

Facets of Fellowship

JUNE 2008

THE NEWSLETTER OF FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH



Pastor's Perspective — Marriage Under Attack

By Ron D. Lindholm, Senior Pastor

For as long as I can remember I have heard people say that marriage is under attack. Until recently the enemy has been divorce. The difficulties of single-parent homes and children forced to choose between mother and father are legend. When questioned on the subject, Jesus attributed divorce to our ignorance of what God said when He created marriage at the beginning and to the hardness of our hearts, which is our resolve to do what we want to do even when we know it's wrong (see Matthew 19:4-8 and Genesis 2:24). His reply points to both the permanence of the marriage bond and the continued governance of God in marriage—even in a fallen world where only sinners say, "I do." It also underscores the importance of our starting points.

The people who questioned Jesus wanted to know the legal grounds for divorce (see Matthew 19:3). Jesus' reply indicates that they were asking the wrong question. They were looking for legal grounds for divorce. Jesus told them that they would be better served by asking what God's purpose was in establishing marriage to begin with (see Matthew 19:4-6). This is the power of starting points.

Those who study trends and compile statistics are now

telling us that the percentage of married couples divorcing is down. But they are also telling us that the number of men and women living together without marriage is up. What I take from these reports and others like them is that the overall trend toward biblical marriage (marriage as established and defined by the Creator) is down and that the institution itself is weaker today than it was even a decade ago.

Today, marriage has a new and more insidious enemy in homosexual or so-called "same-sex" marriage. Those who are pushing to have legal sanction accorded to homosexuals to marry and/or to enter into civil unions or domestic partnerships, cannot legitimately do so claiming biblical support (see the texts mentioned above, and Genesis 18-19 and Romans 1:18-32, that give God's attitude toward and description of homosexuality), but most don't want it or haven't even thought of it. Again, it's all about starting points.

Thankfully the Creator of heaven and earth has given us the starting points in the Bible, His written revelation (2 Timothy 3:16-17). I challenge you to use it in that way. Make no mistake about it, marriage is under attack—and will remain so. Its future may rest upon you.

It's all about starting points...

Spring Festival

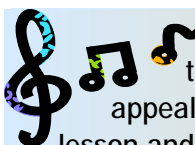


Fellowship's 3rd annual Spring Festival was held on Saturday, May 17. Though it rained much of that week, the Lord provided a wonderful day. The participation of our church family was fantastic, as over 40 volunteers helped with the games, crafts, food, prizes, moon bounce, petting zoo, cake walk, gospel presentations and church information.

It was thrilling to see over 250 people from the community (who are not a part of our church) come out

and participate. Those who came expressed enthusiasm for the fun-filled event, and appreciation for the free expression of our interest in their families.

Gospel literature was distributed, and there were many good conversations with the people who came, discussing their spiritual needs, and encouraging them to attend the services of the church and take part in its ministries. It is our prayer that this outreach effort will make people in our community more aware of our church and its ministries, and more inclined to join with us in the days ahead.



The Summer Family Worship Hour is designed to enable families to worship together. Throughout the summer Pastor Odom and several others will lead worship featuring a variety of music that appeals to all ages. As the adults receive a message from God's Word, the children have a separate Bible lesson and activity time led by Denise Odom and Cesaria Hoggard. Please plan to join us for this great opportunity to worship with one another each Sunday evening at 6:00 PM!

Missionary Visit

Travis and Becky Gravley and family will be in ministry at Fellowship on Sunday, June 8. The Gravleys have been appointed by Baptist Mid-Missions as missionaries to Romania. They will be teaching our youth Sunday school class, sharing



a testimony during the morning worship service, and leading Junior Church. On Sunday evening, Travis and Becky will give a presentation of the ministry they have been called to in Romania. A love offering will be received for this missionary family.

Money Matters

May Giving Per Week (General Fund)	\$5,443
Weekly Need	\$5,568
Year-to-Date Giving (General Fund)	\$122,829
Year-to-Date Need	\$116,938
Year-to-Date 50@1 Giving	\$7,710



Calendar

June 8	Missionaries Travis & Becky Gravley (AM & PM Services)
June 10	Nursing Home Ministry (2:00 PM)
June 14	Men's Breakfast (8:00 AM)
June 24	Youth King's Dominion Trip
June 28	Women's Tea Room Outing
July 12	Church Picnic