



Pastor's Perspective — The Zigzag Path of God's Leading

By Dr. Ron D. Lindholm, Senior Pastor

I've heard it said "the shortest distance between two points is a zigzag path." Mathematically we might want to challenge that, but it remains that God's leading in our lives is rarely for long a straight path. Between where we are and where we were when God first laid hold of our lives, there was a lot of work that He needed to accomplish in us—a lot of work still remains, and that that zigzag path serves his purposes well.

I was reminded of these things the other day while reading a book on prayer that once belonged to a wonderful Christian lady, Margaret Miller, who is now with the Lord. At some point along her path, Mrs. Miller had been especially impressed with the manner of God's leading—that it invariably follows this zigzag pattern—and she took the time to record her thoughts on a loose piece of paper which she then folded and put in the book for safekeeping. When I found the paper and opened it, I was interested to see that her thoughts were promoted by that text in the book of Exodus (13:17-18) where Moses notes that when God led the people of Israel out of Egypt He didn't take them by the shortest route, but by a circuitous one that He designed to insure their safe arrival home, in the Promised Land. Mrs. Miller's thoughts, some in prose, follow below in the hope that they'll encourage you as they have encouraged me:

Man's wisdom is to decide where he's going and

take the shortest, most direct route. That is not God's wisdom.

It must have been tremendously trying to Moses, knowing the way out of Egypt, and knowing the importance of getting out quickly, to follow the Lord's guidance when it seemed contrary to reason. But God was leading, and leading that Israel's triumph might be complete.

We climbed the height by the zigzag path and wondered why—until

We understood it was made zigzag to break the force of the hill.

A road straight up would prove too steep for the traveler's feet to tread;

The thought was kind in its wise design of a zigzag path instead.

It is often so in our daily life; we fail to understand

That the twisting way our feet must tread by love alone was planned.

Then murmur not at the winding way, it is our Father's will

To lead us home by the zigzag path to break the force of the hill.

Christian, take a look at the text referenced above, and as you meditate on it, think of the zigzag path of God's leading in your life and give Him thanks, for His leading is not designed to break you or discourage you, but to bring you safely home.

Being the Aroma of Christ

2010 Bible Memory Challenge Our verse for September is 2 Corinthians 2:15: *For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing.*

We are eagerly anticipating our annual Missions Conference to be held on September 10-12. Missionaries Paul and Geri Briggs and Steve and Julie Thompson and family will lead us in exploring the theme: "The Aroma of Christ." The conference will challenge us to confidently commit to the task of spreading everywhere the life-giving knowledge of Christ.

We will also learn more about the ministries these missionary families are involved in, that we might be

better able to partner with them. It is our prayer that the Lord will work in His people, challenging one or more to answer His call to missionary service.

Conference programs are available in the church foyer. Please plan to attend each of the conference sessions, taking advantage of this opportunity to be challenged from God's Word and the testimonies of the Briggs and Thompsons. Pray for these missionaries as they minister to us, and for the Lord to use us to encourage them.



Fall Ministries: ESL and Awana



Through Fellowship's ESL ministry we seek to lead internationals to Christ, recognizing that through His death Jesus "purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation" (Revelation 5:9). Thursday night classes resume in September, with registration taking place on the 9th and classes beginning on the 16th. Please pray for the Lord to work powerfully in the lives of our students this year.

The goal of our Awana clubs is to reach whole families with the gospel. This ministry begins a new year on Sunday, September 19. While we lost a number of leaders this past year, we are thankful for the two new leaders the Lord has provided. Please pray for Doug Mount as he leads this program, for our leaders as they teach the Word, and for our clubs to attract unchurched families from the community.



Together We Build

Earlier this year the Pastors and Deacons presented a Post-Mortgage Ministry (PMM) Plan designed to guide the church in addressing some critical needs related to our facilities. As explained in the August issue, our plan for 2010 is to build a \$30,000 emergency reserve in the Building Fund through budgeted contributions of \$10,000, a special Thanksgiving offering and use of a portion of the Korean use fees currently being held in the General Fund.

Once the emergency reserve is met we will be able to begin saving toward building expansion in order to expand our ministry capabilities. To promote this savings effort, the Pastors and Deacons have developed a program called "Together We Build", which in many ways is similar to our successful 50@1 program used to accelerate payoff of the mortgage.

The goal of "Together We Build" is to raise sufficient funds to expand our current building, and specifically to provide:

- ⇒ More educational space,
- ⇒ A new and larger multi-purpose room,
- ⇒ Enhanced office space and nursery,
- ⇒ Additional restrooms and storage, and
- ⇒ Room to grow.



Calendar

Sep. 9	ESL Registration & Assessments (7:00 PM)
Sep. 10-12	Missions Conference ...Friday (7:30 PM) ...Saturday (9:00 AM)
Sep. 14	Nursing Home Ministry (2:00 PM)
Sep. 16	ESL Thursday Classes Begin (7:00 PM)
Sep. 17-18	Ladies' Retreat
Sep. 19	Awana Resumes (5:30 PM)
Sep. 25	Church Picnic (NOON)

Purdue Missions Team

We are thankful for our missions team, consisting of Pastor Stuart, Denise, Joe and Rebekah Odom, Joree Jensen, Robert and Russell Mahoney, Amy Mount, and Sherry, Jessica and John Wasserstein, who assisted



our missionaries, Paul and Geri Briggs, with their annual furniture give-away ministry on August 12-15. About 150 volunteers helped distribute approximately 475 pieces of furniture and numerous household items to about 280 of Purdue's international students. Please pray for the Salt & Light team as they seek to share the gospel with these students.

Beginning next year, a "Together We Build" offering will be received one Sunday each month, in order to provide a monthly focus on this important priority. In 2011 our goal will be \$12,000, or \$1,000 per month. The "Together We Build" contributions will be added to regular, budgeted contributions to the Building Fund so the church will be prepared for both building expansion as well as needed repairs and replacements to the existing facility.



Through this approach we should be able to raise funds over the next 10-12 years to fully cover the building expansion project. It is our prayer that the Lord will be pleased to provide in some additional ways in order to see this goal realized in a considerably shorter period of time.

The Pastors and Deacons have had an initial meeting with Baptist Missionary Builders (BMB), a missionary organization devoted to assisting smaller churches with construction projects. BMB enables projects to be completed largely with volunteer labor—reducing the cost of building by about 40%. The Pastors and Deacons are also arranging a meeting with the Fairfax County Ombudsman to receive his input regarding our initial building expansion plan. Please be in prayer for this effort as we continue to plan and seek the Lord's guidance and provision.

Money Matters

The Lord provided in a remarkable way during this past month! General Fund giving exceeded the weekly need by almost \$670, more than making up for the shortfalls we experienced in May and June. In addition, generous love offerings were received for our Purdue Missions Team (\$1,482) and Shepherds Ministries (\$1,153). While giving our God the glory, we recognize and appreciate the sacrificial giving of His people.

August Giving Per Week (General Fund)	\$5,959
Weekly Need	\$5,290
Year-to-Date General Fund Giving	\$189,204
Year-to-Date General Fund Need	\$185,158
Year-to-Date Building Fund Giving	\$2,716