



## Pastor's Perspective – Love Your Neighbor Enough to Tell Them About Christ

By Dr. Ron D. Lindholm, Senior Pastor

When asked the greatest commandment, Jesus said: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: "Love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:37-39). When we share the gospel with those who are perishing in their sin and urge them to be saved, we fulfill both commands—for it is by obedience to God's commands that we prove our love for Him (John 14:21) and it is by having mercy on our neighbors that we prove our love for them (Luke 10:36-37). When we withhold the gospel from those who need to be rescued by it, we fail to do either one.

Some would argue that God will save those He will (which is true) and thereby seek to be excused from any real evangelistic responsibility to the lost. But I would submit to you that it's quite impossible for them to explain how their insistence shows their love for God or neighbor.

If I were asleep in my house and it caught fire and my neighbor saw it, I would hope that they cared enough about me to make it a matter of urgency to try to wake me up and get me out to safety. How is that

different from the kind of concern that I'm to have for them with respect to the prospect of their perishing in eternal flame?

The Apostle Paul was impelled in his evangelism (as in all the rest of his ministry) both by the love of God and of neighbor. He was unable to remain silent concerning what, in Christ, God had done. He had to share it! He wanted those around him, whomever they might be, that stood in need of the reconciliation to God provided through faith in Christ alone, to avail themselves of it—and toward that end he spared no effort to make it known (2 Corinthians 5:14-21).

*If I were lost and my neighbor saved, I would hope that they would have that same love for me...*

So deep and real was his love for his neighbors, that they might be saved from the wrath to come, and so certain was he of its coming, that at one point, incredibly, he confessed that if it were possible for him to be lost for them to be saved, he would want that (Romans 9:2-3). If I were lost and my neighbor saved, I would hope that they would have that same love for me and spare no effort that I might be saved. I pray that we would do the same for them, for *unless [they] repent, [they] too will all perish* (Luke 8:3, 5)—and who would want that for their neighbor?

## Missions Conference - Ripe for Harvest - September 5-7

This year's conference will feature three missionary families: the VanProoyens, the Brauns and the Gravleys. Since we introduced the VanProoyens in August, this month we focus on the other two.

Bill and Denise Braun have been missionaries with the Association of Baptists for World Evangelism since 2005, serving in Russia. They completed their second term in May and are looking to return in June of 2015.

Bill writes, "I grew up in a liberal, protestant church and was raised in a home with no true Christian witness. As a result of this influence, and of training in evolution through the media, I became an agnostic. I left my church at the age of thirteen and sought to find meaning in a myriad of activities."

Bill went on to say that one year into his career as a professional triathlete, he came to trust Christ as his Savior. He said his life was so radically changed that day in 1993, that at that point he considered giving up his career to pursue missionary work. He attended Word of Life Bible Institute and met Denise in Colorado, where they married.

Denise, by contrast, grew up in a loving, Christian home, the youngest of seven children. She trusted Christ at age five and graduated from Grand Valley



State University with a degree in English, and wondered "what now?"

"I prayed for a new opportunity and God answered that prayer in a wonderful way," she said. "Literally, when I said 'amen' to that prayer, the phone rang. It was my former youth pastor and his wife, and he told me that he had accepted a pastorate in Boulder, Colorado, and wondered if I would move with them to help with the campus ministry." It was there she met Bill.

God has blessed them with seven children: Emma, 14; Kara, 13; Micah, 11; Anna, 9; Julia, 7; Isaiah, 4; and Joshua, 2.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Travis and Becky Gravely have just completed their first term as church-planters with Baptist Mid-Missions in Romania. They will return to the field in October.



Travis was born to Christian parents and trusted Christ at the early age of five. Likewise, Becky was surrounded by the Good News, and put her faith in Christ at the age of four.

Becky graduated from Bob Jones University in elementary education with a music minor. Travis graduated from Northland International University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Youth Ministries. Travis then received a Master of Divinity from Central Baptist Theological Seminary .

The two met in Pennsylvania and married in 2000. It was in 1999 that the Holy Spirit made it clear that Travis should be a missionary on a foreign field. Becky said her call to missionary service was a gradual one. But it was after a month-long missions trip to the Ukraine as part of a hand bell choir, that Travis and Becky began to see their gifts and talents as a great match for the needs of the people of Eastern Europe. As time went by, they said, the Lord began to "focus their hearts on the people of Romania."

The Gravelys are among our supported missionaries. God has blessed them with two children: Sam, 9; and Kara, 7.

### SEPTEMBER MEMORY VERSE



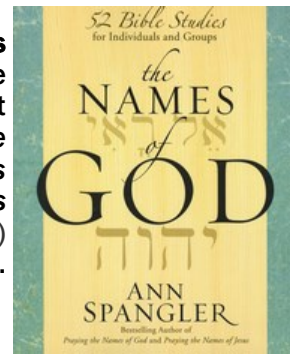
Do you not say, "Four months more and then the harvest?" I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. ~John 4:35

## Money Matters

August Giving Per Week (General Fund)	\$4,277
2014 Budgeted Needs Per Week	\$5,131
2014 Budgeted Receipts to Date	\$160,163
2014 Budgeted Needs to Date	\$179,585

## Spotlight on Women's Ministries

The Tuesday morning **Women's Bible Study** resumes in the Brick Room on September 9 at 9:30. Ann Spangler's *The Names of God: 52 Bible Studies for Individuals and Groups* (ISBN-13: 978-0310283768) will serve as the study guide. All are welcome to attend.

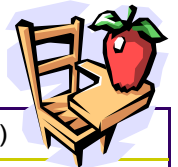


This year's **Women's Retreat** will be in Stafford, Virginia on September 12 - 13. Missionary Becky Gravley will be the speaker. The cost is \$25.00. Registration and payment are due by September 7. Please contact Gina Irving with questions or for further details.

## Missions Trip to Brazil

Pastor and Neita Lindholm will be traveling to Rio de Janeiro to be with missionaries Nathan and Dawn Patefield later this month, leaving on September 26, and arriving back home on October 7. Pastor will be the featured speaker, and Neita will sing, at a 2-day retreat for the Patefields and their Baptist Mid-Missions' colleagues and select Brazilian-national church leaders. On Sundays, the Lindholms will be ministering in the church the Patefields are planting in the town of Bento Ribeiro, and in others associated with their work in the greater Rio area.

The rest of the time will be spent becoming familiar with the scope and needs of those ministries that we as a church might partner more effectively with the Patefields to reach that world-city for Christ. It is important that we undergird this time of travel and ministry in prayer. Pastor and Neita plan to share a report with the church upon their return.



## Calendar

Sep. 3	Fellowship Dinner (6:30 PM)
Sep. 4	ESL Begins (7:00 PM)
Sep. 5-7	Missions Conference
Sep. 9	Women's Bible Study Begins (9:30 AM)
Sep. 12-13	Women's Retreat
Sep. 14	Awana Begins (5:30 PM)
Sep. 20	Church Picnic (1:00-4:00 PM)

## Fellowship Baptist Church

5936 Rolling Road  
Springfield, VA 22152