



## Pastor's Perspective — The Trip of a Lifetime

By Ron D. Lindholm, Senior Pastor

Neita and I have just returned from the trip of a lifetime visiting biblical sites in Egypt, Jordan and Israel. Many of you have asked if we intend to share our experience with the church. We do, and with a lot of help from the Lord we will, but it won't be tomorrow. The reason is simple—in the course of our journey, we visited over 50 sites and have nearly 2,300 pictures to sort through. Once we've whittled all of that down into some manageable portion, we'll set a date and tell you our story.

In the meanwhile, I would like to take the occasion of this writing to respond to the question that I have been asked about the trip over and over again since coming home; namely, "what are the observations or experiences that stand out in your mind?" There are three:

1) The ruggedness of the terrain, especially that of Mount Sinai, a mountain that Moses climbed to meet God on no less than 7 occasions. Neita and I went up once to see the sunrise. Once was enough. The round trip on a well-marked trail, with camel assist, was

seven hours. Moses had to blaze his own trail—and on one occasion he went up and down twice a day on two days within a five day span. That blows my mind!

2) The barrenness of the wilderness. In traveling the route of the exodus, water and shade are not to be found. Neither is any kind of appreciable vegetation. No wonder the children of Israel were preoccupied with water and food. Neita and I traveled by air-conditioned bus and still drank up to 3 liters of water apiece, everyday. One cannot travel that route and reflect on the experience of the Israelites without being impressed by the measure of trust the LORD was calling on them to place in Him. In comparison to the them, even in my most severe trial, I have not been tested by God!

3) The emotion that swept over my soul and the tears that welled up in my eyes when the hills and walls of Jerusalem first came into sight. I was not prepared for that. Here was a city that I had never visited before, but it looked and felt like home. Imagine that...

Look for the date of our report. Neita and I are looking forward to the opportunity to give it.

## Exploring the Bible

Vacation Bible School will be held at Fellowship on July 21-25 from 9:00 to 11:30 AM. This year we are using a new curriculum from *Answers in Genesis* called "Amazon Expedition: The Ultimate Trek through Time." Through this program young people journey off the beaten path through the Amazon, experiencing the beauty, the wonder, and the danger of the remote rainforest.

But that's not the only adventure that awaits. *Amazon Expedition* is designed to provide Bible-based teaching, delivered in a fun, entertaining way that counters the misinformation children face daily about the Bible



and science. Every participant will experience the ultimate biblical trek on a tour of the "7 C's of history": Creation, Corruption, Catastrophe, Confusion, Christ, Cross, and Consummation.

All children 3 years old to 6th grade completed are invited to attend VBS. Registration forms are available in the church foyer. Please use the flyers on the information table to invite children from your own neighborhood. Our desire is to see the Lord reach whole families with the gospel through this ministry.

As always, cookies are needed, and can be placed on the counter in Fellowship Hall.

## Encouraging Our Troops



Women's Ministries is coordinating a service project designed to place God's Word in the hands of active duty US military members. This outreach program is sponsored by LifeWay Christian Stores and is called Operation Worship Bible.

How does it work? STEP ONE: We buy cases of Operation Worship Bibles from LifeWay at a cost of only \$3.75 per Bible.

STEP TWO: Our congregation writes notes inside each Bible encouraging the individual American soldiers who will receive them.

STEP THREE: We return the Bibles to our local Lifeway store, and LifeWay pays to ship them to military chaplains for distribution to soldiers about to be deployed overseas.

Women's Ministries will have a table in the church foyer on Sunday, July 6 and Sunday, July 13 (assuming supplies last), where you can submit your donations, and write your message of encouragement in the Bibles you've donated.

We encourage everyone to participate in this effort to share the truths of God's Word with those serving our country in harm's way.

## Serving in Peru

On June 30, our own Rose Wasserstein left for a summer missions trip to Peru, sponsored by Focus on the Family. Rose is serving together with a team of young people from around the country, showing the love of Christ to hurting people and sharing the gospel message with those lost in sin.

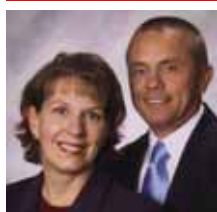


*little nervous about the time we were to leave her at the security line. Seeing others relaxed her, and those other girls were equally happy to have found another of their number. Rose called from Miami just a few minutes ago indicating she had met up with her leader. All is well.*

After seeing her off, Rose's dad Ron sent this report: *Rose was blessed today by arriving at the security area at the same time as three other girls, one from Purcellville and the other two from the WV panhandle, who are going on the same trip. Rose was handling all of the trip pretty well, but started to get a*

Please remember to pray for Rose, that she will be safe and well during her time away, that her ministry team will produce fruit to God's glory, and that the Lord will use this experience to mold and shape Rose for future service to our wonderful Savior. Rose will return on July 13, and we look forward to hearing from her about this exciting ministry opportunity.

## A Visit from the McMillens



Our missionaries, Phil and Kitty McMillen, will be in ministry at Fellowship on Sunday, July 20. Phil and Kitty have been working to plant a church in the Chicago area since 1997. They have now been asked to return to Africa—something they always desired to do. Phil will serve as regional ministry coordinator for Gambia, Liberia, Ghana, Togo, Benin and Cameroon.

During their visit to Fellowship, the McMillens will be teaching our youth Sunday school class, sharing a brief update on their church-planting work during the morning worship service, and leading Junior Church. Phil will also be preaching on Sunday morning. In the evening worship service, Phil and Kitty will give a presentation of the new ministry they have been called to in Africa. A love offering will be received for this missionary family.

## Money Matters

In the 1<sup>st</sup> half of 2008, General Fund giving exceeded the budgeted need by \$267 per week, and was up 9% compared with 2007. We praise the Lord for continuing to faithfully provide for His church!

Our church facility has reached the age where significant maintenance costs are an unpleasant reality. Last year's project was the resurfacing of the parking lot, which temporarily drew down our building fund. We were pleased to be able to replenish the building fund utilizing the use fee paid by the Korean church that meets in our building.

June Giving Per Week (General Fund)	\$5,777
Weekly Need	\$5,568
Year-to-Date Giving (General Fund)	\$151,715
Year-to-Date Need	\$144,780
Year-to-Date 50@1 Giving	\$9,555

The project planned for 2008 is replacement of the Fellowship Hall flooring, which is falling apart. The remaining Ollie Dickens Memorial monies are being used for this purpose, but several thousands dollars will also have to be drawn from the building fund. We plan to complete this project in August.

The unplanned project for this year is a big one—replacement of the two outside air conditioning units, both of which have failed. The Pastors and Deacons are currently working to address this need, and covet your prayers.



## Calendar

July 8	Nursing Home Ministry (2:00 PM)
July 20	Missionaries Phil & Kitty McMillen (AM & PM Services)
July 21-25	Vacation Bible School (9:00-11:30 AM)
July 30	Quarterly Business Meeting (7:30 PM)