



## Pastor's Perspective – I Have a Dream

By Dr. Ron D. Lindholm, Senior Pastor

On the third Monday of January, our nation is called upon to remember Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. for his leadership in the civil rights movement. Among the lessons to be learned from Dr. King is that our lives should be passionately and sacrificially lived with singular purpose. For Dr. King, that purpose was powerfully communicated in his "I Have a Dream" speech.

A few years ago, a friend of mine was challenged to write his own version of Dr. King's speech. What he came up with was centered on the church. After returning home, he kept going back to that assignment, working more on what he had written, sensing that there was value in articulating his "dream" because it gave voice to what was in his heart.

As he wrote, he thought of how Dr. King looked at the wrongs that needed to be righted, and did not walk away from them but instead walked toward the front of the line, leading forward for change. He also thought of how as a follower of Christ, he himself is to be engaged in the greatest enterprise ever launched upon this planet, the building of His church. And from those thoughts, my friend realized that he, too, has a dream—and he put it to words.

**What  
about  
you?**

"I have a dream...

...that in a world of hurt and hopelessness, the church would be a place of healing and help;

...that hell-bound sinners would become heaven-bound saints because the body of Christ reached out and welcomed in those who need the life-changing touch of Jesus;

...that together as pilgrims, as fellow travelers journeying to the only place, the only city that lasts forever, to the city of God, we would all be changed;

...that we would put off those dirty rags of unrighteousness, rags of anger, deceit, self-centeredness and destructive paths seeking temporary pleasure; and

...that we would instead put on the rich garments of righteousness, garments of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

I have a dream."

Dr. King's dream is shared by millions of people from many different religious persuasions. But my friend's dream is distinctly for those who are followers of Christ, and I should like to say with him, "I have a dream." What about you?

## Teaching Children to Love God's Word

### Awana Shines Light on Christian Living

The Awana Commander, Doug Mount, leaned forward on the podium and lowered his voice. "Do you remember when I told you about finding a secret place to read your Bible?" he asked. "Do you remember how we talked about how cool it is to take a flashlight and go to bed at night and pull the covers up over your head? Then, with the lights all out, you can take your flashlight and read your Bible there under the covers."

The children in the Sparks Awana club looked intently into his eyes. There was no wiggling. There was no whispering. Every eye was staring straight into Doug's face. You could see they were seeing the image clearly in their own minds: They were transported back to their own homes, their own bedrooms, with their own blankets tucked all over them, staring into their own Bibles.

"You can find amazing things in the Bible. Some of the best times I have ever had in reading about God and learning about Him started when I used to take my flashlight and read my Bible with my flashlight in bed," he added.

"And do you know what?" he continued. "Tonight, at the Awana store (the occasional week in which the children can use the 'Awana Bucks' they have earned during the club time to buy 'prizes') guess what you can buy with your Awana Bucks?"

Doug paused. The children leaned forward in anticipation.

"You can buy flashlights!"

The kids began to grin.

"If you get a flashlight tonight, you can use it to read your Bible at home in bed tonight, too. If you read in the book of John, in the New Testament, you can read a lot of really great stories about the miracles Jesus did."

But one student had a question: "What if our mom and dad want us to go to sleep?"

"Then you should obey them," Doug smiled. "But I bet your parents will be very happy to find you reading your Bible."

And just to insure that the children did not get in trouble with their parents, Doug contacted the adults through email, explaining in detail the "Flashlight Adventure" the children might be trying. Please keep the Awana program, club leaders and the Awana Commander in your prayers as they work to teach children the Gospel, the Bible and how to grow as Christians.

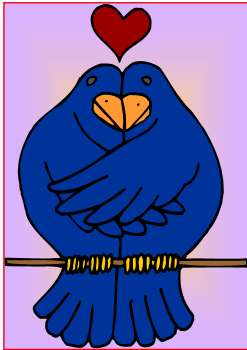


## Couples' Night Out Offers Chance to Reconnect

Although pastors and counselors have been telling people this for years, the University of Virginia in its National Marriage Project in 2012, made it official: Married couples who date do better at their relationship.

Specifically, the study concluded that "husbands and wives who engaged in 'couple time' with their mates at least once a week were approximately 3.5 times more likely to report being 'very happy' in their marriages, compared to those who enjoyed less quality time."

And the Norwegian government believes it, too. At the end of last year, federal officials were promoting "date nights" in their country to try to reduce their nation's divorce rate.



Already realizing that although children are a gift from the Lord, date time for mom and dad is not only a gift for them, but ultimately for their children as well, FBC will once again be hosting a Couples' Night Out. Bring your children to the church

on Friday, Feb. 14, from 6 to 9 p.m., free of charge. You will get a night out—alone—while your children will have dinner, make crafts, play games and have a great time. Please contact the Wassersteins to reserve your spot: 785-220-1761 or 785-633-1184.

### 2014 Bible Memory Project February Verse



*I will praise You, O LORD,  
with all my heart;  
before the "gods"  
I will sing Your praise.  
Psalm 138:1*

## Money Matters

January Giving Per Week (General Fund)	\$4,067
Weekly Need	\$5,131
Year-to-Date General Fund Giving	\$16,267
Year-to-Date General Fund Need	\$20,524

## Fellowship Baptist Church

5936 Rolling Road  
Springfield, VA 22152

## Offering a Warm Bed, Christ's Love



### *Salt and Light Christian Fellowship*

It has been a cold winter, and it may be hard to imagine, but there will be a spring. And with the spring season, we will once again have the great opportunity to host students from Purdue University who come here on their spring break.

In cooperation with Paul and Geri Briggs with the Salt and Light ministry, about 24 guests will be arriving Saturday, March 15, and will be staying until Thursday, March 20. Students tour the nation's capital during the day, hear the Word of God during Bible studies at Pastor and Neita Lindholm's home in the evenings and get the opportunity to see Christ's love in action as they are welcomed into our homes. Requirements to host the students are minimal: provide a warm and welcoming place to stay, fix breakfast in the morning before they tour, prepare only one evening meal to share with them and participate in a planned Bible lesson that one night only, and be prepared to have your hearts blessed as you see God work.

See Pastor Lindholm if you are willing to be a part of this annual event.

## February Calendar

Feb. 5	Fellowship Dinner 6:30 PM
Feb. 7	Women's Heart Friend Party 7:00 pm
Feb. 11	Nursing Home Ministry 2:00 PM
Feb. 14	Couples' Night Out 6:00 PM
Feb. 22, Mar. 1	Practice for Sparks-A-Rama & Awana Games
Mar. 7-8	Fellowship In Homes
Mar. 14	Women's Bowling Outing
Mar. 15-20	International Student Ministry