

FUNDAMENTALS FOR GOSPEL MEETING SUCCESS

As you know, our Gospel Meeting will be Sunday, April 17 through Wednesday, April 20. Brother Jerry Brewer will be holding this meeting for us. He is from Elk City, Oklahoma. Because most of us want our Gospel Meeting to be a success, we should be asking, “**What can I do to make our Gospel Meeting a success?**” To answer this question, there are three basic things each of us can do.

APPEAL TO GOD: There should be no doubt that we need God to assist us in our every endeavor in His service. As to the Gospel Meeting, we need to pray for the speaker as he prepares the lessons he will deliver. We should pray that the lessons be sound in doctrine and that they move us to better service. Also, we need to pray for each member of this congregation to have a proper attitude toward attendance, to set an example for others to follow, and to be an encouragement to others. And, we need to pray that each person who has been or will be invited to attend will have honest and open hearts to determine and plan to be present. Prayer has power! Therefore, let us tap this MAJOR resource and appeal to God for strength, courage, and help in our efforts to serve Him.

ADVERTISE THE MEETING: The only way others will know about our Gospel Meeting is for each of us to tell them. Sister congregations in the area will be informed our meeting. We will also be planning to send a mail-out to thousands of residents within Salisbury. There may possibly be short spots on TV and Radio, as well as Billboards and fliers. But these efforts will not replace nor are they as effective as a personal invitation. One of the most important and effective ways we can support our Gospel Meeting is by personally inviting our friends, our neighbors, and our relatives.

ATTEND EVERY MEETING YOURSELF: While our Gospel Meeting’s main focus is upon the lost – those outside of Christ – it is also for strengthening our congregation. This purpose cannot be fulfilled if the members of the local congregation do not support it by their own attendance. Certainly, we want others to attend, but we need to attend also. There is nothing more important in this world than the preaching of the gospel for it is the power of God to salvation (Romans 1:16). Nearly everything that some consider as more important is only temporal, but the gospel is eternal. Jesus taught, “**Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away**” (Matthew 24:35). Besides the above reasons, we ought to attend to let others know how important the gospel and the church is to us. Could you imagine the disappointment of visitors who come and do not see the person or persons who invited them? Or why would we think that visitors would come when we ourselves do not support it? Brethren, evangelism begins with setting a proper example. So, let us make every effort to be present in order to be strengthened ourselves with the gospel and to strengthen others with our example. These three things are simple, but only a few will take the time to do them because only a few really believe and know the power of prayer, the power of an invitation, and the power of the gospel. Are you among the

few? Remember, you can invite neighbors and friends, but you can drag family members – so drag them! DP

The Salisbury Beacon

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FEBRUARY 14, 2016

WELCOME FRIENDS!

Dear friends – we appreciate your willingness to worship God with us this Lord’s Day! If you would like more information about the Church of Christ, or if we may assist you in other ways, please let us know. Come and be part of our family – the Salisbury Church of Christ

Please fill out a Visitor’s Card and place it in the collection plate

Order of Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OPENING PRAYER

SONG #142 Worthy Art Thou

SONG #711 Sweet Hour of Prayer

PRAYER

SCRIPTURE - JOSHUA 21:43-45.

SONG # 352 Blessed Redeemer

LORD’S SUPPER

CONTRIBUTION

SONG # 792 When the Roll is Called Up

SERMON: "WHAT IF GOD FAILED?"

SONG # 880 Softly and Tenderly

SONG # 684 Savior Grant Me Rest and Peace

CLOSING PRAYER

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER CONCERNS

- Please continue to remember: Debbie Post, Stella Reidy, Mary & Jack Callaway, Sharon Travi, Lavinda Mason, Delores Price, Katie Gray, Flossie Hull, Barbara Kuykendall, John Tillman, Paul Marchesault, Marilyn Artis, Linda Alaban, Florence Tucker, George & Lynette Bell, the Jones/Dale family, the Gibson family, Larry Laten, Prince Ituen and all missionaries and military personnel serving overseas.
- **Church Growth:** Pray for both spiritual and numerical growth of our church.
- **Ethel Dickerson** will be having an outpatient procedure/examination done on March 2. Please keep Ethel in your prayers.
- **Roger & Andrea** are traveling to Clarksville, VA for a function involving Firefighters and First Responders. Please keep them in your prayers for safe travels.
- **Elaine Bradley** has asked that we keep her son, Bruce Lauder, in our prayers as he deals with his substance addiction. Please pray he will find help, accept help, and find, peace, freedom, and victory over addiction.
- **Ruth Bank's** granddaughter, Nicole Thorn, has an undetermined health problem. Please pray for Nicole.
- **Ray Maddox** has not been feeling well. Please remember him in your prayers.
- **Judy Willey** will be traveling to Texas 2/19 to 2/22 to be with her mother who is waiting for test results for breast cancer. Please keep both Judy and her mother in your prayers.

GOSPEL MEETING – APRIL 17-20

“In the past few years, I have heard the following statement a number of times: “*Gospel meetings are not as effective as they once were.*” If this is true, why is it true? The gospel is still God’s power to save (Romans 1:16). Revivals provide an excellent atmosphere for the gospel to be preached. The message of our Savior will still prick the hearts of honest, truth-seeking people. Then what is the problem? The problem is that the brethren are not as enthusiastic for the Lord as they once were. Years ago, it was common to have multiplicity of restorations and a goodly number of baptisms in a meeting. This was because the brethren were inviting delinquent Christians and those outside the kingdom to hear the gospel. There was excitement in the air. Brethren were praying for the lost. Far too many of us have lost that enthusiasm. We are so busy making money, enjoying our wide-screen televisions that we don’t have much time for religion. There is no way to reach the lost in a gospel meeting if the lost are not there. There is no way for the brethren to be revived if they are too busy to attend. The problem is that far too many of us have our priorities completely out of whack! If the gospel is

preached in love, if the brethren are enthusiastic, if a special effort has been made to encourage the lost to be in attendance, there is no way for a gospel meeting to be anything other than a success” (*Gordon Smith, Bulletin Digest – Gospel Meetings*).

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- February 14 (Sunday)** Evangelism Committee Meeting
- February 21 (Sunday)** Pulpit Swap – Marc Lee/and myself
- March 5 (Saturday)** Ladies Bible Class
- March 6 (Sunday)** Pot Luck (*Fried Chicken was missing last Pot Luck – just saying*)
- April 17 (Sunday - Wednesday)** Gospel Meeting with Jerry Brewer & Song Service
(Our April Potluck will be on April 17)
- April 23, 2016 (Saturday)** – Ladies Day, Laurel church of Christ

A RESTORATION OBSERVATION

"To break away from the bondage of entrenched error is difficult for the individual. It often means defiance of strong organization and a break with custom. It requires both intelligence and independence to do this, and that to a degree a large number of people do not possess. The step is obviously painful. It was so with Paul and others who became Christians in his day. A brilliant physician was asked by one of his patients: "Doctor, what church do you belong to?" The answer was: "I am a Presbyterian."

He was asked if he knew why he was a Presbyterian, if reading the Bible made him such and a few like questions. The physician replied that he had never given that angle any particular thought. His parents were Presbyterians, his associations and rearing determined his course and he had never had time or inclination to go into the theological merits of the situation. He was a Presbyterian as a matter of course. The patient requested him to read the book of Acts, to note the establishment of the church, how people became Christians and see if he could find anything there that looked like the Presbyterian denomination.

The doctor promised to do so, and if he did, it must have initiated a conflict within him, the age-old conflict between truth and error. The huge religious errors that have found root in one way or another in the popular mind are not in the New Testament. The only way to uproot them is to establish in the minds of the people the authority of the New Testament in religious matters and make them acquainted with its contents" (*Cled Wallace, excerpted from an article titled "The Entrenched Position of Religious Error," from the January 1944 issue of "Bible Banner"*).

When the Saints Meet Here in Salisbury

Sunday Bible Study – 9:30 AM Sunday Worship – 10:30 AM

Wednesday Bible Study – 6pm