



From Where I Sit . . .

“Lads and Leaderettes – A Great Legacy”

A legacy no doubt means different things to different folks. To those of us who have realized the significance of Dr. Jack Zorn’s dreams of the 1960’s when the youth in America were being accused of going to pot (literally) – when Jack dared to believe that there was a redeeming quality within the youth of America which needed tapping in to – when he saw the need for intensive training that would prepare generations of students in the church to embrace the theme, **“Our Country, Love It and Lead It”** – to those of us who see the significance of this dream – the legacy is a means to the preservation of our youth in the church and in their world.

The history of Lads to Leaders has been dynamic in offering tools, direction, and hope for local congregations who were struggling to save their young people. It seems to understate the case to merely say that the program has been successful, and that each year it continues to grow by leaps and bound. That summation misses the real measure of the success. Consider all those of yesteryear’s Lads and Leaderettes over a span of nearly 40 years who are now serving as ministers, youth ministers, elders, deacons, education directors, team leaders for their own Lads to Leaders and Leaderettes programs? How about all the wonderful young ladies who are wives of elders, ministers, youth ministers, deacons; and other young ladies who have found themselves in the middle of a vital work of teaching and leading today’s young girls as faithful Bible class teachers. Many of these former students, male and female, are great successes in politics, public and private education, business, and certainly as mentors to little children who will one day grow up to carry this same banner.

My wife and I have two sons and a daughter who are among that number. The legacy to us is very personal and very real!!!! No doubt it is for parents within congregations all over the country who found a tool to work with that paid a rich dividend.

Through the years the church has seen many “fads” come and go – bus programs and others. For the most part they had a 1-5 year life span – some a little longer. As a program, Lads to Leaders has survived nearly 40 years because each person whose heart it touched saw the genuine value of it and didn’t dare let it die where they lived. Beginning with Dr. Zorn and Frances, and passed on through the original 8 students to presently nearly 17,000 students and mentors attending 2008 conventions at the four locations, none of these people could turn it loose nor let it die. This was no fad! To each one of us was passed a dream that things could be better, that there was hope, that here was something worth sacrificing for.

Our legacy is measured in the changed lives of scores of thousands of boys, girls, men and women – lives changed by their opportunity to be in or help to lead a program so productive, so vital to the spiritual development of our greatest natural resource ---- **OUR CHILDREN!!!**

We owe it to the children who are yet to be born to see to it that this tool will be there for them when they come of age to reap the benefits of the greatest training program the church has known.

. . . . Terry Broome