

January 2011

Faith Report

Relying: Complete Joy

By Craig Garriott

The Apostle John tells us about the significant time Jesus spent with His disciples as He prepared them for His pending departure. The fleeting experience of momentary happiness was never Jesus' objective. He wanted them to know and experience a deep and abiding sense of joyful gladness that would transcend all life's losses and deprivations. "...I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy." John 16:22

How can we experience such abiding joy? Jesus tell us if we remain in Him, in his love for us - that same love the Father has for Jesus - by holding fast to His Word, then Jesus says we can know this complete joy. "*I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.*" John 15:11

Yet this complete, full and abiding joy is not only achieved by abiding in His love expressed through His Word, but also through answered prayer, specifically Kingdom-centered prayers. "*Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.*" John 16:23, 24

Sometimes God answers our prayers instantly, like when my first four children were small. My

seminary roommate was living with us at the time and we were out on our back porch overlooking a dark eastern sky after a rain storm. A rainbow lit up the sky, but lightning was still in the clouds and the combination was breathtaking. I got my old Canon 35 mm still-shot camera and said, "Wouldn't it be great to capture the lightning with the rainbow against this dark sky?" My former roommate John responded, "Why don't we pray for it." I said, "We can't ask God for things like that." The ears of my now-theologically interested kids pricked up. John answered, "Why not?"

My children were waiting for my biblically profound response. "Well, well... I really can't think of a reason..." So we bowed and I prayed, "Lord it would be great to capture your wonders in the grace of this rainbow and your awesome power of lightning on film. Would you be pleased to do this? In Jesus' Name, Amen." I could not predict the timing of lightning and shutter opening so I merely pointed the camera to the sky and CLICK. At that split second, amazing lightning flashed across the darkened sky amidst the rainbow. God was pleased to allow us to capture and savor that moment. My captivated children began to giggle with pleasure and excitement. Yes, God was building up faith in my kids, but also in me. I was humbled by God's sign of grace in this an-

swered prayer. The emotion I felt then, and now as I look back, was joy.



Canon 35mm
*Rainbow, Lightning, &
Child's Head*

God does sometimes instantly answer what appear to be rather unimportant prayers in order to build faith in his children so that we will step out and ask for greater things. He seeks worshipers who will worship Him in Spirit and truth. He is passionate about uniting and reconciling alienated people in one spiritual family. He is passionate about the gospel that powerfully goes forth through words of grace and works of justice. He is passionate about growing people up in the deep truths of His Word. He is also passionate about His people experiencing His abiding presence and full and complete joy through answers to Kingdom-centered prayers. "*Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.*"

Capture this joy. Pray. ♦



FAITH
CHRISTIAN
FELLOWSHIP

505 E. 42nd Street
Baltimore, MD 21218

Phone: 410.323.0202
Fax: 410.435.5075
E-mail: fcf.church@
verizon.net
www.fcfchurch.org

United that the
world would
know

¹ Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. ² While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." ³ So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off. Acts 13: 1-3

Officer Profile

Please pray for Jonathan Hansen, who is a candidate for election to the office of elder at the annual congregational meeting later this month.



Jonathan was born and grew up in central New Jersey. He was raised in a Christian family and came to know Christ at a young age. His family was very active in their church, where his mother and father served as a deaconess and elder respectively. Jonathan has one brother, Matthew, who is a pain management physician in Ohio. His parents, Lynn and Lilian, recently moved to Baltimore and have been attending FCF for the last year.

Jonathan attended the Johns Hopkins University and majored in biomedical engineering. After graduation, he attended medical school at Jefferson Medical College of the Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia. He then returned to Baltimore for residency, specializing in emergency medicine, at the University of Maryland Medical Center.

Since residency, Jonathan has worked at Franklin Square Hospital Center in Rose-dale (near the White Marsh area). His current position is attending physician and the director of clinical operations.

Jonathan met his wife, Erin, in 2003 at a FCF Young Adults' Luncheon. They were married in 2005 and have two children, Linnea (age 4½) and Jonas (age 2½). Jonathan has attended FCF since 2002 and became a member about a year later. He has been a covenant group facilitator, nursery volunteer, and Soul Food Sunday school teacher. Jonathan joined the Adult Christian Education Committee in 2007 and is currently serving as co-director of the ministry. ♦

PLYP Sports Update

We are grateful for our talented PLYP Sports Director, Blake Scheidt. Blake's past athletic prowess was more on the football field but he reached out of his comfort zone to ensure that PLYP enjoyed a successful soccer season. Grateful thanks go to the dedicated group of volunteer coaches who assisted him. The season was rounded out by a wonderful banquet that was attended by over 100 players and family members in November. Fifty-two children participated in the soccer program and 50% of the coaches came from FCF.

The basketball season starts in January and we anticipate that 70 to 80 kids will sign up. Blake needs 16 coaches, i.e. two per team, and has scheduled the games at the YMCA. Please contact him if you are able to assist. ♦

Bits and Pieces

Congratulations to

- Matthew and Elaine Benner, Becky and Mark MacMillen, and Twila Staroszcziak. who recently joined the church.
- Tom and Kedi Milajecki on the arrival of Andrew Osben on December 27. Andrew is a baby brother for Thomas.

CALENDAR

- Jan 7 Concert of Prayer 7 p.m.
- Jan 17 Office Closed—Martin Luther King Day
- Jan 20 Youth-Hosted Spaghetti Dinner at 6:30 p.m., Annual Congregational Meeting at 7:30 p.m.
- Jan 30 Discovery Welcome Lunch