

*From Where I Sit . . .*

## **A New Beginning**

These words suggest many thoughts to me this morning as I sit in a finally completely unpacked office and review what's taken place over the past several weeks. For me personally, and I hope for the church at Broad Street, we have been given a clean slate a new beginning in our work together. It's up to us what we will record on that slate. There is something exhilarating about a fresh start that I hope we can seize and build on. There is an "air" of expectancy surrounding us. We should each one of us focus on what we will do with this marvelous time in our history. I've often thought back on Esther and Mordecai's charge to her in Esther 4:14, "For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (Emphasis mine, TLB). I choose to believe that we've been brought together for this very special time in our work.

The church here has a colorful history. You've been guided throughout the years by men of vision, many already departed into eternity. Great preachers have filled this pulpit and wonderful works have been accomplished for the glory of God. We all have our history to look back on with either gratification or disappointment. The point is that we cannot live in that past. God has given us "such a time as this" to live in and continue to pursue great things for His glory. We can build on that past; learn from the successes and failures; receive motivation to want to do even better; or we can be satisfied with the journey we've taken and fail to see the excitement of really living in the present. I for one choose to press on. I believe that is the spirit I see present at Broad Street.

There is an "air" of enthusiasm here that caught my attention. Nine elders are excited about the upcoming Work Plan. Many members have signed up to be a part of various important roles in ministry to one another. Worship services are uplifting. The singing has been absolutely beautiful. There has been an enthusiastic response to fellowships. We have enjoyed 4 already since arriving here the first of May. They have encouraged me that there is much love in this church. The voices of 100+ singers in our devotional out at the lake last Saturday in spite of the cold wind was a highlight of the month for me. The workers who prepared all that marvelous food for the fish supper were fantastic in their volunteer spirit.

Our very first "kick-off" Sunday on May 5 was another highlight of extended fellowship (both during and beyond worship). I don't know when I've seen so much food for the luncheon, and the great majority of the church stayed for the fellowship meal after the morning services. Then this past Sunday evening a large number of friends and family stayed to honor our graduates. We had a wonderful time and were especially blessed by Sarah Cunningham's selection of "Memories."

A couple of weeks before that we had a marvelous turn out for the young adults fellowship at the home of Philip and Bridget Street. I think about 27 were present. Kathy and I were thrilled to begin learning more about the younger families in the church. We hated to miss the very first of the "Classics" get-togethers that Ralph and Tammy Cook put together. This is certainly a loving and caring church.

I cannot say enough about the enthusiasm of the VBS committee. These ladies who are planning a spectacular production are to be commended for both vision, skill, and energy. They have it all!!

Thank you for the chance to have "a new beginning." I pray that the Father will help us take fullest advantage of every opportunity to build, grow, win souls, and secure eternal salvation. "Father, please bless our coming to Scottsboro, Alabama "for such a time as this."

..... Terry Broome

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