

# **The Word Goes Forth**

## **Pastor Tim Peterson's Blog**

### **November 22, 2015**

#### **Mission: Leading People into a Growing Relationship with Jesus Christ**

##### **Community**

1 John 1:5-7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

The word fellowship in the Greek is koinonia. This word describes the relationship between believers and God. The word koinonia also means the participation and sharing in all of the Christian life together. When we share in communion together, in our giving, through corporate worship and sharing in the dedication of a child; each time we gather together as the body of Christ we join in "koinonia"; for the purpose of building His church. Each time as we gather we enjoy the fellowship in Christ!

It was a double edged experience coming to be a part of the ministry in Broken Bow. What was extremely difficult in leaving Kearney EFree was leaving the fellowship. I will never forget the tears that came as a result of leaving so many dear people I had grown to love. Our last Sunday in the Bilingual service was a moment that reminded me of the deep koinonia we had experienced together. On the other side was the excitement of the new koinonia that lay ahead with all of you. In just a short time since our arrival, we have grown to love the body of Christ here in Broken Bow. I look forward to knowing more of you and cherishing our time together. Jesus is faithful to unite us as we seek HIM together!

I believe we are called to be a life-giving community where everyone is loved and cared for. We value honesty, transparency and authenticity as we engage God's Word in our relationships with one another. Our desire is to equip each person to do the work of ministry. The credibility of the Gospel of Jesus is explicitly tethered to the quality of our lives as Christ followers. (John 13:34-35; 1 John 1:5-7; Acts 4:32-35)

Jesus prayed for us in John 17:23 "that each of us would be one with HIM". It is in the fellowship with Him that He works to grow us up to be what He has called us to be. Christians over time have mistaken fellowship to be "any warm human interaction". Watching the Husker game with friends is fun but is not fellowship. Fellowship is not necessarily going to Bible study or a Christian rally where emotions run high. Fellowship is a uniquely Christian relational experience. No one but those who have been born of the Spirit of God can have fellowship which makes the neglect of this experience all the more tragic. Fellowship with God is the prerequisite for fellowship with one another.

Participating together in life focused on God, whether it be major events in our lives or those times when trouble comes upon us, is the experience of being a Christian. For this reason we need to cultivate this part of the Christian life in fellowship with one another. The very essence of fellowship is in how we share in relationship with one another as we wrestle with understanding truth and applying this truth in our own life.

I pray we see both growth corporately and as individuals as a result of being in fellowship with one another.

In HIM, Tim