

# Kolb Ministries

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*I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Ephesians 4:1*

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Greetings, Pastor!

What's the purpose of a revival? The dictionary tells us that revival is "restoration to life, consciousness, vigor, strength." Another source tells us this: "A Christian revival, or revivalism, is increased spiritual interest or renewal in the life of a church congregation or society, with a local, national, or global effect." What do *you* hope to accomplish by hosting a revival?

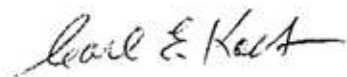
It is my heartfelt belief that personal, individual revival must take place before God's church will experience revival. Why? Because revival must begin in the hearts of God's people if we are ever to make a profound difference in the communities in which God has placed us. If you have not scheduled a "Discovering Your Call" workshop in conjunction with this revival, I urge you to consider doing so before moving forward with your revival. Revival needs to be more than just another series of evangelistic meetings. Revival needs to start with a transformed heart in which your people know who they are in Christ and are moving toward doing what He has called them to do. Revival is contagious! When revival captures the heart of one person, many are soon to follow.

I want to encourage you to make *this* revival the *best* revival your church has ever had! You'll only do that if you make revival your priority. If we really believe that God is going to do something big, we'll take the time needed to prepare. We are responsible for preparation; God is responsible for the results.

My prayer is that the recommendations in this preparation guide will help you prepare your church for revival. It is brief yet contains some simple but effective methods of preparation that have been tried and proven in many churches throughout the country.

Go all out for your revival. Pray, prepare, witness, and mobilize your people. Leave the results to God!

In His Grip!



Carl Kolb

## REVIVAL PREPARATION

**Pray!!!** – Prayer is the heart of revival! Without it revival will not occur in the hearts of your people. A preacher can preach but if the hearts of your people are not prepared through prayer God’s message will fall on deaf ears.

- Home Prayer Meetings – weekly, beginning at least 2 months in advance.
- Wednesday Night Prayer Meetings – one week in advance, devote the entire service to pray for revival and for people to be transformed.
- Prayer Vigil – 12 or 24 hour prayer vigil the day before the revival meetings begin. Have people sign up in advance to pray in 15 or 30 minute increments.
- Day of Prayer and Fasting the Sunday before the revival meetings.
- Prayer from the pulpit and in all Sunday School classes for 4-6 weeks prior to the revival meetings.
- Put together some teams to pray with me before each revival meeting.

**Promote** – Your people have to see that revival is important and they need to be continuously informed and reminded. They need to understand that *this* revival is more than just another series of church meetings. It’s about transforming the hearts of God’s people. Create a sense of excitement for revival. Announce the revival from the pulpit several weeks in advance. BE ENTHUSIASTIC!

- Bulletin – At least four weeks in advance, add bulletin inserts publicizing dates, times, and special events you’ve lined up with your revival. Add my picture, name, and short bio to the insert (downloadable from my website) so I will be familiar to your congregation when I arrive.
- Church Sign – if you have a street sign, publicize the meeting on it at least four weeks in advance.
- Door to Door flyer distribution – create some color flyers that look neat and professional. Have teams distribute them in neighborhoods on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon 1-2 weeks prior to the revival.
- Newspaper articles – need to be submitted to the newspaper well in advance. Most papers have a free “church” section but you are limited in what you can submit. In a paid article you can add my photo clipart and give more detail. You can even ask a reporter to come and interview the pastor and me. Often, the newspaper will give you an article on the front page – for free! Exposure is the key!
- Radio, Television, Billboards & Banners – some businesses will help you out on the expense if they know their gift is tax deductible.
- Posters & Flyers – Put them in the foyer of your church and encourage your members to take several of them and put them up everywhere they can. Grocery stores, service stations, barber shops, beauty shops, youth hang-outs, restaurants, schools, and businesses of every kind.
- Business Card Invitations – Print business cards with all the information about the revival and your church. Have several hundreds of these because they are very easy for the members to distribute wherever they go.

**People** – In order to have an effective revival you have to get people there! The members of the church must come in order to experience revival. Lost people have to be there if you expect a harvest.

- Friend Day – Personal invitation is one of the most effective ways to get people to church. Simply encourage your people to bring an unsaved friend to the Sunday morning service on the

first day of the revival. If every member brought one person your normal attendance would double in one day!

- High attendance & special emphasis nights – such as pack the pew night, youth night, children’s night, Sunday school night, etc.
- Dinner on the Grounds– Food will get people there! Have lunch at the church on Sunday, have a dessert fellowship on Sunday night. Be creative – people *love* to eat!
- Pizza Pizazz – Have pizza for the youth (7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades) during one of the evening services. Let them eat prior to the revival meeting and the youth can invite all of their friends to attend and stay for the services.
- Hot Dog Halleluiah – Have a hotdog supper for the children (grades 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>) before one of the evening services. I will meet with them and share a simple Gospel message. Allow at least one hour for this event.
- Church-Wide Fellowships – Plan a church-wide fellowship for at least one night of the revival either before or after the service.
- Sunday Breakfast – some churches prefer this over a lunch on Sunday. The advantage is increased attendance in your Sunday school!
- Visitation and Outreach – Visit unsaved people you know. Visit church members you haven’t seen in a while. This still works no matter where your church is located.
- Pastor’s Letters to the Members of the Church – Mail out a first letter to every family on your church rolls stressing the importance of the revival as well as their attendance and involvement. Mail the first letter 4-6 weeks in advance. Mail a second letter or card as a reminder a few days before the revival begins. You have to constantly keep the revival before your people! Enlist volunteers to hand-address the envelopes.
- *Pastor, please make sure your people understand that, aside from prayer, the greatest need we have for a successful revival is for church members to invite and bring missing members and unsaved friends to the meeting!*

**Praise** – Probably nothing affects a revival more than music. Good gospel music will touch the hearts of the listeners and prepare both the congregation and the preacher for the message. If possible, try to have the best music you can. Use your choir, praise team, and soloists as much as possible.

- Assemble a special revival choir in advance and practice music specifically for the revival.
- Invite soloists, trios, and quartet’s from other local churches. This gets more people involved and gives more exposure to the revival.
- Plan on having *two* special numbers each service.
- Congregational singing should be upbeat and exciting. Use some old, faithful hymns such as “Power in the Blood”, “Nothing but the Blood”, “Victory in Jesus”, etc.” You might also want to add some upbeat contemporary songs that speak to the heart of your people such as “Revelation Song”, “10,000 Reasons”, “Holy is the Lord”, etc.
- The entire music service should never last longer than 30 minutes.
- Please work with me prior to the revival meeting each night to choose an Invitation Song. The invitation is not a time to learn a new song or for performances. I will be in charge of the invitation until I turn it over to the pastor.

**Personal Decisions** – You need to train several counselors to assist during the invitation. This way the pastor is not tied up with counseling one person at a time, which will not only prolong the invitation, but discourage others from coming forward. Prepare for God to do something big!

- The pastor should select and train counselors weeks in advance.
- Prepare counseling materials and a counseling area or room if available.

- There should be at least 10 counselors for every 100 in attendance.
- All counselors should use the same counseling method, such as “Romans Road”, “The Four Spiritual Laws”, “FAITH”, etc.
- Counselors should know how to deal with questions.
- Counselors need to know when to come forward, where to stand, etc.
- Counselors should be sure that they are prayed-up and right with God themselves.
- When people come for rededication, make sure first that they are saved. Never take anyone’s salvation for granted.
- All counselors should meet with the pastor and me for prayer and last minute instructions 15 minutes before each revival meeting.
- You will need a mixture of both men and women counselors.
- Counselors must not talk anyone out of their salvation experience. Too often people will come down the aisle to be saved and by the time they are presented to the church it is for rededication.
- Fill the baptistry in advance. The Pastor should plan to baptize at every service if possible.

**Pastor** – You need to determine if you want to have an Evangelistic Meeting focused entirely on reaching the unsaved or a Revival Meeting focused on personal Revival of the Saints. Though I do both, my heart is on personal revival of God’s people. Why? Because I believe that to reclaim our communities for Christ God’s people must be transformed through personal revival.

- Please take a “love offering” in every service. As you know, I do not receive a salary as you and your members do so a love offering is necessary. Pastor, you are the key to a good love offering! You should not be apologetic or ashamed to ask your people to give. Please allow me to receive the full amount of the love offering. Please provide a separate check for the love offering and make it payable to Carl E. Kolb.
- Plan in your church budget to pay for my expenses. Please don’t take my expenses out of the love offering. Expenses include airline tickets or the I.R.S. prescribed amount for mileage as well as car rental (if applicable), meals and motel. A motel room is preferred so I can be afforded some privacy for prayer, study, and meditation. Please make reservations prior to my arrival. Please provide a separate check for my expenses and make it payable to Carl E. Kolb.
- Please respect my time – I need some time each day to pray, study and prepare for the evening service.
- Please plan for follow-up. All of your hard work of preparation and hosting this revival will be for naught if you don’t have a plan to follow-up on those who make decisions.

Pastor, I look forward to spending time in fellowship with you, praying with and for you, and encouraging you. The best thing you can do for me, other than pray, is to recommend me to your pastor friends.