



BROAD STREET

BANNER

February 17, 2010

BROAD STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

VOL. XXV NO. 7



From Where I Sit . . .

“Glorifying God Through Benevolence”

The Benevolence Committee is the one committee that only a few are willing to serve on, and understandably, when one considers the never ending line of requests and the occasional rude and ungrateful spirit which some receivers manifest. Many of us have been fussed at and made to feel guilty for not doing everything the seeker asked of us. I’m reminded, however, of the Lord’s statement in **John 12:8**, *“For the poor always ye have with you; but me ye have not always.”* It’s one of those needs that is there whether we enjoy responding or not.

In spite of the discomforts, we must learn the joy of giving and ministering to others. We are to be a benevolent, caring, and compassionate people to the glory of God. We need to recognize the importance of showing the Christ-like quality of doing good deeds for others. Paul instructed young Timothy to charge the rich not to rely on their riches, nor to be high minded, but *“...that they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate”* (1 Timothy 6:18).

The benevolent spirit begins with the Lord just as love does. John tells us that *“We love because He first loved us”* (1 John 4:10,11,19). Equally so, we are to give after the fashion of and in the same spirit of Christ who *“went about doing good...”*(Acts 10:38). He loved so much that he laid down his life for us (Romans 5:6-8). The nature of Jesus was to help the weak, the oppressed, the poor. We learn from him how to treat our fellow man.

We are touched by his compassion as evidenced in passages such as **Matthew 9:36**, *“But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.”* **Matthew 14:14**, *“And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick.”*

The inspired apostle John instructs us in **1 John 3:16-18**, *“Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoso hath this world’s good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.”*

I’m very thankful to be a part of a benevolent brotherhood. In recent years it has often been the case that our trucks filled with tons of food, water, clothing, and health items are among the first to roll into areas of devastation. I’m remembering the work done all the way back in the 60’s when hurricanes Hilda and Betsy wiped out much of the Louisiana coast. I remember vividly the response to South Carolina and Miami-area needs after Hugo and Andrew demolished tens of thousands of acres of forests, plus business, and residential areas. None of us at Broad Street can forget the tremendous response to our effort to fill a tractor trailer full of goods for the Gulf Coast states after Katrina struck her deadly blow.

Our brethren have responded all over the world. Recently we’ve been part of a brotherhood wide effort to meet the needs of desperate people in Haiti after the devastating earth quake, and we continue to pour funds into Zimbabwe to help feed starving orphans. This congregation has generated several thousand dollars for each of these last two countries in the past 4 weeks. We will continue to send relief in the form of funds, food, clothing, and health aids to those abroad, plus we stand ready here at home to help local citizens in time of need. We continue to feed and clothe families daily, and we try to stay ready when disaster strikes at home with our disaster relief warehouse at Woods Cove. Primarily this facility has been used to help burn out victims locally. Our benevolence program also helps the needy in the inter-city area of Montgomery.

The beauty of it all is that God receives the glory that He deserves when we reach out as a disciple in the name of the Lord, (see **Matthew 5:16**).

. . . . Terry Broome