



Pastor's Perspective — Are You Secure in Christ?

By Ron D. Lindholm, Senior Pastor

The doctrine of eternal security safeguards the biblical truth that once a person is genuinely born again and rescued from the penalty and the power of sin, it is impossible for that person to be lost and cut off from the life God has given them in Christ (Romans 8:33-39). Here at Fellowship, we rejoice in this doctrine because we exult in the grace of God. But we do not rejoice in it blindly so as to unknowingly give assurance of salvation to those who in fact have never experienced the new birth. For the same Scriptures which promise eternal life to those who truly believe also warn that there will be those who will profess to know the Lord but have never truly known Him (Matthew 7:15-23).

When the Apostle Paul wrote to the church at Corinth, he challenged those who identified with that assembly *to examine* themselves to determine whether they were *in the faith* (2 Corinthians 13:5). This was not a denial of the doctrine of eternal security, but a call to test the genuineness of their claim to know the Lord. For some, the evidence required to corroborate that claim could not be found—and with good reason. Despite all previous claims and assumptions to the contrary, those people had never come to faith in Christ. The evidence was in the out-living of their lives.

Preparing for 2007

Pete English and Doug Mount were elected to the office of Deacon at the December Annual Meeting. They join Frank Buckley and Joseph Estrada as Fellowship's Deacons for 2007. Please pray for these men as they assist our Pastors and provide leadership for critical areas of church life and ministry.

The church budget for 2007 was also approved at the December Annual Meeting. Based on the Lord's provision through strong giving in 2006, the budget includes increases that restore prior cuts in staff com-

Within every local church are those who would claim to know the Lord, but, if asked, would be unable to point to any credible evidence to substantiate that claim. Fellowship is one of those churches. We would be foolish to deny it—even more so, to ignore it and move on.

Some of you made a profession of faith in Christ years ago. Initially, there was an enthusiastic following after the Lord. That was then. Now is a different story. What happened? The explanation may be as simple as "I became enamored with other things and distracted." But the possibility also exists that there was never a genuine coming to Christ. Paul was bold enough to issue the Corinthians a challenge to self-examination. At the start of this New Year, I wonder if you might be bold enough to undertake the examination he was calling for? If you are, I have no doubt that God will assist you in not only reaching the right conclusion, but also in taking whatever steps might be required to right your relationship with Him. If He can use me in the process, you will have to let me know. My desire is that we might enter into 2007 fresh and focused and secure in Christ.



ensation, address needs of several missionary families, and enable greater outreach to our community. Please pray for the Lord's continued supply in 2007.

The January Annual Meeting will be held on January 31 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. Please pray for God's guidance as leaders are selected, and please plan to participate in this important meeting.

Commissioned to Serve in Recognition of God's Call

Fellowship has entered into a new relationship with our missionaries Jim and Jan Ruff, serving now as their home and sending church. Recognizing that Jim and Jan have been called by God to missionary service, they will be commissioned to serve as Fellowship's "sent ones" during a special service on Sunday evening, January 7. Following the service a reception will be held in Fellowship Hall. Church family and friends are strongly encouraged to participate in this important event.

So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

Acts 13:3

As we set Jim and Jan apart to the Lord's work and commit ourselves, as a local church, to care for them and their ministry, we follow the pattern set for us by the early church in the New Testament. It is a great privilege for Fellowship to assume primary responsibility for the Ruffs and the missionary work God has called them to. We are very thankful for their faithful service in the past and look forward to all that the Lord is pleased to do through them in the years ahead.

Getting to Know Our Church Family

Kelly Hogg

Kelly was born in Beaumont, Texas and grew up there as well as in the Houston area. He is the youngest of three children. His mother was a first generation American, born of Swedish parents. His dad was a rancher in Kelly's younger days and a farmer during the Depression. Growing up Kelly really enjoyed playing baseball.

Kelly's mother took him and his two sisters to church regularly. She was a huge influence as the Lord worked in Kelly's life to bring him to faith in Christ at the age of 13.

After graduating from high school, Kelly went to work in Houston and got a job parking cars at the LaSalle Hotel for \$11 a week. Later he worked at a creamery in Houston making cream. He then worked for a bridge and iron company in Texas, Louisiana and Tennessee. Following a brief stint in the US Army at the end of World War II, Kelly ran his own dairy and provided milk to Bordon Milk in Beaumont. During his final 30 years in the workforce he drove a winch truck for Transco Gas Company in Sour Lake, Texas.



Kelly met his late wife Millie on a blind date while he was working in her home state of Tennessee. They were married in Nashville in 1954 and spent their honeymoon making the trip to Texas where they made their home in Sour Lake (in East Texas between Beaumont and Houston). The Lord gave Kelly and Millie two daughters: Nancy and her husband live in Nashville, and Susan is part of our church family here at Fellowship.

Kelly and Millie moved in with Susan in 1992. His daughter's Air Force career has taken Kelly from Oklahoma to Illinois to Alabama to Virginia to Indiana to Rhode Island and now back to Virginia again. They have attended Fellowship since July 2005.

Kelly spends his time reading the Bible and watching news programs. His Christian service includes supporting missions work through contributions. He asks that we pray for God's will to be accomplished in his life, and, if it is the Lord's will, that He will give Kelly the strength and good health to keep going.

As she has observed her father's life, Susan has been impressed with his patience in caring for his elderly parents and ailing wife, his courage to keep going and never complain despite severe pain and physical challenges, and his selflessness in sharing with those less fortunate.

Money Matters

The Lord continues to demonstrate His faithfulness through the generous giving of His people! For 2006 General Fund giving averaged \$4,994 per week, about \$290 more than the weekly need. 50@1 contributions were \$7,865, yielding a significant reduction in our mortgage indebtedness. For 2007, the budget requires weekly General Fund giving of \$5,139.

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| December Giving Per Week (General Fund) | \$6,053 |
| Weekly Need | \$4,706 |
| Year-to-Date Giving (General Fund) | \$264,698 |
| Year-to-Date Need | \$249,410 |
| Year-to-Date 50@1 Giving | \$7,865 |



Calendar

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| Jan. 4 | Thursday ESL Classes Resume (7:00 PM) |
| Jan. 7 | Ruff Commissioning Service (6:00 PM) |
| Jan. 9 | Nursing Home Ministry (2:00 PM) |
| Jan. 14 | Awana Resumes (5:30 PM) |
| Jan. 20 | Baby Shower for Yelka Esquivel (1:00 PM) |
| Jan. 25 | Youth Ski Trip |
| Jan. 27 | Men's Prayer Breakfast (8:30 AM) |
| Jan. 31 | January Annual Meeting (7:30 PM) |

Christmas Missionary Offering

Through the annual Christmas offering \$3,948 was given for our missionaries. This enabled Fellowship to present each family with a gift \$95 greater than the monthly support we provide. Thank you for your generous expression of appreciation for the ministries of our missionaries.