

A Great Gospel Meeting!

by Wayne Goff

continued from page 311302

thought that is! A **great** effort should be made by all members to attend as much as possible because that is what will make a Gospel Meeting work for the church. We are concerned for the lost, we have invited friends and neighbors to come, and we need to be there when they arrive!

7. Greet Our Visitors

"We are so glad to have you!" is a welcomed sight to someone coming into the building for the first time! Visitors come for various reasons, but they are subconsciously evaluating everything they see and hear when they do come. We should put our best foot forward! After all, we are representing Jesus Christ and we are **His** local congregation! How would you like to be treated the first time you come into a new environment?

8. A Clean Building

First impressions *physically* are important. That is one of the reasons churches spend a great deal of money on a place to worship. We do **not** want to be elaborate and ornate, but we do want the building to be sufficient and functional to the teaching of God's Word and the encouragement of those who attend. Think of how much time and energy our public schools spend on classroom appearances for their students. The goal is to provide a positive learning environment for children. So it is with the local church's building. We want to present a nice, clean and attractive place to meet so that people will want to come back.

"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching." (Hebrews 10:25). In order to assemble, we must have a **place**. Each local church has the general authority from which to choose that which is expedient to their situation when selecting a building.

9. Care For Others

Attendance in a Gospel Meeting by the members helps to fill up the building and to show your concern for one another and for visitors. Would you rather worship in a full building with enthusiastic worshipers, or in a building half-empty? *"By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren"* (1 John 3:16). Sacrificial service is a hallmark of a faithful congregation.

10. Hospitality

The local church shows much by its friendliness to visitors — the visiting preacher, visitors from other churches, and newcomers who have never been to church. Many of us can plan on doing something extra to make these people feel welcome — invite them out for a meal, plan a function for the young people, send out a personal thank you card when those you invited come, etc. Things the church cannot do are some things individual Christians might try.

We can have a great Gospel Meeting! The *potential* is there, we just have to **commit** ourselves to the effort! **We** plan to attend. **We** sing, pray and study enthusiastically. **We** invite those we know and care about to come. **We** are friendly to all who come. **We** take the time to tidy up around the physical grounds.

We will leave the spiritual and numerical results to God! *"I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase."* (1 Corinthians 3:6).

311303