

Preparing the Church for the Harvest

Effective Revivals, Revival Weekends and Harvest Sundays



By: Rev. R. Darrel Davis

Evangelist

Foundation Ministries Evangelistic Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 2151

Garner, NC 27529

(919) 647-4565

info@onlyfoundation.org

www.onlyfoundation.org

Myths About Revival Meetings

- 1) The days of revival evangelism are over.
- 2) Revival meetings just don't work.
- 3) Revival evangelism is a modern construct of evangelicalism.
- 4) Commitments made in revival meetings don't last.

The Revival Planning Process

← Prayer Phase →		
Preparation Phase 45%	Presentation Phase – 10%	Preservation Phase 45%

Prayer Phase

Prayer is the fuel in the engine of evangelism. The Holy Spirit is the oil in the engine.



*“A church that strives to evangelize its community without saturating its efforts in prayer is like a race car driver that jumps into a car at the starting line and discovers that the tank has not been filled with gas.” – George Barna, *Evangelism that Works**

“...Men may spurn our appeals, reject our message, oppose our arguments, despise our persons -- but they are helpless against our prayers.” – J. Sidlow Baxter – speaker and writer

The prayer phase continues throughout the entire revival planning process. Prayer should include both public and private elements.

Suggestions for Prayer Preparation

Use Operation Andrew approach – Literature available from Grason Publishing (BGEA) www.grason.org

Use Prayer Triplets method – Resources available from NAMB. www.namb.net (Also see “Praying your Friends to Christ”)

Plan a Solemn Assembly Sunday – Pray for revival in the church and spiritual awakening in the community.

Preparation Phase

Begin by choosing a **TEAM**. (Together Everyone Achieves More) Delegate planning to the team.

Suggested teams/leaders: Prayer Team, Promotion Team, Preservation Team, Prospect/Visitation Team, Sunday School Team, Youth Team, Children's Team, Usher Team, Music Team

Preparation involves several elements...

- Picking an Evangelist
- Planning the services
- Preparing church membership (Visioning and Training)
- Promoting the event (Promotional innovation is no substitute for personal invitations)

Vocational Evangelist or Local Pastor?

1. Evangelists are called and gifted by God to draw the net. God has placed them uniquely among the person gifts to the church for this function. See Ephesians 4:11
2. The church functions healthfully and Biblically when all the parts work together as God intended.
3. Using an evangelist is like going to a medical specialist instead of a general practitioner for a specific medical condition; they are equipped and experienced to handle the task.

Contact several evangelists before deciding whom to schedule. Feel free to ask for references and a message tape/CD. Also, ask your state DOE to recommend someone to your church. Be sure to ask about financial arrangements and clarify expectations as you schedule.

Planning of services should be approached from a "what will it take to reach the lost" perspective as opposed to a "what makes your church comfortable" perspective. This should be reflected in the choice of music, the content of the program, the expectations of personal appearances and the time allotted for the service.

Many evangelists have a preparation package that they prefer for churches to use in preparing for these services. Please contact your evangelist about this.

See the E-Planner CD for Preparation Guides written by NAMB. Visit www.onlyfoundation.org/resources for our preparation guide.

Presentation Phase

The **TYPE** of crowd is far more important than the **SIZE** of the crowd at a harvest event.

Congregation members are the key to a successful event. They must invite their lost friends and family to the services.

A public invitation should be given. It should utilize trained personal workers who will counsel inquirers on spiritual matters.

Follow up materials including a Bible should be available for people who make decisions.

Preservation Phase

Follow up is vital to the success of the harvest event. When people make decisions for Christ, we cannot expect them to be responsible for initiating their own follow up.



Would you allow a new born baby to fend for itself? Would it survive long without attention and care? Neither will new believers. They must be loved by the church, fed from God's Word, and bathed in prayer.

Minimum Follow Up Suggestions

Immediate:

- Make sure new believers have a Bible in an easy to read translation.
- Give the new believer a follow up Bible study such as **Beginning Steps** available from NAMB.
- Give name of new believer to the prayer chain or other prayer ministry in the church. Begin immediate prayer.
- Follow up with a letter affirming the decision of the new believer.
- Assign new believer to appropriate Sunday school class. Teacher should contact believer by phone within 48 hours of decision, if possible.

Longer Term:

- Baptize new believer.
- Regularly offer new believer's classes that teach basics of Christian life.
- Assign new believer to a mentor who is responsible for helping them walk with Christ. Mentors should be spiritually mature Christians.