

To the Church

November 8, 1981

In past years the work on the budget for the coming year was done in December or even January. This year we would like to get some preliminary work done well before the end of the year and we thought it best to mimeograph a letter and give to each member.

When the annual report was made in February of this year, we introduced a plan that would designate an elder or deacon to be responsible for one aspect of the work of the church and he, with the help of others, would see that the work was carried out. The assignments were: EVANGELISM, Norm Herron; EDUCATION, Dean Hoggatt; WORSHIP, Devon Hostetler; BENEVOLENCE, Joe Oakley; CHURCH MINISTRIES, Jim Pieratt; BUILDING AND GROUNDS, Perry Miller. Also, Jim Lee was listed for FINANCE and several ladies for various assignments of the church. By and large, the plan had functioned fairly well, however we do hope that as we go into the year 1982 the same plan can be used even more effectively as we seek to carry out the great work of our Lord. We urge every member to support the overall plan and particularly in the area that each is called in to serve.

To date, contributions have been running approximately \$50.00 per week over our budget of \$995.00 per week. This is good, as it indicates the church is growing in the grace of giving. IICor.8:7. This year it appears that we are well within the budget in some areas, such as bus expenses and educational supplies, whereas utilities and maintenance continue to rise. Also next May, the interest rate of the loan for building the classroom addition to the south of the auditorium will be subject to change (every five years) and it is expected that that will increase our payment \$400.00 to \$500.00 per month. This increase will be reflected in the budget for 1982.

As might be expected, a large portion of our budget goes for interest (about 20%, which will increase to perhaps 30% under the new rate schedule). As we consider each year how we might economize in every area of our church program, it seems that in the area of paying interest on our loans, we are pretty much locked in to the going rate. We have considered ways that might reduce this fixed expense but nothing seems to change the overall picture very much. We urge every member to plan his/her giving both in life and in death (through your wills) and together we can whittle away at our indebtedness too.

The zone system which began February 1981 is due for a re-shuffle in February 1982. This will allow every member to be placed in a different fellowship group for another year. These smaller groups allow for monthly meetings in homes where members can get to know and work with each other more effectively.

A goal for 1982? Every member in Bible School! Many are not attending any Bible classes now. Teachers training classes are underway to improve our Bible School program. The elders and educational committee will be encouraging every member to become a part of our Bible School program.

A goal for 1982? Study your Bible and learn its message! It contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrine is holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable.

Read it to be wise, believe in it to be safe, and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's charter. Here paradise is restored, heaven opened, and the gates of hell disclosed.

Christ is its grand object, our good its design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently, and prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure. It is given you in life, will be opened in judgment and remembered forever.

May God bless us as we work together in the coming year.

-the elders-