

# Brother Watch

October 2009

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## *A Tribute to Pastor Peter Whitting*

[*This special issue of BrotherWatch offers a tribute to Peter Whitting for Pastor Appreciation Month. – Ed*]

### **Recollections**

I cannot recall first meeting Peter Whitting, nor can I remember his first sermon as a guest speaker perhaps fifteen years ago. I do recollect that Peter has always been a powerful, dynamic and fearless speaker.

At a time when the Worldwide Church of God was birthed into new covenant Trinitarian theology, Peter was a rare voice in concert with the work of the Holy Spirit. I remember a guest sermon by Peter in which he vividly brought to life the new covenant using the analogy of virtual reality.

Peter began to shepherd the Baltimore congregation on February 19, 1999, gently but firmly leading us to the nutritious green pastures of orthodoxy, pointing us to Jesus Christ and the work of the Holy Spirit.

For me, highlights of his ministry include a special (emotional and spiritual) healing service, dedication to transforming the congregation into a house of pray, zeal for children's ministry and community outreach, commitment to recognizing and nurturing the God-given spiritual gifts within the fellowship, establishing vibrant men's and women's ministries, and delegating responsibilities to members.

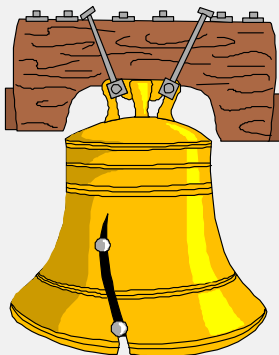
Ever an iconoclast, Peter breaks down barriers to relationships with God and men, striving to mirror

*(Continued on page 2)*

### **BrotherWatch**

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(Continued from page 1)

Jesus in his life. Beloved by the sheep entrusted to his care and by his fellow ministers, Peter empties himself that we might be filled.

A voracious reader, Peter also gains deep spiritual insights in prayer, medication, and counseling, and by attending various spiritual conferences and retreats around the country.

A gifted and accomplished artist (see [www.mikefeazell.com/PeterWhitting.php](http://www.mikefeazell.com/PeterWhitting.php)), Peter has turned his artistic talents into an avenue for ministry and witness to young students in his college art classes. His rapport with his students embodies Jesus' compassionate approach to the unchurched.

Over the years, Peter's heart has matured in his walk with Jesus and his growing candor and authenticity become more evident every week. Peter shares from his heart and his life experiences, putting the flesh of practical Christian living on the theological bones of biblical principles. – **Dan Borchers**

### From Across the Country

During his lifetime, Peter has forged deep friendships by *being* a friend.

**Joseph Tkach**, President of Grace Communion International ([www.wcg.org](http://www.wcg.org)), quickly offered his thoughts: "While at Ambassador College, Peter and I lived in the same dormitory and his encouraging



Joseph Tkach and Peter Whitting  
Photo: Tony Marra

friendship made a lasting impression upon me. Not only did he always have a word of encouragement; but, he had a compassionate listening ear whenever anyone needed to unload a burden. His special place in my mind was only enhanced when he married Charlotte, who I knew from my early childhood, growing up on Chicago. I would even say that he was a pastor before he became an ordained one. Every blessing to Peter and Charlotte."

**Mike Feazell**, author of *Liberation of the Worldwide Church of God* ([www.mikefeazell.com](http://www.mikefeazell.com)), was equally keen to express his views: "For as long as I've known Peter, more than 35 years now, he has been both a blessing and an inspiration to me. He was a man of God's grace long before the word became comfortable in our fellowship. He is a dear friend and loving pastor."

**Lloyd Garrett**, a former pastor of our Baltimore congregation and current pastor of Faith Outreach Community Church ([www.faithoutreachcommunitychurch.org](http://www.faithoutreachcommunitychurch.org)), shares his recollections: "I've known Peter for about 20 years and I have found him to be the genuine article. He truly has the heart and passion of a pastor and a love for people. New Life Fellowship is blessed to be in his care. May the Lord bless you, Peter, especially during Pastor Appreciation Month."

In Peter's current season of frailty and ill health, former New Life Fellowship members **Ron and Barbara Felling** offer these words of encouragement: "Peter, He will be your Help and Shield. You are in our thoughts every day. We love you."

### Within the Fellowship

Peter's impact in New Life Fellowship cannot be overstated. The following testimonies pay homage to the shepherd who has fed us and sacrificed for over a decade.

"It feels like Peter gets into the heart and mind of Jesus and presents Him to us. Peter is a great shepherd." – **Eileen Borchers**

"In 2004, my mother went into the hospital and did not return home this time. She passed on January 11. That was a time when nothing seemed real as I was the one making most of the arrangements. Well, from the time that my mom had passed until the day of the funeral and some days after, Peter Whitting called me every

(Continued on page 3)

*(Continued from page 2)*

morning – every morning. He would ask how things were and how I was doing. Each time he would also ask me if I wanted him to pray with me. Of course I said yes. The thing was that I did not realize until all was over just how much those morning calls meant and how they helped me to make it through. Those morning calls and prayers were like vitamins and a meal. With so much to do as Pastor to a growing church, Peter Whitting took the time to extend himself in the most loving way. The grief was never really felt, and I know why. It is so true that God never leaves us. He always gives us what we need. I needed my pastor and he was there.” – **Veronica Everette**

“Peter Whitting is very generous with his willingness to share so much of his life's experiences with his congregation. Whether he is sharing God's Word or sharing a story, he expresses it with such passion, full of wit and with so much heart. When you hear him say he loves the brethren, you believe it because you feel it.” – **Winston and Janet Fell**

“Our friend, Peter. If only the breakfast grits could praise. They would praise God for three good friends and the unseen Friend in their midst. The unconditional love they share is rare. There is trust, forgiveness and laughter shared between them always. Continue in faith, **Jack and Doris Henry.**”

“Thank you, Peter, for your dedication and devotedness to your brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ at the New Life Fellowship of Baltimore. The way you love us is evident in every message we receive from you. Thank you for all you have done to help us as a congregation grow to become a family, with the help of the Holy Spirit. I'll always remember your visits to Vernon when he had surgery six years ago, and he still refers to you asking him if he wanted you to pray for him. He was so touched, and your prayers worked. Personally, I will never forget Easter Sunday, 2009, for that was the day you renewed our marriage vows in the presence of my church family. What a pleasant surprise that was. You will forever be in our hearts in a very special way.” – **Joan Johnson**

“Through Peter's mentoring I have been able to spiritually and emotionally mature in the faith. I have always appreciated Peter's openness and his willingness to help a friend or brother in need. Many times his prayers have brought comfort and healing to my heart. I am also thankful that God has heard his prayers of faith on my behalf for physical healing. At



Whittings (clockwise): Mark, Charlotte, Jonathan, Tom  
Photo: *Tony Marra*

this time, I also pray prayers of faith on his and his family's behalf knowing that God is not unjust to forget all the good works Peter has accomplished in and outside the church.” – **Tony Marra**

“One of the greatest impacts of Peter's ministry in my life has been his teaching about the Holy Spirit. For some time, I was hung up in thinking that I had to convince an unbeliever to accept Jesus Christ into his life to be saved. However, gratefully, I came to understand that it is the Holy Spirit who does the convicting – not me.” – **Melvin McKee**

“One of Peter Whitting's qualities that I appreciate is his humility. He is approachable by all of the members of the congregation. This is a great quality.” – **Edward Neal**, Elder, New Life Fellowship

“Peter is leaving us a legacy of a man who walks with God. He has a spiritual heart that lives for God; to love God and to care for the sheep that has been given to him.” – **David Stonesifer**

“I thought about the things that Peter did encourage me with, there are so many lessons to recall, pray

*(Continued on page 4)*

*(Continued from page 3)*

comes to mind, this is top priority in his agenda for the church, also he sees that all members should be involved in the church in some way. Whether it is serving at church services, or in the communities where we belong. Peter also relies on the Godhead 100%. He always try to stress that Jesus is the head of this church, and we must look to him for guidance. In closing I must say that he looks out for membership.” – Carl “**The Panman**” Warren

“We have so much to be thankful for. You have been such a blessing since the first day God brought you to us. So much has been accomplished through your leadership. I thank God always for you and Charlotte and continue to remember you and your family in my prayers. May God bless you with peace, strength, comfort and healing that you may continue in your service to Him. Thank you for all you do. Love, **Eva Yingling.**”

“O Gracious and holy Father,  
give us Wisdom to perceive thee,  
diligence to seek thee,  
patience to wait for thee,  
a heart to meditate upon thee,  
and a life to proclaim thee;  
through the power of the Spirit of Jesus Christ our  
Lord.” – St. Benedict



# The Scarlet Cross

*BrotherWatch™ proudly presents this award to*

*Peter Whitting*

*in recognition of his selfless pastoral care for the little  
flock entrusted to him and his compassionate heart  
for the lost and hopeless.*



*Daniel Borchers*

*October 25, 2009*

*“I have been crucified with Christ, and no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body,  
I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” – Galatians 2:20*