

From Where I Sit . . .

"THE STATE OF THE CONGREGATION"

It's an exciting time to be a part of the Broad Street congregation. With the emergence this year of our involvement with Lads to Leaders and Leaderettes training program, and with the unveiling this week of an all-new program of congregational development, we are being presented with a great opportunity to see the church grow. We hope to be able to meet the needs of each sector of this church family, and provide a base of work from which tremendous growth can result. No one should get lost in the "shuffle."

The Elders sponsored a retreat for Elders-Deacons-Preacher (the second annual) a couple of weeks ago which I believe has pumped new life into each of us. The spirit of that meeting was very encouraging, and supportive of the direction we are charting. Our deacons were able to evaluate things they've witnessed that meant a lot to them in the past year and to stress things they would like to see happen. It was a thrilling experience to hear them describe their reactions to the work our young adults are doing together; the many-faceted youth work; the friendliness and openness of the congregation to one another; and their own excitement about the forthcoming programs.

This congregation is full of workers. Our benevolent-clothing program (now relocated to the facility behind our youth center across the street) has involved a number of volunteers in hundreds of hours of hard work, and is fully functional once again. The pantry work is widely supported by families who bring bags of groceries to meet the needs of many Jackson County families weekly. Our card ministries are actually hard to keep up with, from Ladies classes, to Classics, to Elders' meetings, to private mailings by scores of Christians, we hear often of just how much these expressions mean to the recipients.

Our teachers are diligent in their efforts in regular Bible classes, Sunday night classes, Vacation Bible School, Lads to Leaders and Leaderettes. The congregation is offering a broad base of Biblical instruction. Our mission teams work often in preparation for campaigns in Belize and in Romania. A group will be leaving in just a couple of weeks for the next effort in Belize.

Can we do better? Of course we can. We should never be satisfied until every member of this congregation has been drawn by God's grace, your love, your teaching, and your visitation to be what Jesus would have us to be. We can improve in our attendance patterns, in our stewardship of material possessions, in saving the lost, in making everyone feel a part of the family. We can improve in the diligence with which family units support the youth program. We can improve in the area of hungering for knowledge of the Bible and dedication to being faithful to His Word. Our worship services are uplifting, but each one of us can get more out of them if we commit ourselves to putting more into the spiritual atmosphere of our worship.

We are family - The Family of God. We should never be satisfied until every family member knows they are loved and received and nurtured by the part that each one of us supplies to this relationship. Sunday is the "unveiling" of what we've been working on for months now. I look forward to seeing you then.

..... Terry Broome

Printed in the *Broad Street Banner*, Volume XIX, Number 11, March 17, 2004.