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### You Can Have Successful Gospel Meetings

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*You Can Have  
Successful  
Gospel Meetings*



**by**

**Alan M. Bryan**



# *Dedication*

This volume is dedicated to the hundreds of dedicated ministers who sacrificially proclaim God's word in Gospel meetings.

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# Introduction

How often have you heard it said, "The day of the gospel meeting is over." If you have heard it one time that's too often. At no time probably in the history of mankind have so many factors been present to allow us to have successful gospel meetings as we have today. Numerous congregations are proving it again and again. To question gospel meetings is actually to question the power of preaching the gospel itself. We need more gospel meetings — not fewer.

Every congregation needs at least two gospel meetings each year. Other efforts might be put forth to train teachers, to edify the members, or to strengthen the leadership, but these should not be allowed to replace gospel meetings.

This little volume has been assembled to encourage elders, preachers, and other workers to have successful gospel meetings. They can be conducted successful at any time of the year, by any congregation, in any locality. Other suggestions could be made, but these should be sufficient to encourage the having of successful campaigns to reach the lost.

May we urge in conclusion an attitude of urgency! Millions need to be reached N-O-W with the gospel. To fail to do so may cause our own condemnation as well as others. May this little volume help you have *successful gospel meetings*.

## Chapter I

# WHY GOSPEL MEETINGS?

The gospel is the power of God unto salvation (Rom. 1:16) and it needs to be preached today more than ever before. But the gospel must be *preached*. We do not need less preaching, we need more preaching, as God will by the foolishness of preaching save them that believe (I Cor. 1:21). Men are lost and need to be saved. We cannot hope to accomplish what the Master wants us to accomplish unless we see that His word is preached.

Many reasons might be given as to why we should have gospel meetings, but we list only a few.

1. God's word will be preached.
2. Souls will be taught through gospel songs.
3. More prayers will be prayed.
4. Additional visitation will be made.
5. More people will attend Bible study.
6. More souls will be saved.
7. Christians will be edified.
8. The church will be advertised.
9. God's name will be glorified.
10. The sureness of eternity will be impressed on listeners.

It is my firm conviction after talking with hundreds upon hundreds of elders, deacons, and preachers in the last fifteen years that no congregation should have less than two gospel meetings each year. To fail to do so will cause members to become complacent and fail to do their duty to win the lost. In fact, it is difficult, if not impossible, for a congregation to maintain a spirit of evangelism throughout the year unless at least two gospel meetings are held during the course of the year. No congregation is too small or too large to do so. A full program of activity may be held otherwise, such as vacation Bible school, teacher training, leadership training, and dozens of other activities but these do not replace the need for gospel meetings.

## Chapter II

# LEADERS AND LEADERSHIP

The place of leaders and leadership in a gospel meeting cannot be stressed too much. Elders and deacons not only can set the pattern, they will set the pattern. Elders and deacons must not only tell others the way, they must show the way. This is true in all phases of church work, certainly in an evangelistic meeting. When the activities connected with preparation are planned and worked out, then the elders and deacons should indicate to all concerned just what part the elders and what part the deacons will play in these preparations. As preparation progresses the entire congregation must be conscious that leadership in carrying out all these plans is coming from the elders and deacons, as well as others that might be selected.

When announcements, special pleas in connection with the meeting, and other activities are engaged in prior to the meeting and during the meeting itself, if possible elders and deacons should present these matters to the congregation. During the meeting, the congregation must be conscious that the leaders and their families are attending all services, but also that these families are engaging in all soul winning activities.

### LEADERSHIP IN CAMPAIGN

At least six months before the date for the evangelistic meeting the group of men who will be charged primarily with leading in the campaign should be selected by the elders. These men may be elders, deacons, or other dedicated workers, but they should be selected with care and prayer. The men who will provide the leadership must not only be dedicated workers, but they must be possessed with great energy and imagination. In order to lead in such a campaign they must be possessed with the ability to organize and lead in the campaign. This task is not to be given to those willing to be satisfied with a *partial* effort on the part of the congregation. Realizing the value of eternal souls, they must tirelessly plan and work so that a great harvest of souls is guaranteed.

Great meetings rarely ever just happen — they must be planned for, worked for, prayed for, and no phase of the campaign must be left to chance. The leadership of the campaign must inspire every worker to go all out in this task of reaching the lost.

## QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT

1. How many souls are saved each year through the personal activities of the elders and deacons?
2. Suggest several ways to insure the involvement of every elder and every deacon in the campaign to reach souls.
3. Why is it so important for the elders and deacons to set the pattern in this campaign?
4. What qualities must those who lead in this campaign possess to a great degree?
5. What happens to a campaign if capable leadership does not exert itself?

## Chapter III

# DEFINE THE PURPOSE

The purpose of the series of meetings must be clearly defined by the elders, thoroughly understood by the workers. Too often a series is held merely because we customarily have one at that time of year or because we hear that some other congregation has had one.

Some meetings are held to instruct and edify the members. We need to have at least one such meeting each year to inspire and motivate the membership to greater service. Other meetings are held to instruct workers, elders, deacons, teachers, and parents in performing more efficient service. This, too, is important and will become more popular with the passing of years.

At least one or two meeting should be held each year, in each congregation, to reach those outside of Christ. Such evangelistic meetings are necessary if the underlying purpose of all of the activities of the congregation are to be kept clearly in mind — to *reach* and *teach* the lost.

It would help greatly if the elders and deacons would carefully review the purpose of the meeting several months before it begins. If it is to be a meeting designed to edify the church the entire membership should be so instructed. Too frequently a series is held supposedly to reach those outside the church but only members attend due to lack of planning, failure to work and other factors. Consequently, a very discouraging situation develops in such a case. The preacher preaches to people who are not even present and invitation songs are sung to encourage souls who are not present and then few, if any, people respond to the invitation. If we are planning to reach those outside the church they must be present to hear the word proclaimed, otherwise, it would do well just to instruct the members concerning their christian duties.

### QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT

1. Name several purposes of gospel meetings.
2. Why will it help to discuss the meeting early in the planning stages and clearly define the purpose?
3. Can empty church pews be saved? Why not?
4. Why must those who are being preached to be present?

## Chapter IV

# PREACHER

In stressing all phases of the evangelistic effort we would not minimize the place of the one to do the preaching. Regardless of all the other efforts to make the meeting a success, if the one who does the preaching fails to do the job necessary to teach and reach the lost, it is difficult, if not impossible, to have a successful evangelistic effort.

Most congregations make definite commitments for the person to do the preaching for at least six or eight years ahead of time. We cannot say how far ahead of time a congregation should schedule a preacher for the meeting, but we can say that these plans and arrangements must be made far enough ahead of time to have the preacher which is wanted for the meeting. *This must not be left to chance!*

### THE LOCAL PREACHER

Each local congregation would do well to plan to use the local preacher in at least one evangelistic effort in the congregation each year. The regular or local preacher is actually the ideal preacher, year in and year out, for at least one such series. Those outside the church know the local preacher, in all likelihood better than any other preacher and can be reached by the local preacher more easily than any other man. All advertising of such a meeting has a value not only for the meeting but even after the meeting is over. Many illustrations of the wisdom of this principle might be cited but one will suffice. Leroy Brownlow has served the Polytechnic congregation for many years as minister and week-by-week probably leads as many souls to accept Christ in his work as any local minister anywhere, yet he has preached for numerous evangelistic meetings for this congregation and the results have been extremely gratifying.

### THE PREACHER

One cannot stress too much the place of the character and personality of the preacher as well as his ability in preaching. He must be a person who radiates *love*, love for the truth, for the church, and for the souls of men. Dedication of purpose and consecration of life must be apparent in every word spoken and action rendered. People must be able to see Christ living in the preacher if his messages are

to be effectual. His sincerity and humility must be without question. We must preach Christ and not ourselves.

Elders must see that the preacher selected to do the preaching will be one justifying complete confidence by every member of the congregation. He should be selected with care and prayer. As the months go by and the time for the meeting approaches he should be informed of the progress of the meeting and the fact that the entire congregation is praying for him. He should be asked for any suggestions to help the meeting, as in all probability, he may have many to suggest.

#### (Suggestions)

In making the last arrangements for the meeting the preacher should be contacted and asked for his preferences concerning lodging, meals, and other arrangements. Each preacher knows what will be best for him to allow him to render the best service possible and he ought to be consulted.

The visiting preacher cannot hope to encourage the congregation to do visiting and contact prospects during the meeting unless he himself does a certain amount of visiting. Working with the lost must not be neglected in order to visit among the members and the congregation must realize this and not impose on his time either for meals or other visiting. Saving the lost must take precedence over social visiting among the members.

As the meeting progresses the preacher should be asked to meet with the group responsible for the success of the meeting and asked for suggestions to make the last part of the meeting as successful as possible.

#### QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT

1. Name several preachers ideally suited, in your opinion, to preach during evangelistic meetings. Why do you list these men?
2. How many years ahead are preachers scheduled in the congregation where you are a member?
3. Give several reasons for the advisability of using the regular preacher in an evangelistic meeting each year.
4. Why is the character as well as the ability of the preacher important?
5. Why must we have confidence in the preacher selected to do the preaching?

## Chapter V

# PLANNING IS NECESSARY

Very few evangelistic meetings are well planned and consequently few achieve the results that should come. At least six months before the series begins the elders should designate those in charge of planning and organize the efforts for the series. At least five months before the series begins a definite time-table should be worked out and definite assignments made. No later than three months before the date to begin all advertising material should be worked out and prepared. This material should be available in the church office at least a month or six weeks ahead of time.

As each week goes by those in charge of the meeting should carefully check to see that all assignments are being well executed. *Nothing must be left to chance!* We suggest the following time-table in terms of time preceding the beginning of the series. We are assuming that arrangements have been made for the speaker and song leader a year or possibly several years prior.

Six months before date	—	Leadership selected. Planning begins.
Five months before date	—	Definite plans worked out. Committee assignments made.
Four months before date	—	All advertising selected.
Three months before date	—	All assignments completed and explained.
Two months before date	—	Special teachers meeting. Direct mail begins. Advertising is started.
One month before date	—	Prayer meetings start.
One week before date	—	Climax of all visitation. Fellowship meeting. More letter to prospects and to members.

### QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT

1. Make out a suggested time-table that might be used for the next-meeting in the congregation there.

2. Is adequate planning usually made for the meetings in the congregation where you are a member? Why not?
3. Why must definite assignments be carefully explained?
4. Why must definite assignments be made?
5. What values will come if the meeting preparation is carefully done over a long period of time?

## Chapter VI

# ORGANIZE TO WORK

"Let all things be done decently and in order" (I Corr. 14:40). The Lord expects us to utilize every talent of every members of the congregation. To do so, workers must be properly organized. The elders should work closely with those selected to be in charge of the preparation to see that every member of the congregation is assigned some special task in connection with the meeting. Workers need to be selected far enough ahead of time and their assignments thoroughly explained, so that every job will be successfully carried out according to time schedule.

### *Advertising committee:*

A group should be selected at least four or five months in advance of the meeting to plan out and carry out all advertising phases of the meeting. Included in this should be all newspaper and television advertising, both before and during the meeting, placards to be placed in store windows and automobile windows and possibly church members lawns and direct mail, too. Each member of the congregation, children included, should receive one or two letters from the local preacher or the elders urging an all-out effort to save souls. The advertising committee would do well to see that an ample supply of tracts are on hand to assist in all preparation efforts. Also the newspapers and radio stations should be notified concerning the series and pictures taken to the religious editor of the newspapers to assist him in writing up the story. Many congregations, in addition to other forms of advertising, have a formal looking invitation printed with an excellent envelope to use in mailing out to special friends and prospects.

### *Young People:*

All assignments for young people should be carefully studied and explained to them. It will help them greatly if definite phases of the preparation is assigned them and carried out under the guidance of some of the adults able to lead in this work.

### *Telephone Committee:*

A group of people, men and women, should be asked to assist in telephoning. Every family of the congregation should be called at

least one time in the week prior to the series and urged to reach the lost.

In the first few days of the meeting the entire membership should be called again and urged to work faithfully as the meeting progresses. If possible, every family within two or three miles of the church building should be called and invited to attend.

### *Bible School*

Those in charge of the Bible school including teachers, should be assigned definite phases of the preparation work. The entire Bible school staff must make a united effort to reach the lost before and during the meeting. One teacher visited every home of each pupil in the week prior to the evangelistic meeting and lead fifteen souls to obey the gospel during the series. Almost any teacher could do the same.

### *Women*

Many phases of the campaign can be assigned to women. Additional office workers will be needed to help in mailings, phone work requires effort on the part of many and many other phases can be carried on by women. God wants us to use *women and they are willing to be used*.

### *Zone Workers*

If the congregation is zoned and has zone leaders their assignments for the meeting should be outlined six or eight weeks before the meeting begins. Prayer meetings may be held in connection with each zone. Each zone leader should be asked to have each family within that zone present for every service if at all possible.

### QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT

1. Why is it necessary to organize workers for the meeting?
2. Why must those in charge of the meeting carefully check with each committee or group to see that assignments are carried out?
3. List some ways that the young people can help in getting ready for a meeting.
4. Why is it absolutely necessary to have all the workers in the Bible school mobilized for the gospel meeting?
5. Name some ways that *women and women alone* can help in preparing for the meeting.

## Chapter VII

# PROSPECTS—THEY ARE IMPORTANT

Many congregations fail to have successful evangelistic meetings because they do not maintain an active prospect list. Several months before the date for the meeting, those directly in charge of the meeting should carefully study the names of souls who should be reached during the meeting. No congregation can hope to have a successful meeting without knowing the people that should be reached and thinking in terms of these souls in planning the preparation for the meeting.

*How large should the list be?* Such a list should be as large as the membership of that local congregation. If a congregation cannot produce a list of souls to be reached equivalent to the number of members of that congregation it is a certain indication that the congregation is not as interested in soul saving as it should be. Any christian faithful to the Lord in rendering christian service can always name souls for which they pray and toward whose salvation they work.

*Who should be on this list?* In general it might be stated that all those who should respond to the invitation should be included on this list. There will be those attending who are actually faithful members and who should identify themselves as such. It is good for them to do so, and the Lord's work will be helped if they do, but actually a gospel meeting should reach many of those outside of Christ who need to come to the Lord and obey his word. Also many christians have fallen by the wayside and need to be restored to the Lord's fellowship. A survey taken in Lubbock, Texas, several years ago revealed that there were as many people in Lubbock not faithful at all, even in attendance to services, as there were those who attended at all. This same condition exists in all likelihood in Nashville, Dallas, Abilene, or any place where the church is relatively strong. To a degree, it exists everywhere. There are many christians who need to be restored to the Lord's love and fellowship.

*Where can we find them?* We must find people who need to be reached. They need to be taught, brought to services, prayed for and through the power of the Gospel converted to Christ. We must know who they are. We would suggest a number of things to be done in finding the names of prospects.

1. *Take a religious census.* Each local congregation should take a census at least once each year. If carefully planned and skillfully executed it will reveal hundreds of names of people who should be reached. Many of these prefer the church or at one time were members of the church but have not remained faithful.
2. *Check the Bible school.* By checking with the teachers of the Bible school and carefully going over the records that should be kept there will be many names added to the prospect list. Usually there are children from homes outside the church. The parents of these children evidently respect the church enough to allow their children to be taught there and are good prospects themselves.
3. *Newcomers to town.* In any given community people move in at regular intervals. These people should receive a letter from the congregation and within 15 or 20 days at the most, they should receive a visit from someone from the church. Many of these people should be added to the active prospect file.
4. *Visitors to services.* Any congregation will have visitors to their services. Many of these people will be families living in the neighborhood where the church building is located. Others will be friends or relatives of members. A record should always be kept of these people and many of them will prove to be excellent prospects.
5. *Cottage Bible class participants.* In every active congregation some type of cottage Bible class is carried out. In all likelihood dozens, if not hundreds of people have been taught in one of these class sessions and are excellent prospects.
6. *Ask the members.* At regular intervals, at the close of a service or during a Wednesday night service, every member present should be asked to fill out a prospect form giving name, address, phone number, and other pertinent information.\*\* Every active, faithful member will be able to list several people. This listing at regular intervals serves two worthwhile functions. It serves to add useful names to the file and it serves to focus the attention of each member on this work of winning the lost.

#### QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT

1. Why is it so important to have an active prospect list or file?
2. How many souls are listed in such a file in the congregation where you work and worship?

3. Name other sources to obtain names for an active prospect file.
4. What happens if specific names are not listed, worked on, prayed for, and reached during a meeting?
5. What can be done to cause the entire congregation to realize the importance of having specific souls in mind in carrying out all phases of the campaign?

**\*\*For a sample of this form write:**

Alan Bryan

Box 9556

Dallas, Texas

## Chapter VIII

# SUCCESSFUL PUBLICITY WILL HELP

We are commanded to let our lights shine. Effective and sincere publicity will do much, not only to reach those outside the church, but to stimulate the members. Regardless of how effective advertising may be or how much is carried on, nothing can take the place of work by the members. Too often we are dependant on publicity alone to accomplish the task. However, all publicity efforts must be coupled with an abundance of sincere effort on the part of the members.

Radio, television, and the newspaper should be sent numerous stories concerning the meeting both before and during the progress of the meeting. Letters may go out to prospects if they are carefully worded. Mass mailings of mimeographed letters on specially prepared letterheads have been used very successfully.

Many congregations erect a large but attractive sign outside the building a week or two before it is to begin and then put small lawn signs concerning the meeting in front of all members homes.

Tracts stamped with the location of the church building and enclosing a card concerning the meeting can be placed in the door of several thousand homes two or three days before the meeting begins.

It might be arranged for the visiting preacher to speak at civic club meetings or for school devotionals. If properly done a very favorable impression will be left on people.

It might be suggested that all publicity should be carefully done and skillfully carried out. The Lord's name must be glorified as well as respected.

### QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT

1. Give several reasons why all publicity connected with a gospel meeting must be dignified and presentable.
2. Name other ways that might be used to publicize a gospel meeting.
3. How can gospel tracts be used successfully?
4. Why are tracts especially helpful in preparing for a meeting?
5. Why must effort on the part of the members be added to, not exchanged for, publicity?

## Chapter IX

# THE IMPORTANCE OF SINGING

No meeting can be truly successful unless the singing is what it ought to be. Singing is not to be considered almost like "a necessary evil" but is an important part of every service and even more important to the success of a series of evangelistic meetings.

The one to do the leading should be selected with as much care and prayer as the one to do the preaching. One of the members of the local congregation can be selected to do the leading but that person is important, vitally important, to the success of the meeting and deserves to be selected with as much consideration.

The character and life of the song leader will be reflected not only in what songs are sung, but the way they are lead. If the song leader is a deeply spiritual soul, full of faith and prayer, the songs sung during the meeting will reflect such. Song leaders do more to insure success of meetings than anyone else.

It would help if the congregation is lead in the practicing of the songs that will be used during the meeting, possibly for several Wednesday nights before the meeting begins. The invitation songs that will be used should be practiced to encourage great fervency and enthusiasm. It might help to sing the first stanza of each of these songs in the practice periods until the entire congregation can sing each song fervently.

The work of the song leader is to lead singing — not preach. His part is vital to the success of each service but can be hampered if he makes comments between each song or each stanza. Singing should begin at the exact moment planned for. It will help if the song leader knows how long, within a minute or two, the entire song service will last. As the singing begins it should start in an enthusiastic manner, calculated to stir the heart heavenward.

At the moment the preacher extends the invitation the song leader should begin leading the congregation in the invitation song. Many congregations have found it helps to use the same invitation song each night. Each person singing must mean every word expressed and somehow the song leader, in his manner and method, must convey this to each person. Many times additional songs need to be

\*Tied as the invitation is extended. Each one must be enthusiastically sung as this is God's invitation, not man's, and nothing on earth is more important than "teaching and admonishing one another" in a song service.

### QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT

1. Name several songs that are well known invitation songs.
2. Why is it important for the song leader to lead familiar songs during the meeting?
3. Why must the songs be selected with care and prayer?
4. Give several reasons for the importance of the character of the song leader.
5. Do you consider the singing of the congregation where you attend adequate? Why?

## Chapter X

# SOME SUCCESSFUL IDEAS

### *Fill-A-Pew* ✓

In several congregations a particular pew has been assigned to a definite individual to fill on a particular night or possibly for several nights. One variation of this is to assign particular Bible classes sections to fill on certain nights. The definite assignment usually assists in a guaranteed audience.

### *Fellowship Gathering*

Many congregations gather all the workers together for a dinner or a meeting Thursday night or Friday night before the meeting begins and stimulate those who gather to increase their efforts.

### *Morning Visitation*

Some congregations gather the workers together at a set time each morning during the meeting and hand out names to be visited and contacted for an hour or two. Nothing can replace the need for visitation and such a plan usually insures additional visitation.

### *Early Devotional*

Many congregations have successfully conducted an early devotional each morning. A song can be sung and a prayer rendered and then have a fifteen minute sermon by the preacher doing the preaching for the meeting. If the service isn't prolonged interest will actually grow.

### *Fill The Front Pews* ✓

It is a task usually to see that the pews or seats in the front are packed at each service. To fail to do so is to lend discouragement to the meeting. Some congregations make definite assignments for workers to have front pews filled at each service.

### QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT

1. List a number of ideas that might help to prepare for gospel meetings.
2. Is it possible to have a successful meeting without visitation? Why?
3. Why is it important to have the front pews or chairs filled at all services?
4. Give several reasons for the importance of fellowship as part of the preparation for a meeting.

## Chapter XI

# WHY SOME MEETINGS FAIL

We list a number of things, anyone of which or any combination of which, will almost guarantee the failure to achieve the results that should be obtained.

1. Lack of advance planning and preparation will almost always insure the failure to achieve results. If the leaders wait until a month or even two weeks to begin planning and preparing it is a rare thing indeed if a successful meeting is held.

2. Lack of prospects can kill good that otherwise would be done. Empty pews cannot be converted. All too often only a few prospects are brought each night or each day to services. No wonder then relatively few people are brought to Christ when such a meeting occurs.

3. Lack of prayer will cause meetings to fail. We cannot depend on our own wisdom or strength. God must work through us and we must ask God to guide us in every action.

4. Failure of the members to cooperate not only by attending the services but engaging in every soul winning activity planned will cause a meeting to fail.

5. If the leaders, elders and deacons, are not dedicated to the task of soul winning it is impossible to reach the lost. Elders and deacons not only can set the pattern but they will set the pattern.

6. Plain, sincere, faithful preaching must be presented if a meeting is to obtain proper results. "The gospel is the power of God unto Salvation" (Rom. 1:16) and it must be preached in power and simplicity. Failure to do so will insure failure.

7. Incorrect attitudes will cause a meeting to fail. We need to reach people not for our vain glory, but for the glory of God, and because souls need to be saved. The place of the preacher, the song leader, or other workers in the meeting is of little consequence as far as they are concerned. People are important only to the extent they carry out the will of God. Dependence on God will cause all concerned to feel very humble concerning their own service, but confident as to what the Lord can do through them. There is no room for a complacent, indifferent spirit. Souls are lost and need to be saved. We need to let God work through us.

8. Lack of energetic service on the part of the elders, deacons, the local preacher or the visiting preacher can cause the members to be reluctant to expend themselves in active service. God expects dedicated, full service, and less than that is insufficient.

### QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT

1. Would you consider the last two meetings held in the congregation where you are a member successful? Why?
2. Why must we know who our prospects are to have a successful meeting?
3. Do the elders and deacons lead the congregation? If not, why not?
4. Why will lack of prayer cause a meeting to fail?
5. Describe the attitude we must have in order to have a successful meeting.

## Chapter XII

# USE PRAYER

We cite several passages that should be kept before every worker in preparing for a successful gospel meeting.

Phil. 4:6 "But in everything by prayer and supplication let your requests be made known unto God."

John 14:14 "If ye ask anything in my name I will do it."

Matt. 21:22 "And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer believing ye shall receive."

These and many other passages might be cited to convince all concerned of the absolute necessity of prayer throughout the preparation for the meeting, during the meeting, and after the series is actually over.

Long before the series begins the congregation should be urged to pray for the series, to pray for a bountiful harvest of souls and pray for the one who is to do the preaching. The preacher himself should pray daily in anticipation of the meeting, that the Lord will bless his words and actions and souls will be reached.

As each phase of the preparation is made, prayer concerning decisions reached, workers selected, and plans culminated should be made. Each teacher in the Bible class should ask each pupil to select several who are lost and pray each day that they will be reached.

### *Home Prayer Meetings*

In the two weeks immediately preceding the series a multitude of prayer meetings should be held in the home of members. Enough homes should be selected for these prayer meetings to allow every member to attend at least one prayer meeting. Each member of the congregation should be urged to go to one of these places as they are extensively advertised and there engage in prayer for the lost. In these homes a period of singing and prayer lasting an hour or two should be engaged in. It will help greatly if specific souls are mentioned that need to be reached and these names mentioned in special prayers.

### *Congregational Prayer Meetings*

It will help greatly if one or two prayer meetings immediately before the series is held be devoted exclusively to praying for the lost.

Prayers can be lead by the elders, the deacons, some of the Bible school teachers, those leading in preparation for the meeting and others who feel it on their hearts to pray for the lost.

### *Pray During the Meeting.*

Too often we let up on efforts when the meeting actually begins. Actually, all efforts must be increased. This is especially true concerning prayer. Each night thirty or forty minutes before time for the services to begin those who are willing should be asked to come for a brief period of prayer, lasting for fifteen or twenty minutes. In Pasadena, Texas, during such an evangelistic meeting over a hundred souls gathered for some of the prayer meetings held and an abundant harvest was reaped.

It might help once or twice during the meeting to ask those who have loved ones, neighbors, or others close who especially need to be prayed for, to stay after services some morning and together engage in prayer for these souls.

### *Make Prayer Practical.*

The congregation should be led to engage in prayer in gatherings of christians together for meals or at anytime two or three come together anywhere. Specific souls should be named that we want the Lord to help us reach. It is true we want Him to help us reach anyone and everyone, but we also need to ask his help in reaching particular people.

### QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT

1. List other passages that should lead us to pray more.
2. Do we pray enough? Why?
3. Why must we make prayer practical?
4. Why is it important to increase all efforts as the meeting begins?
5. Give several reasons why the preacher must be a man of prayer.

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