

Facets *of Fellowship*

MAY 2012



THE NEWSLETTER OF FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor's Perspective — Playing Favorites

By Dr. Ron D. Lindholm, Senior Pastor

At a certain children's hospital, a boy gained a reputation for wreaking havoc with the nurses and staff. One day a visitor who knew about this made him a deal: "If you are good for a week," she said, "I'll give you a dime when I come again." A week later she stood before his bed. "I'll tell you what," she said, "I won't ask the nurses if you behaved. You must tell me yourself. Do you deserve the dime?"

After a moment's pause, a small voice from among the sheets said: "Gimme a penny."

We chuckle at the child's creative response because we've known children like that. No matter what incentive they are offered, they cannot behave properly. They are always in trouble, always messing up, always caught with their hand in the proverbial cookie jar.

Then there is the perfect child. This child never says

no. Never throws tantrums. Always plays quietly. Bestows hugs at just the right moment. And never forgets to feed the dog (the cat or the goldfish).

*Isaac... loved Esau,
but Rebekah loved Jacob.
Genesis 25:28*

Now be honest. Which child is the easier to favor?

In the Bible, Rebekah and Isaac made the mistake of favoring one son over the other, and as a result, the boys' competitive, combative

natures were amplified and trouble ensued. (Genesis 25:19-34; 26:34-28:9).

Each of us has a number of children in our lives—sons, daughters, grandchildren, nephews, nieces, children at church, neighbors. Do you find yourself favoring one child over the other? Do you smile more at one and constantly berate or ignore the other? Think about your attitude as you interact with these children, keeping in mind favoritism's effect on Jacob and Esau. Make it a point to treat each child with the same unconditional acceptance and love.

From Furniture to Bikes — Purdue Ministry Changes Program to Reach Students

For more than 10 years, Salt and Light Christian Fellowship—the ministry our missionaries Paul and Geri Briggs organize at Purdue University—has been giving new international students there free furniture. The fall furniture-give-away program has helped in contacting and making friends from all over the world and it has been a great program.

But, the last few years have seen some problems. The give-away has grown so much, but the ability to really have an extended contact with the students has not. The collection and storing of furniture has been very demanding. The needs of the students have also changed and one apartment complex voiced concerns over bed bugs. While the Salt and Light team were not responsible for the problem, it certainly affected the ministry, with the inability to deliver that type of furniture to students living in those apartments.

So, the Salt and Light team have decided to stop the furniture project and are introducing three new services this fall: bikes, tours and shopping.

Bikes will be collected, instead of furniture, which will be offered to the new international students for a small deposit (with the deposit returned to them at the end of the semester when they return the bike). When they receive the bikes, by appointment, they will also be told about Salt and Light's services and will be told they may get tune-ups and repairs throughout the school year with

appointments. They may also get a free lock.

People with Salt and Light, and also volunteers from Kossuth Street Baptist Church (the church that teams with Salt and Light and where the Briggs worship) will also be offering a tour and meal opportunity. This ministry allows students to meet families in the fellowship there over a meal, giving them a friendly greeting to the area in an American home. They will also give the students a tour of the greater Lafayette area to make them feel more comfortable with their new city.

Finally, the new program will offer shopping trips for the students. After arriving at the International Friendship House (the campus house) and given an orientation, students will be transported to WalMart, with vans waiting to take them and their purchases back to their homes afterward.

"This coming fall does represent many changes," Paul said. "Clearly, we don't know exactly how they will all impact us."

As far as outside help is concerned, Paul said they were open to a small group of people "who know us and can be flexible with the changes. The help we envision is:

- 1) friendly people to help engage students at registration;
- 2) friendly people who will transport students to WalMart

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in a minivan;

3) friendly people with a pickup or minivan who will help deliver big items for students;

4) people, to help repair bikes;

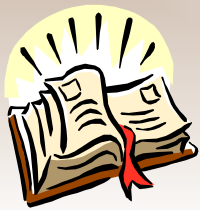
5) friendly people who will assist in working around the campus house."

The added personal interaction this new plan gives is important. It is with this closeness Paul and Geri and the rest of the Salt and Light team are able to tell these students about the Lord Jesus Christ. The team asks for prayer with these plans, with the weather and with the ability to have good interactions with the students.



Women from Fellowship enjoyed a day in DC at the U.S. Botanic Garden in April. The next function for the group is a Mother's Day Breakfast, 9 AM, May 12, at the church. All women and daughters are invited.

May 2012 Bible Memory Challenge



A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies. Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value. She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life.
Proverbs 31:10-12

Money Matters

April Giving Per Week (General Fund)	\$4,777.33
Budgeted Needs Per Week	\$5,104.70
Budgeted Receipts to Date	\$83,073.28
Budgeted Needs to Date	\$91,884.60

Summer Recess

Two outreach ministries end for the summer this month. The Fellowship family is both invited and encouraged to attend their final programs.



The ESL classes have their last class on May 17, with a party scheduled from 8 to 9 p.m. The students have received both English lessons and teaching from the Bible this year. You are invited to come and meet the students and their families, showing them your friendship and congratulations at completing the year of studies. Refreshments will be served.

Awana is having its Awards Ceremony at 6 PM, May 20. Many children from outside our church family attend Awana, and this is a great opportunity to extend a Fellowship welcome to them. Refreshments will be served and the students will receive certificates and awards from their year of hard work.



Spring Festival

We will be hosting our annual Spring Festival from Noon to 4 PM on Saturday, May 19. Volunteers are still welcomed, as well as cakes for the cake walk and people who would like to help with setting up and tearing down. Volunteers are needed to help pass out flyers, as well. Please contact Lee Hoggard if you can help with this neighborhood outreach. And please be praying for the day: that the weather would be good, that many people would come, that there would be opportunities to share God's love with the folks who attend and that God would be glorified.



Calendar

May 3	National Day of Prayer
May 12	Mother's Day Breakfast, 9 AM
May 17	ESL Class party, 8 PM
May 19	Spring Festival, Noon - 4 PM
May 20	Awana Awards Ceremony - 6 PM
May 27	Memorial Day Lunch (No PM Ministries)

Fellowship Baptist Church

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