



BROAD STREET

BANNER

February 3, 2010

BROAD STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

VOL. XXV NO. 5



From Where I Sit . . .

“The Importance of Faithfulness”

In spite of God’s love for us as seen in Christ’s death on the cross; In spite of the fact that “the Father seeketh such to worship Him”; In spite of the fact that fellowship is a natural expression of brotherhood in a family; In spite of the fact that saints are required (commanded) to assemble, churches across America report a serious problem of absenteeism. I’d like to say that we were not in that group. A look at our “real” numbers suggest otherwise but does not and cannot differentiate between individuals and their reasons for missing a service. That’s not our intention in this writing. This writer cannot know what the numbers really indicate. The report is shared here only to cause each of us to stop and ask whether we are doing the best that we can in showing our adoration to God and our love for the brethren.

There are approximately 356 adherents in our family at Broad Street with whom we would have some reasonable expectation of seeing at worship assemblies. Not all of these are baptized members but do attend worship services at least part of the time as members of family units. This does not include the large number of permanently shut-in elderly, nor our college students who are away for most of the year at different colleges. Of these 356 individuals, we consistently have a report of between 120 to 125 absentees each Sunday morning, and 150 to 190 on Sunday nights. A few visitors each week help bring the attendance number back up a bit.

Many factors could account for these numbers. A single mom with 2 or 3 children will possibly account for 4 absences on a given week if even one in the family is sick because the others can’t get to services. This can’t be helped and we all know it. Some are shift workers. Occasionally we all like to get away for the weekend or longer for a change of scenery. These are understandable, unavoidable absences that are present within every congregation in our brotherhood.

It’s obvious that leaders aren’t mind readers and cannot know with certainty whether a person could have but chose not to be in worship. It is alarming, however, that over the course of the year, 52 Sunday mornings, and as many Sunday evenings, our deacons who chart attendances report that 82 of these 365 names were absent from 50% to 90% of the A. M. services; 184 of the 356 were absent from 50% to 100% of the P. M. Services.

Without trying to define who is doing the very best that they can toward the Lord, the bottom line is that people who **wilfully forsake** this important aspect of Christian stewardship are in direct disobedience to the will of God. The Lord expects that we be “faithful” in our service to Him, in every aspect. If anyone is having a spiritual problem that contributes to their failing to be faithful, our Elders and your Minister are here to encourage you and work with you to grow stronger in the Lord.

The end game is the same for each of us: **2 Corinthians 5:10 (KJV)** ¹⁰**For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.** I think we all have the same desire – to go to Heaven one day. We need to help each other be as strong as possible.

. . . . Terry Broome