

Facets *of Fellowship*

FEBRUARY 2008

THE NEWSLETTER OF FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH



Pastor's Perspective — Loving by Speaking Truth

By Ron D. Lindholm, Senior Pastor

It is neither helpful nor loving to tell our Muslim friends that they, like us, worship the one true God. Yet a concerted effort is underway to do that very thing. It comes in response to "A Common Word between Us and You"—an open letter written to Christians by 138 Muslim scholars and denominational leaders last October saying that love for God and love for neighbor is common ground between Christianity and Islam. The response, formulated by the Yale Divinity School's Center for Faith and Culture and published in November, had 300 signatories, including such noted evangelicals as Leith Anderson, Lynn Green, Bill Hybels, Rick Love, David Neff, John Stott and Rick Warren.

The difficulty with any notion of common ground is rooted in the teaching of our Lord Jesus who says that to reject Him for who He is—namely, the very Son of God who gives His life as a ransom for sins and rises again—is to reject God Himself. To the unbelievers of His day, Jesus said:

...I know you. I know that you do not have the love of God in your hearts. I have come in My Father's name, and you do not accept Me, but if someone else comes in his own name, you

will accept him. (John 5:42-43)

Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from Him comes to Me. (John 6:45)

Then they asked Him: "Where is your father?" "You do not know Me or My Father," Jesus replied. "If you knew Me, you would know My Father also." (John 8:19)

How do we know if a person really knows and loves the one true God? We lovingly tell them about who Jesus is. If they accept Him, they know and love God. If they reject Him, they don't. Jesus doesn't leave any wiggle room on this.

The most helpful and loving thing that we can do for our Muslim friends, and for any others who are lost in their sins and separated from God, is to lovingly tell them the truth about Jesus Christ and urge them to turn from their empty worship and accept Him as the crucified and risen Savior for the forgiveness of their sins and the hope of eternal life. If we do this, there is the prospect that our unbelieving friends will become our brothers and sisters in Christ—and I pray it is toward that end that we who know the truth would be committed.

Serving the Church

From [Christ] the whole body...grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Ephesians 4:16

The following individuals have been appointed as church leaders for 2008:

Dwight Briggs — Finance Committee; Financial Review Committee

Frank Buckley — Financial Secretary; Sunday School Superintendent

Pete English, Pastor Lindholm & Pastor Odom — Men's Ministries

Tracy English — Women's Ministries (WM) Director; Clearing Committee

Bob Fulmer — Financial Review Committee

Bob Gardner — Ordinances

Nancy Gardner — Ordinances; Clearing Committee

John Goff — Treasurer

Gina Irving — WM Service Coordinator

Roxanne Janosky — Church Hostess

Amy Mount — Clerk; WM Fellowship Coordinator

Doug Mount — Moderator

Joe Robinson — Missions Committee

Sid Teaford — Finance Committee; Financial Review Committee

Sherry Wasserstein — Missions Committee

We are grateful for each one of these leaders. Please pray for them as they serve this year.

Encouraging One Another and Reaching Out



Heart Friend Party: All of the ladies of the church are encouraged to attend the Heart Friend Party on Friday, February 8. We will be revealing our Heart Friends for 2007 and selecting new ones for 2008.

Couples Night Out: A special couples night out will be held in Fellowship Hall on Saturday, February 16. The cost is \$10 per couple. Please make your reservation in the church foyer.

Sparks-A-Rama/Awana Games: On February 23, Fellowship's Sparks and T&T clubs will participate in the Sparks-A-Rama and Awana Games. Please plan to come out and cheer on our young people.



International Student Ministry: This annual ministry to students from Purdue University, in support of missionaries Paul and Geri Briggs, will take place on March 8-13. Please consider serving as a host family this year!

Getting to Know Our Church Family

Ron and Sherry Wasserstein

Ron was born in Houston, TX and grew up all over the United States and Europe, as his dad served in the US Air Force. Both of his parents were Jewish, but not very religious. Ron has two younger brothers.

Sherry was born in Kansas City, MO and grew up in Topeka, KS. Shortly before she was born Sherry's mom contracted polio. The Lord used that difficulty to deepen her parent's commitment to Him, and they impressed their faith upon Sherry, her older brother and her younger sister. Together with her uncle, Sherry's dad began a typewriter company that later became a computer software and copier business.

As a child, Ron loved school and sports, especially baseball. He got his first job at age 12 and has been working ever since. Sherry learned to play the piano, and enjoyed craft projects and planning events. But her greatest interest was attending Kansas Bible Camp, an interest she has yet to outgrow.

Sherry accepted Jesus as Savior at an early age, having been told of Jesus' sacrifice for her by her brother, with further explanation from her mom. Later she re-committed her life to Christ as a teenager.

Ron's family moved to Topeka, KS during his sophomore year in high school. It was there he became friends with Sherry. They dated for a time but Ron broke things off, knowing it would not work out since Sherry was a believer and he was not.

The Lord worked on Ron's heart for years through a variety of Christian influences, including an English

Ron and Sherry's daughter Rose will be going to Peru this summer on a missions trip. She will be sharing her desire to participate in this ministry during the morning service on February 10. A love offering will be received to cover the cost of her trip. We are thankful for this opportunity for Rose's eyes to be opened to the missions needs of our world. Please pray for her as she prepares for this ministry.

Money Matters

January Giving Per Week (General Fund)	\$6,230
Weekly Need	\$5,568
January 50@1 Giving	\$1,032

teacher, a pastor, and Sherry's family. He knew the gospel well but was hesitant to "turn his back" on his Jewish heritage. Finally, at age 18, Ron stopped resisting and gave his life to Christ.

With Ron saved, he and Sherry resumed their relationship. They were married while Ron was attending Washburn University and Sherry was at the University of Kansas.

After receiving a math degree at Washburn, Ron went to Kansas State for graduate school, and Sherry transferred there to complete her degree in journalism. After receiving a PhD in Statistics, Ron returned to Washburn as a faculty member. There he gradually rose through the ranks and, in 2000, became Vice President for Academic Affairs.

After working briefly for a newspaper, Sherry became a stay-at-home mom and later a home-school teacher. The Wassersteins have four adult children: Israel, Matt, Rachel and Grace. They also have five children still at home: John, Beth, Jessica, Joel and Rose.

In 2007, after much prayer, Ron and Sherry determined the Lord was leading them to leave Kansas and come to Northern Virginia, where Ron works as Executive Director of the American Statistical Association.

The Wassersteins began attending Fellowship their first Sunday in Virginia, and became members this past October. They enjoy opening their home for hospitality and fellowship. Sherry serves as an Awana leader and Missions Committee member.

Ron and Sherry request prayer for wisdom in raising their family, and also covet our prayers as they return to Kansas Bible Camp this summer for several weeks of ministry. They "love being a part of" Fellowship and "thank God He brought us here."

Calendar

Feb. 8	Women's Heart Friend Party (7:00 PM)
Feb. 9, 16	Sparks-A-Rama/Awana Games Practice
Feb. 12	Nursing Home Ministry (2:00 PM)
Feb. 16	Couples Night Out (6:00 PM)
Feb. 17	Youth <i>PRIMETIME</i> Bowling
Feb. 23	Sparks-A-Rama/Awana Games Christian Fellowship Church (Ashburn, VA)