

# **2015 Report for the Tomlinson Run Church of Christ**

By Paul R. Blake

## **2015 Was A Quiet Year Relative to Past Years**

- We saw a modest decrease in our attendance.
- We saw a significant decrease in the contribution.
- We experienced the passing of one disciple, Ken Ice, the discipline of two erring sisters, and three Christians moved their membership.
- We also witnessed five persons restored by confession and three baptisms: Alissa Smith, Eddy Krupa, and Alexis Rhodes.

## **How the work of the Lord is to be supported**

- The work of the Lord is supported by the freewill offerings of Christians, as instructed in the New Testament - 2Cor. 8:1-5
- The members of this congregation do so with purpose of heart pleased to do the will of God - Matt. 6:1-4

## **The uses made of the contribution as instructed in the New Testament**

- Evangelism, teaching the gospel to the lost
- Edification, building up Christians through preaching and teaching (includes providing and maintaining a place for worship and Bible study)
- Limited Benevolence, ministering to the physical needs of poor saints

## **How Evangelism is to be supported**

- Phil. 4:16-17; 2Tim. 2:2
- But how are we to fund the preaching of the gospel?
- What are the scripturally authorized means and methods of supporting the work of the church?
- 1Cor. 16:1-2; 2Cor. 8:1-12

## **How Edification and Limited Benevolence is to be supported**

- But who is to support this work and who is to do this work?
- Do the scriptures supply a plan?
- Every member of a local congregation has a Christ-ordained role and purpose
- Eph. 4:11-13, 16
- The scriptures authorize a public report of the work of the local church. We should speak openly of the work done here in service to the Lord.
- Acts 14:21-23, 26-27

## **2015 Work Accomplished**

- A meeting of the elders and deacons with all of the men of this congregation, and a copy of the relevant portion of the minutes of that meeting and the January 12, 2015 meeting of the elders and deacons where we implemented the ideas and concerns presented in the December meeting. We will be holding a similar meeting on a yearly basis for the foreseeable future.

- We significantly increased support sent to preachers last year and will hold at that figure for the foreseeable future.
- We published our own online Bible correspondence course in ten lessons with fifteen questions in each lesson in fillable html format. I wrote the lessons and questions, and Adam & Sam Berdine developed them for online use.
- David Dulaney Jr. included in the adult Bible class teaching rotation, and Theron Smith soon to follow. Ken Fleeman and Heath Baker continue to get experience with the adult class.
- Gary Berdine has shared fifth Sunday preaching duties with the other men of this congregation. We are meeting our goal as elders to prepare men to become elders, and teaching and preaching is a great way to do that.
- We had a men's training class taught by Ken Fleeman. We will continue to hold men's training classes on a periodic basis.
- We purchased a larger screen and a better projector for the auditorium and began projecting the songs for singing services.
- We changed our scheduled time for weekday gospel meeting services from 7:30 to 7:00 PM.
- We moved the Sunday AM worship period from 10:20 to 10:25 to accommodate the use of the facilities between services, and upgraded the basement restrooms for comfort and convenience.
- A number of in-home Bible study efforts were begun, and will continue in 2016:
  - The young people's gathering at the Baker residence
  - The marriage enrichment class begun in the Fleeman residence, now moved to a classroom here at the building
  - The ladies' Bible study at the Berdine residence
  - And the ongoing indepth adult Bible study at the Jones' residence
  - There is an informal, but very detailed Bible study going on here at the building on Tuesday mornings for two hours.
  - There is a Bible study taking place at Fox Nursing Home from 2:00 to 3:00 PM on Fridays.
- On an individual and not congregational basis, we are seeing more visiting take place, as well as an increase in social activities among the members. This is an encouraging development.
  - We have noted that some disciples take their families, children and others and visit the sick and shut-ins to sing, pray, and read scripture with them. This is a wonderful work. I would like to encourage others to become involved, and to possibly carry this activity to area nursing homes as well.
  - These all fall under the NT instructions for Christians to be hospitable. While these will not be works of the church nor directed by the elders, they are works that all Christians should take joy in hosting and participating.
  - Being a sound church is not about what we are not doing. Just because we don't have fellowship hall, don't get the idea we are sound. A sound church has members who practice hospitality.
  - Invite everyone who needs to be part of the group; exclude no one; make personal invitations; don't assume they know they are welcome.

- Dismiss no invitation on the basis of who made it; discrimination will undermine this.
- These things will not only increase our family love for one another here and give every member a chance to be a part of the whole, but it often leads to opportunities for personal evangelism.

### **2015 Attendance**

- Average attendance was 111 on Sundays
- Represents a decrease in attendance of 4 per week over 2014
- Highest attendance was 130 on May 17<sup>th</sup>
- Lowest attendance was 88 on February 1<sup>st</sup>
- Represents a decline in attendance average of 37 over the past 9 years (2005); however, we would have to go back 16 years (1999) to find lower attendance.
- Average attendance for past years:
 

2015 -- 111	2006 -- 142
2014 -- 115	2005 -- 148
2013 -- 120	2004 -- 135
2012 -- 130	2003 -- 127
2011 -- 138	2002 -- 112
2010 -- 130	2001 -- 113
2009 -- 125	2000 -- 114
2008 -- 138	1999 -- 106
2007 -- 133	1996 -- 101

### **2015 Contributions**

2015 offerings = \$129,497.11 -- Average weekly = \$2,490.33  
 2014 offerings = \$177,445.87 -- Average weekly = \$3,412.42  
 Representing a decrease of \$47,948.76 from 2014  
 2013 offerings = \$111,423.69 -- Average weekly = \$2,142.76  
 2012 offerings = \$161,777.57 -- Average weekly = \$3,052.41  
 2011 offerings = \$144,419.49 -- Average weekly = \$2,777.30  
 2010 offerings = \$122,898.88 -- Average weekly = \$2,363.44  
 2009 offerings = \$112,671.89 -- Average weekly = \$2,166.77  
 2008 offerings = \$114,845.55 -- Average weekly = \$2,208.57  
 2007 offerings = \$114,609.13 -- Average weekly = \$2,204.02

### **Past Years Average Weekly:**

2006 -- \$2,393.45	2002 -- 1,936.79
2005 -- 2,295.19	2001 -- 1,808.98
2004 -- 2,218.73	2000 -- 1,616.97
2003 -- 1,936.90	1996 -- 1,238.37

Contributions = \$129,497.11

Expenditures = \$146,978.34

Difference = - \$17,481.23 (\$336.18 per week)

The Lord has richly blessed us and the disciples who were abundant in giving.

### Supporting Evangelism in 2014

Name	Location	Monthly	For 2015
Art Adams	Plymouth, IN		1,000.00
Jeremy Diestelkamp	Toronto, Canada	300.00	3,600.00
John Gibson	West Lafayette, Ohio	200.00	2,400.00
Joe Hamm	Philadelphia, PA	300.00	4,000.00
Ethan Longhenry	Venice, California	150.00	1,800.00
T Munesh	Kurnool, India	102.17	1,226.00
Ruben Sacche	Urbina, Guatemala	278.48	1,383.92
Michael Stephens	Wellandport, Canada	300.00	3,000.00
Mike Vierheller	East Cambridge, Ohio	200.00	2,400.00
Joel Williams	Eshowe, South Africa	400.00	4,040.00
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Total support for 2015			\$24,849.92

### Supporting Evangelism in 2015

- Total Support 2014 \$10,220.00
- Total Support 2015 \$24,849.92
- Total preachers' support increased last year by \$14,629.92
- Average Monthly for 2014 = \$851.67
- Average Monthly for 2015 = \$2070.83
- As a percentage of 2015 total expenditures = 17%
- Compared to 2014 = 7.5%

### Supporting Evangelism in 2016

Jeremy Diestelkamp	Toronto, Canada	300.00
John Gibson	West Lafayette, Ohio	200.00
Joe Hamm	Philadelphia, PA	300.00
Ethan Longhenry	Venice, California	150.00
T Munesh	Kurnool, India	102.17
Ruben Sacche	Urbina, Guatemala	278.48
Michael Stephens	Wellandport, Canada	300.00
Mike Vierheller	East Cambridge, Ohio	200.00
Joel Williams	Eshowe, South Africa	400.00
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Total Monthly for 2016		\$2,230.65
As a percentage of 2016 estimated expenditures = 17%		

### Supporting Local Edification in 2015

- Two Gospel Meetings (Mark Copeland in the Spring and Doug Roush in the Fall)
- Weekend presentations by Mike Stephens of Wellandport, Canada, and Jeremy Diestelkamp of Toronto, Canada
- 5 TR men who preached here 7 times by appointment - \$75.00 per lesson
- Gary Berdine preached 2 sermons, Zach Rhodes - 1, Theron Smith - 1, Heath Baker - 1, and Ken Fleeman - 2
- Paul R. Blake's salary as evangelist plus medical insurance

- Bible class books and teaching supplies
- Total for 2015 = \$78,312.32
- As a percentage of expenses = 53.3% (Decreased by 2.2% over 2014)
- Combined with support for preachers elsewhere, the amount going directly for evangelism and edification is \$103,162.24
- As a percentage of total expenses = 72% (increased by 9% over 2014)

### **2015 Expenditures**

- Total expenditures = \$146,978.34
- Total for preaching and teaching = \$103,162.24
- Expenses = \$42,816.10 (29.1% of all expenses; decreased over 2014 by 6.4%)
- Scheduled expenses: building maintenance and cleaning labor and supplies, lawn care, snow removal and salt, insurance, heating oil, electric, telephone, postage, bank fees, furnace repair, building, property, and parsonage repairs, and miscellaneous purchases.
- Our largest maintenance expense in 2015 was upgrading the basement restrooms - \$12,400.00 (Kenneth Reed Construction)

### **2015 Benevolence**

- There was one collective benevolent effort assisting a disciple in need on a one time basis in 2015 in the amount of \$1,000.00
- There was one benevolence effort given by individuals in the amount of \$2,575.00 to assist the disciples of the Kurnool, India church of Christ who suffered loss of their homes in the Huddud Cyclone of 2014. Brother T. Munesh used the balance of the gift (\$1,105.00) to purchase a used motor scooter to travel for his Bible studies.

### **Policy of Financial Disclosure**

- David Dulaney, Sr., the deacon who serves this congregation as treasurer, generates a monthly financial report posted on the bulletin board in the foyer for all to read. The elders wish for all to be informed of the fact that all uses of the offerings are limited to scripturally authorized activities for the church.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

- Edwin Crozier - Spring 2016
- Jason Hardin - Fall 2016
- Donnie Rader - Spring 2017
- Andy Diestelkamp - Fall 2017
- Jason Longstreth - Spring 2018
- Doy Moyer - Fall - 2018
- Gary Wilemon - May 12-17, 2019
- Tony Mauck - Fall 2019

### **The Deacons**

- Paul B. Blake

- Dave Dulaney, Sr.
- Ken Fleeman
- Adam Berdine
- Steve Gorby
- Jeff Rhodes
- Heath Baker

### **The Work of the Deacons**

- Treasurer, count offering, make deposits, pay salaries and expenses
- Count Bible class attendees
- Keep Insurance policies and inspections current
- Maintain baptistery garments
- Purchase cleaning and paper supplies
- Oversee well, plumbing and septic maintenance
- Schedule Deacons in rotation to count offering
- Assist with building security
- Records maintenance/shredding
- Maintain fire extinguishers
- Assist in opening and closing the building in the janitor's absence
- Maintain fire and carbon monoxide alarms
- Schedule teachers for classes
- Conduct annual fire drill
- Keep a roster of teachers and students
- Maintain First Aid Kit and safety supplies
- Order all class materials
- Taking Bible class attendance
- Taking attendance
- Schedule readers, waiting on the table
- Prepare minutes of elder's meetings
- Record sermons and Bible classes
- Oversee lawn, cemetery and tractor maintenance
- Assist with building security
- Maintain communion preparation schedule
- Monitor and order heating oil for the building and parsonage
- Maintain communion supplies
- Oversee furnace and air conditioning maintenance
- Schedule song leaders
- Assist with building maintenance outside scope of janitorial duties
- Direct themed song services
- Assist counting offering
- Select scriptures for Sunday readings
- Maintain emergency call list
- Add prayer list and notifications to Facebook page
- Escort elderly and disabled in and out of the building
- Assist visitors to find seating and amenities

- Participate in emergency notifications
- Assistance during power failures and fire drills
- Operate the projection of songs during services

### **TR Website**

- 622,000 hits in 2015 (71 per hour), with 81,000 visitors viewing more than one page per visit, averaging 222 per day (9 per hour).
- Over 2500 study guides, outlines, charts, bulletins, audio sermons, reference works, class books, search engine, links, contact information, etc.
- At present, there are 7 people taking mail in correspondence courses from the website; 16 people have taken the online Bible course
- I receive emails every week about the website, and it is updated every week
- Planned for 2016: Children's Bible Study page; initially set up with Bible pictures drawn by the children here, with a fillable format answer sheet.

### **Caring for the Building**

- The Jeff Rhodes family takes care of the building.
- Eric, Sheila, and Devin Martin take care of the lawn.
- Greg Six snow plows the parking lot, and I salt it when he is done.

### **Plans for 2016**

- We are going to have Edwin Crozier for our Spring Gospel Meeting and Jason Hardin for our Gospel Meeting in the Autumn.
- We plan to maintain the support level for the Gospel preachers currently assisted
- We will continue to upgrade the website planning to add a children's Bible study page and to develop a mobile friendly format.
- We encourage in home Bible study efforts to continue as well as to grow in the number of persons involved. We would also encourage groups of disciples to visit area nursing homes to hold Bible study and singing efforts.
- We are planning to resurface the parking lot this summer to preserve a safe parking area for members and visitors.
- We will be doing some maintenance at the parsonage and installing a safety railing in the pulpit area.
- As always, we strongly encourage you to be diligent in efforts to find persons with whom you can share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

### **Conclusion:**

- A. There are a number of good things going on here right now; there are a number of good things planned for the future.
- B. We can reverse the downward trend in attendance and the discouragements we have experienced in past year due to so many health concerns and the sad departure of a few members. We start by reviving our spirits, then we revive one another, then we revive interest in the Gospel in this community, then we revive the number of souls gathered here; sounds like quite a revival.
- C. Psalm 133:1