



## Pastor's Perspective — The Need to Model God's Giving

By Ron D. Lindholm, Senior Pastor

What's on the top of your Christmas wish-list this year? My nephew Stephen has an iPod® at the top of his. When my sister Cyndi saw it her first thought was it was out of her price range. But then, being the good mom she is, she scoured the papers for the best deal. And then off she went to Circuit City very early, and not so bright, on Black Friday, hoping to be among the first in line.

Do I need to describe to you her disappointment? The line was football fields in length, many of the people having arrived shortly after midnight. When she finally got inside, much to her motherly chagrin, the coveted iPods® at the favorable price were gone. As she tells the story, God immediately brought to her mind the words of Luke 12:15—*a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions*—which she then repeated to herself, aloud, but quietly all the way home.

When Cyndi told me the story, I laughed—anyone would. Most of us have been there, but probably few of us would be able to testify to having had such godly reflection.

As parents, it's only natural to want to provide as

much of everything we can for our children and—unless they've been naughty and not nice—to get everything on those Christmas wish-lists. But in our desire to be generous and giving (and even in our ability to buy everything on the list), we need to make sure we're not sending the wrong message. Think about it: though it's within God's ability to provide everything we want, He does not commit Himself to doing that because He knows there are some things that are better withheld (and, no, I'm not suggesting that an iPod® is one of them, though for some it might be).



What I'm suggesting is that, somehow in our Christmas buying this year, we need to resist the temptation to buy just because we can. Christmas wish-lists come and go (does anyone remember what was at the top of theirs last year?), but the truths of God's Word stand forever. As Christian parents we need to model God's giving in giving to our children, remembering that the best gift (the only gift that really matters) has already been given.



## Holiday Celebrations

**Christmas Eve:** Invite family and friends to come with you to our candlelight service at 7:00 PM.

**Christmas Day:** What better thing to do on Christmas day than to

celebrate the Savior's birth with your church family! Join us for worship at 10:45 AM.

**New Year's Day:** Fellowship's worship service (10:45 AM) will be followed by a fellowship dinner. Please bring a dish to share!

## Remembering Our Missionaries

With the costs of living ever on the rise few of us find that we have money left over at the end of each month. This is especially true at Christmas time as holiday shopping stretches many a family budget to the breaking point. Imagine what this time of year would be like if your income was reduced by several hundred dollars per month. Did you know that this is exactly the circumstance many of our missionary families are facing. In fact, Fellowship's missionaries have an average monthly shortfall of over \$700.

*I rejoice greatly in the Lord that at last you have renewed your concern for me...the gifts you sent...are a fragrant offering...pleasing to God.*  
Philippians 4:10, 18

One way we can show our love for our missionary families, helping in a small way to alleviate their financial hardships, is by giving generously to Fellowship's annual Christmas missionary offering. This offering is re-

ceived throughout the month of December for the purpose of providing each family a gift equal to their monthly support provided by Fellowship. This year our goal is \$2,925. Please plan to participate in this expression of appreciation for the ministries of our missionaries.

A more permanent way of addressing our missionaries' financial needs is by increasing the monthly support Fellowship provides. The proposed church budget for 2006 includes a modest increase of \$1,400 for missions. While any increase is good much more needs to be done. Please pray that, through increased giving, Fellowship will be able to help in an even greater way in the days ahead so that our missionaries' ministries might continue to be fruitful.



## Adding Space—Changing Lives

Fellowship's missionaries Dean and Julie Blood are working to plant Peters Creek Baptist Church in the outskirts of Anchorage, Alaska. There is a critical need to expand the church's current facility in order for this church plant to become a viable local church. To address this need the church is planning to build an addition to their building in the summer of 2006. Peters Creek has already raised most of the funds needed for building materials. What is needed is volunteer labor.

Fellowship has a desire to help with this need. For the past month we have been seeking volunteers to serve

on a work team. We are very thankful that, thus far, 11 people from our church family have expressed a serious interest in being a work team member. It is not too late to be added to the team. Don't miss this great opportunity to be part of what promises to be a life-changing experience.

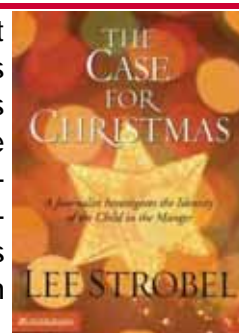
Please keep this project in prayer as Peters Creek continues to prepare and as Fellowship makes the necessary arrangements.



## Reaching Out this Christmas Season

Christmas is a great time for Christians to speak with others about the salvation we have in Jesus Christ. To help you share your faith during this Christmas season Fellowship is providing copies of Lee Strobel's book "The Case for Christmas" for you to give to those you

know who need to understand what happened at Christmas 2,000 years ago. Please take several copies from the church foyer, read the book through, and share it with others who need to know Jesus as Savior. Pray God will use you and this book to bring others to faith in Christ this Christmas.



Also, be sure to buy up opportunities to invite others to church during this special time of year!

### **Congratulations!**

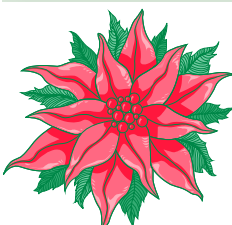
Ramiro & Yelka Esquivel were married on October 23.  
Elizabeth Mount was born on November 17.

## Money Matters

Average General Fund giving is lagging behind the budgeted need by about \$25 per week. Please pray that December giving will overcome this shortfall.

Fellowship has given over \$15,200 to aid First Baptist-New Orleans with recovery from Hurricane Katrina.

November Giving Per Week (General Fund)	\$4,524
Weekly Need	\$4,691
Year-to-Date Giving (General Fund)	\$224,016
Year-to-Date Need	\$225,168
Year-to-Date 50@1 Giving	\$6,096



## December Annual Meeting

The December Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 14 at 7:30 PM. The purpose of this meeting is to approve a church budget for 2006. Each one of Fellowship's members is encouraged to participate as we begin to prepare for a new year.

## Calendar



Dec. 13	Nursing Home Ministry (2:00 PM)
Dec. 14	December Annual Meeting (7:30 PM)
Dec. 15	ESL Christmas Party (8:00 PM)
Dec. 17	Awana Christmas Party (10:00 AM)
Dec. 17	Youth Christmas Party (6:00 PM)
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Service (7:00 PM)
Dec. 25	Worship Service (10:45 AM)
Jan. 1	Worship Service (10:45 AM) Fellowship Dinner (12:00 NOON)