should see.

The Apostle Paul was a brother who ran the race (who lived the Christian life) well from beginning to end, and was heard to say: "Follow me as I follow Christ." Runners may not like to be followed, but for those of us who know the Lord, it lies at the heart of Christian discipleship.

A Close Encounter with God's Word

Vacation Bible School was held on July 27-31. There were 30 students in attendance throughout the week. Our 24 volunteers did a wonderful job working with the children. We are thankful for their dedicated service as teachers, game leaders, snack helpers, music directors, decorators and administrative staff.

The curriculum was "Operation Space: A Close Encounter with God's Word" by *Answers in Genesis*. The children became cadets at a space academy and learned about the Bible as our absolute authority. Through the daily missions lessons, the children also learned about our missionaries Ted and Dawn Siemens, their children, and their ministry with Trans World Radio. The kids sent them letters and pictures to encourage them in their work. An offering of $180.44 was received for Ted and Dawn.

Please pray for the Lord to work mightily in the lives of the children who came, as well as their families.

Demonstrating Christ's Love to International Students

Imagine traveling to a foreign country to pursue your studies, taking with you only what will fit in a few suitcases. In response to just this need, Salt & Light Christian Fellowship International reaches out to new international students at Purdue University by serving as friendly strangers who are willing to deliver free furniture to meagerly-furnished campus apartments. Through the annual furniture giveaway, our missionaries Paul and Geri Briggs and their team introduce themselves to students with a view toward opening doors to share the gospel with them.

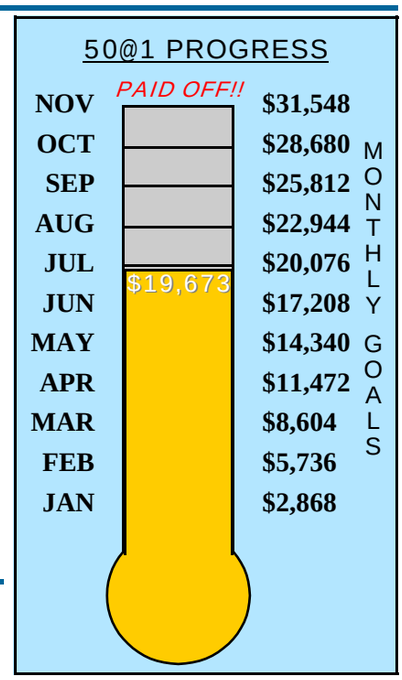
Carrying out this exciting ministry each summer is a labor intensive task, as hundreds of pieces of furniture are cleaned, set out, and then delivered. On August 10-16, Fellowship is sending a team of 9 people—Pastor Odom, Robert and Russell Mahoney, Matthew Rosbrugh, and Sherry, John, Joel, Jessica and Rose Wasserstein—to assist with the giveaway, while also receiving training in outreach to internationals. In order to help with the $1,800 cost of hosting our team, a love offering will be received at Fellowship on August 9. Please pray for them as they go to partner with our missionaries in this ministry!

Money Matters

Only $11,875 is now needed to accomplish our goal of eliminating the mortgage by Thanksgiving. This means that our goal is now within our grasp! We hope to see excitement continuing to build in the months ahead as we look to free our church from the burden of the mortgage, making it possible for more worthy ministry goals to be accomplished. Please pray for the Lord's provision.

Following significant deficits from April to June, General Fund giving rebounded strongly in July—falling just below the budgeted need. Please pray for this positive trend to continue so we can close our year-to-date deficit of $11,131.

July Giving Per Week (General Fund)	$5,636
Weekly Need	$5,689
Year-to-Date General Fund Giving	$159,547
Year-to-Date General Fund Need	$170,678



"Paid in Full"

By Doug Mount

Have you ever had someone you didn't even know pay for your meal at a restaurant? Well, now there is an opportunity for you to do that for someone else and point them to the Lord at the same time. "Paid in Full" is a new and different outreach of Fellowship Baptist Church that demonstrates God's love and kindness to others in the form of a random act of kindness by purchasing their meal at a restaurant. This is done anonymously so that all the recipients have only God to thank. Instead of their check, those who have their meal "paid in full" simply receive a card pointing them to our church's website where the gospel is clearly presented. The intention is that God would be honored and people would experience, in a small but similar way, the kindness and grace that God extends to us freely in the gift of His Son.

"Paid in Full" originated from the College and Career Sunday School class. A recent lesson on evangelism had the class thinking about new and unique ways to impact people for Christ and the "Paid in Full" outreach idea was born. The thinking was to come up with a way that allows believers who are somewhat shy and maybe non-confrontational, but still desire to spread the gospel, a unique and exciting way to witness to people and be a blessing to others with a "random act of kindness". Since the world places a high priority on food and money (Matt 6:19-33), providing them a free meal is something that could have a significant impact and cause them to be curious why someone would do that for them. The "Paid in Full" card instead of their check will give them the link to know the One who because of His work on the cross, paid in full our debt of sin.

Families are invited to attend a Washington Nationals baseball game on Saturday, August 22 at 7:05 PM. Please plan to join us for this opportunity for informal fellowship. The cost is $10. Please see Pastor Lindholm to purchase your tickets.

Calendar

Aug. 8	Women's Paint-Your-Own-Pottery Outing (11:00 AM)
Aug. 9	Love Offering for Furniture Giveaway Ministry Team
Aug. 10-16	Furniture Giveaway Ministry Purdue University
Aug. 19	Missions Prayer Meeting (7:30 PM)
Aug. 22	Family Outing to Washington Nationals Game (7:05 PM)
Aug. 30	Furniture Giveaway Report (PM Service) Missions Cupboard Shower & Ice Cream Social (after PM Service)