

Encounter Christ Pastor's Revival Planning Suggestions:

Hello Pastor,

Thank you for involving my ministry in your revival effort. Please take the time to read through the following pages and make some notes. Consider your past efforts in revivals and the situation of your church currently. Call me sometime within the next week to discuss your thoughts about these planning suggestions. (214-726-6601)

Revivals are a lot of work, but they can absolutely still be effective and relevant for churches today. Please clear the church calendar during the week before and during the week of the revival meeting. Announce the date long in advance. Ask your people to plan around the dates so they can attend. If you treat the revival as important and special, your people are more likely to as well.

Here is a critical question that you and I need to discuss carefully and soon. Are you feeling led of God toward a revival for the church or an evangelistic effort focused on non-Christians? Increasingly, I believe the American church must seek repentance and revival. A revived church can then launch out into effective evangelism. Often I've wished that pastors would schedule a revival for their church people and then schedule an evangelistic meeting 4-5 months later. Should you be heading into an intensive evangelistic effort, we must plan creatively to make the event attractive and available to non-Christians. The plans that follow address this need and encourage your own creativity.

I would like you also to consider a revival preparation weekend 6-8 weeks prior to the meeting. I've conducted several of these over the years and they do help with attendance, enthusiasm, and preparation. The weekend includes meetings with church leadership, church-wide prayer, and a message for the church on the need for the revival.

Following this letter, are some abbreviated planning suggestions for you and your church leadership. I'd suggest enlisting a Steering Committee, composed of one chairman each for Attendance, Promotion, Response and Prayer teams. These teams' duties are identified under the operating principles that follow this letter. They are color-coded on the Planning Calendar on page 6.

Some revival planning guides that I have seen are literal books with dozens of pages emphasizing numerous committees. My desire has been to keep this guide brief, but useful. I hope you are spurred by this guide, not burdened. Do as much as you can do to involve people and get them to the revival event. "Attempt great things for God and expect great things from God," said William Carey. Inspired man!

Steering Committee:

Attendance Chairman:

Promotion Chairman:

Response Chairman:

Prayer Chairman:

God bless you! Jonathan Hewett

Encounter Christ

Pastor's Revival Planning Suggestions:

Operating Principles

Notes:

Revival is a God-given return to obedient, transforming faith among the people of God. When it comes, revival often results in many conversions to Christ as well. There is Scriptural evidence that God intends His people to regularly return to Him in times of refreshing and renewal. May God give such revival to your church!

"Before we can be clean and ready for Him to control, self-seeking, self-glory, self-interest, self-pity, self-righteousness, self-importance, self-promotion, self-satisfaction - and whatsoever else there be of self - - - must die." Leonard Ravenhill, Why Revival Tarries, p. 72

Operating Principle Number One: People are NOT looking for something else to do. We need to give them multiple reasons to attend. **ATTENDANCE team**

1. Food still works. Invest in some suppers to help your families get to the service. A schedule that I've seen work is: Sunday night- Sundaes after the service. Monday night- Spaghetti dinner. Tuesday night- Hamburger supper. Wednesday night- Steak and baked potato. (For the Wednesday night meal, ask your members to sign up in advance and to pay \$5 per person.) The food needs to be good and plentiful. This menu is particularly recommended. Start serving one hour before the service.

2. Pack-A-Pew can work. But only if you assign it to the ladies. I suggest that you divide the sanctuary into 2-4 zones, putting 2-4 ladies in charge of the zones. Number the pews and ask the zone-captains to enlist other ladies to work on filling the individual pews. Get some nice prizes for the lady who packs her pew the best and the zone captain who packs her zone the best. Use this for Monday or Tuesday night.

3. Involve groups. Children's choirs need to sing during the services. Youth choirs. Bible drill kids do a drill. AWANAs kids come in their vests and sit together. Young married class needs to be in charge of "family" night. Senior adult choir. RA's, GA's. Men's group cooking one of the suppers.

4. Conduct special events. "Youth" night needs to be Sunday night or Wednesday night. Preferably Sunday night. Children's night should include tickets and prizes for the child who brings the most people. Have "children's night," complete with balloons and hot-dogs in a separate room from the Tuesday night hamburger supper.

Jonathan will present the plan of salvation using a "flash" presentation. (A projector may be needed for large groups.)

Extra credit (for thinking creatively): Concerts, chili-cook-offs, prayer breakfasts, noon Bible study luncheons, kidnap visitation for students, baptismal services, shrimp-boils, recognition of military, police, fire, or civic officials, etc., etc., etc., to be scheduled alongside or within the services. Solicit opportunities for Jonathan to speak to FCA groups, student Bible study clubs, or the local civic clubs (Lion's, Kiwanis, Chamber, etc.)

Notes:

"Years ago, a minister put this sign outside of his church, "This church will have either a revival or a funeral!" With such despair, God is well-pleased, though hell is despondent." Ravenhill, p. 47

Operating Principle Number Two: Marketers say people need at least six "touches." We need to give church people and prospects multiple invitations to the revival.

PROMOTION team

1. Send out letters of invitation to everyone on the mailing list from the pastor and the evangelist about three weeks ahead of the meeting. Include prospects on the mailing list. Download Jonathan's letter from the website.
2. Put two bulletin inserts into the worship bulletin for two Sundays prior. Ask the people to use the inserts as invitations for others. Put up revival posters three weeks prior. Download bulletin inserts and posters from the website.
3. Telemarketing works, else corporations would not do it. Organize through SS classes or deacons or a special one-time committee a phone-call campaign to remind people of the revival. Provide a simple script for callers. Divide up the church roll. Make sure everyone gets a call. Answering machines are our friends. Twice would be great, but once during the second week prior is a minimum.
4. Use community ad outlets such as cable access, newspapers, announcements at sporting events, radio station community calendars, etc.
Extra credit: Arrange with the local donut shop to pay for a free bag of donut holes for every customer two Saturdays before the revival. You'll need to staple a bulletin insert to the bags ahead of time. Instruct the donut shop to offer the free donut holes to every customer. Pizza place? Sponsor two-liter drinks. Burger place? Sponsor a small cone for all the children that day. (I don't know where you'd staple the invitation, though.)
5. Enlist at least three people to give testimonies about the impact of times of renewal in their lives. Schedule these testimonies for Sunday morning services for three Sundays prior. After the testimony, call the deacons, or all the men, or all the SS teachers to the altar and pray together.
6. Spend a Saturday distributing Bibles and revival invitations. Have breakfast together, assign territories by SS classes or deacons or families. One approach would be to ask families to deliver Bibles and revival invitations to 10 homes nearest to their home.

"Prayer is no substitute for work; equally true is it that work is no substitute for prayer. Surely revival delays because prayer decays." Ravenhill, p. 83

Operating Principle Number Three: We need to be ready for people to respond during the services. **RESPONSE team**

1. Enlist several male and female "spiritual guides" to talk with those who respond publicly to the invitation. Order materials as listed below and schedule a training time for Spiritual Guides in advance of the revival. Guides should be instructed to come forward during the first verse of the invitation, their movement helping respondents to decide to move.

Notes:

2. During the invitation, the pastor must receive respondents and pass them off to Spiritual Guides as quickly as possible. As soon as a line forms, the response will slow.
3. Download and copy the "Response Card" from the website. Place copies liberally throughout the sanctuary. Discuss with the evangelist the best use of the response cards throughout the week.
4. Visit everyone who responds during the revival within 2 weeks. Ask deacons, SS teachers and staff members to be involved. Assign the visits during the revival week.
Extra credit: Materials to order from NAMB at 1-866-407-NAMB: "My Commitment" Counseling Guide (leaflet, order enough for all adult/student decisions), "Beginning Steps: A Growth Guide For New Believers," (follow-up material for adults/students), and "The World's Greatest Adventure" (counseling and follow-up for children).

"Though it is wonderful indeed when God lays hold of a man, earth can know one greater wonder - when a man lays hold of God." Ravenhill, p. 38

Operating Principle Number Four: All the preparation in the world will only be human work without fervent prayer. We need to get the praying people focused on this revival effort. **PRAYER team**

1. Pray for the revival yourself daily. Pray for your people and the team. Pray that God will show you who to ask to pray. (next step) Bring various church members into your office as you felt led throughout the next several weeks and pray with them for the revival. Visit the deacons and pray with them personally for the revival. Call SS teachers and pray with them over the telephone. Lead the people in prayer, pastor!
2. Solicit the prayers of the ones who are already prayer warriors. This may only be 5 or 6 people, but God already hears from them regularly and they will be very effective.
3. Set aside entire services for prayer for the revival. This will communicate the revival's importance in a very noticeable way.
4. Download and distribute the "Revival Preparation: Prayer" guide from the website. Take the church staff through the prayer guide during a special time of prayer. No other church work in this meeting. Ask the staff to help you put the prayer guide into the hands of people they know will pray.
5. Schedule a prayer vigil at the church on the Saturday before revival begins. Put someone in charge of promoting and filling the time slots of the prayer vigil. Ask that person to start with the staff and the deacons and the church leadership. Use your own judgment regarding the length of time for the vigil.
6. Call the people to prayer and fasting during the week before revival. Suggest a day for everyone to skip a meal. Explain fasting for those who are not familiar with it.
7. Conduct a prayer-walk around the church on the Sunday night prior to the revival.
8. Download and distribute the Sunday School lesson for all adult SS classes. Make arrangements for the lesson to be taught on the Sunday prior to revival.

Encounter Christ Planning Calendar

Pastor's Revival Planning Suggestions:

ASAP: Pastor download the planning suggestions, call Jonathan to discuss the plans, enlist the Steering Committee, schedule their first meeting and publicize the revival date.						
1st Steering Comm. MTG	Recruiting Team Mbrs.		Pastor, Att. Chmn plan special events, groups involved	Pastor, Response Chmn order materials		Pastor and Jonathan MTG Steering Comm and Deacons
Revival Preparation Weekend with Jonathan	Pastor and Jonathan MTG Steering Comm and Deacons		Teams Are recruited, organized	Possible Rev. Prep Wknd Schedules: Sat. night and Sun. morning OR Sun. night and Monday night Call Jonathan ASAP for scheduling		
2nd Steering Comm. MTG	Promotion downloaded, reproduced	Pastor has recruited prayer warriors	Meal plan completed, PackAPew Ldr recruited	Advertising out to radio, cable, newspapers, etc.	SS lesson sent to Teachers Letters mailed	

ATTENDANCE- Red

PROMOTION- Orange

RESPONSE- Green

PRAYER- Blue

Prayer Guides available All Revival Teams MTG Testimony	Posters up, out in community	Youth Night, Ch. Night planned	Sp. Guides recruited	Staff Prayer Mtg.		
Testimony	Telephone calls this week		3rd Steering Comm. MTG Sp. Guides Trng. Mtg.			Bible distribution
SS Lesson for all adults Testimony PrayerWalk	Week of Prayer: One day for Fasting					Prayer Vigil at the Church
				Follow-Up Visits begin	Pastor contact revival guests	

