

## PASTOR RUDD'S ANNUAL REPORT

Dear Church Family,

We are quickly coming upon my 10<sup>th</sup> complete year as the pastor of this congregation. I arrived in this community on 9-11-2001, during the reporting of the Islamic attack upon our nation. In those ten years, we have been through many things together, and I thought I would take this opportunity to highlight some of them.

At my arrival, we began working on an addition to our facilities, and they were completed on July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2004. We built a new sanctuary that seats about 900 people, added an Administrative Wing, built two new restrooms, and did various remodeling to what is now the nursery area. The cost of all of that was \$2.9 million, of which we borrowed \$2.3 million. During that building process, we also purchased 5 plus additional acres for \$120,000, giving us a total of over 22 acres.

In the intervening years, we have purchased a church van and coach for transportation purposes. There has been additional black top added to make our parking area more attractive and easier to walk on, sound equipment, and lighting additions. We have hired a part-time associate pastor in youth, a full-time associate pastor in Evangelism and Outreach with 20% of his time given to children's ministry, and a full-time associate pastor in Worship. The attendance in 2001 was about 325, and as of this past Sunday, we are averaging 488. At the same time, we have had many of our seniors go on to be with the Lord. We certainly miss them, their wisdom and help, but at the same time, we recognize that they have helped us to reach the place that we are at right now.

To say that all has been easy or trouble free would be incorrect. We have dealt with different problems and, at times, struggled to figure out what should be done that would be pleasing to God. The leadership of this congregation has worked hard to do the right things, and I am thankful that I have had these men and women work with me in this process. At the same time, we have also encountered financial constraints that the economy has produced. While we have not had extra money, we are able to pay our bills and are slowly working toward building our reserve funds, so we can pay all our bills in a timely fashion. It takes about \$60,000 a month for us to squeak by, but God has been faithful to us, and we have maintained our faithfulness to him in our giving to national, state, and local ministries outside of this congregation.

One of the really encouraging things that has taken place thus far in this fiscal year, is that at the time of the writing of this report, we have seen at least 36 people make commitments of salvation to Jesus. The drama saw 20 people come for salvation, while in our worship services and other venues, we have had another 16 turn to the Savior. We still have 3 months in this fiscal year, and I pray that this trend will continue.

These are some of the things that have been taking place in our congregation over the past fiscal year and over the past decade. Of course, that is not all the story, but it is a brief overview. I would like to thank all those who work together to help our congregation move forward. The Stewards, Administrative Staff, the Pastoral Staff, all of you, my wonderful wife Ruth, and of course, our marvelous Savior Jesus Christ.

Yours In Christ,  
Pastor H. G. Rudd