



Pastor's Perspective – Passing the Baton

By Ron D. Lindholm, Senior Pastor

In track and field, the most important part of the relay race is the act of passing the baton from one runner to the next. A team can have the fastest runners in the race, but if it fails in the exchange of the baton between runners, the race will be lost—the team left to the empty talk of what might have been.

And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.
2 Timothy 2:2

Knowing the importance of this aspect of the race, a good coach will not be satisfied simply to have the fastest runners. He'll remind them that they're part of a team. He'll talk to them about the importance of the baton pass. Then he'll

train them to do it well—to make the exchange smoothly and successfully, even though it may not always happen that way in every race.

If you've ever had the occasion to watch a relay race, you know the truth of which I write. Perhaps you've also observed that the beauty of the relay is in the exchange of the baton as, in full stride and unfaltering steps, it's seamlessly passed from one runner to the next until the race is done.

As in the relay, so it is in our families and church. The successful passing of the baton of God's truth from one generation to the next is everything. It's not enough to simply run well our individual leg of the race. If we fumble the exchange or if we fail to make it at all, the whole team feels the loss—and that loss is real.

Here at Fellowship, we need to be talking to one another about this race and providing the encouragement and training that will make the passing of the baton of God's truth happen successfully more often than not. We also need to be praying seriously for one another regarding this most important exchange.

Dads and Moms, we should be able to point to the evidence that we are indeed bringing up our children in the training and instruction of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4). Moreover, in the larger body of our church, we should be able to point to the evidence that we too are being successful in passing the baton of God's truth to the next generation (2 Timothy 2:2)—that our ministries are indeed producing faithful followers of Christ. As in the foot race, the evidence will be clear and unmistakable—a thing of beauty for all to see.



Going the Extra Mile - New Addition Welcomed into Porter Home

Titus 3:14 says it simply: "And let our people also learn to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful."

It is a concept that has helped many believers go the "extra mile" and to extend grace and love to people in need. It is a philosophy of life for many who love God, including Jake and Jill Porter.



This last month, Jake and Jill put such a philosophy of living into practice by welcoming into their home little Caleb Thomas. Caleb was born April 11, 1:45 p.m., at 6 lbs. 15 oz and 19 3/4" long. He came, with his blonde hair and bright blue eyes, through the Porters' front door about a month later. Their lives will never be the same.

Jake and Jill had been waiting for such a child for some time. "I've wanted to adopt since I was a little girl. I remember I was 12 and at Disney World when I saw a Caucasian family with an Asian child, and I thought I wanted to adopt, too." Jill grew up

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in a church in which three or four of the families were committed to foster parenting. One family was foster parents to 85 children, and adopted six of the children. "I wouldn't have been interested in foster care if I hadn't seen it in those people," she confirmed. Together, Jill and Jake had contemplated foster parenting since marriage, but felt that the time had not come until recently. They felt their daughter Rebekah, eight years old, was now at an age where she could benefit and understand the experience.

"Jake believed that if I still had this desire in my heart and it was continuous, that it was a sign that this is something God was directing us to do," Jill said. So, the two began the daunting process of applying for a foster parenting license (January 2010), completing required classes (August 2010) and becoming certified (mid-March 2011). And then they waited.

"Sheer terror," Jill responded when asked how she felt when the call finally came with news of a little boy who needed a loving home. "I was excited. Nervous. Disbelief." She added that they spent that night praying and asking the church family to pray. Rebekah, too, was involved in the decision. While tucking her into bed that night, Jill asked her what she thought. Her response was simply, "Well, we've been waiting so long....It seems like we shouldn't say no!"

Jill's response on seeing the little guy? "He was so cute!" She did wonder, however, where the hair was: six other babies at the hospital had heads with thick hair, and Caleb had little.

But the emotions regarding Caleb are much deeper than simply marveling at his cuteness. If Caleb does

become adoptable and they are able, Jake and Jill would love to adopt him. "We've always had the idea to foster to adopt, if the chance was there," Jill said.


At the very least, Caleb should be with the Porters no less than 12 to 18 months. And if that is God's plan for the Porters and Caleb, Jake and Jill are satisfied with that, too. "One of the reasons we wanted to help in fostering little children is because in class they talked about how much trust is developed between the ages of birth and two years old. We can be the ones to provide that for a child. We can be the ones to build that aspect of his development as he grows in these first few months."

The Porters do have prayer requests. They ask for the church family to pray for Caleb's biological family; for his mom, in particular. They ask for prayer that God would use Jake and Jill and Rebekah to bless that family in some way—that they might be encouraged by their relationship with Caleb and see that he is healthy, happy and loved. And Jill would like prayer in being able to function on less sleep without the emotional toll that sometimes takes.

Jake and Jill are maintaining good works and meeting urgent needs: Caleb's needs for a godly and loving family. And they desire our prayers in helping them with this calling. Their view is simply to be where God wants them in this part of Caleb's life. "God has a plan for this little boy's life –and right now we are part of that plan," Jill said.

Summer Family Worship
Sunday at 6:00 PM, beginning June 5, our Summer Family Worship for the whole family and a Kids Time for age 3 through grade 3 in Fellowship Hall.

June 2011 Bible Memory Challenge



I will praise you, O LORD,
 with all my heart;
 I will tell of all your wonders.
 I will be glad and rejoice in you;
 I will sing praise to your name,
 O Most High.
 Psalm 9:1-2

Money Matters

May Giving Per Week (General Fund)	\$4,557
Weekly Need	\$5,291
Year-to-Date General Fund Giving	\$108,396
Year-to-Date General Fund Need	\$116,402
Year-to-Date Together We Build	\$3,003

Calendar

June 10	Fellowship Dinner & Game Night (6:30 PM)
June 14	Nursing Home Ministry (2:00 PM)
June 18	Men's Breakfast (8:00 AM)
June 23	Youth Trip to King's Dominion

Fellowship Baptist Church
 5936 Rolling Road
 Springfield, VA 22152