



A WORSHIPPING COMMUNITY OF GRACE

IN THIS ISSUE

Pastor's Ponderings

By John Armstrong Jr.

We have asked you to be praying for the Pastor’s Retreat in Colombia that Faith is sponsoring. We have not given out a lot of information about the trip because we are doing something new. We have done leadership seminars in the past up on the north coast of Colombia, but we have never done an event where we simply focus on building up the pastors and their wives. There will be training times for the pastors and their wives separately and we will also have several times to focus together on building marriages. I don’t think I need to explain why these things would be important to our work with the churches in Colombia, but by building up the pastors, we hope to be building up the local churches.

This is a big trip with a big team. We are not going down as those who have all the answers, because we are not experts, we are going down because we believe God has opened doors for us to minister in Colombia and we are discovering the best and most fruitful ways of doing that ministry. There are a number of goals we have for our trip. First, I’ll give the goals from our perspective as far as what we hope to accomplish with these pastors and their wives. As you read and hopefully pray for this work, please keep in mind we are going to another culture on a number of different levels. Not only do we not speak the same language, but we also live in very different environments, socially, economically, physically, etc., etc... With that in mind these are some of the goals we hope to accomplish with the Colombians:

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“Go
therefore,
and
make
disciples”

1. To grow in our relationships with the pastors and wives of IBR**. Building relationships with them is vitally important not only for mutual encouragement, but also so that we know their needs and thus better how to serve them.
2. To learn new and better ways of equipping men and women to serve the church.
3. To provide a time of refreshment for couples to be together and connect.
4. To provide a relaxing environment. Most of these pastors work a full-time job as well as trying to maintain their pastoral duties.
5. To simply encourage them in their work for Christ and His Church.

Secondly, let's look at the goals for our team and what Faith Church hopes to gain from this trip:

1. To get more of our officers and their wives engaged with what God is doing through Faith Church in Colombia. That hopefully will turn into helping get others involved.
2. To expand our cadre of translators by giving them experience in the field.
3. To become more experienced in cross-cultural mission and grow in understanding the needs of those God is bringing to us in Frederick as well as in Colombia.
4. To come away with a deeper understanding of how we can grow in helping to advance the work of the gospel together through IBR in Colombia and Ecuador.

Our involvement in mission work, wherever it might be, is vital to the life and growth of the church. I'm serious about mission work, not because anyone else is necessarily benefitted, but it is vital to my personal growth in grace, and I see the fruit it bears in the lives of others from our church who go and participate. So, it is a selfish thing for me because I want to see God's hand at work in and through Faith Church. I have not been disappointed; God has been amazingly gracious to us in the area of world mission. This is worth the investment of our finances, our time, and our people. Faith Church is a generous church and God is blessing that in ways we may never know, but He is bearing fruit for His kingdom, and we ask that He would continue to use us for His good purposes. As I wrap up this pastor's pondering, let me say thank you for your prayers and for your financial support of world mission here at Faith Church. May God continue to use us and grow us and bless us to be a blessing to others for the sake of His kingdom and the glory of Christ. ✝

**of the Iglesia Betania Reformata (IBR) network of churches. These churches are primarily located in the Valle del Cauca region of Colombia the largest city in the area is Cali. We are going to hold a retreat in the city of Buga.



SPECIAL EVENT

On Sunday, January 21, we will hold our Annual Congregational Meeting immediately after the service. The following officers are standing for re-election:

Elders: Martin Hudzinski, David Johnston, Rich Rochford, Charlie Van Meter

Deacons: Warren Paire, Matt Yost

In addition to electing officers, we will present the budget for 2024, confirm the Pastor's call, and introduce Subsplash, our new online interface. A fellowship lunch will follow.

HAPPENINGS

WEEKLY

Sundays:

- 9:15am Sunday School
- 10:15am Fellowship
- 10:45am Worship
- 5:00pm Evening Worship
- 6:00pm Youth Group

Mondays:

- 7:00pm Adult Choir

Wednesdays:

- 7:00pm Prayer meeting

Thursdays:

- 6:30pm Praise Team

Fridays:

- 10:30am Fiber Friends

MONTHLY

Third Saturdays, (Jan 20th)

- 8:30am Men's Breakfast
- 8:45am Women's Bible Study

Third Sundays, (Jan 21st)

- Fellowship Meal



5	William Bolen
7	Emily Rochford
7	Kenneth Lee Paul
11	Josh Messinger
13	Liz Guynn
18	Dorothy James
27	Bruce Brierly
28	David Lockridge
31	Heidi Lockridge



You are our Hope and Salvation, the Greatest Gift. We love You with our whole hearts! Create deep unity within these church walls, loving, well-founded friendships, and Christ-honoring activities. Some of us are sick, lonely, and unemployed and we look to You, Jehovah Nacham, for Your abiding comfort. Some of us long for new ministry or different circumstances and we trust You, Jehovah Jireh, to provide our needs and light our paths. Give us greater ability to serve this community and the uttermost parts of the earth. Build our building, encourage our people, and expand Your glory throughout Frederick and the whole earth. Amen.

Intern's Inklings

By Zach Fiol

The Seven Churches of Revelation,

Part I: The Church of Ephesus and What It Means for Faith Church

As we begin the new year, I want to start a new series of Tapestry articles on the seven churches in Revelation 2-3. We will look at one church per month and explore what it means for our church today in Frederick, MD. Just like all of Scripture there are many applications that we can take from these chapters. These letters to the seven churches were not only given to these specific churches, but they are also given to the whole church throughout history to encourage all Christians in the face of persecution.

These churches in Revelation were in Asia Minor or modern day Turkey. They faced significant persecution from the Roman emperor Diocletian. Not only were there significant threats from outside the churches, but there were also threats from within. This is why these letters to the seven churches are important for us today, as there are both threats from the outside and the inside of the modern-day church. From the outside, there is persecution and from the inside of the church there are the wolves in sheep's clothes who seek to lead the church into ruin. We must be constantly aware of these threats to protect the peace and purity of the church.

Read Revelation 2:1-7. Verses 2-3 are very encouraging for the church in Ephesus, which was "toiling" for the Gospel. They are "enduring patiently" in the face of severe persecution. Lastly, they are "not bearing with those who are evil" meaning that they are seeking to preserve the pure doctrine found in Scripture.

Verse 4, however, has an interesting and sobering complaint against the church in Ephesus. They have forgotten their first love,

which is a zeal for Christ, the Gospel, and other people. It is not bad to preserve Scriptural doctrine, but we have forgotten our first love who is Christ. We see this at many churches today. The culture in America is becoming more hostile to Christianity and so many churches focus on preserving biblical doctrine. Although that is good, we also need to have zeal for the Gospel of Christ and not fall into formalism.

This is also a great danger for Faith Church as it was for the church in Ephesus. Do we truly love Christ and the gospel and seek to spread the Gospel to all people who desperately need it? Or do we only desire to preserve the purity of our church? We at Faith Church must both test those who claim to be Christians as well as show others the love of Christ.

The church of Ephesus was hating heretical groups such as the Nicolaitans who sought to lead them astray. The Pharisees were just as focused on purity of their religion, yet they passionately denied that Jesus was the Messiah. Do you also fall into this temptation? Are you so passionate for pure doctrine that you forget your first love? I know I forget my first love at times. We all need to watch not only our doctrine but also our life.

John finishes up this letter to the church in Ephesus by saying that we will have full benefits of heaven and eternity with Christ. The church at large, including Faith Church, will not only overcome persecution but Christ through the church will overcome the sin in our own hearts. The promise of the gospel is that sin will be defeated through Christ once and for all. That is the message that we must be passionate about first and foremost! We must not forget our first love who is Christ!

DOUG MCKELVEY'S BOOK, EVERY MOMENT HOLY

A sumptuous, poetic prayer journey of liturgy and lament, *Every Moment Holy* notices and celebrates the ordinary moments in our lives and awakens their glory. He finds the beauty in bonfires, birthdays, and yard sales, diaper changing, laundry, and shopping. 'Lament upon the Finishing of a Beloved Book' spans three pages. Doug's gift of touching the heart of our shared human experience and giving it voice will draw your tears and hand you fresh perspectives on what is and is not mundane. A delightful, insightful experience. Here is a taste:

A LITURGY FOR THE FIRST SNOW

*by Douglas Kaine McKelvey,
excerpted from his book,
Every Moment Holy,
Rabbit Room Press 2017*

*The snowfall is observed in reflective silence before
all pray together:*

**O Christ, King of Snow, we bless you for
bidding this blanket of white to cover us
in holy hush, that our hearts might be
quieted at the sight, that we might sense
the emptiness of canvas over which our
Spirit broods, and upon which you would
create and recreate our hearts in the
image of the one whose word first spoke
snow into existence. Amen.**

Tapestry

For Kids!



Isaiah 1:18
"Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow;"



A	L	R	H	D	F	V
S	K	A	T	I	N	G
L	N	I	N	U	S	M
E	C	O	L	D	N	E
D	B	Y	W	K	O	C
D	S	F	E	M	W	W
I	C	E	D	G	B	I
N	G	I	L	J	A	N
G	M	K	B	C	L	T
T	W	L	E	A	L	E
H	F	U	N	O	S	R

FIND THESE WORDS:
Snowballs ice fun cold
skating sledding winter



Did You Know?
The very first hot chocolate drink was invented by the ancient Mayans? They lived where Mexico is today. The Mayans didn't use sugar so their drink was more bitter and spicy than ours is today.