

From Where I Sit . . .

A CLOSER LOOK AT BROAD STREET

This past weekend was a milestone experience for the Broad Street congregation. All of our deacons, elders, and minister who could be there attended an overnight retreat for discussing the needs of this congregation and how best to meet those needs. Twenty-five men were present. This was billed as the first annual retreat of this type. The participation was marvelous. A lot of good ideas came out of the discussions, and perhaps more importantly, I sensed a genuine commitment on the part of each person there to the work at Broad Street. Great things can happen when we harness our work forces, and when we call upon God for help.

I want to reflect on some items of interest to me personally pertaining to the church here. Did you know for example that we have 519 names in our database of members and their non-baptized spouses and children. The actual membership stands at 379 including our homebound and nursing home members. This leaves another 140 non-members who attend from time to time, or even regularly. Of the 140, 94 are children, 6 are female spouses, and 39 are male spouses. It becomes apparent that our most fertile prospect list could very well be in our very own families.

Even though our Sunday morning attendances have been improving steadily, it has become increasingly obvious that there is so much more that can be done. 288 of our actual members have been in at least 1 service on Sunday morning since the first of the year. Of the 91 who have not been here, 37 are either homebound, nursing home, or away at school, etc. This sadly means that 47 members haven't made it yet OR, perhaps they're just not signing the attendance sheets.

We are totally dependent on your willingness to sign these sheets Sunday morning and Sunday night in order to have an accurate picture, not only of attendance, but of potential spiritual problems. Please help us by cooperating in this project.

Our contributions for 2002 were \$583 per week higher than the 2001 contributions. The elders have moved our budget up from the \$5164 which we surpassed by \$134 per week!!! THE NEW BUDGET FOR 2003 IS \$5501 PER WEEK!!! Not only can we meet this budget, but a church of this size can very well surpass it if we each "lay by in store as God has prospered us," (1 Cor. 16:1-2).

Did you know that during the past year this church put almost \$15,000 into benevolence works?? That doesn't include the 254 families that we helped with food and clothing. Additionally, Over \$100,000 went directly into teaching the Gospel at home and abroad.

We have been richly blessed with the acquisition of the new youth and benevolent center. For the first time in many years, we will not be paying a mortgage payment on the church building - annex proper, and will have a greatly reduced payment only on the new center across the street. God has brought us to a time and position where we can do great things for His glory. "For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required:" (Luke 12:48)

..... Terry Broome

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