

*From Where I Sit . . .*

## **"VBS 2004 A GREAT SUCCESS"**

Each year we approach Vacation Bible School with excitement and some "gitters." There is so much excitement in seeing the enthusiasm of these little children as they spring right into the songs, classes and learning station activities. Their eagerness to be here and to learn new things is both heart warming and encouraging that we are doing a good thing. I see in the faces of each of these students opportunity and our future. The impressions we make on their minds and hearts today may very well affect decisions they will make for the Lord tomorrow.

The Lord planned that the spread of Christianity was to be done through teaching the Word and through living it that others might see. A major focus of the New Testament was on finding or creating an opportunity to tell others about Jesus and His saving grace. Along with this was the teaching that would help people to be more like Jesus in day to day experiences. We must find a way to show a new generation the importance of being like Jesus, loving like Jesus, living like Jesus.

Many opportunities are available for us to do just that. Certainly we must start with where we live and who we are. Our neighbors need to see in us a transformed life so that they can be drawn to want this way of living. Jesus instructed the disciples to let their lights shine so others could see their good works and glorify God. They need to see our choices of good over evil, righteousness over unrighteousness; and they need to see the consistency of our living so that our profession matches our conduct.

Then we must find ways of getting the message to a lost and dying world. Frankly, we're outnumbered, but so then was the Lord. We must be about our Father's business regardless of the odds. There are means the world has at its disposal we are not free to use. We are the church and as such we are not able to change our worship services into Rock concerts to draw a crowd. Worship is worship and not a performance. We are, however, blessed with the privilege to conduct many activities outside of worship in a Christ-like manner that can help draw others attention to seeking the Savior. Jesus did this himself, both out of compassion for the poor, and out of a desire to teach them a better way of life. He fed the masses so He could continue teaching and save the masses.

Vacation Bible School along with scores of other outreaches are means by which we attempt to awaken our friends around us to the need for a relationship with Jesus. Broad Street congregation has good VBS's. I cannot say enough for the volunteer spirit and second mile servant attitudes of scores of adults and teens who amass countless hundreds of man hours before VBS ever starts in preparing for the children. This results in good VBS's. So far this year we've had 188 on Monday, 219 on Tuesday, and 212 on Wednesday. Most of these numbers are children and teens. Much learning opportunity is going on. Dear Lord, please help us to follow up on these new opportunities and reach moms and dads as well with your precious Good News. Care Group leaders and team members roll up your sleeves. We have a work to do.

..... Terry Broome

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