



Pastor's Perspective — Christ and Nothing Else

By Ron D. Lindholm, Senior Pastor

One does not need to listen for long before hearing someone mention that they are trying to strike the right balance. It would seem that achieving this balance or at least attempting to do so is tremendously important. We therefore pursue it in virtually everything (work and family, study and play, diet and exercise, strictness and permissiveness, space and silence, supervision and interference, waking and sleeping, running and passing, freedom and restraint, contemporary and traditional, divine sovereignty and human responsibility, the practical and the theoretical...just to mention a few), and we idolize those who achieve it.

This year, many of us will be trying to strike the right balance at Christmas. That we would seek to do so, in whatever that might entail, is troubling because

Christmas is not about balance. Christmas is about Christ and nothing else. The Scriptures are not mute on this point. On the contrary, the Bible is loud and clear in telling us that the coming of Christ in the incarnation was for the purpose of setting forth His supremacy—His preeminence—in all things:

Colossians 1:18

And He is the head of the body, the church; He is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything He might have the supremacy.

That we would claim to know Christ and yet aim for balance at Christmas—as if He should share the stage with our gifts and our seasonal excesses, which are so much to do about us and so little about Him—points to a problem that requires swift and unbalanced attention. This Christmas, I urge you to strike an imbalance for Christ and live-out His preeminence all year long.

Christmas Celebrations

Christmas Sermon Series: In our December Sunday morning worship services, Pastor Lindholm will lead a study of "The People of Christmas," examining the lives of Mary, Joseph, Jesus, Anna and the Wise Men.

Christmas Musical: A mini-musical will be presented during the morning service on Sunday, December 16.

Christmas Eve: Fellowship will have a full service



schedule on Sunday, December 23. Then on Christmas Eve, we will have a special candlelight service at 6:00 PM to celebrate our Savior's birth with songs, hymns and Scripture reading.

Please invite unsaved friends and neighbors to these Christmas celebrations, praying God will be pleased to open their hearts to the wonderful truths of the gospel as they learn of Christ's coming into the world to rescue them from sin.

New Year's Eve Fellowship

On Sunday, December 30, Sunday school and the morning worship service will be followed by a church-wide dinner in Fellowship Hall. This is an excellent opportunity to encourage one another in the Lord as we reflect on His goodness to us in 2007 and anticipate the Lord's work in our lives in the coming year. Please plan to attend and bring a dish to share. There will be no evening worship service.

Remembering Our Missionaries

One way we show our love for our missionary families is by giving to Fellowship's annual Christmas missionary offering. This offering is received throughout the month of December for the purpose of providing each

family a gift equal to their monthly support provided by our church. This year our goal is \$3,250. Please plan to participate in this expression of gratitude for the sacrificial service of our missionaries.



Sharing Christ this Christmas

The Christmas season affords wonderful opportunities to share the gospel with those in danger of perishing. To better equip you for this ministry, Christmas outreach

books are available in the church foyer. Please take several copies of these books and use them as tools for sharing your faith. Pray God will use you and these books to bring others to Christ this Christmas.

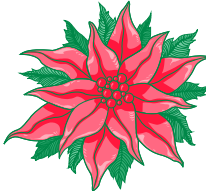
Focus on Youth Ministries – Part Three of Three

By Stuart Odom, Associate Pastor

In the last two months' articles, we talked about the various facets of our Youth Ministries.

How can you help? First, encourage your teens to be involved in *all* aspects of Youth Ministries.

Be a part of Sunday School (an excellent class led by Joel Jensen and Frank Buckley), worship services, Youth Bible Study, and PRIMETIME each week. The entire family—parents *and* teens—should make these gatherings a high priority. I know there's a lot going on in our lives, and we often make *sure* we don't miss our sporting activities, school clubs, social life, and the like. But the things of the Lord and the ministries of the church can get quickly relegated to the "if there's time" list. Folks, nothing can take the place of the spiritual value that is gained from learning about Christ, and living the Christian life in the setting of the local church. Second, we always need drivers for the various offsite activities. I would love to have a pool of



willing and able drivers upon whom I could call. Also, PRIMETIME generally involves a light dinner, so if you would be willing to provide food and drink, please let me know.

How can you pray for our youth and the Youth Ministries of our church? First, pray for continued spiritual fruit in the lives of our young people. Second, pray for our young people as they face the daily challenges of Jr. and Sr. High. These challenges include how to balance extra-curricular activities with homework, managing time for family and friends, and (most important) making time daily for the Lord. Third, pray that our young people will grow in their biblical discernment. We live in a society that increasingly blurs the distinction between right and wrong, and the pressures young people face are intensified because of that. And fourth, pray for the parents of our teens, that they would have God's wisdom as we partner together to train our young people in godliness.



Preparing for the New Year

The December Annual Meeting, devoted to budget approval and deacon election, will be held on Wednesday, December 12. The Finance Committee and Pastors and Deacons have prepared a proposed budget for 2008, and the Clearing Committee has identified one man—Ramiro Esquivel—who is both biblically qualified and willing to serve in the office of deacon. Please plan to participate in this important meeting.



Money Matters

Thanksgiving Offering: We are thankful for the generous giving to the Thanksgiving Offering, which enabled Fellowship to reduce our mortgage principle by an additional \$3,804.

Regular Giving: We continue to have every reason to praise the Lord for His faithful provision as General Fund giving continues to outpace the budgeted need. Through the end of November giving has exceeded the need by \$177 per week.

November Giving Per Week (General Fund)	\$6,278
Weekly Need	\$5,238
Year-to-Date Giving (General Fund)	\$254,505
Year-to-Date Need	\$246,186
Year-to-Date 50@1 Giving	\$7,542

Calendar

The **ESL Christmas Party** will be held on Thursday, December 13 from 8:00 to 9:00 PM in Fellowship Hall. The entire church family is invited to participate.

Our **Awana Christmas Party** will be held on Saturday, December 16 from 10:00 AM to NOON.

Please pray that both of these gatherings will be used to bring the lost to faith in Christ.

Dec. 7	Women's Ministries Christmas Party (7:00 PM)
Dec. 11	Nursing Home Ministry (2:00 PM)
Dec. 12	December Annual Meeting (7:30 PM)
Dec. 24	Candlelight Service (6:00 PM)
Dec. 26	No Mid-week Service
Dec. 30	Church-wide Dinner (12:00 NOON) No Evening Service