

Facets *of Fellowship*

JANUARY 2005



THE NEWSLETTER OF FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor's Perspective — Our Family in Southern Asia

Ever since I heard the word about the earthquake in Sumatra and the resulting tsunami that spread untold death and destruction across Southern Asia, I've been thinking about our family in that region and praying for their well being—along with that of those they know and love among the survivors. Though none of the nations involved are Christian, they are certainly not devoid of born-again Christian believers.

In towns and villages that once were...in cities that barely exist any more...in isolated hamlets and outposts that no one has ever heard of or ever will, brothers and sisters in Christ are numbered among the grieving. Their sorrow is no less than that of the others, but their sorrow is different because it's filled with the hope that only Christ can give and only believers know (1 Thessalonians 4:13). Through the tears, they are remembering the promises of God's Word—His

way is perfect (2 Samuel 22:31), His faithfulness is great (Lamentations 3:23), His grace is sufficient (2 Corinthians 12:9)—and they are claiming those promises as true, knowing, that like God Himself, God's Word is absolutely trustworthy and true (Numbers 23:19; John 17:3, 17).

As you pray for those in earthquake-shaken, tsunami-stricken Southern Asia, remember your family in Christ in that region and pray for them, as you would want them to be praying for you if the circumstances were reversed. Pray especially that their faith would not be feeble nor falter. They are engaged in a great battle that could well turn the tide for the advance of the gospel in that part of the world, but the battle will not be easily won (1 Peter 5:8). They need the undergirding support of our prayers (Ephesians 6:18b). May we not fail them in this crucial hour.

Patefield Visit

...Paul chose Silas and left, commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord.
Acts 15:40

Nathan and Dawn Patefield and family will be at Fellowship on Sunday morning, January 9. Please plan to be in attendance as this will be our last opportunity to interact with the Patefields before they return to Brazil on January 23. In His perfect timing God has

provided in a wonderful way for the needs of this family, eliminating nearly all of their shortfall in monthly support and also providing funds to purchase property for the new church they will be planting in Guadalupe. Please pray for Nathan and Dawn as they will have only a short time to find housing upon their return. Pray also for God's wisdom and direction as they begin a new work.

Christmas Missionary Offering



Through the annual Christmas offering \$3,769 was contributed for our missionary families. This enabled the church to present each family with a Christmas

gift equal to 135% of their monthly support provided by Fellowship. Thank you for your generous expression of appreciation for the ministries of our missionaries.

Annual Meetings

Fellowship's December Annual Meeting was held on December 8, with Joseph Estrada and Alan Marshall elected as Deacons. Please pray for their ministry to the church and that God would prepare additional men to serve in this office in the future.

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

The other item of business was the adoption of a budget for the coming year. Because of strong giving in 2004 the church was able to provide an increase in

compensation to our staff, thereby restoring a portion of the budget cuts made last year. Also included in the budget is a \$2,000 increase in missions support.

The January Annual Meeting will be held on January 26 for the purpose of approving the Officials and Trustees appointed by the Pastors and Deacons, as well as reviewing the annual reports of the various church leaders, committees and organizations.

Getting to Know Our Church Family

Kathy Martens

Kathy grew up in a Christian family in Houston, TX. Her father was a salesman and her mother also worked. She is the youngest of four children, and has a brother and two sisters. As a child Kathy enjoyed attending Houston Astros games with her father, and her favorite activity was playing catcher on her softball team. Kathy accepted Christ when she was eight years old and credits her Christian home and regular church involvement with helping bring her to put her faith in the Lord.

When she was in high school Kathy's father was transferred to San Antonio. It was there that she met her future husband Nate, as his family also moved to San Antonio around that same time. During their final years of high school Nate and Kathy became friends, but did not begin dating until the summer before their sophomore year in college.

After high school Kathy attended Texas A&M Univer-

...Love the brotherhood
of believers...
1 Peter 2:17

sity for three years, studying elementary education, while Nate attended the Air Force Academy in Colorado. Upon graduation Nate was assigned to Dayton, OH, and the couple continued their long-distance relationship until they were married 16 months later.

Kathy transferred to Wright State University and majored in communications. Recently, while stationed in the Netherlands, she also earned a Masters of International Relations from the University of Oklahoma.

The Martens have three boys: Zach, a freshman at Embry Riddle University in Daytona Beach, FL; and Wes and Jacob, who attend Robinson Secondary School where Wes is a sophomore and Jacob is in 8th grade.

While raising her sons Kathy has worked part-time, serving as Religious Education Coordinator at Air Force chapels in both Los Angeles and Germany. She currently works as a receptionist for a dental office.

Kathy's family first came to Fellowship in 1998 when Nate was transferred to this area. After a tour in the Netherlands they returned to Northern Virginia this past summer. Over the years Kathy has served the Lord as a choir member, Sunday school teacher, VBS Director and Ladies Bible Study Leader. Since returning to Fellowship her family has helped with church cleaning.

Kathy's interests include exercising and attending her sons athletic events. Her goals for 2005 include reading the Bible through and growing more in the Lord.

Money Matters

Looking at the financial figures for 2004 we are reminded of God's infinite goodness as His abundant provision is very evident. Average weekly giving exceeded our budgeted need by over \$250 per week. Over \$11,600 was given through the 50@1 mortgage paydown program, and more than \$11,500 was provided for various missions projects. We also know that God provides for the needs of His church through the people He has graciously redeemed. Therefore, we deeply appreciate the sacrifices of our church family to provide for the Lord's work.

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| December Giving Per Week (General Fund) | \$5,408 |
| Weekly Need | \$4,590 |
| 2004 Total Giving (General Fund) | \$251,992 |
| 2004 Budgeted Need | \$238,680 |
| 2004 50@1 Giving | \$11,621 |



Calendar



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| Jan. 6 | ESL Thursday Night Classes Resume |
| Jan. 9 | Patefield Visit (AM Service) |
| Jan. 11 | Nursing Home Ministry (2:00 PM) |
| Jan. 16 | Youth <i>PRIMETIME</i> Bowling (7:00 PM) |
| Jan. 22 | Men's Prayer Breakfast (8:30 AM) |
| Jan. 26 | January Annual Meeting (7:30 PM) |
| Feb. 1 | Youth Ski Trip |

ESL Update

The fall semester of our Thursday night English classes concluded with a Christmas party on December 16. We had the privilege of ministering to a good

number of students each week, and the highlight of the semester came on November 11 when one of our teachers was able to lead a student to Christ.

Ruff's Return



Jim and Jan Ruff are wrapping up their one-year, team-building assignment in Japan and will return to the States on January 14 to resume their duties with the Center for Excellence in International Min-

istries, the missionary training department of the Association of Baptists for World Evangelism. Please pray for the team of ABWE missionaries serving in Japan as leadership is transferred to their new Field Council Chairman and as they seek to advance the cause of Christ in the years ahead.