

July 17, 2007

Dear Liberty Fellowship Members,

Greetings in the name of our Lord. Many of us have just returned from our annual Summer Fellowship Conference. It was an awesome time. While there, the Presbytery met many hours and made some bold, visionary decisions. One of these decisions was to raise fees (see attached fee schedule). Let me address the reason for the increase.

The small amount that we are presently charging is barely enough to maintain. With such minimal funds we really can't effectively do the job we are called to do.

Some might ask, "Why such a drastic increase?" Answer: if we had, for example, raised dues only \$10 per month all we would have done is alleviate the immediate pressure. Then we would have to come back in two or three years and do it again.

Our plan is to increase the product you get for your membership. We are raising the bar, not only for the members, but for us as leaders.

Beginning in late September 2008, we will initiate an annual Fall Leadership Training Conference dedicated to improving the skill level of our leaders at minimal cost. The goal of this fall meeting will be very different from the summer camp. It will not be primarily relational though that will be a side benefit. This fall conference will be an intense study-work time, like the preaching seminar conducted in April by Pastor Mike Cavanaugh for our young preachers. It will not be for the lazy or weak at heart. Each fall will feature a different emphasis in leadership development such as conflict resolution in ministry, church growth in smaller communities, developing team ministry, etc. Our first conference in 2008 will center on advanced communication. All types of creative speaking, teaching and preaching will be explored. A strong emphasis will be placed on new audio visual technology.

More funds will also help facilitate other services to you. For example, the presbytery exhorted me to begin to disengage from the Denton problem and get my eyes back on the bigger picture of the whole fellowship. To help David Kerr, Mike Bailey and his wife Jane have volunteered to drive to Texas and spend several weeks with the Denton church. Gasoline is expensive. It takes dollars to provide these kinds of service.

In a few months I plan to fly to Alabama to dedicate Ed and Bunny Bush's new facility for Wellspring for Women. Their ministry to suffering women and children is a mercy-faith ministry. I could never ask them to pay for the plane ticket. Our increased funding will allow me to make this kind of trip.

This fee increase also moves us closer to a future goal of having a full-time salaried Executive Director. We are not there yet. But at least it is a step that gets us closer to paying a salary other than a part-time secretary.

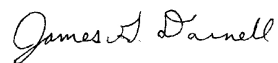
We know this bold step in finances will result in a decrease in membership numbers at first. We expect that those who are in the fellowship only to hold credentials and have little or no participation relationally, monetarily or in attendance will probably not renew in September. There are probably organizations where you can get credentials without oversight, relationship and skill improvement opportunities for less. Fellowships that are really doing the job cost much more than where we have set the bar.

For those to whom this increase involves a genuine financial hardship let me suggest that you stretch your faith and try to see the bigger picture. Also, recognizing the importance of oversight in your life, some of you may be in a church that will help you with the increase. If you absolutely cannot absorb this increase and are deeply involved in the Fellowship relationally and in participation, contact David Kerr and Tammy to work out a personalized fee level that you can handle.

We hope all of you renew membership in September. Good things are ahead for Liberty Fellowship.

God bless you.

In Christ,



Jim Darnell

**Important Renewal and Fee Information:**

- Renewal forms are due in our office on or before August 31, 2007.
- Late fee after September 1, 2007 is \$25.00.
- Your current credential card expires August 31, 2007.
- New fee structure guidelines are enclosed.
- Please note that international missionaries that are serving with a sending agency are exempt from monthly fees. They only pay renewal fees.