

SENIOR PASTOR REPORT: 2009

We praise God for a fantastic year in '09! God has sustained us and helped us over these many years, and we give Him the praise! I have heard some great stories of personal spiritual victories and people are growing closer to God, and that makes it all worthwhile!

Last May, we realized a dream that was years in the making! We finally moved into our own building. It was a great step in God's unfolding plan for our growing church family! We finally have solid facilities where we can minister and fellowship seven days a week. I can still remember a congregational meeting about ten years ago when we voted to abandon all hope of developing our property in Eagleville and to seek a new property on which we could build a church. God ultimately led us to this twenty acre parcel on the corner of Route 45 and Fobes Road. I also remember that six years ago we were maxing out our three services at the white church in Eagleville and God led us to hold services at the Expo Center on the fairgrounds in Jefferson. We remained there until last May when our dream finally became a reality! Obviously, this new building has been an enormous difference maker in all phases of our church's ministry and we praise God for this incredible blessing!

We kept busy last year as usual. My average work week was 56 hours. I had 138 visits, counseled 71 times, and participated in 73 meetings. I officiated at 8 funerals, performed 2 weddings, and baptized 28 people at our baptismal service last summer.

My main areas of work are writing, speaking, administration, leadership, counseling, and shepherding God's flock. I also had the privilege of leading a couple of small groups and being involved in Oasis, our mid-week prayer service. Most of you see the end results on Sunday morning, but there is much happening during the week!

In addition to the normal things, I worked to establish our "GO" Team that organized our Grand Opening weekend in May. Thanks to their great work, it was a smashing success! I also spoke twice at chapel for the high school students at Cornerstone Christian Academy and then spoke four times at a retreat for seniors from the same school. I was also given the privilege of giving a short talk at the dedication services for the new Jefferson Area High School building, speaking at the Baccalaureate service, and helping to coach the junior high soccer team.

Last year, we averaged 623 people per Sunday which was up from 499 the previous year. We were thrilled to have 955 people attend our Grand Opening Sunday and more than 1,000 came to our Christmas Eve services. Yes, 2009 was the greatest year of growth in our church's history. We praise God for that as well! However, we must realize there is much more to do! We can never rest on our laurels or believe that we have arrived at the top of the mountain. We've been blessed by God as we've prayed, dreamt, served, and worked. There can be no room for complacency or arrogance so let us press on in humble service.

Before moving on to some goals for 2010, I want to recognize the great efforts of our congregation. I so appreciate the dozens of volunteers who faithfully serve! You do a great job!! We have a couple of gals who clean this building once a week laboring behind the scenes. We also had a couple of guys and a gal who did a lot of mowing around here last summer. We have people who help with food, with worship, with the building, with leadership, with ministries, and with everything that we do! This church is well beyond a

handful of individuals. We are able to achieve because we have so many people who hunger to serve God and put their talents to use. Thank you!

GOALS FOR 2010

- Develop a "Response Team" to pray with people after services.
- Develop a team of ushers to assist our church family, newcomers, and guests on Sunday mornings.
- Hire a fourth pastor. We are in the process of collecting resumes as we hope to expand the staff so as to more effectively serve our growing church and community.
- Find avenues for serving in our community. This has been on my heart quite a bit and we are seeking ways to help where we can.
- Grow our mid-week Oasis prayer ministry.
- Develop a "Care Team" to help minister to the hurts of the congregation.
- I would personally like to write a leadership development curriculum to be used for training here at Eagleville Bible Church. We sense that we need to pour more energy into this area in order to expand ministry in the future. Certain core principles have been used for years and it's time to write them down so they can be passed along.

We look forward to seeing the many great things God will do in this next year!

Ephesians 3:20-21 - Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Serving Him Together,
Bill McMinn
Senior Pastor