

*From Where I Sit . . .*

## **“2005 CONVENTION GREAT SUCCESS”**

How better to describe the Lads to Leaders and Leaderettes 2005 Convention at Opryland Hotel than to say it was a Great Success!! That’s true from the numerical standpoint with some 10,300 participants in Nashville, and approaching 4,000 in Atlanta and Orlando combined. It’s also true from the individual’s standpoint as we witnessed case after case of students who are growing in their involvement in spiritual things. It certainly is true for our Broad Street team. We only began our program 18 months ago, and attended the first convention in ‘04 as spectators. This year we had a number of entries and indications are the appetites are now really whetted for greater involvement for 2006.

It’s exciting to watch parents and children as they begin to dream about what they can / or will do next year! I’ve heard so many interesting comments that tell me our program is now ready to start really growing. Adults are just as excited as the young folks are.

We challenged our group from the pulpit Sunday night to begin at once the Bible reading of the New Testament which, coupled with entry in two events at convention, will qualify one for the Parade of Winners. Everyone in the group can do this by starting now. We also challenged young and old alike to begin memorizing verses of Scripture for the Centurion of Scriptures award. By repeating 10 at a time in 10 settings, one can receive the bronze award; two sets of 50 each is for silver; and all 100 verses in one setting brings the gold. Older students past the 6<sup>th</sup> grade should take time to look at the Advance Bible Reading category. It’s within your reach to achieve any and all of these awards.

Our puppets can easily qualify for the Advanced Puppet award by expanding their role in puppetry. They already have a head start by being involved on Sunday nights. Bible Bowl is a year-round project, and Genesis is a big book. Start reading now. Later the new “Pearls” division of Lads to Leaders will be ready to unveil in which students can study a manual that’s specifically written around the stories from Genesis and be tested on their knowledge of these. This “Pearls” category replaces “Prevent Disaster Written Test” in 2006.

Several students have expressed interest in song leading, boys and girls. We will provide continued coaching in this area, and hope to have some students show an interest in speech by next year.

Art, Scrapbook, Banners, all are areas where you can find a place to be involved. This year we had numerous art entries and an excellent scrapbook. Lads to Leaders and Leaderettes is about preparing today for the great responsibility of leading in the church, the home, and the community. This is a work that is ongoing, and there’s room for all. Adult mentors are needed to work side by side with these young people. There is so much joy in seeing students and mentors rushing to each other to share in the excitement of achievements made. To coin a phrase being championed in political circles: “No child left behind.” We don’t want any of our boys and girls to be left out or drop behind in the excitement of work for the Master. The sun is rising on Lads and Leaderettes at Broad Street.

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