



SKYVIEW BULLETIN

Volume 9 Number 5

February 3, 2008

THINGS YOU CAN DO TO MAKE OUR GOSPEL MEETING SUCCESSFUL



Our meeting with Phil Robertson, which begins next Sunday, has been in the planning for several months. Hopefully, we as individual members of the congregation have also made preparation for this effort. Any time the word of God is proclaimed, it is met with success. Even if there are no responses to the gospel, God's word will not return void. Our responsibility is to sow the seed and God will give the increase. But there are some things we can do before and during this meeting that will contribute to its success.

1. **INVITE SOMEONE to the meeting.** Perhaps you have already extended invitations to friends, acquaintances, fellow-workers, family members and friends. If you have not, it is not too late to do so. If you have already sent an invitation or invited someone—do it again to remind them of the meeting.
2. **BE SURE TO ATTEND YOURSELF.** You should have already arranged your schedule so that you can be present every service. Nothing you have planned is more important than your soul and the souls of others. If you have a conflict in a schedule, cancel or reschedule whatever might prevent you from attending.
3. **WELCOME VISITORS.** Treat them as honored guests. Be sure to greet them with a smile, handshake, and expression of appreciation for their presence. Remember the **FIVE MINUTE RULE** and speak to any visitor that may be seated near you.
4. **RESERVE THE BACK SEATS FOR VISITORS.** Move closer to the front during this meeting. Often visitors feel embarrassed to walk to the front for a seat, especially if they are a little late arriving. Save the back pews for our visitors. This is one way we can show our appreciation for their attending the meeting.
5. **USE THE MOST DISTANT PARKING SPACES** and reserve those nearer the building for visitors. This is not only a display of courtesy, it is an act of appreciation for their visit.
6. **PRAY FOR THE MEETING.** Pray that our visitors will have honest hearts and will be receptive to the Gospel. Pray that their hearts will be touched by the powerful word of God. Pray, pray, and pray some more! But along with prayer, be sure to act—to do what ever you can—to contribute whatever effort possible to make this meeting successful. You owe it to God, to yourself and to people who are lost in sin.

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ELDERS

*Ron Bastien
Don Greenlee
John McIntosh
Charles Murray
David Roberts*

DEACONS

*Frank Edwards
Charles Limbrunner, Sr
Andy Murray
Don Shimp
Dennis Trask
Brad VanHaerents*

PREACHER

Charles Murray

MEN WE SUPPORT

*Frank Andre - Bartow, Fla.
William Stewart--Kingston, Canada
Matthew— S. Africa
Bob Owen — Trip to Europe
Mike Mendez —trip to Cuba
William John—Springfield, Mo*

WORSHIP TIMES

SUNDAY

Worship.....9:30 A.M.
Classes.....10:50 A.M.
Worship.....6:00 P.M.

WORSHIP PLACE

4050 80th Ave N
PO Box 3118
Pinellas Park, Fla. 33780

FOR THE RECORD

January 27, 2008

ATTENDANCE

Sunday Morning	178
Sunday Evening	N/A
Wednesday Evening	N/A

Many studies have been done and books and articles have been written about church growth. Many congregations have different attitudes and approaches to church growth. Studies have been conducted of churches that are growing and churches that have reached a plateau or are declining in membership in an attempt to determine what causes the difference.

Many congregations have different attitudes and approaches to church growth.

A very popular journal has conducted a year-long study on church growth and in the final issue on the subject talked with leaders of congregations that have experienced the greatest amount of growth. Here's what was reported: Adaptability—this means you make the congregation look like the community or you move the congregation to a community that looks more like the congregation. What happened to the "Gospel Is For All" concept? Moderation was another trait reported. One church leader said the congregation took a "middle of the road" approach theologically. This leader said they had successfully avoided a lot of extremes over the years. What happened to a "thus saith the Lord"? Where did "standing for truth" go? Another church leader reported that since about 55,000 vehicles pass the church building, they use the building for things such as Scout troops, recovery groups, blood banks, Little League ball games and picnics. Another church reported growth after starting a preschool, hiring a children's minister, youth minister and they try to accommodate families. This sounds very much like the mega-church concept and causes one to wonder if the real mission of the church which is to evangelize and edify has been lost in all of the fun and games. One of the suggestions made was that we must become more diverse and not be afraid to try new approaches.

After reading this report several things came to mind. First, and most importantly, there is no better guide and instruction manual for church growth than the New Testament. With daily conversions and growth by thousands at a time, who can doubt that these early disciples knew how to "grow a church"? And—they did it without any of the methods mentioned above. They grew because they placed the emphasis on the power of the gospel. The needs of the community were met, not because they had special programs to focus on special interests and needs; they preached the gospel and effectively gave the communities what they needed—salvation from sin.

Secondly, they grew because of the involvement of every member in the work of evangelism. They took seriously the charge given them by Jesus to "go and make disciples of all nations." They pledged their allegiance to Jesus Christ and they never stopped telling the incredible story of love and sacrifice when He died on the cross for the sins of the world.

Thirdly, their growth was not dependent on church buildings and demographics and moderation on doctrinal issues. They proclaimed the pure gospel of the Son of God. It cost some their physical possessions, it cost others their lives, but they were willing to die for the cause of Christ. Some endured mocking and scourging, chains and imprisonment; some were stoned, sawn in two, slain with the sword, destitute, afflicted, tormented (Hebrews 11: 37), but they kept on preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We must get up out of pews and proclaim the gospel of God's Son. The answer to converting people and keeping them in the church is not contemporary music, flashy sermons, fun, food, and games. The answer is having a real compassion for the lost world and a willingness to share Jesus with the lost. The answer is found in the involvement of every member "preaching the gospel to every creature." The answer is in our own dedication and commitment to evangelism and edification. The answer is found in following the pattern of the first century disciples as they "went everywhere preaching the word."

Only when we commit to spreading the gospel, the power of God unto salvation, will more people know Jesus Christ and Him crucified and only then will the church grow and prosper.



**Adult—auditorium
class
1 Corinthians
Taught by
Charles Murray
Room # 4
The Prophets
Taught by
Jarred Shaw**

GOSPEL MEETINGS

Feb 10-13

With Phil Robertson