

A Successful Gospel Meeting {concluded}

by Bill Crews

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The recipe must include these:

- 1. A qualified preacher who preaches the pure gospel of Christ.**
- 2. The interest and concern of as many members as possible.** Do we care? Do we want to have it? Are we interested in spiritual things (Lk. 10:41-42)? Are we concerned about the salvation of souls? I cannot believe that local members who do not support and attend a gospel meeting want the church to have meetings, want many to attend such meetings, and want the lost to be saved. If the non-members we invite knew that many of the members themselves will not even attend the services, do you think they would feel any need to attend or have any desire to attend?
- 3. The prayers of the members.** For the visiting preacher, for those who lead us in songs and prayers, for all the local members, for those whom we invite, for those who attend each service. That the truth may be taught, that the lessons might be adapted to our needs, that appropriate songs and needed prayers might be led, that the members will all support the meeting, that we might reach individuals with good and honest hearts, that those who attend might be attentive and receptive. Read Jn. 17:20; Eph. 6:18-20; 2 Thess. 3:1. Even faithful brethren who cannot attend the services pray for and advertise the meeting.
- 4. Invitations.** Feel and fulfill your responsibility toward the lost. To invite men and women, boys and girls to hear the gospel is one of the least things you can do. Read the words of the song, "Into Our Hands" (#616 in our book, *Hymns for Worship*) and of the song, "You Never Mentioned Him to Me" (#598).
- 5. Attendance.** As faithful as you can; all you are able to. While brethren who compose the church of which you are a part assemble to worship God and to learn more of His will, what are you doing? If we attend many lesser functions, what are we going to tell God about not attending the services of a gospel meeting? Your example and your influence must augment efforts to teach the word of God, not hinder them.
- 6. Preparation.** Prepare your schedule. Meetings are arranged and announced well in advance; yet, invariably some members will excuse themselves by saying that they had already planned a vacation, a weekend trip, or had already made some other appointment or commitment. Prepare yourself spiritually, physically, and mentally — be truly ready for each service, be on time.
- 7. Participation.** Come willingly, gladly, and expectantly. Let it be a work of faith and a labor of love (1 Thess. 1:3). May it never be regarded as an imposition, a burden, or a chore. Be reverent in attitude and behavior; worship and listen, learn and profit.

IF ONLY each member would desire, pray for, and work toward the kind of gospel meeting we are capable of having and the kind that God would want us to have, **WHAT A MEETING WE WOULD HAVE!**