



Pastor's Perspective — How Is Your Love For Jesus?

By Ron D. Lindholm, Senior Pastor

Not long ago, a prominent evangelical pastor took a leave of absence. In announcing this to his church he explained, "I have a growing sense that my soul, my marriage, my family, and my ministry-pattern need a reality check from the Holy Spirit." He went on to say that what he saw were "several species of pride" in his soul, which, while they may not rise to the level of disqualifying him from the ministry, nevertheless grieved him, and needed to be addressed as they were taking a toll on the various relationships of his life. He took a lot of flak for that leave of absence, which also prompted endless and unnecessary speculation about "the real problem."

In many passages of Scripture and using a variety of terms, we as believers are commanded to love and serve the Lord with our whole hearts. The tall order of the imagery alone should, at the very least, prompt the occasion of pause and bring forth the question: "Am I really doing that?" My fear is that the words, sometimes all too familiar, aren't even read in their entirety so the question is never asked.

When Jesus wrote to the church at Ephesus, He told them that they had forsaken their first love. Who would have known? Ephesus was a dynamic church, and in many ways she was living valiantly for Christ in

that city. Outwardly, she gave all appearance of everything right in her relationship with the Lord—and I suspect that prior to this letter, if she were asked, she would have said the same thing. But Jesus knew better. She had left her first love and needed to repent and return.

What can happen in a church can happen in an individual believer's life. Loving devotion to Christ can be lost in the midst of active service. Revelation 2:4 is telling us that no amount of orthodoxy, no amount of correct doctrine can make up for a failure to maintain that love for Jesus.

Love the LORD
your God with all
your heart and with
all your soul and
with all your
strength.
Deuteronomy 6:5

The hymn writer penned the words, "O to grace how great a debtor, Daily I'm constrained to be! Let Thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wand'ring heart to Thee: Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it. Prone to leave the God I love; Here's my heart, O take and seal it; Seal it for Thy courts above," but they could just as easily be mine—just as easily yours.

How is your love for Jesus?

The Gravleys are leaving for Romania!

The time has come! Travis, Becky, Sam and Kara Gravley are leaving for Romania! These dear people, supported, in part, by Fellowship, fly out of State College, Pennsylvania, at 2:19 p.m. on Monday, February 7! They are grateful for God's grace and provision through believers who have provided the outfit and passage costs to get to their mission field, and the support to work there.

A farewell service for the Gravley family was held in Pennsylvania by Emmanuel Baptist Church, their home church, on Sunday, January 23. The service, fellowship and reception were attended by Pastor Ron and Neita Lindholm and Pete and Tracy English. The Gravleys seemed very encouraged by the presence of the Lindholm and English families.

The Gravleys were able to go to Romania and Hungary toward the end of last year, accomplishing key things: finding a language school for Becky and Travis, finding a school for Sam and Kara, looking at houses, and meeting with their team at a retreat in Hungary. After they returned, full support became a reality. By early December they were making travel plans and beginning to pack in order to move to Romania.



Travis reports, "We asked many to pray that we would have a precious time with family as we marked our last Christmas season before leaving for the field. The Lord gave us many opportunities to be with family over that time. Our days were full of loud, playing children and amazing food. Our hearts were filled with joy and memories. We were also asking God to give us

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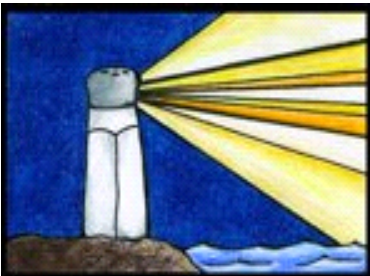
The Gravleys

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wisdom in making the many decisions related to packing for Romania. I must say, it was not easy; but God granted Becky and I strength, unity, and wisdom as we cleaned out our house and packed our shipment.... It wouldn't have happened without the help of our family and nearby friends."

When they arrive this month in Romania, the first weeks will involve finding a new home and starting the kids in school. Then, Becky and Travis will start in full-time language school, which will be their main focus for the first 12 to 18 months. They are asking prayer for wisdom as they choose their housing (right location and adequate space) and for their children's adjustment to everything new (time zone, schedules, school, culture, language). But they said the thing most weighing on their hearts is leaving their families, especially since Becky's dad is in need of full-time care.

International Students



Salt and Light Christian Fellowship

Although it may seem hard to believe, spring is just around the corner. And just as sure as Cherry Blossoms, rain and tourists are a part of the season, so is our opportunity to host international students from Purdue University. In cooperation with Paul and Geri Briggs with the Salt and Light ministry, 24 guests will be arriving Saturday, March 12, and staying until Thursday, March 17. The hosting gives these students from around the world the opportunity to see the nation's capital, experience life with an American family and hear the Word of God, as they tour during the day and have Bible studies in the evening.

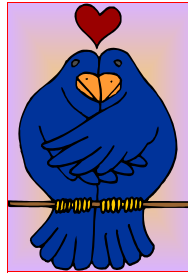
The requirements to host the students are minimal: provide a warm and welcoming place to stay, fix breakfast in the morning before they tour, prepare one evening meal to share with them and around the Word and be prepared to have your hearts blessed as you see God work! See Pastor Lindholm if you want to be a part of this annual event.

Fellowship Baptist Church

5936 Rolling Road
Springfield, VA 22152

Couples Night Out

Children are a gift from the Lord, but some time alone with your spouse is not only a gift for you, but ultimately for them as well. But child care is not always easy to find. Once again, the FBC family has a solution for that problem, at least for one night near Valentine's Day.



Please take advantage of Couples' Night Out on Saturday, February 13, sponsored by the Wassersteins and the Fellowship youth group. Drop your children off at the church between 5pm and 9pm. Dinner will be provided for the kids, as will games and activities. All you have to do is go have fun!

February Calendar

Feb. 4-19	Pastor Lindholm's trip to the Philippines
Feb. 8	Nursing Home Ministry
Feb. 8	Joel Wasserstein returns from Brazil
Feb. 12	Couples' Night Out
Feb. 13	Pattons, ABWE missionary-appointees to Peru, visit
Feb. 26	Awana Games



This year we are encouraging everyone at Fellowship to participate in a **2011 Bible Memory Challenge**.

Our verse for February is Colossians 4:6: *Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.* (NIV)

Money Matters

January Giving Per Week (General Fund)	\$5,019
Weekly Need	\$5,290
Year-to-Date "Together We Build" Giving	\$635

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