



*From Where I Sit . . .*

## **“Lads To Leaders - Leaderettes To Convention”**

**E**ver since 1984, I get this special feeling deep inside me about this time of the year. No, it's not excitement that I get to file my income tax forms! That just happens to fall at nearly the same time each year as something very wonderful – That is the *Lads to Leaders and Leaderettes National Convention!* On “Easter” weekend each year students from all over America convene for a celebration of what they've been training for all year and to demonstrate knowledge of what they've been learning the past year.

The convention participation continues to grow annually. I've been watching it since about the 2000 mark and the current conventions number over 13000 participants. Convention attendance grew from 60 at the first convention in 1975 to approximately 2200 in 1985. We reached 4200 in 1991, and near 8200 in 2001. Since that time numbers continue to multiply as does convention sites. This year students will assemble in Nashville, Atlanta, Orlando, and Indianapolis, all the same weekend, and all for the very same purpose. Thousands of songs will be led and speeches given, hundreds of thousands of Bible verses will have been memorized, thousands will have completed reading of the New Testament during the past year, and hundreds of thousands of points will have been amassed in Good Samaritan projects. There's more, MUCH MUCH more!!

I'm so thankful that our boys and girls have caught the spirit of cooperation, second mile service, and volunteer spirit that underlies this great outreach to youth, and I'm so thankful that they are getting involved in more and more areas of growth. This year we will have a delegation of 62 from Broad Street plus 4 who visit convention with us. Our first trip involved 43 from Broad Street plus 4 visitors in 2004. In 2005 we registered 45 from here with 8 visitors, and this year 62 plus 4 visitors.

The interest is mounting as indicated by the numbers, and more importantly, our young people are getting very active in the areas of growth and development. This year we have students participating in 13 areas of work: We have 22 **Art** entries; 2 **Bible Bowl** teams; 2 Lads in **Oral Bible Reading**; 6 Leaderettes in Oral Bible Reading; 2 **Puppet** Teams; 1 **Group Scrapbook** entry; 4 **boys** and 11 girls in **Song Leading**; 1 **speech** entry; 3 **Centurion of Scripture** Bronze winners for 100 memory verses; 24 **Good Samaritans** (11 Bronze; 6 Silver; 4 Gold; 3 Platinum); 14 participants in the **Parade of Winners** who read their New Testaments all the way through. Additionally we have the support on this trip of 30 adults on this trip serving from chaperones, trip leader, convention staff, and 25 judging positions for the various events.

Many of our families will need financial help to make this trip. The elders generously budget all of the registration fees and one half of the room fees for each participant. The other half room fee for 3 nights plus food will cost each person somewhere near \$110. Obviously families with several members going will feel a big sting in their budgets. If you wish to help sponsor students and chaperones in any amount, it all adds up. Please see Jim Flowers, John Porter or myself. We leave for convention in just over 1 month, April 13.

**. . . . Terry Broome**