



Pastor's Perspective – A Sound Investment

By Dr. Ron D. Lindholm, Senior Pastor

Looking for a sound investment? Troubled by your current returns? Receiving Christ as Savior and following Him as Lord is an investment that pays eternal dividends.

A wealthy young man came to Jesus and inquired: *Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?* (Mark 10:17). Jesus told him to give up everything and follow Him (v21). But this was far more than the rich man had bargained for. It seems that he wanted a level of religious commitment that would not upset his secure lifestyle. Jesus, however, required that he hold nothing back.

As a young man, Jim Elliot determined to invest his life for eternity by serving God on the mission field.

*He is no fool who gives
what he cannot keep,
to gain what he cannot lose.*

Jim Elliot

Along with four other missionaries, Jim ventured into the jungles of Ecuador to take the gospel to the savage Auca Indians. On January 8, 1956, Auca tribesmen killed all five missionaries in a surprise attack.

“What a loss!” some might say. Yet, in the intervening years, many of the Aucas have become believers in Jesus Christ. Jim Elliot and his colleagues lost their lives but gained eternal dividends. In his

journal, Jim had written: “He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep, to gain what he cannot lose.”

One day we will “lose” this life. Beginning this first month of the new year, choose to invest yours for eternity.

Strengthening Our Men and Women

A [Men's Breakfast](#) will be held on Saturday, January 21, at 8:00 AM. We will enjoy a homemade breakfast and receive a challenge from God's Word presented to us by Ted Siemens. Don't miss this great opportunity to encourage one another in the Lord and be strengthened as men. Sons and guests are welcome. If you have an interest in helping with Men's Ministries this year, please see Pastor Lindholm or Pete English.

Bible Memory Challenge

For the third successive year, the church is being challenged to memorize Scripture together. Each month a new memory verse will be given, and once a month that month's verse will be previewed through a brief Bible study in a mid-week service.

If you've yet to accept the challenge, this year would be a great one in which to begin. Still not convinced? Consider these words from Chuck Swindoll:

I know of no other single practice in the Christian life that's more rewarding, practically speaking, than memorizing Scripture. That's right. No other single discipline is more useful and rewarding than this. No other single exercise pays greater spiritual dividends! Your prayer life will be strengthened. Your witnessing will be sharper and much more effective. Your counseling will be in demand. Your attitudes and outlook will begin to change. Your mind will become alert and observant. Your confidence and assurance will be enhanced. Your faith will be solidified. (<http://insightforliving.typepad.com/dailydevo/2009/12/memorizing-scripture.html>. Accessed December 31, 2011)

Women's Ministries is starting a weekly [Ladies' Bible Study](#). They will be studying "Women of the Bible, 52 Bible Studies for Individuals and Groups" by Jean Szwedra. Ladies interested in joining may order their books at Amazon.com or other online resources. Classes will be held at the church on Monday mornings from 9:30 to 10:30 beginning January 16. Also, please plan to attend the annual [Heart Friend Party](#) on February 3 at 7:00 PM at the church. See Gina Irving for details on both these opportunities.

January Memory Challenge

*Keep your lives free from the love of money
and be content with what you have,
because God has said,
"Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."
Hebrews 13:5*

Our Church Deacons

Deacons at Fellowship are servants. They are committed to being servants of the Lord Jesus Christ and servants of the body of believers that fellowship together at our church. Our deacons also serve to extend the ministries of our pastors.

Before each year, the Pastors and Deacons meet to assign specific areas of ministry to the Deacons for the church at-large and its needs. As Augustus Hopkins Strong says in *Systematic Theology*, they are “helpers... in both spiritual and temporal things.”

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Deacon ministries for 2012 are divided in the following ways:

Pete English is the Deacon Chairman and the Deacon for Missions. As Chairman, Pete works under the direction of Pastor Lindholm to plan the meetings of the Pastors and Deacons and to coordinate the ministries and activities of the Deacons. As the Deacon for Missions, Pete is responsible to implement the Philosophy of Missions and Missions Policies of the church and to plan and promote its missionary interests.



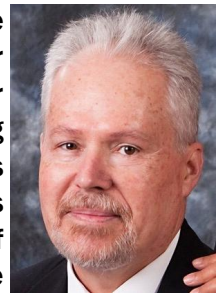
Also involved in Property and Facilities is Jake Porter, the Deacon for Property and Facilities Projects. Jake is a newly-elected deacon, and he will direct specific facilities improvement projects that are being planned.



The Deacon for Christian Education is Joe Robinson. Joe provides overall direction and coordination for the different education ministries of the church, from the nursery to adult Sunday School classes and every age and type of education in between.



Another newly-elected deacon is Lee Hoggard. Lee is the Deacon for Outreach. He will be responsible for planning, organizing and administering all the local outreach ministries including the Spring Festival. Besides greeting and organizing follow-up of church visitors, Lee will help the church with personal evangelism.



Ron Wasserstein is the Deacon Secretary and the Deacon for Church Life Ministries. He seeks to promote fellowship in the body as well as help meet the physical and emotional needs of the church. As Secretary he keeps accurate and full minutes of all the meetings of the Pastors and Deacons.



Our deacons have hearts that desire to meet the needs of our church body. It is hoped that listing these areas of service and the Deacon responsible will allow the church to better support and access those serving. May God be glorified in the work of these men and in our church!

Doug Mount is the Deacon Vice-Chairman and the Deacon for Property and Facilities Maintenance. In these positions, Doug helps in Pete's absence as chairman and makes sure the building and grounds of the church are prepared and maintained so it is ready to serve the church.



Money Matters

Christmas Missionary Offering: Through the annual Christmas offering, \$4,763 was given for our missionaries, exceeding our goal of \$4,550. This enabled Fellowship to present each family with a gift of about 109% of the monthly support we provide. Thank you for this generous expression of your love for the Lord and for our missionaries who are serving Him in our behalf.

Regular Giving: While special giving was strong in December, giving to the General Fund was not. Our December General Fund giving was \$1,161 below budget per week, leaving us with a \$16,800 shortfall for the year. We continue to trust in the Lord that He will provide for a more balanced 2012.

December Giving Per Week (General Fund)	\$4,130
Weekly Need	\$5,291
Year-to-Date General Fund Giving	\$258,325
Year-to-Date General Fund Need	\$275,125

Calendar



Jan. 10	Nursing Home Ministry (2:00 PM)
Jan. 21	Men's Breakfast (8:00 AM)
Jan 22	Ted & Dawn Siemens Ministry to Church
Jan. 25	January Annual Meeting (7:30 PM)
Feb. 3	Women's Heart Friend Party (7:00 PM)

Please plan to attend the [January Annual Meeting](#) on January 25. We will be approving the officers and officials appointed by the Pastors and Deacons, as well as reviewing the annual reports of the various church leaders.

Fellowship Baptist Church

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