



## Pastor's Perspective – What God Wants

By Dr. Ron D. Lindholm, Senior Pastor

Between 1969 and 1973, Chuck Colson had gained the world. He was Special Counsel to President Richard M. Nixon, and perhaps the most powerful attorney in America. Then the Watergate scandal shook the White House, and his carefully constructed life collapsed in a heap. He was tried, convicted and behind bars within a year.

Just prior to his conviction, however, Colson had come to know the Lord Jesus Christ as his sin-bearing Savior. As a result, God would use prison, Colson's lowest point, as

a turning point in his life. Because of what he saw in prison, Colson would later form Prison Fellowship, a ministry to inmates around the world, with headquarters in Northern Virginia.

Colson's testimony reminds us of the marvelous paradox of the Savior's words in Luke 9:25: *What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very soul?* Read about the significance of that verse to Colson as he reflected on how God used his life to impact thousands of hardened prisoners:

All my achievements meant nothing in God's economy. No, the real legacy of my life was my biggest failure—that I

God doesn't want  
your success;  
God wants you.

was an ex-convict. My greatest humiliation—being sent to prison—was the beginning of God's greatest use of my life; He chose the one experience in which I could not glory for His glory.

Confronted with this staggering truth, I discovered...that my world was turned upside down. I understood with a jolt that I had been looking at my life backward. But now I could see: Only when I lost everything I thought made Chuck Colson a great guy had I found the true self God intended me to be and the true purpose of my life.

It is not what we do that matters, but what a sovereign God chooses to do through us. God doesn't want our success; He wants us. He doesn't demand our achievements; He demands our obedience. (Colson. *Loving God*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan. 1987. 24-25)

Have you found the "true self" God intended you to be? Has your striving to "gain the whole world" blurred your vision of who you are and your true purpose for living? As Colson writes, God doesn't want your success; He wants you. He doesn't demand your achievements; He demands your obedience."

## Fellowship Families Get Opportunity to Show Friendship and Build Relationships

By Sherry Wasserstein

"This has been a home away from home!"

Could there be a better compliment? Perhaps it is because we, ourselves, have been there: going somewhere that could have felt so unfamiliar and awkward, and finding ourselves shown hospitality and made to feel comfortable and loved.

There have been startling lessons to me about hospitality. One of those moments was when I went to visit Rose and Grace when they were in China. We were invited into the very small apartment of friends to celebrate the Chinese New Year...and the family poured out love on us...letting us help make dumplings (knowing full well that if we left it to their capable hands the job would be tastier and easier), teaching us to play Mahjong, shooting off fireworks at midnight. I realized afterwards that it was the best part of visiting that country. Being in a family's home made me feel more welcomed and more attached to the people there than anything else.



One of the blessings Ron and I and our family have had in being a part of Fellowship is the spring break trip from Purdue University by our supported missionaries Paul and Geri Briggs. The Briggs work with Salt and Light Christian Fellowship, ministering to international students attending that university. This will be the 18th year the group of internationals and some sponsors will come to the DC area as guests of our church members.

The 24 guests will arrive Saturday, March 14, and stay through the morning of Thursday, March 19. Hosts provide breakfast before the students tour DC each day, and they provide one evening meal and participate in a planned Bible lesson that one night only. For the rest of the evenings, the students and their sponsors eat with the Lindholms and enjoy a Bible study at their home.

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As far as investments go, this is a winning situation. For very little work, other than the opening of your heart and home, eternal impact and lasting friendship is possible. Many have maintained relationships with those who have stayed in their home, and have felt blessed by it.

We are given a chance to minister to people from all over the world and to show them God's love. We don't need a beautiful home or fancy meals. We don't need perfect housekeeping or perfect kids or perfect pets or perfect personalities. We just need to love. And to be friendly. And to be willing.

The following comments and observations come from former trips:

"I miss you and your family very much, the days in Washington DC and your family are the most beautiful days that I spent in America!"

One told about how when she came to the United States, she did not believe that God existed. But Bible studies and going on this trip gave her the opportunity to see the Gospel practiced in the homes in which she was hosted and she now believes "a little".

One said, the hosts' home, "was a home away from home."

"Yes, it is hard to believe that the week has already past, and it feels like my heart is still in your warm home and DC, though I myself have already been at Purdue and Lafayette for two days. Thank you for your warm host during our staying there, the warm feeling of staying at home, the delicious food, the great game time, the nice talk, etc.

## Money Matters

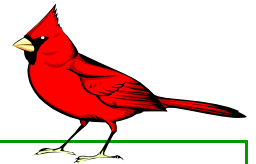
In spite of difficult budget cuts for 2015, Year-to-Date General Fund Giving has not kept pace with our needs. With the cancellation of services on February 22 due to inclement weather, we are already two weeks behind in our giving. Members are encouraged to help us make up this shortfall while trusting the Lord to provide.

February Giving Per Week (General Fund)	\$3,272
Weekly Need	\$4,933
Year-to-Date General Fund Giving	\$29,801
Year-to-Date General Fund Need	\$39,464

"Thank you for providing me those delicious food and comfortable place to live. I am stepping into the Christian world. The happiness of your family makes me believe God will help His people to get rid of trouble. If you plan to go to China, please let me know. It is my pleasure to be the host and let you feel like at home just as what I have had."

"First of all I would like to say thank you very much for living in your house for a week. It is a really wonderful and unforgettable experience for me...I want to say, during the trip, I did not just see the beautiful landscapes but feel the greatness of American people, who create these excellent history and architectures. And from you and the whole family of you, I can deeply feel Americans are really kind-hearted and friendly people. I respect all of you and hope we together to be long-lasting maybe whole-life friends."

It takes a lot of families to make this week work. Pastor Lindholm has commented that church members have been impressive in their consistent response to this need. Let's not grow weary in doing good. Let's open our hearts and our homes for these dear people who are away from their homes. Let's give them a home away from home.



## Calendar

Mar. 1	Youth Bowling (7:00 PM)
Mar. 4	Fellowship Dinner (6:30 PM)
Mar. 6/7	Fellowship in Homes
Mar. 7	Sparks-A-Rama / Awana Games
Mar. 10	Nursing Home Ministry (2:00 PM)
Mar. 13	Women's Game Night (7:00 PM)
Mar. 14-19	International Student Ministry
Apr. 2	Fellowship Dinner (6:30 PM)



### ***2015 Bible Memory Project March Verse***

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" ~ Matthew 4:4

## Fellowship Baptist Church

5936 Rolling Road  
Springfield, VA 22152