

Revival Planning and Information Packet

for

Dave Kistler Family Ministries

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The materials presented herein are the result of our experience in determining the best format for a revival effort. They are presented merely as our recommendations and are, of course, subject to change at the pastor's discretion.

Recommended News Release

Dave Kistler Evangelistic Team

Dave Kistler was born in Greenville, So. Carolina, in 1959 to Pastor and Mrs. Charles Kistler. He was saved at age 5, and was called to preach at the age of 17.

After completing high school, he attended Bob Jones University in Greenville, South Carolina, receiving his Bachelor's degree in Bible in 1981, his M.A. in Pastor Studies in 1983, and his M.Div. in Bible in 1985. While at Bob Jones, the Lord was preparing him for a place of leadership by allowing him to serve as an officer in several school organizations during his undergraduate and graduate years. Twice he served as President of the University's Graduate Class, which consisted of over 200 men and women who were doing advanced work in preparation for the ministry. During his college years, he led an evangelistic team consisting of 6 men and ministered on the weekends in the southern United States. He did all the preaching for this team.

After graduating from Bob Jones, Evangelist Kistler assumed responsibility for a youth ministry in Florida which consisted of approximately 100 young people. While there for two years, he preached to numerous high school groups and church groups as well as leading his own young people in evangelistic outreach to other youth, both in the United States and on the mission field.

While serving as youth pastor in Florida, Evangelist Kistler was asked to travel with Evangelist Ron Comfort for a summer to assist in the training of 6 college men interested in the field of evangelism. It was during that summer that the Lord confirmed to him that God's will for him was full-time evangelism.

Since beginning in evangelism in 1987, Evangelist Kistler has preached in churches, schools, and camps all across the United States as well as many foreign countries. In 1999, the Lord led Bro. Kistler to form H.O.P.E. Ministries International, which is a two-pronged ministry consisting of area-wide crusades as well as regional men's conferences.

Evangelist Kistler is ably assisted by his wife, Betsy, who aids him in coordinating the music for the various meetings and crusades. Mrs. Kistler, who is an accomplished pianist, attended two years at Baylor University and then attended Bob Jones University, where she received her undergraduate and graduate degrees in piano performance. Mrs. Kistler is also accomplished at both writing and arranging music and serves as the crusade pianist. Further complementing the ministry of Evangelist Dave Kistler is the music of the Kistler children. Rachael, Nathan and Hannah sing as well as play their violins in the services each evening.

Personal Checklist In Preparation for Revival

- (1) Am I in fellowship with the Lord? (I Cor. 1:9)**
- (2) Do I have daily devotions? (II Tim. 2:15 and Jn. 5:39)**
- (3) Is my prayer life in good condition? (I Thes. 5:17)**
- (4) Do I harbor any bitterness? (Heb. 12:15)**
- (5) Do I have any unconfessed sin in my life? (Ps. 66:18)**
- (6) Do I have ought against my brother? (Matt. 5:23-24)**
- (7) Do I love the brethren? (Heb. 13:1)**
- (8) Do I gossip? (Prov. 11:13)**
- (9) Am I easily offended? (I Pet. 2:20)**
- (10) Am I guilty of the sin of stubbornness? (I Sam. 15:23)**
- (11) Is my relationship to my mate, my children, my parents, my brothers, my sisters, my employer all that it should be? (Eph. 5:21-25; 6:1-9)**
- (12) Do I ever go on visitation? (Lk. 14:23)**
- (13) Am I really what people see? (I Sam. 16:7)**
- (14) Am I concerned about souls? (I Jn. 3:17-18)**
- (15) Am I willing to inconvenience myself for others? (Mt. 5:41)**
- (16) Am I willing to ask the Lord to speak to me through Brother Kistler and will I do what He says? (James 1:22)**

Suggested Special Nights

The following are some suggested special emphasis nights with which the church can be provided with a tool for inviting friends, neighbors, and family to the meeting. Of course, the church should be encouraged to work hard all week getting folks out, but these are some special nights to be used as tools only to assist the people in their efforts.

Monday - Men's Night (Special emphasis on men bringing visitors this night. Of course anyone can and should bring visitors this night, however, only the men who bring visitors will be recognized.)

Tuesday - Ladies Night (Same as the above, only with emphasis on the ladies.)

Wednesday - Sunday School Night (All teachers should be in attendance and have contacted all their roll in an effort to get everyone on their roll to the meeting. The teacher with the best percentage present will be recognized.)

Thursday - Prophecy Night (This night is open to everyone in the church. The person bringing the most visitors this night will be especially recognized. Special effort should be made this night.

Friday - Youth and Family Night (Special emphasis on the home and youth this night. Encourage youth to bring their friends and parents. The message will be one centered on turning the hearts of the youth toward their parents and vice versa. As a special incentive, the Kistlers can be prepared to give a mini concert of about 20 minutes in length, consisting of classical numbers for the piano and violin as well as light hearted fiddle tunes by the Kistler Kids. The promotion of this mini concert has proved to be a successful tool in encouraging outstanding attendance even among the lost.

Other nights that could be substituted for any of the above are as follows:

Pack-a-Pew Night
Neighbor Night
Friend Night
Employer Night
School Night

Pastor's considering these suggestions for special nights will need to confirm their use with Brother Kistler prior to the start of the week to coordinate with the overall theme and schedule for the week.

Preparation for the Revival

The following is a list of suggestions and ideas to help you in preparing your people for the meeting:

- 1) **Prayer Reminder** – Display a poster with the verse, “Pray without ceasing” in a prominent location. Include another poster (or sign-up sheet) where your people sign up to pray for the meeting in 15 minute intervals. This could be used to form a 24-hour prayer chain for the week of the meeting.
- 2) **Personal Checklist** – These are to help prepare your people individually for the meeting. A sample is enclosed which may be placed in the church bulletin, or copied and handed out several weeks prior to the meeting for your people to use in their personal devotions.
- 3) **Barnabus’ Band** – This is a program wherein a designated number of your people agree to be “encouragers” as was Barnabus. These will promise the Lord that with His help they will “encourage” at least one lost person to come with them to the meeting each night. Tags could be made that identify these people as members of Barnabus’ Band.
- 4) **Prayer Lists** – Encourage your people to make a prayer list with names of people they want to see saved during the meeting or those they want to see get right with God. If they have such a list, then they can mark the names off as the Lord answers their prayer.
- 5) **Material for Personal Workers** – Be sure that you have personal workers who are trained to deal with those who come forward. Be sure that they have material to place in the hands of those who make decisions. A record keeping system should be used so that follow-up can be made after the meeting and those who have made decisions can be disciplined.

Children's Meetings

Mrs. Betsy Kistler conducts special meetings for all children from age four through age nine. The children will be dismissed with Mrs. Kistler just before the preaching service begins, so that the children's meetings are held simultaneously with the preaching service.

These meetings include Bible stories, songs, missionary stories, and contests. They are used to present the gospel in a unique way to children on their level.

Mrs. Kistler may need one adult to assist her each evening. This helper may remain in the service until just before the invitation begins. Then, she or he may supervise the children while Mrs. Kistler plays for the invitation in the service.

Meal Schedule for the Kistlers

Because the Kistlers home school their children, they have found it best to eat their breakfast and noon meals in their trailer and to eat an evening meal around 5:30, provided at the church by one of the church families. This maximizes time just prior to the evening service. The Kistlers request that the family providing the meal eat with them as this allows for a brief time of fellowship during the meal.

For the Christian School Administrator

The Christian School plays an important part in our revival meetings. If the pastor desires, Bro. Kistler would be happy to speak in the high school chapel services three times during the week of the meetings, preferably Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

Because young people are more alert early in the day, it would be best if the chapels could be scheduled as early in the school day as possible.

In order to get the student body involved in the revival, prayer groups could be organized among the young people and the teaching staff separately, several weeks in advance of the meeting. If these groups are praying for specific students, there will be answers to those prayers during the week.

Because of the difficulty in getting young people involved in the meeting with all the other school activities (ball practices, etc.), we suggest that homework be kept to a minimum and that all athletic contests and practices be canceled that week so that the students may have maximum involvement in the meetings.

We have found it very effective to designate one night of the week, *Christian School Night*. That particular night, we would encourage students as well as their parents to be in attendance. Usually an evening later in the week like Thursday or Friday, is most effective for encouraging better attendance.

For the Ushers

Competent ushers are a vital part of any successful evangelistic meeting. The pastor should meet with all ushers a couple of weeks prior to the meeting to instruct them concerning their duties for the week. The following are some suggestions that the pastor might make to those who will be ushering in order to enhance their effectiveness and to eliminate distractions:

- 1) Ushers could endeavor to be in the vestibule of the church 20 to 25 minutes prior to the beginning of the service each evening. It is always best to fill the church from the front to the back first.
- 2) Children and teenagers without parents should be ushered to the front of the church, keeping them off the back pews. This will minimize unnecessary distractions.
- 3) Ushers are vital in assisting ladies with babies to the nursery. Ushers should tell these ladies the exact location of the nursery. Those who refuse to leave their baby in the nursery should be seated in the back. In the event that a baby causes a disturbance in the preaching service, the ushers should offer assistance to the mother who may be having trouble with her child.
- 4) No one should be ushered to a seat during a special song because the distraction usually results in the message of the song being lost.
- 5) The ushers should make sure that all persons are out of the vestibule and in the auditorium during the message. If someone does leave the auditorium, the users should make sure that when they re-enter they are seated in the back.