

## **A BAPTIST'S IMPRESSION OF THE CHURCH**

By Keith Greer

Edward T. Dahlberg, minister of the Delmar Baptist Church of St. Louis, MO, recently visited the Central Church of Christ in that same city. He gave his impression of the visit over his weekly radio program on KSF the "Protestant Hour, " offering to mail his impression to any of his listeners. Here is a part of his thoughts: "I had a very interesting experience one Sunday when I was not preaching myself. I walked over to the nearest neighboring church close to my home. Now this church was very different than my church. It is a church that does not believe in church choirs ... it does not believe in instruments of music ... no organ, no piano in the entire building. Now, you might say, when you hear about a church like this, "Well, they are sure different" ... to introduce old-fashioned ideas like that in the 20th century! However, it was one of the most inspiring services I ever attended! The congregation was a youthful one, and singing was led by a very well trained young man, with great quietness and dignity ... until the sermon the minister took no part in the service. Eight capable young men read from the scriptures, offered prayer, gathered the collection and administered the Lord's Supper ... I felt myself in fellowship of the first century church. I went home inspired and said it was good to be in the house of the Lord today."

One would think such a profound experience could convince this man to examine his own practices in light of God's word. What had this church done except follow the pattern of New Testament Christianity. Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:1,2; Ephesians 5:19; Acts 2:42. Just doing all things in accordance with His authority, Colossians 3:17. Is it surprising to you that he went away inspired? Following God's will and designs will always be edifying and profitable to man. Please read 1 Corinthians 2: 1-5. Paul said long ago that our faith should be in God and not man. Faithful obedience will always be pleasing to God. Wonder how he knew it was like the first century church? One thing for sure, it could only be by reading the Bible – not the Baptist manual! \*\*\*