

## SOME CHALLENGES FOR THE NEW YEAR

1999 was a great year for the Brownsburg church of Christ. There were goals set and exceeded, and I believe the many prayers of thanks often offered affirm the fact that we are aware of God's abundant blessing. But, we must not be satisfied with the accomplishments of the past. The challenge of reaching new goals should drive us onward. If we aim at nothing this year, we are sure to hit it. Here are four areas that we need to give attention to, some challenges for the year 2000.

**Hospitality.** Each member is challenged to have someone from their spiritual family into their home each month, or to socialize with them in some way to help promote hospitality. Hospitality is part of being a Christian! (1 Pet. 4:9) In some places it seems that it is dying out with the older generation. Young families... don't let the blessing of children and good jobs cause you to neglect the work of sharing with and others and encouraging them. Having friends over is great, but let me challenge you to have someone over who you *need to become* friends with, rather than some you already have.

**Evangelism.** "Each one win one" is a great goal. We aren't responsible for the response of other people, but we are responsible for *inviting* them. Each member is challenged to just invite someone to visit our services weekly (not weakly). Make a list of friends and co-workers and go through the list. When you're done, start over, things in their life might have changed. Monthly, you might try to set up just one home study. There are a number of teachers who would be happy to help if needed. If you hear of someone else's study beginning that you could attend and encourage, then do so.

**Visitation.** Each member is challenged to set one evening per week aside for visiting. Some things are done best and some can only be done, with a personal visit. Take someone else with you or set up a schedule with a regular partner. Visit a guest at our services to welcome them and invite them to return. A five-minute stop might make a lasting impression (and you'd be meeting the challenge of "inviting" in the preceding paragraph too). Visit an erring member to say you miss them or a new member to meet and welcome them, or a weak member to offer your love and encouragement.

**Giving.** The elders are setting down a weekly budget that will be in the ballpark of \$4800 for 2000. Each member is challenged to examine this part of his/her worship and do his or her part to help reach this goal. Did you increase your giving last year? You might need to do this year, remember, "*He who sows sparingly shall also reap sparingly and he who sows bountifully shall also reap bountifully.*"

2 Cor.9:6

Carl McMurray