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A Little Taste of Heaven

By Teresa Hampton

It began twenty years ago with three men who met together each year to share sermons and encourage one another. They called it Polishing the Pulpit. The word spread and many preachers began attending. Through the years they gradually added classes for elders, deacons and youth ministers.

PTP continues to grow by leaps and bounds. It offers ladies classes, instruction for Bible class teachers and home-school moms, training for young men as future preachers, and classes for teens. They even provide Bible classes for children so moms are able to attend adult sessions. Attendance reached a record three thousand six-hundred people this year.

What has contributed to its success? Biblical teaching from God-fearing men and women, encouragement and consolation, prayer, practical instruction in many areas of church work, strong emphasis on evangelism, helpful materials to make or purchase, renewal of friendships, meeting new Christians from thirty one states and nine foreign countries, and much more. Did I mention the singing? There is really no way to describe the beauty of worshiping in spirit and truth with thousands of voices lifted in songs of praise and adoration for God Almighty.

After just returning from the week long event I can truly say it was a little taste of heaven. Perhaps that is what Paul meant when he wrote, *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in heavenly places in Christ* (Eph. 1:3). In Christ, in the church, we are blessed with every spiritual blessing. Whether you're worshiping with your home congregation or meeting once a year with thousands of like-minded believers, the church is amazing. The church is a heavenly place!

Today's Verse: *I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.* (2 Tim 4:1-2) .

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