



Pastor's Perspective — Be Persistent in Your Evangelism—the Lost May Yet Be Moved

By Dr. Ron D. Lindholm, Senior Pastor

The 5.9 earthquake was a non-event for me, though, very literally, I drove right through it. As best as I can tell, I was in my car taking a slow and unintentional detour around the new National Geospatial-Intelligence Building in the Fort Belvoir North Area at the time that the quake occurred, but I never felt it and only learned about it when a few minutes later I turned on the radio and began to hear the special news reports. Many times since, and even now as I'm writing, I've tried to figure out how it was possible for me to go through something like that and not feel it, though I was otherwise, and to the best of my knowledge, fully conscious and alert.

I'm sure that someone reading this will have an explanation for me—and I'll be happy to hear that—but it's not for that purpose that I make mention of it. My purpose is two-fold. First, I want to use the story to remind you that apart from God's work in the lives of those who are lost and dead in their sins, and therefore estranged from Him and without Christ, but to whom we must bring the message of the life-giving message of the gospel, the cross is a non-event (*foolishness*, says Paul in 1 Corinthians 1:18) and they are not moved by the telling of its story though it moves us, and at times to tears. The second reason that I make mention of my earthquake experience, and in keeping with the first, is to urge you to bathe in prayer your every telling of the gospel. For unlike my experience with the earthquake that didn't move me, and never will, the lost with whom you share the gospel may yet be moved by the grace of God to tremble in awe at the message of Christ crucified and to embrace Him as Savior.

As we peruse the pages of the New Testament, one of the things that we discover about those who were moved to put their faith in Jesus Christ as Savior in the

days of the early church, is that God was most often pleased to move them only after they had heard the gospel again and again. Indeed, this is the situation that Jesus described to His disciples in John 4. He was sending them to reap a harvest that was ripe (not because of their own efforts in evangelism, but because others (in their case, the Old Testament prophets) had faithfully sown the seed. **Thus the saying: "One sows and another reaps" is true. I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor (John 4:37-38).**

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, there are times that our experience in evangelism will be like that of the disciples; we will tell the gospel to the lost and immediately they will be moved by God to rest their faith in Jesus Christ alone as Savior (and when that happens, it will be almost invariably because others have sown the seed and watered the seed). But most of the time, our experience will not be like that. We will need to prayerfully plant the seed of the gospel in the lives of the lost, and then lovingly and painstakingly water and nurture it as we wait on God and plead with God to bring that seed to life (to move the previously unmoved for whom the cross of Christ was once a non-event to the place that they see Christ for who He is and His work on the cross as done for them and savingly believe).

Granted, in this life, we won't always have the privilege of seeing those believe with whom we have shared the gospel—and in some cases we may doubt that they ever will, and some won't. But in the work of evangelism we need to be persistent, for in God's grace, the lost may yet be moved.

Trott's Special Mission: Investing in Others to Help Them Discern Where to Serve God

Don Trott's title at the Association of Baptists for World Evangelism (ABWE) headquarters is Special Assistant to the President for Advancement. He has had that position since 2007 and in that job works on promoting and raising awareness and support for projects, like the new medical hospital in Togo. He came to that job after he and his wife, Ruth, served as missionaries to Hong Kong for 9½ years and then both of them as faculty at Baptist Bible College & Seminary (BBC&S) in Clarks Summit, PA for 14 years. Don also served as Executive Director of Advancement for BBC&S.



2007, Don was used to help appoint 1,100-plus career missionaries.

Don has been known to say, "It's not our purpose to screen people out of God's will, but to screen them into it;" that is, to help them to find God's place of service. Ruth and Don are people God has used to mentor others with regard to service to Christ. They have spent the bulk of their ministry investing in the lives of others in recruiting and placing missionaries.

But the part of Don and Ruth's mission career that draws them to Fellowship's Missions Conference, "Come Over... and Help Us!" is that part of their service at ABWE headquarters after 1988. As Executive Administrator of Missionary Mobilization, a position held until September

Married to Ruth since 1960, and blessed with six children, Don has spoken in colleges, seminaries, and churches throughout the United States and over 40 countries. He serves as an adjunct faculty member in several institutions throughout the United States and countries around the world. Come to the Missions Conference to hear their story and the encouragement that comes from lives given in service to Christ.

Community Ministries



It's that time of year! Labor Day comes and goes and brings with it the beginning of the fall activities of buying school supplies, making schedules and taking advantage of opportunities. Two very important ministries also begin this month.

English as Second Language (ESL) classes begin Sep. 8, with registration from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. This ESL ministry is headed by Brian Platt and offers free English classes to those in the community who need help. It has become an opportunity for our church to really meet the educational, social and spiritual needs of our neighbors. If you are interested in helping with this outreach, please contact Brian.

Awana also begins this month, Sep. 18, at 5:30 PM. The club offers activities and Bible teaching and memorization for children from two years pre-K to grade six. Doug Mount directs this ministry and those interested in being involved should contact him.

Both ministries, while needing involved helpers, really need the prayer support of those in the church body. Please remember to entreat God to use these activities for His glory and the advancement of His kingdom.

Ladies' Retreat: All of our ladies are encouraged to participate in a retreat on Sep. 16-17 at the home of Wendy Marshall in Stafford, VA. Our missionary, Dawn Patefield, will speak on the theme "Little Touches of Kindness." In addition to encouragement from God's Word, our time of retreat also affords a wonderful opportunity to deepen our relationships with one another. The cost is only \$25. Please plan to come! A sign-up sheet is in the church foyer.

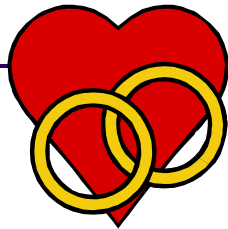
Marriage Seminar

FBC will be offering "Love and Respect," a marriage seminar.

Whether "old married people," newlyweds, or contemplating marriage someday, you will benefit from the teaching of God's Word regarding marriage relationships. Perhaps never has this teaching been any more practical than in the "Love and Respect" video series by Dr. Emerson Eggerichs. Eggerichs helps men and women understand each other's primary needs and motivations, leading to better relationships that are happier and more God-honoring.

Ron and Sherry Wasserstein will host this series at Fellowship on two consecutive weekends, Sep. 23-24, and Sep. 30-Oct. 1. Meetings on Fridays will run from 7:30 PM to roughly 9:15 PM, then on Saturdays from 9:00 AM - noon (with light breakfast at 8:30 AM). In just two weeks, you will experience practical teaching that has been helpful to thousands of couples.

There is no cost to attend - workbooks will be provided. Questions: call the Wassersteins at 703-372-2093, or go to www.loveandrespect.com.



Money Matters

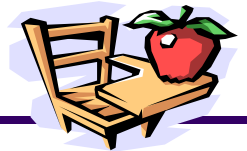
The month of August was a troubled month for giving to the General Fund. Instead of gaining ground on our shortfall, we actually lost ground due to a heavier than usual dose of vacations and a storm named "Irene." In the first seven months of the year, General Fund giving averaged \$4,975/week, but in August that number dropped to \$3,814/week. As we move into the final months of 2011, we look to the Lord to help us eliminate the gap between our year-to-date General Fund giving and year-to-date General Fund needs.

August Giving Per Week (General Fund)	\$3,814
Weekly Need	\$5,291
Year-to-Date General Fund Giving	\$170,210
Year-to-Date General Fund Need	\$185,180
Year-to-Date "Together We Build"	\$5,780

Don't Leave Your Kids at Home!

Fellowship's Missions Conference is intentionally designed for the entire family, providing both parents and their children with meaningful interaction with our missionary speakers. You might ask, "Why do we burden the missionaries with ministry to our children?" The answer is that children grow up to be gospel-sharing disciples of the Lord Jesus. We want our kids to learn from an early age that missionaries are, in fact, ordinary people God calls to a special ministry of proclaiming His good news to the nations.

We also want to open the eyes of our young people to the great spiritual needs of this world, so that from a young age they might have a passion to reach both their friends for Christ as well as the many other people in this world who need Jesus. What an amazing privilege we have to serve our children in this way, encouraging them to say "yes" to God's will for their lives and helping them to follow down that path of good works He has laid out in advance for them to follow. So as you plan your involvement in this year's conference, please remember that our children's participation is equally important as our own.



Calendar

Sep. 5	Family Outing to Washington Nationals Game (1:35 PM)
Sep. 8	ESL Classes Resume (7:00 PM)
Sep. 9-11	Missions Conference
Sep. 13	Nursing Home Ministry (2:00 PM)
Sep. 16-17	Ladies' Retreat
Sep. 18	Awana Resumes (5:30 PM)
Sep. 23-24 Sep. 30-Oct. 1	"Love and Respect" Marriage Seminar

Fellowship Baptist Church

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