

## RE: Revival Preparation

Dear Pastor,

It is with much prayer and anticipation that I look forward to our meeting with the Lord!

I am *not praying* that God would *send* Revival; rather it is my prayer that God will *bring* revival! For you see, when God shows up – that is Revival! Anything less will just be a meeting.

We are living in desperate times but the Church is not. We must meet God! We must have Revival! This is the only hope for the world today.

Please read the material in this package. None of this material is original or new, but it all has a proven track record! I know, from personal experience, when we prepare ourselves for a Revival effort great things will follow. Please feel free to duplicate this material and distribute it to your leadership team as soon as possible for prayer and brainstorming. Commit to meeting together regularly with your Revival Team for prayer and updating.

If there is anything I can do to help you, do not hesitate to call. I encourage you to have a clear vision for this revival and your church. Until Jesus comes, I remain

YOURS, IN THE FULFILLING OF THE GREAT COMMISSION,



ROY MASON

# Helpful Suggestions for Successful Revivals

## THE PRAYER PRINCIPLE

*Jeremiah 33:3; II Chronicles 7:14; Matthew 21:22; I John 5:14-15*

- ◆ Pray for revival in your church.
- ◆ Ask the Lord to reveal to you the proper time for you to schedule revival.
- ◆ Ask the Lord to reveal to you the Evangelist He wants to use in your church.
- ◆ Pray about the selection of your Revival Preparation Committee members.
- ◆ Pray for a harvest of lost souls

## THE FAITH PRINCIPLE

*Matthew 9:29; 21:21-22; Hebrews 11:6*

- ◆ Believe that God really wants revival for your church.
- ◆ Trust Him to do mighty things.
- ◆ Have faith that God can work through you and your church to bring a great revival.
- ◆ Make bold faith declarations before the church as often as to what you are believing God to do in the revival.

## THE PREPARATION PRINCIPLE

*Psalms 126:5; Proverbs 19:21*

- ◆ Organize, Evangelize and Agonize.
- ◆ Train Revival Preparation Steering Committee.
- ◆ Set Countdown Calendar 6 to 8 weeks before the revival.
- ◆ Set goals (i.e. attendance, decisions, salvations, contacts).
- ◆ Start the revival on Sunday morning.
- ◆ Have High Attendance Day in Sunday School the day revival begins.
- ◆ Involvement is the key. Involve as many members as possible in preparation, promotion and prayer. (Pack-A-Pew still works!)
- ◆ Use gifted singers, compelling testimonies, upbeat gospel music.
- ◆ Use Vocational Evangelists whom God has called, gifted, and appointed unto the Church for this purpose. (Ephesians 4:11ff).
- ◆ Work as if revival depends upon you! Pray as if revival depends on God! We are still dependent upon God for revival. Revival is a sovereign act of God!

# Preparing a Church for a "Revival Effort"

"What can we do to prepare for the upcoming week of 'revival' effort?"

Over the past 25 years I have had that very question asked of me scores of times. Should our Heavenly Father be pleased to give me a few more years of itinerant ministry, I shall, I am confident, be asked it many more times.

Before attempting to answer this question, there are two things I need to state at the outset:

1. The question itself implies that even though we are cast solely upon our sovereign Lord for awakening, we are responsible to seek Him personally and corporately for quickening grace, and
2. it is especially necessary in these beguiled days to seek to assist God's people in coming to a proper distinction between genuine "revival" and what is commonly termed in our day a "revival effort." The former is a work of God while the latter is, by definition and common practice, best defined in terms of human activity and effort.

Therefore, I place before any pastor and church that is serious about getting ready for a "revival effort" the following guidelines.

## **Ready the church by preaching clearly and repeatedly the scriptural picture of genuine revival.**

The contemporary concept of revival is anything but revival in reality.

1. In biblical terms revival is not a scheduled series of services.
2. It is not an evangelistic effort.
3. It is not securing an outside evangelist and music man to lead out in the attempt to stir things up spiritually.
4. It is not simply publicity and special events and good preaching and heart-warming singing and fervent appeals for the lost to be saved.
5. It is neither decisions nor additions to the church, nor even renewed enthusiasm.

Some of or all of these may be present and yet true revival be indeed absent.

Therefore, preparation involves setting forth the truth from both scripture and church history that revival is, before all else,

- A sovereign work of God among His people (thus the prophet prays, "Revive *Thy* work," Hab. 3:2).
- It is an invasion of fresh spiritual life (Lu. 15:24), a turning back of His own unto Himself (Lam. 5:21), an outpouring of His Spirit upon His wilting vineyard (Isa. 32:15).
- It is an extraordinary work of God producing extraordinary results among both believers and dead, careless sinners.

One would do well to read and study *Lectures on Revivals* by W. B. Sprague (Banner of Truth Trust)

along with Lewis Drummond's article elsewhere in this journal for further analysis of this point.

May the Lord be pleased to use His heralds far and wide to destroy false notions regarding "revival" and to establish in their place the biblically warranted and historically exemplified vision of revival as a sovereign, gracious work of God. This in and of itself would signal the first showers from on high.

### **Appeal urgently to the church to look only to the Lord for quickening and awakening grace.**

True revival, like salvation, is of the Lord. Individually and corporately, it comes not except He "*rend the heavens and come down*" to us in restoring mercies (Isa. 64:1).

Tell it more than once that "*it is not by might nor by power but by My Spirit saith the Lord*" (Zech. 4:6). I fear that in these days of man-centered revivalism and carnal promotions even many of God's own people slight the truth of John 6:63: "*the flesh profits nothing, the Spirit quickens.*"

So then, when facing a series of "revival services" the local church is best prepared when hearts are shut up to the Father as their sole hope for awakening. God uses human instrumentality in restoring His work among His people, but in and through it all it is the Lord's doings and it is marvelous in our eyes. He alone is the source of vital revival. He alone is the One in whom we must hope. It is to Him alone that all glory must come. As one writer put it, "*The purpose of revival is to make God, not men, famous; to focus the eyes of the people, not upon human leaders, but upon the Divine Leader; to give glory not to great men, but to a great Savior*"

Let the weeks before a "revival meeting" be weeks of turning minds Godward. Preach . . . teach . . . think:

*"O God, restore us and cause Thy face to shine upon us, and we will be saved"*  
-- **Ps. 80:7**

Pray for any guest ministers that shall labor among you, and know in truth that "all is vain, unless the Spirit of the Holy One come down." Trust accordingly! Prepare accordingly!

### **Pastor and people must seek God in private and public prayer.**

When it is made obvious to the heart that we can never experience true revival unless our God is pleased to bear His arm in arresting and convicting, awakening and saving power, then we will be quick to seek His face in prayer.

Come aside, dear brother, and retire daily to your prayer closet. Give attention to the "*Lord God to seek Him by prayer and supplication with fasting, sackcloth and ashes*" (Dan. 9:3). Let all else be set aside for a season.

Think not even of the other brethren and their collective need for a fresh touch. Deal with yourself for now. Use the very plea of **Daniel 9:4-19**

- for your own callings—
- the confession of personal sin,
- the appeal to His covenant mercies,
- the open avowal of shame and deep need, the cry for God to let His "face shine" again on His "desolate sanctuary,"
- the burning zeal for the Father's glory.

Let your appeal be grounded solely upon His mercy

*"O my God, incline Thine ear and hear! Open Thine eyes and see our desolations . . . for we are not presenting our supplications before Thee on account of any merits of our own, but on account of Thy great compassion . . . O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and take action! For Thine own sake, O my God, do not delay"*

**-- Daniel 9:18-19**

Come pastor, come people, pray for your own souls first. Wrestle alone with God for the needed blessing. "Pray without ceasing" (1 Thess. 5:17).

But again, prayer must be stressed for the whole assembly. Not simply in the weeks prior to the scheduled meetings must prayer prevail, but let prayer for a great awakening be the atmosphere and practice of each and every gathering of the church.

*"Prayer for revival must also become a major part of the prayer life of the local church. It ought to find its way into the public services of worship. It ought to dominate the prayer meetings of the congregation . . . . A mighty concert of prayer is needed"*  
(Roberts, *Revival*, p. 147).

It would be good to make the very words of scripture the united intercessions of the church. Plea back passages like these:

*"Lord, revive Thy world in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make it known; in wrath remember mercy"*  
-- Hab. 3:2

*"Revive us, and we will call upon Thy name. O Lord of hosts, restore us; cause Thy face to shine upon us, and we will be saved"*  
--Ps. 80:18-19

*"Wilt Thou not Thyself revive us again, that Thy people may rejoice in Thee"*  
-- Ps. 85:6

*"For the sake of Thy name, O Lord, revive me"*  
-- Ps. 143:10

*"Restore us to Thee, O Lord, that we may be restored; renew our days as of old"*  
-- Lam. 5:21

*"Oh, that Thou wouldst rend the heavens and come down that the mountains might quake at Thy presence"*  
-- Isa. 64: 1

**To prepare for a "revival meeting," pray for genuine revival--alone and together.**

*"Ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you"*  
-- Matt. 7:7

Revival in a church can never be scheduled. If it could, we would have long ago and with seasonal regularity experienced such holy visitations. Rather, if and when revival comes, it shall be the gracious work of Him "Who works

*all things after the counsel of His will"* (Eph. 1:11). However, we must never be sluggardly in our duties to strive for revival in the biblical sense--both in our own lives and in the church at large.

What then? It is not wrong to set up special times and meetings for concentrating on revival in our local assemblies. While we do so, however, we must recognize that this is never enough. We must do more, much more:

1. We must cast ourselves wholly upon God.
2. We must heatedly and humbly seek the Lord and pleadingly call upon Him for all that He alone can do (Isa. 55:6).
3. We must desire and ask for divine illumination respecting our spiritual standing (Ps. 139:23-24; Lam. 3:40).
4. And we must decidedly, by the Holy Spirit's enabling, "forsake our wicked ways" and "return to the Lord" (Isa. 55:7). *Revival is always the Lord's work, but true repentance is always our duty* (Rev. 2:5-6; 39, 19).

**Finally: revival preparation is not a formula.**

- *It is*, looking up, praying on, and staying at it.
- *It is* working for that for which you are praying. *It is*, with brokenness taking your place at His feet.
- *It is*, God again taking His place of splendor among His people.

With a zeal for His glory and a yearning for gospel advance let the church, yea, any church, prepare aright for such . . . starting *now*.

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**Founders Ministries**

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# Preparing for Personal Revival

Original author unknown

*This is the moment for self-examination. Without it we are wasting our time with God.*

God is eager to manifest His reviving presence and power in every generation. But we must take steps for the release of His fullness in our midst.

On the eve of their passage over Jordan into the Promised Land, Joshua charged the children of Israel to prepare their hearts:

*"...Sanctify yourselves: for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you"*  
-- Joshua 3:5

The psalmist understood the importance of spiritual revival:

*"Righteousness shall go before Him and shall set us in the way of His steps"*  
-- Psalm 85:13

## STEPS OF ACTION

1. **Pray** the prayer of the psalmist: *"Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my thoughts; and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting"* (Psalm 139:23, 24).
2. **Be totally honest** as you answer each question.
3. **Agree with God** about each need He reveals in your life. Confess each sin, with the willingness to make it right and forsake it.
4. **Praise** God for cleansing and forgiveness.
5. **Renew your mind and rebuild your life** through meditation and practical application of the Word of God.
6. **Review these questions** periodically to remain sensitive to your need for ongoing revival.

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## GENUINE SALVATION

2 Corinthians 5:17

- Was there ever a time in my life that I genuinely repented of my sin?
- Was there ever a time in my life that I placed all my trust in Jesus Christ alone to save me?
- Was there ever a time in my life that I completely surrendered to Jesus Christ as the Master and Lord of my life?

## **GOD'S WORD**

Psalm 119:97; 119:140

- Do I love to read and meditate on the Word of God?
- Are my personal devotions consistent and meaningful?
- Do I practically apply God's Word to my everyday life?

## **HUMILITY**

Isaiah 57:15

- Am I quick to recognize when I have sinned?
- Am I quick to admit to others when I am wrong?
- Do I rejoice when others are praised and recognized and my accomplishments go unnoticed by others?
- Do I esteem all others as better than myself?

## **OBEDIENCE**

Hebrews 13:17; 1 Samuel 15:22

- Do I consistently obey what I know God wants me to do?
- Do I consistently obey the human authorities God has placed over my life?

## **PURE HEART**

1 John 1:9

- Do I confess my sin by name?
- Do I keep "short sin accounts" with God (confess and forsake when He convicts)?
- Am I willing to give up all sin for God?

## **CLEAR CONSCIENCE**

Acts 24:16

- Do I consistently seek forgiveness from those I wrong or offend?
- Is my conscience clear with every man? *Can I honestly say, "There is no one I have ever wronged or offended and not gone back to them and sought their forgiveness and made it right?"*

## **PRIORITIES**

Matthew 6:33

- Does my schedule reveal that God is first in my life?
- Does my checkbook reveal that God is first in my life?
- Next to my relationship with God, is my relationship with my family my highest priority?



## **VALUES**

Colossians 3:12

- Do I love what God loves and hate what God hates?
- Do I value highly the things that please God (e.g. giving, witnessing to lost souls, studying His Word, prayer)?
- Are my affections and goals fixed on eternal values?

## **SACRIFICE**

Philippians 3:7-8

- Am I willing to sacrifice whatever is necessary to see God move in my life and church (time, convenience, comfort, reputation, pleasure, etc)?
- Is my life characterized by genuine sacrifice for the cause of Christ?

## **SPIRIT CONTROL**

Galatians 5:22-25; Ephesians 5:18-21

- Am I allowing Jesus to be Lord of every area of my life?
- Am I allowing the Holy Spirit to "fill" (control) my life each day?
- Is there consistent evidence of the "fruit of the Spirit" being produced in my life?

## **FIRST LOVE**

Philippians 1:21, 23

- Am I as much in love with Jesus as I have ever been?
- Am I thrilled with Jesus, filled with His joy and peace, making Him the continual object of my love?

## **MOTIVES**

Acts 5:29; Matthew 10:28

- Am I more concerned about what God thinks about my life than about what others think?
- Would I pray, read my Bible, give and serve as much if nobody but God ever noticed?
- Am I more concerned about pleasing God than I am about being accepted and appreciated by others?

## **MORAL PURITY**

Ephesians 5:3-4

- Do I keep my mind free from books, magazines or entertainment that could stimulate fantasizing or thoughts that are not morally pure?
- Are my conversations and behavior pure and above reproach?

## **FORGIVENESS**

Colossians 3:12-13

- Do I seek to resolve conflicts in relationships as soon as possible?
- Am I quick to forgive those who wrong me or hurt me?

## **SENSITIVITY**

Matthew 5:23- 24

- Am I sensitive to the conviction and promptings of God's Spirit?
- Am I quick to respond in humility and obedience to the conviction and promptings of God's Spirit?

## **EVANGELISM**

Romans 9:3; Luke 24:46, 48

- Do I have a burden for lost souls?
- Do I consistently witness for Christ?

## **PRAYER**

1 Timothy 2:1

- Am I faithful in praying for the needs of others?
- Do I pray specifically, fervently, and faithfully for revival in my life, my church and our nation?

## **Personal Notes:**

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# The Non-Negotiable Steps

These are the **non-negotiable's** from Global Evangelism Ministries to your church for this revival effort. Please ensure that all of these requirements are met within the time table given.

## **The Pastor and Staff Covenant**

Any Revival effort must begin with the Pastor and Staff coming together and agreeing that Revival is needed. This seems simple, but the truth is that very often while they may agree in principle they are rarely on the same page practically. Please take these steps immediately:

1. Make the Revival a priority. The topic of revival must permeate everything the staff talks about.
2. Clear the schedule of all staff members for the revival. This means that no other event is planned by any staff member that does not directly involve the Revival effort.
3. Schedule a Daily Prayer time for Revival with the entire staff. This should include the ministerial, administrative, and support staff of the church. You will be amazed at what will happen when you bring in your Day Care director, Kitchen Staff, and Janitors into this prayer time.

## **The Reality Check**

The key reason churches are failing to experience Revival is their unwillingness to face the truth about their current condition. The simple truth is this: **Your church is where she is because of what she has been doing!** Your past and present activities have led to your current situation. Your spiritual condition is the result of your behavior and beliefs.

1. Look at your Church's plans. Are these the result of intensive time with God, seeking His leadership OR are they the result of a Denominational, secular, or traditional calendar? Does your future reveal a "Word from God" or the plans of man?
2. Look at your Mission/Vision Statement. Has God really given you this statement OR was it the result of a "Business Model" or a "Program" from another church or organization?
3. Look at your Church Budget. Does this budget reflect a process of faith or a process of the flesh? Our true priorities are revealed through our giving. Is the **Great Commission** the emphasis of our budget? Is evangelism the priority of your church's budget?
4. Face the Facts! Now that you have examined these issues, if you have discovered that you have answered any of the above in the negative, are you willing to confess it to the Lord? Are you willing to lead your church into a time of repentance over the current situation and trust God for restoration? **THIS IS THE KEY TO REVIVAL!!!**

## **The Revival Leadership Team**

Now that you have established the need and desire for a Revival effort you must develop a Leadership Team for your Church's Revival. This group, led by the Pastor and Worship leader, will plan and promote the upcoming effort. (See attachment for Team Assignments)

1. Choose the Team carefully. Allow God to lead you in the selection of the team members.
2. Make the Assignments. Distribute the materials provided and communicate your expectation of each member. Affirm and encourage them often.
3. Plan a weekly "Huddle". This is the time you will hear from the team and offer support to their particular area of responsibility. This will be a motivational time.

## **The Church Lay-Leadership Agreement**

It is imperative that you have your total Church leadership “on-board” about the Revival effort. Without this you are facing a difficult up-hill battle. Normally these are the back-bone of your church and will help or hinder the upcoming effort. ***Share your burden open and honestly with these people!***

1. Involve your Deacons. These are the spiritual leaders of your church and as such these men must be the servants of the church who share in your burden for Revival.
2. Involve your Sunday School leadership. These people have the ear of your congregation with the ability to communicate the burden of the Pastor, staff, and leadership. These must be the cheerleaders for the upcoming effort.

## **The Prayer Covering**

Prayer is the only thing that matters! Sounds too simple doesn't it? The Revival effort of your church will directly parallel the prayers of your people! Without prayer nothing will happen.

1. The Prayer Clock. Organize your church to pray for the Revival effort. Use the attached sheet to effectively organize your church for a “Round the Clock” prayer meeting.
2. Special Prayer in Every upcoming Service. Schedule a Revival Prayer Emphasis in every event of your church. Just like you have a time for the “Pastoral Prayer” in your order of Worship, schedule a “Prayer for Revival” time in every service. Encourage all your ministries leaders to do the same thing in their circles of influence.
3. The Prayer Room. Establish (if you don't already have one) a dedicated PRAYER ROOM in your church. Have access to this Room daily for people to come by and pray. It is imperative that you have this Room staffed during each service between now and the Revival effort as well as during each service of the Revival week.

*"Prayer for revival must also become a major part of the prayer life of the local church. It ought to find its way into the public services of worship. It ought to dominate the prayer meetings of the congregation . . . A mighty concert of prayer is needed"*

Richard Owen Roberts, *Revival*, p. 147

## **The Ten “Most Wanted”**

What is that you want to see as the result of this Revival effort? Can you clearly identify these desires? Use these guidelines to establish and communicate your “God-given” desires. This will become the VISION for Revival.

1. For your Church. What are the Top Ten things you hope will happen in your church as a result of this effort? Write them down.
2. For your Staff. What do you hope will happen in and through your staff as a result of this effort? Write them down!
3. For the Lost. Have each member of your church write down the name (and contact information) for the 10 people each of them desire to redeemed through this effort. Duplicate and distribute the attached sheet to EVERY MEMBER of your church. Have these turned in so they can be prayed for regularly by your Team and our Prayer Network around the world.
4. For your Church Roll. List the name of 10 inactive church members that you desire to see become involved in the life and ministry of your church again.



*Please choose the time you will commit to praying for the upcoming Revival effort of our church. Each person is asked to select a half-hour time slot in which you will pray for the Revival requests:*

12:00 _____	4:00 _____	8:00 _____
12:30 _____	4:30 _____	8:30 _____
1:00 _____	5:00 _____	9:00 _____
1:30 _____	5:30 _____	9:30 _____
2:00 _____	6:00 _____	10:00 _____
2:30 _____	6:30 _____	10:30 _____
3:00 _____	7:00 _____	11:00 _____
3:30 _____	7:30 _____	11:30 _____

# MOST WANTED

What is that you want to see as the result of this Revival effort? Can you clearly identify these desires? Use these guidelines to establish and communicate your "God-given" desires. This will become the VISION for Revival.

1. **For your Church.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
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7. \_\_\_\_\_
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9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_

2. **For your Staff.** What do you hope will happen in and through your staff as a result of this effort?

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2. \_\_\_\_\_
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8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_

3. **For the Lost.** Have each member of your church write down the name (and contact information)

for the 10 people each of them desire to redeemed through this effort.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
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4. **For your Church Roll.** List the name of 10 inactive church members that you desire to see become involved in the life and ministry of your church again.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
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# Revival Leadership Team

The most practical and reasonable way to prepare for a revival meeting is to involve ministry teams in planning. Of course, when genuine revival occurs, the Holy Spirit determines and completes the plans. In revival meeting preparation, ministry teams can make the work flow much smoother. Ministry teams can involve people in different ways. Obviously, the more people involved in planning, the stronger the interest and spirit of the church family for the revival. Below are suggestions that will make ministry team planning easier.

No later than two months before the revival, the pastor and/or Church Evangelism Council should select ministry teams needed for the church's revival. Suggested ministry teams include:

## Spiritual Preparation Ministry Team

**Your Team** should be led by the pastor or a spiritually strong layperson. Each member should have a consistent Christian walk and a zeal for prayer and evangelism.

**Your Purpose** is to lead the church in spiritual preparation so that God can work in the lives of His people and use them to impact community with the gospel of Christ.

## Publicity Ministry Team

**Your Team** includes a chairperson and several members who have an interest or expertise in any form of advertising.

**Your Purpose** is to promote the revival meeting in the church and the community.

## Attendance Ministry Team

**Your Team** should include a chairperson and one member from each Sunday School department or class.

**Your Purpose** is to develop an attendance plan for each revival service and work with the pastor and other church staff in planning the Hallelujah Service on the closing Sunday morning of the revival meeting.

## Music Ministry Team

**Your Team** includes a chairperson, choir president, accompanists, and at least two other musicians.

**Your Purpose** is to work with the guest music team to ensure the best possible presentation of the gospel through music.

## Ushers Ministry Team

**Your Team** includes one chairperson and one member for each 25 to 50 people expected in attendance.

**Your Purpose** is to create a friendly and comfortable atmosphere for those who attend the revival, facilitate distribution of materials, and receive the offerings.



## Visitation Ministry Team

**Your Team** includes a chairperson and at least four members who are faithful witnesses for Christ and are concerned about reaching others for Christ.

**Your Purpose** is to find unsaved and unchurched prospects and enlist persons to visit and witness to them.

## Special Events Ministry Team

**Your Team** includes a chairperson and one member from each Sunday School department or class—high school through adult.

**Your Purpose** is to provide opportunities for the Revival Team to appear at community events and schools, and coordinate pre-service events for youth, children, senior adults, and other special interest groups.

**One Particular Concern** is to eliminate excuses for the people of your church. The easiest way for this to be accomplished is to provide a light supper for the entire church prior to the weeknight Revival meetings. A sample menu might look something like this:

### Monday Night Football Tailgate

*Hotdogs and all the fixing's  
Potato Chips or Potato Salad  
Soft Drinks or Tea*

### Tuesday Night Italian Feast

*Spaghetti and Sauce  
Tossed salad  
Bread  
Soft drinks or Tea*

### Wednesday Night Pizza Blast

*Pizza from a Local delivery  
Tossed salad  
Soft drinks or Tea*

The result of hosting these meals, which can be done on a “cost recovery basis” will not only eliminate excuses for “not attending” but will also provide an excellent way for the church family and visitors to enjoy the fellowship of each other.