



Pastor's Perspective — Rescued for a Reason

By Ron D. Lindholm, Senior Pastor

Over the years I've heard any number of believers speak with gratitude for the things God saved them from when He called them unto Himself through Christ. No doubt I've heard such words from some of you—and you from me. But the other day I had a very different experience in that I found myself thinking with gratitude rather than speaking of it, and then taking that thought to the next level where the issue isn't what God saved me from, but what He saved me for. God's rescue is always for a purpose. We need to realize that He is the One who desires to fill our lives with meaning.

The experience I mentioned came in the middle of a late afternoon run. It was near dark. At first, all I saw was a car along the side of the road, parked against traffic, with the driver's side door fully opened to the street. Curious, I slowed to investigate. To my surprise I discovered the driver, a young lady in her mid to upper twenties, on her knees in the road next to the car, face-down to the ground.

In thirty-two years of road running, I had never encountered anything like it.

At first I didn't know what to think. Then I thought she might be praying, but quickly dismissed that when I heard what I thought was violent coughing, only to realize that it was vomiting. Right away, I stopped and

*In [Christ] we were also chosen...according to the plan of Him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of His will...
Ephesians 1:11*

offered to lend whatever assistance I could. At first she declined, but then consented for me to stand there in the road to make sure she didn't get run over by a passing car. When all the vomiting seemed to be over, I inquired as to whether she might be ill and need to be seen by a physician. Initially she did not respond, but then she indicated that the cause was not illness, but alcohol. She had been drinking heavily the night before. It was mid-week. Now she was paying for it. Since early morning she had been throwing up on average once every twenty minutes—that's three times an hour—and all the evidence suggested she wasn't done. As she stumbled toward her house, I had to wonder what trouble in her life (what emptiness) could be so great as to cause her to willingly (and perhaps even repeatedly) suffer such shame.

Drinking was never part of my life experience. It very easily could have been—and so with many other hurtful things. I thank God for the rescue he effected in my life when He bought me out of the slave market of sin...and you may too. But if that's all that we do and there is no corresponding dedication of life to Him who is life (John 14:6) and gives life (John 10:10) that we might be to the praise of His glory (Ephesians 1:11-14), then sadly the emptiness and ruin of life I saw in that young lady may be found in us too.

Serving Our Men

At Fellowship we believe that major attention must be given to the building of faithful men. Strong churches depend upon strong families, and strong families are led by godly husbands and fathers. For this reason we are seeking to improve our Men's Ministries during 2007. We would like to have gatherings where men are equipped from the Scriptures to be spiritual lead-

ers in their homes and church. We would also like to provide greater opportunities for interaction between the men of our church, that they might have an effective ministry of building one another up in the faith. Our first informal outing will be to the George Mason Men's Basketball game on Saturday, February 10. Contact Pete English to reserve your seat!

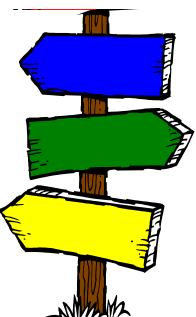
Led in a New Direction

Our missionaries Larry and Sallie Fogle served with Baptist Mid-Missions for many years as church planters in central Africa. From there the Lord led them to Bible translation ministry at Bibles International where they served in an administrative capacity for the past 11 years.

Now Larry and Sallie are sensing God guiding them in a new direction, to a new ministry with Baptist Mid-Missions

that will enable Larry to once again focus on preaching and teaching. They are carefully seeking the Lord's direction, working through this important decision with leaders from their mission agency and their home and sending church. The Fogles have asked for our prayer during this time of transition; it is our privilege to support them in this way.

Larry and Sallie will be with us during the morning service on February 25 to report on God's recent work in their lives. Please plan to be in attendance.



Leaders for a New Year

The following individuals have been appointed as church leaders for 2007:

Dwight Briggs – Finance Committee; Financial Review Committee

Frank Buckley – Financial Secretary; Sunday School Superintendent; Clearing Committee

Pete English – Trustee; Clearing Committee

Tracy English – Women’s Ministries Director; Clearing Committee

Joseph Estrada – Trustee

Bob Fulmer – Financial Review Committee

Bob Gardner – Ordinances

Nancy Gardner – Ordinances; Clearing Committee

John Goff – Treasurer

Gina Irving – Women’s Ministries Service Coordinator

Bill Janosky – Missions Committee

Roxanne Janosky – Church Hostess

Bob Jordan – Assistant Sunday School Superintendent

Amy Mount – Clerk; Women’s Ministries Fellowship Coordinator

Doug Mount – Moderator

Sid Teaford – Finance Committee; Financial Review Committee

...They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit... Acts 6:5

We are grateful for each one of these leaders the Lord has provided. Please pray for them as they serve Christ and His church this year.



Upcoming Events

Heart Friend Party: All of the ladies of the church are encouraged to attend the Heart Friend Party on Friday, February 9. We will be revealing our Heart Friends for 2006 and selecting new ones for 2007.

Through this ministry our ladies pray for one another throughout the year and provide each other with meaningful expressions of encouragement.

Couples Night Out: A special couples night out will be held on Saturday, February 24. We will be going to Green Olives Italian Restaurant in Springfield. Please plan to participate.

Money Matters

General Fund giving averaged a remarkable \$5,594 per week during the 4th Quarter of 2006. However, in January the average dropped to \$4,492 falling short of the weekly need for 2007. Please continue to pray for the Lord to graciously meet the financial needs of our church that we might do all we can and should to reach our community and our world for Christ.

Sparks-A-Rama/Awana Games: On Saturday, March 3, Fellowship’s Sparks and T&T clubs will participate in the Sparks-A-Rama and Awana Games, respectively. Please plan to come out and cheer on our young people.



Due to the generous giving during the 4th Quarter Fellowship was able to use an extra \$14,320 to pay down the mortgage. This, together with the regular mortgage payments and 50@1 contributions of \$7,865 during 2006, allowed the mortgage principle to be reduced from 288,940 to 217,873 this past year.

Calendar

January Giving Per Week (General Fund)	\$4,492
Weekly Need	\$5,238
Year-to-Date Giving (General Fund)	\$17,968
Year-to-Date Need	\$20,952
Year-to-Date 50@1 Giving	\$1,152

Feb. 9	Women’s Heart Friend Party (7:00 PM)
Feb. 10, 24	Awana Sparks/Games Practice (10:00 AM)
Feb. 10	Men’s Basketball Game Outing (4:00 PM)
Feb. 13	Nursing Home Ministry (2:00 PM)
Feb. 24	Couples Night Out (5:00 PM)
Feb. 25	Larry & Sallie Fogle Report (AM Service)
Mar. 3	Sparks-A-Rama/Awana Games Immanuel Bible Church, Springfield, VA
Mar. 10-15	International Student Ministry Missionary Paul Briggs from Purdue University