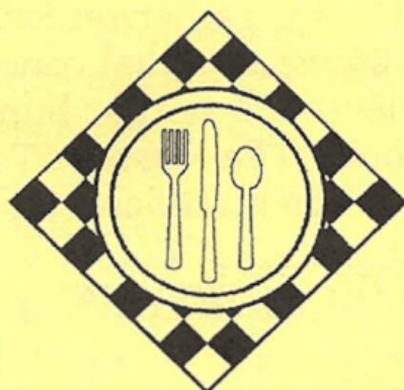


THE MASTER'S TABLE



Geiger Memorial Brethren Church
2543 W. Lehigh Avenue
Phila., PA 19132-3207
Rev. Anthony DiBenedetto, Jr., Pastor
Office 215-229-2967
Fax 215-228-9940

The Master's Table

What's in a Name?

"The Master's Table" is the name of an outreach program of Geiger Memorial Brethren Church designed primarily to reach the drug and alcohol abuser in our neighborhood. The name was chosen in 1989 from a list submitted by those who regularly attended the Master's Table. The idea came from the account in Luke 24:13-35 of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus who encountered Jesus and subsequently recognized Him while He taught Scripture and ate with them. The food for the body and food for the soul transformed them.

HISTORY

During the late fall of 1986, three men with alcohol and drug problems, asked Pastor Ben if he could help them overcome their problems. Pastor suggested that, in addition to attending regular services, they might eat breakfast together on Saturday mornings and discuss spiritual concerns and personal problems. Since that humble beginning with 7 people "The Master's Table" has grown to an average attendance of 40 people.

WHY DO WE DO WHAT WE DO?

PURPOSE

It is our intent to be obedient to the command of Jesus to do good to all men, to bear one another's burdens, and above all to lift up the fallen, give hope to the hopeless, and to give direction to the confused - introducing them to Jesus and the Word of God. Displaying the love of Jesus in the manner in which we relate to those who attend, gives further insight into the character of God and the manner in which He will deal with them if they respond to the Gospel.

OUR PHILOSOPHY

(The principle underlying our work)

[1] Salvation through faith in Jesus Christ sets a person free from the bondage to drugs, alcohol, or any other kind of aberrant behavior.

[2] Salvation through faith in Jesus Christ provides a new nature which provides an opportunity to start over and develop a new way of life.

[3] Bible study provides an introduction to the character of God, the person of Jesus Christ, and to the ministry of the Holy Spirit. The introduction is designed to lead a person to confident faith in Jesus as Saviour and Lord.

[4] Bible Study provides the pattern, principles and knowledge necessary to strengthen faith and give direction for daily living.

[5] Sincere friendship provides support and encouragement as well as giving the person someone with whom they can share their joys, sorrows, and problems.

[6] Attendance at the services and activities of the congregation provides acceptance, support, fellowship with other Believers, and the opportunity to learn more about God, His Word, Jesus, and how to live life successfully. It also provides a new sense of identity for those who have lost theirs or who have had a bad one.

OUR METHOD

- * We provide food for the body
- * We provide food for the soul
- * We provide food for the mind
- * We provide honesty in all things
- * We provide sincere friendship
- * We teach the Word of God *without compromise*
- * We listen
- * We share our faith and how we overcome our problems
- * We understand
- * We point out sin - we don't condemn

- * We give encouragement
- * We give support
- * We give physical help when possible
- * We treat everyone with dignity

FOOD FOR THE BODY

Usually the menu on any given Saturday consists of juice, scrambled eggs, bacon or sausage, grits, hash browns, toast, coffee, tea, or hot chocolate. On occasion we have French toast or pancakes. Sometimes donuts or other breakfast pastry are served when we receive them as gifts or we are able to purchase them inexpensively.

OUR COOKS

Our cooks arrive about 6:30am each Saturday and began the process of preparing the meal. These dedicated Believers do their best to serve wholesome, properly prepared, hot food to those who attend. Each person has a specific job in the preparation and clean up. On Friday evenings several of the women of the congregation get things ready for the cooks, which is a big time saver for our cooks.

FINANCES

There is no charge for the breakfast, however, an offering jar is available for those who want to help with expenses. Both participants and cooks are given the opportunity to give. An old coffee jar serves as the offering plate. It's exciting to see the participants beginning to put quarters, nickels, and dimes into the jar. On occasion the amount received is a nice sum. We praise God that this outreach program pays for itself due to the Lord's provision through gifts received from members of the congregation and from interested folk in other congregations. It costs approximately \$1500.00 per year to have "The Master's Table". No one involved with the breakfast receives payment for services rendered.

THE BIBLE STUDY (Food for the Soul)

A Bible Study conducted by Pastor Ben or invited guest speakers is used to introduce folk to God, His Word, and to personal faith in Jesus as Saviour and Lord. Also, on occasion video tapes and other material is used. If any person attending has a question not relating to the study, time is taken to answer it. We believe that the Bible is God's voice without error, and sufficient for all faith and godliness. therefore, knowledge of God's Word is the only way to faith in Jesus as Saviour and to have a solid base and direction for daily living.

MEMBERSHIP

Men and women of all ages are part of "The Master's Table". While we primarily deal with drug and alcohol abusers, those with a sense of hopelessness, confusion about life, and without direction in life are also welcome to attend. We endeavor to help people with problems in all areas of life. On occasion very young children attend because they are associated with a person who is attending or are sent by those who attend. We feed them because they are hungry, but they must also stay for the Bible Study.

ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

Average attendance in recent years has been around 35 per week with a high of 49. We have had as high as 90 per week in years gone by. Over 700 different people have attended since "The Master's Table" began in 1986. Approximately 45 could be considered regulars. Anywhere from 6 to 10 of the average are workers from our church.

RULES

- 1} No one will be fed after 7:45am, but folk may attend the Bible Study if they come after that time
- 2} If you eat, you must stay for the Bible Study

- 3} If you eat and leave before the Bible Study you can't come back the next week. If you leave twice you don't come back during the current season
- 4} No smoking in the building
- 5} Don't rip us off and don't let anyone else do it
- 6} Watch out for each other
- 7} Be honest with us - we will be honest with you
- 8} Watch our for the building-protect it
- 9} Don't ask for emergency food unless you need it
- 10} Be willing to help us with any tasks- if you are able

WHEN - WHERE - HOW LONG

"The Master's Table" meets each Saturday from 7:15 am-9:00 am in the lower fellowship hall. Those who wish may come at 7:00 am. On occasion a session is cancelled due to very bad weather or congregation programs. "The Master's Table" is in session from the first Saturday in October until the end of May.

OUR HOPE

- ▶ To see an increasing number of men and women come to Christ and rid themselves of their various addictions and problems
- ▶ To have more folk become regular attendees
- ▶ To have more Believers assist us
- ▶ To have sufficient finances to do the job well
- ▶ To purchase needed equipment soon!
- ▶ To be able to make significant improvements to the kitchen area
- ▶ To see more of those who attend "The Master's Table", attend our church services

- ▶ To establish a support facility where men who have accepted Christ can live, study, and grow stronger in the Lord until able to live on their own.

PUBLICITY

The existence of "The Master's Table" is spread through the neighborhood via word of mouth; one person tells another that they should attend.

This brochure is an attempt to gain the help and support we need to carry on the Lord's work among needy folk.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Invitation to all congregational services
- Invitation to all congregational activities
- Community Christmas Dinner
- Christian Film Nights
- Super Bowl Party

RESULTS

- ▲ Some men and women have made improvement in their lives yet have not been freed totally from their problems
- ▲ Some men and women have made a commitment to Jesus yet find it hard to live in the community.
- ▲ Some men and women have identified with the congregation as "their church". They attend regularly on Saturday, but only occasionally on Sunday.
- ▲ Unfortunately and sadly, over 65 men and women associated with "The Master's Table" have died as a result of their current or former life style.
- ▲ We have been established in the community as a church who cares, teaches, helps people get their lives straight, and deals with people "straight up".

HOW YOU CAN HELP!

- ◀ Help in the kitchen
- ◀ Help in the Bible Studies
- ◀ Provide needed items
- ◀ Give gifts of money
- ◀ Pray for the staff
- ◀ Pray for those who attend to receive Christ or to be strengthened in Him
- ◀ Encourage folk with problems to attend
- ◀ Engage in visitation follow-up
- ◀ Help with attendance and mailing