

GARY BOWLIN EVANGELISTIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

Post Office Box 869

Summit, Mississippi 39666

Telephone: (601) 810-0810 or 601-810-5768

E-mail: garybowlin@bellsouth.net

Web Address: www.garybowlin.com

PASTOR REVIVAL CRUSADE OVERVIEW

Be sure to familiarize yourself thoroughly with all of the information contained in this revival crusade preparation material.

Some churches have consistently successful revivals. They seem to do the right things at the right time. So, if you're going to have a revival crusade, YOU MIGHT AS WELL HAVE A GREAT ONE! It takes a little extra thought and a little extra effort, but these extras pay off in winning more souls and lifting your folks spiritually higher.

STAY ON TOP OF THE REVIVAL CRUSADE. Don't wait until the last minute to start doing the things you should have done weeks ago. Get your preparation behind you so that you can concentrate on the revival crusade in front of you. Don't try to do everything yourself. Your responsibility is to see that others do their jobs.

REVIVAL CRUSADE OVERVIEW:

1. Six weeks before the revival crusade, the pastor trains the Committee Chairmen using the information contained in this preparation material.
2. Make certain that each Committee understands its responsibilities.
3. Utilize the following Committees:
 - a. Prayer Committee
 - b. Attendance Committee
 - c. Music Committee
 - d. Outreach Committee
 - e. Publicity Committee
 - f. Transportation Committee
 - g. Nursery Committee
 - h. Telephone Committee
 - i. Usher Committee
 - j. Maintenance Committee
 - k. Fellowship Committee
4. Promote the revival crusade. Promote at every gathering of believers and non-believers right up to and during the crusade.

CONSIDER THESE GOALS:

A. HAVE THE CHURCH IN A STATE OF SPIRITUAL RENEWAL WHEN THE REVIVAL CRUSADE WEEK BEGINS.

B. INVOLVE AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE IN THE PREPARATION FOR THE REVIVAL CRUSADE.

C. AVERAGE AS MANY PEOPLE IN THE WEEK-NIGHT REVIVAL CRUSADE SERVICES AS YOU AVERAGE IN SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.

GARY BOWLIN EVANGELISTIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
POST OFFICE BOX 869
SUMMIT, MS 39666
TELEPHONE: (601) 810-0810

PREPARING FOR REVIVAL

"PREPARATION IS 99% OF REVIVAL" - Billy Graham

Revival is a work of God. God desires to revive His people, but revival does not depend on God; rather, it depends upon God's people preparing their hearts to receive the blessings God wants to bestow. The ingredients for revival are prayer, preparation, preaching and power. The first three are men's part, and the last is God's part which happens after the first three conditions are met. The following suggestions are given:

PRAYER

Revival rarely, if ever, comes without prayer that proceeds from a broken heart. This seems to be the missing element today. We want the blessing without the brokenness, and it does not work that way. Before Pentecost came, the people of God were together praying. It is a must to pray for revival. The following suggestions are made:

(1) PASTOR - THE BURDEN FOR REVIVAL BEGINS WITH YOU. YOU MUST GET IN YOUR PRIVATE PLACE AND SEEK GOD. LET ME SAY THAT ONE OF THE REASONS I HAVE SEEN REVIVAL HINDERED IS THAT PASTORS HAVEN'T PRAYED AND BECOME BROKEN-HEARTED OVER THE SPIRITUAL CONDITION OF THEIR FLOCK AND THE LOST OF THEIR COMMUNITIES. If you don't pray, your people won't. If you aren't broken, neither will they be. If you aren't concerned with reaching the lost, neither will they be. Don't look for others to get their hearts right if yours isn't -- it just won't happen. I suggest that you use your deacons' meetings as a time to transfer your burden to your deacons. EMPHASIZE TO YOUR DEACONS AND OFFICERS AND TEACHERS THAT THEY WILL BE EXPECTED TO BE PRESENT FOR ALL SERVICES. THEIR SUPPORT IS A MUST.

(2) Make the revival a matter of prayer in the worship services for weeks before the scheduled time. Pastor, don't be ashamed to let your burden for revival show forth to your people. Your burden will be conveyed to them.

(3) The week prior to revival, schedule special prayer meetings in homes. I have found it very successful to let the deacons lead out in these services and also give them the responsibility for contacting families to come. If you have the Deacon Family Ministry Plan, then they would be responsible for leading those families in prayer.

Otherwise, divide the church families among the deacons in some equitable manner, taking into consideration geographical distances between the deacon's home and members' homes. Ask them to lead in a short devotion and lead out in prayer, attempting to get the people involved in the prayer process. Emphasize to the deacon to convey his burden to the people.

Have the deacons to volunteer their homes and to volunteer to lead out in the devotion and prayer. An example of how this would work would be as follows:

Let's assume you have 100 families in your church and have eight deacons. On Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday nights, you will have two cottage prayer meetings going on each night. This would allow each deacon to lead in one prayer service during the week. On the night the prayer meeting is at his home, the deacon would not only contact his ministry families, but the three other deacons not leading out that night would meet in this deacon's home with their families. Or you could have four prayer meetings each night or eight, or any such number depending on the size of your church. THE POINT IS TO GET THE LEADERSHIP INVOLVED IN REVIVAL AND TO GET AS MANY OF THE CHURCH FAMILY AS POSSIBLE INVOLVED. (See sheet entitled, "LEADING A HOME PRAYER" for further details. Give a copy to each person leading a prayer meeting.)

- (4) On Wednesday night, the Church family meets together at the Church.

PREPARATION

- (1) Make sure each Church family receives a personal invitation to the revival. I would recommend that the pastor either write a letter to each family one week prior to the revival or that he make a phone call or personal visit to the families. A phone call would be adequate in most instances, but a visit may be necessary for inactive members.

Also, have your deacons personally contact the Church families asking for their support of the revival.

- (2) For three weeks prior to revival, divide your visitation emphasis between inactive Church members and lost prospects.

- (3) Schedule High Attendance Sunday in Sunday School the Sunday revival begins. Have each class set an attendance goal and have teachers lead out in the visitation effort for their classes. This is an opportunity to reach many new prospects for Sunday School.

- (4) Have publicity sent to newspapers, radio stations, etc. Have revival leaflets printed and go door-to-door the Saturday before revival, leaving them on doors. **Do not leave in mail box as this is against the law!**

(5) Plan special nights of emphasis - Youth Night, Sunday School Night, Family Night, Neighbor Night, etc. if you feel these would be successful for your particular congregation.

(6) PIZZA PARTY - FOR GRADES 7 THROUGH COLLEGE

I will need to meet with the young people on Sunday morning for approximately five minutes during the Sunday School hour to discuss the procedure for the Pizza Party.

Tickets should be printed and waiting to be distributed to the youth when I meet with them on this Sunday. Print at least 500 of these tickets. I would recommend 1000 and if needed, the ability to get others printed on a one-day notice. If 1000 are distributed, you can look for probably 100-150 young people. It is recommended that a local pizza establishment furnish the pizza. Many times, they will do this for churches for half price.

A sample ticket is listed below.

The "Pizza Party" should be scheduled one hour before the scheduled evening service. It will be necessary to have some ladies help serve the pizzas and soft drinks.

SAMPLE TICKET:

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| PIZZA PARTY | |
| FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH | |
| October 1st | |
| 6:00 P.M. | |
| ADMIT ONE | |
| FREE | FREE |

(7) There will be a need to have several other people in addition to the pastor to do counseling as people come forward for decisions in the revival services. The pastor is urged to enlist and train these individuals before the revival. They should be equipped to lead a person to faith in Jesus Christ and to help a person in a backslidden condition to know whether or not they are saved.

NOTE: In counseling, do not assume that any person who comes forward is saved. They should be asked about their salvation. Also, when leading a person to Christ, make sure that the person confesses and repents of his sins and asks Jesus into his heart (John 1:12). It is so easy for a person to join the church without being saved.

(8) Elect committee chairpersons to handle the various activities of the revival (See various committees and information behind this sheet.)

(9) MEALS - It is asked, if possible, that the evening meals be before the service (except for Sunday night -- see note below). The reason is two-fold: First, and least importantly, is because this is my routine and habit, and it seems to help me from a health standpoint; Secondly, and most importantly, I have seen services run late due to the movement of God's Spirit, and this could create a problem if we are eating in a restaurant or in a home.

Note: The only exception to this would be the Sunday night meal, which seems to work better after the service.

(10) LODGING - It seems to work best to stay in a motel or hotel. It is necessary to relax and rest and to have time alone to study and pray, and this is sometimes difficult in a private home. If it does not work a hardship on the church and a suitable motel is nearby, it is requested that this be done, if possible. I realize there are situations where it is impractical or impossible to stay in a motel, and I would certainly then be glad to stay in a home where privacy can be assured.

(11) SUGGESTED LETTER TO CONGREGATION - Enclosed in this package is a suggested letter to write to your congregation the week before revival begins. This is merely a sample letter for your convenience. You of course have the option of sending a letter like this to your people, writing another letter in your own words, or not even sending out a letter like this. This is strictly up to you.

(12) REVIVAL INFORMATION WORK SHEET - As soon as possible, please complete and mail back to me the enclosed REVIVAL INFORMATION WORK SHEET so that I will have all necessary information to prepare for our time together.

GARY BOWLIN EVANGELISTIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

PRAYER COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN: _____

CO-CHAIRMAN: _____

CO-CHAIRMAN: _____

PURPOSE: To organize the Church in the most efficient manner in order to pray for a mighty movement of the Spirit of God.

1. Recruit two or three Prayer Division Leaders. These leaders would be responsible for scheduling and conducting the Prayer Meetings in the various homes. It is recommended that a short devotion be given from the Scriptures before the prayer time (Refer to sheet entitled, "LEADING A HOME PRAYER MEETING" and make sure each Division Leader and person leading the prayer meeting is furnished with a copy of this. Also, please refer to "PREPARING FOR REVIVAL" under the sub-listing PRAYER, Items (3) and (4) for further suggestions on this.)

2. It is recommended that prayer groups meet simultaneously in at least two or three homes on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday nights, and the Church family as a whole would meet at the Church on Wednesday night. Again, please refer to Item (3) under "PREPARING FOR REVIVAL", sub-section of PRAYER, for ways of dividing the Church family for the cottage prayer meetings.

3. On the Saturday before the revival begins, schedule a 24-hour PRAYER CHAIN. The Chairman will be responsible for this. He will ask members to take 30-minute shifts in prayer from 9:00 A.M. on Saturday until 9:00 A.M. on Sunday. A list should be posted on the bulletin board or other obvious place for this purpose.

4. Additionally, quite apart from the above, every Church member should be encouraged to spend five to ten minutes daily in prayer for the revival. Also, small groups should be encouraged to gather for prayer as is feasible.

"IF MY PEOPLE WHICH ARE CALLED BY MY NAME, SHALL HUMBLE THEMSELVES, AND PRAY, AND SEEK MY FACE, AND TURN FROM THEIR WICKED WAYS; THEN WILL I HEAR FROM HEAVEN, AND WILL FORGIVE THEIR SIN, AND HEAL THEIR LAND."

- II CHRONICLES 7:14

LEADING A HOME PRAYER MEETING

Since the primary purpose of these meetings is for concerted prayer in the interest of the revival, preliminaries should be kept at a minimum. Therefore, the following schedule is suggested:

1. The leader should see to it that every person present is introduced.
2. First stanzas of one or two familiar hymns may be sung by those attending.
3. The Word is God is replete with verses appropriate for a prayer meeting of this nature. Choose from those listed here or use others of your choice to read: II Chronicles 7:14; Psalm 35:1-6; Luke 10:1-2; Luke 11:1-10; John 5:14-15; I Thessalonians 5:17; I John 1:9; John 14:13-14; Hebrews 4:15-16. (If comments are made, be brief.)
4. Be certain the following are mentioned as requests for prayer. There may be other requests from the group, so allow ample time for them to be mentioned. However, remember to allow the greatest amount of time to **PRAY**.
 - A. Pray for one another that we will experience a Heaven-sent revival in our own hearts.
 - B. Pray that there will be a great spiritual awakening within our entire Church fellowship.
 - C. Pray for cold and indifferent church members ... those who PROFESS but do not POSSESS.
 - D. Pray for unsaved Sunday School members.
 - E. Pray for the unsaved, particularly those receiving a Christian witness through this revival effort.
 - F. Pray for the evangelist and the team, including the choir, instrumentalists, pastor and others. Mention them by NAME.
5. Give everyone an opportunity to pray, being careful not to embarrass those who may not wish to pray aloud. "Conversational prayer" is an excellent way for such meetings. In this type of prayer, each person may pray several times, but mentions only one object of prayer at a time.

GARY BOWLIN EVANGELISTIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

ATTENDANCE COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN: _____

CO-CHAIRMAN: _____

The work of this committee should and must begin well in advance. Mere words will not help attendance.

TO FAIL TO PLAN IS TO PLAN TO FAIL

If there is to be a revival, **THERE MUST BE PEOPLE PRESENT**. It is this committee's responsibility to help get the crowds to every service. This is a tremendous task, but with God's help and a good committee, it can be done! This committee will need to work closely with the organizations and will need to use every person in every organization who can possibly be recruited.

1. Set goals - make them a challenge.
2. Publicize the goals.
3. Adopt a plan for reaching the goals.
4. The goals should be adopted in an organizational workers' meeting by six weeks before the revival crusade.
5. Promote the goals and plans in all teachers' and officers' meetings.

NOTHING TAKES THE PLACE OF "PACK THE PEWS" FOR PROMOTING ATTENDANCE, IF IT IS EXECUTED PROPERLY.

Arrange for the following special nights:

| | |
|------------------|---|
| <u>SUNDAY</u> | Sunday School classes pack the pews. |
| <u>MONDAY</u> | Ladies pack the pews. |
| <u>TUESDAY</u> | Pizza Supper - Teenagers pack the pews. |
| <u>WEDNESDAY</u> | Men pack the pews. |

The Pack-the-Pew plan is suggested for the week-night services. The people to pack the pews should be recruited at least three weeks BEFORE the crusade. They should be recruited face to face so that a clear understanding of what they are expected to do can be explained to them. The name of the person packing the pew should be printed on a sheet of paper and placed on the side of the pew. If you do not place the person's name on the pew, this promotion will not be successful at all. There is something about placing a person's name on the pew that motivates them to work. There must be an initiative for them to fill their pew. Just announcing from the pulpit, "Sam Jones is responsible for filling a pew for Monday night," is useless. It will not work.

GARY BOWLIN EVANGELISTIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

MUSIC CHAIRMAN

The music of revival services is of such vital importance that thorough planning and preparation are essential.

When your own Minister of Music directs the revival music, work closely with him. Assist him in every possible way. He will direct the music for the revival and be responsible for the revival choir.

Assist him in enlisting as many as possible to sing with the choir. The following instructions should be followed.

Be sure to confirm the services of your pianist and organist for the revival. Consult with your Pastor and/or Minister of Music as to the procedure.

MUSIC COMMITTEE

Enlist a Music Committee. This Committee should be influential among the choir membership. The members should be familiar with others in the Church who have singing ability. Possibly the Music Director, Choir President, Accompanists and two other persons who are recognized as leaders would comprise a well-balance committee.

ENLISTING THE CRUSADE CHOIR

Those enrolled in the regular choir and others who can sing are welcomed to the Revival Choir. Faithfulness is a must. The Music Committee is in a position to know who can be enlisted. It is preferable that the Revival Choir be limited to adults and young people (15 years and above).

It is impossible to overstate the importance of having an OVERFLOW choir for each evening of the crusade.

A number of at least 50% more persons than the seating capacity of the choir should be recruited and committed to be present in the Revival Choir each evening. For example: If the choir seating capacity is 150, then 225 persons should be enlisted for the Revival Choir. Please do not settle for less than 50% more than can be seated in the choir loft. This will assure an overflow choir for each service and will make available to the Holy Spirit an effective instrument for reaching souls for Christ.

GARY BOWLIN EVANGELISTIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN: _____
CO-CHAIRMAN: _____

PURPOSE: TO "BLITZ" YOUR ENTIRE COMMUNITY WITH THE NEWS OF THE REVIVAL. THIS WILL CONSIST OF GOING SUBDIVISION BY SUBDIVISION, STREET TO STREET, DOOR TO DOOR, AND PRESENTING HANDBILLS ABOUT THE REVIVAL; PRESENTING THE GOOD NEWS OF SALVATION IN JESUS CHRIST, AND IN GENERAL, DOING ALL POSSIBLE TO ENCOURAGE ATTENDANCE AT ALL SERVICES.

1. The Chairman and Co-Chairman need to organize all community areas by streets; get blown-up maps of these areas that would be used the day of the blitz.
2. After the areas are blocked off, teams should be enlisted to canvas these areas. A group leader should be in charge of each of the blitz areas, and he would direct the individuals under him to cover that individual area. Five to six persons are recommended for each team. Specific area assignments are necessary to avoid overlapping.
3. These group leaders should be encouraged by the chairman no later than ten days before the blitz, so he can enlist workers under them.
4. Chairman will enlist ladies to bring lunch to Church for workers.
5. This blitz should get under way the Saturday before the revival begins and continue until the whole area is covered. Lunch should be served at the Church.
6. THIS IS TO BE A CHURCH-WIDE EFFORT -- young, old and all those in between.

THE ORGANIZATION PLAN FOR THE BLITZ IS AS FOLLOWS:

CHAIRMAN AND CO-CHAIRMAN DUTIES:

- a. Block off area to be blitzed.
- b. Get blown-up map of each area.
- c. Enlist group workers for each area to be blitzed.
- d. Group leaders should be secured no later than 10 days before blitz.
- e. Enlist ladies to bring lunch.
- f. Coordinate all of above with pastor and supervise group leaders.

7. The Chairman and Co-Chairman also are to involve people in Operation Andrew and developing a TEN MOST WANTED LIST of prospects. (SEE INFORMATION FOLLOWING).

Below is the information to be used in printing cards for the use of Christians in winning souls for Christ:

Side 1

OPERATION ANDREW

"Andrew ... first findeth his own brother, Simon ... and he brought him to Jesus." John 1:40-42

The purpose of OPERATION ANDREW is to bring the unconverted and unchurched to the crusade services by enlisting each Christian as an active "ANDREW." No sermon can win the lost to Christ unless the lost are present to hear the message. Many who would not come on their own, will attend if invited. In OPERATION ANDREW, an individual covenants to attend the services and bring at least one person who needs Jesus.

Four Steps in OPERATION ANDREW:

1. Begin to pray for one to ten people you know who have a spiritual need.
2. Bring them to at least one service.
3. Encourage them to commit their lives to Christ by giving your own testimony to them.
4. Follow them up until they are linked with the Church and become growing, witnessing Christians.

Side 2

MY PERSONAL OPERATION ANDREW COVENANT (TEN MOST WANTED LIST)

He that winneth souls is wise. Proverbs 11:30

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

God helping me, I will pray daily for each of the above, cultivate their friendship, bring them to a service, encourage them to commit their lives to Christ, and help to follow up their decision.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

GARY BOWLIN EVANGELISTIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN: _____
CO-CHAIRMAN: _____

PURPOSE: TO USE ANY AND ALL MEANS OF PUBLICIZING THE REVIVAL SERVICES. ESSENTIALLY, ITS PURPOSE IS TO INFORM THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY OF THE CRUSADE REVIVAL MEETING BY MEANS OF POSTERS, RADIO SPOT ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWSPAPER ADVERTISING, PORTA-SIGNS, HANDBILLS, BUSINESS MARQUEES, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, WORD OF MOUTH. HANDBILLS SHOULD INCLUDE NUMBER TO CALL FOR TRANSPORTATION.

This Committee, to do an effective job, must explore every possible means to communicate the fact that something very wonderful and very special is taking place at the revival.

All publicity is to be approved by the pastor.

"THIS, THEN, IS THE MESSAGE WHICH WE HAVE HEARD OF HIM, AND DECLARE UNTO YOU, THAT GOD IS LIGHT AND IN HIM IS NO DARKNESS AT ALL."

I JOHN 1:5

"AND STRAIGHTWAY, MANY WERE GATHERED TOGETHER, INSOMUCH THAT THERE WAS NO ROOM TO RECEIVE THEM. NO, NOT SO MUCH AS ABOVE THE DOOR; AND HE PREACHED THE WORD UNTO THEM."

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN: _____
CO-CHAIRMAN: _____

PURPOSE: TO PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION TO ALL WHO DO NOT HAVE A WAY TO GO TO THE SERVICES.

a. The Chairman is to enlist the necessary individuals who are willing to bring people to the revival services.

b. There should be a telephone number to call during the day so interested individuals could make arrangements for transportation.

"AND THEY CAME UNTO HIM (JESUS), BRINGING ONE SICK OF THE PALSY, WHICH WAS BORNE OF FOUR."

NURSERY COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN: _____

CO-CHAIRMAN: _____

THIS IS AN AREA WHICH IS SOMETIMES OVERLOOKED, BUT IT IS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO FAMILIES WHO HAVE YOUNG CHILDREN.

a. The chairman should enlist workers, men and women, at least two weeks in advance of the revival (assuming your church does not have paid nursery workers). Workers should be enlisted on a nightly basis.

b. It is recommended that children four and above accompany their parents to the services. All others should be in the nursery.

c. It is recommended that all nursery workers be established Christians in order to allow those who are not mature in the Lord to attend the services.

"AND THEY BROUGHT YOUNG CHILDREN TO HIM THAT HE SHOULD TEACH THEM; AND HIS DISCIPLES REBUKED THOSE THAT BROUGHT THEM. BUT WHEN JESUS SAW IT, HE WAS MUCH DISPLEASED AND SAID UNTO THEM, 'SUFFER THE LITTLE CHILDREN TO COME UNTO ME, AND FORBID THEM NOT: FOR OF SUCH IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD.'"

Mark 10:13-14

TELEPHONE COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN: _____

CO-CHAIRMAN: _____

This committee has one giant assignment! It is going to telephone every family in the Church once.

1. Four weeks before the revival:

Each Telephone Committee Member should be assigned ten families in the Church to contact.

2. Two weeks before the revival:

Be sure list is complete.

Place the "caller's" name at the top of each list. The "callers" should be the most active people in the Church.

Write a form letter to the "callers," asking them to telephone each family on their list. Ask them to make the calls the week before the crusade. Ask them to urge each family to be present for the first service of the revival. Share with them some of the vital information about the upcoming revival.

The letter and the list should be mailed this second week without delay!

3. One week before the revival:

Remind (from the pulpit) the callers to make their telephone calls.

If possible, call everyone in your part of your town or community. Call all of the prospects. If it is a town of 50,000 or less, go to the telephone company and get two telephone books. Cut the telephone books up. Take the front page and the back page and paste them on a white sheet of paper to give to the telephone callers. Two telephone books are needed for this to be done.

The Telephone Committee should involve every active lady in the Church.

GARY BOWLIN EVANGELISTIC ASSOCIATION., INC.

USHER COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN: _____

- a. The regular usher staff should be scheduled to usher each service as they are already familiar with the ushering procedures.
- b. This Committee will be in charge of receiving offerings and distributing materials and will also be in charge of crowd control as necessary.

MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN: _____

- a. This Committee will see that the Church is opened, lights turned on, air conditioning or heating cared for, and the PA System in order in sufficient time for the services to begin.
- b. This Committee will also be in charge of making sure the Church stays clean and in good order during the week.

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE (Optional)

CHAIRMAN: _____

- a. This Committee will see that there are refreshments for fellowship time after several of the services.
- b. Also, this Committee is responsible for coordinating activities if a special luncheon or "dinner on the grounds" is scheduled or noon-day luncheons take place during the week.

". . .WHATSOEVER YE DO, DO ALL TO THE GLORY OF GOD."

I Corinthians 10:31

FINANCIAL SUGGESTIONS

Finances are not to be made a prime issue in the revival, but it is always best to have an understanding concerning this. I have found that many in the congregation and even a number of pastors do not have an adequate understanding of the work of the full-time evangelist.

Because full-time evangelism is totally a faith ministry, several facts need to be conveyed by the pastor to his people:

(1) Full-time evangelists are called by God to share a special ministry to the churches where they are invited to serve (Ephesians 4:11-12).

(2) Full-time evangelists are not pastors and as such do not have a regular weekly salary. They are totally dependent upon the love offerings of God's people in the churches they serve for their livelihood and the carrying forth of their ministry to spread the Gospel message of Christ.

(3) Full-time evangelists have no fringe benefits, such as housing, insurance or retirement, as a pastor does.

(4) Full-time evangelists usually preach only 20 to 30 revivals a year because of inactive times when churches don't schedule revivals and also because it is physically and emotionally exhausting to preach day after day. Therefore, the love offering during the week has to sustain the evangelist and his family for two to three weeks.

(5) Envelopes will be provided for this purpose if requested (a sample envelope is enclosed). This would allow the congregation to know that they are giving the amount directly to the evangelist as they are led of the Lord. Most people in your congregation will want to have a direct part in spreading the Gospel through an evangelistic ministry.

(6) It is asked that an offering be received in each evening service, beginning on Sunday night, and all monies received (loose as well as in envelopes) should go to the love offering. The best way to handle the offering envelopes is to have them placed on the end of the pew and have the person on the end pick them up and pass them to each person on his pew. This would be done under the pastor's direction as he makes his offering appeal. This appeal should be done during the announcement time to give the people ample time before the offering is actually received. Please do not make the appeal at the time the offering bearers are standing at the communion table. This will not allow the people ample time to prepare their offering.

(7) Expenses of food, lodging and travel (56 cents per mile if by auto, which is the IRS allowance) should be borne out of the church budget and should not be taken as part of the love offering. This is in keeping with the procedure of most churches.

(8) It is asked that the pastor not make a big issue concerning the above, but simply each night to explain to the people why the love offering is being taken and what it will be used for. The evangelist leaves this totally to the discretion of the pastor as to how this is done. It is simply asked that the people be informed and be given an opportunity to give as they are led by the Holy Spirit and guided by their pastor.

(9) This simple approach has been found to work smoothly and effectively when followed by the pastor. God's people have always been most generous and loving in their giving. If there are questions about this, please feel free to discuss it with the evangelist.

**SAMPLE OF LETTER TO BE MAILED TO THE
MEMBERSHIP ON MONDAY BEFORE THE REVIVAL SERVICES BEGIN**

Dear Church Family,

Next Sunday will be the beginning of an event which promises to be one of the most exciting occurrences in the life of our church! This coming Sunday our revival will begin, and it is my prayer that you will be a vital part of it!

This could be the week when your prayers are answered and that lost or wayward loved one is brought to the Lord. We're praying that this revival will be the most blessed and fruitful one our Church has ever experienced.

I know you will want to have an integral part in the services, and you can help do that by praying for the services and inviting all of your lost and unchurched friends and relatives.

Another way to share in this revival is by your love offering. Enclosed is a love offering envelope. If for some reason you cannot attend, you will want to mail the offering to the Church. Please remember that a full-time evangelist does not pastor a church and has no other means of income except your personal love offering. You can be a part of reaching souls all over the world through the ministry of our evangelist for these services, Gary Bowlin of Summit, Mississippi. In his 44 years in evangelism, over 30,000 souls have been saved, and it is because Christians like you have helped him stay on the road.

Bro. Bowlin will preach a simple message that any of your friends or loved ones can understand.

Begin inviting folks now to this Revival. Let's pray that these will be the greatest days in the history of our exciting church.

I am so glad to be your Pastor.