

OUTREACH: AN EVENT AND A LIFE-STYLE

By Cheryl Grossoehme

“Lighting the Way” is the theme chosen for the outreach event. The event can be sponsored by the Alliance Women for the entire church’s participation or simply be held as an Alliance Women’s outreach. The Alliance Women and/or church people are encouraged to invite those who have been influential in their lives - those who have helped to light their way, and others who do not know the Lord. Time should be given during the program to appreciate those who have been a light. The meal can be prepared by the ladies or catered. The tables can be decorated with an open Bible in the center and candles on either side of it.

Choose a speaker that is recognized in the community as one who has been a light to many. This person should share his testimony regarding the One who has been his Light. He should point the people to Jesus, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. The speaker should inform them that Jesus is the only One who can bring men to God and provide eternal life. The song “Shine Jesus Shine”, would be a good one to use to conclude the program. Opportunity should be given for the attendees to respond to the message. Response cards should be placed at each place setting. The card should include the following options: 1) I would like to receive Christ as my Savior, 2) I am interested in knowing more, 3) I would like to be involved in a Bible study. Those who respond should be contacted individually. If they want to receive Christ, an appointment should be made with them to explain how they can be saved. All who fill out a response card should be encouraged to enroll in a pre-planned Bible study. The Bible study leader should call each one prior to its starting to remind them and direct them to where the group will be meeting. The Bible study should be six to eight weeks in length, very evangelistic in nature and provide the basis for discipling new believers. The study should provide opportunity for relationship building with church people and assimilation into the church. Following the event, the women should be encouraged to continue to pray for those that don’t have a personal relationship with Jesus, continue to develop an ongoing relationship with them, and look for opportunities to share the gospel. Remember, outreach is more than just an event, it is a life-style.

In preparing for the event, prayer, people involvement, and planning are essential. It is important that adequate time and attention be given to prayer. It is the spiritual empowerment for the event. Pray for all involved to be spiritually motivated and involved. Pray for those being invited. Pray for the program planning and ministry. Pray for the follow-up Bible studies, hosts, leaders and participants.

Make sure adequate planning goes into the event. The people need to be invited well in advance so they can put it on their schedule. Have those invited respond to the invitation so you know how many will be attending. Whether you decide to have a brunch, dinner, or dessert reception, make sure it is well prepared and nicely presented. Create an inviting, comfortable atmosphere. Contact the speaker and plan the rest of the program well in advance. With prayer, people involvement, and planning, outreach can become a reality in your church.

SAMPLE INVITATION

Front

Inside

“Lighting the Way”

You are invited to be

my guest

as we appreciate those who

(picture of candle)

have been

lights in our lives.

When:

Where:

Speaker:

(date) to (your tel. #)

Please RSVP by