

From Where I Sit . . .

"School Days: Vacation Bible School Days"

Pioneers who have made great contributions to the betterment of mankind did so at great cost to themselves. We think not only of the explorers who discovered unsettled parts of our country, but also of those who dared to act on theories in the fields of science, medicine, benevolent ventures, and other ways of bettering the world we live in. All these who led the way paid a price, usually of their time, their freedom to be like everyone else, and even of their financial security.

As a small child I remember a comedian on television named Sam Levenson. Levenson once said, "When my immigrant father came here from the old country, he found out three things: 1) that the streets were not paved with gold; 2) that most of the streets were not paved at all; 3) that if they were going to get paved he would have to help pave them."

I can't help but believe there is a great lesson in this reasoning for the church today. Church leaders are constantly looking for ways of getting membership involvement. Just this week I was reminded by a man of this community who is not a member of the church that there is a great need for service by the "laity" (to use his choice of words to describe members who are not preachers). His point was that I could not cover enough ground by myself and was dependent on the whole network of members if the church was really going to grow. How right he was! The church is dependent on that part which each one supplies to the building up of the whole body (Eph. 4:11-16).

Recognizing that not all the work has been done, furthermore, that most of it hasn't been done yet, and finally that it probably won't get done if I don't help will be the beginning of dynamic church growth. Occasionally we hear someone say, "They ought to fix this," Or "Why doesn't someone do something about....."

We're blessed at the Broad Street congregation with a great number of volunteers who work hours every week beyond what one might expect to make things happen for the Lord's church. Most of these folks go unmentioned by name and do not perform their service for the purpose of being recognized. I can't help but think how much more ground we could cover if we could enlist the rest of the congregation to participate with the same volunteer spirit.

Seeing things as they really are plus being willing to do something to help are basic elements in leadership. You will find it easier to maintain the spirit of Christ if you will give something of yourself. Jesus gave His life for the sins of the people. If one ever feels that he's giving too much he only needs to compare himself to the One who gave it all. Thank you to all those who are making things happen: VBS crew, clothing crew, youth committees, food groups, Bible School staff, and all those who call, visit and send cards week by week, to name only a few categories.

..... Terry Broome