



Pastor's Perspective — Every Wave Is Not a Theological Lesson

By Ron D. Lindholm, Senior Pastor

One of the first days on Oahu, Neita and I drove to Sunset Beach on the North Shore to watch the surfers and to see the big waves. Both were impressive. But the image that stands out in my mind is the one of the rather stocky, but shirtless guy that I watched confidently stride toward the breaking waves as if he expected to withstand the combined force of all of them only to be wiped-out without mercy by the first wave of any size and then quickly scamper away.

I chuckled. It probably was not the nicest thing to do, but I chuckled anyway—partly because he had been so quickly and completely humbled, and partly because if it hadn't been him, it easily could have been me.

Sometimes when we're least expecting it, or, even worse, when we are but we think that we're prepared and invincible, life will come up like a wave and knock us to our knees. The next time that happens to you, you might be well served to think about how you got there.

The Bible tells us that *God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble*. That the Bible teaches this is for our instruction—that we would *humble*

[ourselves] under the mighty hand of God that He may lift [us] up in due time. That the Bible would tell us the same thing on three separate occasions (look them up: Proverbs 3:34; James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5) is to indicate that we have a real problem in this area—one that we tend to lose sight of, but desperately need to remember.

Every wave is not a theological lesson. Just because you walk out onto the beach and get wacked by the first wave

doesn't mean that you have a problem with pride. But the next time you find yourself face down in the sand and gasping for air, before you get up, it might be a good thing to figure out how you got there. It might have been pride, and this is the Lord's way of bringing that to your attention that you would see it and deal with it and submit your life to Him.

⁵...All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." ⁶Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time. 1 Peter 5:5-6

Missionary Visits

Ted Siemens participated in and spoke at our Men's Breakfast on Saturday, January 23. After visiting another church and participating in a week of training team meetings, Ted returned to Fellowship on Sunday, January 31, giving the Bible message in the morning service and providing a report on his and Dawn's ministry with Trans

²⁶...[Paul and Barnabas] sailed back to Antioch, where they had been committed to the grace of God for the work they had now completed. ²⁷On arriving there, they gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them... Acts 14:26-27

World Radio during the evening service. It was great to see Ted in person, to learn more about the work the Lord is doing through the Siemens, and to strengthen our partnership with this family and their ministry. A love offering of \$855.66 was received for the Siemens family.

Our missionary to Southeast Asia will be in ministry during the morning worship service on Sunday, February 14. He and

his wife are also beginning to plan for their return to the States the first full week in July. They will furlough for at least 6 months, and more likely 11 months, while helping their youngest son Josh with the transition to college. We are excited about the prospect of having them here in Northern Virginia during that time.

Another missionary family will visit Fellowship on Sunday, February 28 and will participate in our ministries throughout the day. They are missionary appointees to the Middle East with the Association of Baptists for World Evangelism. Please plan to come to the 6:00 PM service to learn about the ministry the Lord has called them to. A love offering will be received for this couple.

Mortgage Victory Celebration

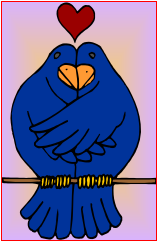
A mortgage victory celebration will be incorporated into the morning worship service on Sunday, March 7. Fellowship's first Pastor, Don Fanning, and his wife Jan have accepted our invitation to participate in this special time of acknowledging the Lord's goodness

and faithfulness to our church. Former members, who were asked to help with last year's payoff effort, have also been invited. Please plan to join us as we worship and give thanks to our amazing God.



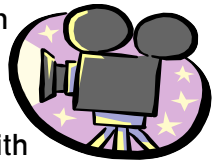
Church Life Activities

Gathering together for fellowship is vital to building up the church, helping us to deepen our relationships with one another, enabling us to grow together in our walk with the Lord, and equipping us to serve one another in times of need. It is in recognition of the extraordinary value of fellowship that our Church Life Calendar is carefully planned each year. We are thankful for Ron Wasserstein's oversight of this area, even as he begins serving in a new role as Deacon for Outreach and Evangelism. We thank the Lord as well for the service of our Church Hostess, Mary Ann Monk, as she works to coordinate various events.



One of our first activities for 2010 is the Couples Night Out scheduled on Saturday,

February 13. The Youth Group, with help from Ron and Sherry Wasserstein, will provide child care from 5:00 to 9:00 PM so couples can strengthen their relationships through an evening out together.



Also in February will be our first Fun with Fellowship event. These informal gatherings will enable us to enjoy time together as we engage in some fun activities. On Saturday, February 27, the Fun with Fellowship will be held at 2:00 PM, and we will enjoy refreshments while watching a classic movie. The entire church family is encouraged to participate

If you are willing to help coordinate one or more of our Church Life activities or have any questions, please contact Ron Wasserstein.

Leaders for a New Year

The following church leaders have been appointed for 2010: John Goff, *Treasurer*; Frank Buckley, *Financial Secretary*; Amy Mount, *Clerk*; Doug Mount, *Moderator*; Pete English and Doug Mount, *Trustees*; Doug Mount, Joe Robinson, Nancy Gardner and Sherry Wasserstein, *Clearing Committee*; Sid Teaford, *Finance Committee*; Bob Fulmer and Sid Teaford, *Financial Review Committee*; Bob and Nancy Gardner, *Ordinances*; Nancy Gardner, *Sunday School Superintendent*; Tracy English, Amy Mount and Gina Irving, *Women's Ministries*;

Pastor Lindholm, Pastor Odom and Pete English, *Men's Ministries*; Mary Ann Monk, *Church Hostess*.

We are grateful for each one of these leaders the Lord has provided. We also praise Him for the faithful servants who provide leadership and serve as teachers in our Christian education and outreach ministries and who help with the weekly worship services at Fellowship. Please pray for each one as they serve Christ and His church in 2010.



This year we are encouraging everyone at Fellowship to participate in a **2010 Bible Memory Challenge**. Our verse for February is Psalm 97:10: *Let those who love the LORD hate evil, for He guards the lives of His faithful ones and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.*

Money Matters

January Giving Per Week (General Fund)	\$5,524
Weekly Need	\$5,290
Year-to-Date Building Fund Giving	\$135

International Student Ministry: Mark your calendars for March 13-18 and plan to help us as we host international students from Purdue University during their spring break, in partnership with Paul and Geri Briggs.

Calendar



Feb. 9	Nursing Home Ministry (2:00 PM)
Feb. 13	Couples Night Out (4:30 – 10:00 PM) <i>Childcare provided at the church</i>
Feb. 14	Missionary Visit (AM Service)
Feb. 20, 27	Sparks-A-Rama Practice (9:30 AM) T&T Games Practice (10:45 AM)
Feb. 27	Fun with Fellowship Movie (2:00 PM)
Feb. 28	Missionary Visit (Both Services)
Mar. 6	Sparks-A-Rama (9:30 AM) T&T Games (12:30 PM) <i>Christian Fellowship Church (Ashburn, VA)</i>