

Inviting Contacts to the Seminar

The goal of the church's pre-work is to build relationships with those in the community, win their confidence, awaken an interest in spiritual things, and then invite them to attend the evangelistic seminar.

In this section, we will look at six important steps that should be taken when inviting contacts and interests to the church's evangelistic seminar.

- 1. Three to four weeks before the meeting begins, casually invite people to the meeting without giving a lot of details about time and place. The goal is to simply build their excitement.
- 2. Two weeks before the meeting begins, give the official personal invitation, including details, but without a brochure in hand. Promise to come back and bring a brochure.
- 3. One week before the meeting begins, personally deliver a brochure, show it to the interest, and leave it with them. Give them a reserved seat form, and get them to fill it out (reserved seats are held until 5 minutes prior to the start of the seminar). If they don't know if they can attend, encourage them to fill it out anyway in case they can make it. Pre-registration cards are available from Color Press at <u>www.adventistevangelism.com</u> or by phone at 800-222-2145.
- 4. One week before the meeting begins, mail a letter of invitation to everyone in your database of interests. Make sure you include a brochure. A sample letter can be downloaded from The Empowered Church website.
- 5. Call one to two days before opening night to remind them of the meeting. Ask them if any additional people will be coming with them and if they will need a ride.
- 6. Visit those who don't make it opening night. Bring them a handout from the meeting. Don't say "We missed you," because that makes them feel bad. Instead say, "I know you wanted to come, so I brought you an outline from the meeting; you'll be caught up for the next meeting. Tonight's topic is ______. Hope you can make it." If you don't have time to visit everyone, call them and let them know what the next topic is and that you will save some material for them to pick up. Continue this until it becomes obvious that the person is not going to come. At this point, if they are good interests but simply can't come to the meetings, make arrangements to establish Bible studies or let them listen to the seminar by video or audio at home. If they don't come, don't get discouraged. Do not feel that you are pressuring people by your persistent reminders. Remember the story in Luke 14:16-13 of the banquet? The king's servants went out into the highways and byways and urged the people to come. For those who make excuses, kindly urge them to come anyway.