

Facets *of Fellowship*

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THE NEWSLETTER OF FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor's Perspective — Culture or Christ?

By Ron D. Lindholm, Senior Pastor

It's become trite to say that Missions Conference is a highlight on our church calendar. So I'll resist the temptation to say that and say rather that our Missions Conference gives us the opportunity to be stretched in our thinking about world evangelism. It's through our Missions Conference that we are especially encouraged to think not only in terms of our missionaries on their respective fields, but in terms of our church in its own community as well.

In these days, more than ever, the issues and challenges our missionaries are facing on their respective fields are being faced by us at home. Take for example, the theme of "Crossing Cultural Barriers" with the gospel of Christ. Fifteen or twenty years ago, or even more recently, we might have been quite comfortable with the thought that was something only missionaries had to be concerned about. And in some sense we would have been right because, in the past, we could choose cultural isolation and pretend that others around us didn't exist. But we also would have been wrong because they did exist and have always existed—and because the mission of making disciples for Christ is not accomplished without crossing those barriers.

When Jesus gave His great disciple-making commission, the stated objective was *all ethne*. We say *all nations*, but the meaning is the same. We were never

intended to take refuge and hold forth within the comfort of people just like us. Whether at home or abroad, whether with people who are culturally near or distant, the gospel is to be shared with the lost and God's blood-bought people *from every tribe and language and people and nation* are to be gathering together for worship and equipping because the ground is level at the cross—and because the church is not about culture, but about Christ who transcends culture.

I am pleased to shepherd a flock that is growing not only in its understanding of the mission, but in its ability to carry it out with alacrity and passion. In 1 Corinthians 9:19-23, the Apostle Paul talks about his own commitment to reach those in other cultures with the gospel of Christ and the lengths to which he was committed to go to accomplish that:

I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some.

I see this as a commitment to accommodation without compromise—and it's the evangelistic challenge of the church. Seen in this way, a passage like Colossians 3:11 becomes the incorporation strategy of the church, where issues of ethnicity are addressed and respected and resolved because in that setting Christ is all and in all. In this year's missions conference, our missionaries are going to be taking up this overall theme using these and other verses, and we will be richer for it.

Fellowship's Missions Conference will be held from Friday, September 8 to Sunday, September 10. Our own missionaries Paul Briggs, Larry and Sallie Fogle, and Jim and Jan Ruff will be sharing with us. Conference programs are available in the church foyer. Please plan to participate throughout the weekend.

Sharing Christ in Our Community



ESL

Thursday night **ESL** classes begin on September 7—our fourth year of this ministry! The bulk of last year's staff is returning for another year, and the Lord has provided the teachers needed for the literacy class. We are also thankful that the Sunday school class has been well attended this summer. If you are interested in learning how you can help with this ministry, see our ESL Director Brian Platt. Please pray the Lord will work through this ministry to lead internationals to Christ and add them to His church.

Fellowship's **Awana** ministry begins a new year on Sunday, September 17. We thank the Lord for giving us four new leaders and are looking forward to the privilege of reaching boys and girls with the gospel of Christ and training them to serve Him. Please pray this ministry will attract unchurched children from our community and that we will be able to impact whole families for the sake of Christ.



Serving as "Home and Sending" Church

Jim and Jan Ruff have been part of our missionary family since Fellowship's inception some 25 years ago and we have developed a profound love and appreciation for them. Earlier this year Fellowship learned that Jim and Jan were without a home and sending church. Believing God would have us fill this role for these

choice servants of the Lord and His church, official church action was taken at the July Quarterly Business Meeting, and, in August, the Ruffs accepted our offer to serve as their advocates and take responsibility for them and their ministry. We count it a joy to serve Jim and Jan in this new way.

Getting to Know Our Church Family

Travis and Darla Buice

Travis was born in Spartanburg, SC and grew up there. As a child he went hiking and camping a lot. He also enjoyed playing basketball and going to soccer camp and being in Boy Scouts. He has one sister who is a couple years older than him. Growing up, he and his family went to church. His dad and mom are still in the same careers as when Travis was small—his dad is a caterer and his mom is a paralegal.

Darla was born and raised in Estevan, Saskatchewan. She grew up with three sisters on the family farm, and her parents are still farming today. On the farm the children were always busy helping with harvest or farm work, so there really wasn't much time for anything else. Darla's family also attended church during her childhood.

After high school, Travis attended college in South Carolina for a year and then joined the Air Force. Darla went to Minot State University in North Dakota for four years.

Travis served in the Air Force for four years. He then moved on to SCI Electronics in Greenville, SC for about two years before accepting a job in Northern Virginia at Northrop Grumman.

At Minot State Darla worked at the university mail room. She also worked for an attorney out of college, and then worked for three John Deere dealers in North Dakota and South Carolina.

God brought Travis and Darla together in Minot, North Dakota. Travis was stationed in the Air Force there and Darla had just graduated from university. They

*Carry each other's burdens,
and in this way you will
fulfill the law of Christ.
Galatians 6:2*

were married in Estevan in January 2002.

The Buices have two children right now and one more on the way. Tyler will be three on September 25, and Ava will be one on September 11.

Travis and Darla consider raising Tyler and Ava their current "hobby" and special interest. Darla describes Travis as "a genius when it comes to computers and electronics...he can fix and work on any system."

Travis and Darla both accepted Christ as Savior during their pre-marriage classes in 2001. The Lord used their pastor at that time to help them recognize their need for Christ both as individuals and a couple.

The Buices have been attending Fellowship for a little over one year. They really enjoy coming to church to worship and learn, and they appreciate all of the activities for children. Travis and Darla are thankful for the people they have met at their church home who have really been great to them.

The Buices ask for prayer as they search for a house to purchase and that God will guide them in all of their decision-making.

Welcome!

Bill, Roxanne and Amy Janosky became Fellowship's newest members on September 3.



Calendar



Sep. 7	ESL Thursday Classes Resume (7:00 PM)
Sep. 8-10	Missions Conference Friday: 7:30 PM Session Saturday: 10:00 AM Session; Noon Luncheon Sunday: Sunday school; AM and PM Services
Sep. 12	Nursing Home Ministry (2:00 PM)
Sep. 15	Youth 5th Quarter
Sep. 17	AWANA Resumes (5:30 PM)
Sep. 23	Men's Prayer Breakfast (8:30 AM) Ladies' Miniature Golf (2:00 PM)

Money Matters

August Giving Per Week (General Fund)	\$4,680
Weekly Need	\$4,706
Year-to-Date Giving (General Fund)	\$165,130
Year-to-Date Need	\$164,710
Year-to-Date 50@1	\$3,957

Women's Retreat: All of the ladies of the church are encouraged to participate in a women's retreat on October 13-14 at the home of Wendy Marshall in Stafford, VA. Our speaker is Neita Lindholm, and the theme is "With All My Heart". A sign-up sheet will be available in the church foyer in the coming weeks.