



## *Guidelines for Bridging Events*

1. Bridging events are best if kept short (four to six sessions). Long programs can wear out the church members and tend to overload those attending. You don't want to sap the energy and desire for the evangelistic series. The goal of a bridging event is to present a short, power-packed program that leaves the participants hungry for more and provides opportunities for church members to create friendships with those attending.
2. Offer bridging events within the two months prior to the start of your evangelistic series. In each session, be sure to include mingling time, when church members can get to know those attending. Encourage church members to personally befriend one or two of the guests who they will later invite to the evangelistic series.
3. Choose bridging events with which the church has done well in the past. Consider the talents and abilities of those within the church to lead out in these events, as well as the needs of the community you are trying to reach.
4. The goals of bridging events are to build friendships between church members and guests, meet the needs of the community, and win the guests' confidence. The success of the bridging events can be measured by the number of guests attending and the number of meaningful friendships being developed between members and nonmembers. Make sure that every guest has a church member assigned to them who will take a personal interest in them and will later invite them to the evangelistic series.