

Gospel Meeting

To a large degree, gospel meetings seem to be passe. They do not reach our communities because there is often little effort that goes into advertising the event, not from a public venue but on a personal level. When is the last time you invited someone, personally, to a gospel meeting? These meetings often broadcast the same old, familiar mantras that, while bringing comfort to our old expediencies (which we dare not abandon for fear of change) are rife with topics that are more likely a foreign language to the modern audience unschooled in all of those old familiar verses we've used for decades, wrongly assuming non-Christians know their context. Couple these woes with the distraction of devices, conflicts with entertainment and sports events, and the sheer end-of-the-day exhaustion of pursuing worldly priorities, it leaves an audience member's attention so severely fatigued that enduring more than fifteen minutes of rich Bible teaching is like asking for a modern-day miracle.

"These things ought not to be so" (James 3:10). The success of gospel meetings is a direct reflection on the investment of the hosting church. Like so many other social, sporting and family events, when those involved wish for the event's success, an intense ball of energy is directly and specifically applied toward the event's importance, necessity and participation. I am frequently stunned by the level of emotion and diligence applied to a five-year-old's basketball game to facilitate an attendance that meets set goals (and I've seen five-year-olds play basketball... 'nuff said!). Yet, for an event that pours out the Water of Life, which can turn misery into bliss and save a soul from hell, we demur? Really?

Our gospel meeting will be successful only if there is an intense interest on our part to make it so.