

## EXPOSING PERSISTANT FAITH MYTHS

### **FAITH is only for the large Church.**

Absolutely not! It is true that FAITH was birthed in relatively large church at FBC Daytona Beach FL, and several of the originator churches were larger. The former is true simply because that was the Lord's handiwork. The latter is true because in the beginning larger churches were needed to be able to host FAITH Clinics throughout America during 1998. However, the churches getting into the FAITH Evangelism Strategy during 1998 and up to today represent an "across the board" expression of who Southern Baptists are.

As a matter of FACT the FAITH strategy will work in the smallest of churches. All that is necessary to do FAITH is one Sunday School class with three members and a pastor who is willing to lead. The small to medium sized church is the **heart, soul, and backbone** of SBC life. If we are to win, baptize and assimilate 1,000,000 people each year, we must see a change in all of our churches. The small sized church can do more to effect that than perhaps the "mega" churches. The 23000 + churches who reported 5 baptisms or less can be used of God to radically change the evangelism rate for Southern Baptists. For instance, if these churches would be used of God through FAITH to win and baptize an average of only 10 more people per year, that would be an increase of 230,000 per year. That represents almost half of the increase necessary to reach 1 million by 2002.

Frankly the terms small and large in regard to churches is itself a myth. FAITH provides the strategy through the SS to cause every church to be as big as it can be under the power of God.

### **A church needs A large budget, multiple staff, and technical support to do FAITH.**

The cost of FAITH is relative to the activity and use of the church, because it is directly proportional to the number of people involved in FAITH training. That cost is only \$19.90 per participant. All of the training materials that anyone needs are provided to every church as a part of their clinic training. Materials are designed to be used at whatever level of technical ability the church possesses. Every church receives exactly the same materials and all of the LifeWay support as do all others. Because FAITH functions through the SS with the pastor as the leader, multiple staff is not necessary until God provides the growth that makes it both necessary and possible.

### **FAITH is just another of the "latest and greatest" from the "Board."**

It just may be the greatest, but it is not the latest in terms of being a new "program." FAITH is SUNDAY SCHOOL the way it was meant to be; the way it ought to be; the way you want it to be. You do not have to start anything new to do FAITH. Furthermore FAITH is not the "book of the month." LifeWay is committed to the long haul. Sunday School is foundational discipleship and evangelism, and FAITH is an engine to drive that in our churches. The "Sunday School for a New Century" design incorporates FAITH as a part of how to do SS effectively. In other words you will not be hearing from us next month or next year that there is a new/ better way with more resources to which you must change. FAITH is SUNDAY SCHOOL.

### **FAITH is the Lexus of evangelism programs.**

If that myth means that FAITH is a high dollar way of doing evangelism, or that it is only for a certain elite group, then it is certainly untrue. If, on the other hand, That means that FAITH is state of the art, first class, and the way to go to get the job done in the best way, then we confess. LifeWay wants each church to have best of everything to provide biblical solutions that spiritually transform lives. FAITH is a part of that commitment.

### **FAITH is "The Board's" remake of other evangelism training programs.**

While we are indebted to what has been learned in training persons to share their faith through the years, and successful techniques of training have been used, FAITH is unique in its wholistic approach. Another remake of a witnessing approach was not needed. What was needed was a way to bring evangelism, follow up, assimilation, and discipleship workably together. FAITH does that through your SS.