

Facets of Fellowship

FEBRUARY 2006



THE NEWSLETTER OF FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor's Perspective — Refined by Fire

By Ron D. Lindholm, Senior Pastor

As a church we've been drawn into an incredible trial twelve time zones away. At the center of the trial is the head of a family we dearly love, a national colleague and a host of people we have never seen, most of whom do not know Jesus Christ and are hostile to the mention of His name.

Trials have a way of humbling us—of stripping us bear of any pretensions of a certain future this side of heaven. The experience, now more than eighty-days, is a stunning reminder of the difficulties associated with walking by faith and not by sight. We want our lives to be predictable. Uncertainty is uncomfortable and disarming—and yet this is the kind of journey that God invites us to embrace. For it is here that He has our attention and we, in turn, are most open to Him and pliable in His hands.

This year, as a supplement to my daily devotions, I've taken to reading a selection from *Extreme Devotion*, a collection of incredible stories of faith concerning believers who have sacrificed everything—everything—to

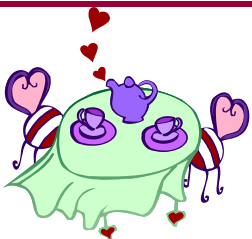
“Trials afford the opportunity to scale to new heights in our walk with the Lord”

follow Christ. In working through all of this I am being challenged to assess my response to Him as never before. Where is the evidence of death to self? By comparison my commitment to Christ is so shallow—my understanding of sacrifice and suffering so trivial and so conditioned by the trappings of this world.

Trials afford the opportunity to scale to new heights in our walk with the Lord as in faith we embrace the cross and allow Him to burn away the dross so that our *faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed* (1 Peter 1:7).

I pray that in the present trial we and all involved who are believers will bring honor to God in our responses to Him, that the worthiness of Christ will be seen in our embrace and that it will be evident to all that what has happened has really served to pioneer the advance of the gospel among a people never before reached, resulting in many being brought into the fold.

Celebrating God's Provision



A special “Couples Night Out” is planned for Saturday, February 18. Join us as we celebrate God's generous provision of a “well-suited helper” (Genesis 2:20), and seek to be an encouragement to

one another in the body of Christ. We will be going to Charlie Chiang's restaurant in Crystal City, which features among other things a Mongolian grill and a traditional Chinese menu. Please use the sign-up sheet in the church foyer. We will depart from the church promptly at 5:00 PM.

Rejoicing in God's Glorious Grace

The purpose of Fellowship's ESL ministry is to lead internationals to Christ and add them to His

church. One of the greatest joys we can experience in this ministry (as in any other) is seeing God's work of grace in bringing a precious soul to faith in Christ. This past month we had the privilege of seeing one of our

In [Jesus] we have redemption through His blood...in accordance with the riches of God's grace that He lavished on us... Ephesians 1:7-8

ESL students accept Jesus as Savior. Rejoice with us in the Lord's wonderful grace, and pray for Henry as He grows in His newfound faith and for his wife who has yet to accept Christ.

Encouraging Our Men

By Stuart A. Odom, Associate Pastor

You know, we all need encouragement in our walk with Christ from time to time. The cares of everyday living can easily weigh us down, and take our eyes off the Lord. The Men's Prayer Breakfast is intended to provide a time that we can gather together once a month, enjoy one

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up...

1 Thessalonians 5:11

another's company, get to know each other better, and pray for one another—sort of like a monthly one-hour men's retreat, where we can build each other up in the Lord. And what a great time we had this past month! In 2006, won't you join us on the 4th Saturday of each month? It could be a life-changing year for you!

Getting to Know Our Church Family

Dwight and Peggy Briggs

Dwight grew up in Scarsdale, NY. His mother was a school teacher. She died when Dwight was 10. His father worked in New York City as a toy salesman. Friends at First Baptist helped raise Dwight and his sister. Their Pastor led Dwight to Christ, just after his mother's death.

Peggy was born in Ontario, Canada. Her dad was a papermaker, then entered the US Merchant Marine in World War II. Her mother was active at school and was a Red Cross volunteer during the war. Peggy grew up attending a Baptist church where she was saved during Vacation Bible School. When she was a junior in high school her family moved to NYC.

Dwight played baritone horn in high school band, and was an Eagle Scout. Peggy was involved in church youth activities and played violin.

After high school, Dwight attended Worcester Polytechnic Institute and earned a BS in Civil Engineering. He also served with the US Army Corps of Engineers.

Peggy graduated from Hunter College in NYC with a

BA in Elementary Education & Mathematics and then taught fifth grade in the Yonkers school system.

After college Dwight and Peggy were married at First Baptist. Dwight entered the Highway Engineer Training Program with the Bureau of Public Roads.

The couple spent their honeymoon driving to Dwight's first assignment in Montana.

They moved every 3 to 6 months, making stops in Oregon, Washington, Illinois and New York. Then Dwight took a job in the DC office to pursue computer interests. After retiring Dwight worked for a consultant for 5 years and for H&R Block for 12 years.

Dwight and Peggy have four adult sons: John lives in Colorado Springs, CO; Paul and his wife Geri live in Lafayette, IN; Timothy and Betsy reside in Mineral, VA; and Andrew and Connie live in Springfield.

Dwight current interests include computers and preparing taxes. He and Peggy enjoy spending time with their nine grandchildren, including going to their concerts, plays, and ballgames.

The Briggs came to Fellowship at its inception in 1981. Dwight currently serves as Church Administrator, Missions Committee member, Finance Committee chairman and Church Moderator. He is also a longtime Sunday School teacher and helps with Vacation Bible School. Peggy serves the church through the ministry of prayer.

Pray for each other...

James 5:16

Money Matters

A love offering of \$311 was given to missionaries Darin and Kathy Ishler during their visit on January 22. So far \$4,517 has been given to assist with the legal fees resulting from the crisis faced by our missionary and his colleague. Our goal is \$5,000.



Calendar

Feb. 10	Women's Heart Friend Party (7:00 PM)
Feb. 14	Nursing Home Ministry (2:00 PM)
Feb. 18	Couples Night Out (5:00 PM)
Feb. 22	Missions Prayer Meeting (7:30 PM)
Feb. 25	Men's Prayer Breakfast (8:30 AM) Buice Baby Shower (1:00 PM)

January Giving Per Week (General Fund)	\$4,206
Weekly Need	\$4,706
Year-to-Date Giving (General Fund)	\$21,030
Year-to-Date Need	\$23,530
Year-to-Date 50@1	\$680



Serving One Another and Our Community



HEART FRIEND PARTY: All of the ladies are invited to come Friday, February 10 at 7:00 PM as we reveal our heart friends for last year and draw names for 2006. This is a great way to minister to your sisters in Christ!

WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE: Please bring in your donations for Bailey's Crossroads Community Shelter by Sunday, February 12. Immediate needs are gloves, socks, hats, long underwear, sweatshirts and coats (all adult sizes).

BABY SHOWER: A baby shower for Darla Buice will be held at Fellowship on Saturday, February 25 at 1:00 PM.