



Pastor's Perspective – Fellowship at Fellowship

By Dr. Ron D. Lindholm, Senior Pastor

As of this past week, the people known as “Fellowship Baptist Church” have been getting together on the corner of Hillside and Rolling Roads for twenty-two years. I heard someone say in marking that milestone, “That’s a lot of fellowship.” Indeed it is—and through it, hundreds of lives have been changed to the glory of God and the furtherance of Christ’s work in this world!

*And they devoted themselves to...
the fellowship.... Acts 2:41*

Christian fellowship is a wonderful privilege. In the words of Scottish pastor Maurice Roberts:

Fellowship between Christians is the gift of God. It is a true means of grace. Christians are spiritual people and they feel comparatively isolated in this world. But God gives them this compensation, that the fellowship they enjoy with like-minded brethren and sisters is marvelously therapeutic and sweet. (“The Fellowship of Saints,” The Banner of Truth Trust: Edinburgh. June 1989)

But I am also reminded that the experience of Christian fellowship doesn’t just happen because Christians have gotten together. The stimulation of fellowship may require some initiative. You may have to be the aggressor—the one who opens the home, starts conversation or makes the initial approach. Just in case, here are a few fellowship-prompting questions you could use:

- What have you seen God do lately?
- What do you feel good about right now in the spiritual area of your life?
- Where are you experiencing slow-going, spiritually?
- How is your (area of ministry) going?
- What’s the most meaningful thing that has happened to you since we last talked?
- What’s the most important decision facing you in the near future?
- Have you read anything recently that has helped you spiritually?
- What’s something the Lord has been teaching you lately?
- How can I pray for you?

On the occasion of celebrating twenty-two years in our West Springfield facilities, I am reminded that God intends for every Christian to enjoy the therapeutic sweetness of fellowship—and that the reservoir He’s made where we may drink these refreshing waters is the local church. Should the Lord tarry in His coming, here’s to another twenty-two years of fellowship at Fellowship.

Packing presents with a purpose - Women help with Operation Christmas Child project

It seems like such a small thing. A shoe-box sized gift that has a few things in it: a small stuffed animal, a hair brush and ribbons, some hard candy. To the average American child it might seem no more than stocking stuffers...a sort of prelude to the real Christmas gifts.



But to the over 100 million children around the world who receive the gifts, it can mean so much more. Operation Christmas Child (OCC), a project of Samaritan’s Purse, seeks to give impoverished, sick or war-weary children the comfort of gifts to show the love of God and introduce them to the gospel. And the Women’s Ministries will be a part of the effort.

At 7 p.m., on October 19, our women will fill boxes with gifts the church family has been providing for OCC. That Friday evening, we will pack boxes, enjoy snacks, fellowship with each other and pray for the children who will be receiving the very boxes we are preparing.

“Since it is a service project of the Women’s Ministries, I felt there should be more fellowship and maybe more people involved,” Jill Porter, Women’s Ministries Service Coordinator, said. Her hope is that the evening will be an encouragement to the women as they help send the Good News to children around the world.

What seems like a little thing, in God’s hands, can be a mighty tool to share the hope of salvation to desperate people who have never heard. Pray that God will use these gifts in a mighty way and come enjoy the fellowship of packing presents with a purpose.

Church Picnic

Church family and friends enjoyed our annual picnic on Saturday, September 29.



October is Pastor Appreciation Month—A time for honoring those who *shepherd God's flock* (1 Peter 5:2). Take time to show our Pastors and their families they are appreciated and loved!

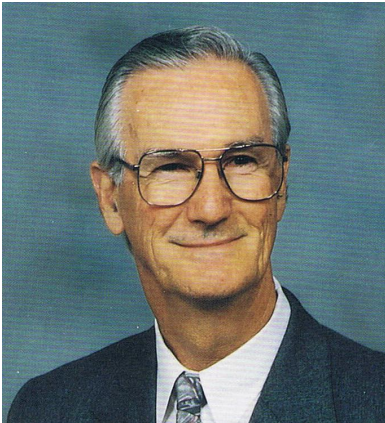
"Followers Who Lead"



This year's men's retreat is scheduled for November 30 - December 1 at Skycroft Conference and Retreat Center in Middletown, Maryland. Missionary Paul Briggs will be developing the theme "Followers Who Lead." The theme is based on 1 Corinthians 11:1 - *Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.* The retreat is an event none of us will want to miss. The cost is \$80.00 per person. Registration will begin on Sunday, October 21.

Pastor Goad with the Lord

Our beloved pastor, Dr. Ollie V. Goad, was called home in the early hours of Thursday, September 27. A resident of Grand Rapids, Michigan at the time of his death, Pastor and Mrs. (Phyllis) Goad faithfully served the Lord as our Senior Pastor and wife from 1984 to his retirement



in 1995. In the years since, they remained deeply and lovingly interested in the ministry of our church and fervently labored for it in prayer. Phyllis preceded Pastor Goad in death, having been called home in April of this year. Our Christian sympathy is extended to the Goad's four sons, David, Mark, Jonathan and Michael, their wives and children. Condolences may be sent to: The Goad Family, c/o Mr. Michael Goad, 3000 Royal Hanna Drive, Rockford, Michigan 49341.

Money Matters

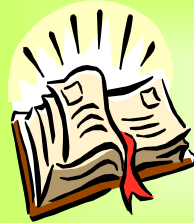
September Giving Per Week (General Fund)	\$4,641
2012 Budgeted Needs Per Week	\$5,105
2012 Budgeted Receipts to Date	\$189,674
2012 Budgeted Needs to Date	\$204,188

Lindholms to visit ministry partners in SE Asia

The waiting is nearly over! A trip postponed 13 years ago is about to be taken. At the beginning of the new year, Pastor and Neita Lindholm will be taking a trip to visit our ministry partners in Southeast Asia!

Planning to go from January 19 - February 1, 2013, they will be seeing the work firsthand and being an encouragement to those working there who are supported by our church. A love offering will be taken to help raise the \$5,000 needed for the trip on October 21 and October 28. As a church, we have never visited these ministry partners on the field, though we serve as their home and sending church and have partnered with them since 1984.

A trip was planned and arranged for Pastor Lindholm and his father in January of 2006. That trip was cancelled, however, when the husband there and a national colleague were imprisoned for the gospel—our partner for 4.5 months and the national partner for 18 months. At that time, the team was in a different Southeast Asian country. Just recently, the national colleague was able to join our partners in the country they are now serving...the two formerly imprisoned colleagues working alongside each other again. Pastor and Neita are excited to see our partners' work in seeking to reach Muslim-background people for Christ.



October Scripture Verse

Then they asked Him: "What must we do to do the works God requires?" Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one He has sent." John 6:28-29



Calendar

Oct. 9	Nursing Home Ministry (2:00 PM)
Oct. 13	Men's Breakfast (8:00 AM)
Oct 19	Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Party (7:00 PM)
Oct. 19/20	Men's Camping Trip
Oct. 27	Fun with Fellowship Movie Time (4:00 PM) followed by Church Dinner (6:00 PM)
Nov. 7	Quarterly Business Meeting (7:30 PM)

Fellowship Baptist Church

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