

*From Where I Sit . . .*

## **School Days Bring Revival Spirit**

No, we're not referring to some charismatic Holy Spirit experience. Rather, I look forward each Fall to a renewal of human spirit; a time to refocus on the local church program. After all, summer vacations are nearly over with Labor Day just around the corner. Hopefully this means more stay at home time for the entire congregation. If we can focus on being back at Broad Street for worship services on Sunday morning even when we have to be out of town for some of the weekends, we should see a tremendous boost in all our attendances.

It was very encouraging to see 354 in worship Sunday morning. We counted a score of regular attendees who were not present, and a number of new faces in the audience. It's time to press forward and leave the 285 to 301 attendances behind us and see this church grow as I know it is the will of God that we grow. In fact, for the entire summer we consistently stayed in the 330's to 340's with only a few exceptions. Even the Bible Study and evening attendances are improving.

All of this leads me to want to say to the church, we must seize the moment of opportunity when it serves. There is great potential at Broad Street for growth from three areas: we need to restore many who have totally turned away from serving the Lord; we need to actively pursue the weak and faint-hearted to encourage faithfulness; we need to enlist numerous friends and relatives in home Bible studies that will lead to the potential of seeing souls added to the Lord daily.

Our education, youth, evangelism and benevolence programs should focus on objectives of 1) saving the lost; 2) keeping the saved saved. Classes, programs of activity, and direct attempts to interest others in soul-saving Bible study will keep us moving forward.

When we mention that we know it is the will of God that we grow, we are not trying to play God. We are merely looking at His purpose for the church, visualize: to make known His manifold wisdom before principalities and powers (Eph. 3:10) and to carry the Gospel to every soul we can reach (Acts 8:4). His design is such that thousands were added to the Lord beginning at Pentecost and running throughout the remainder of the First Century.

I want to encourage each member at Broad Street to begin a personal campaign of restoring our lost brethren, and of personally speaking to someone who is not a Christian about studying the Bible together. Our committees will be presenting special outreach projects and goals, but the bottom line is that each one of us must say something to those we hope to reach. "Let the redeemed of the LORD say so . . ." (Psalms 107:2).

..... Terry Broome

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