



## Pastor's Perspective — Love Your Neighbor Enough to Tell Them about Christ

By Dr. Ron D. Lindholm, Senior Pastor

When asked the greatest commandment, Jesus said: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:37-39). When we share the gospel with those who are perishing in their sin and urge them to be saved, we fulfill both commands—for it is by obedience to God's commands that we prove our love for Him (John 14:21) and it is by having mercy on our neighbors that we prove our love for them (Luke 10:36-37). When we withhold the gospel from those who need to be rescued by it, we fail to do either one.

Some would argue that God will save those He will (which is true) and thereby seek to be excused from any real evangelistic responsibility to the lost. But I would submit to you that it's quite impossible for them to explain how their insistence shows their love for God or neighbor.

If I were asleep in my house and it caught fire and my neighbor saw it, I would hope that they cared enough about me to make it a matter of urgency to try to

wake me up and get me out to safety. How is that different from the kind of concern that I'm to have for them with respect to the prospect of their perishing in eternal flame?

The Apostle Paul was impelled in his evangelism (as in all the rest of his ministry) both by the love of God and of neighbor. He was unable to remain silent concerning what, in Christ, God had done. He had to share it! He wanted those around him, whomever they might be, that stood in need of the reconciliation to God provided through faith in Christ alone, to avail themselves of it—and toward that end he

spared no effort to make it known (2 Corinthians 5:14-21). So deep and real was his love for his neighbors, that they might be saved from the wrath to come, and so certain was he of its coming, that at one point, incredibly, he confessed that if it were possible for him to be lost for them to be saved, he would want that (Romans 9:2-3). If I were lost and my neighbor saved, I would hope that they would have that same love for me and spare no effort that I might be saved. I pray that we would do the same for them, for *unless [they] repent, [they] too will all perish* (Luke 8:3, 5)—and who would want that for their neighbor?

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## Their Love for the Japanese Brought Experience to Help Other Missionaries

For more than 20 years Jim and Jan Ruff gave their lives to the Japanese people. Jim had grown up in Southern California and Jan in Baltimore. And while Jim was in the armed forces and stationed in Japan, Jan was in Japan as a single missionary. They met and began their lives together, the two of them laboring together for many years among the Japanese. Even when, at one point, they came back and served in the United States, Japan would call their hearts back there. And now, in another work serving the Lord with the Association of Baptists for World Evangelism, they still have heart tugs for the people they still love and are friends with in Japan.

As servants who have served on the field of a foreign soil, Jim and Jan are serving in a capacity that is greatly needed for first-time missionaries. Jim works in the Center for Excellence in International Min-



istries, training missionaries that are about to head for the field. Because of their experience, Jim is able to identify, help and train these eager people in ways that really benefit them in their work as missionaries. His schedule is full of courses and seminars and conferences here in the United States and abroad. Jan, too, works in providing help in various areas...from acting as chef to preparing material for children in Haiti and delivering it to them.

They know what the call to the mission field looks and feels like. They know the work it takes to prepare for such a task. And they know, from experience, the love tug for people in desperate need of the Good News. You can ask them about that love when they attend our 2011 Missions Conference: "Come Over and Help Us." They will be delighted to share with you the love they have for the people they have served.

# Patefields' Commitment Twenty Years Ago Continues with Church Planting in Brazil

Twenty years ago Exxon paid \$1 billion to clean up the Valdez oil spill, Georgia declared its independence from the Soviet Union and Boris Yeltsin was elected president of the Russia republic. And while those current events resulted in events that rocked the world that year, there was another event that will result in eternal impact. It was in 1991 that Nathan and Dawn Patefield were appointed by Baptist Mid-Missions as missionaries to Brazil.



They hosted Fellowship Baptist Church's Joel Wasserstein on a missions trip the first part of this year, and are now on furlough in the United States, reporting to their supporting churches and refreshing their relationships with family and friends. They will be coming to Virginia this fall, and will be one of the participating families at our Missions Conference:


Nathan and Dawn met while attending Bob Jones University. They met again in Brazil, while Dawn was serving as a single missionary. Commissioned by North Creek Baptist Church in Bothell, WA, and sent out by Engleside Baptist Church in Alexandria, VA, the Patefields are planting a new church in Bento Rebeiro, Brazil. The Patefields have four children: Lydia, Nathan, Patricia and Joanna, ranging in ages 8 to 19. They had been ministering at a Governor's Island church until recently, having seen that church mature and call its own national pastor. Now, in Bento Rebeiro, they work with a team in reaching the neighborhood around them and starting youth meetings and Sunday Bible studies to introduce the community to Jesus Christ and, eventually, to establish another church.

"Come Over and Help Us." During that Sept. 9-11 weekend, the Patefields will get an opportunity to update our church family with the work they are doing in Brazil. Plan on meeting this family Joel called "friendly and fun to be around." Come and learn of the impact God began with their calling 20 years ago.

The Lord gave us a great week of Vacation Bible School, July 25-29. We had a total of 36 students in attendance. Our missions emphasis resulted in an offering of \$141 to support the work of Regular Baptist Press and Gospel Literature Services in translating Sunday School material in the Burmese, Thai, and Korean languages. Special thanks to all our staff for their ministry to the children and their families.



All are invited to attend a Washington Nationals baseball game on Monday, September 5. The game starts at 1:35 pm. Plan to join us for this opportunity for informal fellowship. See Ron Wasserstein to purchase your tickets.



## Calendar

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| Aug. 9     | Nursing Home Ministry  |
| Aug. 11-14 | Salt and Light Missions Trip<br>Purdue University              |
| Aug. 10    | Missions Prayer Meeting (7:30 PM)                              |
| Aug. 28    | Missions Cupboard Shower & Ice Cream Social (after PM Service) |
| Sept. 5    | Outing to Washington Nationals' Game                           |

## Money Matters

**Regular Giving:** After a strong month of giving in June, July receipts to the General Fund lagged behind the budgeted need. Pray the Lord would help us to have a strong finish to our summer months' giving in August.

**Missions Trip Offering:** We are grateful for \$1,556 received in a special offering for our Salt and Light Missions team. This generous offering exceeded our goal of \$1,250 by \$306.

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| July Giving Per Week (General Fund)     | \$5,129   |
| Weekly Need                             | \$5,291   |
| Year-to-Date General Fund Giving        | \$155,254 |
| Year-to-Date General Fund Need          | \$164,017 |
| Year-to-Date "Together We Build" Giving | \$4,421   |

## Fellowship Baptist Church

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