

"THANK YOU, LORD!"

Thank You, Lord, for this great nation,
Help us to preserve it with our righteousness!

Thank you, Lord, for this great church,
Help us to build it with our faithfulness!

Thank You, Lord, for all our precious children,
Help us to enjoy them and to encourage them in
Your truth and love.

Thank You, Lord, for the gracious gift of life,
Help us to live it to the fullest in Your service
and to Your glory!

Thank You, Lord, for the light of Your word,
Help us to let it shine in our life and to share
it with others.

Thank You, Lord, for our companions and mates,
Help us to love each other as You have loved us.

Thank You, Lord, for the gracious gift of Your Son,
Help us to let Him live in us as we live through Him.

Thank You, Lord, for all of your bountiful gifts,
both great and small.

Help us to be grateful for them all.

--Dwayne Hollis

**WE INVITE YOU . . .
TO STUDY AND WORSHIP WITH US**

SUNDAY
Bible Classes 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY
Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

THURSDAY
Keenager Program 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Church of Christ
R.R. 5, Box 13
LaGrange, Ind. 46761

Elders

Dean Hoggatt
463 3318
Norm Herron
463 3077

Evangelists

Ed McGuiggan
463 2997
Norm Herron
463 3077

Deacons

Joe Hughes
Perry Miller
Fred Oakley
Joe Oakley

LaGrange CHURCH OF CHRIST



R.R. 5 • Box 13 • LaGrange, Indiana 46761

December 21, 1985

WAS IT YOU?

WAS IT YOU who spoke to a new couple in the parking lot on Sunday morning recently, greeting them cheerily with 'Good morning! I'm so glad to see you today!'

WAS IT YOU, usher, who not only quietly recognized their presence but who didn't let them flounder for a place to be seated immediately?

WAS IT YOU, worshiper seated nearby, who was alert as they signed a visitor's card and spoke to them after the service with a genuine welcome?

WAS IT YOU, who then introduced them to others who came by and finally escorted them to meet the preacher?

WAS IT YOU who brought them as your guests to your Sunday dinner table?

WAS IT YOU? Well, if it was you who showed their genuine concern toward those who are new and those who visit, then it is you who have helped us build a reputation as 'the friendliest church we have ever attended.'

--Lloyd Gifford

THE LIVING WORD



FOR A DYING WORLD

SATISFIED AND STAGNANT

In the book, The Pyramid Principle of Church Growth, David Womack made the observation that churches tend to level off their growth at specific plateaus. He noted these are: 35, 85, 125, 180, 240, 280, 400, 600, 800 and just under 1,200. But why is this true? Womack concluded, "In my opinion, once a church is large enough to care for its own members, pay its own expenses, and establish a favorable image in the community, the congregation often loses momentum and is lulled into the peaceful slumber of religious passivity."

Could that happen to us? Three things we must do to prevent stagnation:

1. Realize Our Work is Not Done Even Though We've Made Progress. God gave Joshua the job of taking all of the land of Caana. For a while the people did good, but after they got enough for them to live comfortably on they stopped. God said to Joshua, "You are very old, and there are still very large areas of land to be taken over" (Joshua 13:1). We've many more to win, and a city who needs to know about our Lord. We cannot stop just because we've enjoyed some success.
2. Constantly Involve More People In the Work. This is exactly what God had Joshua do. He was told to take the land and "divide it as an inheritance" among the people (Joshua 13:8). The church can continue to grow only as leadership and responsibility are divided. Our biggest fault has been in thinking only a few ought to be involved in decision making and specific works.
3. Let the Leaders Show Enthusiasm. God told Joshua, "Be strong and courageous because you will lead these people to inherit the land..." (Joshua 1:6). Our leaders must believe and act as if they are men of destiny. When we have faith in our God, in our being His people, then we can lead with enthusiasm. This is the magic quality that will keep the church pushing, dreaming, and growing.

Dick Marcear

FOR THE RECORD:

12/14/86

Sunday Bible Classes	88
Sunday Worship	96
Wednesday Bible Study	62
Contribution	\$1032.30
Weekly Budget	\$1200.00

"Be content with what you have, but never with what you are".

FURNACE UPDATE: The new gas furnaces were installed this past week.

Thanks to a change in schedules, the heating contractor had a three-man crew here to work on converting the furnaces for the entire week. We are now heating all the classrooms, office, and foyer with gas. This should result in a considerable savings in this winter's heat bills. The next item is the installation of some double doors at the entrances. This would help prevent heat loss and also save on our heating bills.

BUSINESS MEETING: There was a good turn out of men at last Sunday's special meeting. The meeting was positive and centered on the selection of additional elders. There were five names that appeared on the Selection Guides. Four of these men are presently serving as Deacons. These men all declined to serve at this time for various reasons. It was decided to postpone the selection of more Elders until a later date.

The following action was decided for the next six months.

- 1) The Elders will work more closely with the Deacons in the leadership of the church.
- 2) The Men's Business Meetings will be on a monthly basis (Time and dates to be determined).
- And
- 3) Norm will take care of the preaching for the next 6 months.

CHANGE OF SERVICE: Due to the holidays, the Wednesday Bible Study will meet on Tuesday, December 23rd. The following week, the Wednesday Bible Study will be combined with our annual New Years fellowship. There will be a pot luck dinner at 5:30 P.M., Bible Study from 7-8:00, followed by games and bowling to close out the year.

NEWS: Gary Pieratt graduated from Harding University Friday, Dec. 19th with a degree in Computer Science. The Pieratts attended the graduation and then plan to visit Jim's folks in Missouri.

Pery Miller, along with Steve and Jenell, will be driving to Arizona to join Hazel in visiting with members of her family.

The Bill Pepito family will be flying to Californis to visit with Bill's family for a couple of weeks.

Sister Goldie Pulley will celebrate her 99th birthday on the 27th of December. Happy Birthday Goldie!

NOTICE: There will be no bulletin next week due to the holidays.