

**“The Gift That Keeps On Giving
FELLOWSHIP”
Bob Heirtzler
Sunday, December 27th, 2009**

The sermon that Ken Avellino taught reminded me of when Pastor Davis said, “If God can keep you for one day, He can keep you for the rest of your life” God has given us a Gift of fellowship with each other & with God We all need fellowship: It’s good for us, it makes us strong, it gives us a chance to talk things out, etc.

One time I was fishing at McHenry and I told God that I didn't want to talk to anyone at the Fishing Spot. I really wanted to be left alone, and as soon as I got there, I had so many people that just walked up and started talking to me; I left there more refreshed than when I got there.

From Jeff Lynch’s Message

Matthew 28:19 Go ye therefore, ...

I am emphasizing the word “GO”

Acts 2:37 – 47 ...And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine...

They continued steadfastly until this day – December 27, 2009

- Continuing Steadfastly – kept on course - moved forward
- Breaking of Bread –Bible studies
- Continuing Daily – checking on each other
- House to House – getting together outside of the times on Sundays & Wednesdays.
- Results were - God added to the church daily

Breaking of Bread

Jesus spoke that He was the Bread of Life.

John 6:32 – 35 ...I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger...

We serve communion: The bread is the remembrance of the body, the cup is the remembrance of His blood. Breaking of the Bread is sharing the Word of God, encouraging one another, praying for one another, teaching one another, fellowshiping one with another, etc... When Mike asked for the word of the day - I quoted John 1:1. Jesus gave us a GIFT to share with each other, and that gift is the Breaking of the Bread.

“Breaking bread from house to house,” in other words, having fellowship with one another.

2 Corinthians 8:1 – 6 ...Praying us with much entreaty that we would receive the gift...

Receive the gift? What was the gift? It was the Fellowship of the Ministering to the Saints. God gave us something to give to others. Remember the woman at the well? Jesus promised her a drink that she would not thirst anymore, but everyday is a new day, we need our daily bread (Lord's Prayer)

- local coffee shop, gas station, grocery store, etc. Just saying a kind word, or a greeting could equal to giving a drink from God. I say good morning to people, and it's not a habit. I go in to work 30 minutes early to talk to people. How do we have fellowship one with another? Just as an example, I can call Andy, and say, "Let's head out for coffee, and who else can we call?" What is the Gift that we have? It is the Fellowship of the Ministering to the Saints. God Wants Us to Be Likeminded.

Philippians 2:1 – 3 ...Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded...

We need to be Likeminded: To have the same love, and one accord of one mind.

What? We as the Body of Christ need to speak the same thing,

How? Fellowship one with another

When? As often as we can!! Yes, we live busy lives; we need to put in our schedule: Fellowship Time -- around the kitchen table, dining table, coffee shop, and etc.....

Why? we need to stay strong in GOD

Where? it can be anywhere, for example, instead of going thru the drive thru, go inside.

IF YOU ARE SEEKING.... GOD WILL PROVIDE THE DOORS

Then we can say....

1 John 1:3 – 7 ...ye also may have fellowship with us...

There is a strong growth happening here at Christian Fellowship Great Lakes; it is not the numbers of new people coming in only, it is the growth that is coming from within. I have learned more about the family of God in the last 6 months than in all the previous years that I have known them. There has been an explosion of fellowship opportunities that has happened in 2009.

The Fishing Trip at the McHenry Dam – there were so many connections that came from that.

Coffee Shop gathering on a weekly basis

Board Game Nights – My friend from work came to one of those and then didn't want to leave

Football Nights

Headline Talk -

Birthday Parties: 100 people = 100 birthdays. There are at least two people turning 40 this coming year.

Tuesday Night Wings

Wednesday Bible Studies – there is a tremendous growth happening when we sit down and break bread.

WE NEED TO TALK IT UP AND BE EXCITED ABOUT IT! This will cause others to get involved.

EVERY BODY IS WELCOME TO COME TO THE OUTING... share about this

What is going to HAPPEN in 2010? 2010 vision – Kenneth wanted us to have “Clear Direction” We already have the ball rolling in 2009, let's keep it rolling... Who will step up to the plate, and help out Ken & Jennifer? They are not here to see this fall; They are here to see it GROW! We are all in this together. We are not an “I” church or fellowship. We are a FAMILY! What types of family outing or get together we will do in 2010. We need to create the functions. There are 12 months in a year: If groups of a few people each take a month in 2010, come up with activities that support our ministries goals: Evangelize, Educate, and Equip, just imagine what we could accomplish! Who is willing to step up and coordinate it? We all can, just communicate with Brother Kenneth and Jennifer. It doesn't have to be expensive. Are we all willing to HELP give the gift that keeps on giving? The more you give the more you're giving, and the more you are giving Pastor Lantis taught in a message once, “We cannot out give God; the more we give the more we get.” We should have a ministry within the ministry.

F	1 Tim 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.
E	2 Tim. 4:5 But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry
L	Heb. 12:1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us
L	Mat. 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.
O	Eph 4:4-6 There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; ⁵ One Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.
W	Gal 5:21 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.
S	Phil 1:27 Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel Titus 2: 1 But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine
H	Rom 8:38-39 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, ³⁹ Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
I	2 Tim 4:2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine Does God have to check our schedule to open a door to share?
P	Prayer

There was something that was spoken from God to our ministry many years ago, it talked about a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations.

Joel 2:1-11 ...A fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth...