



Pastor's Perspective — A Teachable Moment Lost

By Dr. Ron D. Lindholm, Senior Pastor

A Christian friend with grade school children was diagnosed recently with cancer. The diagnosis came after many months of not feeling well and several hospitalizations. Soon after receiving the diagnosis, he and his wife sat down with their children to tell them the news. They didn't really know what to expect from their children, but they resolved to speak to them as openly and freely as they could and to rely on the Lord for wisdom. The children shed some tears—especially when they heard the word “cancer”—but mostly they sat and listened in stunned silence, not really knowing what to say.

Some weeks later, this friend and his wife and children were seated around the kitchen table with other family members that had stopped by for a visit, curious for the latest word on his condition and the progress of his treatments. All of the adults around the table were Christians, seasoned in their walk with the Lord. As you might expect, as is typical whenever adults and children gather, the adults did most of the talking and the children sat more or less obscured in silence—that is until the son blurted out to his father: “Why do you have to have cancer?” It was a question

that had taken him weeks to ask...

My friend began to answer and did answer, “I don't know why,” but before he could say another word a second question blurted out, more emphatic than the first, “Will you get better? The force of the question caught him off guard. He stumbled for words—and in that instant something almost unforgivable happened. The question was hijacked by another adult at the table who, though well-intended, proved in this matter to be utterly earthbound in his thinking and hope. Oblivious to the moment, to that golden opportunity to disclose the underpinnings of the Christian faith which reside in the God who is faithful, who we can always trust to do that which is right and good, even though it may at times entail difficulty and pain, this misguided brother emphasized instead the doctor's credentials and said not one word about the Lord—the One who *heals all [our] diseases (Psalm 103:3b)*.

Talk about a teachable moment lost! From that point on, the conversation never got back on track. Alas, that's the way it is with teachable moments. Once lost, they are rarely recovered. Resolve by God's grace not to lose them when He brings them your way.

2010 Bible Memory Challenge Our verse for August is Psalm 32:1-2: *Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man whose sin the LORD does not count against him.*

Diving for God's Treasure

We praise the Lord for a great week of Vacation Bible School on July 26-30. There were 82 students registered, with a high attendance of 78. Our 20 volunteers, led by Pastor Odom, did a wonderful job teaching the children and demonstrating Christ's love for them. With the large attendance, our staff rose to the challenge of managing large class sizes and preparing extra materials. We are grateful for their dedicated service as teachers, game leaders, snack helpers, music directors, decorators and administrative staff.

Through our “Seaquest” curriculum, the children were encouraged to dive into God's Word and find valuable treasure for their lives. The greatest treasure is a personal relationship with Jesus—God's gift to us. Other



treasurers we learned about include being loved by God, receiving God's forgiveness, learning how to please God, and seeing God meet our every need as we give Him first place in our lives.

Through this year's missions emphasis the children learned how we can assist children whose lives have been devastated by the earthquake in Haiti. An offering of \$671 was received to help share the good news of Jesus Christ with the Haitian people.

We were also pleased to be able to speak with parents about Jesus and the ministries of our church. Please pray for the Lord to work mightily in the lives of the children who came and give us further opportunities to minister to their families.

Purdue Salt & Light Missions Team

Each August Salt & Light Christian Fellowship International serves new international students at Purdue University by delivering free furniture to meagerly-furnished campus apartments. Through this annual giveaway, our missionaries Paul and Geri Briggs and their Salt & Light team introduce themselves and their ministry to students. Carrying out this exciting outreach is a labor intensive task, as hundreds of pieces of furniture are cleaned, set out and delivered.

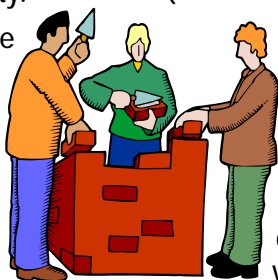


On August 12-15, Fellowship is sending a team of 11 people—Pastor Stuart, Denise, Joe and Rebekah Odom, Joree Jensen, Robert and Russell Mahoney, Amy Mount, and Sherry, Jessica and John Wasserstein—to assist with the giveaway. Fellowship is sponsoring our team through a love offering received on August 1. Please pray the Lord will provide safety, health and strength, use our team to be a great encouragement to the Briggs, and open many doors for sharing the gospel through the giveaway.

Together We Build

The elimination of Fellowship's mortgage enables us to address some critical needs related to our current facilities. Earlier this year the Pastors and Deacons presented a Post-Mortgage Ministry (PMM) Plan designed to guide the church in the needed financial planning and preparation to make this a reality.

The first phase of the PMM Plan, which we desire to accomplish during 2010, is to build a \$30,000 emergency reserve in the Building Fund. This will prepare Fellowship for unexpected repairs to or replacement of aging components of our facility. To help reach the goal of \$30,000, the 2010 Church Budget includes \$10,000 designated for the Building Fund, with these funds being dispersed each quarter contingent upon sufficient General Fund giving. From these budgeted funds, \$5,000 has been dispersed to the Building Fund for the 1st and 2nd quarters. These funds, together with year-to-date special giving of \$2,060, gives us a current balance of \$18,569 in the Building Fund.



In order to reach the \$30,000 goal this year, we are planning to (1) use the \$5,000 included in the budget for the 3rd and 4th quarters, (2) receive a Thanksgiving love offering with the goal of raising another \$5,000, and (3) use a portion of the Korean use fees (the monthly fee paid by the Korean church that uses our facility) that are currently being held in the General Fund. Use of the Korean use fees will be contingent upon General Fund giving for the year meeting our needs.

Once the emergency reserve is met we will be able to move forward with the other two components of the PMM Plan. The first involves regular, budgeted contributions to the Building Fund in order to save for needed repairs and replacements. The second is to begin saving toward building expansion, through a program we are calling "Together We Build," in order to expand our ministry capabilities. More details concerning these latter two components of the plan will be shared in a future issue of *Facets*.

Reaching Out to Our Neighbors

Women's Ministries is planning an outreach project for our neighbors in the James Creek community. We will be giving a small gift to each household, with an invitation to visit our church. Ladies our encouraged to come out on Friday, August 13 at 7:00 PM to help us assemble the craft we will use as the gift. We will then meet at the church on Monday, August 16 at 7:00 PM to distribute the gifts in James Creek. See our Service Coordinator, Gina Irving, for more information.



Join Us for a Ball Game

Families are invited to come see the Washington Nationals take on the St. Louis Cardinals at Nationals Park on Friday, August 27 at 7:05 PM. Please plan to join us for this opportunity for fellowship as a church family. The cost is only \$10 per ticket. Please sign up in the church foyer. Questions? See Ron Wasserstein.

Money Matters

Praise the Lord for strong giving in July!

July Giving Per Week (General Fund)	\$5,345
Weekly Need	\$5,290
Year-to-Date General Fund Giving	\$159,406
Year-to-Date General Fund Need	\$158,707
Year-to-Date Building Fund Giving	\$2,060

Calendar



Aug. 10	Nursing Home Ministry (2:00 PM)
Aug. 12-15	Purdue Salt & Light Missions Trip
Aug. 13,16	Women's Outreach Project (7:00 PM)
Aug. 15	John & Jackie Mitchell, Shepherds Ministries (AM & PM Services)
Aug. 18	Judy Russell, Christian Light Foundation (7:30 PM)
Aug. 25	Missions Prayer Meeting (7:30 PM)
Aug. 27	Washington Nationals Game (7:05 PM)
Aug. 29	Missionary Cupboard Shower & Ice Cream Social (after PM Service)