



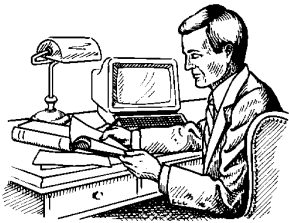
BROAD STREET

BANNER

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From Where I Sit . . .

“LEADERSHIP TRAINING AND LADS TO LEADERS”

In the late 1970's I read of a program that caught my attention called “Lads to Leaders and Leaderettes.” At that time I was preaching in Oklahoma but nearing a transition point for Kathy and I to move our family to Valdosta, Georgia in early 1979. After getting our feet wet there in world missions and many other exciting ventures including working with young men to teach them how to preach, the need became more apparent for a systematic program. In 1983 the Education Committee and Youth Committee of that congregation spent a lot of time researching our needs and by early 1984 we were ready to invite Dr. Jack Zorn, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Lads to Leaders..... to visit us at Forrest Park. That's where my involvement in Lads to Leaders really begins.

Later that year we began teaching an exciting curriculum of leadership training material on Wednesday nights, and began our preparation to attend our first National Convention in 1985. It was a much smaller convention back then, somewhere around 2000. It had grown from 60 at the very first convention back in 1975 held in Montgomery at Alabama Christian College (now Faulkner University) in just 10 years to over 2000 at the first convention our group attended. Our program blossomed and the adult-youth relationship soared. Over a span of 26 years I've personally witnessed the “Lads/Leaderettes” program as an instrumental tool in leadership development for hundreds of students where I preached, and scores of thousands over our brotherhood. I have never regretted being a part of the Lads program locally or on the national level where I've been honored to serve since 1991. Dr. Zorn has retired now, and he with his dear wife Frances are recovering from a life threatening auto accident last month. We're hopeful he will be able to attend the convention at Opryland, but Frances has a long way to go in her physical therapy.

Frances' brother, Roy Johnson, is Executive Director now, and doing a wonderful job in directing the program. This year we open the 5th convention site in Memphis which is a historical milestone: 5 simultaneous conventions of Lads to Leaders and Leaderettes over Easter Weekend. The Memphis site has taken a lot of pressure off the Opryland site where we've exceeded 11,000 the past 2 or 3 years and used overflow hotels.

I wish our whole congregation could witness first hand what thousands of young people are doing all over our brotherhood. At Opryland Hotel, there are **152 groups, and nearly 9,100 participants from 8 states: Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri, Tennessee, and Pennsylvania.** Thousands of others are gathering in Atlanta, Georgia; Indianapolis, Indiana; Orlando, Florida; and Memphis, TN! **This year, attendance is up by roughly 3% to 17,218 participants in 5 convention sites!!!!** We are seeing a generation of young men and women prepare themselves for leadership in the Lord's kingdom. There are roles for the young ladies that stay within the proper description of God's woman in the Scriptures. I'm excited that we have the opportunity and the support of Broad Street Church of Christ to participate in such a wonderful developmental program. I assure you, as do our elders, that our interest is only in winning in one contest – not the scores of events at convention – but we want our boys and girls to win at the game of life – the Christian life. Run the race, fight the good fight, finish the course, KEEP THE FAITH!!! There are 70 from Broad Street scheduled to make the trip April 9-12. They have worked so hard for several months now. There's excitement in the air. God Bless them, one and all!!

. . . Terry Broome