

JG: I wanted to ask that very question. What provision do you make for keeping the lines of communication open with your staff?

TL: Unfortunately, in my tenure in my present pastorate, two of our staff or three really, have been committed to outside commitments, and finishing schooling. When you have three staff members, and you are trying to have definite hours each week to meet together as a staff, it's been less than ideal, especially when one has to commute a hundred and some miles round trip and the other one maybe 300 miles because of outside duties. We are hoping to remedy this situation. We think the staff meeting is important, but we think being together is also important; to do things together as a staff, where you just share life together. Right now my door is always open if they want to come in and talk. I try to be a pastor to them as well, and I also seek their counsel when I have a difficult problem, or if I'm exegeting a certain passage, and I think they're fresher in what they are doing at school, many times I will ask their opinion about something. I hope that we not only labor together for the Lord, but I hope that we are friends, as well as brothers in Christ. I think that is maybe an intangible thing, but I think that it is important.

JG: Does that include social times with the families of the staff?

TL: Yes, I think that is very important. Mrs. _____ and I, on two rare occasions, have had them to our home, to just be together; play some records; talk together, things of that sort. I think it creates a good atmosphere. We try to be considerate of each other in personal needs that we have and praying for each other. My staff has been very considerate of us and has been of great encouragement to me. I value their counsel.

JG: What would be the process say, if one of your staff members had a new idea for a ministry and he wanted to run that by you. How would that work?

TL: They would just come in and talk about it.

JG: Your door would just be open?

TL: Yes, my door is open, and they would just come in and chat. I have to work quite often on appointment because we have a heavy counseling load, so they either contact my secretary or come down and say we want to chat a while, and we block off some time and we talk it out.